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# Ministers cancel ATCL, KQ reciprocal flight ban moves

*The abrupt ban on Kenya Airways flights had thrown travel plans into disarray, leaving passengers with journeys potentially cancelled and uncertain schedules*

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Kenya have agreed to resolve their differences, eliminating the banning order on Kenya Airways (KQ) that would have started applying early next week.

Hamza Johari, the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) director general said in a public notice yesterday that the Kenyan authorities had moved to grant Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) cargo flight the coveted 'fifth freedom traffic right' for all-cargo services, enabling the airline to pick up and drop off cargo in Kenya as part of its international flights.

Allowing ATCL to secure coveted cargo traffic rights at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and restoring KQ passenger routes between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, he said, affirming that this development demonstrates the spirit of cooperation and understanding between Tanzania and Kenya.

On Monday, TCAA issued a public notice of suspending KQ passenger flights between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, starting January 22 as a tit-for-tat move, following Kenya's denial of ATCL cargo flights from Nairobi to third

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Norwegian Dawn, reckoned as the world's longest cruise ship, docked at the Dar es Salaam Port yesterday. It is said to have capacity for 2,340 tourists and just over one thousand crew members, Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Port fetes safe docking of Norwegian passenger liner

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE hefty investments made at the port of Dar es Salaam have started to pay off as the longest cruise ship of 294 metres carrying 2,340 tourists and 1,011 crew members docked at the port yesterday.

Mrisho Selemani Mrisho, the port director, told reporters after the arrival of the Norwegian Dawn cruise liner that the ship was on its first trip to bring the guests, scheduled to visit various attractions in the country.

The liner with capacity for 4700 passengers docked at Dar port at around 7am from the

northerly port of Mombasa across the border, a change attributed to major improvements like widening berths.

These are among the positive outcomes of the Dar es Salaam Maritime Gateway Project (DMGP) seeking to enhance efficiency at

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### 'Gates Foundation's US\$8.6bn approved budget to save lives'

*... "now is the right time to recommit to saving lives and improving livelihoods"*

DAVOS

THE Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation yesterday announced its largest annual budget so far of \$8.6bn (21trn/-) to fund various initiatives to facilitate access to quality health services in poor countries.

Bill Gates, co-chairman of the Gates Foundation said at a briefing that the foundation's budget was formally approved by its board of trustees on January 13, where it also committed to increasing its annual spending to \$9bn by 2026.

The budget, representing an increase of four percent over last year, is a \$2bn increase over the 2021 budget, coming as global contributions to health in the lowest-income countries are stalling, he stated.

While overall aid spending has levelled off, sub-Saharan African countries saw a nearly eight percent decline in aid in 2022, even as they face growing needs and shrinking budgets due to debt and other financial pressures, the philanthropist affirmed.

"We can't talk about the future of humanity without talking about the future of health," he said, pointing out that with global health budgets in decline overall, a portion of the additional funding will go toward advancing global health innovations.

It will seek out innovations that will save or improve the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people, he said, hinting at newborn babies and expectant mothers living in low-income communities.

"Every day, newborn babies and young children die simply because of where they were born. Mothers die giving birth, leaving families devastated. That keeps me up at night. It's unacceptable, particularly because we have already developed many of the solutions that could save their lives. Building a stronger, more stable world starts with good health," the philanthropist underlined.

Melinda French Gates, the foundation co-chairperson and ex-wife of the co-chairman, said an investment in global health is an investment in the future. "When the world puts money behind proven solutions, it

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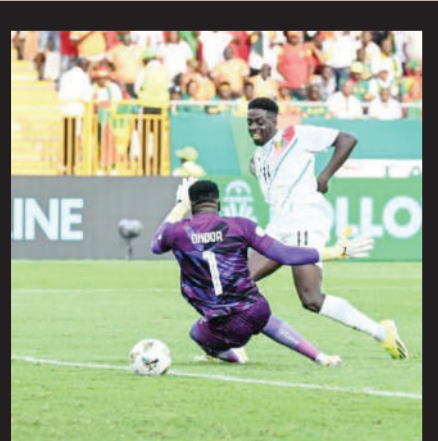
## SPORTS

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Taifa Stars lock horns with Morocco in AFCON Group F

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Senegal enjoy winning start to AFCON defence, Cameroon and Algeria held

## CRDB Foundation, UNDP sign 5-year SDGs agreement

By Guardian Reporter

THE CRDB Bank Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in a number of areas.

Tully Mwambapa, the foundation's managing director, said at the signing ceremony at the bank's head offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the MoU is a landmark five-year accord meant to lay the groundwork for cooperation in financing youth and women empowerment.

There are components like sustainable finance adoption, start-up growth and innovation ecosystem support, along with joint re-

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UNDP country Resident Representative Shigeki Komatsubara (R) and CRDB Bank Foundation managing director Tully Esther Mwambapa pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday displaying an MoU on the empowering of Tanzania's micro, small and medium businesses, particularly those involving women and youth, to take part in - and benefit from - opportunities available in the African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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## Ministers cancel ATCL, KQ reciprocal flight ban moves

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countries.

The permit boosts for Air Tanzania's cargo operations, opening new trade opportunities, while showing sceptics that the two countries are more resilient in solving disputes than was the case in the regional grouping, the previous East African Community that collapsed early 1977.

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministers weighed into the dispute early yesterday as the respective civil aviation authorities issued reciprocal bans on selected rights one airline has in the other country's strategic airport facilities.

The reciprocal bans had sparked fears of a wider rift between the EAC member states, put to rest by a joint statement after consultations by the two ministers, where in separate posts

on social media, January Makamba and Musalia Mudavadi emphasised their commitment to "working together to have the matter resolved amicably."

They stressed the importance of upholding existing agreements between the two countries, underlining that the recent restrictions on air travel were unacceptable.

"There should be no cause for alarm," Makamba intoned, echoing similar sentiments from his Kenyan counterpart who affirmed an understanding that restrictions of air travel between the two countries and from either country to a third country must be revoked.

Observers noted that the abrupt ban on Kenya Airways flights had thrown travel plans into disarray, leaving passengers with journeys potentially cancelled and uncertain schedules.

## CRDB Foundation, UNDP sign 5-year SDGs accord

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source mobilisation for impactful programmes and expertise exchanges, she said.

The foundation's link with UNDP sets up a united front to address critical challenges, with a view to contribute to realising the sustainable development goals, she asserted.

The partnership opens the door to transformative initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality, youth empowerment, inclusive economic growth and resilience to climate change, she stated.

With over three million SMEs contributing upwards of 27 percent to Tanzania's GDP, with half that number being women-owned entities, the MoU will enable the foundation to comprehensively collaborate with these entities, she elaborated.

The key initiative under the pact is empowering women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to leverage opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), she said.

Emphasizing the pivotal role MSMEs play in the country's economy, she qualified this cohort of enterprises as the country's economic backbone, employing over five million people.

These include underprivileged youth and women, pushing the foundation to develop a programme to empower youth and women through financial training and seed capital. "Partnering with UNDP is a crucial step towards

transforming entrepreneurs' lives in the coming year," the CEO intoned.

Under the seed capital initiative, over 100,000 individuals have undergone training, with 5bn/- disbursed as seed capital since its inception last year. The UNDP link will add punch to the foundation's commitment to ending poverty (SDG 1), uplift gender equality (SDG 5), and ensuring full and productive employment for all (SDG 8).

Shigeki Komatsubara, the UNDP resident representative, stressed the core values that UNDP represents, such as advancing sustainable development through wealth creation, building resilient communities and promoting good governance. "These principles form the foundation of our actions, and today's MoU reflects our collective commitment to translating these ideals into tangible outcomes," he declared.

In inspiring remarks, he underscored the significance of collaboration in pursuing common objectives, cautioning on underestimating the power such collaboration holds to create a legacy of positive change.

Partnerships that extend beyond organizational boundaries and embody collective responsibility play a vital role in building a future that is equitable, sustainable and prosperous for all, he told the gathering.

The partnership represents a significant stride towards unlocking the full potential of local MSMEs, investing in women and youth to accelerate SDGs and leveraging AfCFTA opportunities, he added.

## 'Gates Foundation's \$8.6bn annual budget to save lives'

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builds stronger, healthier and more resilient communities for generations to come," she said, noting that with low-income countries facing a whole host of challenges, "now is the right time to recommit to saving lives and improving livelihoods."

She stressed that despite the phenomenal progress, millions of children in poor countries still die before their fifth birthday of preventable or treatable diseases, and nearly 300,000 women die in childbirth while the tools exist to prevent their deaths.

She asserted that 90 percent of the 340,000 women who die every year of cervical cancer live in low and middle-income countries, "even though there's now a highly effective one-dose vaccine that can protect them against it."

Mark Suzman, the Gates Foundation CEO, said that the Gates Foundation measures impact in terms of lives saved and opportunities provided to the poorest, where the outline asserts that the new high-water mark for the budget will further the mission to help create a world where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy, productive life.

Incremental resources for 2024 in both financial and human capital seek to accelerate efforts for greatest impact across the foundation's diverse priorities, ranging from polio eradication to scaling child azithromycin delivery in the world's highest mortality settings. This is vital to improving digital courseware in postsecondary education to ac-

celerating the world's TB drug portfolio, it emphasized.

At "The Future of Health" event organised by the foundation at the World Economic Forum annual meeting, Bill Gates will showcase several health innovations that the foundation has funded and its partners have been developing that could save the lives of women and children.

His talk will also address the role that artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies can play in transforming health and improving lives for people living in low-income countries. Gates was billed to call on global leaders, philanthropists, CEOs and others to help rebuild global trust and solidarity by joining together to save the most vulnerable people.

The foundation predicts that if innovations currently in the R&D pipeline are properly funded, they could help cut maternal deaths by 40 percent in the lowest-income countries by the end of the decade, and further drive down preventable child deaths.

Since its inception in 2000, the Gates Foundation has been focused on fighting the world's greatest inequities, creating programs that address issues such as gender equality, agricultural development and public education.

A major focus for the foundation has been on reducing inequities in health by funding the development of new tools and strategies to reduce the burden of infectious diseases and the leading causes of child mortality in low-income countries.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (R) unveils plaque in Mbeya city yesterday to launch Mbeya Catholic University College, witnessed by the chancellor, Tanzania Episcopal Conference president Archbishop Gervas Nyaisonga (L), and Polycarp Cardinal Pengo, Archbishop Emeritus of Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Port fetes safe docking of Norwegian passenger liner

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Dar es Salaam port, he said, noting that some of the tourists are set to visit the Selous Game Reserve, a portion of which is now the Nyerere National Park.

DMGP is financed by the World Bank, deepening existing berths I to 7 to 14.5m, along with deepening and widening the entrance channel and turning basin to the end of berth II to 15.5m, he said.

Improving the port's rail linkages

and platform and deepening berths 8 to 11 to 14.5m is expected, as the port seeks to serve large vessels (305 metres), from a limitation of around 264 metres length of vessels at present, he explained.

These improvement will bring down intermediary costs for businesses, strengthening port competitiveness and easing its trade hub prospects, he stated, affirming that the project will help to unlock the strategic potential of the port, to generate robust revenues

From Dar es Salaam, the cruise liner will dock at the port of Maputo, on the southern tip of neighbouring Mozambique.

Major improvements at Dar port have enabled large vessels of 305 metres to dock, enhancing its competitive standing via a vis rival ports," he said, inviting shipping firms and operators of cruise liners to start using Dar port as a regular destination.

Abdullah Mwingambo, the port's master mariner said that widening the

entrance channel will enable Panamax ships to dock, noting that before the liner was guided from the outer anchor the crew underwent three months of simulation training in Germany.

"I have today succeeded in guiding the ship from the outer anchor through the gateway and dock safely," he stated, adding that the Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) was training more captains to handle 305 metres vessels from the outer anchor through gateway and dock.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (C) pictured in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday attending the opening session of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting. Photo: VPO

## Cyclone Belal: Mauritius assesses damage after flash flooding

PORT LOUIS

AUTHORITIES in Mauritius are assessing the damage after Cyclone Belal brought torrential rain and flooding to the Indian Ocean island nation.

The country's meteorological service said the storm was now moving away eastwards, but warned that 'other environmental risks' still existed.

At least one person has died in Mauritius and another on Réunion Island. Mauritius upgraded the cyclone warning to the maximum level for a while, but said the worst danger had now

passed. About 100 vehicles were damaged and abandoned by their owners as a result of floods that hit the capital Port Louis on Monday.

But flood levels substantially decreased on Tuesday and authorities were able to clear up debris from the streets.

Scenes from the waterfront in Port Louis showed widespread destruction. Authorities said they were carrying out a full assessment of the main roads and critical infrastructure.

The Mauritius Meteorological Ser-

vices (MMS) said a "safety bulletin" was now in force as the storm was moving away from Mauritius - this came a few hours after it announced it was raising its alert to four, the maximum level.

It said the storm was now moving eastwards, in the direction of the Indian Ocean, at a speed of about 18km/h (11mph).

"There are no longer any risks of having cyclonic conditions over Mauritius but other environmental risks exist," it said, urging people to remain in safe places and not to go out to sea, or walk along shorelines, because of

the potential for storm surges.

Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth confirmed on Monday that one death, and criticised the MMS for its response to the storm. The MMS director has resigned.

"I have to admit that the country has had a difficult time because of Cyclone Belal," he said, adding that government decisions had relied on information from the meteorological service.

"I share the anger of the people of Mauritius at this time. I am determined that the responsible of this situation must assume their responsibilities."





Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister January Makamba (L) and Angolan External Relations minister, Tété António, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday showing copies of documents on bilateral cooperation agreements relating to the oil and gas sector and the waiver of visas for Tanzanians and Angolans holding diplomatic and professional passports. It was shortly after they had signed the pacts. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry

## 'Religious institutions deserve congratulations owing to their investments in social services'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government says it recognizes and appreciates the contribution of religious institutions in providing social services in the country.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said this yesterday when officiating at the opening of Catholic University College of Mbeya (CUCoM) which is affiliated to the Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT).

He said investments made faith-based organisations in education, health, water and social welfare complements the government's efforts in providing the same services to the people.

The PM said that the government has allocated 48bn/- for providing loans to diploma level students in the academic year 2023/2024.

He said that the programme, which is the vision and instruction of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, aimed at ensuring that education provided is better and enables college graduates in the country to be confident and able to compete nationally and internationally.

"Another goal of President Samia is to see many young people get an education that gives them the skills and ability to participate in nation-building" he said.

Majaliwa said that the government has allocated USD1 million through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation Project (HEET) which is educating 27 lecturers from private universities.

He added that the funds will, among others, be used to pay for seven lecturers at the Master's degree level and 20 at the PhD level for health and allied sciences programmes.

"Through this programme, the government has reached private univer-

sities. This shows the sincere commitment of our government to enable the private sector fully participate in the provision of education at all levels," he said.

This is due to the fact that the government recognizes and appreciates the big contribution made by the private sector in the provision of education from pre to higher education."

Majaliwa called on private colleges and universities to set a strategic plan to increase the number of academicians especially professors, senior lecturers and lecturers in the areas covered by the programme.

Bishop John Ndimbo, CUCoM council board chairman, thanked the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) for seeing the importance of giving the college a university status after fulfilling all the set conditions.

Dr Franklin Rwezimula, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Education, Science and Technology, commended the Catholic Church for its massive investment in education sector.



**This is due to the fact that the government recognizes and appreciates the big contribution made by the private sector in the provision of education from pre to higher education**

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

## DCEA training CSOs working with drug addicts on writing of proposals

THE Drugs Control and Enforcement Agency (DCEA) has started training civil society organisations that offer services to addicts in Arusha Region on project proposal writing.

Hargeney Chitukuro, assistant Arusha Regional Administrative Secretary responsible for economics and production said here yesterday that the training also touches on finance management.

He said proper proposal writing offered in the training is important

to help the government in the war against drugs and source funds for provision of education and other services.

Earlier, head of social development at DCEA in the Northern Zone Sarah Ndaba said proposal writing and expected projects are likely to help the government in the war against drugs

abuse.

He said that the authority works with more than 100 organizations whereas in the Northern Region, they work with 16 organizations that provide feedback on the control of drugs.

"We need to gain understanding and new methods of writing proposals that persuade donors to give re-

sources for the fight against drugs in the country because civil organizations are very important in the fight against drugs," he said.

Shabani Miraji, awareness officer at DCEA said that the authority will continue to cooperate with various stakeholders in the country to control drugs.

## Govt issues high alert over red eye disease outbreak

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has issued a high alert over the outbreak of red eye disease that causes eye redness, most of them due to swollen or dilated blood vessels.

Red eyes happen when the tiny blood vessels on the surface of the whites of a person's eyes expand; turning the whites of one or both eyes a pink or reddish tint.

Pascal Ruggajo, director of Curative Services in the Ministry of Health, said preliminary investigations have shown that most people have contracted the disease in the country.

He told a news conference in Tanzania's commercial hub of Dar es Salaam that there had been a rise in the number of patients with red eye disease reported in health centres.

He added that there were 869 patients suffering from red eye disease in Dar es Salaam between December 22, 2023, and January 11, 2024.

He noted symptoms of red eye disease include itching of the eyes, a burning sensation, and increased tearing.

Ruggajo said remedies for red eye are wide-ranging, including gently washing eyelids, and lightly massaging them, adding that eye care specialists may recommend and prescribe medicines.

According to medical experts, a "red eye" is a general term to describe red, irritated and bloodshot eyes. The redness happens when tiny blood vessels under your eye's surface get larger or become inflamed. Usually, it's a reaction to something irritating your eye.

Redness can affect one or both eyes. It can develop over time or appear suddenly, such as with allergies or an eye injury. You can have red eyes and other symptoms, like eye pain, itching, eye discharge, swollen eyes, and changes in vision, like blurred vision.



**...a "red eye" is a general term to describe red, irritated and bloodshot eyes. The redness happens when tiny blood vessels under your eye's surface get larger or become inflamed. Usually, it's a reaction to something irritating your eye**

## NDC student delegation in Arusha, Manyara for field visits

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

TWELVE officials from various African countries who are studying at the National Defence College (NDC) in Dar es Salaam have commenced field visits in Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions to learn areas where Tanzania has made progress.

During their field visit, the officials will learn as well as provide advice to their countries on food security, environment protection, agriculture, investment and tourism.

Commodore Rutambuka, head of the delegation, said the officials will be in Kilimanjaro for five days before heading to Manyara to visit various projects and communities.

"Security is not only about the army but

also food, environment, agriculture, investment, tourism and other areas. Here we are accompanied by student officers from Egypt and Nigeria and Tanzania," he said.

"The course takes 47 weeks of learning and has a total of 53 students from various

African countries. All of them learn in the classroom and at the end of semester, they go for practical learning in different regions to experience the real situation."

Speaking at a familiarisation meeting, Dr Vedast Makota who represented Kilimanja-

**We have shown them the state of the economy through presentations and the situation of trade and business in our region to help them fully understand what we have, what we are doing and our future plans**

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – EoI /COUN/02/2024**

**THE CENTRE FOR COUNSELLING, NUTRITION AND HEALTH CARE (COUNSENUTH)**  
**PROVIDING CONSULTANCY IN UPGRADING OF COUNSENUTH WEBSITE**

The Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Health Care (COUNSENUTH), a Non-Profit, indigenous Non - Governmental Organization established in 1998 with registration number SO. NO 9495 under the Tanzania Ministry of Home Affairs and later issued a new certificate with registration number 00NGO/R1/00199 in July 2023 under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group. COUNSENUTH headquarters is located at Plot No. 8 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B, P.O. Box 8218, Dar es Salaam.

**Objectives and Scope**  
COUNSENUTH calls for services of a consultant with adequate experience to upgrade our website to a modern, 2023 website. The purpose of this upgrade is to make the website align well with new developments globally and within COUNSENUTH. The Centre wants a website that is modern, well designed but mobile, friendly, simple to use and able to compete with our competitors. Also, the website that addresses our needs and that of our users and displays our key products and services to increase our visibility. The website should appeal to professional in

all fields and especially health and nutrition, United Nation's agencies, all development partners, donors, Embassies, youth of all ages and gender who visit it, read our blog entries, or browse our work. We recommend that the navigation be simple, and the top menu should not have more than 10 links. Use a footer more to add more points that would not fit in the navigation. CTAs must be short and precise so that the users be able to use the website with ease.

**Call for Application.**  
Interested experts are requested to immediately contact our offices via e-mail for detailed ToR to enable them to submit their full application to the address below:

Application closing date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Contact Person:

**Executive Director**  
**COUNSENUTH**  
**08 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B,**  
**P.O. Box 8218, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**  
**E-Mail: info@cousenuth.or.tz**

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**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – EoI /COUN/01/2024**

**THE CENTRE FOR COUNSELLING, NUTRITION AND HEALTH CARE (COUNSENUTH)**  
**PROVIDING CONSULTANCY IN INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF 3 YEARS (JANUARY 2023 TO DECEMBER 2025)**

The Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Health Care (COUNSENUTH), is a Non-Profit, indigenous Non - Governmental Organization established in 1998 with registration number SO. NO 9495 under the Ministry of Home Affairs in July 2023. Recently, the Centre was issued a new certificate with registration number 00NGO/R1/00199 under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group. COUNSENUTH's headquarter is located at Plot No. 8 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B. Official address is P.O. Box 8218 Dar es Salaam.

In the year ending 31st December 2023, the Centre implemented seven projects with a total budget of approximately 2.2 billion. These were: Kijana Jlongeze 2, Lishe Kijinsia-Chemba, HSS Kigoma, STRONG, Wasiachana Leadership Program, VI Agroforestry and Afya Yangu.

**Objectives and Scope of Internal Audit Services**  
The key objective of the exercise is to provide reliable, valued and timely assessment to the Management and assurance on the effectiveness and efficiency of the system of internal controls, risk management and governance process. The Internal Auditor will also give assurance on the effectiveness of the financial reporting systems, level of compliance with donor's requirements and relevant laws and regulations. Integrity and reliability of financial information, efficiency and effectiveness of operations and utilization of financial resources, security, and safety of assets. This will help the Centre in mitigating current key risks and in so doing assist in achieving COUNSENUTH's short term and long term objectives.

The audit will be conducted for operations effected from January 1st 2023 to December 31st 2023. Thereafter, the audit will be conducted twice a year and reports will be produced. The Contractor selected will be expected to conduct Internal Audit for a period of three years, however, the extension to three years is subject to availability of

funds and is based on the Internal Auditor's Performance in each year.  
The work is expected not to take more than three weeks including report submission.

**Expected Output**  
The Selected Internal Auditor will prepare a compiled draft report and will discuss key findings with COUNSENUTH management team prior to compilation of the final report.

The final internal audit report should focus on the audit findings with details on weaknesses together with recommendations on the capacity gaps.

**Call for Application.**  
Interested experts (Individuals or Firms) are requested to submit their expression of interest indicating experience of not less than 4 years in providing outsourced internal audit service, previous clients together with contact details for reference purposes, experience in auditing donor funded projects, professional qualifications of not less than CPA, including registration with NBAA, and any other relevant registration, valid licences, TIN Number, etc. The expert also needs to state his/her methodology on how he/she is going to perform the work, the cost for performing the work and time frame, which must consider the level of budget of this organisation and its local status.

Application closing date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Please send your expression of interest to the address below:

**Executive Director**  
**COUNSENUTH**  
**08 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B,**  
**P.O. Box 8218, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**  
**E-Mail: info@cousenuth.or.tz**



## New technology tested for control of vegetable pests

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

AGRICULTURAL experts at the World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) in Arusha Region in collaboration with the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) based in Nairobi, Kenya have introduced a new biological control technology in management of pests in vegetable production.

