



World Bank launches framework for inclusive and resilient growth

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Z'bar leader hails Personal Data Protection Act

By **Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar**

THE Personal Data Protection Act will protect, support and facilitate compensation for whistleblowers, along with raising trust and personal security while enhancing the war against graft in the country.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi made this remark on the new legislation at an event to commemorate the African Anti-corruption Day w at Nyamanzi Unguja in yesterday.

The Zanzibar Anticorruption and Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) was operating on earlier legislation, while the government conducted a review of the ZAECA facilitating law upon realising the need for reform to enhance the war against corruption, he said.

Among the changes is section 98 which sets out guidelines on privacy for

individuals who assist the government with information on corruption, he said, noting that there are other laws administered by other institutions to protect whistleblowers, who help them to perform their duties.

The laws include the Civil Service Act of 2023, the Anti-Narcotics Act, number 8 of 2021 and the legislation covering witnesses, Act No. 9 of 2016, he said, underlining that the truth is that corruption derails institutional capability for carrying out development plans whose impacts cross borders.

Implementing various international protocols on corruption to which the country is a signatory will help in reaching intended goals, including supporting each other on expertise on legal facilitation of investigations, he stated.

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Dr Tulia Ackson (R), Inter-Parliamentary Union President and Speaker of Tanzania's National Assembly, has an audience with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg, Russia, yesterday. Photo courtesy of Tanzania's National Assembly

'Govt will not help students expelled for exam cheating'

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE government will not listen to anyone who seeks help after being expelled from college or university due to cheating, top leadership has emphasised.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, made this affirmation after a meeting with the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) leadership, in the presence of the ministry's top officials in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He underscored the fundamental role of ethics and discipline in shaping the character and conduct of students, asserting that unethical behaviours such

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World Bank Group anchors lower middle income status

By **Guardian Reporter**

THE World Bank Group has approved a new country partnership framework (CPF) for Tanzania to consolidate the country's status as a lower-middle-income economy.

Nathan Belete, the World Bank country director also overseeing other countries in the sub-region, said in a statement yesterday that the strategy covering 2025-2029 embodies the One-WBG approach.

It is intended to integrate the strengths of the International Development Association (IDA) lending and grant sphere, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) which focuses on the private sector, and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) for strategic lending operations.

He said the One WBG approach takes up lower middle income status while enhancing human development and supporting global poverty eradication efforts.

Key priorities of the framework include advancing the country's human development agenda through transformative interventions in education, healthcare, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as shock-responsive social protection programmes, he explained.

These initiatives build on the Tanzanian government's ongoing efforts, the statement affirmed, elaborating that the framework is expected to create

an enabling environment for private sector-led growth by reinforcing reforms that enhance the business climate, investing in infrastructure and modernising productive sectors.

Working to leverage Tanzania's strategic geographic position, the framework enabled the government to foster inclusive growth domestically and across the sub-region, he further said.

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FAO launches fishing, seashore resilience second phase project

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has unveiled the second phase of the Nairobi Convention partnership project within the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission.

Dr Nyabenyi Tipu, FAO country representative, said at the national project steering committee meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the convention is aimed at enhancing food security and resilience by

heightening sustainable natural resource management.

The FAO implemented initiative works in collaboration with various stakeholders, focusing at deepening collaboration between fisheries and environmental management among coastal communities, especially fishing groups.

The project is geared to increase the participation of youth and women in the management of the natural resources, as it will cover Mkuranga District in Coast Region and

Mkoani District in Pemba Island.

The project design is meant to build capacity among the relevant groups, strengthening the implementation of an ecosystem approach in the national and local management of the coastal environment and fisheries, she stated.

Better fisheries management and environmental protection are essential in ensuring subsistence fisheries become sustainable, she stated, highlighting that achieving these

objectives will demand collaborative actions.

"It calls for governance of our coastal resources and management of our fisheries as through sustainable practices, we endeavour not only to enhance food security, but also alleviate poverty, ensuring inclusive growth and leaving no one behind," the representative explained.

The steering committee

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Gamondi aims for Yanga dominance in CAF Champions League qualifications

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Balakrishna Foundation Aces sail through to Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup Super 4



FAO unveils fishing, seashore resilience second phase project

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meeting bringing together key fisheries and environment stakeholders, will discuss ways of attaining best outcomes in various activities planned under the second phase of the project.

The stakeholders will discuss progress in site selection, baseline survey reports and strategies deemed essential for effective project execution. The FAO secretariat will present a comprehensive work plan and cost estimates for committee approval, offering strategic guidance to fast-track implementation, she specified.

Through a series of policies and initiatives, Tanzania has made remarkable strides in enhancing the management and sustainability of natural resources both in fisheries and its associated ecosystems, she said, noting that central to the efforts are community-based management approaches.

These are methods that empower local stakeholders to actively participate in the management of marine resources, she emphasised, underlining that enforcement of regulations against overfishing and illegal fishing practices was vital.

It demonstrates the country's proactive stance in preserving its aquatic biodiversity and ensuring equitable access to marine resources for present and future generations, the representative asserted.

It is important to heighten investments in research and capacity-building programmes, fostering scientific understanding and robust data collection to ensure that policy decisions are founded on the latest evidence, she further noted.

This lays a strong foundation for the development and protection of marine and coastal environments, she said, noting that the FAO is committed to supporting sustainable marine and coastal governance. That needs to prioritise the health and resilience of

marine ecosystems and strengthening the fisheries sector, she explained.

She was appreciative of the government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for financial support in implementing the first phase of the Nairobi Convention partnership project.

Ilyasa Pakacha Haji, the acting principal secretary in the Zanzibar First Vice President's Office, said that the second phase of the project marks a significant step forward, deepening links between fisheries and environmental management.

He said that the project will involve measures for sustainable use, protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitats and resources tied to livelihood interventions.

They will be developed together with local communities to improve resilience of coastal ecosystems, food security and livelihoods while protecting biodiversity, he stated.

Implementation of the first phase included livelihood studies conducted to explore alternative income sources for coastal communities, while collaborative efforts supported beach management units (BMUs) in developing fisheries management plans using the ecosystem approach, he explained.

He thanked FAO and stakeholders for implementing the project which will help transform livelihoods in the various communities, while Thomas Chali, assistant director of Environment at VPO Zanzibar, said that the blue economy was the frontier in economic revitalization, with the potential to create wealth, promote trade and generate economic growth.

The government will provide close support to the implementation of the initiative to achieve intended outcomes, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, who is on an ongoing official tour of Kigoma Region, addresses a rally at Makere in Kasulu District yesterday. Photo: VPO

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Climate resilience and economic stability are also critical CPF components, especially relating to climate change adaptation, mitigation strategies and strengthening overall economic resilience, the statement indicated.

The framework prioritises cross-cutting themes of empowering women and youth, enhancing government effectiveness via transparent and accountable institutions, it specified.

Tanzania's recent policy

strides in education and vocational training shows the transformative impact on human development and poverty reduction, it said, affirming that the framework reflects extensive consultations and aligns with the third five-year development plan and its Zanzibar version.

The plan's emphasis on private sector-led growth aligns with the IFC's strategy for creating markets, aimed at fostering conditions for inclusive development, the director noted.

Mary Porter Peschka, the IFC regional director for Eastern Africa, underscored the critical role of private sector participation in Tanzania's economic growth and job creation.

She emphasised IFC's commitment to supporting inclusive finance, agribusiness, manufacturing and sustainable infrastructure, while ebem Erol Madan, the MIGA director of economics and sustainability, said increased investor interest in Tanzania is supported by recent government reforms.

MIGA is promoting financial inclusion and climate finance, leveraging the World Bank Group's guarantee platform to mobilise private capital in sectors like renewable energy and digital technology, she explained.

The framework builds on the success of the 2018-2022 framework, which facilitated significant improvements in water access, secondary education and electricity provision across Tanzania, she said.

Notable achievements of the earlier phase include im-

proved school attendance, expanded vocational education, and increased rural electrification," she stated, affirming that IFC's investment portfolio in Tanzania exceeds \$400m, focusing on financial institutions, agribusiness and real estate, with additional advisory support.

"MIGA's recent guarantees in the mobile money and banking sectors underscore its expanding role in Tanzania's development, with a robust pipeline in the renewable energy and digital sectors," the director added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa assesses progress in the construction of Heroes' Monument at Dodoma city's Mtumba Government Town yesterday, as preparations for this year's edition of celebrations to mark Heroes' Day (July 25) scheduled to take place in Dodoma Region at the national level continued. Photo: PMO

Z'bar leader for Personal Data Protection Act

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He commended the work of ZAECA and the Prevention and Combating of Crime Bureau (PCCB) for taking a frontal role in the fight against the malpractice, informing the public on the effects of corruption on the country's economy. "We need to rally behind them," he declared.

From July 2022 to May 2024 ZAECA tracked and investigated 115 projects billed at 2trn/-, opening case files for 86 projects

later presented to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with 29 individuals charged in court.

ZAECA recovered upwards of 7.9bn/- stashed through illegal means like tax evasion and abuse of office, he affirmed, while Ridhiwani Kikwete, the Public Service and Good Governance deputy state minister in the President's Office, said PCCB has put in place various strategies, where public servants engaging in graft activities stand to be arrested, he added.

'Govt won't assist students expelled for exam cheating'

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as cheating, fraud and bullying have serious impacts.

They not only erode the trust in the educational community but also undermine the credibility of the education system as a whole," he said, appealing to higher learning institutions and other education levels to intensify control measures in the fight against cheating in

ams.

He urged institutions not to hesitate in taking decisive action against those found in the frauds, including expulsion from studies, stressing condemnation of exam deception, Emphasizing the government's zero-tolerance stance on fraudulent behaviour in education delivery, the minister highlighted a recent incident at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) where candidates were caught cheating by sitting in

the exams on behalf of others.

Leaderships in various universities need to implement robust systems to combat challenges of this sort, ensuring that lecturers and students involved in exam charting face appropriate measures.

"Whenever we come across an organised exam cheating especially involving a chain of people, the direct measure is to take them to court along with other measures," he stated.

"When we encounter any organized exam cheating involving multiple parties, our response will include taking them to court," he said, reaffirming the government's commitment to prioritizing education as a cornerstone of national development.

It has to assure that higher learning institutions are strong and supervise the provision of quality education, thus education stakeholders need to collaborate in fostering a

culture of integrity and ethical conduct in educational institutions.

This will enable students to realise their potential and contribute positively to society, he said, pointing out that in recent years, the government has undertaken several education sector reforms aimed at enhancing access to quality education and addressing challenges in the system of education.

Key reforms include reviewing and updating the national curricu-

lum and education policy to ensure its relevance to the needs of students and the country's development goals, he stated.

Other measures are improving the quality of teaching through better training and professional development for teachers as well as investments in school infrastructure like classrooms, libraries and sanitation facilities to create a more conducive learning environment, the minister added.

UNEP to back up Tanzania's clean cooking energy agenda

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reiterated its commitment to bolstering Tanzania's environmental protection efforts, particularly in advancing its clean cooking energy agenda.

UNEP Deputy Director Elizabeth Mrema made the remarks yesterday during the meeting with the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Environment) Christina Mndeme on the sidelines of the 11th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP commenced yesterday in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mrema thanked the government of Tanzania through the Vice President's Office for its contributions in the agendas which were presented and discussed during the five-day meeting.

She assured that the contributions will be integrated into UNEP's strategic plan for 2023/24 to stimulate conservation and climate change mitigation.

Mndeme expressed gratitude for UNEP's ongoing support in implementing various

environmental conservation projects and combating climate change in Tanzania.

She also appealed for UNEP's assistance in areas such as carbon trading and the blue economy to enhance income opportunities for Tanzanian citizens and the nation as a whole.

The meeting commenced early this week, convened to review UNEP's programmes from 2022-2023 and to outline the work plan and budget for 2023-2024.

Discussions centred on UNEP's initiatives in climate change, biodiversity preservation, and environmental pollution, in preparation for the upcoming United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA7) meetings.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives, an essential body within UNEP, oversees the implementation of UN Environment Assembly decisions; guides programme development and budgeting, and provides oversight of the secretariat's activities. It comprises accredited representatives of UN Member States, specialized agencies, and the European Union, ensuring comprehensive global participation.



Hawa Bayumi, ALAF Tanzania Limited's Head of External Affairs and Communications, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam earlier this week on a call for the submission of manuscripts for the 2024 Safal Kiswahili Prize for African Literature. Left is one of her assistants, Theresia Mmasy. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

TEF condemns assault on journalist

TANZANIA Editors Forum (TEF) has condemned a recent assault against Dickson Ng'hily, a business editor and head of digital department of 'The Guardian' newspaper.

Ng'hily was on Wednesday assaulted and detained for nearly six hours for documenting pupils studying under tree shade at Kwembe Primary School in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam.

A statement issued yesterday by TEF's Chairman, Deodatus Balile, stated that the forum will cooperate with the journalist to ensure that all people who caused the harm are le-

gally punished which includes covering all the loss.

Balile said that the incident is intolerable crime and sabotage which goes against President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to restore and promote media freedom in the country.

He said preventing journalists from implementing his legal professional duties by assaulting and harassing is against the law.

"Since she entered into power on March 19, 2021, President Samia has done a number of efforts to restore

media freedom, something which has raised Tanzania's press freedom rankings worldwide from 143rd to 97th. But if these actions will cause our country to decline again and affect its credibility in the international community," he explained.

"We strongly condemn this act and urge law enforcement agencies to fully cooperate with the journalist who has already begun the process of filing criminal charges against those involved in this incident."

Balile reminded that Section 7(2)

of the Media Services Act of 2016 as amended in 2023 recognizes journalism as a profession in the country.

According to him, the authorities have no legal power to detain and search journalists while they are in their professional duties.

As part of his daily routine on Wednesday, Ng'hily ventured to Kwembe primary school at Kwembe ward, only to discover pupils engaging in their studies underneath nearby trees instead of classrooms.

Surprised by the scene unfold-

ing before him, he felt compelled to record this snapshot of resourcefulness. Regrettably, during the photo session, one of the teachers spotted him and whispered to her colleague, "There goes your guest, snapping away."

One teacher trailed closely behind him, insisting on seeing evidence of authorization for photographing the scene, at which the reporter responded by showing his identity as a journalist, presenting his press credentials.

During this exchange, other teachers converged on the scene, drawing curious pupils into a growing circle of amazed onlookers and shouting at staff members.

Events escalated swiftly against the reporter as school authorities and colleagues seized both his phone and identification, adding to the rough handling. A staff member struck out on the reporter's back using a stick as if caning a pupil.

The pupils were being drawn to their teachers' side, laying hands on Ng'hily and managing to pin him down, while someone made away with his mobile device.



Kisarawe district commissioner Petro Magoti (2nd-L) has a word at the just-ended 48th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair on Thursday with an entrepreneur dealing in foodstuffs and various other products. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

Initiative launched to uplift Kiswahili to higher altitude

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

THE Safal Kiswahili Prize for African Literature has encouraged writers from the country and across the continent to submit their manuscripts and participate in this year's competition.

Hawa Bayumi, Head of External Affairs and Communications at ALAF Limited Tanzania said this on Thursday when announcing the submission of manuscripts for the 2024 Safal Kiswahili Prize competition.

She said that the move aims to support Swahili language which has become the fastest growing language in the continent and the global.

Bayumi said that the 2024 Safal Kiswahili Prize for African Literature has focused on four pillars which are Health, Education, Environment and Shelter.

"We are very proud to continue supporting the Kiswahili Prize for African Literature aimed at promoting Kiswahili literature and language in general. Kiswahili is now used in several countries in Africa," she said.

She said that the competition will involve unpublished manuscripts in the categories of fiction and poetry, with total cash prizes amounting \$ 15,000 to be awarded to various winners.

In addition to cash prizes, winning manuscripts will be published as books by Mkuki na Nyota Publishers (Tanzania), who may collaborate with other publishers to facilitate the availability of winning books.

Winning poetry books will be

translated into English and published by the Africa Poetry Book Fund.

The 2024 awards will be presented in July 2025, and all short-listed writers will attend.

Since its inception, a total of 2700 applications had been submitted adding that out of those 24 were published into books and distributed to institutions responsible for Swahili in the continent including Tanzania mainland.

So far, over 4,000 books from the winning authors have been printed and distributed across learning institutions and libraries in Tanzania and Kenya.

The Prize was co-founded in 2014 by Dr Lizzy Attree and Dr Mukoma wa Ngugi to recognize writing in African languages and to encourage translations between African languages themselves.

Swahili is one of the most loved languages spoken in Africa, especially on the East Coast of Africa.

In Tanzania Swahili is the language of administration and used as a tool of teaching at primary education level.

However in Kenya and Uganda Swahili is after English since English language in both these countries is the main language while Swahili is also spoken in different countries such as Rwanda, Congo (DRC) and even in central and southern countries.

In fact, Swahili language is used much in Sub-Saharan Africa and is the most taught African language in the world, with a very rich literary tradition.

By Guardian Reporter

Construction of Msalato Airport wins govt praises

THE government has expressed satisfaction with the progress on the construction of Msalato International Airport, which has reached 67.6 percent on infrastructure and runway while the passenger lounge has reached 32.2 percent.

Chairperson of the inspection committee from the Ministry of Works Gilbert Mwoga expressed the sentiments in-

specting the project, calling for an increase in the pace of the construction so that it is finalized on time.

"The committee will continue to follow-up on the progress of the project to ensure that the quality specifications are attained despite the project being behind schedule by 3-percent," he said.

Mwoga advised the contractor for the project to cultivate good relations with neighbours and the society sur-

rounding it by offering services so that they benefit from the project.

Mahona Mahende from the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) said the project involves the construction of a fire rescue building, flight control building and a parking lot to accommodate about 500 vehicles at a time. It also involves construction of the fuel storage facility and a passenger lounge which will serve 1.2 million passengers a year. On

the employment Luhende said currently there are 608 Tanzanians have been employed in the project except for 31 percent each section who are foreigners. The construction involves the taxiways, which is 3.6-kilometer long which will cost about 165bn/- and airport terminal, which will cost 194.4bn/- upon completion.

In December 2019, the Board of Directors of the AfDB approved a \$272 million loan to Tanzania for the con-

struction of the new international airport at Msalato area- about 12 kilometres from the Central Business District of the capital city.

The funding package, comprises a \$198.6 million loan from the bank, \$23.52 million from the African Development Fund (ADF) and \$50 million in co-financing with the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF) – a co-financing facility of the People's Republic of China managed by the bank.

The project involves the construction of high-capacity airport infrastructure to meet the expected growth in air transport from the city's new role as the administrative capital of Tanzania. Work will be carried out over four years and will include a passenger terminal, a runway, and air navigation equipment.



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (R) receives the Uhuru Torch from her Singida counterpart, Halima Dendego, at Gehandu village in Hanang District yesterday as this year's edition of the cross-country Uhuru Torch race continued. Photo: Correspondent Mary Margwe

12,447 children in Lesotho reached with MR vaccine

MASERU

TO catch up with the unvaccinated (zero-dose), and under-vaccinated children, Lesotho's Ministry of Health with support from the World Health Organisation, (WHO) implemented a catch-up vaccination campaign from 29 April to 4th May in all 10 districts.

The catch-up vaccination campaign recorded a high turnout in many communities with 12,447 children reached with Measles Rubella (MR).

The objectives of this vaccination campaign were; to develop district and health facility micro-plans, and mobilize all communities to vaccinate all unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children.

Speaking during the launch of the African Vaccination Week in Quthing district, the Minister of Health, Selibe Mochoboroane encouraged parents and guardians to take their children for vaccination. "We call on all parents to ensure their children's routine vaccinations are up to date. It is the best thing we can do for ourselves, our

families, and our communities," says Minister Mochoboroane.

Representing WHO Country Representative, Dr Mesfin Zbelo reiterated WHO's commitment to giving the Government of Lesotho the necessary support in ensuring that every individual has access to life-saving vaccines.

"Vaccination is not merely a medical intervention; it is a fundamental human right", says Dr Zbelo.

This year's African Vaccination Week was an opportunity to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of WHO's Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). With the launch of the Expanded Programme on Immunization, in 1974 by WHO, the programme grew and widened, moving from the initially targeted six diseases (diphtheria, measles, polio, tetanus, tuberculosis, and whooping cough) to 14 vaccine-preventable diseases.

This initiative has proven particularly effective in bridging the vaccine access gap by reaching populations with limited access to regular health services.

Aviation leaders call on tourism boards to boost Africa air routes

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA'S vast tourism potential remains untapped due to a lack of air connectivity, with Africa currently accounting for just 1.9 percent of global passenger and cargo traffic. However, aviation experts believe national tourism boards have a unique opportunity to drive new airline routes and spur economic growth.

At a recent AviaDev Africa workshop, which was hosted in collaboration with the SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance, airline executives stressed tourism boards' power lies in leveraging market data and industry relationships to convince skeptical car-

riers of new routes' long-term viability.

"Tourism is more than just leisure; it's a critical economic activity that requires strategic thinking and collaboration across sectors," said Kojo Bentum-Williams, UN Tourism's Senior Africa Communications Expert.

Sylvain Bosc, former Chief Commercial Officer of SAA and Fastjet, stressed the importance of demonstrating sustained profitability. "Destination marketing organisations (DMOs) must sell a long-term vision highlighting the destination's growth prospects and economic impact," he said. "Creative incentives like co-marketing, reducing airline

costs, and quantifying passenger volumes can be more powerful than direct subsidies."

Bosc noted DMOs need to "bring new light" to data airlines already have by offering insights into upcoming local economic developments like new mines or infrastructure projects that could drive corporate traffic. "Local insights can provide airlines with the confidence they need to invest in new routes," he said.

Natalia Rosa, Project Lead of the SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance, underscored the critical role of aviation in regional development: "Aviation is not a luxury, it's the lifeblood of a modern regional economy. Improved air con-

nectivity unlocks a range of benefits: it streamlines travel, opens doors for new tourism markets, and strengthens regional economic ties."

Gavin Eccles, Head of Vertical at BAE Ventures, emphasised tourism boards must be "at the table" with compelling cases backed by local market insights, travel trade ties and unique selling points that airlines often lack.

"Tourism boards should not only provide data but also offer a local perspective that airlines may not have," Eccles said, citing India's successful "Incredible India" branding undermined by poor connectivity.

Regional coordination like aligned visa policies, joint itiner-

ary promotion and tapping conservation funds can also help finance route development. But Tim Harris of Helm Growth Advisors cautioned: "Retaining and expanding existing airline services should be the priority before attracting new routes."

While direct subsidies face sustainability questions, Bentum-Williams said other incentives enable an "environment of trust" for profit-focused airlines.

"There's a need to change the narrative from just paying airlines to fly routes to creating an environment of trust and confidence," he said.

Jillian Blackbeard, CEO of Africa's Eden Tourism Association, highlighted successful collaboration with Proflight through lo-

cal stakeholder and trade backing, building airline confidence without major incentives.

"We worked closely with Proflight and local stakeholders to ensure that routes were supported by the trade and the private sector, which helped build confidence in the airline and led to successful route development without significant financial incentives," Blackbeard shared.

Coordinated efforts leveraging DMOs' destination expertise can unlock increased connectivity - a lifeline for Africa's tourism economies long grounded by poor air links.

The AviaDev Africa workshop was designed as a platform for action to address the challenges

of the aviation industry and collaborate on solutions. The intention from the outset was to examine how tourism stakeholders, including national tourism organisations and private sector tourism associations, can become involved in route development and assist airlines with route promotion.

The success of the workshop and has now secured it a place at AviaDev 2025 in Zanzibar. Scheduled for the welcome reception day before the main conference, it will equip tourism delegates with essential route development building blocks and comprise two days of networking and collaboration focused on reshaping African aviation's future.

PURA to unveil new sites of oil and natural gas exploration

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) is set to unveil new areas of oil and natural gas exploration and extraction inviting both local and foreign investors in the ventures.

The authority's Director General, Eng. Charles Sangweni made the statement yesterday when speaking to reporters at the ongoing 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF-2024).

According to him, by the end of this year or early next year, the authority will announce several areas for oil and gas exploration.

"We are actively seeking stakeholders to partner with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) for oil and gas exploration. Any resources we discover will be developed to facilitate oil and gas production," Sangweni stated.

He highlighted the global recognition of natural gas reserves in Songosongo and Mnazi Bay as pivotal energy sources.

"As the world is transitioning from petroleum to renewable energy by 2060, Tanzania aims to achieve 80 percent renewable energy usage by 2030, so PURA will invest heavily in effort to promote exploration activities," Sangweni emphasized.

He said that the authority will continue research efforts to identify natural gas reserves suitable for household cooking and

transportation, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emissions by shifting from charcoal and firewood.

"Natural gas from Songosongo and Mnazi Bay will serve as a transitional energy source as we move towards renewable energy," Sangweni affirmed.

Preliminary research across Tanzania's 947,000 square kilometres indicates promising signs of oil and gas deposits, with approximately 534,000 square kilometres showing strong potential which is nearly 50 percent.

"We have conducted extensive research in Southern coastal areas and Mtwara, extending up to 300 kilometres offshore," Sangweni added.

Meanwhile, Khalfan Khalfan, PURA's Board Chair encouraged local investors to engage in exploration projects without waiting exclusively for foreign participation.

"The primary requirement here is expertise and capability. The government is committed to boosting investments in exploration, addressing historical gaps where some areas lacked investors or faced legal challenges resulting in project returns to the government," Khalfan stated.

Furthermore, Khalfan highlighted ongoing efforts to attract investors to the Likongo natural gas project in Lindi Region, expressing optimism about its advancement.

He noted that a significant portion of the natural gas extracted from Likongo will be designated for international sales.



Aivan Maganza, who introduced himself as newly elected opposition Tanzania Labour Party national Chairman, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on reports that the party's 'former secretary general' had barred him from entering office. He is with those he said were party's newly elected secretary general Riziki Ngaga (L) and Dodoma regional assecretary Damary Richard. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NACTVET: 16,646 students to be enrolled in 221 colleges

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A TOTAL of 16,646 students have been selected to join 221 colleges offering various health and allied sciences programmes countrywide for the 2024/25 academic year.

Dr Marcelina Baitilwake, director of admissions, examinations and certification at the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education Training (NACTVET) unveiled this on

Thursday when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Marcelina said that among the selected students, 8,821 are female and 7,825 were male, noting: "This is the result of the first round of selections for those who applied to join the Health and Allied Sciences programmes for the academic year 2024/2025."

She said a total of 24,629 applicants submitted their applications through the Common Admission System (CAS) and

23,503 applicants completed their applications by choosing the colleges/programmes they selected. According to her, 21,661 applicants had qualifications in the programmes they applied for and 1,842 applicants did not have qualifications in the programmes they applied for.

She advised qualified applicants who were not selected due to competition in the programmes and colleges they applied to join the programmes and colleges that have a chance in the

second phase window through the Common Admission System (CAS).

She said the window for the second phase has been officially opened today (Thursday) and will continue to be open until 10/08/2024, where the results will be released.

Twaha Twaha, NACTVET examination and certification manager said that 221 colleges that offer health programmes have participated in the admission process through a common admis-

sion system.

He said that the colleges that offer a total of 13 health programmes were involved in the admission adding that those who were not selected have lacked various required criteria.

"The applicant for any programme at the college before applying must be satisfied whether he/she has the required qualifications for that programme and those qualifications are in the student admission guidebook and available on our website," he said.

He asked students who want to study various programmes to look for the guide and check if they qualify instead of applying directly without having complete information.

"Using the common admission system brings openness in application because the student can see the chances, the competition and how many students have already applied and after we release the results the student can see why he was not selected," he said.

When a student enters the sys-

tem to apply to another college that has a chance and they don't pay money anymore," he said. He said that the common admission system has been very beneficial as it has been reducing the costs for applicants to apply for a chance in colleges.

"This system reduces admission and travel costs students who applies for admission because there are colleges that do not have systems to enable students to be admitted online," said Twaha.

SADC immigration officers drilled on tourism customer services in SA

By Special Correspondent

OVER 40 immigration officials from 11 Southern African Development Community (SADC) recently conducted a first-of-its-kind Train the Trainer Tourism Customer Service Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The migration officers participated in the programme designed to improve their customer service skills and create a more welcoming experience for tourists visiting the region.

This initiative goes beyond paperwork, focusing on cultural sensitivity, effective communication, and creating a welcoming atmosphere for travellers. The programme reflects SADC's commitment to the human element of tourism, recognising the crucial role immigration officials play in shaping a visitor's first impression.

It also highlights a unique approach to boosting tourism in Southern Africa. By investing in the skills and attitudes of immigration officials, SADC aims to create a more

hospitable environment for visitors, fostering positive memories and encouraging return visits.

Participants, equipped with new skills, will train their colleagues, creating a long-lasting impact on border post interactions across the region. Improved customer service has the potential to significantly enhance tourist satisfaction, leading to increased economic benefits for all SADC countries.

The Tourism sector is considered as one of the cornerstones of the SADC regional economy.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the sector directly contributed around 2.8 percent (US\$19.4 billion) of the total SADC GDP in 2017 and, when considering its indirect and induced impacts, the sector contributed as much as 8 percent (US\$56 billion) of SADC GDP.

The sector directly sustained around 2.5 million jobs in the Region in 2017; and in total (including direct, indirect and induced employment effects) more than 6.3 million jobs depended on tourism.



Dr Ashatu Kijaji (C), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), shows deputy minister Khamis Hamza Khamis a note from a person she would not name on 'indications of the fast resurfacing' of banned plastic 'shopping bags' in various parts of Tanzania. She was having an audience with National Environment Management Council executives in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Massive storms continue to hit Cape Town displacing 4,500 people

CAPE TOWN

THE South African city of Cape Town and surrounding areas were hit by more storms Thursday that ripped roofs off houses and caused widespread flooding, forcing at least 4,500 people out of their homes and damaging at least 15,000 structures, authorities said.

The devastating weather began a week ago.

Multiple cold fronts have battered the region on the southwest tip of Africa since late last week,

bringing record rainfall in some parts and gale-force winds.

City authorities said the bad weather was expected to continue until the weekend and possibly into next week.

The Wynberg neighbourhood of Cape Town was littered with damage Thursday morning after the latest front hit overnight.

The strong winds blew off roofs, destroyed parts of houses and other buildings, and brought down electricity poles.

The City of Cape Town said its

Disaster Operations Centre worked through the night to respond to calls for help from residents.

At least 4,500 people were displaced and 15,000 structures damaged in and around Cape Town and the wider Western Cape Province before the latest storm Wednesday night and those figures were expected to rise.

JP Smith, the Cape Town mayoral committee member for safety and security, said the city and non-governmental organisations had already provided more than 36,000

meals and distributed 6,000 blankets to affected people in the last two days.

Many people left homeless were in the impoverished informal settlements on the outskirts of Cape Town, where metal and wooden shacks are especially vulnerable to strong wind and flooding.

Schools were closed in Cape Town and other nearby areas, including the renowned wine-growing region of Stellenbosch, where snow lined the streets earlier in the week in a highly unusual occur-

rence as a result of the extreme cold fronts coming in from the Atlantic Ocean.

Three major rivers in the province had burst their banks, Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis said.

The provincial disaster management services had ordered evacuations of some people in the agricultural area of Citrusdal, and parts of the wine-growing region around Stellenbosch, which is around 30 miles (48 kilometres) inland from Cape Town, because of flooding.

Authorities were considering the controlled release of water from some dams as a "precautionary measure" to prevent them from overflowing and causing more damage, the provincial government said.

Cape Town and other parts of the southwest coast of South Africa are often affected by cold fronts in the winter months in the middle of the year which bring heavy rain and strong winds.

But it's unusual for multiple fronts to hit in a short space of time.

World population to peak in mid-2080s, says report

WASHINGTON DC

THE latest UN report predicts that the world's population will reach its peak in the mid-2080s, growing from 8.2 billion in 2024 to around 10.3 billion by the mid-2080s, and then decreasing to around 10.2 billion by the end of the century.

According to Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development at UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), "the world's population in 2100 is now expected to be six percent lower, or 700 million lower, than what was predicted ten years ago. This has significant policy implications for the sustainability of our planet."

This shift has important implications for global policy and the sustainability of our planet.

The Director of the Population Division at UNDESA, John Wilmoth, highlights that "although a larger population contributes to a higher environmental impact, it is ultimately human behaviours that have a more significant effect on the environment than the size of the population."

The earlier population peak is due to a variety of factors, including declining fertility rates in some of the world's largest countries, particularly China.

Additionally, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rise in global life expectancy, with the number of people aged 65 or older expected to outnumber children under 18 by 2080.

Immigration will also play a significant role in future population growth for some regions.

It's important to note that while a larger population will have a greater impact on the environment, human behaviour plays a crucial role in determining the overall impact on the environment.

Additionally, women globally are having one fewer child, on average, than they were in 1990.

By 2024, the population has reached its peak in 63 countries, such as China, Germany, Japan, and Russia, with a projected 14 percent decline over the next thirty years. In 48 other countries, including Brazil, Iran, Turkey, and Vietnam, the population is expected to peak between 2025 and 2054.



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (R) shares a light moment with the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui, at a Bastille Day (French National Day) anniversary event in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. It is officially marked each July 14. Photo courtesy of French Embassy

Tanzania vows to bolster bilateral ties with France

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIAN government has pledged to continue strengthening its bilateral ties with France, seizing an opportunity to reaffirm their partnership, cooperation, and shared success in the future.

Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication, and Technology, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during the Bastille Day commemoration held at the French Embassy.

Bastille Day, or La Fête Nationale, commemorates the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, a piv-

otal event at the beginning of the French Revolution.

The day symbolizes the end of absolute monarchy and the birth of the sovereign nation, marking the triumph of the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The minister explained that Bastille Day celebrations stand as a reminder of the enduring values of freedom, equality, and solidarity cherished by both nations.

"As we celebrate Bastille Day, we are reminded of the revolutionary spirit that has shaped France's identity. It is a day to honour our past while looking forward to the future.

The friendship between France and Tanzania is a testament to our shared values and goals," he said.

He added, "The celebration marks the strong and enduring relationship between France and Tanzania. This year's theme is particularly special as it highlights the 2024 Summer Olympics being held in Paris, symbolizing global unity and the spirit of friendly competition. Several Tanzanian athletes, including swimmers, and paralympians will be participating in these games, showcasing the nation's talent on an international stage."

According to him, the relation-

ship between the two countries continues to flourish, rooted in mutual respect and cooperation across various sectors, including information and communication, infrastructure, healthcare, and technology.

"Today, we not only celebrate France's history but also the strong bond between our two countries. Our collaboration in areas such as culture, education, technology, health, and development continues to strengthen, bringing our peoples closer together," underlined Nnauye.

Nabil Hajlaoui, French Amba-

sador to Tanzania, said the commemoration also recognized the Olympic Games that will take place later this month in Paris, symbolizing unity and international cooperation.

"We are immensely proud of the Tanzanian athletes and swimmers who will be competing in these games. Their participation is a testament to the strength and determination of the Tanzanian spirit," the envoy noted.

The ambassador also highlighted that France and Tanzania share a rich history of cooperation and mutual respect. Hence, their support

for the Tanzania Olympic Committee reflects our commitment to fostering strong bilateral relations and promoting sports and cultural exchanges.