The PushPull (P-P) technology which does not involve application of any chemical pesticides is being tested for the control of diamondback moth, cabbage aphid, green peach aphid and Indian mustard aphid which are the most devastating insect pests especially in cabbage production.

Among the biotic factors which play a role in causing significant damage to agricultural production and productivity worldwide are a wide range of plant and post-harvest insect pests and diseases and studies have shown that global crop losses due to pests and diseases cause food shortage and hence food insecurity.

Records show that in Tanzania, between 40 to 100 percent of tomato

yield loss is due to bacterial wilt disease, primarily caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* bacteria species.

Dr Simon Boniface, Entomologist and Laboratory Manager who leads a plant health team at the WorldVeg Arusha said in an interview yesterday that the introduced technology is based on the use of repellent and attractive plants intercropped with the targeted crop.

"As the repellent plant pushes the targeted pest away from the main crop, at the same time the pest gets attracted and trapped by the attractive crop and hence reduces the impact of the pest on the main crop. The push-pull technology, therefore, can be employed and it fits well in the integrated pest management programmes in the management of agricultural insect pests," he said.

Dr Boniface added that the technology research activity is under AGROVEG Project funded by Biovision Foundation with the main objective of validating the push-pull technology to control pests on crucifers in order to enhance intercropping, eco-friendly and sustainable IPM technologies, and upscale the use of improved varieties in Tanzania.



**As the repellent plant pushes the targeted pest away from the main crop, at the same time the pest gets attracted and trapped by the attractive crop and hence reduces the impact of the pest on the main crop. The push-pull technology, therefore, can be employed and it fits well in the integrated pest management programmes in the management of agricultural insect pests**



Treaseas Rutambuka (2nd-R), a senior Navy instructor and head of a delegation of National Defence College students, presents a shield to acting Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Kisare Makore in Moshi on Monday. It was meant as a joint token of appreciation to 12 students from seven countries who had just completed training at the college. Photo: Correspondent Mary Masha

## Ministry suspends suspect in leakage of nursing exam

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Health has suspended its worker suspected of leaking registration and licensing exams for nurses and midwives which compelled Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council (TNMC) to invalidate results of 1,330 candidates.

The move follows an investigation that confirmed the leak and distribution of exam papers to candidates pursuing diploma courses prior to the exam date which was held on September 7, 2023.

According to a statement released yesterday by Englibert Kayombo, acting

head of government communications in the ministry, authorities became aware of the leak following a comprehensive investigation which confirmed that the exam papers had been widely circulated among diploma-level candidates.

He said the candidates will get another chance to sit for the exams without any charge and the same will be held on February 16 in Dodoma city.

Kayombo wanted the candidates to get prepared for the second exam, adding that further information will be issued pertaining to the repeat exams.

Measures have been taken to ensure that TNMC verifies qualifications of

professionals in order to deliver high-quality medical services prioritising the safety of patients who seek nursing and midwifery services, he said.

He said the exams have been invalidated in accordance with the Nursing and Midwifery Act of 2010, Training Regulations of 2010, Article 22(3).

Among its key responsibilities is to register, list and provide nursing and midwifery practicing licenses as well as prescribe standards of proficiency as outlined in Section 15(a) (b) of the Nursing and Midwifery Act of 2010.

"On September 7, last year, the council ran the exams for the

registration and licensing exams for nurses and midwives at all levels, involving a total of 1,434 candidates whereby certificate candidates were 44, diploma were 1,330 and degrees were 60. Results for other candidates have already been released," he said.

The leak affected candidates across three centres which are Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Dodoma, raising concerns about the integrity of the entire process and the potential impact on patient safety.

Kayombo said that both disciplinary and legal measures will be taken to the suspect once other due procedures are done.

## Collaboration between TBS, ZBS bolsters product safety

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

COLLABORATION between Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) has significantly reduced movement of low-quality product between Tanzania Mainland and the isles.

TBS director general Dr Athuman Ngenya said this at the weekend when speaking at the Zanzibar International Trade Fair (ZITF) as part of the festivities to mark 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution.

Dr Ngenya said that the bureau participated at the exhibition to sensitize the public on TBS achievements for the past 60 years, saying one of the major accomplishments being to collaborate with ZBS.

"It was important to have this cooperation because the trade between Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland is very big and involves various products that are regulated by the two organs," he said.

He said that the cooperation has made it possible to remove from the market products that do not meet standards between the two sides of the union.

Dr Ngenya added that quality of

products traded between the two sides has improved considerably.

Issa Njoka, nutrition expert and leader of the association of small industries in Tanzania (WAJATA), applauded TBS for serving Tanzanians and strengthening industries to ensure quality of products to protect consumers.

Njoka, who visited TBS pavilion, said that as a producer of agricultural products, he received very detailed instructions from the organisation's officers who were providing education to the public.

"Every Tanzanian and producers in particular should come to TBS to be informed on how they can get quality products," he said.

"It is important for Tanzanians to be patriotic when we want to buy products; we must check if it has the TBS quality mark to avoid buying products that are harmful to our health."

He said that there are aflatoxins and other toxins on some foods, urging that every Tanzanian has the responsibility to take care of their health.

"I call upon every Tanzanian to notify TBS when in doubt of any product so that all of us are safe," he said.



**It was important to have this cooperation because the trade between Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland is very big and involves various products that are regulated by the two organs**



NOT A RIVER...: A cyclist moves extra-cautiously along horrendously muddy Lindi Street/Msimbazi Street intersection in Dar es Salaam caused by rain water yesterday. The situation was blamed on several hours of incessant rain. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Manyara expects bumper new farming season harvest

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA Region is expected to produce 1.9 million tonnes of food and cash crops, thanks to increased use of fertiliser in the region.

Samwel Dahaye, Manyara regional agriculture officer, said this yesterday during an interview with this paper on the new agriculture season.

Dahaye said during the new season the region will cultivate

516,000 hectares of land projected to produce 1.26 million tonnes of food crops and 336,000 hectares of land expected to produce 6,74,000 million tonnes of cash crops.

He said the region will increase the use of fertiliser to produce ecologically and improve farmers' income and wellbeing.

The agriculture officer said during the last season, the region produced 521,259 tonnes of food crops and had

67 tonnes surplus food reserve. He attributed low yields to the drought that hit the region, explaining that Simanjiro and Babati district were the most affected.

Lohay Langay, Gallapo Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) manager said despite the weather being friendly, access to improved seeds was a problem.

Lohay said there are some crops whose seeds are not available and

the prices of those available are too high.

He used the opportunity to ask the government to help guarantee the availability of quality seeds so that farmers can produce productively.

The manager asked the government to supervise the authorities responsible for producing seeds to ensure that they produce quality seeds that meet the set standards to save farmers from losses.





Ijala district commissioner Edward Mpogolo (C) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday holding a copy of the curriculum which College of Business Education tutors intend to use in conducting training for commuter bus attendants in the city. He had just launched the document. With him: Head of Police Force Road Safety Education Desk Michael Deleli (L), Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Litra) Road Traffic Control director Johansen Kahatano (2nd-L) and CBE rector Prof Edda Lwoga (2nd-R). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

# Call: Borrow from lenders registered by central bank to avoid loan sharks

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIANS have been advised to apply for loans from financial institutions that are recognised and registered by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in order to avoid challenges that may not be easily addressed.

The call was made here by Salim Kimaro, senior official from the Ministry of Finance, during the opening of training on financial literacy for artists from Tanzania Community Civic Initiatives (TACCI) held here on Monday. After the training, the group will be used to conduct financial literacy awareness in an artistic manner.

He said loan applicants are required to have adequate knowledge on financial services, including reading and understanding loan agreements and the actual costs of the loans before accepting them.

"The financial sector development programme directs provision of financial literacy to the public through various mechanisms. Therefore, the training for artists will help pass financial knowledge to rural areas where there is low understanding hence residents are vulnerable to loan sharks," he said.

He said the financial sector development plan prepared by the government through the Ministry of Finance seeks to improve and expand financial services, ensure availability of capital and ensure the financial sector is sustainable and contributes to the national economy as required.

Kimaro added that the public education programme is implemented as part of implementation of the Financial Sector Development Master Plan from 2020/2021 financial year to 2029/2030.

He said the master plan will then

be evaluated to see the achievements gained during execution and come up with suggestions for improvement in areas where challenges may arise.

Kimaro said art is one of the good means to disseminate information to the public since it is easier to reach people in large numbers and send not only here in Tanzania but throughout the world.

He pointed out key focus areas during provision of financial literacy as personal financial management, savings, loans, investment, insurance, deposit insurance, retirement plan, taxation, payment systems and protection of users of financial services.

"We will go to rural areas and select areas with low financial literacy where the artists who possess financial understanding can go and share the right information with the public," said Kimaro.

He added that loan applicants should seek loans for productive investment like purchasing land which enables borrowers to grow crops or expand businesses.

Aline Augustin, director of TACCI, said among the unique ways of educating the society is to conduct on stage acts for community development through traditional dances and radio dramas.

"Through radio dramas, TACCI has the major opportunity of reaching out to the community, passing the knowledge as well as attracting various groups and ignite discussions concerning the provided education," she said.

She further emphasized that the ongoing training on financial literacy equips them with a wider understanding and scope to help them prepare an artistic way of communicating the desired knowledge that meets the needs of the government.

## Replace excessive force with public awareness, police told

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE officers in Mbeya Region have been urged not to use excessive force in dealing with suspects but rather educate the public to enable more citizens to take part in prevention of crime.

Mbeya District Commissioner Beno Malisa made the call at the weekend when handing over three vehicles bought by the government for police force to help combat crime.

The DC said that everyone has a stake in ensuring the protecting themselves and their property which makes public participation in fighting crime very crucial.

"To succeed, we must include public participation by providing people with education on how to help curb crime. Our society needs to live in peace and stability, he said.

He noted that police force's current practice of stationing officers in each ward is beneficial because by interacting with the community, the

law enforcers can deter crime before it occurs and promote peace and stability.

After receiving the vehicles, Mbeya Regional Police Commander ACP Benjamin Kuzaga said that the vehicles will help police in dealing with criminal suspects in a professional manner.

"These vehicles will help us get everywhere to deal with crime; they will also enable us go to places with signs of crime and act before crime happens and affects the people," he

said. The RPC expressed his belief that the government's rapid advancement of police service will eventually lead to new tools being deployed in every district in Mbeya Region to combat crime.

In order to help communities live in peace and stability, ACP Kuzaga said that police in the region has plans to conduct public sensitization programmes in 2024. This will enable citizens to work together with law enforcers to combat crime.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DEPUTY Minister for Trade and Industries, Exaud Kigahe, has asked institutions dealing with trade to clarify issues related tax collected by Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

He said Tanzania depends on trade hence improving public awareness on the same and its significance can help address complaints from traders who are their customers.

Kigahe gave the statement during

## 'Inform traders on roles of ZRA, TRA on tax collection'

the opening of a meeting for heads of institutions of both union and Zanzibar governments held at the Dr Mwinyi Conference Hall.

He said many businesspeople have little understanding on deductions and taxes charged by ZRA and TRA, adding that this leads to complaints which can be addressed through public education.

The minister pointed out that there

are a lot of challenges facing businesses hence a need for parties to sit together and collaborate and solve the problems and give room for businesspeople to continue with their activities and grow the economy.

"We need to work on this to resolve the issue so that businesses thrive," he said.

Because Tanzania Mainland and

Zanzibar form one country, it is important to work together to resolve issues that affect business community on both sides.

Omar Said, Trade and Development Minister in Zanzibar, said the ministry is ready to collaborate with traders to ease their activities. He wanted executives from institutions in both governments to fully understand the

strategies they created in order to achieve the desired goals.

Latifa Khamis, Chairperson of the meeting of the heads of institutions, said the forum for leaders of public institutions in Zanzibar is determined to complete its official registration at the third quarter of the financial year 2023/24.

She said the forum will provide

practical advice to another forum of chief executives in the government of Zanzibar during and event to formalize the forum through official registration.

She urged all leaders to work hard to achieve institutional goals and the visions of presidents Samia Suluhu Hassan and Dr Hussein Mwinyi on provision of quality services by the institutions.

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera, has asked the government to remove tuition fees for Folk Development Colleges (FDC) the same way as in primary and secondary schools so as to allow youth who missed secondary education to join the institutions.

RC Homera (pictured) made the call during a tour by the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Administration and Local Government in Mbeya Region to inspect various development projects.

While presenting a progress report on education sector in the region, Homera said the region is determined to take youth to folk development college when they fail to join secondary education after primary education.

He said the decision was reached by the government in the region after realizing that pupils who failed to continue with secondary education immediately after completing primary education end up in the streets without any skills to help them live independently.

"Children at such young age cannot be independent. When they are not selected to join secondary schools, they end up in the streets and engage in unlawful acts like smoking weed and others join criminal gangs such as 'Panya road' who assault people and disturb the peace," said Homera.

## Govt asked to scrap fees for folk development colleges



He said that in order to prevent youth from taking part in criminal activities, the region decided to take

them to folk development colleges where they can learn various skills such as tailoring, carpentry, cooking

and brick laying which allows them to take on lawful endeavours.


Homera pointed out that the hindrance is that such youth are required to pay fees of not less than 250,000/- when they get to colleges, a situation which forces some of them to return to the streets when they fail to afford the fees.

"If this country intends to wipe out Panya road, I request the parliament to support this idea and submit this request to the government for the removal of fees so that we can help our young men and women," he said.

He argued that the removal of fees in colleges will bring equality among children going to secondary schools whose fees have been omitted until form six whilst other children of their age are required to pay for fees.

Responding to the appeal, Chairman of the committee Dennis Londo said the matter was well received and members fully support it.

Londo also pledged to submit the appeal to the responsible ministry so that action can be taken to help youth attending the said colleges not to discontinue their studies.



### Tender Notice:

**Introduction**  
Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) is a locally registered Non-Governmental organization providing specialized healthcare services operating in Dar es Salaam with a rehabilitation satellite in Moshi, Tanzania. From its inception as a provider of community-based rehabilitation provider, CCBRT has become the largest provider of disability and rehabilitative services in the country.

**Details**  
CCBRT invites qualified and competent:

1. A Biomedical company to submit a quotation for provision of Preventative and corrective Maintenance of Medical Equipment's for two (2) years starting in 2024 up to 2026.
2. A Catering company to submit a quotation for running CCBRT Main Kitchen at Maternity wing (MW) for two (2) years start on 2024 up to 2026.
3. A Technical gas company to submit a quotation for provision of Preventative and corrective Maintenance of Medical Oxygen Gas Plant for two (2) years starting in 2024 up to 2026.
4. A Medical company to submit a quotation for Rental/Lease of 6-Part Hematology Analyzer and Digital Machine for Urine Analyzer Fully Automated for two (2) years starting in 2024 up to 2026
5. A Fire rescue company to submit a quotation for provision of **Fire Rescue Response Services** for two (2) years starting in 2024 up to 2026.

CCBRT reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant and is not bound to accept the lowest offer. Prospective bidders are hereby notified that canvassing of any kind will lead to automatic disqualification.

CCBRT may plan to visit supplier's premises to verify the information contained in the bid documents and obtain assurance from the vendors. The bidders are required to pay a non-refundable bidding fee of TZS 50,000/-. Payment should be deposited to the CROB Bank via Account number 0150516115911, Account name CCBRT.

The bidding document is available from 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 8am to 3pm at the CEO Secretary's office, situated at Off Kimweri Road, Msasani, Dar es Salaam. Mobile 0752442595

**How to submit bids**  
In person and inside a sealed envelope, at CCBRT Hospital premises, Off Kimweri Road, Msasani, Dar es Salaam

**Chief Executive Officer,  
CCBRT  
P.O. Box 23310  
Msasani, Dar es Salaam**

IMPORTANT: BIDS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REGARDLESS OF THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY

PO Box 23310, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania • Tel: +255(0)699 990 000 • www.ccbtrt.org  
Email: communications@ccbtrt.org • Facebook: www.facebook.com/ccbtrt



## Improve access to Nyerere Memorial House for students

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A member of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) Board of Trustees, Dr Rimo Nyansaho, has proposed the procurement of a special vehicle to be used to ferry students from their schools to the Nyerere Memorial House to learn what the founder president did during his days in office.

Dr Nyansaho made the call at the weekend when speaking during his tour of TANAPA pavilion at the Zanzibar International Trade Fair in Fumba as part of commemoration of 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution.

"Young generations need to know what Mwalimu Nyerere did since the days of independence struggle and what he did while in office," he said.

He asked TANAPA management to continue with efforts to promote national parks and maintain the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Memorial House which located at Magomeni in Dar es Salaam.

He said the memorial house can play a big role of instilling a sense of patriotism in young Tanzanians.

Additionally, he commended the parastatal for effectively managing the country's natural resources and promoting tourism sector.

He said he was happy with the way TANAPA undertakes its responsibilities in conserving wildlife and promoting tourism, activities which earn the country substantial amount of income.

Herman Baltazary, senior official at the pavilion from Mikumi National Park informed Dr Nyansaho that the aim of participating at the fair was to market national parks and attract prospective investors in the lucrative tourism sector.

"Based on the sensitivity of these exhibitions, it has been a good opportunity in meeting tour operators, travel agents and tour guides. Interactions with Zanzibar tourism stakeholders create mutual benefits in marketing tourist attractions available in our national parks," he said.



**Young generations need to know what Mwalimu Nyerere did since the days of independence struggle and what he did while in office**

## Dar es Salaam Wine Week Festival set for next month

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE sixth edition of the Dar es Salaam Wine Week Festival (DWWF) is scheduled to take place from February 3, 2024, organisers have announced.

The annual event is a platform for winemakers and enthusiasts to interact and taste the existing as well as the new products.

It is conducted in an array of events such as free wine tastings, pairings and interactive sessions between the stakeholders

The event is organised by Tamu, a Dar es Salaam-based dynamic event planning and hosting company and this year it is scheduled to take place at Serena Hotel in the city.

Kelly Simon, founder of the company behind the event said in an interview here recently that they have been organising the festival since 2015, adding that the outcomes have always been rewarding.

"We have decided to organise it so as to create a platform for appreciation of the art of winemaking in Tanzania," he said.

He added that the event is also meant to supplement efforts by the government to spur performance of grape production and wine trade.

Being the country's grapes and wine hub, Dodoma Region is currently with at least three major wine factories namely Aliko Vintage Co. Ltd, Central Tanganyika Wine Company (CETAWICO) and Dane Holdings Limited as well as five other small scale plants scattered in different locations under ownership of farmers associations.

Although still with a limited number of factories, Tanzania is making crucial strides in making wines that continue to conquer the world market mainly due to uniqueness in taste and aroma. Among top wine varieties produced in Tanzania include Dodoma wine, Domp, Image, Imagi, Presidential wine, Overmeer, Altar, Sharye and Dane NK super wine.



**Being the country's grapes and wine hub, Dodoma Region is currently with at least three major wine factories namely Aliko Vintage Co. Ltd, Central Tanganyika Wine Company (CETAWICO) and Dane Holdings Limited as well as five other small scale plants scattered in different locations under ownership of farmers associations**



Mbeya district commissioner Beno Malisa (L) cuts the ribbon yesterday to launch the use of vehicles the government has bought for further empowering police in combating crime. Third left is Mbeya Regional Police Commander Benjamin Kuzaga. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## All bus luggage must bear owner name tags – LATRA

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

LAND Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has instructed upcountry bus owners to ensure that all passenger luggage are tagged with correct names of owners.

Johansen Kahatano, LATRA Road Transport Director, made the directive yesterday when speaking to this paper about luggage tag standards prepared by the authority.

He said the procedure aims to reduce loss of passengers' luggage and prevent illegal transportation of luggage containing contraband carried out by some passengers.

He said LATRA has been conducting inspections and will continue to do so regularly, adding that failure to attach the tag attracts a fine of 100,000/-.

He said that previously, each bus owner used to put luggage tags in their own style with others writing passenger names with

a pen.

"In order to monitor the implementation of this order easily, we have prepared luggage tag standards that every service provider will follow which must contain the name of the passenger, their final destination and the date of travel," he said.

"The tag has two parts: the first is attached to the luggage and the other is given to the passenger to be produced as proof of ownership of the luggage at the final destination."

Kahatano said that LATRA decided to come up with the move after receiving many complaints of lost luggage on buses with cases of some passengers taking luggage that do not belong to them.

"Some people pack contrabands such as narcotic drugs and illegal cosmetics and people who suffer the consequences are bus owners because owners of such luggage just disown them," he said.

"But with this new luggage tag system, a passenger can no longer disown a luggage."



Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister Hamisi Mwinjuma alias Mwana FA, Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister Hamisi Mwinjuma alias MwanaFA, who is Muheza constituency legislator, makes remarks when launching a secondary school in Mpapayu ward on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Steve William

## Tanzanians account for 46pc of investors, says TIC

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) has said that Tanzanians own only 46 percent of investments it has registered, appealing for more undertakings to narrow the gap.

Felix John, TIC domestic investment promotion manager made the observation here yesterday when speaking to journalists after visiting several investors in the region

as part of the centre's national campaign to encourage investment.

However, John said there is significant increase in the number of investments by locals due to improvements made by the six-phase government to change the investment law, including reducing the amount of minimum capital.

He said the new investment law of 2022 reduced the value of capital for a local investor from USD100, 000 to USD50, 000

to encourage more Tanzanians to invest.

John added that law recognises a special category of investors who are given incentives such as tax exemptions.

He said the campaign to encourage domestic investment aims to change the long-held mindset by Tanzanians that the issue of investment is a thing of foreigners.

Peter Serukamba, Singida Regional Commissioner, said TIC did well by establishing one stop centre to help

investors get services from other important government bodies such as Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

Lucas Mkuki, acting Singida Regional Administrative Secretary welcomes investors from other parts of the country to come and invest in the region, saying that its central location makes it a strategic location with good infrastructure and huge investment potential in agriculture.





**NO WAY THROUGH:** Residents of Kisai village in Urambo District, Tabora Region, have no option but to wade through floodwaters yesterday as others look on helplessly - with heavy rains having rendered the strategic road pictured impassable. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Officials save thousands of live turtles from trafficking

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

CUSTOMS officials at an airport in the Peruvian capital, Lima, have seized 4,001 live turtles which were due to be trafficked to Indonesia.

The eggs and the meat of the freshwater turtles is considered a delicacy in some parts of the world.

Officials found that the export papers for the shipment were not in order, wrongly identifying the species of some of the animals and the age of others.

The turtles have been taken to an authorised breeding centre in Lima.

They will be cared for at the centre until their final destination is decided, officials said.

They added that so far none of the reptiles had died.

Environmental officers said more than 400 of the animals were South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*), whose "legal origin could not be determined".

The South American river turtle was not considered threatened by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) back in 1996 when its status was assessed. But an IUCN working group has since recommended that due to the species' falling numbers it should be reclassified as "critically endangered".

The remaining reptiles are Taricaya turtles (*Podocnemis unifilis*), also known as yellow-spotted river turtles, but their estimated age did not match that given on the paperwork.

Peru's National Forestry and Wildlife Service (Serfor) said an export licence had been granted for Taricaya turtles ranging in age between one and three years, but the reptiles seized were much younger.

Serfor rescues thousands of animals from illegal traffickers each year.

It says that monkeys, turtles and parrots are among the most popular animals for traffickers.

## AfDB to support health technology innovations across Africa

KIGALI

THE African Development Bank Group has entered into an agreement with the HealthTech Hub Africa to support the development of a pan-African blueprint to fast-track health tech innovations across the continent.