"The French embassy in Tanzania is committed to fostering and expanding the ties between our two nations.

This celebration not only reflects France's rich history but also reaffirms our dedication to the partnership between France and Tanzania. As we commemorate this day, we look forward to continued cooperation and shared success in the years to come," he concluded.

Africa to dilate its energy labour market

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN delegates took an active part in a discussion on the BRICS countries human resource potential to manage energy transition. The dialogue within the recent international seminar was held in the Russian nuclear capital - Obninsk.

More and more countries on the African continent are interested in cooperation within the BRICS. The only African country in the Union was South Africa recently, but Egypt and Ethiopia joined the list in January 2024 turning BRICS into BRICS+. Africa plays an important role in BRICS's global strategy, and its engagement in the association continues to gain momentum. It is now imperative to define the configuration of future relations between BRICS and Africa and to present a strategic view on how BRICS-Africa relations should develop in the long term.

One of the key topics of cooperation is the development of energy sector labour market. Official delegations from South Africa, Russia, the UAE, Brazil, China and Egypt met to exchange ideas within the international seminar on human resource development. The event took place in Obninsk, the first science city in Russia and the place, where national nuclear power was discovered in 1954. The seminar was organised with the support of the Russian Ministry of Energy and Rosatom.

"It is obvious that the BRICS coun-

tries have different energy balances and different access levels to energy resources. At this point, the staff training needs for the energy industry are different in each country. At the same time, the BRICS countries have many similar goals and difficulties in the labour market development and staff training areas, and this opens up the potential of our cooperation extension. I am confident that together we can achieve significant success in any direction," Deputy Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation Anastasia Bondarenko noted.

Project Manager of the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) Nelisiwe Nhlapo stated that the BRICS countries are world leaders in the workers quantity in all energy sectors.

They are 50 percent of all employees in the renewable energy sector (RES) and 80 percent of employees in the coal sector. At the same time, the main challenges that the BRICS countries face today are the aging of working staff in the traditional energy sector, difficulties in transferring experience to the younger generation, the need to develop specialised skills among young people.

It is of great significance to unite countries in the scientific research, standardizing qualifications, and disseminating exchange programmes for students and teachers, creating mutual programmes in energy education.

BRICS delegations also presented their national strategies for skills development in the energy sector. The South African delegation dwelled on the experience of the sectoral education system: more than 20 educational institutions of various industrial sectors have been created in the country in order to develop specific hard and soft skills.

The UAE delegation outlined the main areas of education that are in demand in the context of the energy transition.

This includes expertise in renewable energy, energy efficiency, engineering and design, digital skills, project management, regulatory frameworks, research and development, public education, and specialized technical skills.

The Egyptian delegation presented the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources experience programmes for mid-level and senior managers in the energy sector; a leadership development programme and an energy efficiency training programme.

Gulnara Bikkulova, Deputy General Director of the International Initiatives and Partnerships Block of the Rosatom Corporate Academy, shared the experience of the Russian nuclear industry. She gave a snapshot of the Russian energy sector with 2.6 million working staff. The average age of employees is 42 years, women account for 26 percent of total personnel.



Weights and Measures Agency CEO Alban Kihulla (R) has a word with Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemani Jafo (C) as the latter toured the agency's calibration centre at Kibaha in Coast Region yesterday. Left is deputy minister Exaud Kigahe. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Minister orders WMA boss to 'clean house'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INDUSTRY and Trade minister, Dr Selemani Jafo, has instructed the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) to end the sabotage that is done by some unscrupulous traders who reduce the volume of cement bags and cheat buyers.

Dr Jafo made the directives yesterday when visited WMA Misugusugu calibration centre in Kibaha District, Coast Region.

He said that there have been many complaints from people about the decrease in the volume of those cement bags that are taken from the factory with the correct volume of 50 kilos, but those bags reach the customers with an average of 40 to 45 kilos.

"There are many complaints that the cement comes out of the factory with 50 kg but it is reduced on the way. This can be a very big task for you, but we are the ones

who have been given the responsibility to ensure that there are correct measures, the chief executive and your team should manage this to ensure that these sabotage is stopped," the minister said.

He also asked them to ensure that they measure the quality of electric meters and water meters before they are installed to customers in order to remove customer complaints of being given an improper bill than what they

use.

He said that all producers should ensure that the products they produce are in the correct dimensions according to the volume mentioned in order to protect traders and consumers of these products to get value for money.

He called on the agency's employees to continue working with love and cooperation and to ensure that they provide quality and timely services to traders and pro-

tect consumers.

"The issue of measurements is a ritual; even all religious books have stated that every product sold should be in the correct measurements without hurting consumers. Therefore, WMA should encourage people, especially farmers, to stop estimating crops, but to use the correct measurements when selling or buying products so that everybody gets his rights," he emphasized.

Alban Kihulla, WMA Chief Executive Officer promised to work on the minister's directives.

He explained that WMA through the Misugusugu Centre has the ability to check electricity meters, water meters and vehicles used to transport liquids.

WMA also has offices in all regions of Tanzania and in all borders with the aim of verifying the dimensions of products before they enter across the border.

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12 school children, driver killed in SA minibus crash

JOHANNESBURG

TWELVE schoolchildren and their driver were killed in South Africa when their minibus overturned and caught fire on a road in Gauteng province, officials said.

The accident took place a day after schools reopened after the winter holidays. Seven other children were injured in accident, which took place in the town of Merafong, west of the country's economic hub Johannesburg.

Reports said a that a small truck, known as a bakkie, had slammed into the back of the minibus transporting the children, causing it to overturn and erupt into flames.

Education and transport officials visited the scene of the crash and the injured children at a hospital in the nearby area of Carletonville. Head of the Gauteng provincial government, Panyaza Lesufi, also visited the injured children.

Gauteng education department spokesman Steve Mabona said 11 of the children who died attended Rocklands Primary School while the twelfth child went to Laerskool Blyvooruitsig in Carletonville.

"The pupils' transport was hit from behind by a bakkie, causing it to overturn and subsequently catch fire," Mabona said, describing the crash as a "horrific accident."

Thousands of schoolchildren in Gauteng rely on private minibuses for transport to and from their schools across South Africa's most populous province. Many others rely on public transport, including municipal buses and taxis.



The pupils' transport was hit from behind by a bakkie, causing it to overturn and subsequently catch fire



Small traders on a hunt for customers in Bariadi town, Simiyu Region, as found earlier this week by roving correspondent Jumanne Juma

US signs deal with 3 social media giants to prevent synthetic drug distribution

WASHINGTON DC

THE United States signed a memorandum with several of the world's biggest social media companies on Thursday aimed at preventing the use of their platforms for the distribution of synthetic drugs.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told a signing ceremony that "technology companies have a critical role to play in both stopping the illegal manufacturing, trafficking and marketing of synthetic drugs and just as importantly, educating the public."

The Alliance to Prevent Drug

Harms is a joint effort of the US Mission to the United Nations and Meta which owns Facebook and WhatsApp, X and Snap Inc., the owner of the photo-sharing app Snapchat.

The US Mission said the signing parties will collaborate to "disrupt" illegal drug activities online and "amplify public awareness of the dangers of synthetic drug misuse."

Thomas-Greenfield said at the ceremony at the US Mission that synthetic drug use is an "international crisis" that "no one government and no one sector can tackle alone."

"These criminals have adeptly used online platforms, social media, e-commerce, search engines and messaging apps to coordinate their illicit activities," she said. Neither Thomas-Greenfield nor the social media representatives elaborated on the specific actions they will take to reduce online synthetic drug distribution as part of the Prevent Alliance, though Snap global platform safety chief Jacqueline Beauchere detailed the company's existing efforts.

Beauchere said Snap – which reaches 90 percent of 13- to 24-year-olds in the United States

– has sought to make its platform a "hostile environment" for drug distributors by using technology that can "proactively detect illicit drug content," making referrals to law enforcement, and "raising awareness" of the risks of drug use with users in the app. Meta trust and Safety Vice President Nell McCarthy said the company's platform could help combat the opioid epidemic as a place where families of victims, people in recovery, and organizations fighting stigma can connect.

The Prevent Alliance is a result of talks that began at the UN General Assembly's annual gathering of world leaders in September

2023, Thomas-Greenfield said.

The U.S. mission said the partnership's objectives align with the U.S. State Department's Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats, a multilateral effort to prevent illicit synthetic drug distribution launched by Secretary of State Antony Blinken last July.

"Whether it is companies that are involved in production or distribution, marketing or financial networks whose platforms may be abused for the movement of these illicit drugs, everybody has to play a role," US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Interna-

tional Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Maggie Nardi said Thursday.

Delphine Schantz, head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's New York office, put illicit drug use into a global perspective.

According to the 2024 World Drug Report, 292 million people used drugs in 2022 – a 20 percent increase from the last decade, Schantz said.

The report estimated that 60 million of those people used opioids. In the same year, nearly 82,000 people died from opioid use in the United States, representing a 24-fold increase since 2010.



Chinese citizen Xia Xiaomao (L) pictured at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam on Thursday waiting for judgment on a case he was facing – conducting unlicensed foreign currency exchange business. He was sentenced to 2m/- fine or five-year imprisonment. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Prisoners escape from Niger jail accommodating jihadists

NIAMEY

AUTHORITIES in Niger have declared a curfew in the volatile Tillaberi region after several prisoners escaped from a heavily fortified jail known to hold jihadists.

The incident occurred on Thursday at Koutoukale prison located about 50 kilometres (30 miles) north-west of the capital, Niamey, the interior ministry said.

Two other attempted jailbreaks at the facility – in 2016 and 2019 – were repelled.

Niger's armed forces are stretched by jihadist attacks in the west and protecting the junta which took power in last year's coup.

The ministry did not specify in its statement how many prisoners managed to escape in the latest jailbreak.

However, captured Islamist fighters from groups linked to both al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in the region are believed to be among them.

Officials have imposed an overnight curfew throughout the Tillaberi region and ordered heightened vigilance. The curfew restricts all movement of pedestrians, bicycles, and motor vehicles.

West African bloc risks 'disintegration' if juntas quit Niger and its neighbours – Mali and Burkina Faso, all under military rule, have been battling to contain increasing jihadist attacks.

On Monday, at least 14 soldiers were killed and 11 others wounded in an attack by suspected jihadist groups linked to al-Qaeda in the Tillaberi region.

The troops were ambushed between the villages of Ila Fari and Djangore with 24 soldiers still reported missing.

The three military-led countries have all expelled French soldiers who were there helping to fight jihadist groups and turned towards Russia for military assistance.

Thousands have been killed in the insurgencies and more than three million displaced, fuelling a deep humanitarian crisis.

Sudan's warring parties in Geneva for UN-hosted talks on possible ceasefires

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S warring parties have arrived in Geneva at the invitation of the United Nations to discuss the protection of civilians through possible local cease-fires, U.N. officials said Thursday. But one side did not show up for the talks on the first day.

Senior representatives from the Sudanese army and rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces accepted invitations to meet separately with the U.N. secretary-general's personal envoy, Ramtane

Lamamra, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman at U.N. headquarters in New York, told reporters.

Lamamra invited both parties to separate "proximity talks" on Thursday morning but "regrettably one of the delegations did not come to the session," he said.

Dujarric would not say which delegation showed up, but he said Lamamra and his team met with those representatives, and invited both delegations to continue discussions on Friday.

"We urge the Sudanese delegations to

rise to the challenge and engage in constructive discussions with the personal envoy for the sake of the Sudanese people," he said.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023 when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to other regions including Darfur. The UN says over 14,000 people have been killed and 33,000 injured. Rights activists say the toll could be much higher.

The war has also created the world's larg-

est displacement crisis with over 11 million people forced to flee their homes as well as allegations of rampant sexual violence and possible crimes against humanity, and international experts recently warned that 755,000 people are facing famine in the coming months.

Talks in Saudi Arabia's port city of Jeddah between the Sudanese military and the Rapid Support Forces broke down at the end of last year.

After months of failed efforts to restart talks, Dujarric said the United Nations

didn't publicize the meeting because it doesn't want to raise expectations.

"We and others have been trying to move this process forward," he said. "We need to give it a little bit of breathing room and that's why we're not trumpeting all of this."

Alessandra Vellucci, the UN spokeswoman in Geneva, said in an email that "The discussions seek to identify avenues for the advancement of the identified humanitarian and protection of civilian measures through possible local ceasefires, as requested by the Security Council."

Agro-sector needs to bow to microfinance lending terms

REWORKING agricultural financing rules could become a game of mirrors if some basic issues are obviated in favour of policy precedence as to who benefits, etc.

The idea is whether it is possible to formulate credit policy for agriculture that is geared to an agro-sector scenario as it is or whether there is need to change that scenario as a precondition for effective or non-discriminatory lending.

The problem appears to be that policy makers may be wishing to address bottlenecks in accessing capital in the agriculture sector the way it is organised at present, and having visitors from outside touched on the need to transform it. The whole issue came from recent reflection by a minister wishing to change the outlook of the financial sector to suit agriculture in the country, as lending in that direction is far too low.

Out of over 25trn/- commercial lending last year, just 3trn/- went to agriculture, while the minister believes that at least 30 per cent of lending needs to be directed to the sector - which employs up to 80 per cent of the country's population.

There is no issue as to the righteous character of that wish, but it is a structural adversity - seeing the United States, the leading agricultural producer in the world, having just about five per cent of its population in farms.

It is easier for the government to pass a law to end the 80 per cent of the population tied to agriculture than it is likely to do so with 30 per cent of financial sector loans directed to the sector.

It is easy to see where rational reforms are needed as opposed to reforms wanted by the breadth of the leadership and vast sections

of society leading to banks and other financial institutions being compelled to lend to agriculture as a sector.

The minister observed that our financial infrastructure currently does not finance the business concept - and a scenario the government wants changed.

So, the problem of how many such business ideas can be loaned without a threat to payment probability is anyone's guess.

A good business idea might fail in the market, and many good business ideas soon saturate the market and many such producers will have nowhere to sell their goods.

But an even more important issue is that banks lend money to people while the money belongs to other people who need to have access to any amounts they want, and any failure to do so instantly brings panic to the public and harms financial sector stability, investments, etc.

Situations where financing agriculture is done via the microfinance lending policy are not necessarily a problem, as all lending to companies or non-registered business entities operating at less than 5m/- total capital is microfinance.

Most of our agriculture falls within this limit and, with many smallholder farmers having non-tradable customary land occupancy certificates, they have to take loans via 'saccos' (saving and credit cooperative societies) or 'vicoba' (village community banks) where they insure one another courtesy of group responsibility.

That such groups got up to half of 3.0trn/- last year in loans is proof that the system is working - and by no means bankrupt or even failing.

Free legal advice campaign needs proper structures, thinned down

NO one knows for how long and to what extent the public will be waiting to benefit from free legal advice initiated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in like manner as free medical examination and treatment equally inspired by the president that is now being wound up. Without a proper survey on reactions or evaluations not just from the public but professionals in that sphere it is hard to make out an informed assessment of these efforts or exercises. What is indisputable is that they have been helpful to large numbers of people, for instance a report that up to 300 people had obtained free legal aid services at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF2024) two days before formal closure.

There was a mood of satisfaction at the Constitution and Legal Affairs ministry for this achievement, which brings up the question of its relevance as a public facility. If it is relevant then a division or department of that sort needs to be created like the gender desks in the police force, and thus having units right down to the district level. It also means that someone can seek 'appellate' legal advice at say the regional level, as this forms the basis of settling issues out of court, if both parties have a positive view of that advice.

At a preliminary level, legal advice simply involves enabling a client to comprehend the legal parameters of an issue, which may also include his or her being able to understand why she or he is wrong on that matter. Mostly it is presumed or likely victims of a dispute that may seek legal advice,

while those whose intentions are questionable may at most seek a lawyer and pay for the case to be prosecuted or pursued in this or that manner. Whether or not this should be formalized is a different matter, as office occupied matters in advice.

Paralegals, who have often played the role of legal advisers, are not in a position to settle cases as they operate more or less as civilians, whereas legal opinion affecting interests of an important client can lead to harm if it isn't protected by the full force of the law. And when one adds to this weakness the prevalence of corruption, an adviser can be harmed without any investigation following thereafter is a discouraging situation for the whole idea of non-institutionalised legal advice. When it is offered by senior ministerial officials in an august environment like DITF or in ministerial offices is one thing, not by paralegals in an unprotected environment in a district, and even worse, a rural ward or just a village.

The same can of course be said in relation to free medical advice as tied to the whole idea of making basic treatment free of charge, say at the dispensary and health centre level. Why this isn't the case can in part be a problem of budgeting but there are also issues of 'structural adjustment' which ended with steep cuts in public spending and later adopted a skewed pay structure in public organisations tied to the pay given to expatriates in donor agencies or the private sector. It was agreed that 'free services' were clearly a misnomer.

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A better way to survive anxious times

By Deepak Chopra

After the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic, many people looked for a better way to cope with stress - suddenly, normal life was overshadowed by threats of loneliness, depression, anxiety and strained relationships.

Good intentions, however, go only so far. In post-Covid times, people still feel threatened and insecure. The ordinary measures of recovery, such as a strong economy and low unemployment, have been surprisingly ineffective in dispelling our malaise.

What this shows, first of all, is that malaise is personal, internal and subjective. There is no healing effect in getting more money, job security, and other externals beyond their basic assurance that physical survival is taken care of.

Feeling safe and secure when all around you there are signs of threat is a struggle when the right guidance hasn't been provided.

Psychologists speak of a hierarchy of needs that leads to inspiring, fulfilling heights at the top, but the whole structure is unstable when the most basic needs aren't met.