The partnership is expected to address growing demand from African governments for solutions that close national health infrastructure gaps, and to extend affordable health services to underserved and vulnerable communities. It will also accelerate the adoption of advanced health technologies across the

continent and promote growth of the sector.

Founded by the Novartis Foundation and partners, the HealthTech Hub Africa is a hybrid, pan-African health tech accelerator with a physical co-working and community space in Kigali, Rwanda.

The agreement was announced recently during the HealthTech Africa Investor Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

Dr Ann Aerts, Head of the Novartis Foundation, said: "By fostering a conducive environment for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and growth, this collaboration seeks to further empower health tech innovators and startups,

enhancing their capabilities and facilitating transformative innovations."

The African Development Bank will work with the HealthTech Hub Africa to accelerate the scale-up of patient-centric telemedicine and teleconsultation services, improved data sharing, patient record tracking software and artificial intelligence-powered diagnostic and screening tools into Africa's healthcare systems.

"This collaboration will develop actionable recommendations that address capacity gaps for health technology innovations in Africa," said Dr. Babatunde Omilola, African Development Bank Division Manager responsible for

implementing the

Bank's Strategy for Quality Health Infrastructure in Africa. "This will ultimately enhance the way health care is delivered and improve patient outcomes."

Since its launch, the HealthTech Hub Africa has supported sixty-eight organizations across 17 African countries, working on issues such as cardiovascular disease, breast cancer as well as data and digital systems to strengthen healthcare delivery. In the last 1.5 years, two cohorts of innovators have impacted some 2.35 million beneficiaries, raised over \$18 million in funding and created more than 830 new jobs.

## China approves Alzheimer's and HIV/AIDS drugs

BEIJING

CHINA'S medical regulators recently approved two foreign drugs, bringing new hope to patients with Alzheimer's disease and groups at risk of HIV/AIDS.

The National Medical Products Administration announced last week that it had granted market approval for the injected drug Leqembi, developed by Tokyo-based pharmaceutical company Eisai, to treat minor dementia and cognitive dysfunction triggered by Alzheimer's.

The Economic Observer, a Beijing-based news outlet, reported that China is the third country to approve the drug, after the United States in July and Japan in September.

The drug targets amyloid beta protein, widely believed to be associated with neurotoxicity and Alzheimer's.

The pharmaceutical company added that current drugs on the market only target symptoms and have a hard time dealing with the root cause. During a global clinical trial, taking the drug was shown to reverse the progression for about 60 percent of early-stage patients and help them improve cognitive impairments, the company said.

Eisai set the price at 2,508 yuan (\$350) per 2-milliliter dose, or about 180,000 yuan annually for a patient weighing 60 kilograms.

According to the Economic Observer, the drug was priced at 3,328 yuan per dose during a trial in Boao Hope City, a pilot medical zone in Hainan province, which allows drugs approved elsewhere to be used for real-world clinical trials in China. The first batch of 200 doses has been used up, the report said.

China has 9.83 million people with Alzheimer's, and the disease is the fifth-largest cause of death in the country, according to an annual report on the disease released last year.

Meanwhile, the diagnosis and treatment rate is low, and awareness among the general public is inefficient, the report said.

Separately, Descovy, a tablet developed by US-based pharmaceutical company Gilead, has been approved by the NMPA for pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, to lower the risk of HIV infection due to high-risk sexual activities. Previously, the drug had been approved to treat HIV infections in adults.

The NMPA said that clinical trials showed that Descovy had effectiveness as a PrEP drug no worse than Truvada, the first PrEP drug approved in China, and that it displayed very low side effects.

"Groups with a high risk of HIV exposure can take this drug regularly to help maintain a certain density of the drug in the blood to prevent HIV infections," said Wang Hui, chief expert of the HIV/AIDS center at Shenzhen Third People's Hospital, adding that the drug offers a new choice for those involved in high-risk sexual activities, such as those engaging in unprotected homosexual sex, sex with unfixed partners, or prostitution.

Sexual activity is a major means of HIV transmission among adults. As of late 2022, China has 1.2 million people living with HIV, according to the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The World Health Organization said oral PrEP is highly effective in preventing HIV when used as directed, and recommends people at substantial risk of HIV infection be offered PrEP drugs as an additional choice as part of comprehensive prevention.

However, awareness and prevalence of PrEP in China are relatively low compared with developed countries. Based on a study published in the Chinese Journal of Epidemiology in 2020, only 56 percent of some 600 people interviewed said they were aware of the method, and just 10.6 percent said they were absolutely willing to use it.



**Abeida Rashid Abdullah (C)**, Permanent Secretary in Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, receives a certificate of appreciation from Zanzibar's Trade and Industrial Development minister, Omar Said Shaaban, on Monday for her contribution to the performance of the Isles' Licensing System Control Council. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## IFC avails \$80m for clean energy production in Africa

By Jean Marie Takouleu

AS part of a recently concluded partnership, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) will provide \$80 million to the Facility for Energy Inclusion (FEI) to finance production of renewable energy for commercial and industrial (C&I) customers.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is supporting the production of renewable energy for businesses. The private sector financing arm of the World Bank Group has pledged \$80 million to the Facility for Energy Inclusion (FEI), a pan-African fund that supports small-scale decentralised renewable energy projects, bringing energy to Africa's C&I sectors.

Of this funding, \$30 million is an IFC loan. There is also a \$20 million loan under the Co-financing Portfolio Management Programme (CPMP) which will leverage \$30 million of blended finance. There is also \$15 million from the International Development Association's (IDA) private sector window blending facility and \$15 million from Finland's and the IFC's blended climate finance programme.

"This is an important milestone for the EIF, which is now recognised by the main market players as a leading lender in the decentralised renewable energy market in Africa, with \$220 million in commitments in 23 countries to date," explains Orli Arav, Head of Debt Funds at Cygnus Capital Asset Management, the investment

company that manages the EIF.

The financing granted by the IFC "will make it possible to increase production capacity by around 115 MW in some fifteen African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana and Kenya", says the World Bank subsidiary responsible for the private sector. For the record, the EIF finances small-scale renewable energy production and storage projects designed to supply commercial and industrial (C&I) companies, telecommunications infrastructures and solar mini-grids in several African countries.

In November 2023, the financing facility signed for a \$20 million line of credit for CrossBoundary Energy (CBE). The

financing provided by Standard Bank as part of a \$50 million facility will be used to produce solar energy to power businesses in sub-Saharan Africa.

FEI is sponsored by The African Development Bank and managed by Lion's Head Global Partners (LHGP), an investment bank founded in 2008, which provides investment management and financial advisory services in sub-Saharan Africa and other emerging markets.

FEI addresses one of the major barriers for small-scale sustainable energy projects in Africa - the limited access to debt financing. FEI intends to target segments of the sector that remains underserved by both international investors and domestic lenders.



## Street begging has a basis in 'weak' solidarity and, often, just deception

YET another operation ostensibly meant to clear street beggars from metropolitan Dar es Salaam is in the offing. The regional commissioner concerned has demanded the arrest and removal of all of them, including those with disabilities.

The move comes in the wake of measures being taken in various aspects, including against the background of outbreaks of cholera in various parts of the country and a ravaging waste collection environment in the commercial capital.

What has come most into the limelight is the directive on beggars made at a meeting the RC had with government executives.

There was also a bit of an update on begging trends in the city with the remark that there are a lot of beggars at the Tanzanite Bridge, heading towards the plush zone of hotels, banks and government buildings in the central business district.

While there are often genuine cases of begging, it is doubtless that at times this is a gimmick to collect money from sympathisers by the beggars themselves or by able-bodied men, women and even children leading the visually and otherwise impaired. It is not clear if the majority of the beggars still come from the central regions. Not much of a similar scenario is heard these days.

However, an online entry dated 2015 shows that cases of a disease blamed for visual impairment in the particular zone is now present in 19 districts of five regions, with approximately four million people at risk of infection.

That suggests that there is still a large pool of potentially infected people who can easily flood various other urban parts of the country, including Dar es Salaam.

It is well known that street begging could be induced by challenges at the family or household level, among them neglect by relatives, but oftentimes also merely as a way of collecting whatever benefits (including of money) one could lay one's hands on as alms.

Those leading, guiding or escorting

fake beggars only help to further soil the ages-old commonly spurned practice as people start seeing them as aiding the wrong persons.

Small wonder, then, that administrators may not distinguish genuine beggars from tricksters, thus opting to remove all beggars from urban streets altogether.

An online entry dated 2023 says that in Tanzania, six million people are at risk of developing river blindness, particularly those in the endemic areas of Morogoro, Tanga, Iringa, Lindi and Mbeya regions.

This implies that efforts to do the disease have not been overly successful, a situation that isn't quite surprising as even avowed successes like having largely removed the malaria threat in Zanzibar has been short-lived.

As with diseases, poverty hinders the putting up of enough dwellings with usable protection against the disease - in like manner as inability to do the spraying on the riverbeds in endemic areas is tied to poverty.

There are issues of good governance as to how far funds are allocated for eradicating the breeding grounds, as flies are somewhat easier to control than mosquitoes, but there are similar issues of how diligently such funds are spent.

All this has relevance as efforts to end street begging continue. It is clear that some begging is genuine while some is fake, just like with street hawking but there are limitations to both.

Having large numbers of people systematically lined up on a bridge or in a flower garden, begging, would no doubt raise eyebrows - and no one should be surprised if public authorities take measures to check the situation.

The government is obviously duty bound to do the most it can, including handling the financial and other resources at its disposal judiciously enough, to make street begging irrelevant.

However, families also ought to be similarly more responsible and concerned by helping in seriously tackling the challenge before it grows into the needless disgrace so rampant in our urban centres.

## Individual title permits choosing village mode of living differently

WITH experts brainstorming on how to quicken investments and economic growth, rigorous evaluation of the potential impact of land sale additions to the circulation of money is crucial.

In the past there was a prohibition of doing business if one had a public service engagement, the condition removed 24 years after it came into use.

Since then virtually anyone can buy a piece of land for putting up a house, starting a business activity, renting it, etc.

While civil servants are required to list their assets each year, this appears to be a formality; what is of greater importance and relevance is integrity, including desisting from misusing - or abusing - one's official position.

The idea of good governance that we currently have, and many people know, is diligence, selflessness and serving the people at required by terms - to satisfaction.

Trouble comes up when a public official is potentially capable of using land as a point of departure in starting a business, by either leasing such land to those who want it or allowing them to purchase it altogether.

Whether one is talking about obtaining loans to pump up water and irrigate grazing land or changing to higher value cattle than at present, it is clear that even herders can use individual land titles to improve their lives.

Individual titles open the way to accessing bank loans, the formula currently in use being to create groups of producers. This may work to an extent with local level lending associations like saving and credit cooperative societies but not much with commercial banks.

Political leaders have for long urged

the banks to change their operating formats to lend to these sections, instead of real reforms, but not to the expected effect.

Policy and decision makers need to go a step further from what was done 33 years ago, in 1991, when the Zanzibar Resolution ended limitations in the Leadership Code and paved the way for families to venture into enterprises or trading units.

Something like another ladder in pushing reforms occurred around 20 years ago when President Benjamin Mkapa invited Professor Hernando de Soto.

The noted Peruvian economist lectured around the world on the miracle of the title deed, namely, the transferability of property or even merely pace, if used in street trading, etc.

Nearly 20 years later, millions of educated youths hanker aimlessly for largely elusive jobs while rural areas are restive with land-related disputes between herders and farmers, as well as within farming groups.

Those who have spent decades in urban areas are time and again advised not to go back there even if they have land entitlements, as their next of kin want to use those pieces of land.

What is hailed as customary ownership of land is often an inheritance dynamite. It is pretty hard as well to stop incessant quarrels or uplift standards of living without introducing the more rational individual titles easing transferability of land and thus enabling bank credits.

The government is not blind to these hard facts, going by the various corrective and other measures it has taken over the years towards rectifying matters. Hopefully, we shall soon enough be witnessing more of such interventions.

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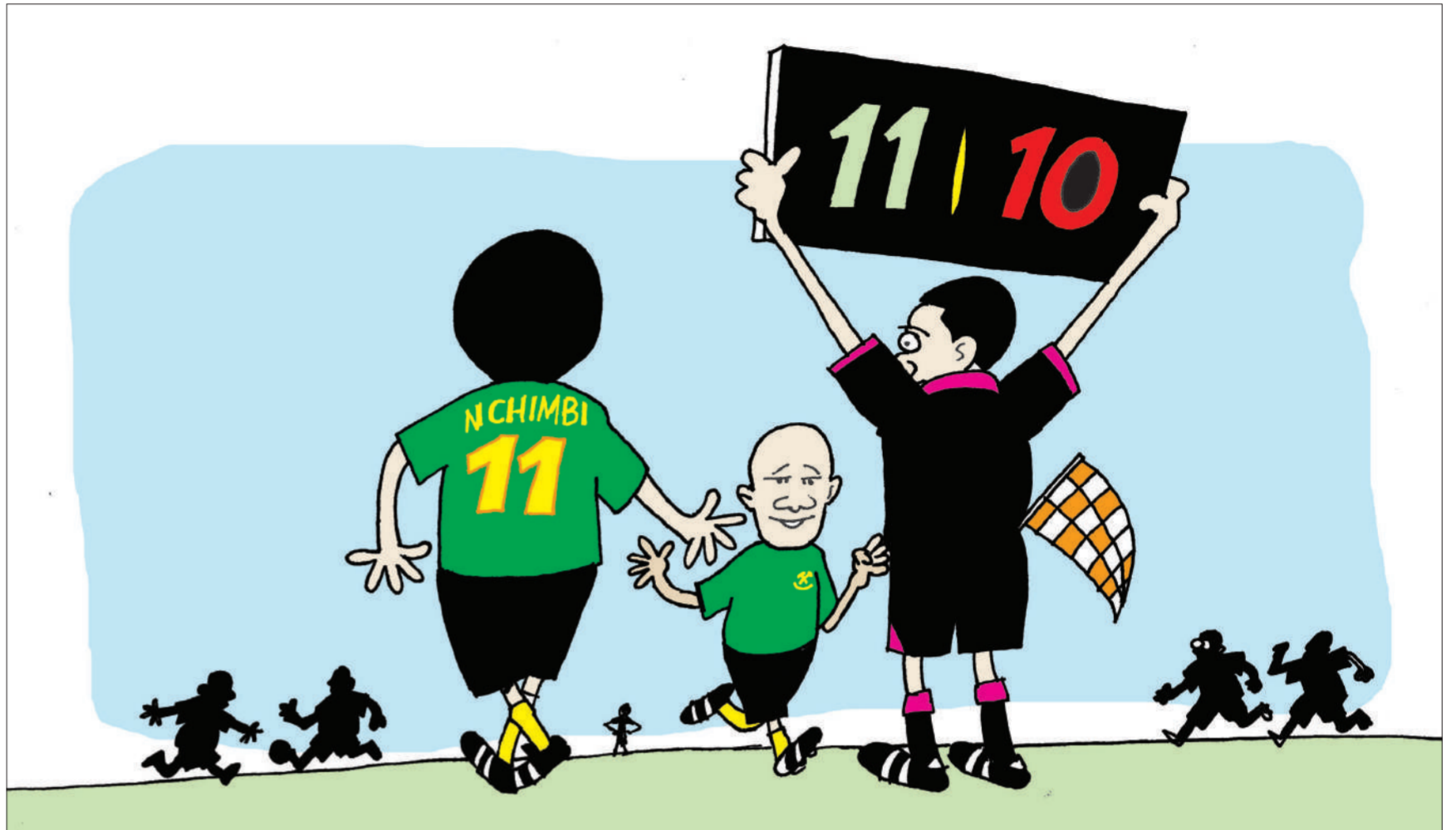
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## A surgeon's reflections on artificial intelligence

By Alberto Paderno

BEING an oncologic surgeon is my primary job and passion. It allows me to interact with people and immerse myself in the healthcare system. Not the fancy corporate Healthcare, just everyday medicine.

And, as a researcher in artificial intelligence (AI), I am noticing a growing disconnect between the actual clinical practice and the prevailing objectives of AI researchers and companies.

This is, of course, just a personal opinion and not a critique of the current research and development processes. However, it is a reflection grounded on some experience in both fields.

The disruptive potential of AI in customer software and industry is now clear. But we need to acknowledge that AI in healthcare is an entirely different animal.

The fact is that the degree of complexity, regulation, and risk is significantly higher than that of most other applications. Also, publicly available datasets are orders of magnitude scarcer than in many other domains - owing to privacy and accessibility limits.

I'm currently staying in the Silicon Valley as a surgeon with a technical background in AI, which gave me direct access to this vibrant "ecosystem".

Meetings and conferences on AI are the order of the day. However, it's difficult not to notice some facts, one being that clinicians do not participate in AI events - even in those for Healthcare events.

## What universities should do to prepare students for a journalism career

By Jacob Granger

"WHAT sort of journalism do we need to teach?" is the question at the heart of a new book entitled *Challenges and New Directions in Journalism Education*.

In the UK, university is the main way to enter the profession - nine in ten journalists hold a university qualification.

The book's editor, Karen Fowler-Watt, said in a recent interview that she wanted to lift the lid on how curriculums were designed. She explores various topics with a range of academic peers, with every chapter including a reality check from her journalism students.

"It's about showing students how messy, difficult, challenging and unfinished journalism is," said Fowler-Watt, Bournemouth University professor of journalism and a former BBC senior producer.

Something many students were quick to remark on is the need for greater diversity and inclusion in journalism.

In practice, that means that journalists need to include diverse sources in their reporting but also show solidarity for their underrepresented peers.

The AI healthcare research is driven by the technical side, with minimal feedback and collaboration from clinicians regarding data sharing and technical development.

Firstly, the enthusiasm towards new technologies pushes us to try to apply them to every problem: "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail," in the words of Abraham Maslow.

And I absolutely understand this tendency. AI is our new Thor's hammer; why wouldn't we want to try it on anything even remotely appropriate?

However, this directs research and progress focused on solving "technical puzzles" without answering a fundamental question. On one side, we can find amusing representations of this concept, such as the "That's what she said" joke identifier (an amusing solution, I'm not criticizing); and, on the other, examples where the forced implementation of complex deep learning workflows is expensive and unnecessary.

Secondly, typical "top-down" strategies are based on market analysis and market-share calculation. In brief: "Let's find a big and profitable field in healthcare, and let's jam-pack it with AI."

As always, it might be a great short-term strategy, but the magic disappears after a while.

These approaches are rarely effective in healthcare. Physicians and surgeons often revert to conventional practices when the advantages of the new solution are not evident.

Planck's principle can be safely applied to medical innovation, that is: "science advances one funeral at a time."

For this reason, a 5 to 10 per cent increase in operational efficiency, while significant at scale, is hardly applied in the medical setting. We need a 2x-10x improvement in areas relevant to everyday clinical practice.

A practical approach would be to identify an actual problem, assess the efficacy of current solutions, and evaluate if AI can be employed to develop better solutions - the typical Mom Test.

Now, just how does one talk to customers and learn if your business is a good idea when everyone is lying to you? Well, the world doesn't need another framework or theory. The Mom Test skips all that and gets to the hands-on challenges...

Currently, most major developments in AI for Healthcare are coming from Tech research groups and Tech companies. This association explains why the focus is skewed more towards the computer science side than the healthcare component.

In order to solve this issue, the direct involvement of clinicians and surgeons will be essential. The need is clearly there.

Medicine remains a highly flawed and subjective matter; calling it an "art" is looking at the full half of the glass without acknowledging that something is missing.

For example: The surgeon's experience and judgment remain

among the most significant variables determining survival outcomes and complications.

Highly subjective endoscopic evaluations are the cornerstone of entire medical fields (e.g., laryngoscopy, GI endoscopy, bronchoscopy).

Even histopathology, often regarded as the gold standard, can suffer from a high degree of variability in its interpretation.

These are examples of substantial medical domains that will need to be improved to see practical advancements in the care of patients.

However, the first step will challenge the usual paradigm of separating scientific fields into semi-insulated compartments.

The successful integration of molecular biology within the medical field is a precedent, suggesting a similar potential for a synergistic conjunction of medicine and computer science. This interdisciplinary approach is crucial for catalysing real-life developments in patient care.

In summary, we need a new breed of doctors with the skills to understand and employ AI effectively. And this will likely require restructuring our current medical training.

\* A medium-com dispatch. Alberto Paderno is Head and Neck Surgeon Researcher in Oncology and Artificial Intelligence. He is Assistant Professor at Humanitas University, an International Medical School based in Milan, Italy, while also Visiting Scholar at Stanford University in California, the US.

journalists in the industry as it is right now."

Educators have to tread a fine line here between giving them a dose of reality and not putting them off altogether.

Public affairs and media law are essential components of journalism training. There is no getting away from it. The stakes are too high for substandard reporting.

These are dull topics in the eyes of many young people, and journalism educators need to introduce case studies or play into their sense of values as many are passionate about the purpose of the profession.

Journalism students seem to love podcasts but perceive them as an opinionated medium that is not always in line with journalism.

These news podcasts speak to a broader trend of personality-driven media, where journalists can get more personal. Greater guidance is needed about where balance can be won and lost.

Podcasts - as well as newsletters and platforms like TikTok - provide a lower barrier to entry for newcomers and those with an entrepreneurial mind.

The fundamentals of employability

used to be just hard skills, a good CV and a strong portfolio. Anyone wanting to be a successful freelancer or launch a new media startup needs to have the risk-taking mindset that traditionally belongs to entrepreneurs.

Being experimental is also something a lot of established news organisations need, as they look for new ways to innovate workflows, write stories and discover audiences.

These are skills a lot of young journalists have in spades and something educators - as well as employers - should look to cultivate.

"We as educators need to show that taking a risk and getting things wrong is okay. I don't mean ending up in court because you don't know your media law. I mean creatively," noted Fowler-Watt.

She elaborated: "Invest in their confidence to follow their gut, take a risk and see if it works in a well-informed way, which means not putting themselves or others at physical or mental risk."

\* This piece was originally published on Journalism.co.uk and republished on the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.



By Nomsa Maseko

# Mozambique storms: How to cyclone-proof your life

**M**OZAMBICAN builder José Joaquim is determined to never again put his family through the terror of living through a cyclone in a flimsy house.

When Cyclone Idai crashed on to Mozambique's coastline five years ago, he was living with his wife and new-born baby in a shelter with corrugated iron roofing in the city of Beira.

"When the winds intensified, we were inside. Because of the noise we couldn't be sure what was happening outside. But then suddenly one of the metal roof sheets blew away," Mr Joaquim told the BBC.

"And then our door cracked in half because of the wind. We realised that we had to get out of there."

They struggled through winds that kept knocking them down until they reached an evacuation centre at a local school, where for safety everyone packed into the one room that had a concrete roof until the gales subsided.

"As a father I felt the responsibility to protect my child and his mother, and thank God! I made a wise decision to leave, to abandon the house so I could save my family," the 27-year-old says.

Idai caused massive devastation and a heavy loss of life - 1,500 people died and another three million were affected across three countries.

Since then other storms have hit the region and with climate change, scientists predict they will only get stronger and more dangerous.

This could be catastrophic for a country with the third longest Indian Ocean coastline.

Now whenever clouds gather, people here become visibly worried about the possibility of deadly floods brought on by tropical cyclones.

This has forced people, like Mr Joaquim, to adapt by building stronger houses and learning safe evacuation methods.

He had already been studying civil engineering at the time of Idai, but after surviving the cyclone, Mr Joaquim enrolled on a resilience construction

course offered by a college called Young Africa.

He has graduated but comes back to teach some of the current crop of students. Tall, friendly and wearing a high-viz waistcoat and yellow hard hat, he is happy to pass on his skills.

A group of building apprentices dressed in blue overalls and safety boots have gathered around a small demonstration house.

They are learning how to build a roof that has been specifically designed to withstand the extreme winds and torrential rains that come with cyclones.

"Because of the risk of the roof being blown away, we use metal fixtures to reinforce the roof," Mr Joaquim says.

"With these resilient construction techniques, we think it can resist at least the force of winds and heavy rains that we saw during Cyclone Idai."

As part of his course, Mr Joaquim helped Young Africa build more than 130 houses across two sites, all designed to provide better protection during a strong cyclone. These "resilient" homes were given to people who lost theirs during Cyclone Idai.

Mr Joaquim is now putting those skills to use, offering his services to build houses for others in his community and for his own family. He showed me round his half-built house which he is hoping to complete before the next cyclone season.

"Me and my family will be safe. Because of the resilient techniques I used here, we'll be safe," he tells me.

A stronger house provides better shelter during a storm, but there are some areas around the coastal city of Beira which are so vulnerable that people need to evacuate when a strong cyclone is predicted.



José Joaquim is building his growing family a new house that can withstand massive gusts of wind

The local council has set up a series of local disaster management committees. These are volunteers who work tirelessly year-round to prepare communities for emergencies, and help them evacuate safely when they arrive.

One of these areas is Praia Nova, a fishing neighbourhood of the city set right on the beach.

I met up with one of the volunteers that help with evacuations in the event of a storm.

"We work together whenever there's an emergency. Especially when cyclones appear suddenly, we're right there, in

the community, working with them," says Liria Charomar in a bright orange T-shirt with a colourful wrap around her waist. She knows the importance of a safe evacuation. I noticed a scar on her leg which she says she's had since they were evacuating people through high water during Cyclone Idai. "There were a lot of metal sheets under the water but I couldn't see them, and then when I was lifting my foot, one of them cut my leg," she explains.

One way of providing protection to vulnerable coastal areas is replanting mangrove forests that have been cut down

over the years for building materials and firewood.

Between the village and the ocean there is a vast sea of green, with trees ranging from a few centimetres high to a couple of metres in Nhangau, about an hour's drive up the coast from Beira.

"The mangrove serves as a wind barrier," says Alberto Santos who has been working with other volunteers who've been replanting trees.

"The most intense winds come from the ocean, because the cyclones themselves come from the ocean but then there's a mangrove forest blocking the intensity of the wind."

"This is one of the protection mechanisms."

His tree-planting association has planted 1,300 hectares (3,212 acres) of mangrove seedlings over the past 15 years. But for these volunteers trying their best to help their communities, part of the solution lies far away from Mozambican shores.

The fact that Mozambique has caused just a tiny amount of the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change is not lost on them.

"The residents of Beira are unhappy with this situation caused by other countries," says Ms Charomar.

"Here in Mozambique, we are already in trouble. We have serious problems like strong cyclones and those countries are still doing these negative things? It's not helping anyone. They should let us live like we always did here in Mozambique."

In the meantime, people in Beira will continue to do what they can to adapt to climate change, in the face of an uncertain future.

"It's a good feeling knowing that I learned and I'm also passing on what I know to other people," says Mr Joaquim.

"There's always a desire to look for a solution. So, being part of the solution is important for me, and I think it's important for other people as well."

# Women and children who went to live with IS in Syria are being brought home

By Eleanora Kulenbekova and Daniel Wittenberg

WELCOME back to Kyrgyzstan," says Shukur Shermatov, addressing a class of 20 women. He is wearing a traditional felt cap, but there is nothing traditional about this school. It sits inside two rings of military security and the students are women who have been brought home from camps in Syria, where they ended up after living with the Islamic State group.

The rehabilitation centre is woven into the mountains of northern Kyrgyzstan, and it is where wives and children of suspected IS recruits spend their first six weeks after being repatriated.

Our BBC World Service team are among the first visitors, and like the residents, everything we say and do is closely monitored by the state intelligence agency.

The women listen to Shukur attentively as he takes them through their first lesson. The course covers citizenship, religious ethics, and anger management. Posters on the wall offer tips on how to control your emotions.

As well as the re-education programme, the families receive medical treatment, psychological support, and - for the first time in years for many - sufficient food, water, and shelter.

Some countries have balked at repatriating women such as these - women who say they followed husbands, fathers and brothers into a war zone unknowingly. What happened to them there - what they did, how much they knew - has been hidden in the wreckage of the so-called caliphate. Decisions on whether they are victim or perpetrator now have to be made by officials, potentially thousands of miles away.

The Kyrgyz government has, at least for now, decided to treat them as the former - albeit, cautiously. Nine out of 10 are under police investigation.

After the lesson, we are led into a simple dormitory with four single beds, where we meet a woman draped in a purple hijab. We are calling her Fatima, not her real name, for her safety. Through a small window, the snowy lakeside landscape could not look more different to the Syrian camp she has left behind.

"The main thing here is that it's calm. Everyone is so grateful for that. The children love it." She pauses and appreciates the silence. "The calm."

Fatima followed her husband to Turkey in 2013 when he said he wanted to work there. The whole family went, including

Fatima's two adult sons, her daughter and a grandchild. She says she only realised they were in Syria when she heard the roar of jet planes overhead and saw IS guards.

We asked whether she really had no idea where they were going and, like many of the women we met, she insisted she was unaware and it was normal for a woman to follow her husband.

Within days of their arrival in Syria, she had lost her husband and son. Her husband burned to death after a bomb hit his car, while her son was shot by a sniper. Shortly afterwards, her other son fell ill and died.

Unable to leave, the women spent nearly six years under brutal IS rule in Iraq and Syria, where Fatima's daughter had more children. When IS fighters were driven out, Fatima, her daughter and four grandchildren ended up in al-Hol, Syria's largest detention camp for suspected IS fighters and their families. They spent four years there, desperate to come home.

"Women were sick and children were crying all the time. We were begging them to let us leave," she says. "We barely survived. When people from Kyrgyzstan came to collect the first group, everyone was in shock."

In October, her daughter and grandchildren were told they were being repatriated, but not Fatima.

"I cried when they told me I wasn't on the list. How wasn't I on the list? I'm their mother!" she sobs. "But now that I am here and will soon be back with my family, I am so happy. I'm glad my grandchildren can have an education. I want them to study science, to understand the world better."

At 57, Fatima is the oldest person in the rehabilitation centre, one of 110 mothers and 229 children Kyrgyzstan brought back from Syria in 2023 as part of a new repatriation operation. Only Iraq repatriated more last year.

Kyrgyzstan plans to bring back at least another 260 women and children, after years of campaigning by relatives of people stuck in Syria. The aim is to give people the government believes may have been victims a second chance.

Even so, the returnees are all interrogated and remain under regular surveillance after finishing the reintegration course. Nine in 10 are facing criminal investigations, the head of the Kyrgyz national security council told us. Potential charges could include assisting terrorism or transporting children to a war zone. As yet, however, no-one has been prosecuted.



Fatima is one of 110 women brought back from Syria in 2023 as part of Kyrgyzstan's rehabilitation programme

The continued surveillance, and potential of criminal proceedings, mean the women are often reluctant to talk about their time in Syria.

After Elmira, who has passed through the rehabilitation centre and is now rebuilding her life in a town outside the capital, Bishkek, agrees to speak to us, we get a glimpse of what this monitoring looks like.

Soon after we arranged to see her, we were phoned by her social worker, notifying us that she would be present at the interview too. When we arrived, two counter-terror police officers, whom the family recognised, were there as well. After some discussion, they agreed to wait outside.

Elmira claims she was tricked into going to Syria by a man she met online. He convinced her to join him in Turkey and, thinking they would be happy together, four days after her 18th birthday she flew out to meet him.

But when she got there, she was greeted by a different man who said he was his friend and took her on a 17-hour drive across the Syrian border. She claims that by the time she realised what was happening, it was too late to turn back.

She married twice. Her first husband died after a couple of months, then she married a man from Dagestan and had his child. She won't say any more about what he was doing in Syria but explains they were looking for a way out before he died in a rocket attack.

Elmira says the hardest moment was when she thought her daughter might be dead. She had

gone out, leaving her little girl at home, when rockets hit their neighbourhood. Terrified for her child, Elmira ran home in tears.

"Then someone brought her out, alive, healthy, and she was just afraid. The neighbour's house had been hit and other children who were nearby died."

Like Fatima, Elmira and her daughter ended up in al-Hol camp.

"I still can't believe it. Sometimes I wake up at night and don't know if I'm dreaming," she tells us. "I'm so grateful to everyone who helped get us out of there and didn't abandon us. We know that not every country does that."

Elmira, who is now training as a seamstress, asked us not to disclose her real name. After seeing the response to the repatriations from some Kyrgyz people on social media, she has decided not to tell anyone about her past.

"It isn't pleasant," she says. "A lot of us don't understand why they are afraid of us. We are afraid of them! People think we have come back here with machine guns and suicide belts. It's not like that. We are people just like they are. We also have families. We also have children. And we also want to lead peaceful and happy lives."

"And why tell people, when I myself want to forget?" Elmira adds. "I was 18 then. I'm 27 now. I've learned not to be so naïve."

Elmira's mother, Hamida Yusupova, spent the past decade pleading with the Kyrgyz authorities to bring back her daughter and granddaughter, and founded a campaign group for

parents of girls who went to Syria.

"We know that Syria can be a one-way trip. You start to realise that your child might never make it back home," she says.

"I thank God, that she's back home and, finally, I've met my granddaughter. But Elmira has lost nine years of her youth. It's a long time."

When Hamida came to collect them from the rehabilitation centre, their reunion was filled with more tears than words.

"Elmira had become a mother. She understood how hard it is when you raise a child for 18 years and, one day, they tell you they're 'going to work', shut the door, and disappear to Syria. I wouldn't wish it on any mother," Hamida says.

"All Elmira could say was: 'Mum, forgive me, forgive me.' Nothing else. Apart from, then she told me how much I had aged!"

Elmira and Hamida are well aware that not everyone around them will be forgiving.

Like many of its central Asian neighbours, Kyrgyzstan - where 90% of the population identify as Muslim - was a major source of recruits for IS, a UN-designated terrorist group, during its rise to prominence.

Hamida feels her daughter was a victim of manipulative men and guilty only of being gullible. However, we spoke to Kyrgyz women the same age as Elmira who said they felt anxious that the returnees could radicalise others, especially after seeing how the Taliban retook Afghanistan.

"As a mum, I've heard a lot of insults and slurs. I don't want my child to have to hear that. I don't want people to point fingers at my child and call her a terrorist," Hamida says.

Deputy Prime Minister Edil Baisalov is keen to showcase the repatriation policy as proof that Kyrgyzstan is a tolerant democracy that looks after all of its citizens.

"I believe that the best thing is that they forget the nightmare they have been through, and that nobody in their families and communities remembers this situation. That everyone is just a good citizen of Kyrgyzstan," he tells us.

Mr Baisalov knows this is a contentious subject, particularly in some Western countries. A former ambassador to the UK, he was in post shortly after Shamima Begum, one of three London schoolgirls who left to join IS, had her British citizenship revoked.

The deputy prime minister also wanted to send a political message. Human rights groups have questioned Kyrgyzstan's reputation as an island of democracy in central Asia since disputed elections in 2020 and the introduction of new laws.

"For Kyrgyzstan, this was not an easy decision," he said. "Of course, our kind of Islam is not radical. It is a very tolerant Islam, respectful of other religions. We are a small nation that needs to take care of each other. Even of those who commit mistakes."

The scheme is supported by the UN children's agency Unicef and Sylvi Hill, who lead their repatriation efforts in Kyrgyzstan, describes it as "commendable". She says Unicef is calling for "all governments to facilitate the return, rehabilitation and reintegration of their children affected by conflict".

The women we spoke to say they are grateful to be offered this second chance, and they are well aware that there are nearly 50,000 others from around the world still trapped in camps in northern Syria, with no way out. **BBC**



# Digital technologies usher in new possibilities for consumption growth in China

By Lin Lili

DIGITAL consumption is becoming an important driver for expanding domestic demand, stabilizing economic growth, and promoting industrial transformation in China.

From January to November in 2023, China's online retail sales reached about 13.96 trillion yuan (\$1.96 trillion), up 11 percent year on year.

Currently, the burgeoning new forms and models of digital consumption, represented by online shopping, livestreaming, and digital culture, are profoundly changing people's consumption habits.

Thanks to livestreaming promotions, a consumer in Beijing can clearly see a sheep farm over 1,000 kilometers away in Huanxian county, Qingyang city, northwest China's Gansu province, without leaving his home.

"The sheepfold looks quite clean and the sheep all seem energetic. Seeing is believing. I think this shop's mutton must be good," said Xu Jie, the customer, sitting at home holding his phone.

Compared to brick-and-mortar vegetable markets, livestreaming can sometimes offer consumers more information about products, he explained, adding that now he often makes purchases online.

"Business has been pretty good lately. With so many regular customers, I can sell about 120 sheep a day," said Liu Guoning, an entrepreneur in Huanxian county.

According to Liu, he used to take sheep to the market to sell, or wait for buyers to come to his farm, while now he sells mutton online.

"Since I sold mutton online, I've not only been able to sell all the sheep from my own farm, but also help sell the sheep of other villagers. The profits and efficiency are much better," he noted.

One of the prominent features of digital consumption is the broader scope of shopping, which plays a key role in boosting domestic demand.

Nowadays, as consumers' online shopping radius keeps expanding, they can buy products from various parts of the country and even the world without leaving home.

As a result of the continuous improvement of China's rural digital infrastructure and e-commerce logistics systems, local specialties such as mushrooms, eggs, and meat produced in remote regions of the country can now be sold nationwide through e-commerce platforms.

Pinduoduo, a major Chinese e-commerce platform, has established direct connections with over 1,000 agricultural production areas in China, involving more than 16 million farmer households to the digital economy, according to Zhang Chao, an operation manager of Pinduoduo.

"We have actively promoted the application of digital technologies in the circulation and supply of agricultural products, and vigorously advanced the construction of digital information infrastructure, including cold chain logistics of fresh agricultural products," Zhang said.



A visitor plays a game with virtual reality (VR) devices at the first Bird's Nest digital experience and metaverse festival held at the National Stadium, also known as the "Bird's Nest", in Beijing, Dec. 17, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Du Jianpo)

The platform has implemented measures including sending out products within 48 hours after an order is placed and free express delivery services for consumers in remote areas in a bid to boost sales, according to Zhang.

By switching from offline transactions to online transactions, consumers can easily access information about products and services, which saves time and transportation costs that could be incurred during consumption, and expands consumers' shopping radius, giving them more options and autonomy in consumption, said Li Mingtao, head of the research institute at the China International Electronic Commerce Center.

Digital technologies not only broaden consumers' shopping radius, but also incubate new industries, new business forms and models, ushering in greater possibilities of consumption in the country. In Beijing's Dongcheng district, a consumer named Lin Qing obtained her own digital model after placing an

order online, signing an agreement, and having her face scanned, all within about 30 minutes at a special photo studio that creates digital twins for customers.

Lin's digital twin realized many of her dreams in the virtual world, including scoring slam dunks, enjoying skiing, and performing street dance.

"It's really interesting to see the familiar 'me' doing unfamiliar things. I feel like I met another 'me' from a parallel universe," Lin said.

"We're building an ecosystem of digital hu-

mans where everyone may one day own their digital twins," said Liu Zheng, founder of the studio.

In 2023, Chinese people discovered a proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI)-empowered digital humans in various scenarios.

They saw digital hosts present weather forecast programs, speakers' digital twins take the stage at major conferences, digital livestreaming hosts work 24/7, and digital humans share life wisdom in short videos.

The application of AI has been stretched into various fields, from healthcare, education, finance to transportation, entertainment, and sports, changing the way people live and work.

"The extensive application of the Internet, cloud computing, AI, among other new technologies, has enabled digital technologies to better satisfy people's needs for a better life and unleash consumption potential, making digital technologies a new driving force for consumption growth and economic development," said Ren Baoping, a specially appointed professor of the school of digital economy and management of Nanjing University in east China's Jiangsu province.

"We hope to accelerate the expansion of emerging consumption areas like customized consumption, smart consumption, and experiential consumption, as well as to increase effective supplies for digital consumption in healthcare, elderly care, medical services, culture, education, security and other fields," Ren added.

People's Daily

NAIROBI

## New Era: Unlocking Africa's agriculture potential through CGIAR TAAT model

AS hunger and food insecurity deepen, Africa is confronting an unprecedented food crisis. Estimates show that nearly 282 million people on the continent, or 20 percent of the population, are undernourished. Numerous challenges across the African continent threaten the race to achieve food security; research and innovative strategies are urgently needed to transform current systems as they are inadequate to address the food crisis.

Transforming food systems is key. A powerful and unified effort is needed to equip food systems to advance human and planetary health to their full potential. This was the message as CGIAR entered a new era under the leadership of Dr Ismahane Elouafi, the Executive Managing Director. Named one of the most influential Africans of 2023, she continues to stress the need to use science and innovation to unlock Africa's potential to meet its food needs.

During her inaugural field visit to an IITA center in Ibadan, Nigeria, alongside Dr Simeon Ehui, IITA's Director General and CGIAR Regional Director for Continental Africa, she oversaw extensive discussions on transforming food systems and leveraging science and technology.

"At COP28 in Dubai, UAE, there was high-level recognition and a wonderful spotlight on science and innovation. CGIAR has an opportunity to represent science and innovation at large, representing the whole community at large. We can cut down poverty and stop malnutrition, and we have the tools—we just need to bring them to the farmers," she said.

CGIAR continues to create linkages between agricultural and tech stakeholders, emphasizing digital innovation for agricultural development. CGIAR-IITA explores leveraging ICTs to tackle agricultural challenges, boost productivity, ensure sustainability, and enhance food security, featuring presentations, discussions, workshops, and networking across sectors.

There was a significant focus on the CGIAR TAAT model as a tool to use technology to address Africa's worsening food crisis. TAAT Technologies for Afri-



Transforming food systems is key to solving food insecurity on the African continent. A powerful and unified effort is needed to ensure food systems are transformed to be robust enough to support the population. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

can Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) is a key flagship programme of the African Development Bank's Feed Africa strategy for 2016 to 2025.

"We have the technology, and all hands are on deck to ensure that no one sleeps hungry. There are severe food insecurities on the continent today, deepening rural poverty and malnutrition. We have the capacity to achieve food security," Ehui emphasized.

IITA's Dr Kenton Dashiell spoke about TAAT in the context of strategic discussions around policy

and government engagement. Emphasizing the need for the government, private sector, and other key stakeholders to create effective and efficient food systems transformation paths. As a major continent-wide initiative designed to boost agricultural productivity across the continent by rapidly delivering proven technologies to millions of farmers, TAAT can deliver a food-secure continent.

Elouafi stressed the need to ensure that technology is in the hands of farmers. In line

with TAAT, which aims to double crop, livestock, and fish productivity by expanding access to productivity-increasing technologies to more than 40 million smallholder farmers across Africa by 2025. In addition, TAAT seeks to generate an additional 120 million metric tons.

IITA's Bernard Vanlauwe spoke about sustainable intensification with the aim of increasing production and improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Farmers are increasingly dealing with higher temperatures and shorter rainy seasons, affecting the production of staple foods such as maize. Further stressing the need for improved crop varieties to meet Africa's pressing food insecurities.

Elouafi stressed that the needs are great, in particular, eliminating extreme poverty, ending hunger and malnutrition, turning Africa into a net food exporter, and positioning Africa at the top of the agricultural value chains.

She emphasized the need to leverage progress made thus far, building on the commitments of Dakar 1, the 1st Summit of the World's Regions on Food Security held in Dakar in January 2010, where representatives and associations of regional governments from the five continents noted that the commitments made at the World Food

Summit in 2002 had had little effect and that the food crisis had only worsened.

Elouafi said the UN Food System Summit in 2021 and the 2023 Dakar 2 Summit, with an emphasis on building sustainable food systems and aligning government resources, development partners, and private sector financing to unleash Africa's food production potential, were important meetings to build on.

The commitments made at these high-level meetings had already created a pathway towards ending hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition and transforming food systems to meet the most pressing food needs today.

It is estimated that Africa's agricultural output could increase from USD 280 billion per year to USD 1 trillion by 2030.

The visit and ensuing discussions highlighted how investing in raising agricultural productivity, supporting infrastructure, and climate-smart agricultural systems, with private sector investments, government support, and resources from multinational financial institutions, all along the food value chain, can help turn Africa into a breadbasket for the world. Private sector actors will be particularly urged to commit to the development of critical value chains.

IPS

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Africa's chance for green electricity

By Special Correspondent

A JOINT study by the University of Tübingen, the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, the University of Osnabrück and the University of Rwanda has found that 80 percent of the energy required in Africa could come from renewable sources by 2040 - if the capacity of existing power plants were fully utilized and all the plants currently on the drawing-board were built.

The international study has been published in the journal *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment*.

"There is enough sun, wind and water on the continent. Many African countries could skip the age of fossil fuels. But of course, a few things would have to be done to achieve that," says Rebecca Peters, doctoral scientist in the Geosciences Department at the University of Tübingen, and lead author of the study. Under the supervision of Professor Christiane Zarfl and partners in Germany and Rwanda, Peters compiled all available data on renewable energy power plants in Africa in a comprehensive database; then she evaluated the relevant scientific studies on the subject.

Sharply falling production costs for solar and wind energy are making

possible a major expansion of renewable energies in Africa. However, the continent's energy requirements are expected to increase considerably in the coming decades. Two-thirds of the population currently has no access to electricity and the current population growth of 2.6 percent in sub-Saharan Africa is higher than in other parts of the world.

Solar and wind power plants can be operated decentrally and in local grids without being connected to overhead power lines; the authors point out that this is one of the advantages of renewable energy sources. By this analysis, a large-scale expansion of the electricity grid to rural areas would be expensive and unnecessary. And there is further potential for higher energy production in Africa in the smooth operation of existing power plants, lower energy losses during electricity transmission and a suitable combination of different forms of energy to compensate for fluctuations in solar and wind energy production.

"We are, however, skeptical about the unchecked expansion of hydroelectricity," explains Professor Dr Klement Tockner, Director General of the Senckenberg Nature Research Society. Tockner is an aquatic ecologist and co-author of the study. "Al-



Solar PV mini-grids and solar home kits project in Burkina Faso.

though Africa is the continent with the world's least exploited reserves of this form of energy and hydropower currently accounts for 63 percent of renewable energy production, a great expansion of dams and lakes would irreversibly change the currently free-flowing rivers

and would also force many residents to relocate," he says.

The sustainable scenario for universal access to renewable electricity in Africa requires that countries heavily dependent on coal - such as South Africa, or gas - such as Algeria, Tunisia and Libya - give

up future expansion of coal and gas-fired power plants and transition to clean energy generation. "Structural change is only possible by doubling current investments by 2030 and investing an additional 30 billion dollars a year to ensure access to electricity for all," says Dr. Jürgen Berlekamp

from the Institute of Environmental Systems Research at the University of Osnabrück. Investments from abroad would be needed, he added. Since the noughties, China has played an increasingly important role alongside the USA and European countries.

# FAO calls for strategic PPPs in aquaculture development

By Special Correspondent, Naivasha

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has called upon African governments to forge partnerships with the private sector in a bid to drive the growth of aquaculture.