There is a better way supported by centuries of wise guidance. You just have to look in the right place, meaning the tradition of higher consciousness, which we can simply call waking up.

It is irrelevant to argue over terminology, even though higher consciousness still has a lingering air of exotic mysticism in the West and among secular societies in general.

Waking up involves seeing with clarity what your circumstances are. The circumstances that everyone faces are sharply divisive, irrespective of how happy or miserable, loved or unloved, frustrated or fulfilled you happen to be.

These are all ego states, and the ego itself is structured around division. That's why everyone thinks in terms of opposites. We don't have to dwell on cosmic opposites like good and evil, creation, and destruction, life and death.

What matters lies much closer to home - the experience of duality. The most basic duality that the ego recognizes is "I like X" versus "I don't like Y."

Personal choice rules our lives. We build up our personal stories based on past choices that become essential to "me", the individual ego personality.

So ingrained is this way of life that hardly anyone wakes up and realizes that the whole setup is one-dimensional. A string of a dozen choices, a hundred or a thousand, doesn't go any deeper than "I like X", "I don't like Y."

As a result, we attempt to escape crisis and cope with anxiety by making better ego choices. This solution works if you have made really bad, self-defeating choices.

However, if better ego choices really were the solution, no one with money, achievement, good relationships, career, success and a happy family life would ever be anxious, depressed and



hopeless about the future.

Waking up is a form of responsibility - you realize that getting to a deeper level depends on you, not on your ego or on other people.

Blame is tossed out. Anger and frustration aren't indulged over and over. You are responsible for the one thing that is truly transformative - the gift of self-awareness.

At the ego level self-awareness is both good and bad - such is the nature of duality. At a deeper level, self-awareness is the only way forward.

The reason for this is that self-awareness reconciles opposites, and opposites are the heart of the problem. At this point, some explanation is needed.

Think of any category that is important to you personally - the ones that anchor your core identity. These might include love, success, self-worth, personal security, the opinion of others and your role in the family.

Now apply any of these to yourself with a sentence that begins "I am." Say to yourself: "I am loved, I am unloved," "I am a success, I am a disappointment," "I am worthy, I don't amount to much."

As you apply these opposites, you will naturally identify with one pole or the other. At this moment you might feel loved, successful, worthy, etc., or the opposite.

Now stand back a little. At any given moment in your life, both poles have applied to you. You might have felt extremely unloved when you broke up with your first girlfriend, or like a failure when you got a dismal grade in college. Being fired is humiliating even when you go on to be successful in the future.

This oscillation between poles is the hidden curve in duality. It is the experiential basis for the Buddhist teaching that pain and pleasure are inevitably tied together.

Stepping down to the mundane, the habit of oscillation is why people's normal lives can be radically disrupted by a pandemic or similar crisis.

The ego, which is almost the sole support most people rely upon, proves to be insecure by its very nature. It operates with deceptive success in fooling us into believing that a string of good experiences will solve the complexity of the human condition.

Nothing can solve that complexity, which all of us are embedded in, except self-awareness. If you don't reconcile the opposites that divide life, then they are in charge.

The reconciliation of opposites is the whole point of Yoga, which comes from the same Sanskrit word as "yoke" - joining two into one.

Fortunately, despite the habit of surrendering to opposites, all of us have experience in uniting opposites. For example, no matter how good or bad a young

child's behaviour is on a given day, parental love is constant, acting as a unifying force psychologically.

Appeal to patriotism, shared religious values, community spirit, and world peace are all efforts to unify opposites. Yoga, as exotic as it seems, comes naturally because no one is a total prisoner of the war of opposites.

This natural ability only needs to be used consciously. Then it acquires the power to unite opposites that people find treacherous and difficult.

When you are attuned to self-awareness, you have found the way to maturity, a sense of impartial justice, tolerance for "the other", self-reliance, knowing your truth and how to speak it, equanimity, and the end of fear of death.

These are invaluable stages in personal evolution. But I'd like to point to a single accomplishment that enables a person to do more than survive difficult times.

This is the union of detachment and involvement. They seem like pure opposites, with indifference on one side and commitment on the other. But detachment isn't the opposite of involvement. It is the necessary complement.

Only by being detached inside can you get involved without succumbing to anger, frustration, bitterness and hopelessness. The more difficult the challenge, the more you need to be detached and involved at the same time.

Detachment is a state of inner security that outer circumstances cannot destroy, no matter how shaken you are temporarily by life's shocks and crises.

Involvement is the participation in finding creative solutions. If you can see how closely the two things are knit, you will see why the reconciliation of opposites is the only path to freedom, as wisdom traditions have testified for millennia.

A medium.com dispatch. Deepak Chopra, MD, FACP, FRCP, is founder of The Chopra Foundation, a non-profit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global, a whole health company at the intersection of science and spirituality. He is a world-renowned pioneer in integrative medicine and personal transformation. Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health at the University of California, San Diego, he also serves as a senior scientist with Gallup Organisation. He is the author of over 90 books translated into over forty languages, including numerous New York Times bestsellers. Chopra has been at the forefront of the meditation revolution for the last thirty years. TIME magazine has described Dr Chopra as "one of the top 100 heroes and icons of the century".

By Telesphor Magobe

Sustainable development goals: Govt should invest more in quality pre-primary education

ALTHOUGH quality early childhood education, including pre-primary education, is considered as providing the foundation of lifelong learning and development, it has not been given the attention it deserves from both the government and parents.

Quality early pre-primary education is the focus of sustainable development goal (SDG) 4.2 which states: "Ensure that, by 2030, all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education."

In some countries pre-primary education is disproportionately funded compared to other levels of education and even teachers may not necessarily be trained in pre-primary school teaching. The problem with this kind of teaching is that pre-primary schoolchildren's needs and interests are not adequately addressed during their early childhood learning.

Having unskilled pre-primary teachers creates a professional and knowledge gap which cannot be filled during pre-primary education. The problem of low pay adds salt to injury as it lowers teachers' morale and efficiency in their teaching practice. This may also be true for Tanzania.

Libent-Mabagala and Shukia (2019), who conducted their study in Mvomero and Kilombero in Morogoro Region, and Misungwi and Ukerewe in Mwanza Region, suggest that: "Since early childhood is a crucial stage in human development since it forms the foundation of subsequent development, teachers' knowledge and practices are fundamental when assessing the quality of early education. Tanzania recognises the importance of pre-primary education"

Their conclusion is that pre-primary teachers have little knowledge on early childhood education and their instructional practices remain largely unsatisfactory. Their study recommends a need to reorient teachers to the pre-primary education curriculum in relation to their knowledge and socio-contextual factors within which instructional practices take place.

It can be taken for granted that children may still have opportunities to learn more and better at other levels of education even if they miss out on this foundational stage of learning. Yet, early childhood education is the stage of education which requires adequate investment so that children make the best out of it as they grow up.

It is the stage which covers children aged 0-8 years (also called the golden age) during which the children's brain is considered to have the extraordinary capacity for learning. Studies show that children who get exposure to quality education at this stage are likely to excel in learning and in life.

"Evidence from multiple disciplines has confirmed that investing in early childhood development is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve educational achievement and to increase skills, capabilities and productivity. Based on this research and an enhanced understanding of the complete wellbeing of the child, early childhood development is increasingly included as part of the agenda for children's rights. Ensuring



the sound cognitive, social and emotional development of young children merits the highest priority in seeking to raise healthy children worldwide." (UNICEF-2018).

Adequate investment in pre-primary education includes training teachers not only generally in teaching, but also specifically in early childhood education so that they know how better to facilitate effective learning among pre-primary schoolchildren.

Many countries across the world, including Tanzania, have made pre-primary education free and compulsory so that all children start primary education after their pre-primary education. Free and compulsory pre-primary education also encourages inclusive education to ensure there is no child left behind.

Studies show that children who go through pre-primary education are at an advantage over their peers who miss out on this foundational education. Gerdes et al. (2013) in their study on brain development and learning in primary years suggest that "the period from birth through age 8 is a stage of development

unlike any other in the lifespan. Five-and-six-year olds make huge intellectual leaps during this time. Learning occurs differently during this period than in later years." They say that learning occurs more at this level of education because children's brain changes rapidly and there is also a new influx of experiences for children this time.

Hawley and Gunner (2000) in their article 'How Early Experiences Affect Brain Development' suggest that "what a child experiences in the first years of life profoundly influences how his (her) brain will develop and how he (she) will interact with the world throughout his (her) life. Parents play the most important role in providing the nurturing and stimulation that children require, but they need information and support to develop good parenting skills." This includes developing 21st century skills (knowledge society skills) such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity, technology literacy, and social-emotional development.

In today's rapidly changing world of the 21st century to make pre-primary schoolchildren and other learners cope with and remain relevant to the global economy there is a need to invest adequately in quality early childhood education from which Tanzania will be sure of producing skilled and competent graduates in later levels of education. These are the type of graduates who will either be absorbed into the future labour market or create jobs because they will have requisite skills to do so.

Socio-economic development: Citizenry key players in implementation of rural projects

By Thomas Lyimo

IT is unquestionable that the government works to bring development to the people. This crucial responsibility becomes more sensitive as government leaders are elected based on their promises to address various challenges in the society.

Sometimes governments face challenges that prevent them from fulfilling some of the promises. In such situations, leaders may resort to lengthy explanations to justify why certain projects have not been completed as planned. A better solution could be to involve citizens in the decision-making process.

Talking of development in a country like Tanzania one cannot leave behind roads especially those in rural areas since they are crucial in promoting socio-economic development. Raw materials can get to industries if roads are passable throughout the year. To ensure efficiency and reliable supply of raw materials to the factories, roads from farms should be properly constructed. However, for basic goods and services to reach normal citizens, there should be a good network of roads.

The government established the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Authority (TARURA) tasking it to deal with roads which are not under the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS). Establishment of an institution is one thing, but ensuring it achieves the targeted goals is yet another important aspect. It is clear that financial resources in most of the developing countries like Tanzania are scarce. This can be evidenced by the growth of the national debt which the Minister for Finance and Planning, Mwigulu Nchemba is less worried about it as the money is directed on implementation of development projects.

It is true that the government is obliged to construct roads in rural areas but findings shows that in some areas citizens are not satisfied with the degree of maintenance or construction done by the government. There are always a lot of complaints that most of the roads are damaged a few months after they are constructed. The situation has made leaders in some places to mobilize citizens to contribute funds for roads maintenance. The practice may be right as people are made to believe that development must come from people.

But for quick socio-economic development, the government needs to make it formal that it is lawful for citizens to participate in maintenance of rural roads in collaboration with the government. When citizens become



aware of their right to be involved in maintenance of rural roads their participation may increase leading to quick results.

Involvement of locals in construction of rural roads has a number of benefits which includes, promoting patriotism. Citizens have to love their country; one way of loving it is by incurring cost on it. When citizens contribute for development of their country, they are considered as more patriotic. Citizens must feel proud to participate in execution of development projects. The love for the country by citizens simplifies the work of leaders towards bringing development. Citizens need to do things willingly and not by force.

The other benefit is protection of the

country's infrastructure; when citizens are fully involved in construction projects, incidences of vandalism drop significantly. To ensure the country benefits fully from its infrastructure investments, the assets must be durable. Vandalism necessitates costly repairs, diverting funds from other essential projects. To end the problem, it is suggested that citizens contribute to construction of roads infrastructures. Their involvement fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, thus encouraging people to protect and maintain the specific assets.

Ensuring rural roads are passable year-round significantly improves people's social welfare as they benefit from reliable

access to hospitals, markets and schools. Passable roads, regardless of weather conditions, are crucial for the effective delivery of basic social services. By maintaining and improving rural roads, the government supports the well-being and comfort of its citizens.

Sometimes people are discouraged to effectively engage in agricultural production which is the backbone of the country's economy due to lack of markets for their produce which is somehow contributed with poor road networks. When individuals engage in agricultural production they ensure food security and can sell the agricultural produce to markets of their choice. Roads are important when citizens are

determined to ensure socio-economic development. For the country to have remarkable and quick development strides, the government should act as a facilitator whereby the citizens become key players.

The power of the government should be on influencing people to work for their development. Good policies for development of a country can rapidly uplift socio-economic development.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at tyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

By Emma Frances Bloomfield

Storytelling strategies to make communication about science-skeptical stories more compelling

As a science communication scholar, I've always supported vaccination and trusted medical experts - and I still do. As a new mom, however, I've been confronting new-to-me emotions and concerns while weighing decisions about my son's health.

Vaccines are incredibly effective and have minimal risks of side effects. But I began to see why some parents may hesitate because of the flood of content, especially online, about potential vaccine risks.

Part of what makes vaccine misinformation persuasive is its use of storytelling. Antivaccine advocates share powerful personal experiences of childhood illnesses or alleged vaccine side effects. It is rare, however, for scientists to use the same storytelling strategies to counter misinformation.

In my book "Science v. Story: Narrative Strategies for Science Communicators, I explore how to use stories to talk in a compelling way about controversial science topics, including vaccination. To me, stories contain characters, action, sequence, scope, a storyteller, and content to varying degrees. By this definition, a story could be a book, a news article, a social media post, or even a conversation with a friend.

While researching my book, I found that stories about science tend to be broad and abstract. On the other hand, science-skeptical stories tend to be specific and concrete. By borrowing some of the strategies of science-skeptical stories, I argue that evidence-backed stories about science can better compete with misinformation.

To make science's stories more concrete and engaging, it's important to put people in the story, explain science as a process, and include what people care about.

Put people in the story

Science's stories often lack characters - at least, human ones. One easy way to make better stories is to include scientists making discoveries or performing experiments as the characters.

Characters can also be people affected by a scientific topic, or interested in learning more about it. For example, stories about climate change can include examples of people feeling the effects of more extreme weather events, such as the devastating impacts of



Stories hit home more when they include human characters and not just forces of nature.

California wildfires on local communities.

Characters can also be storytellers who are sharing their personal experiences. For example, I started this article with a brief discussion of my personal vaccine decisions. I was not a hidden or voiceless narrator, but someone sharing an experience that I hope others can relate to.

Explain science as a process

People often think of science as objective and unbiased. But science is actually a human practice that constantly involves choices, missteps and biases.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, the medical advice was not to mask. Scientists initially thought that masks didn't prevent transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. However, after additional research, medical advice changed to support masking, providing the public with the most updated and accurate knowledge.

If you explain science as a process, you can walk people through the sequence of how science is done and why researchers reach certain conclusions. Science communicators can emphasize how science is conducted and why people should trust the process of science to provide the most accurate conclusions possible given the available information.

Include what people care about

Scientific topics are important, but they may not always be the public's most pressing concerns. In April 2024, Gallup found that "the quality of the environment" was one of the lowest-ranked priorities among people in the U.S. Of those polled, 37 percent said they cared a great deal about it. More immediate issues, such as inflation (55 percent), crime and violence (53 percent), the economy (52 percent), and hunger and homelessness (52 percent) ranked much higher.

Stories about the environment could weave in connections

to higher-priority topics to emphasize why the content is important. For example, stories can include information about how mitigating climate change can work hand in hand with improving the economy and creating jobs.

Telling science's stories

Scientists, of course, can be science communicators, but everyone can tell science's stories. When we share information online about health, or talk to friends and family about the weather, we contribute to information that circulates about science topics.

My son's pediatrician was a science communicator when she explained the vaccine schedule and ways to keep my son comfortable after receiving vaccines. I was a science communicator when I spoke to others about my decisions to fully vaccinate my son on the recommended schedule, and how he is now a healthy and happy 9-month-old.

When communicating about science topics, remember to borrow features from stories to strengthen your message. Think about all of a story's features - character, action, sequence, scope, storyteller and content - and how you might incorporate them into the topic. Everyone can find opportunities to strengthen their science communication, whether it's in their jobs or in their everyday interactions with friends and family.

UNICEF talks of 'violence' used to discipline children in Cuba

By Circles Robinson

THE sanction of a teacher who assaulted a 5-year-old child with a wooden instrument in the Sancti Spiritus town of Jarahueca is not an isolated incident. Although few incidents of this type become public on social media, there is a normalization of violence to discipline children in Cuba, both in schools and homes.

A recent report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Office in Cuba revealed that many families in Cuba apply violent disciplinary methods. The document includes an analysis of 209 studies conducted between 2000 and 2020.

The 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 6-Cuba) showed significant data. Among them, 41.6 percent of children and adolescents aged 1 to 14 years were subjected to some form of violent discipline, 29.1 percent to psychological aggression, and 33.1 percent to physical punishment. Severe forms of physical punishment are less common, representing 1.6 percent (the age groups of 5 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years show the highest percentages at 2.5 percent).

From domestic violence to school bullying, sexual abuse, and forms of digital violence, the report addresses a problem that, although recognized, still requires greater efforts for its eradication.

Violent Parenting

"Throwing a pitcher of water in the face," "giving a few slaps with a sandal," and "putting her under the shower with clothes on" were some of the advice given by several mothers on social media to "solve" the misbehavior of a 2-year-old girl.

In response to a mother's desperation over her daughter's "tantrums," very few suggested dialogue, patience, or non-violent methods to calm the little girl and understand her expression of negative emotions.

"The younger you correct her, the better," some said. "Take her to the psychologist," others responded. Most agreed that a slap does not cause harm or create trauma for the rest of life.

However, the impact of violence has been documented, and some visible effects vary according to the nature and severity of the incident, but the short and long-term consequences can be devastating.

For example, the study cites, early exposure to violence negatively influences the learning and socialization processes of children and adolescents and fosters violent behaviour patterns.

Prolonged exposure to violence during childhood and adolescence can also lead to social, emotional, and cognitive limitations. Individuals subjected to violence at an early age may adopt risky behaviours for physical and emotional health, use addictive substances, initiate sexual relationships early, perform poorly in school, and adopt violent behaviour. Often, such behaviours are accompanied by anxiety and depression disorders.

The UNICEF Cuba study confirmed the normalization of violent punishment among many parents. The "false conception about imposing discipline through abusive acts and the sense of ownership exhibited by mothers, fathers, guardians, and responsible adults accentuates the 'normalization' that makes this evil invisible."

On the other hand, the document revealed that forms of violence also hide in the conception of the family space as a private space where no one should interfere.

The study alludes to how economic problems, daily



frustrations, family emigration, and disruptions in family dynamics and functioning can trigger violence against children.

A recent report by the Santiago de Cuba newspaper Sierra Maestra revealed that child labour exists in the territory. Although it is legally prohibited for children under 15 to work (those between 15 and 18 have "special protection"), the text revealed that some students miss school to work.

Angela Jarpe Tellez, director of the Santiago de Cuba IPU-Cuqui Bosch pre-university institute, acknowledged that absences are due to students "doing activities to earn money; such as taking out the trash, mowing a yard, selling bread." Jarpe Tellez said that the parents of several students "have emigrated and they are left in the care of an uncle, grandmother... so they say they have to survive somehow," she stated.

Less recorded violence

To address violence, one of the most significant limitations identified in the report is the scarcity of studies on child violence in rural areas. Most research has focused on urban areas, particularly in Havana, leaving a gap in information about the situation in rural communities.

The territorial gap in studies is concern-

ing because violence dynamics can vary significantly between urban and rural environments.

As the report acknowledges, factors such as geographic isolation, limited access to support services, and specific cultural norms of rural communities could influence the prevalence and forms of violence against minors.

The lack of data makes it difficult to design effective interventions tailored to the specific needs of rural populations.

Sexual violence against children is another topic that the report addresses with concern. More than 70% of cases of sexual violence are not reported, according to one of the cited studies.

The high level of underreporting can be attributed to multiple factors, including fear of retaliation, shame, social prejudices, and lack of knowledge about reporting channels.

"The reality highlights the need to create more awareness about child sexual abuse, improve reporting mechanisms, and provide greater support to victims," recommends the text. It also underscores the importance of educating children and adolescents about their rights and how to

identify and report abuse situations.

School violence

Although UNICEF Cuba recognizes that most studies on school violence are related to violence among children, there is also violence from teachers towards students.

In this regard, the major expressions of violence are verbal, "as a deterrent when the adolescent disobeys orders or for acts of indiscipline. Teachers exercise both symbolic and explicit violence in the exercise of power based on their pedagogical authority role."

There is a gender differentiation in the forms of punishment and violence. While blows and pinches are more often directed at boys, threats, humiliations, and devaluations are aimed at girls.

However, the gender bias is more visible among students (physical aggression among boys and humiliations and threats among girls). Girls and young women, the report states, tend to be the most violated - in each form of violence - due to the patriarchal model existing in Cuban society.

The study draws attention to an emerging form of violence in the Cuban context, cyber-violence. With increased access to the Internet and social media in Cuba, chil-

dren and adolescents are increasingly exposed to risks in the digital environment. These risks include cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate content, and potentially grooming (online sexual harassment).

Studies on cyber-violence on the island are limited, so the report highlights the urgent need to address the issue. Prevention strategies are required, including digital education for both minors and adults, as well as the implementation of online protection mechanisms.

A crucial aspect highlighted by the report is the need for greater youth participation in the research processes and policy design that affect them.

The study acknowledges that the new Family Code - which explicitly prohibits the use of physical punishment and any form of violence in parenting - represents an important step towards the legal protection of the rights of children and adolescents in Cuba.

Women, girls find sexual, reproductive health on the frontlines of a battle they did not start

By Angela Baschieri

DROUGHTS, cyclones, floods and extreme temperatures - these are the 'new abnormal' of a world in which weather-related events are becoming increasingly prolonged, intense and frequent.

While Africa contributes only 2 to 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and it is the least responsible for the global climate emergency, the continent has emerged as the epicentre of the global climate emergency.

Africa is warming faster than other parts of the world, resulting in lower crop yields and sparking conflict over scarce resources such as water and arable land. Millions continue to be displaced as their homes and livelihoods are destroyed by extreme weather events. Once separated from the communities that sustain them, they become more vulnerable.

While this cascade of crises affects almost everyone, women and girls are impacted differently and disproportionately - especially when it comes to their sexual and reproductive health. The communities and networks that they depend on for family planning and maternal health care, and for protection from gender-based violence are disrupted by extreme weather events. What follows is a spike in unintended pregnancies, maternal and newborn deaths, and child marriages.

This unseen toll that climate emergencies exact on women and girls' sexual and reproductive health is emerging across Africa, triggering untold suffering. Poor, vulnerable women and girls in at-risk countries are needlessly finding themselves in grave danger - when a safe and prosperous future can be secured.

It begins with recognizing that women and girls are on the frontlines of a crisis they did not create - and that it will take strong commitments, backed by significant global climate financing, to safeguard their sexual and reproductive health.

It is in this context that UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, in partnership with Queen Mary University London and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), launched an analysis of governments' climate

commitments, capturing the realities and unique needs of Africa's divergent regions.

The analytical report, Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Climate Commitments, includes three sub-regional reports - one for East and Southern Africa, one for West and Central Africa, and one for Middle East and North Africa. Each presents a detailed analysis of the climate plans and commitments of countries under the Paris Agreement in 2015.

UNFPA's analysis of the climate plans of 46 African countries reveals that considerations for sexual and reproductive health of women and girls are absent from the vast majority of published climate commitments. Only 17 countries have integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights into their national climate plans.

The consequences of extreme heat and climate change are undeniable. There is increased risk of stillbirths; mounting food insecurity threatens maternal and newborn health; and climate-related displacement is exposing more women and girls to gender-based violence (GBV), including harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. These vulnerabilities are compounded in the African context, among the most vulnerable in the world to climate change.

In East and Southern Africa, climate change-driven tropical cyclones are proving increasingly common, spreading waterborne diseases such as cholera and damaging hospitals, putting women with complicated pregnancies in peril.

Yet only 8 out of 19 national climate plans include references to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV. And where these are in fact referenced, they typically mention only maternal and newborn health, HIV and AIDS, and GBV - and they are seldom backed by specific programme actions and budget lines.

In North Africa, multi-year droughts are threatening the livelihoods of millions, forcing many women to become heads of households as men are more likely to migrate in search of economic opportunities.

While most countries reference the impacts of climate change on SRHR and GBV, only a few outline specific



Eliza (30) and her new born baby at their home in Dinde camp, Nsanje, Malawi after their home collapsed and they were displaced during Storm Freddy in March 2023. Eliza's newborn is receiving a checkup from Fainess Yobe, UNFPA Technical Officer for Health System Strengthening. Cyclone Freddy was reportedly the longest-lasting tropical storm on record and caused severe flooding and mudslides, with the worst damage in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique.

initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience to climate change through providing SRHR and GBV-related services. West and Central Africa is plagued by intensifying floods, extreme drought, intense rainfall and desertification, which are exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities, including climate-related conflict and diminished access to natural resources, affecting food security.

Yet just 6 out of 22 national climate plans address SRHR and GBV, referring to maternal health, menstrual hygiene and GBV. Even then, most of these countries have not backed this up with meaningful action plans - a failing that must be addressed.

"Governments should ensure more adaptive measures to sensitize women and girls on climate change, while putting in place safety nets to ensure that they continue to have access to sexual and reproductive health services even in times of climate events

and displacement," said Fatou Jeng, the founder of Clean Earth Gambia.

This youth-led climate organization has mobilized thousands of Gambian youths to build marginalized and vulnerable communities' resilience to climate change.

It is critical that countries prioritize sexual and reproductive health and rights in their climate commitments and strategies. Protecting vulnerable populations is a moral imperative and human rights issue, and must be pursued urgently alongside efforts to reduce emissions.

Yet, while global efforts are not keeping pace with the increasing scale and speed of climate impacts, there is hope on the horizon. The fund established at COP28 in 2023 for responding to climate-related loss and damage can and must deliver much-needed funds and resources to at-risk African countries.

In addition, wealthy countries can

and must significantly increase global climate finance aimed at helping women and young people prepare for a future of climate shocks.

Greater access to financial and technical assistance from wealthy countries can facilitate better data collection on how the climate emergency is impacting women and girls in Africa, so that programmes can help those who need it most. It can also strengthen health systems so they are climate-resilient and ensure services are more mobile, stocks are pre-positioned, and adequate staff are in place.

Africa has one of the most demographically diverse populations on the planet, including the world's youngest population. There is an important ally when it comes to climate action - it is the very women and young people being impacted by climate change.

"More often than not, NDC [Na-

tional Determined Contribution] discussions are confined to government boardrooms, yet the proposals that stem from them affect the youth and make women, particularly those living with disabilities, invisible and marginalized," said Kenyan Imali Ngusale of the UNFPA Joint Youth Working Group on SRHR and Climate Change. If given the chance and offered a seat at the climate table, women and young people offer a wealth of innovative solutions.

Putting the sexual and reproductive health of women, girls and young people at the heart of climate action is vital. By focusing a global community of interested parties, governments and climate financiers, the world can deliver on climate action and climate justice to safeguard the planet.

Angela Baschieri, PhD, is UNFPA Technical Lead on Climate Action

Student's innovative banana seedling sparks hope for farmers at trade fair

By Guardian Reporter

OVER the past week, the Mzumbe University pavilion at the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair has been buzzing with activity. Banana growers have flocked to see a newly developed, disease-resistant banana seedling created by Gerald Cosmas Mabuto, a third-year student from the university.

The trade fair, themed "Tanzania: Your Best Destination for Business and Investment," runs from June 28 to July 13 and has become a prominent showcase for products from Tanzania and other African countries.

"I almost gave up growing bananas on my two-hectare farm after my crops were devastated by disease. But this new banana seedling has rekindled my hope," said Richard Kimambo, a resident of Rombo District in the banana-growing Kilimanjaro Region.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, banana production in Tanzania has been increasing by an average of 5 per cent per year, reaching 3.2 million tonnes in 2022. Kilimanjaro produces an average of 700,000 to 1 million tonnes of bananas annually, with the aim of increasing production to 1.5 million tonnes per year.

Kimambo was among hundreds of visitors to the pavilion, where Mabuto showcased his innovative banana seedling, resistant to climate change and banana diseases. Born into a farming community, Mabuto's parents are also farmers, giving him hands-on experience in developing the variety. After learning about the challenges banana growers faced with accessing banana seedlings and the devastation caused by diseases, Mabuto was driven to create a new banana seedling variety.

Mabuto said he produces the seedlings using natural and organic methods, a process that took him four years of research starting in 2020. The main advantage of these seedlings is their ability to withstand climate change and diseases such as fusarium wilt, a devastating fungal disease that severely affects banana cultivation.

The 26-year-old student, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in human resource management, said this new seedling has a shorter fruit production period of eight to 11 months compared to 15 to 18 months



Gerald Cosmas Mabuto shows a newly developed disease-resistant banana seedling at the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair in Dar es Salaam.

for other varieties, which will help increase banana production in Tanzania.

Mabuto is conducting his research project in the Mbeya Region, one of Tanzania's main banana-producing areas, with suitable climate and soil conditions for banana cultivation. His innovations have been recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology.

"My message to banana farmers in Tanzania

is to use this type of banana seedling, which can increase production and address challenges such as disease and climate change," Mabuto said. He plans to further improve and expand the production and distribution of this banana seedling to other regions of Tanzania.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Hussein Mohamed Omar visited Mabuto at his pavilion on Wednesday and encouraged him to continue his innovations. "You

are doing an excellent job, and the government assures you of its support," Omar said, adding that banana plantations affected by disease and climate change should be replanted with the new banana seedlings developed by the students to increase the crop's productivity.

The ministry is developing a plan for agricultural development that focuses on research and innovation, Omar said. "Whenever someone comes up with an agricultural innovation, it is a bonus for the government because it complements efforts to boost agricultural production."

By Jennifer Rowntree

From robots and drones to sheep trackers: New tech helps farmers monitor, improve soil health

TWELVE million hectares of agricultural soils are lost globally through soil degradation every year. As an ecologist, I work alongside farmers and growers in the field and have seen how farming can help solve this global soil crisis.

A report by the UK government's Environment Agency in 2019 estimated that 17% of soils in England and Wales showed signs of erosion. An estimated 4 million hectares of agricultural land were at risk of compaction, with soil compressed by grazing animals or heavy machinery so that air pockets between soil particles get squeezed out. Another 300,000 hectares of soil were contaminated with pollutants.

But metrics of soil health are difficult to quantify and regular systematic sampling strategies to assess soil function are rarely adopted by governments over the long term.

Farmers are increasingly considering practices such as regenerative agriculture that limit damage to, and even help to regenerate, soils. Planting cover crops, reducing or carefully managing stocking rates, direct drilling and reduced tillage strategies, as well as planting trees and increasing organic matter, can all help. Farmers and soil scientists are also starting to use clever tech to reliably measure changes in soil condition.

This writer outlines the critical role that in-field soil health research and agri-tech can play in enabling farmers to transition to more resilient food systems with reduced environmental impact.

Despite having studied soils for some time, I only recently realised that soil assessments, especially those recommended to farmers, tend to focus on physical and chemical measures, without much consideration of the diverse communities of organisms (from microbes and fungi to earthworms and plants) that live in the soil.

Sampling strategies don't tend to consider the huge variation that occurs in soil conditions, even within a field or between seasons. Detecting changes over years or between management practices is often prohibitively expensive to farmers, as large numbers of replicate samples are needed.

New research and technology can help close this gap. Here's how:

Satellite sensors

Intensive farming contributes to the decline in healthy soils. Bare soil is easily eroded by wind and rain, and extreme weather is more likely with climate change. Ploughing can break up microbial networks of fungi, bacteria and other similar organisms, change the way soil particles are shaped and fit together and release carbon stored as organic matter.

Heavy grazing can increase compaction, reducing the water absorbing capacity of soils. Input of synthetic



This robot 'dog' uses sensors to collect data in tricky-to-access places.

chemical fertilisers and pesticides can harm invertebrates and microbes above and below ground, while releasing harmful pollutants into rivers and seas.

Satellite-mounted sensors have revolutionised the data available to visualise landscapes, including farms. It is now possible to use satellite images alongside innovative agri-tech to monitor plant growth and disease, as well as degradation and water content of soil, and to see changes over time. Better decisions can be made about how best to farm sustainably without further degrading the soil in certain places.

Soil sensors

The soil beneath our feet is teeming with life and most land-living organisms either rely on soil for nutrients or fertilise the soil through excretion and decay. Using sensors to monitor how soil conditions are changing can tell us whether these are more or less favourable for particular organisms to live.

Soil sensors can be used without disturbing crops or having to send material away for laboratory analyses. With calibration, highly-portable, handheld near infrared (NIR) sensors can detect soil organic matter such as decayed plants or manure - that's a good indicator of healthy and fertile soils.

At Plymouth, we are mounting sensors onto manned or autonomous drones and robotic platforms - this is a quick and easy way to collect samples and information on organic matter, even on rough terrain. Smaller and more affordable robotic "dogs" are better able to move along the bottom of hedgerows or through rows of densely packed shrubs, like lavender.

In the future, static field-based sensors could be powered by harnessing energy from chemical reactions taking place in the soil microbial community itself.

Animal sensors

Individual sensors, similar to Fitbits and other activity loggers, are increasingly being used to monitor animal welfare, particularly in indoor farming systems, for example with cows. Sensors that detect movement can also be used on sheep and cows grazing outdoors.

By telling farmers where and how animals move around the environment, these sensors can help pinpoint areas where the soil is at high risk of compaction so they can address this.

In rural areas, poor internet connection can limit use of these sensors so we are working with farmers in upland areas such as Dartmoor using long-range wide area networks (LoRaWAN) - the sensor transmitters are fixed to fence posts or on animals and use low-power radio

frequencies to relay information immediately to farmers and researchers.

DNA detection

Another exciting development is new mobile DNA-based technology. Small hand-held sequencers and machines that amplify and quantify DNA, alongside mobile laboratories, allow farmers to sample and sequence in the field and within a short time frame.

Fungal diseases that live in soil and can devastate crops, such as Fusarium, can be detected using simple methods similar to COVID tests. Using hand-held sequencers, I have been working with organic growers to build pictures of microbial communities in fields with different crops and management practices. These methods only take a few days to produce results, meaning that the impact of changing practice can be seen quickly.

New technology opens up possibilities for quicker and cheaper monitoring of soil function. However, in order to determine the most appropriate technology, it is really important that researchers and practitioners work together to come up with simple solutions to monitor the state and health of our soils. This will enable farmers to decide the most appropriate management practice to protect their soils for future generations.



Special drones can be used to survey soil health on farmland.

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI**
JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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A TRC electric train. File Photo

Economist shows benefits of SGR, TRC introduces fast-drive routes

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

INFRASTRUCTURE forms the backbone of economic development, providing the necessary physical and social systems for sustained growth.

Once the fifth phase government under late President Dr John Pombe Magufuli and his assistant the then vice-president (president) Samia Suluhu Hassan came into power in 2020, among other things had heavily invested into multi infrastructures economic development sectors.

Few to mention among many including upgrading and improving of Tanga Seaport, expansion of Dar es Salaam sea port, signing contract with Uganda in the construction of East Africa Crude Oil (EACOP) pipeline from Hoima to Tanga which its implementation is at early stage of execution and construction of Julius Nyerere Hydro Electricity Power Plant (JNHPP).

Another state-of-the-art infrastructure project is the construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza, Kigoma lakeside ports and also connecting to neighbouring countries of Burundi and Congo DR.