Recognizing the pivotal role aquaculture plays in addressing critical challenges, such as food security, poverty eradication, and community empowerment, FAO said there is an urgent need for collaborative action.

By fostering collaboration between governments and the private sector, Fishery and Aquaculture Officer at the FAO Regional

Office for Africa Dismas Mbabazi on Tuesday said the continent should tap into the vast potential of aquaculture to diversify diets and meet the nutritional needs of millions.

"We have a rising population that needs to be fed...we are relying on supply from water bodies that are currently stagnating in terms of production and with large masses of oceans and inland waters, we expect to bridge the gap in (fish) production by growing the fish," he said.

Aquaculture offers a lifeline to small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs, providing them with the tools and resources needed to

establish sustainable businesses.

He said FAO is actively enhancing regional cooperation and supporting member countries in devolving policies that will guide sustainable development of aquaculture.

"Of Course, we do not want to develop aquaculture at the expense of other sectors. We are looking at the ecosystem approach to ensure that we maximally benefit from aquaculture without interfering with other uses of the ecosystem," he said.

Africa, with its burgeoning population, faces a growing demand for protein-rich food sources. Various stakeholders in the sec-

tor have said traditional fisheries may struggle to meet this demand, making aquaculture a key player in ensuring a stable and sustainable supply of seafood.

FAO is helping the continent with innovation and technology that will facilitate sustainable aquaculture development and promote successful aquaculture practices from other parts of the world into Africa.

"Aquaculture should be looked at as a business. We encourage governments to partner with the private sector because they can play a key role in promoting aquaculture in a business way," he said.

Mbabazi said African governments should mostly play a supportive role to the private sector, by ensuring the operating environment is conducive.

According to FAO, Africa's production of both fisheries and aquaculture is at 6 million metric tonnes. Aquaculture production alone in Africa is at 2.4 million metric tonnes, amounting to a meager 6 percent of the world aquaculture production.

Africa has 30,000 kilometers of the coastline, 677 lakes and 17 rivers that are above 1,000 kilometers in length.

"These landscapes should be able to provide us with enough

fish to feed our abundant population," he said.

Stakeholders at the Naivasha meeting have observed that investing in education and training programs further enhances the capacity of communities to manage and operate aquaculture ventures effectively.

This knowledge transfer, they said, empowers individuals to take charge of their economic destinies, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in contributing to sustainable development.

Through ANAF, African states are meant to streamline their policies and strategies, in a bid to

enhance aquaculture growth.

ANAF was officially endorsed by African Ministers at a recent meeting in Addis Ababa as African Union recognized Network to support aquaculture development in Africa with its Secretariat based at AU-IBAR.

According to the AU-IBAR Director Dr Huyam Salih, the original concept for ANAF is to serve as a stand-alone continental institution providing technical backing and facilitation to the African aquaculture "subsector and continue to support aquaculture development in the continent, as an autonomous and self-reliant intergovernmental organization."

# Study: African trade growth to be driven by technology, pacts in 2024

By Schalk Burger

THE 'Trade in Transition' study, commissioned by freight and logistics company DP World, shows that Africa's business leaders anticipate growth this year, driven by investment in technology to increase efficiency and boost resilience, amid economic, geopolitical and climate instability.

Nearly three-quarters of leaders that participated in the study believe public sector actions, such as boosting regional trade agreements, have helped their supply chain strategies in the region.

The new research forecasts a booming African trade landscape in 2024, with senior executives predicting a surge in intra-Africa trade, fuelled by new trade pacts and technology investments, DP World says.

However, African firms remain cautious as inflationary pressures, economic uncertainty and political instability threaten to impact on growth. More than 26 percent of the executives surveyed identified heightened inflation and economic uncertainty as the primary limitations on expanding imports, which is a 7 percent increase on the previous year.

Additionally, nearly 20 percent pointed to political instability in crucial source markets as their primary constraint, a 4 percent year-on-year increase.

"The perspectives of the African trade experts and senior executives were taken for the study during a period of unprecedented transformation, as heightened global geopolitical risk, climate change and significant advancements in technologies create both challenges and opportunities," the company notes.

Owing to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), executives across the continent expect intra-regional trade to grow this year. About 28 percent of the surveyed business leaders expect sub-

Saharan Africa to be their largest export market this year, up from 19 percent of respondents the previous year.

Only Europe, at 38 percent, and North America, at 34 percent, rank higher in the list of regions expected to provide the greatest contribution in terms of export sales, DP World says.

"Almost three-quarters agreed that government actions, like enhancing regional trade agreements, have positively impacted their supply chain strategies. This highlights the significant role governments can play in creating a favourable environment for business growth and trade expansion," it emphasises.

Further, owing to persistent challenges posed by systemic issues and political instability, businesses across Africa are strategically embracing technology as a transformative investment.

"While the AfCFTA should help to reduce a significant amount of tariff barriers, long transport times and high costs owing to significant border control and long waiting times, complex customs and bureaucracy remain a concern.

"High transport costs were cited as the second biggest challenge facing businesses when increasing both their import and export sales. In response, businesses in Africa are increasingly investing in technology to adapt," the study shows.

Notably, 38 percent of executives identified the use of digital tools for improved inventory management as the primary strategy to reduce overall trade and supply chain costs in Africa.

Further, 45 percent of executives plan to implement advanced automation and robotics to gain real-time insights and forecast disruptions in their supply chains in 2024.

These align with global findings, which show that executives across all sectors and regions found technologies



Port infrastructure

that improve supply chain efficiency and resilience to be, by far, the main source of optimism for the future of global trade, the study adds.

"Regional trade agreements, exemplified by AfCFTA, stand out as powerful tools to address the intricate challenges within the region's trade and supply chain infrastructure. The nine-percentage-point increase in the proportion of Africa-based executives projecting that sub-Saharan Africa will be their biggest export market is a case

in point," says DP World sub-Saharan Africa CEO and MD Mohammed Akoojee.

"The synergy of public and private sector partnerships to enhance investment, strengthened trade agreements, and technological advancements also positions the continent for growth and resilience," he adds.

"The findings of this report reveal a remarkably positive outlook for African trade in 2024 and shed light on the beneficial effects of trade agreements like AfCFTA.

Through such regional cooperation, economies can leverage scale, enhance competitiveness and attract significant investment across the continent," says economic think-tank Economist Impact new globalisation global lead John Ferguson. "The report also reflects a profound optimism regarding technologies' potential to address systemic and economic challenges, showcasing adaptability and confidence in its role in enhancing supply chain efficiency and resilience," he notes.



By Stephen Grootes

# Crushed by the present, the ANC will rely on the past to help it win the future

WHILE the main January 8th speech was delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa as leader of the ANC, the official text of the statement was published by the party's national executive committee (NEC). The President's speech is essentially a summary of that statement.

Considering the importance of the event, the fact that in previous times it could dominate the political agenda, and that the ANC was given acres of TV and radio airtime, this time it has probably underused the opportunity.

There appears to be almost nothing new in the 2024 statement, despite the fact it is obvious to almost everyone that the ANC needs to change something. And that the party still very much wants to win again.

Almost immediately, right at the start of the document, is the first indication that the ANC is going to rely on its track record over the last 30 years, rather than its capacity to change the lives of people in the future.

Its first heading is around "Celebrating 30 Years of Freedom", and it starts with the adoption of "a transformative Constitution".

This is probably the biggest indication yet that the ANC's election strategy is likely to be based on its track record over the longer term than in the recent past. It may also show the ANC is refusing to make promises that it can improve the lives of people over the shorter term. Or that it believes that as opposition parties are going to criticise its track record it has a duty to defend it.

There is much of this reminder of the long-term record, how the ANC has provided access to water and electricity to many people who did not have them before.

### Wooing the youth

Crucially, it also says that "Over the last 30 years, South Africa's young people have benefited from our transformative programmes, a vital part of our work to build a nation of skilled, informed and resilient young people". It goes on to say that young people have had a big impact on our society on issues such as governance, LGBT issues and have "repeatedly pushed us to rethink

our politics and ways of doing things".

This appears to be an important recognition of the importance of the votes of younger people in this election.

While there is undoubtedly a large group of younger people who have benefitted from the ANC's policies, there are many millions who appear to be almost giving up hope. Most of them believe they have virtually no chance of ever gaining a formal job, and a sustainable income.

In a way, for the ANC to win younger voters may be almost impossible. This is a group of people who have no memory of Apartheid as an oppressive system, even though they are living in an economic system still defined by Apartheid.

Also, there is stiff competition for the younger vote from the EFF. Its message of revolutionary change may resonate more strongly with these voters than the message of the ANC.

The ANC is also clearly aware that load shedding could be one of the most important issues ahead of the polls (although there are some indications the set of crises in our water system could soon overshadow it). That said, it makes no new promises, instead saying that "the overall trend is towards less severe load shedding and better management and communication of outages".

For a governing party to almost celebrate the "better management" of outages may tell voters all they need to know. The ANC is responsible for load shedding, the failure of government to resolve it, and the fact that the just transition is now unmanageable.

The ANC also says that its branches must "campaign to ensure communities pay for services used and support programmes to introduce pay-as-you-go meters and disconnect illegal electricity and water connections".



ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa during the African National Congress 112th anniversary at Mbombela Stadium on 13 January 2024 in Mbombela, South Africa.

It also says that service delivery suffers during these times, while "Replicating this bitter experience of chaos, instability and dysfunctionality at national and provincial levels will be a disaster that our country cannot afford".

Many may agree with all of this. But completely absent is any recognition of the ANC's role in creating these situations.

It is the ANC that has voted, with the EFF, to elect people like Al Jama-ah's Kabelo Gwamanda into power in Johannesburg or the Northern Alliance's Gary van Niekerk as Mayor in Nelson Mandela Bay. Without the ANC's votes in these cases, these incompetent people would not be in office.

Surely the party has to also take responsibility for these "dysfunctional coalition governments"? If it does not, that indicates it may still be prepared to take part in these agreements in the future. Or even worse – it is living in a fantasy world.

The ANC NEC also appears to be sharply distant from reality with another simple statement.

The NEC says that, "There will be no compromise on the fundamental matters of organisational discipline and integrity".

And yet the party is still unable to deal with their own people who were clearly implicated in State Capture wrongdoing by the Zondo Commission.

Despite the NEC's instruction that people who are implicated must themselves report to the Integrity Committee, a high number of them have refused to do so (in June last year the current head of the Integrity Committee, Frank Chikane said that number was as high as 97).

Despite a promise to ANC veteran Mavuso Msimang last year that action will be taken on this matter, there is no indication of any change at all. It seems almost inevitable now that some people implicated in State Capture will now be allowed to represent the ANC in Parliament and provincial legislatures after the elections (unless the Elections Commission chaired by former President Kgalema Motlanthe acts to prevent that from happening).

The ANC still has to release its election manifesto, and it is in that document that final promises to voters will be made. But, based on the evidence so far, it appears the party may be unable to craft new policies and programmes to win votes.

This may be an admission the party understands it cannot convince voters it can improve their lives in the next five years. And this may be a mistake. Many voters will want to see their lives improve. They want their future to be better than their past. And so far, the ANC appears to be unable to convince voters it is capable of achieving that.

DM

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT -58 -**

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

11 a river in Kenya  
12 not forbidden  
14 semitic people in middle East  
15 an agent in Kiswahili  
17 otto  
18 tremble or vibrate

Down:  
1 Kwanza is the basic monetary unit  
2 Second largest continent  
3 am not  
4 concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour  
6 Lake Victoria in Kenya  
8 the rank, lands, or reign of an emir  
9 Football team in Tanzania  
13 Czars  
16 a large tailless primate of a group including the gorilla, chimpanzees, orang-utan, and gibbons

Across:  
1 extreme happiness in Hinduism  
5 expressing motion or direction to a point on or within  
7 Berlin is her mother city  
10 leave out or exclude

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

COCAINE ETHICAL RWANDA  
NAIROBI FORMAT DHI  
ELSE, WOT REACHABLE UMBO  
DRY, LEI ADDICT LBDR  
ART, DE THANA FORCEOUT

Yesterday's solution

DODOMA T NINON C  
R E R A T E O V E R B A  
I M P A C T S M N O T E P A D  
V I E S S T O P E R A S E R  
E R N I E R O I P E A  
R A D A R R R E C A P A L  
C N A N N A S A S I D E O  
C L A S S O G A A R O N  
E E V I C T E D O M E

This is a much softer message from what has been said in the past.

In 2022, while announcing our short-lived National State of Disaster over electricity Ramaphosa said, "We must pay for services and prevent illegal connections".

In 2019, the person then in charge of the Electricity War Room, then Deputy President David Mabuza said, "It's a good culture that we must teach ourselves: pay for services that you have consumed".

Perhaps, just perhaps, in an election year, paying for services is not as important as it is in normal times?

It is also now clear that the party sees the introduction of the National Health Insurance system as a vote-winner. Ramaphosa made it clear in his speech, as does the NEC in its written statement, that the NHI will happen.

Considering that those who oppose it are people who benefit from private healthcare, while those who support it rely on government healthcare, there are obviously votes here.

However, even if the party does implement it formally this year, almost nothing will change for many years, because of the complexity of the system, and the sheer amount of change that still needs to happen (never mind the series of legal challenges that are likely to come).

**Coalitions crunch**

One of the more intriguing comments from the ANC over the weekend was the way it views coalitions. Obviously, as the party currently in power, it has the most to fear from coalition governments.

The ANC says that the "frustrating experience of dysfunctional coalition governments has shown that they don't work for the people but for the political deal-makers intent on advancing their own personal interests."

**RADIO One**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

| MONDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME   | TUESDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY<br>TIME PROGRAMME |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I<br>06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC<br>06:30 AM NIPASHE<br>06:50 AM MATANGAZO<br>07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN<br>07:10 AM MATANGAZO<br>07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI<br>07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI<br>07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II<br>08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI<br>08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III<br>08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI IV<br>09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI V<br>09:10 AM MATANGAZO<br>09:20 AM BRAND TALK<br>10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF<br>10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO<br>10:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN<br>11:00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS<br>11:30 HRS DJ SHOW<br>12:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>12:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS<br>13:00 HRS HOJA YA LEO<br>13:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC<br>13:30 HRS SPOTI LEO<br>14:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN<br>14:30 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR<br>15:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>15:05 HRS DAKIKA 45<br>15:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)<br>16:00 HRS AFRO TIZI<br>16:15 HRS AFRO TIZI II<br>16:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>16:35 HRS AFRO TIZI III<br>16:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:00 HRS AFRO TIZI IV<br>17:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:20 HRS AFRO TIZI V<br>17:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:35 HRS AFRO TIZI VI<br>17:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>18:00 HRS AFRO TIZI VII<br>18:10 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>18:15 HRS AFRO TIZI VIII<br>18:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>18:35 HRS AFRO TIZI IX<br>18:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>19:00 HRS AFRO TIZI X<br>19:10 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>19:15 HRS AFRO TIZI XI<br>19:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>19:35 HRS AFRO TIZI XII<br>19:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>20:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XIII<br>20:10 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>20:15 HRS AFRO TIZI XIV<br>20:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>20:35 HRS AFRO TIZI XV<br>20:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>21:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XVI<br>21:10 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>21:15 HRS AFRO TIZI XVII<br>21:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>21:35 HRS AFRO TIZI XVIII<br>21:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>22:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XIX<br>22:10 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI XX<br>22:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>22:35 HRS AFRO TIZI XXI<br>22:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>23:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XXII<br>23:10 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>23:15 HRS AFRO TIZI XXIII<br>23:30 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>23:35 HRS AFRO TIZI XXIV<br>23:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>00:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XXV<br>00:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>00:10 HRS AFRO TIZI XXVI<br>00:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>00:20 HRS AFRO TIZI XXVII<br>00:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>00:30 HRS AFRO TIZI XXVIII<br>00:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>00:40 HRS AFRO TIZI XXIX<br>00:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>00:50 HRS AFRO TIZI XXX<br>00:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>01:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXI<br>01:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>01:10 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXII<br>01:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>01:20 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXIII<br>01:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>01:30 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXIV<br>01:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>01:40 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXV<br>01:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>01:50 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXVI<br>01:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>02:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXVII<br>02:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>02:10 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXVIII<br>02:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>02:20 HRS AFRO TIZI XXXIX<br>02:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>02:30 HRS AFRO TIZI XL<br>02:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>02:40 HRS AFRO TIZI XLI<br>02:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>02:50 HRS AFRO TIZI XLII<br>02:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>03:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XLIII<br>03:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>03:10 HRS AFRO TIZI XLIV<br>03:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>03:20 HRS AFRO TIZI XLV<br>03:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>03:30 HRS AFRO TIZI XLVI<br>03:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>03:40 HRS AFRO TIZI XLVII<br>03:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>03:50 HRS AFRO TIZI XLVIII<br>03:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>04:00 HRS AFRO TIZI XLIX<br>04:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>04:10 HRS AFRO TIZI L<br>04:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>04:20 HRS AFRO TIZI LI<br>04:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>04:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LII<br>04:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>04:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LIII<br>04:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>04:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LIV<br>04:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>05:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LV<br>05:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>05:10 HRS AFRO TIZI LVI<br>05:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>05:20 HRS AFRO TIZI LVII<br>05:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>05:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LVIII<br>05:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>05:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LIX<br>05:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>05:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LX<br>05:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>06:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LXI<br>06:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>06:10 HRS AFRO TIZI LXII<br>06:15 HRS NEWS 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NEWS BRIEF<br>09:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXII<br>09:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>09:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXIII<br>09:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>09:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXIV<br>09:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>10:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXV<br>10:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>10:10 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXVI<br>10:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>10:20 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXVII<br>10:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>10:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXVIII<br>10:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>10:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXIX<br>10:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>10:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXX<br>10:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>11:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXI<br>11:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>11:10 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXII<br>11:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>11:20 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXIII<br>11:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>11:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXIV<br>11:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>11:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXV<br>11:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>11:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXVI<br>11:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>12:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXVII<br>12:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>12:10 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXVIII<br>12:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>12:20 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXIX<br>12:25 HRS NEWS 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LXXXXXXVII<br>15:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>15:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXVIII<br>15:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>15:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXIX<br>15:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>15:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXX<br>15:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>16:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXI<br>16:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>16:10 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXII<br>16:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>16:20 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXIII<br>16:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>16:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXIV<br>16:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>16:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXV<br>16:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>16:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXVI<br>16:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXVII<br>17:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:10 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXVIII<br>17:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:20 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXIX<br>17:25 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:30 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXX<br>17:35 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:40 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXI<br>17:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>17:50 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXII<br>17:55 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>18:00 HRS AFRO TIZI LXXXXXXXIII<br>18:05 HRS NEWS BRIEF<br>18:10 HRS AFRO TIZI 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# BUSINESS

## Red Sea tensions raise crude oil market risks

SINGAPORE

OIL rose as the continued Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea that are keeping tensions high in the Middle East were offset by a shaky global economic outlook and gains in the dollar.

Global crude benchmark Brent crossed \$79 a barrel after edging 0.2 per cent lower Monday, while West Texas Intermediate topped \$73.

Iran-backed Yemeni militants hit a US-owned commercial vessel with a ballistic missile Monday, underscoring warnings the vital waterway remains too risky. Elsewhere in the region, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched missiles at targets in northern Iraq and Syria.

Despite the jump in tensions across a region that supplies a third of the world's crude, futures face downward pressure from wider financial markets.

European Central Bank officials signaled it may be too soon to lower rates this year given lingering inflation and geopolitical risks. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index rose Tuesday, making commodities more expensive for overseas buyers.

"Crude's continued disregard to the

latest spurt in Middle East tensions does seem a bit surprising," said Vandana Hari, founder of Vanda Insights in Singapore. "It's an indication of the extent to which the view on global oil fundamentals has turned bleaker."

The Israel-Hamas conflict saw a war-risk premium built into crude, but that faded after a couple of weeks. The US-led attack on Houthi targets last week, in retaliation for continued strikes on vessels, has ratcheted up the tension again. The main risk is Iran getting pulled directly into the conflict, but oil markets seem to be discounting that possibility currently.

More oil and gas tankers are now being diverted away from the Red Sea, with some companies and producers avoiding the route. Among the latest, Qatar appears to be sending liquefied natural gas vessels to Europe via the longer route around Africa.

While no output has been lost, the diversions are "indirectly tightening the market by forcing oil stocks on water" to pile up,

Citigroup Inc. said in a note. Still, "it is not our base case that US/UK strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen and issues in the Red Sea will lead to a substantive upside."



Bank of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam office

## BoT seeking to wipe 6bn/- liquidity from the market

By Guardian Reporter

AS part of implementation of less accommodative monetary policy, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) is seeking to mop up 6bn/- from the market through the Treasury bill auction to be conducted today.

According to the T-bills invitation tender announced yesterday, the central bank is expected to raise a total of 78.89bn/- of which 72.89bn/- will be for government financing purposes.

The tender announcement shows that the central bank is expected to raise 1bn/- for 35 days maturity, 2bn/- for 91 days maturity, 3bn/- for 182 days maturity and 72.8bn/- for one year maturity.

The minimum bid size will be 500,000/- with the multiples of 10,000/-, says the tender announcement.

This is the second T-bill auction to be conducted by the central bank since the start of this year.

During the first auction held on January 3, a total of 20 bids valued 24bn/- were tendered for one year maturity against offered 72.6bn/- . At the end of the auction, the central bank accepted bids valued 18.8bn/-.

The weighted average price for successful bids was 89.7822 with the average yield of 11.4 percent.

On January 11, the central bank rejected 29

bids valued 9.9bn/- for the two-year Treasury bond seeking to raise 138.45bn/-, after failing to meet minimum successful price.

During the bidding of the bond, the lowest bids was 81/100, while the highest bids was 95/100 against the minimum successful price was 100/100.

This is being experienced ahead of the new monetary policy statement to be published next month.

During the current financial year, the BoT is implementing a less accommodative monetary policy to realize inflation and growth objectives.

The implementation of monetary policy in the second half, which started this month, is interest rate-based, where by the central bank is using policy rate rather than reserve money which was used previously.

According to BoT, the shift to the new framework seeks to address the weakening of the link between money supply and the ultimate policy variables (inflation and output), due to the proliferation of financial innovations, and the weakening of monetary policy transmission under the monetary targeting framework.

The targets for the second half of 2023/24 under the new monetary policy framework will be announced in the Monetary Policy Statement, Mid-Year Review, which will be released in February 2024.

## AGRA to highlight Africa's climate agenda at WEF

By Guardian Correspondent, Davos-Klosters

AGRA is set to host a special event at this Year's SDG tent at the World Economic Forum (WEF) focused on highlighting the movers and shakers of transformation and how sustainable business models are delivering on Africa's climate agenda.

According to the statement issued yesterday, the AGRA-led session will reflect on the business models, partnerships and investments that are delivering on the nexus of Africa's food systems, climate action and job creation.

Esteemed participants during the discussion will include Wankele Mene, Secretary-General, African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat, Tony Blair, Executive Chairman, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and Francis Gatere, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board.

Speaking ahead of the event, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA, emphasized the urgency of working with public and private sector actors to scale up innovative business models and partnerships that can solve the climate and food insecurity problem that we are currently facing.

"Our strategic plan sets out to catalyse the growth of sustainable food systems in Africa by influencing and leveraging partners to build a robust enabling environment where the private sector thrives, and smallholders are empowered to produce sufficient and healthy food whilst building resilience and managing the effects of climate change, said Dr. Kalibata.