According to economist by professional who spoke with this paper in an exclusive interview in Tanga, Dr Anthony Kimaro had analysed those mega projects implemented by government starting from fifth to sixth phase tenure said have not only economic benefits but also will have social, diplomacy as well as environmental impacts for number of decades to come from now.

"The value of investment is given by the future consumption that is expected to yield, for the side of railway transportation, Tanzania has taken a major leap forward in its modernization."

"The development of rail transportation, Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is significantly improving transportation connectivity for both transportation of people, goods henceforth making Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) operates two rail lines of meter gauge railway (MGR) and SGR"

He further pointed out that, this provide wide scope for haulers and business people for both of Tanzania and those from neighbouring countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Congo DR who offloading their transit goods at Dar es

Salaam's TPA's port hub to opt either using SGR or MGR to transport their bulk cargoes to hinterland regions.

Recently, TRC introduced express passenger routes from Dar to Morogoro and later to state's capital city Dodoma, this came after the arrival of two sets of electric multiple-unit (EMU) trains and its coaches from South Korea.

The EMU trains named after late President Magufuli and current president Samia Suluhu Hassan, indicate their substantial contributions to the railway revolution in Tanzania.

According to Masanja Kadogosa, TRC boss said that those high-speed trains will slash travel time from 4 hours to at least 1 hour and 40 minutes from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro. A situation will regard time which is a crucial factor in economics.

While time is considered as an important factor in development, haulers, traders and other social sectors who are going to choose high-speed trains for their services, will experience a couple of benefits including that their customers will positively assess how their organisations and business firms perform efficiently and effectively.

Others are to reduce the cost of delivered goods, facilitate the physical mobility of people and products and increase competitiveness.

Still in the margins of the economy, SGR will help the TRC to improve productivity, expanding its employment scope by providing direct and indirect jobs, to attract more investments and enhance the overall well-being of their citizens.

"SGR could spur vital interactions within production, production costs and consumption in which every economic sector opt to spend it could reflect itself on that mirror for assessing themselves in their efficiency, productivity, competitiveness and effectiveness in delivering their services."

"Beyond its tangible infrastructure advancements, for its transformative impact, SGR will emerging as key pivotal of Tanzania economic ecosystem, nurturing growth in sectors starting from tourism, trade health services, agriculture, environment and education because will cuts costs into fares, freight, bolster trades and for environment will reduce carbon emissions as the rail using electrification.

World Bank launches framework for inclusive and resilient growth

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors has endorsed the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Tanzania to support the country in consolidating its status as a lower middle-income country, achieving a high level of human development, and contributing to the World Bank Group's (WBG) mission to end extreme poverty and boost prosperity on a livable planet.

The new strategy maximizes the impact of the One-WBG approach, coordinating and leveraging the strengths of the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) in the country over the period FY2025 to FY2029.

According to the statement released on Thursday, the new CPF prioritizes several key areas. First, it aims to support the country's human development agenda.

This includes providing transformative support in education, healthcare, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, and shock-responsive social protection programs, building upon the strong momentum already established by the Tanzanian government.

Secondly, the CPF will bolster the government's goal of fostering a better environment for private sector-led growth. This will involve deepening support for reforms that strengthen the business climate, investing in infrastructure and connectiv-



ity to facilitate economic activity, and modernizing Tanzania's productive sectors. Additionally, the CPF aims to leverage the country's strategic geographic location to promote inclusive growth both domestically and throughout the sub-region.

Nathan Belete, World Bank Country Director said in the statement that the CPF will also support Tanzania's crucial and multi-pronged resilience agenda, focusing on climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, alongside efforts to strengthen the country's economic resilience.

Progress toward these objectives is underpinned by two cross-cutting priorities: increased empowerment of women and youth and improved government effectiveness with more efficient, transparent, and accountable institutions.

He said the WB has noticed tremendous progress with recent policy changes, such as increasing access to education for all girls coupled with broader reforms such as vocational training.

"Girls and boys now

have multiple pathways to complete their secondary education and the Fee-free Basic Education Policy has had an incredible impact, opening doors for 4.5 million new students;

With such renewed commitment to human development and inclusion by the government, the outlook for inclusive growth and poverty reduction is favorable," he said.

The statement states that the CPF is informed by extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders as well as a country opinion survey and is aligned with the priorities identified in Tanzania's Third Five-Year Development Plan and Zanzibar's Five-Year Development Plan.

On her part, Mary Porter Peschka, IFC's Regional Director for Eastern Africa said the CPF's focus on private sector-led growth is consistent with IFC's Creating Markets Strategy which aims to support conditions for private enterprises to efficiently contribute to inclusive development.

"Private sector participation is critical to any

economy's growth and development. To address Tanzania's development goals, including poverty reduction and job creation, the country has an opportunity to further leverage private sector-driven economic growth," she said adding;

"IFC will continue to work closely with our public and private sector partners, as well as with our colleagues across the World Bank Group, to unlock the conditions needed to further support inclusive finance, agribusiness, manufacturing, and sustainable infrastructure through investments, advisory and upstream support."

Ebnem Erol Madan, Director of Economics and Sustainability at MIGA underscored that in recent years, MIGA has seen a significant increase in investor interest in Tanzania, thanks to reforms undertaken by the government.

"As part of the new CPF, MIGA will continue to support financial inclusion and climate finance initiatives and will leverage the new World Bank Group guarantee platform to support the country in attract-

ing and mobilizing private capital in other sectors, including renewable power and digital," said Madan.

The CPF builds on a well-performing WBG portfolio in the country. Through the CPF 2018-2022, the World Bank provided over \$9 billion dollars of financing that delivered important improvements for Tanzanians, which includes: Increased access to safe water for nearly 4.7 million people which helped reduce the disease burden and improved school attendance and completion rates, particularly for girls.

It is meant to improved secondary education benefiting 2.7 million students, especially girls, by providing better-equipped secondary schools. Additionally, technical and vocational education enrollment tripled and 64% of female graduates found employment.

It further targets at expanded access to electricity for 7.9 million people in rural areas, which enhanced their livelihoods, health, and learning opportunities.

IFC's investment portfolio in Tanzania stands at over \$400 million with investments focused in key sectors including financial institutions, agribusiness, and real estate. The IFC advisory portfolio reached \$11 million in 2024.

Over the last few months, MIGA has issued its first political risk guarantees in a decade in Tanzania, with guarantees in the mobile money and banking sectors. As a result, MIGA now has a portfolio of \$151 million in the country and a strong pipeline in the renewable energy and digital sectors.



Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister for Industry and Trade (C, in suit), at the Balochistan Group of Industries factory in Mkuranga District, Coastal Region. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Jafo wants designated industrial zones countrywide

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Selemani Jafo, has directed all Regional Commissioners in the country to designate industrial zones as part of his initiative to attract more investors and businessmen to Tanzania.

Dr. Jafo made this statement yesterday during his visit to the Balochistan Group of Industry (BGI) factory in Mkuranga District, Coastal Region. The factory specializes in wire production, manufacturing pots, and refurbishing car and motorcycle batteries, contributing 600 million Tanzanian

Shillings annually in government taxes.

He emphasized the government's ongoing efforts to encourage investment across various sectors, urging Regional Commissioners to promptly allocate industrial areas to facilitate the establishment of diverse industries.

Dr. Jafo highlighted the significant role played by industrialists in creating employment opportunities for Tanzanian youth, underscoring the government's commitment to safeguarding their interests to foster growth and further job creation.

According to available infor-

mation, the factory currently employs 300 young Tanzanians, a testament to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiatives aimed at enhancing the country's investment climate.

Dr. Jafo affirmed the government's readiness to provide full support to streamline investment processes in Tanzania, urging investors to continue their efforts to establish more industries that will contribute to increased job opportunities for Tanzanian youth.

Khudadad Bizanto, CEO of BGI, expressed gratitude to the Tanzanian government for its efforts in improving the business environ-

ment. He announced plans to expand operations by establishing another factory for batteries and cables, which will increase job opportunities to 3,000 within his business network, alongside expanding an oil factory in Dodoma Region.

Hadija Nasri, the Mkuranga District Commissioner, expressed confidence in the continuous growth of the industrial sector in the district, noting its current 128 factories. She appealed to the government to prioritize infrastructure development in Mkuranga to attract more investors.

Minister: Expedite delivery of quality logos for traders' products

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

The Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Selemani Jafo has urged the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to expedite service delivery to traders, particularly in acquiring product quality logos.

He emphasized that this would assist traders in advancing business, increasing employment, national income, and overall economic growth.

Dr. Jafo made these remarks yesterday during his visit to TBS in Dar es Salaam, aimed at fostering mutual understanding of the bureau's various activities.

He emphasized the objective of enhancing the bureau's effectiveness in supporting traders to expand their businesses and cre-

ate numerous employment opportunities.

Furthermore, he encouraged bureau employees to maintain diligence, professionalism, and cooperation, while ensuring they do not hinder service delivery to traders.

Dr. Jafo highlighted TBS's role in facilitating rapid private sector growth and achieving the government's objectives in fostering a competitive industrial economy.

"The Ministry of Industry and Trade aims to create a conducive environment for business operations, enhancing employment, and boosting GDP through its oversight of 13 institutions, whose performance we will begin to verify," stated Dr. Jafo.

He also directed TBS to collaborate with the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and other institutions

to ensure widespread access to quality logos for entrepreneurs.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of monitoring businesses to prevent producers from compromising product quality and endangering consumer health.

Dr. Jafo cited instances such as fortifying food products like maize flour, wheat, and cooking oil, stressing TBS's responsibility to ensure correct nutrient fortification in these products.

He underscored the goal of safeguarding public health and preventing health issues that could undermine economic strength.

"It is imperative to safeguard our citizens by ensuring the provision of quality products that meet required standards at their respective costs," he instructed.



Dr. Selemani Jafo (L), the Minister of Industry and Trade, makes remarks at TBS laboratory during his visit to the agency yesterday in Ubungu, Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Dar firm seeks to acquire Kenya cement manufacturer

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL cement manufacturer Amsons Group's \$180 million (260bn/-) bid to acquire Kenya's Bamburi Cement has proven the company's ambitious plans to dominate East Africa's cement market and expand its footprint well beyond the country's borders.

The rapidly expanding Amsons Group started out in the mid-2000s as an importer of bulk oil and petroleum products in Tanzania, trading under the brand name Camel Oil.

Since then, the company has grown to become one of East Africa's biggest conglomerates.

Bamburi produces an average 3.2 million tonnes of cement annually together with another 1.6 million tonnes which is produced by the company through Mbeya Cement and Carmel, the company will now produce 4.8 million tonnes.

The company's managing director, Edha Nahdi said in a statement that the acquisition of Bamburi which owns two factories in Nairobi and Mombasa

make the company one of the largest cement producers in East Africa.

"For a long time we have been working on investing in Kenya through Bamburi, this is a happy day to us because our dream has come through and its now official Amsons Group is an investor and one of the biggest in East Africa," he said.

Amsons Group has made outward investments to Mozambique, DR Congo, Zambia and now Kenya, cementing its operations in five African countries.

"Our offer to acquire shares in Bamburi is part of our corporate market expansion plan and will mark the formal entry of Amsons Group into the Kenyan market, where we plan to make investments in other industries in the coming months." He said.

Most investors from Kenya have been investing in Tanzania with Amsons investment in Kenya showing signs of turning the narrative.

The acquisition also follows the investment of Taifa Gas in Kenya last year and a newly launched commercial complex by the Na-

tional Social Security Fund (NSSF) in Nairobi.

The rapidly expanding Amsons Group started out in the mid 2000s as an importer of bulk oil and petroleum products in Tanzania, trading under the brand name Camel Oil.

Information from the Nairobi Stock Exchange which broke the news for the first time said Bamburi's share traded at Kenyan shilling 44 which is equivalent to 800/- but the company purchased at 65 kenyan shilling which is 1,200/-.

Fair to boost Tanzania-Russia ties

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekodona

ANDREY Avetisyan, the Russian Ambassador to Tanzania, has lauded the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), emphasizing its pivotal role in enhancing trade and fostering stronger business relations between the two nations.

The envoy made these remarks on Wednesday at an event organized by the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), where the Kremlin had the opportunity to present its investors and foster business ties.

Ambassador Avetisyan emphasized that Tanzania offers abundant opportunities and a stable, conducive business environment for trade and investment growth.

He noted that those factors naturally attract companies from around the world, with Russia being among the first to explore the investment potential in Tanzania.

The ambassador highlighted that the trade fair, which has attracted foreign companies and businesses, reflects President Samia Suluhu Hassan's policy of economic diplomacy.

"Tanzania provides a conducive and attractive business environment. It is our hope that this trade fair will create more opportunities for Russian companies to invest in Tanzania and deepen trade ties between our two beloved countries. Our business delegation has explored various promising fields for mutually beneficial cooperation," he stated.

He also disclosed that PJSC would supply metals and other materials to assist in building state-of-the-art stadiums for AFCON 2027.

Russian companies that are active in the country, includes LLC NPP A-Engineering, involved in supplying equipment for the oil and fat industry; Rapid Bio, manufacturers of pharmaceutical products.

Others are Lukoil Lubricants Africa S.A.R.L., distributors of lubricants; Argentum Group, dealing in fertilizers; Mantra Tanzania Ltd., managing the "Mkuju River" uranium project; and Veya Investment Ltd., providing drilling services in the oil sector.

The ambassador commended TanTrade for introducing innovative programs from various countries.

The Tanzanian delegation included Gerson Msigwa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports; Mavere Tukai, Director General of the Medical Stores Department; Joel Laurent, Director General of the Tanzanian Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA); Marco Charles Mtunga, Director General of the Cotton Board; and Primus Kimaryo, Director General of the Coffee Board.

During the event, Rapid Bio LLC, a Russian company, donated HIV antibody and antigen detection kits. The company also announced plans to establish a presence in Tanzania.

Incubation hubs in secondary cities set to be gamechangers

KIGALI

FOUR incubation hubs that are being developed through an initiative by the Government of Rwanda are set to be a game-changer for young and ambitious innovators in the country's secondary cities.

Launched in 2021 through a partnership with the European Union, the incubation hubs dubbed 'Hanga Hubs' are currently being set up in Rubavu, Rusizi, Muhanga, and Nyagatare districts.

The project aims to address the digital skills gap and unemployment by ensuring access to entrepreneurship support services for technology-based innovative startups in the secondary cities.

"Many of the entrepreneurship support services are found in Kigali, yet young, talented and ambitious innovators are found in every corner of this country. This informed the decision to set up these hubs in the secondary cities," Pascal Murasira, Technical Advisor to Hanga Hubs, told the local outlet.

Murasira believes the incubation hubs will foster innovative solutions to some emerging challenges.

"Food insecurity, access to quality health care, access to energy, the digital divide, climate change; all these are opportunities for young entrepreneurs in these districts to come up with innovative solutions," he noted.

The Hanga hubs project is inspired by the model of K-lab, which is under the ICT Chamber.

Paula Ingabire, the Minister of ICT & Innovation, the ministry, its implementation agency RISA, aims to continue bringing critical infrastructure that enables Rwandan youth to access support when innovating and becoming entrepreneurs.

"Today, innovation can be found everywhere in Rwanda. Through various partners, including the EU, we have built Hanga Hubs. We now have seven hubs and aim to increase them," she noted.

According to Daniel Kazungu, the SPIU Programme Manager and Coordinator at Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA), the four districts chosen to host the hubs have unique economic drivers which young innovators can take advantage of.



A view of an upcoming innovation hub in Muhanga district that will be used to equip youth with skills in different sectors.

"Rubavu and Rusizi districts are driven by tourist activities as well as cross border trade, Nyagatare district is driven by agriculture, while Muhanga district is big on textile and mining activities. We would like to leverage these economic drivers and build innovation around them," Kazungu said.

A total investment of 4.8 million Euros from the European Union has been dedicated to the Hanga Hubs project.

"The 4.8 million Euros will go towards the physical infrastructure, acquiring technology and equipment, capacity building, operational costs and community outreach," Kazungu said.

According to Ambassador Belén

Calvo Uyarra, Head of Delegation of European Union (EU) to Rwanda, the EU anticipates that the project will contribute to job creation, youth empowerment and overall economic resilience in Rwanda.

"The European Union is proud to support the Hanga Hubs project in Rwanda, in partnership with the Ministry of ICT. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to fostering sustainable development and economic empowerment through innovation and entrepreneurship," she said.

"With Hanga Hubs, we are pleased to nurture a sustainable ecosystem for youth, confident that they will continue thriving as centers of innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in

Rwanda long after the conclusion of EU funding," she added.

The European Union has laid out different strategies, including capacity building, partnerships and revenue generation to ensure the continuity of the project once the EU funding stops.

The Rwanda ICT Chamber, a member based organisation representing ICT private companies in the country, is working with Hanga Hubs to provide digital skills and accelerator programmes.

According to Alex Ntale, CEO of the ICT Chamber, as part of the arrangement with Hanga Hubs, they have opened up a training programme through which over 1,800 young people have already applied.

The programme will offer differ-

ent skills to successful applicants such as digital literacy skills for secondary school level applicants, computer programming and software development to bachelors and masters in ICT level applicants, as well as digital entrepreneurship for those that are into innovation and self-employment.

Even though many of the young entrepreneurs go through solid training programmes, the survival rate of startups remains low.

"In the last 4-5 years, the survival rate of startups in the country has been between 40-45 percent. It will take proper organisation of value chains to ensure that these startups are thriving and not just surviving," Ntale said.

Rwf47 billion disbursed to empower Rwandan SMEs

KIGALI

THE East African Development Bank (EADB) has launched a \$36 million (approximately Rwf47.2 billion programme) to support the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Rwanda.

In collaboration with the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD), Duterimbera Imf Plc, AB Rwanda Plc, and Letshego Rwanda, EADB will provide loan facilities to over 500 SMEs across the country.

These institutions will lend interest friendly money directly to agriculture, transport, commerce, and manufacturing businesses.

Mutesi Rusagara, the state minister in Charge of Resource Mobilization and Public Investment who inaugurated the fund on Friday, July 5, emphasized the critical roles SMEs play in the country's economic development.

"I am enthused by the catalytic approach taken by EADB to support SMEs through various initiatives, such as improving access to finance and providing technical assistance to the four financial institutions in Rwanda.

"Promoting the growth of SMEs is a strategic priority for Rwanda, as they significantly contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and serve as a driving force for inclusive economic development," she stated.

She went ahead and added that SMEs employ over 2.5 million peo-



Development Bank of Rwanda Plc (BRD) CEO Pitchette Kampeta Sayinzoga (L) and Vivienne Yeda, Director General of EADB, during the inauguration of the fund.

ple and have significantly contributed to broadening Rwanda's tax base.

EADB Director General Vivienne Yeda added, "SMEs remain the backbone of the East African economies, and EADB is committed to sustaining and facilitating their growth through the financial institutions.

"Over the last 50 years, the Bank has been instrumental in stimulating East African economies through its financing strategy, creating a movement that has touched the lives of millions in the region."

She expressed gratitude to the

Government of Rwanda for its initiatives to support SMEs. "We consider this a pivotal and significant step in our partnership and in fostering economic and social development in our communities."

She emphasized that SMEs face challenges in accessing financial resources, and EADB is committed to directly financing them through various financial institutions and governments.

BRD CEO Pitchette Kampeta Sayinzoga highlighted BRD's long-standing relationship with EADB and expressed excitement about signing another line of credit.

She stressed that SMEs are the backbone of Rwanda's economy, particularly in driving private sector growth. As a government-owned bank, BRD is proud to leverage external financing to support Rwandan SMEs.

"We all know that the cost of finance is a challenge, and partnering with institutions such as EADB is one of the ways BRD extends long-term, affordable financing to the local private sector," she said.

DUTERIMBERA IMF Plc's CEO Ngabonziza Alphonse, extended a heartfelt appreciation for the facility and thanked EADB for the trust. He further emphasized that

this collaboration marks a significant milestone in the journey towards empowering underserved communities and promoting financial inclusion.

"The support from EADB is not just a financial lifeline but a vote of confidence in our mission and vision in supporting SMEs and their businesses". He said.

The East African Development Bank (EADB) was founded in 1967 under the original East African Cooperation Treaty. In 1980, the Bank was re-established under a new Charter, expanding its mandate to promote social and economic development and facilitate regional integration across its member states of Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The Bank continues to support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are the backbone of East African economies. In addition to SME financing, EADB also funds projects that promote environmental conservation, renewable energy, climate resilience, infrastructure, agriculture, agribusiness, and tourism, among others.

NGX introduces impact board for sustainable instruments

LAGOS

Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) has unveiled its Impact Board, a dedicated platform for listing sustainability instruments, following approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

This initiative was announced during a closing gong ceremony in Lagos, honouring Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Minister of Environment, and commemorating the 8th Green Bond Advisory Group Meeting.

The ceremony, which saw Lawal, Co-Chair, Green Bond Advisory Group Meeting, engage with investors and stakeholders on the proposed federal government Green Bond issuance, brought together key figures in Nigeria's financial and

environmental sectors. Attendees included Dr. Emomotimi Agama, Director-General of the SEC, alongside delegates from the Debt Management Office, Ministry of Environment, issuers, and issuing houses.

This launch marks a pivotal moment in NGX's steadfast commitment to integrating sustainability into the core of Nigeria's capital market. By providing a high-visibility platform for sustainability instruments, NGX aims to usher in a new era of responsible investing, offering forward-thinking issuers access to purpose-driven capital.

Addressing the pressing environmental challenges facing the country, Lawal said, "With issues like flooding, pollution, and deforestation, we urgently need funds to tackle them.

Regional ties key to managing air traffic

CHENGDU

Industry practitioners are working together to advance the modernization of air traffic management in the Asia-Pacific region and address needs and challenges amid the region's fast-growing aviation market.

"The Asia-Pacific is an incredibly diverse region, and its aviation market is facing unprecedented growth. We are committed to supporting the development of the aviation industry in this region by fostering collaboration and innovation," said Simon Hocquard, director-general of the Civil Air Navigation Services Organization.

Hocquard made the remarks at the CANSO Asia Pacific Conference 2024, which was held in Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province, from Monday to Thursday.

Hosted by the Air Traffic Management Bureau (ATMB) of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, the event attracted more than 250 registered participants, including over 170 foreign guests. They came from major air navigation service providers in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as international organizations, suppliers and research institutions in the ATM sector.

Hocquard said this year's event focused on helping CANSO's members in the Asia-Pacific region accelerate the pace of ATM modernization by leveraging digital solutions and new opportunities for collaboration.

As a highlight of the event, ATM experts and decision-makers shared insights revolving around the Asia Pacific ATM White Paper produced by CANSO and Think Research earlier this year, in which it identified the challenges hindering the modernization of Asia-Pacific airspace and proposed innovative solutions and actions.

"China's commitment to technological innovation and infrastructure development is particularly commendable," Hocquard said. "By hosting our event in Chengdu, we highlight China's leadership in embracing digital advancements and upgrading air traffic management systems."

Hocquard said CANSO is set to launch another event – Airspace Asia Pacific – in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in December 2025.

This future event aims to bring together industry leaders to explore cutting-edge technologies, share best practices, and develop strategies to improve the efficiency and safety of air navigation services, he added.

China has grown into the world's second-largest air transport market, with its civil aviation industry achieving a total transport turnover of 118.83 billion ton-kilometers in 2023, and handling 620 million passenger trips and 7.354 million metric tons of cargo, said Ma Bing, deputy director of the CAAC.

The International Air Transport Association expects that by 2043, air traffic in the Asia-Pacific region will be approaching half of the global total.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 7 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt:
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:30 Usafiri wako
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Hakufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Muziki: Mchezo Supa
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 8 July

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:45 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Usafiri Wako rpt
13:30 Shikabamba
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shikabamba
14:20 Igizo rpt: Hakufuma
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
19:55 Habari za saa
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Msajili Hazina
22:00 Chetu ni chetu
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jiji Iletu
23:30 Music: The Base
23:55 Habari za saa
00:30 Al Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 10 July

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Habari
11:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
11:35 Kipindi maalum: Msajili Hazina
12:00 Chetu ni chetu
12:30 Soap: Uzalo
13:00 Jiji Iletu
13:30 Music: The Base
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shikabamba
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
19:55 Habari za saa
20:00 Habari
21:05 Jumu Kuu rpt
21:30 Soap: Laws of love
22:00 Habari

TUESDAY 9 July

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:45 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Usafiri Wako rpt
13:30 Shikabamba
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shikabamba
14:20 Igizo rpt: Hakufuma
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
19:55 Habari za saa
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Msajili Hazina
22:00 Chetu ni chetu
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jiji Iletu
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 11 July

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Ripoti maalum
11:35 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
13:30 Art and Lifestyle
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shambamba za pwanji rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
19:55 Habari za saa
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: TMDA
21:35 Soap: Laws of love
22:00 Habari
23:00 Jiji Iletu

FRIDAY 12 July

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Ripoti maalum: TMDA
11:35 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Maisha ni Nyumba
13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama
13:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama
14:30 DW Afimax rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
18:00 Kizama
18:30 Hapa na Pale
18:45 Mapishi
19:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Hakufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Muziki: Mchezo Supa
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 13 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu
13:50 Soap: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Muziki
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shambamba za Pwani

MUSIC: The Base

00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 12 July

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Ripoti maalum: TMDA
11:35 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Maisha ni Nyumba
13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama
13:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama
14:30 DW Afimax rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
18:00 Kizama
18:30 Hapa na Pale
18:45 Mapishi
19:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Hakufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Muziki: Mchezo Supa
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 14 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
12:00 Out and About
12:30 Our earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jagina
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 EcoAfrica
17:00 DW News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Hakufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Muziki: Mchezo Supa
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 14 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
12:00 Out and About
12:30 Our earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jagina
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 EcoAfrica
17:00 DW News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Hakufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Muziki: Mchezo Supa
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 15 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
12:00 Out and About
12:30 Our earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jagina
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 EcoAfrica
17:00 DW News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Hakufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Muziki: Mchezo Supa
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 15 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu
13:50 Soap: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Muziki
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shambamba za Pwani

TUESDAY 16 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
12:00 Out and About
12:30 Our earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jagina
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 EcoAfrica
17:00 DW News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Hakufuma
20:00 Habari
21:05 Muziki: Mchezo Supa
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

TUESDAY 16 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu
13:50 Soap: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Muziki
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shambamba za Pwani

WEDNESDAY 17 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu
13:50 Soap: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Muziki
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shambamba za Pwani

WEDNESDAY 17 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu
13:50 Soap: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Muziki
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shambamba za Pwani

THURSDAY 18 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
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17:00 Shambamba za Pwani

SATURDAY 20 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
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6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
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13:20 Shamba lulu
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15:45 Igizo: Muziki
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shambamba za Pwani

SUNDAY 21 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
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WORLD

Biden mixes Harris with Trump, insists he is staying in the presidential race

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden mixed up the names of Vice President Kamala Harris and his Republican rival Donald Trump on Thursday but insisted he was pushing ahead with his re-election bid even as more of his fellow Democrats urged him to end his campaign.

Biden, 81, touted his decades of experience on the world stage as he argued that he was uniquely qualified to defeat former President Trump, 78, and lead the US for another four-year term.

"The only thing age does is creates a little bit of wisdom if you pay attention," said Biden, who is already the oldest person to ever serve as president.

Since his poor performance against Trump in a presidential debate two weeks ago, Biden has faced growing doubts from donors, supporters and fellow Democrats about his ability to win the Nov 5 election and keep up with the demands of the job.

He probably did not help his case when he mixed up his vice president and his Republican rival at the outset of the news conference, which lasted nearly an hour.

"Look, I wouldn't have picked Vice President Trump to be vice president if she was not qualified to be president. So start there," Biden said as he responded to a question from Reuters about his confidence in Harris.

The president coughed frequently and occasionally garbled his responses at the outset of the news conference, and towards the end his answers frequently trailed off before he had com-

pleted his thoughts. At the same time, he delivered detailed responses on issues such as the Israel-Gaza conflict and the need for western countries to produce more military weaponry to counter Russia and China.

That came a few hours after Biden mistakenly referred to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as "President Putin" at the NATO summit in Washington, drawing gasps from those in the room.

Biden's campaign has been on the ropes for two weeks, since his poor debate performance against Trump.

At least 16 of the 213 Democrats in the House and one of the Senate's 51 Democrats have appealed publicly to the president to withdraw from the race.

Representative Jim Himes of Connecticut joined that group shortly after the press conference ended.

"We must put forth the strongest candidate possible to confront the threat posed by Trump's promised MAGA authoritarianism," he said. "I no longer believe that is Joe Biden."

Biden overcame a childhood stutter and has frequently mangled names and misspoken throughout his political career.

Biden said his health is in good shape and that he would take another neurological exam to determine his mental acuity if his doctors recommended it.

A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters they did not know whether the news conference would shore up support on Capitol Hill.

Biden said he needed to "pace myself" a little more and complained that



President Joe Biden speaks at a news conference Thursday on the final day of the NATO summit in Washington. AP

his aides sometimes overscheduled him. "I'm catching hell from my wife," he said.

The news conference gave Biden an opportunity to tout his successes on the world stage at the close of the NATO summit in Washington, where members extended support to Ukraine to combat the invasion that Russian President Vladimir Putin launched in February 2022.

Biden argued Trump would weaken NATO and drive up prices for US consumers by imposing steep tariffs on imported goods.

He took credit for bringing Sweden and Finland into the alliance, and said he brought together 50 nations to support Ukraine.

He also said the Israel-Gaza war must end now and that Israel must not occupy the enclave after the war, adding that both Israel and Hamas had agreed on his ceasefire framework but that there were still gaps to close.

Separately on Thursday, United Auto Workers union officials met to discuss their concerns with his candidacy, three sources familiar with the matter said, after endorsing Biden in January. The 400,000-member union has a big presence in industrial states like Michigan that Biden will need to carry to win re-election.

No Democratic leaders in Congress have called for Biden to end his candidacy, though former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday declined to say he should stay in the race.

The campaign has commissioned a survey to test how Vice President Kamala Harris would fare if she were

to replace Biden as candidate, according to a source with knowledge of the matter. A Reuters/Ipsos poll last week found Harris would fare no better than Biden in a matchup with Trump.

Prominent donors including actor George Clooney have called on Biden to drop out, and there were signs that concerns are growing within Biden's campaign operation as well.

The New York Times reported that some longtime advisers were considering ways to convince him to drop his reelection bid, while NBC News reported that some campaign staffers thought he stood no chance of winning the election.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll found Biden and Trump tied at 40 percent each. Other opinion polls have found Trump leading Biden, and some strategists have warned that Trump stood a chance of winning reliably Democratic states like New Hampshire and Minnesota.

In a strategy memo, the campaign argued that it has always expected a close election and could win by focusing on three battleground states: Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

If he won those states, along with others considered to be reliably Democratic, he would win 270 electoral votes -- the bare minimum needed to secure the presidency. Biden won 306 electoral votes in 2020.

The campaign characterized other battleground states he won in 2020 as "not out of reach".

Agencies

9 infants die of whooping cough outbreak in Britain

LONDON

NINE infants have died since the beginning of an outbreak of whooping cough in November last year, according to figures released by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on Thursday.

In the first five months of 2024, 7,599 children and adults have been infected by the disease, which affects the lungs and breathing tubes and spreads easily, the figures showed.

"Young babies are at highest risk of severe complications and death from whooping cough," the UKHSA said in its alert Thursday.

Over half of those infected are people aged 15 or older and suffer a mild illness, the agency said, adding that high numbers continue to be reported in babies under three months of age who are at greatest risk from the infection.

Medics have urged pregnant women and babies to get whooping cough vaccinations.

The UKHSA said the latest uptake data for vaccinations offered to pregnant women to protect newborn infants against whooping cough has fallen below 60 percent.

Timely vaccination in pregnancy and in childhood is important to protect vulnerable young infants from serious disease, according to the UKHSA.

"Vaccination is the best defense against whooping cough, and it is vital that pregnant women and young infants receive their vaccines at the right time," said Dr. Mary Ramsay, director of Immunization at the UKHSA.

Andrew Preston, a professor from the Milner Center for Evolution and the Department of Life Sciences at the University of Bath, said: "We've now reached levels that we haven't seen in the UK for well over ten years."

This is a genuine outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough). "The levels of infant vaccination against pertussis have dropped over the last ten years and thousands of infants haven't received the vaccinations that we know provide protection," he told Xinhua.

Preston said there has also been a striking reduction in maternal vaccination coverage in some parts of the country, down as low as 25 percent to 30 percent in some urban parts of Britain.

"I think that's contributing to some of the more serious cases in those very young infants," he added. Preston said he was not sure how long the current outbreak will last. "It's on an upward trajectory, and to be honest, I don't think we know when that will plateau, but I think it's probably going to be at an enhanced incidence for most of this year."

Xinhua



Vaccination is the best defense against whooping cough, and it is vital that pregnant women and young infants receive their vaccines at the right time

Plans to deploy US missiles in Germany aimed at saving Biden's reputation – Russian MFA

MOSCOW

THE announcement of plans to deploy US intermediate-and shorter-range missiles in Germany was aimed at saving US President Joe Biden's reputation, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the Rossiya-24 TV channel.

"Washington is taking a series of measures to save the liberal Democratic candidate after his debate failure, when the entire country was horrified and started asking how the US information policy could have made it impossible for the government and the public to get a real idea of Biden's physical condition," she said.

"All this is being done to somehow distract the public from the issue that is now facing the United States of



America," the diplomat added.

According to Zakharova, this is why drastic steps are being taken, domestic and foreign policy statements are being made and the situation around Ukraine is being hyped up.

Washington and Berlin said earlier in a joint statement that the US would begin deployments of long-range fires capabilities in Germany in 2026, "which have significantly longer range than current land-based fires in Europe."

AU commends progress in Ethiopia's peace deal implementation

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has commended the progress made since the signing of the peace accord between the parties to the peace agreement that ended a two-year civil war in northern Ethiopia.

The statement was made by AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat as the 55-member continental organization convened the second strategic reflection meeting on the implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in Ethiopia Tuesday, according to an AU statement issued Wednesday.

The meeting on the implementation of the COHA that was signed in November 2022 between the Ethiopian federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), mainly aimed to assess progress, address challenges, and develop strategies for the successful implementation of the peace accord, the AU said.

The chairperson "commended the parties for the significant progress made since the signing of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agree-



Redwan Hussien Rameto (2nd L), representative of the Ethiopian government, and Getachew Reda (2nd R), representative of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), sign a peace agreement in Pretoria, South Africa, Nov. 2, 2022.

ment," according to the AU statement.

Noting that the deliberations mainly focused on the political dialogue between the Ethiopian federal government and the TPLF, the AU said the two parties agreed on engaging and identifying topics, focusing on the return of

internally displaced persons, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process of former combatants.

Recognizing advancements in the return of internally displaced persons and in the disarmament, demobiliza-

tion and reintegration process, the two parties also agreed on a phased execution of the COHA.

On Nov. 2, 2022, the Ethiopian government and the TPLF signed a cessation of hostilities agreement in Pretoria, South Africa, eventually ending a two-year brutal conflict in northern Ethiopia.