"We are also keen to tackle the systemic constraints in access to finance and market and trade institutions in order to build strong agri-food markets and trade at the domestic, regional and continental level."

The SDG tent session will also be instrumental in identifying key priorities and actions ahead of the Africa Food Systems Summit (AFS) taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, in September 2024.

The 54th Annual Meeting of the WEF started on Monday this week and will end on 19th January 2024.

The week-long event themed 'Rebuilding Trust' provides a crucial space to focus on the fundamental principles driving trust, including transparency, consistency, and accountability.

The forum has incorporated an SDG tent set up to serve as a meeting point for organisations to accelerate impactful change and contribute to delivering on the UN's sustainable goals.

Here, data, knowledge and best practices related to the SDGs are showcased, empowering participants to understand their role in bringing about positive change during the UN's Decade of Change.

Global industry leaders, such as Yara International, Bayer Foundation GAIN, and SNV will also contribute to the conversation.



Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President, AGRA



## DSEI opens the week green after cross-listed firms share price gain



Stockbrokers participate in an online trading: File photo

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange All Share Index (DSEI) closed at 1,757.66 points on Monday close, an increase of 0.4 basis points, following the appreciations of share prices among cross-listed firms including JHL and NMG.

The daily market report for Monday shows that Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL) share price closed at 2,880/-, an increase of 0.7 percent from 2,860/- recorded during the end of last week, while NMG share price

gained by 3.13 percent, after closing at 330/- compared to 320/- respectively.

The report shows other indices including Tanzania Share Index (TSI), Bank, Finance & Investment (BI) and Industrial & Allied (IA) remained unchanged, as there were no any price movements among locally listed companies.

Top mover during the opening day of the week was CRDB Bank Plc, which recorded the transactions of 54,624 shares valued 25.1mn/- traded at a price ranging from 455/- and 470/- per share in 88 deals.

The second top mover was Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), which recorded the transactions of 10,100 shares valued 21.6mn/- traded at a price of 2,160/- per share in three deals, followed by TC-CIA Investment Company Limited, which transacted 6,520 shares valued 1.2mn/- in 15 deals.

Other movers were NICO, which transacted 1,800 shares valued 900,000/- traded at a price of 500/- per share in two deals, NMB Plc, which transacted 1,070 shares valued 4.8mn/- and Vodacom Tanzania

(VODA), which transacted 1,010 shares valued 0.74mn/- traded in two deals.

The market report shows a total turnover of 56.8mn/- was recorded during an opening day of the week, following the transactions of 76,171 shares traded in 127 deals.

The market was dominated by local investors, whom accounted for 100 percent of total value of shares bought and 73.43 percent of the value of shares sold, while foreign investors participated the market by selling shares valued 15.12mn/-, or 26.57 percent of total value of shares sold.



## Centres invent tech to control vegetable bugs

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Arusha based World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) and the Nairobi based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) have introduced a new biological control technology in the management of insect pests in vegetable production.

The introduced technology, PushPull (P-P), which does not involve application of any chemical pesticides is being tested for the control of diamondback moth, cabbage aphid, green peach aphid, Indian mustard aphid, which are the most devastating insect pest in cabbage production areas.

It has been unveiled that, among the biotic factors which play a vital role in causing significant damage to agricultural production and productivity worldwide are a wide range of plant and post-

harvest insect pests and diseases for which studies have shown that global crop losses due to pests and diseases are tremendous and significant implying to food shortage and hence food insecurity.

Moreover, records show that in Tanzania, between 40 to 100 percent of tomato yield loss is due to bacterial wilt disease, primarily caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* bacteria species complex, and is an important disease of solanaceous crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, potatoes and nightshade including other types of crops such as watermelon.

According to Dr. Simon Boniface, Entomologist and Laboratory Manager who also leads a plant health team at the WorldVeg Arusha, expressed that the introduced technology is based on the use of repellent and attractive plants intercropped with the targeted crop (main crop).

"As such, the repellent plant



Dr. Simon Boniface, (3rd-L) leads other plant health experts at the Entomology, Micro-biology, Agronomy and Agribusiness Units at WorldVeg Centre to conduct thorough research to control insect pests in vegetable production. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo.

pushes the targeted insect pest away from the main crop and at the same time the pest gets attracted and trapped by the attractive crop (pull), and hence reduces the impact of the pest on the main crop to non-economical level. The push-pull technology, therefore, can be employed and it fits well in the integrated pest management (IPM) programs in the management of agricultural insect pests," he detailed.

Dr. Boniface added that the technology (PP-T) research activity is under AGROVEG Project, funded by Biovision Foun-

ation with the main objective of validating the push-pull technology to control pests on crucifers in order to enhance intercropping, eco-friendly and sustainable IPM technologies, and upscale the use of improved varieties in Tanzania.

He noted apart from dealing with controlling insect pests on vegetables, WorldVeg also researches extensively on the strategies to control various plant diseases.

"Various research carried across the country established that tomato, cabbage, carrot and green pepper stand among

the vegetables that are highly prone to different diseases, exacerbating the great challenge and yield losses experienced by the involved farmers, hence the need to assist the involved farmers," he said.

He informed that through the project known as Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) Project, the center has been running a series of helpful measures that have so far started to fetch promising results.

"The robust project currently operating in Arusha and Kilimanjaro Regions is funded by multiple CGIAR Trust Fund funding organizations," he expounded.

At the preliminary stages of the project, he communicated, they conducted a series of all-round focus group discussions and training sessions with the involved farmers targeting to understand the kind of major pests and diseases and other constraints that are vastly troubling vegetable production in their areas in order to stand a professional side to bring them proper solutions in a form of good agricultural practices (GAPs) packages.

After the stage, he unveiled that the experts in the Entomology, Micro-biology, agronomy and agribusiness Units at the WorldVeg formed solution packages to solve the problems including collection of plant samples from the farmers' fields to diagnose the types of pathogens causing the diseases in order to plan for effective means to manage the diseases.

## Spirits imports decline as higher taxes hit demand

NAIROBI

CONSUMPTION of spirits continued to fall following the end of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions amid higher taxes on international premium drinks.

Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows that imported spirits –including brandy, gin, whiskey and rum–dropped from an all-time high of 16.3 million litres at the height of Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to 13.2 million litres

in 2022, reflecting a major shift in drinking habits in the post-lockdown environment.

The drop in imported spirits, which includes mostly premium liquor –such as Scotch Whisky– in the post-lockdown period mainly due to a sharp increase in taxes with import duty raised from 25 to 35 percent according to Eric Githua, who is the chairperson for the Alcoholic Beverages Association of Kenya (Abak).

On July 1, 2022, the common

external tariff (CET) on imported spirits charged by all the East African Community member states was increased from 25 to 35 percent. Additionally, in the 13 months to November 2021, excise duty on spirits was increased three times, explaining the drop in imported spirits, which includes international premium spirits.

The decline in demand for spirits reverses an earlier trend where they had become popular among revelers. Mr Githua noted that even

before the pandemic, there was a significant shift from other types of alcohol such as beer and wines to spirits.

"And the main reason was because of affordability," Mr Githua said. At the height of the pandemic there was prodigious consumption of Gilbeys, a juniper-derived gin made in the US, and which is locally sold by the EABL, the region's largest alcohol manufacturer owned by the UK multinational Diageo.

In its annual report for 2021, the

EABL noted that it deliberately prioritised on popularising Gin and Tonic ritual.

"The approach worked and the results unequivocally speak to this. During the same period, we awakened the giant notably; Gilbey's special dry gin is a leading light in the spirits category," said EABL.

In the financial year ending June 2021, EABL's sale of spirits jumped by 24 percent, the highest of all of the EABL's drinks with beer sales growing by 14 percent after the

economy was fully re-opened in September 2020.

However, this growth momentum for spirits would be slowed by the various tax measures implemented in the 13 months to November 2022.

Excise duty on spirits, for example, was increased three times in this period, seriously denting their demand as those in the upper middle class shifted to cheaper alternatives while those in the lower stratum of the consumer class resorted to illicit drinks.

## De Beers cuts diamond prices to enhance sales

LONDON

DE BEERS made big cuts to its diamond prices as the world's top producer tries to revive gem sales after the market ground to a halt last year.

The industry almost came to a complete standstill in the second half of 2023 as the two biggest miners all but stopped supplies in a desperate attempt to stem a collapse in prices. While those efforts helped the market to pick up a bit, it's unclear how much appetite trade buyers currently have.

To improve demand, De Beers cut prices by about 10 percent across the board at its first sale of this year – traditionally one of the largest – according to people familiar with the matter. The one-time monopoly made bigger cuts for some larger stones, with one category being lowered about 25 percent, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the details are private.

The industry has been whipsawed since the start of the pandemic. It was one of the great winners as stuck-at-home shoppers turned to diamond jewellery and other luxury purchases. But demand quickly faded as economies reopened, leaving many in the trade holding excess stock that they'd paid too much for.

The cooldown rapidly escalated as the crucial US market wobbled under rising inflation. In addition, consumer confidence in key growth market China was hurt by a property crisis, while competition from lab-grown diamonds increased.

That left the industry with little choice but to curb supply. Russia's Alrosa PJSC in September halted all sales for two months, and was followed by buyers in India – the dominant cutting and trading centre – voluntarily banning imports.

De Beers allowed its customers to refuse all gems they're contracted to buy for the last two sales of 2023, though didn't cut its prices despite



A man stands in front of De Beers office

declines in the wider market. It has now removed that flexibility to reject stones, the people said.

A De Beers spokesman declined to comment.

Price cuts

The Anglo American unit still wields considerable power in the

rough-diamond market. It holds 10 sales each year in which the buyers – known as sightholders – generally have to accept the price and the quantities offered.

At this month's sale, the biggest reduction in prices came in a category known as "select makeables" – diamonds between 2 and 4 carats that can be cut into smaller polished stones used in bridal rings and which are high quality, but not flawless.

Even after cutting prices for that category heavily last year, De Beers lowered them by another 25% this month, the people said. Those gem types have been badly hit by the growing popularity of synthetic diamonds – which themselves have slumped in price.

The first sale of the year is one of the most important as midstream buyers who cut and polish rough stones into jewellery restock after the crucial holiday period.

The key question is whether the latest price cuts will help build momentum. Prices started to rebound toward the end of last year as buyers who were short of stones and needed new stock to keep factories open fuelled demand amid limited supplies.

## Global stocks slip, dollar gains on rate outlook jitters

LONDON/SINGAPORE

WORLD shares slipped and the dollar and US bond yields rose on Tuesday as hawkish remarks from central bank policymakers in Europe contributed to markets reducing bets that global interest rate cuts could come as early as March.

Investors were also digesting a raft of other political and geopolitical developments, including Donald Trump securing a resounding win in the first 2024 US Republican presidential contest in Iowa on Monday,

and developments in the Red Sea, Gaza and Ukraine.

Europe's STOXX 600 index and MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan both dropped to their lowest since mid-December, with the broad European benchmark last down about 0.5 percent, moving further away from a two-year peak at the start of January.

US S&P 500 futures were down 0.5 percent, suggesting the benchmark will not immediately renew its attempt on a fresh all-time high. On Friday,

it got as close as 0.3 percent to a record intraday high hit in early 2022. US markets were closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday.

Gains in stocks were underpinned by sharp declines in bond yields in November and December as investors brought forward expectations of rate cuts by central banks.

Those have since reversed somewhat and on Tuesday, the benchmark 10-year US Treasury yield was up 5 bps just above 4 percent.

Market pricing now reflects

around a 70 percent chance of a Federal Reserve rate cut in March, down from over 80 percent a week ago, and for the first ECB rate cut to begin in April, with traders having earlier expected March.

Contributing to those revisions, European Central Bank officials have been out in force this week, with hawkish speakers such as Bundesbank president Joachim Nagel on Monday pushing back firmly on expectations of rate cuts.

French central bank Governor Francois Villeroy de Gal-

hou said Tuesday the ECB's next move would be a rate cut but its timing was an open question.

"Rates are likely to be cut but not as early as markets currently price in," said Guy Miller, chief market strategist and economist, Zurich Insurance Group "Our view is that inflation will come down towards targets over the course of the year, but in a choppy manner."

Federal Reserve Board Governor Waller's speech on the economic outlook at 1600 GMT, will be closely watched

too; markets heartily cheered a shift in his hawkish views in November.

Earnings and geopolitics Investors are also keeping a close eye on fourth quarter corporate results. Major US banks kicked off earnings season last Friday reporting lower profits.

"You've got some darlings that are very much loved, that rerated in the last couple of months on the back of that rally as everyone thought we'd hit peak interest rates. The question is, are we happy that earn-

ings are going to meet those expectations?" said Georgina Cooper global equities portfolio manager at Newton Investment Management.

"We saw last year quite a lot of those highly rated names can come off very quickly if they don't meet expectations."

There was also plenty of news around the world to keep on top of, and Yemen's Houthi movement will expand its targets in the Red Sea region to include U.S. ships, an official from the Iran-allied group said on Monday.







## WORLD



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets with Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Secretary Ali Akbar Ahmadian, in Tehran on Monday. ANI

## India, Iran discuss expanding bilateral and multilateral ties

TEHRAN

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian hosted External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Tehran on Monday. The two leaders discussed expanding bilateral and multilateral ties within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS.

In a post on X, the Iranian Foreign Ministry stated, "Iran's FM: 'Today, I hosted Indian FM @DrSJaisankar, we held talks over the latest regional and intl developments, especially the Zionist regime's #genocide& crimes against Palestinians. We discussed the expanding bilateral & multilateral ties within the #Shanghai Org, & #BRICS.'"

The Iranian Foreign Minister said he and Jaishankar discussed the latest international and regional developments, including the Israel-Hamas war. During the meeting, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian highlighted the importance of providing security in international waterways near Iran.

Taking to X, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stated, "Today in Tehran, I hosted Mr Subramaniam Jaishankar @DrSJaisankar the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India, and we discussed the latest international and regional developments, especially the genocide and the crimes of the Zionist regime against the Palestinians."

"Further, while examining the growing bilateral and multilateral relations in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, the status of strategic connections, the development of Chabahar port and the importance of the North-South transit route were discussed. I also emphasized the importance of providing security in international waterways near the Islamic Republic of Iran and considered the continued support of the White House for Zionist war crimes as the basis for the spread of insecurity in the entire region," he added.

Meanwhile, Jaishankar said that their bilateral discussion focused on the long-term framework for India's involvement with Chabahar port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) connectivity project.

"Held wide ranging discussions today in Tehran with Iranian FM @AmirAbdollahian. Our bilateral discussion focused on the long term framework for India's involvement with Chabahar port

and the INSTC connectivity project. Also spoke about threats to maritime shipping in the region. Important that this be speedily addressed. Other issues on the agenda were the Gaza situation, Afghanistan, Ukraine and BRICS cooperation," Jaishankar posted on X.

Jaishankar is in Iran as part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

During his visit, Jaishankar held a meeting with the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Akbar Ahmadian. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral and regional issues.

Taking to X, Jaishankar stated, "Met Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Ali Akbar Ahmadian. A good discussion on bilateral and regional issues."

After arriving in Iran, Jaishankar began his engagements in Tehran by meeting Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Mehrdad Bazrpush. The two leaders held a discussion on establishing a long-term cooperation framework with respect to Chabahar Port.

In a post shared on X, Jaishankar stated, "Began my engagements in Tehran by meeting Minister of Roads and Urban Development @mehrdadbazrpush. Detailed and productive discussion on establishing a long-term cooperation framework with respect to Chabahar port. Also exchanged views on the International North-South Transport Corridor."

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transportation route linking the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran and onward to northern Europe via St Petersburg in Russia, according to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways earlier press release.

INSTC is India's vision and initiative to reduce the time taken for EXIM shipments to reach Russia, Europe and enter the central Asian markets, according to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways earlier press release. Successful activation of the corridor will help connect India to Russia and Central Asian countries. Located in Iran, the Chabahar Port is the commercial transit centre for the region, particularly Central Asia.

ANI



**Jaishankar is in Iran as part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides, according to the Ministry of External Affairs**

## US hindered probe into COVID origin, Pfizer, Moderna harvested profits – Russian military

MOSCOW

A former CIA chief, an ex-secretary of health of the United States and a former White House medical advisor hampered a probe into the origins of the COVID-19, while Pfizer and Moderna harvested profits from substandard vaccines, Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, head of the Russian Armed Forces' Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defense (RCBD) Troops, said at a briefing on Monday.

Among other people who had a hand in spreading the pandemic

and capitalized on selling substandard vaccines, he mentioned Gina Haspel, who was the director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in 2018-2021, former US Health Secretary Alex Azar and Anthony Fauci, US President Joe Biden's Chief Medical Advisor during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also, "the CEOs of Pfizer and Moderna pharmaceutical manufacturers, Albert Bourla and Stephane Bancel, harvested excessive profits from selling dangerous medications," the general added.

According to Kirillov, the list of people involved in COVID-19 relief fraud also includes top managers from a number of US contracting organizations, namely Nita Madhav, who was CEO of Metabiota, and Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance.

The US and Ukrainian officials mentioned at the briefing "are just a few people" involved in military-biological activities, the Russian general said, adding that more information would be submitted for a military investigation.

Agencies

## Rwanda legislation: UK's Sunak faces parliamentary showdown

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces a parliamentary showdown with right-wing lawmakers in his party this week as his legislation to block legal challenges to the plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda returns to parliament.

The British government is trying to reduce a surge in asylum seekers who make the dangerous crossing in small boats from France to the southern coast of England.

Most of those arriving in the boats say they are fleeing wars and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. But the British government says about 90 percent making the journey are men and many of them economic migrants rather than genuine refugees.

Sunak faced the most serious threat to his leadership last month when he saw off a threatened revolt by dozens of his lawmakers during the first parliamentary vote on the draft legislation.

The government comfortably won that vote after some lawmakers decided to abstain rather than rebel, but the rebels warned that they could vote down the legislation at later stages of the parliamentary process unless the bill was changed.

Parliament was expected to vote on a series of proposed amendments yesterday and today aimed at closing off potential loopholes that could block asylum seekers being removed to Rwanda.

More than 50 lawmakers have backed an amendment that would allow ministers to ignore last-minute rulings from judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg seeking to ground flights to Rwanda.



In this photo issued by UK Parliament, Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, London, Jan 10, 2024. AP

A similar number also support another amendment that would stop asylum seekers from bringing individual claims to prevent their removal to the East African nation.

Unless the legislation is changed, right-wing Conservatives are threatening to vote against the government at its final parliamentary stage in the House of Commons, which could take place on Wednesday evening.

Two Conservative Party deputy chairmen said on Monday evening that they would back rebel amendments in a test of Sunak's authority.

Lee Anderson and Brendan Clarke-Smith said they would vote to toughen the legislation in a sign of the deep divisions in the Conservative Party on the issue.

Asked if this means he would be sacked, Brendan Clarke-Smith said: "It is not for me to decide".

Sunak has staked his premiership on his pledge to "stop the boats" and has vowed to push through the plan

to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda before an election expected this year.

In return for accepting any asylum seekers, Rwanda has already been paid 240 million pounds (\$305 million) by the British government. But so far, no one from Britain has been sent to Rwanda because of legal challenges.

In November, the UK Supreme Court ruled Sunak's policy of deporting migrants to Rwanda would breach British and international human rights laws and agreements.

In response, Sunak agreed a new treaty with Rwanda and brought forward the new legislation designed to override any legal obstacles that would stop deportations.

Sunak is reluctant to accept the right-wing amendments because of concerns about a counter-rebellion by centrist members of parliament and threats by Rwanda to quit the plan if it does not comply with international law.

## Non-Aligned Movement meeting opens in Uganda

KAMPALA

SENIOR officials of the Non-Aligned Movement member countries on Monday started a two-day meeting here with a call that the issue of the Palestine-Israel crisis should top the agenda.

The meeting was opened by Yalchin Rafiyev, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and head of the Azerbaijani delegation, who urged member countries to remain united amid complex global challenges.

"We continue to face challenges, we must remain united in making joint progress towards achieving a peaceful and prosperous world in a truly just and equitable world order", Rafiyev said.

Azerbaijan assumed the chairmanship of NAM in 2019 and is set to hand it over to Uganda later this week.

Jeje Odongo, Uganda's minister of Foreign Affairs, urged member countries to exercise collective responsibility in addressing emerging issues. "It is crucial for us to address existing, new and emerging issues collectively and in the interest of our membership for the good of mankind", Odongo said.

In the plenary session, Riyad Mansour, Palestine's ambassador to the UN, urged the members to address the Palestine-Israel crisis. Mansour argued that while the Movement faces several challenges, the crisis in the Middle East is the most pressing.

Mansour said there is a need for a humanitarian ceasefire. He said Palestinians are in urgent need of humanitarian aid like water, food, and fuel. "NAM forum from its inception has always supported the Palestinian people. We are confident that NAM will not leave Palestinian people outside", he said.

Ethiopia and Somaliland, a self-declared region of Somalia, signed an

agreement allowing Ethiopia access to the Red Sea in return for its recognition of Somaliland as an independent state. Somalia described this as a violation of its territorial integrity.

According to Uganda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 93 countries out of the 120 member states of NAM are attending the meeting, which will culminate in the foreign ministers' meeting and the summit later this week.

The meeting is held under the theme titled "Deepening Cooperation For Shared Global Affluence." The summit is held every three years.

The NAM forum is guided by the Bandung Principles, which include respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, recognition of the equality of all races and nations, large and small, and abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of other countries. *Xinhua*

ANI

FOREIGN trade is an important engine driving economic growth and a crucial link between domestic and international economic circulations. China's 2023 Central Economic Work Conference recently emphasized the need to foster new drivers of foreign trade. And how will China do this in 2024?

Foreign trade involves both domestic and international markets, and to consolidate the foundation of foreign trade and foreign investment, it is necessary to first clarify the domestic and international situations.

"The unstable momentum

and insufficient driving force of the global economic recovery have led to sustained weakness in external demand, which is the main factor affecting the trend of foreign trade," said Li Xingqian, director general of the Department of Foreign Trade of China's Ministry of Commerce.

He believes China needs to fully recognize the difficulties and challenges facing the development of foreign trade, and also see that positive factors of stabilization and improvement are gathering.

Specifically, there is abundant potential in new products and

## China to foster new drivers for foreign trade

new business forms. The new "three major ones," namely solar batteries, lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicles, as well as energy storage products meet the need of global energy development. New business forms and models such as cross-border e-commerce, overseas warehouses, and bonded repairs are flourishing. Chinese foreign trade possesses enduring innovation capabilities and a stable, efficient, and resilient supply chain, which will continue to provide new drivers for the recovery and growth of

the national economy and global recovery.

To cultivate new drivers for foreign trade, it is important to focus on key tasks. "China has been the world's largest exporter of intermediate goods for 12 consecutive years, with intermediate goods contributing nearly 60 percent to the growth of foreign trade," said Li.

Expanding intermediate goods trade conforms to the trend of international trade development and is a mutually beneficial move, he added. It is necessary for Chi-

na to further strengthen cooperation with its trading partners and meet their realistic demand for developing manufacturing industry, so that it can achieve complementary advantages and provide impetus for global economic recovery.

Zhu Siqiao, associate researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, believes that cross-border e-commerce, as the fastest-growing, most potential, and most influential new form of foreign trade, is becoming an

important trend in international trade development.

Currently, cross-border e-commerce accounts for over 7 percent of China's total exports. The sector has over 100,000 entities, more than 200,000 independent platforms, and over 1,500 overseas warehouses covering an area of nearly 19 million square meters.

Li said that in order to expand cross-border e-commerce exports, policies regarding customs clearance, taxation, foreign exchange, and other aspects will continue to be improved to enhance regulatory facilitation and

help companies reduce costs and increase efficiency.

Support will also be provided to encourage cross-border e-commerce pilot zones, industry organizations, and companies to participate in Silk Road E-Commerce and Belt and Road cooperation.

To cultivate new drivers for foreign trade, it is also important to promote the digitalization and green development of trade, consolidate the foundation of foreign trade and foreign investment, and accelerate China's transformation into a trader of quality.

People's Daily



## Chinese premier travels to Europe to boost ties, globalisation in 2024's first overseas trip

BEIJING

NOW, China once again shows its commitment to cooperation. For Europe and the world at large, joining forces with China is the fundamental way to navigate the headwinds facing the global economy.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang is embarking on his first overseas voyage in 2024, attending the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2024 and paying an official visit to Switzerland and Ireland from Jan. 14 to 17.

Seeing Europe as a strategic force in the international arena, China has placed great emphasis on its relations with the continent. In 2023, after taking office as Chinese premier, Li made Europe his first destination for overseas visits.

The first trip abroad by a Chinese leader in the new year marks the continuation of high-level exchanges between China and Europe in 2024 and symbolizes China's desire to play its role in fostering global economic recovery and governance and addressing common challenges together with the international community.

In recent years, the world has been struggling to recover from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and profound geopolitical transformations. Cold War mentalities and recurring conflicts have cast a heavy shadow over the entire world, impeding the progress of globalization and undermining the very foundation of global peace and development.

The World Bank recently warned that "the global economy is set for the weakest half-decade performance in 30 years."



Chinese Premier Li Qiang. Photo: Xinhua.

As both a beneficiary and an unwavering champion of global economic openness and cooperation, China has consistently put its shoulder to the wheel to safeguard the fruits of globalization and foster global collaboration to surmount challenges facing all.

The upcoming European tour undertaken by the Chinese premier is a testament to China's unswerving commitment to this cause.

During the trip, Li is scheduled to participate in the opening plenary of the WEF annual meeting and deliver a special address, elaborating on China's proposals for the international community to promote global cooperation, address various risks, bridge the development divide, and seek peaceful coexistence and win-win outcomes.

Over the past decade, China has been pulling its weight in driving global economic growth through its development, serving as a crucial powerhouse of the world economy by contributing over 30 percent to global economic growth.

Today, China's determination and confidence to propel global growth with its

development are going from strength to strength. With its continuously optimized economic structure, the dual circulation of domestic and international markets, and increasingly extensive international cooperation, China is generating a steady stream of growth momentum and potential for its economy.

WEF President Borge Brende said in a recent interview with Xinhua that China will continue to be a major engine for global economic growth.

Furthermore, China has been striving to forge stronger collaborative ties with various economies. Among them, Europe is a priority.

In a spirit of mutual benefit and win-win results, China and Europe have established dozens of mechanisms for consultations and dialogue covering various fields such as politics, economy, trade, culture, science, and technology.

Trade between the two sides in various fields, like lithium batteries and new energy vehicles, is rapidly expanding. Chinese investment is supporting Europe's transition to green, digital, and intelligent indus-

tries. All indicate that China and Europe are partners, not adversaries -- they offer each other opportunities, rather than posing threats.

China's pivotal role has garnered extensive recognition in Europe. In the past year, numerous European leaders have visited China to explore more potential for cooperation. Recently, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo just concluded an official visit to the country. By embarking on trips to Switzerland and Ireland, the Chinese premier will inject more vitality into the dynamic China-Europe relationship.

When it comes to the global economy, everyone is in the same boat and has to pull at the same oars. Therefore, when certain countries may perceive China as a rival, threat, or risk, China is more inclined to view them as partners who ought to pull together and trust each other.

As pointed out by the Chinese premier when debunking the so-called "de-risking" rhetoric during his European visit last year, for all members of the international community including Europe, failure to cooperate is the biggest risk, and failure to develop is the biggest insecurity.

Amidst the ongoing regional hotspots like the Ukraine crisis and the Israel-Hamas conflict, Europe has witnessed the repercussions of confrontation and distrust firsthand.

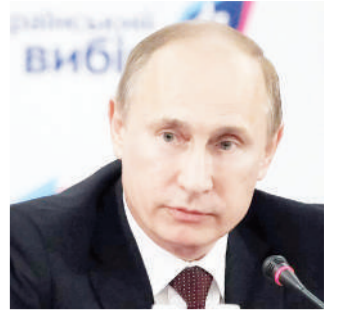
Now, China once again shows its commitment to cooperation. For Europe and the world at large, joining forces with China is the fundamental way to navigate the headwinds facing the global economy.

Xinhua

## Most difficult stage of development of Russia's Far East over – Putin

MOSCOW

THE development of Russia's Far East has advanced, the most difficult initial stage has been passed, now it is necessary to increase the pace, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.



"At the first stage it was quite difficult to implement a lot of things that had been frozen for decades. In my opinion, the work has continued, we have advanced, the most difficult stage is over, now we just need to increase the pace," he said, answering reporters' questions.

Summing up the results of his trip to Chukotka and the Khabarovsk Region, the Russian leader recalled that the authorities are implementing a large program for the development of the Far East. "And it is multidirectional, and there are results. We will certainly continue to work on all these issues. I really hope that people will feel it," the president said.

Agencies

## Survivors of music festival massacre launch USD 53.6 million lawsuit against Israel

TELAVIV

FORTY-TWO survivors of Hamas's October 7 massacre at the Supernova music festival at Kibbutz Re'im are suing the Israel Defense Forces, Israel Security Agency and Israel Police for negligence and are claiming 200 million shekels (USD 53.6 million) in damages.

The claim was filed by lawyers Anat and Gilad Ginzburg, who note that the night before Hamas's invasion, top security brass held meetings amid intelligence indicating abnormal activity in the Gaza Strip.

"One phone call would have prevented 364 people from being murdered, raped, or both, and another 40 from being kidnapped into Gaza," Gilad Ginzburg told the Tazpit Press Service. "We blame the police and the army for allowing the producers to hold the festival (along the border), even though we know that IDF surveillance officers raised the alarm and felt that it would be unsafe," he added.

On October 7, Hamas terrorists launched a multi-pronged cross-border assault on southwestern Israel, killing 1,200 people overall. Ilya, 34, a software engineer from Tel Aviv, attended the festival and escaped unharmed, at least physically. One of the plaintiffs in the case, he stressed the difficulties survivors face in their daily lives.

"While I was not injured physically, I will need to undergo psychological treatment, probably for the rest of my life. I struggle to function, so I will need financial help to take care of myself in every possible way," Ilya told TPS. As a result of the trauma, he suffers from anxiety, depressive thoughts, trouble sleeping, and has difficulty interacting with others, he added.

However, the lawsuit is primarily about justice and holding people accountable, he emphasized.

"A lot of things happened that should not have. Someone needs to take responsibility for it," he said. "We feel that we were abandoned. We should have been protected."

All 42 plaintiffs underwent medical/psychological evaluations indicating that they suffer from physical or mental trauma as a direct result of the massacre.

According to Ginzburg, the suit could take years to make its way through the courts. He also expects additional Oct. 7 survivors to take legal action. "After we began speaking to the press and the public became aware of the suit, we received hundreds of calls from victims of the Supernova festival who wanted to join," he said.

However, Maurice Hirsch, director of the Palestinian Authority Accountability Initiative at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, told TPS that the plaintiffs face an uphill battle.

"Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre was, unfortunately, a well-planned and executed act of war. Even the general understanding that there were some kind of prior warnings of some nature isn't sufficient to base a claim," he said.

"It's impossible to hold the state responsible for every attack that happens—unless there is a clear act of criminal negligence," he added. Hirsch warned that a successful lawsuit of this nature could open the door to liability claims against the Israeli political and security echelons for every terror attack the country has ever suffered.

ANI

## Ramaswamy drops out of White House race, endorses Trump

WASHINGTON

VIVEK Ramaswamy, a multi-millionaire former biotech executive, ended his White House bid on Monday and endorsed Donald Trump after his longshot bid caught attention but failed to catapult him high enough in the Republican Party's first nominating contest in Iowa.

Ramaswamy (pictured), a 38-year-old born in Ohio to immigrant parents from southern India, was one of the surprises of the 2024 Republican race dominated by former President Trump.

A fierce defender of Trump throughout the campaign, Ramaswamy likely secured

himself a spot in Republican politics going forward with his youthful demeanor, deep pockets and fast-talking, pug-nacious campaigning.

However, Trump turned on him in the final days leading up to the Iowa caucus, calling him a "fraud" and asserting that a vote for Ramaswamy was a vote for the "other side."

Partial results for the Iowa caucuses showed Ramaswamy coming in fourth with around 7.7 percent of votes.

Harvard-educated Ramaswamy gained fame in right-wing circles thanks to his 2021 bestseller "Woke, Inc." which decries decisions by some big companies to base business strategy around social justice



and climate change concerns.

His combative debate performances and intense focus on media, especially social media, earned him headlines, but also put off some voters, and buzz around him ebbed in the autumn.

By the end of 2023, his national opinion polling numbers with

likely Republican primary voters languished in the low single digits.

Ramaswamy's fellow Republican candidates often appeared irritated with the newcomer in debates, with former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley telling him during one contentious encounter: "Every time I hear you, I feel a little bit dumber."

However, he gained some support, or at least interest, among libertarian crowds and the tech world. They included Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk, whom Ramaswamy confirmed to Reuters had attended a fundraiser for him in the autumn.

Ramaswamy says he was a libertarian while studying but has staked out some deeply con-

servative policy positions.

On the campaign trail, he opposed affirmative action and supported state-level bans on abortion after six weeks and said he wanted to greatly expand the powers of the presidency and dismantle much of the federal government, including the FBI and the Department of Education.

Ramaswamy was also reflective of a growing isolationist movement in the Republican Party, once made up of staunch foreign policy hawks. He opposed NATO membership for Ukraine and said Kyiv should make concessions to Russia to end the war, including allowing it to retain parts of Ukraine it occupies. **Agencies**

## Over 9,000 terrorists eliminated in Gaza since Oct 7, says Israel

TELAVIV

THE Israel Defence Forces has eliminated more than 9,000 Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip during its ground offensive against Hamas, the military said on Sunday, citing data between October 7 and January 9.

The IDF has also eliminated two out of Hamas' five brigade-

level commanders, the army announced. In addition, 19 battalion-level commanders and 50 company commanders were killed.

Before Israel launched its war in retaliation for Hamas's Oct. 7 terror attacks on the northwestern Negev region, in which 1,200 people were brutally massacred, the terror organization com-

prised approximately 30,000 fighters, the IDF has said. Meanwhile, the number of hostages being held in Gaza is believed to be 136.

Over the past three months, the Israeli military attacked some 30,000 terror targets in the coastal enclave, and ground forces detained 2,300 terror suspects in the Strip for interroga-

tion.

Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza have launched approximately 9,000 rockets that reached the territory of the Jewish state, according to IDF data. Hundreds more rockets fell short inside the Strip.

On the country's northern borders, the IDF and Israeli Air Force have attacked roughly 750

targets in Syria and Lebanon since the start of the war. Some 2,000 rockets and missiles entered Israeli territory from Lebanon, in addition to about 30 projectiles launched from Syria.

The IDF said 522 soldiers have been killed since Oct. 7, of whom 188 were killed since the start of the ground operation in Gaza on Oct. 27. **ANI**

## China's meteorological satellites contribute to global disaster prevention, mitigation

CHINA'S Fengyun meteorological satellites, among the diverse man-made satellites orbiting the Earth, monitor meteorological conditions on the planet at all times, making important contributions to global disaster prevention and mitigation efforts, climate change response, as well as sustainable economic and social development.

Fengyun satellites are a series of remote-sensing meteorological satellites independently developed by China. Since the successful launch of the country's first meteorological satellite in 1988, Fengyun satellites today are widely applied in such fields as weather forecasting, climate prediction, natural disaster and environmental monitoring, and scientific research.

China has by far successfully sent 21 Fengyun meteorological satellites of two generations into space. Currently, nine of them are operating in orbits, providing data and products for 129 countries and regions around the world.

With multiple satellites in orbit conducting networked observations, Fengyun meteorological satellites are able to provide three-dimensional

(3D), quantitative, global, all-day, all-weather, hyperspectral, and timely precision monitoring data.

The extraordinary capabilities of the Fengyun satellites enable precise monitoring of all types of weather and climate events. It has detected all typhoons, performed 3D "computed tomography (CT) scans" of rainstorms, accumulated the dataset of climate variables for El Nino, and carried out more tasks.

The satellites have provided remarkable service support for the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and become the backbone of the global Earth observation network.

In recent years, data obtained from the instruments on the Fengyun meteorological satellites have been playing an increasingly important role in data assimilation of the numerical weather prediction models of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), said Niels Bornmann, a Principal Scientist in ECMWF Research Department.

Integration of satellite-based Earth observation data and ground-based observation data allows for better

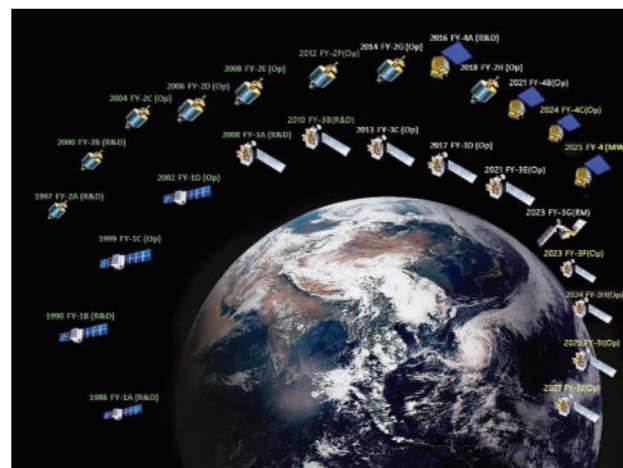


Photo shows an illustrative rendering of china's nine fengyun meteorological satellites which are operating in orbits (Photo by wechat account of national satellite meteorological center)

monitoring of meteorological disasters and their impacts on agriculture.

In the past few years, Fengyun meteorological satellites have been used to monitor extreme drought events in Central Asia, facilitate studies of drought mechanisms, climate change and its impacts, identify affected areas, and then help these areas reduce adverse impacts and enhance climate resilience, according to Sanjarbek Muratov, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) representative to Uzbekistan.

On November 13 last year, the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) launched the international version of

FengYun Earth, a comprehensive application platform serving services by leveraging the Fengyun meteorological satellites and satellite remote sensing technology.

The international version of the platform, specially developed for international users, boasts outstanding capabilities. It can effectively obtain multi-source data such as meteorological satellite data and numerical weather prediction data, while identifying disastrous weather and extreme climate events with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

It also provides users with more than 100 quantitative and multi-scale products in five categories for different business scenarios, covering cloud charts, key elements, disaster events, climate, and model verification. According to different countries and regions, it can be configured to focus on certain meteorological factors, observation areas, and time ranges, among other aspects, so as to meet users' personalized needs.

Shortly after its debut, the international version of FengYun Earth received an order - to provide support for the 17th Pacific Games hosted by the Solomon Islands.

At the invitation of the meteorological bureau of the Solomon Islands, the CMA sent experts to the Solomon Islands, while starting the fast-scan mode of the Fengyun-4B (FY-4B) satellite for meteorological observations centered on the Solomon Islands. Leveraging the platform, the CMA

provided dozens of satellite products for the Solomon Islands, delivering strong support for the successful holding of the 17th Pacific Games.

In an effort to better serve international users, the CMA established an emergency support mechanism regarding disaster prevention and mitigation of Fengyun satellites in April 2018. A total of 34 countries had registered for the mechanism by 2023.

Since the beginning of 2023, Fengyun satellites have responded 28 times to global requests for emergency support services.

They have observed tropical cyclones Lola and Mocha, providing meteorological support to countries including the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Bangladesh. They have also helped monitor concentrated ignition points of devastating forest fires from the northern coast of Algeria to northwest Tunisia, offering important assistance for the fire prevention and control efforts of local authorities.

According to CMA statistics, over the past five years, more than 1,000 international users have been trained for better use of Fengyun meteorological satellite-based products. The CMA has provided support concerning application software for Fengyun satellites' remote sensing services and held video consultations on relevant services and products for over 20 countries and regions across the world more than 50 times.

People's Daily



# SPORT



Dar es Salaam's Adam Ali hits a forehand return when he was training at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) tennis courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Yanga ropes in three new players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans SC has trimmed its squad in the final week of this season's mini-transfer window with three players leaving the club while one arrives on a permanent deal.

Famously known as Yanga, the squad parted ways with Congolese winger Jesus Moloko, ending his two-and-a-half-year stint at the club. He was one of three Congolese ballers remaining at the club.

Moloko's contract was due to end in 2024 but both parties reached an agreement to part mutually. He joined the club in 2021 from DR Congo's AS Vita Club and became a key figure in Yanga's success, winning back-to-back NBC Premier League titles, Community Shield (twice), Azam Sports Federation Cup (twice), and runners-up in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup.

It is understood that Ghanaian winger Augustine Okrah is already a replacement for the Congolese winger.

Yanga has loaned out Ghanaian forward Hafiz Konkoni to Cyprus Premier League outfit- Dogan Turk Birligi- until the end of the season.

The 24-year-old forward- who signed for Yanga in July last year from Ghanaian side Bechem United after an impressive spell in the Ghana Premier League- did not live up to expectations.

Konkoni managed to score one goal in five appearances for the Mainland Tanzania champion in the CAF Champions League, as the outfit is featuring in the Group Stage for the first time in so many years.

The lanky striker will return to Yanga after the conclusion of his loan stint in Northern Cyprus, the loan move presents an opportunity for Konkoni to showcase his skills in a new football environment, and fans eagerly anticipate his contributions in Northern Cyprus.

The squad's Tanzanian forward Crispin Ngushi has joined Coastal Union until the end of the season to develop his confidence and get game time away from his squad.

## Dar City Basketball Club eyes reinforcement

By Guardian Correspondent

BASKETBALL. Dar es Salaam (BD) Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League champion, Dar City BBC, is targeting signing either three or four ballers for the coming season.

Dar City BBC, which participated in the RBA League for the first time last year and won the league's trophy, has planned to continue dominating this year's league, which is expected to start in May.

The team set a record in the RBA League for playing 13 rounds of the showdown without losing, while one game was forfeited after the team's ballers had worn kits with colours that matched those worn by the opponent- ABC-, so, the latter was awarded a walkover.

Dar City BBC's coach Mohammed Mbwana said that he does not need to sign many players because he believes that his team can do wonders. "You must be able to make improvements in the team from time to time but, if I look at the team I had last year, it is still good and can participate in the league and do well," the former Chang'ombe Boys BBC forward disclosed.

"To bring more excitement, we will so far add three players for the center, power forward, and point guard roles," Mbwana pointed out.

Mbwana also said that they did not do well in last season's National Basketball League (NBL) due to poor preparations.

The gaffer stated: "You know, after winning the RBA League, we planned to win all other trophies

but poor preparations frustrated our efforts in the NBL and we were eliminated in the quarterfinals."

"When the NBL was about to start, some of our players were asked to join Pazi Basketball Club that was participating in the Basketball Africa League (BAL), for that matter, the ballers' minds were there (playing in the BAL)," Mbwana said.

"Many of us believed that the NBL would be pushed back to pave the way for the BAL, but it turned out differently," the coach pointed out.

"They said it would be played and we had rested, so, we had to participate without having a good practice, even though we added some players, our goals were not achieved," Mbwana noted.

“

You must be able to make improvements in the team from time to time but, if I look at the team I had last year, it is still good and can participate in the league and do well

## SPORTS

# Simba SC targets signing complete players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC has been cautious and active in this season's mini-transfer window, with the signings of two players having already been done during the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup which took place in Zanzibar this month.

Zanzibar's winger Salehe Karabaka may not be a popular figure that the Msimbazi Street side's fans expected to be introduced first.

The club's fans expected an experienced foreign player but Karabaka quickly made a name for himself by scoring on his debut for the outfit when it took on JKU SC in the Isles competition.

It is a signing that did not please many Simba SC fans but somehow they understood because city rivals, Yanga, signed defensive midfielder Shekhan Hamisi from Zanzibar's JKU SC.

Such a signing is similar to the way Karabaka was signed by Simba SC from the Isles outfit to signify both teams are aiming for the future.

Two days later, fans cheered on what they saw, after the circulation of pictures of Senegalese midfielder Babacar Sarr defending against Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo when the former's outfit, Tunisia's US Monastir, was facing the latter's Saudi Arabian outfit Al Nasr in the Arab Cup.

Simba SC's fans across social media were buzzing after what they saw, as they felt this was the signing to be introduced ahead of Karabaka's.

Sarr, the former US Monastir defensive midfielder, is the player that Simba SC wanted for its squad in the long run.

Honestly, no local player brought in will win the hearts of Simba SC fans because most of them are average footballers and fans are aware of that.

Roping in a player from either Azam FC or Yanga might impress Simba SC followers, but no Simba SC fan will pay attention when it recruits a footballer from any other local club.

The supporters will have such a tendency because the squad has signed many domestic players of the same caliber and all have failed to prove their worth.

Sarr is a signing that was eagerly awaited by the Msimbazi Street squad's fans across the country, they wanted to realize whether it is the beginning of the signing players that directly make it to the squad's starting lineup and reduce dependence on players of the likes of Clatous Chama.



Simba SC's new defensive midfielder, Babacar Sarr.

The Senegalese midfielder boasts an extraordinary CV, but Simba SC has had bad luck with players the squad recently signed.

Many players have failed to make it to the outfit's starting lineup, with Congolese Fabrice Ngoma and Cameroonian Che Fondoh Malone having so far been the footballers to have done it.

The rest of the ballers picked injuries, faced suspension, or were not good enough to help the squad scale great heights, this had the team settling for senior players.

There are times a soccer enthusiast can blame the club's leaders and at times he/she may analyze and question the development of players like Mozambican midfielder Luis Miquissoine who left Simba SC as one of Africa's best wingers and returned as player far from his best.

Yanga has lately been having luck in every transfer window, the outfit's new signings have managed to make it to the club's starting eleven.

The Jangwani Street outfit, as a result, improved a lot, clinching the 2021/22 NBC Premier League and the season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) trophies back-to-back, and booked a place in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup final.

On the right back, Yanga had at some point Juma Abdul and Kibwana Shomari then the squad signed Congolese Djuma Shabani and now the squad has Ivorian Koasssi Yao, all these players have turned out to be the first eleven members.

Yanga signed defensive midfielder Mukoko Tomombe from DR Congo's AS Vita and, before he left, the squad roped in Ugandan Khalid Aucho and Congolese Yannick Bangala to replace the former. Now Yanga has Tanzanian midfielder Mudathir Yahya.

At the end of last season, Feisal Salum, Fiston Mayele, and Djuma left Yanga but the club has continued to be strong due to the signings it did in the previous windows.

Simba SC needs these types of signings to boost the squad, competently challenge for titles, and reduce dependence on players with attitude problems.

Now Simba SC fans await to witness Sarr showcasing his prowess and challenging Malian Sadio Kanoute but, in today's football world, clubs need to have players that can impact the team anytime.

Yanga boasts good substitutes, Yahya might be substituted for Salum Abubakar and the latter will bring either the same or more impact.

In today's world, a soccer team needs not only a strong starting eleven but also quality substitutes.

Simba SC's head coach, Abdelhak Benchikha, can today decide to have his team begin a match with Sarr and, tomorrow, Ngoma starts and both bring the same impact.

Speaking of the squad depth, Simba SC has not had the desired depth since Larry Bwalya, Taddeo Lwanga, Hassan Dilunga, Chris Mugalu, and Meddie Kagere left the club.

The same could be said when Miquissoine and Chama were sold to Egypt and Morocco respectively. The duo has returned to Simba SC but the squad has not managed to recover to this very day.

It might be the beginning of a good start in bringing in players that will transform the club to the next level, the Msimbazi Street squad hardly needs players like Burkinabe midfielder, Ismael Sawadogo, anymore.

After seeing Sarr's showing in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup, I am convinced Simba SC has signed a good player.

## Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards announces revamped award categories

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCAs), the continent's prestigious event that recognizes excellence in the African film industry, is gearing up for its milestone 10th edition this year.

Following a captivating three-day ninth edition in 2023, the organizers of the awards, MultiChoice Nigeria and Africa Magic, are preparing to honour and celebrate the best of African film talent in a grand ceremony later this year.

In anticipation of this landmark edition, MultiChoice Nigeria and Africa Magic extended a call to all African filmmakers to submit their films publicly exhibited or broadcast between December 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023.

Entries opened on January 15, 2024, and will close on February 14, 2024. All films (aired in either cinemas or otherwise), made-for-television movies, and television series, so long as they meet the terms and conditions, are eligible.

Busola Tejumola, Head of Content and West Africa Channels at MultiChoice said: "Over the past decade, Africa Magic has steadfastly upheld its commitment to spotlighting authentic African stories, especially those that mirror our diverse and rich cultures.

"As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards, we embark on a bold initiative to reevaluate our award categories to further align with global trends and benchmarks," the official disclosed.

The official stated: "This includes retiring specific categories, streamlining others, and revisiting the voting and non-voting classifications."

The 10th edition will see the total number of categories reduced from 33 (as of 2023) to 27 categories - 16 non-voting & nine



audience voting categories and Recognition Awards - Lifetime Achievement and Trailblazer Awards.

The performance awards have undergone streamlining and will fall under the categories of Best Actor or Best Actress in a Leading or Supporting Role.

A voting jury, consisting of top filmmakers, will determine the winners in these categories, deviating from the previous audience voting system.

The non-voting categories, totaling 16, will have winners determined by a diverse and experienced jury, led by the head juror.

These categories include Best Lead Actor and Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Actress, Best Director, Art Direction, Cinematography, Costume Design, Best Writing in a Movie and TV Series, Best Movie and TV Series, Best Short Film, Best Documentary, and Best Sound Design, Editing, and Makeup.

The public can vote in categories like Best Scripted and Unscripted Africa Magic Original, Best Digital Content Creator, Best Indigenous Language (West, East, and Southern Africa), Best MultiChoice Talent Factory Film, and Best Indigenous Africa Magic Original.

In the remaining eight audience voting categories, the public will determine the winners. Deloitte will continue to process and verify the voting results.

Public voting categories include Best Scripted and Unscripted Africa Magic Original, Best Digital Content Creator, Best Indigenous Language (West, East, and Southern Africa), Best MultiChoice Talent Factory Film, and Best Indigenous Africa Magic Original.

Tejumola added:

"The AMVCAs remains committed to celebrating the incredible talent in the African film and television industry, the amazing people who do the work in front and behind the cameras, and you, our viewers who continue to support the hard work of the television and film industry. Thank you for being an integral part of the AMVCA journey."

To enter the awards, all filmmakers must prepare the movie for consideration with online submission. They should visit <https://www.africamagic.tv/AMVCA> for submission details and additional information.

The 10th edition of the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards is brought by Africa Magic in association with MultiChoice, with Amstel Malta as the headline sponsor.



## Messi, Bonmati scoop awards for FIFA's best in 2023

LONDON

LIONEL Messi was controversially crowned as FIFA's best men's player for 2023 on Monday, while Aitana Bonmati added to her collection of individual accolades at the awards ceremony in London.

Messi claimed the award for the third time, but the 36-year-old was a surprise victor ahead of Erling Haaland on an otherwise glorious night for Manchester City.

The award only covered the period after Messi had led Argentina to World Cup glory in December 2022 to August 2023.

During that time the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner had a subdued end to his career at Paris Saint-Germain, despite winning the Ligue 1 title, before joining MLS side Inter Miami in June.

Messi quickly made his mark in the United States as he helped the franchise, part-owned by David Beckham, to their first trophy by winning the Leagues Cup in August.

Haaland was favourite to win after scoring 52 times in his debut season with City as the English side won a treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup.

After receiving the same number of points from a scoring system based off votes from national team captains, coaches, journalists and fans, Messi was crowned victor thanks to more first-choice nominations.

Messi's former club teammate Kylian Mbappe was third.

However, all three of the men's finalists did not attend the ceremony leaving Arsenal and France legend Thierry Henry, who was co-hosting the event, to pick up the award in Messi's absence.

- 'Powerful generation of women' - Bonmati's selection as the best women's player was never in doubt as she completed a clean sweep of personal awards after helping Spain to win the World Cup and Barcelona to Champions League glory in 2023.

The 25-year-old also won the Ballon d'Or, Golden Ball for player of the World Cup and UEFA's player of the year in recent months.

"A couple of weeks ago when 2023 came to an end I was nostalgic because 2023 was an exceptional

and unique year I will remember for the rest of my life," said Bonmati.

"I'm proud of being part of a powerful generation of women who are changing the rules of the game and the world."

Pep Guardiola was named best coach after masterminding City's first ever Champions League success.

"We're here because we won a lot and the thousands of people involved in our success," said Guardiola.

"I'm really happy for the season we had because it was an incredible journey. In the end we did it, but the pleasure of being there was incredible."

Haaland was joined by five of his club teammates -- Kyle Walker, John Stones, Ruben Dias, Bernardo Silva and Kevin De Bruyne -- in the team of the year.

Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois, Jude Bellingham and Vinicius Junior, Messi and Mbappe made up the 11.

City's Ederson won men's goalkeeper of the year, while England and Manchester United stopper Mary Earps picked up the women's award.

England national team boss Sarina Wiegman won the women's coach of the year after leading the Lionesses to the World Cup final.

Seven of England's women were included in the team of the year: Earps, Lucy Bronze, Alex Greenwood, Keira Walsh, Alessia Russo, Lauren James and Ella Toone.

Olga Carmona, who scored the winning goal in the World Cup final, was the only other Spaniard included alongside Bonmati with American star Alex Morgan and Australia's Sam Kerr also selected.

The Brazilian men's team won the fair play award after they dawned an all black shirt for the first time in a show of support for forward Vinicius, who suffered several incidents of racist abuse while playing for Madrid last year.

There was also Brazilian success in the Puskas award for the best goal, scored by Botafogo's Guilherme Madruga for his spectacular overhead kick.

AFP

## Respect for Messi holds off rising stars to individual awards

LONDON

LIONEL Messi may have left the limelight of European football behind, but he remains a magnet to the game's biggest awards after being crowned FIFA's best men's player for 2023 on Monday.

The selection of the 36-year-old over pretenders to his crown Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappe was a controversial one in the year Messi took what many see as the step down in standard to join Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

Yet, Messi's pulling power was still in evidence last year as he quickly conquered the United States.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner dragged a hitherto struggling squad to the first trophy ever won by the franchise, which is co-owned by David Beckham, by lifting the Leagues Cup in August.

He also racked up another league title at Paris Saint-Germain prior to leaving Europe behind, but his final few months in the French capital were far from plain sailing.

Messi was booed by the PSG crowd and even suspended by the club for an unauthorised trip to fulfil commercial contracts in Saudi Arabia.

That led to the sense of a genius in decline, albeit one whose peak was arguably higher than anyone before him.

Yet, if Haaland could feel aggrieved that his time is yet to come after scoring 52 goals and winning the treble in his debut season at Manchester City, he need only listen to his manager.

Pep Guardiola was one of those honoured as coach of the year at FIFA's awards ceremony in London after masterminding City's Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup success last season.

Guardiola is fully aware of the generational great he was blessed to see up close in four years as Barcelona boss in Messi.

"Always I said that the Ballon d'Or should be in two sections, one for Messi, and after look for the other one, so Haaland should win, yes," said Guardiola ahead of October's Ballon d'Or ceremony.

"We won the treble because he scored 50 million goals but of course Messi...the worst season for Messi is the best for the rest of the players."

- Giant of the game -

It was in scoring 672 goals in 778 appearances for Barca that the tiny man lured to Catalonia from Rosario became a giant of the modern game.

A darting, slightly injury-prone young winger -- who needed Barcelona to pay for growth hormone treatment as a teenager -- became a devastating 'false nine', lethal free-kick taker and later the ultimate playmaker.

He even soared to score a memorable header in a Champions League final over Manchester United -- one of four times he conquered Europe with Barca.

There were also 10 La Liga titles, seven Copas del Rey and three Club World Cups with the Catalan giants.

AFP

## Senegal enjoy winning start to AFCON defence, Cameroon and Algeria held

ABIDJAN

LAMINE Camara scored a stunning brace as Senegal began their defence of the Africa Cup of Nations title with a 3-0 win over Gambia on Monday, but fellow heavyweights Algeria and Cameroon were both held in their opening matches.

Sadio Mane's Senegal are hoping to retain the trophy they won in Cameroon two years ago and were too strong for their Gambian neighbours, who played the whole second half with 10 men.

Marseille midfielder Pape Gueye swept home an assist by Mane to give the Lions of Teranga the lead inside four minutes in Ivorian capital Yamoussoukro.

Gambia endured a troubled build-up to the tournament, boycotting a training session over an unpaid qualification bonus before their flight to Ivory Coast was forced to turn around just nine minutes after take-off due to technical problems.

Quarter-finalists in 2022, they had Cardiff midfielder Ebou Adams sent off for a studs-up challenge just before the break.

Senegal effectively killed off the game early in the second half when 20-year-old Camara, the African young player of the year, drilled a low shot into the far corner.

He then completed the victory with an early contender for goal of the tournament in the 86th minute, expertly bending a shot into the top corner from just outside the box.

Aliou Cisse's Senegal will likely face a tougher assignment in their next Group C match when they face five-time winners Cameroon.

The Indomitable Lions, champions in 2017, had to come from behind to draw 1-1 with 10-man Guinea in the second game of the



Mohamed Bayo (R) scores for Guinea against Cameroon in Yamoussoukro. Agencies

day in Yamoussoukro, with Frank Magri equalising for Cameroon early in the second half.

Guinea had taken an early lead through Mohamed Bayo, who was leading their attack in the absence of the injured Serhou Guirassy, the striker enjoying a fine season in Germany with Stuttgart.

Cameroon, with Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana not in the team having not arrived in Ivory Coast until just before the match, were given a boost as Guinea's Francois Kamano was sent off with half-time approaching.

Magri headed them level, but they could not find a winner in the sapping late afternoon heat.

- Empty seats -

Algeria, who won the title in 2019, became the latest major nation to fail to win their opening game after Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt and Ghana, as they were held to a 1-1 stalemate by Angola in

Bouake.

Baghdad Bounedjah gave Algeria the lead after 18 minutes in Ivory Coast's second city, and the striker then had a stunning second goal disallowed for a tight offside call soon after.

Angola equalised through a Mbululu penalty midway through the second half in the Group D game, although they have now failed to win any of their last nine matches at the Cup of Nations, stretching back to 2012.

Burkina Faso and Mauritania meet in the same group on Tuesday, also in Bouake.

Monday's matches were played out before swathes of empty seats, which has quickly become a source of embarrassment for tournament organisers.

Ivorian Prime Minister Robert Beugre Mamebe on Monday said measures would be taken to try to ensure full stadiums.

"You will see the results in the next 48 hours," he said, in response to criticism after fewer than 37,000 fans attended Saturday's opening game between the hosts and Guinea-Bissau at the 60,000-seat Ebimpe Olympic Stadium.

The game had been declared a sell-out, with many Ivorians complaining that certain people had bought tickets in bulk over the internet and had not managed to then sell them on.

"Numerous supporters expressed their concerns about the fact the stadium was not totally full," acknowledged the Confederation of African Football and the local organising committee in a joint statement.

Yesterday was to see the opening games in Group E, with Tunisia meeting Namibia and Mali taking on South Africa in Korhogo.

AFP

## Underdogs shine and ex-champions struggle at Africa Cup of Nations

By Ben Miller

SUNDAY at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations proved to be the first day of the underdogs at the tournament.

It would have taken a brave tipster to have predicted that Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique and Cape Verde would all surprise former Afcon champions in their first group-stage matches.

But after hosts Ivory Coast secured a routine 2-0 win over Guinea-Bissau in the opening match on Saturday, the trio of less-storied footballing nations shook up expectations with impressive performances which suggested they can at least advance from tough groups.

Whether it was a show of the competitive nature of the 34th edition of Afcon or a case of the more high-profile teams being slow out of the blocks against hugely motivated opponents, the results have raised the intrigue and excitement levels around the tournament, as well as averaging a crowd-pleasing three goals a game on the second day of action.

**\*Mozambique 'not satisfied' after Salah saves Egypt**

Having qualified for their first Afcon since 2010, Mozambique's Fifa ranking of 111th put them 78 places behind an Egypt side who were beaten on penalties in the final in 2021 and can call upon players of the pedigree of Liverpool top scorer Mohamed Salah and former Aston Villa forward Trezeguet.

Egypt took a second-minute lead and hit a post during a first half in which Chiquinho Conde's underdogs did not have a shot on target - only for a sensational second-half turnaround, including two goals in four minutes, to give Mozambique the lead until the 97th minute, when Salah's spot-kick rescued a 2-2 draw for the seven-time winners.

"We were so close," said Conde, ruing the added-time leveller by the most successful team in Afcon history. "It is up to us to work harder so that this does not happen again."



Ivan Salvador's goal gave Equatorial Guinea the lead against Nigeria in the earliest of three surprising results on the first full day of matches at Afcon 2023. Agencies

"The opening goal did not disturb our plan - it actually motivated us to play even harder.

"We are sad and that is a good thing because we are not satisfied with what we got today."

Egypt fans outside the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Stadium kept their cool, having seen their team lose their opener to Nigeria in 2021, only to go on to reach the final.

"Salah and Trezeguet were not at full power but we normally start like this - it is not new for us," one supporter told BBC Sport Africa. "It happened last time and we went to the final. We have to trust our team. That was not the Salah we know but we think that he will come good next time."

**\*Ghana defeat 'doesn't feel good'**

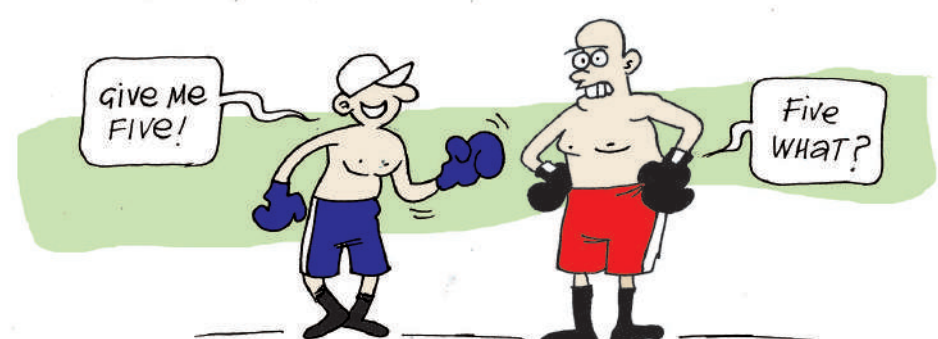
The last of Ghana's four Afcon wins was in 1982 but those triumphs, allied with runs to the semi-finals in 2012, 2013 and 2017 plus the final in 2015, mean they are considered one of the competition's heavyweights.

The Black Stars had been on a poor run of form and were only ranked 12 places above Cape Verde, but the manner of their defeat has led to fears they will repeat their group-stage exit in 2021, when they claimed a solitary point.

The Blue Sharks deservedly took the lead as part of a spell of early dominance, then recovered from conceding a second-half equaliser to rally late on and win 2-1 through Garry Rodrigues' 92nd-minute strike.

"We want to show that we are small but we have the [ability] to take on all the biggest teams in Africa," said manager Bubista, calling Ghana a "great" team. "We knew we were able to take advantage of attacking tran-

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Senegal enjoy winning start to AFCON defence, Cameroon and Algeria held**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia.

## Karia pleased with Taifa Stars' readiness for Morocco clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia is optimistic about the readiness of the senior national team, Taifa Stars, ahead of the squad's opening match of the 2023 AFCON against Morocco slated for today at Stade de San Pedro in Ivory Coast.

Karia- one of the tournament's Executive Committee officials- said Taifa Stars' players are ready for the competition and today's match, adding for him and his delegation, it is a learning process for the squad ahead of the 2027 AFCON set to take place in East Africa.

The TFF boss revealed: "After several training sessions here at Stade Denis in San Pedro- where Taifa Stars pitched camp- I have received good feedback on the development and readiness of our players ahead of tomorrow's opening match against Morocco."

"I am pleased with the ongoing progress of our national team, with the squad assembled we have an opportunity to do better," the official said.

Karia said: "On the other hand we are here to learn how to achieve success in the 2027 AFCON, the good thing is we have enough stadiums to plan things out."

"I am also here in camp to show my unraveling presence to the squad, the Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro is also here to have a word with the players, and the rest we will leave the technical bench to dictate," he said.

Tanzania has won once against Morocco in head-to-head meetings while Morocco picked four wins with zero draws between the sides.

This will be the first encounter between Morocco and Tanzania at the Africa Cup of Nations. They faced each other last November in World Cup qualifying Morocco won 2-0 in Dar es Salaam.

According to bookmakers, Morocco is the heavy favourite for this match, with the world sports verified data platform, Opta predicting a win in favour of the Atlas Lions.

They won 62.9% of the pre-match simulations, compared to Tanzania's win probability of just 18.0%. The draw is rated at 19.1%.

On the flip side, Tanzania is considered one of the weakest sides in the tournament. Their 0.6% win probability before the tournament started was only better than Angola and Namibia, both on 0.5%.

Tanzania, on the other hand, is very inexperienced at this level. They've participated at AFCON only twice before 2023 and never progressed beyond the group stage, only earning a single point over their two tournament runs.

“

*I am also here in camp to show my unraveling presence to the squad, the Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro is also here to have a word with the players, and the rest we will leave the technical bench to dictate*

## Yanga bolsters attack with signing of Ivorian Gnadou

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC had got the coveted signature of Ivorian striker Joseph Guédé Gnadou- joining the Tanzanian club as a free agent following his departure from the Turkish club Tuzlaspor.

Renowned for his versatility across three forward positions, including central attacker and both wings, Gnadou (pictured) is a right-footed dynamo.

In a strategic move, the industrious forward has inked a two-year deal with the club, promising to infuse energy into the attacking lineup for Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga.

The financial aspect of the deal sees Gnadou earn a salary of around \$5500, translating to 13.75m/- over the contract's duration.

This acquisition aims to fortify Yanga's offensive capabilities, a strategic move endorsed by the outfit's head coach Miguel Gamondi.

The club had been grappling with an uncertain striking force, with existing players failing to meet expectations.

Gnadou's arrival is anticipated to inject vigor into Yanga's forward line, addressing the void left by Ghanaian Hafiz Konkoni, who secured a loan move to Cyprus club- Dogan Birlig- until the season's conclusion.

Yanga recently parted ways with DR Congo winger Ducapel Moloko through a two-part agreement.

As part of the club's building efforts, Yanga successfully secured the signing of Ghanaian winger Augustine Okrah in the mini-transfer window, contributing to the success of the outfit's forward line.

Ivorian striker Gnadou's arrival comes on the heels of Yanga's previous attempt to bolster the squad's attacking prowess with the recruitment of Togolese striker Ismail Auro Agoro.

Unfortunately, the head coach Gamondi vetoed the signing after Agoro, the FAR Rabat FC star, lost his spot in the Moroccan club.

As Yanga continues to shape its squad, the addition of Gnadou serves as a promising development, reflecting the club's commitment to assembling a formidable team.

The upcoming season holds the promise of an enhanced attacking force, and fans eagerly await the impact Gnadou will bring to the pitch.

Yanga's strategic signing of Gnadou marks a pivotal moment in the Jangwani Street side's pursuit of excellence.

The Ivorian striker's versatility and goal-scoring prowess are expected to play a crucial role in fortifying the club's attacking dynamics, as head coach Gamondi looks to build a formidable squad for the challenges ahead.

## Taifa Stars lock horns with Morocco in AFCON Group F



Tanzania's senior national football team players are pictured training in Ivory Coast early this week, shaping up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations slated for January 13-February 11, 2024. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's senior national football team "Taifa Stars" is set to play the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON)'s opening match against Morocco in Ivory Coast today.

The Group F encounter will be hosted at the Stade Laurent Pokou in San Pedro, kicking off at 8 pm East African Time.

This encounter marks a momentous occasion for Tanzania, their third appearance in the prestigious continental tournament.

Grouped alongside Morocco, Zambia, and DR Congo in the challenging Group F, Taifa Stars are determined to defy expectations and carve their path to glory.

The Atlas Lions built upon their historic run to the 2022 World Cup semi-finals after losing just one of their eight matches in 2023, which came at the hands of South Africa (2-1) during the 2023 AFCON qualifiers.

Their biggest result came on March 26 when Walid Regragui's side beat Brazil 2-1 in a friendly in Tangier and the side warmed up for the tournament in Ivory Coast with a 3-1 victory over Sierra Leone on January 11 to make it five games unbeaten.

Taifa Stars also enjoyed a relatively positive 2023, losing only two of the team's seven matches.

The Tanzanian squad came up against Morocco as recently as November 21, going down 2-0 in a 2026 World Cup qualifier after kicking off the campaign with a 1-0 win against Niger three days earlier.

Adel Amrouche-coached Taifa Stars concluded their preparations for the continental showpiece with a 2-0 defeat to Egypt in a friendly which took place in Cairo on January 7.

Surprising results recorded in the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Ivory Coast have been described as a morale boost to Taifa Stars.

There have been unexpected results in some of the AFCON matches where minnows have embarrassed higher-ranked opponents.

Cape Verde defeated Ghana 2-1 in the

former's Africa Cup of Nations opener on Sunday and Egypt, one of Africa's giants, huffed and puffed before they were awarded an added time penalty to get a 2-2 draw with Mozambique.

Meanwhile, after facing Morocco, Tanzania will take on Zambia on Sunday before completing their mission against DR Congo on Wednesday, January 24th.

Already, Tanzanians have a strong belief that this time, their team will stamp new records in Ivory Coast.

Taifa Stars' full 27-member squad tasked for the 2023 AFCON mission is made up of goalkeepers Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya, and Kwesi Kawawa.

Defenders include Haji Mnoga, Mohammed Hussein, Lusajo Mwaikenda, Abdulmalik Zakaria, Abdi Banda, Dickson Job, Ibrahim Bacca, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Novatus Dismas, and Miamo Danilo.

Feisal Salum, Himid Mao, Mzamiru Yassin, Sospeter Bajana, Ben Starkie, Tarryn Allarakhia, Mudathir Yahya, and Morice Abraham are the squad's midfielders.

Skipper Mbwana Samatta, Simon Msuva, Mohammed Omar, Charles Mmombwa, Kibu Denis, and Cyprian Kachwele are Taifa Stars' forwards.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**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 SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntlu  
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELECT  
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 Kuntlu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

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.

**eastafrica 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**