The peace deal includes provisions for the restoration of law and order, restoration of basic services, demobilization of former combatants, and unhindered access to humanitarian supplies. The AU also commended the sustained support for the AU-led peace process from the three AU member states that are providing the team of African experts, namely Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

It further reiterated its strong commitments to facilitating dialogue and support to the peace process in northern Ethiopia.

The strategic reflection meeting gathered representatives from the Ethiopian federal government, the TPLF, and other international observers, including the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

UN-brokered Sudan ceasefire talks begin with one party no-show

GENEVA/UNITED NATIONS/CAIRO

SUDAN'S warring parties are in Switzerland for UN-led talks aimed at brokering possible local ceasefires to facilitate aid and protect civilians, but only one side showed up for the start of discussions on Thursday, the United Nations said.

War erupted in April last year between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) over the integration of the forces in a transition to free

elections.

The war has sparked waves of ethnically driven violence blamed largely on the RSF and the UN says nearly 25 million people - half of Sudan's population - need aid, famine is looming and almost 10 million people have fled their homes.

The talks in Geneva have been convened by UN Sudan mediator Ramtane Lamamra, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in New York. A UN spokesperson in Geneva said the parties would negotiate via Lamamra instead of meeting face to face.

"Regrettably, one of the delegations did not come to the session planned for today. (Lamamra) and his team later met with the other delegation as planned," said Dujarric, adding that Lamamra had invited both sides to continue talks on Friday.

He declined to say which party did not show up for talks. Another UN spokesperson said the two delegations in Geneva were made up of senior representatives of the leaders of both parties.

An RSF source confirmed to Reuters that its delegation was

in Geneva. The army did not respond to a request for comment.

In a speech on Thursday, Sudanese army chief Abdelfattah al-Burhan rejected negotiations unless the RSF withdraws from civilian infrastructure and homes.

"We will get full revenge for every Sudanese who has been harmed (by the RSF). There are no negotiations in Switzerland, Jeddah, or anywhere else," he said in a video of the speech seen by Reuters.

The UN effort is the latest in a series of mediation at-

tempts by various countries and entities, none of which have succeeded in achieving a sustained pause in fighting. Talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, between the army and RSF sponsored by the United States and Saudi Arabia broke down at the end of 2023.

Local ceasefires

The RSF on Thursday continued its attempt to take over Sennar state, part of its effort to consolidate its control over the center and west of the country, displacing more than 200,000 people according to state news

agency SUNA.

"We urge the Sudanese delegations to rise to the challenge and engage in constructive discussions with (Lamamra), for the sake of the Sudanese people," Dujarric said.

On Wednesday, African Union-led talks between Sudanese political factions began, although in the absence of the largest anti-war civilian coalition, which protested what they said was the presence of allies of former autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

Dujarric said the discussions convened by Lamamra

"seek to identify avenues for advancement of the identified humanitarian and protection of civilian measures through possible local ceasefires, as requested by the Security Council."

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said on Thursday that there is no military solution in Sudan.

"We are seeing the devastating impact of this war fought between two generals who have no interest in their civilian population," she told BBC World News. "There has to be a political solution. It has to take

Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation would cultivate more inclusive, democratic BRICS partnership, says LS Speaker Om Birla

ST PETERSBURG

LOK Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Russia, emphasised that strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation would cultivate a more inclusive and democratic BRICS partnership.

Om Birla is currently leading the Indian Delegation to the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Lok Sabha Speaker addressed the first plenary session, which had the theme, "The BRICS Parliamentary dimension: prospects for strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation" on Thursday.

Referring to the challenges ahead, while remaining optimistic, Birla said, "strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation would cultivate a more inclusive and democratic BRICS partnership."

He further reiterated India's commitment to democratic values and sustainable development and to furthering the BRICS agenda.

India is proactive partner in advancing the BRICS agenda for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Birla underscored that approximately 65 crore voters exercised their franchise in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, after which Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister for the third time.

He further expressed gratitude that it

is his good fortune that the Lok Sabha elected him to the post of Speaker for the second consecutive time.

Extending a warm welcome to the four new Members, namely Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates into BRICS Parliamentary Forum, Birla commended the Russian Chair for ensuring the seamless integration of the new members into the organization.

"BRICS, largely representing the interests of the developing world, stands for greater democratization of global governance system, and for reforming the international organizations such as the UN Security Council, WTO, at global level," he said.

Further, emphasizing the crucial role of Parliaments and parliamentarians in advancing the BRICS agenda for inclusive growth and sustainable development, Birla observed that India is a proactive partner in this initiative.

He highlighted the country's commitment to uniting emerging markets and developing countries and affirmed its dedication to the principles of mutual respect, understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness, and consensus.

Stressing the importance of enhancing cooperation among BRICS members and other multilateral forums, Birla cited the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' meaning "the world is one family" which is in sync with commitment of BRICS to equality, solidarity



Tulia Ackson, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) (L) with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Russia, on Thursday. ANI

and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Underscoring the successful conclusion of the G20 Summit and the ninth G20

Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) in New Delhi last year, he noted that those historic events exemplify India's commitment to the philosophy of finding collaborative solutions for global well-being and inclusive development.

He stressed that India believes that the insights and proposals shared by Presiding Officers at the New Delhi P20 summit on Agenda 2030 for SDGs, sustainable energy transitions, gender equality, and public digital platforms will significantly enhance global collaboration for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Highlighting on the role of Inter-Parliamentary fora, the speaker stressed that Parliamentarians play a crucial role in advancing the agenda of growth and sustainable development, viewing the BRICS Parliamentary Forum as pivotal in this context.

Birla said that such fora offer Parliamentarians valuable opportunities to exchange new ideas, innovative legislation, and best practices.

Further, shedding light on the active involvement of Parliaments, Birla noted its importance in achieving SDGs and tackling global challenges, including, climate change, socio-economic growth, and poverty alleviation.

He called for the need to strengthen the BRICS parliamentary dimension and advocated India's stance of collaboration among that BRICS Parliaments to enhance cooperation and solidarity, reform global governance, improve multilateral organizations, promote economic recovery, and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Moreover, earlier in the day, Birla also met Tulia Ackson, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Notably, this was Birla's first foreign visit to Russia to attend the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum meeting after his historic election as Lok Sabha Speaker for second consecutive terms. ANI

Kenyan universities embrace Chinese Luban Workshop to equip students with modern skills

NAIROBI

INSIDE a workshop at Machakos University, southeast of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, students sit in groups of six, guided on how to join different computer parts.

In one group, a young instructor picks up a computer chip and explains how it is linked to other components.

The students listen attentively. In another section of the workshop, the other instructor holds a computer chip and a USB cable, explaining their functions to his group.

The workshop, named Luban, is one of the most popular establishments at the institution, with tens of students visiting daily for lessons. Machakos University established the Luban Workshop in 2019 with support from Chinese technology giant Huawei and Tianjin City Vocational College (TCVC).

It was the first Luban Workshop at a Kenyan university, aiming to equip students with innovative digital technol-



The file photo, taken on May 19, 2021, shows the Luban workshop plaque at Machakos University in Machakos, Kenya, May 19, 2021.

ogy skills such as artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, big data and the Internet of Things.

Since then, Luban workshops have been established at several other institutions of higher learning across Kenya, including Meru University of Science and Technology and Taita Taveta University. These universities leverage the Luban workshops to equip students with modern computing knowledge.

Eric Omuya, chairman of the Computing Department at Machakos University, said the Luban Workshop caters to students from various courses.

The university operates Google Developers Club, Innovation Club and Science Club, which bring together students who utilize the workshop's resources. "The workshop has a capacity

of 100 people and can run two classes concurrently," Omuya added.

Peter Musyoka, a third-year economics student at the university, credits the Luban Workshop for sparking his interest in computing, especially emerging technologies like AI and big data.

"Thanks to the workshop, I now understand how I can apply technologies like AI in my field of study," he said. At Taita Taveta University, the Luban Workshop focuses on petroleum and petrochemical engineering. Opened in 2021, it trains oil and gas specialists from Kenya and neighboring countries, according to the university.

"Some of our lecturers have already been trained in China, and others are undergoing training," said Vice Chancellor Fred Barasa during the launch

three years ago.

The Luban Workshop at Meru University of Science and Technology was launched in September 2023, through a partnership with TCVC.

It features vocational education and Silk Road e-commerce centers, each designed to empower students and professionals with practical skills and knowledge aligned with the demands of modern jobs.

During the launch, TCVC's Deputy Vice Chancellor Liu Sheng said the programs offered at the workshop equip learners with the skills and knowledge required for the dynamic job market, fostering knowledge exchange and cultural understanding between Kenya and China.

The Luban Workshop, named after the ancient Chinese craftsman Lu Ban, is an international vocational education project offering the latest AI, big data and cloud computing courses to Kenyan students.

Henry Wandera, an economics lecturer in Nairobi, said the workshops help strengthen Kenya-China ties and support economic growth by creating a more skilled workforce.

"Skilled workers create new businesses, improve productivity, and attract foreign investment. Luban Workshop is part of China's path to economic success. By embracing them, Kenya is on the right track," he said.

Xinhua

Putin accuses West of actions resembling 'classic colonialism'

ST. PETERSBURG

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin likened the West's use of so-called rules instead of international law to classic colonialism.

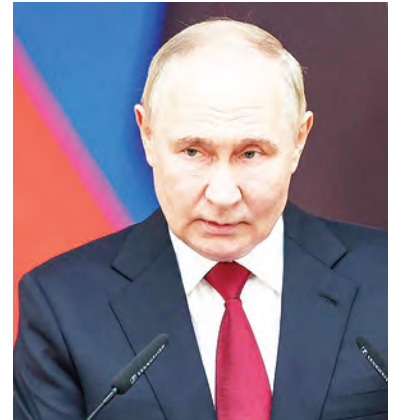
Speaking at the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, he gave a description of the behavior of ruling elites in the so-called golden billion countries.

"Acting contrary to historical logic and often even to the detriment of the long-term interests of their own peoples, they are now seeking to establish some kind of order based on their so-called rules, which no one has seen, no one has discussed and no one has ever accepted," Putin stated.

"These rules are written and adjusted anew for each situation in the interests of those who consider themselves exceptional and have conferred on themselves the right to dictate their will to others," the president said. "It's exactly in the best traditions of classical colonialism."

"This is a clear attempt to replace legitimate international law, an attempt to create a monopoly on the ultimate truth," Putin continued. "Such a monopoly is destructive."

"Pressure is growing on those who have their own position," he went on to say. "Contrary to the



principles of international law, what comes into play is forceful coercion, unilateral sanctions, and selective application of trade rules."

Putin said that the elites of the so-called golden billion countries fiercely resist the efforts of BRICS members to create a multipolar world order.

"We are well aware that the establishment of a world order that reflects the real balance of power, the new geopolitical, economic and demographic reality, is a complicated and in many ways, unfortunately, even painful process," the president said.

"Efforts of the BRICS members and other developing countries face fierce resistance from the ruling elites of the so-called golden billion nations," he stated.

Agencies

BEIJING

IN June 1988, Xi Jinping was transferred to Ningde, a backward mountainous prefecture in east China's Fujian Province, to serve as the local Party chief.

As one of China's 18 poorest areas back then, Ningde was, in Xi's eyes, "almost a world to itself - hard to get to, with little information from the outside world, and an economy based on small-scale agricultural production."

People in Ningde expected the young leader to bring in more investments and projects to lift the prefecture out of poverty. But rather than seeking external assistance, Xi set out for a field trip.

Within a month, he set foot in every county of Ningde, talking to local residents to learn about their lives and difficulties. He encouraged the people of Ningde, which is 90 percent mountainous and home to 643 islands, to explore a development path suitable for local conditions.

The solution Xi put forward was to adopt an all-encompassing approach to agriculture, which is "on the mountain one lives off the mountain, and by the sea one lives off the sea."

Despite his busy inspection schedules, Xi made time to read the local annals, from which he learned that a section of eastern Fujian's coastal waters was once teeming with wild large yellow croakers, a prized delicacy in Chinese cuisine. However, overfishing and the lack of aquaculture technologies had put the fish at risk of extinction.

"This is an important resource for eastern Fujian," Xi told local officials. During his tenure in Ningde, Xi supported local efforts in artificially breeding large yellow croakers, which later became a major local industry that helped residents shake off poverty.

Xi Story: Tailoring development to local landscape



Today, Ningde produces eight out of every ten large yellow croakers found on Chinese dining tables. Over 300,000 people are engaged in large yellow croaker farming and related industries, with the annual value of the industry chain exceeding 10 billion yuan (about 1.4 billion U.S. dollars).

Xi's pragmatic approach is a crucial part of his reform methodology, with which he has steered the country's rapid progress over the past decade as the Chinese president, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Particularly, it underpinned China's successful campaign to eliminate absolute poverty, with targeted poverty

alleviation as a central strategy.

From 2013 to 2020, he sent out some 255,000 work teams and 3 million officials across the country to provide one-on-one assistance to help impoverished farmers find the most suitable way out of poverty.

During these eight years, Xi himself conducted over 50 inspections on poverty alleviation work, including visits to all the 14 regions with high concentrations of extreme poverty.

He carefully looked into local industries, especially those with the regions' specialties, talking with farmers in greenhouses, on field ridges, under fruit trees and in front of farmhouses.

For some places, conditions were so harsh that only relocation could help the locals become better off. In Atulie'er, a mountain-locked poor village in Sichuan Province, scaling the 800-meter-high cliffs with handmade ladders used to be the only way for the villagers to reach the outside world.

"I saw that children had to climb the unsteady vine ladders on the cliffs with no safety measures whatsoever. It made me feel heavyhearted and concerned," Xi said in 2017.

In 2020, all 344 residents of Atulie'er left the "cliff village" and moved into brand-new apartments. The villagers have started to plant olives and navel oranges, and the cliffs have now been turned into a tourist attraction - all these moves generate substantial income.

Throughout China's quest for development in the new era, Xi has always stressed the need to find measures that

best suit actual conditions.

"We must base everything we do on actual conditions and focus on solving real problems arising in our reform, opening up and socialist modernization endeavors in the new era," he said in the report delivered to the 20th CPC National Congress in 2022.

Under his guidance, China has unveiled multiple master plans for different regions, such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze Economic Belt and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, drawing tailored blueprints that have brought great changes to the Chinese economic landscape.

In developing the new quality productive forces, a concept he introduced as one of China's future reform goals, Xi also called on localities to take into account their own resource endowment, industrial foundation and scientific research conditions.

"It is necessary to prevent a headlong rush into projects and the formation of industry bubbles, and avoid adopting just a single model of development," he said at this year's annual national legislative session in March.

At a symposium ahead of the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, which is to be held from July 15 to 18 to primarily study issues concerning further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization, Xi highlighted the need to take "indigenous approaches."

"Every region has its own merits, and development must reflect local conditions," he said after listening to advice on reform and modernization from business leaders and scholars at the symposium in May.

Xinhua



Aisah Chibanda of Balakrishna Foundation Aces (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize from Caravans Cricket Club's official, Sreejith Kumar when the cricketer's squad confronted Park Mobile Lions in a 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup game in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Balakrishna Foundation Aces sail through to Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup Super 4

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

IN the past weekend's marquee matchup, Balakrishna Foundation Aces confronted Park Mobile Lions in a crucial encounter of the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup showdown in Dar es Salaam.

Park Mobile Lions, having already secured their spot in the showdown's Super 4 stage, aimed to clinch the top spot in Group A with a victory.

As for Balakrishna Foundation Aces, a win would have ensured their qualification for the Super 4 phase while a loss would have seen them crash out and make way for Delaware Upanga SC.

Winning the toss, Park Mobile Lions opted to field first in the game held at Leaders Club ground in Kinondoni, limiting Balakrishna Foundation Aces to 191/6 in 20 overs.

The opening pair of Asif Butt and Arun Yadav proved formidable, scoring 32 runs off 25 balls and 22 runs off 12 balls respectively for the batting outfit.

Their blazing start set the tone, with a first-wicket partnership of 54 runs coming in just 4.4 overs and prompting Park Mobile Lions' bowling unit to put in a spirited performance.

Despite their efforts, Park Mobile Lions' bowlers struggled to contain Balakrishna Foundation Aces' batsmen who piled on a formidable 191/6 after 20 overs.

In response, Park Mobile Lions started strongly, with their openers Kashif Ahmed and Akhtar Shaikh forging a 68-run partnership.

Ahmed scored 43 runs off 32 balls, while Shaikh contributed 21 runs off 17 balls. However, the dismissals of the openers triggered a collapse and Park Mobile Lions could only manage

141/8 in their 20 overs and succumbed to a 50-run loss.

Aisah Chibanda of Balakrishna Aces was the standout bowler, claiming five wickets for just 16 runs in his four overs.

The victory propelled Balakrishna Foundation Aces to the top of Group A, securing their berth in the Super 4 of the Petrofuel TCA Caravans Cup. At the same time, Park Mobile Lions settled for the second place.

The results also meant the showdown defending champions, Delaware Upanga SC, were eliminated from the tournament.

Chibanda was named the Ras Logistics Man of the Match for his exceptional bowling performance.

Awais Abbas' remarkable catch to dismiss Yadav earned him the Medinova Moment of the Match award.

The four teams that have progressed to the Super 4 stage, slated to get underway today, are Alliance Caravans, Aurobindo AKSC, Balakrishna Foundation Aces, and Park Mobile Lions.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket showdown organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Alliance Caravans, Aurobindo AKSC, Delaware Upanga SC, Balakrishna Foundation Aces, Flashnet Strikers, Park Mobile Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, Econo Lodge Lions, Azania Bank Pak Stars, and Generics Gymkhana have featured in this season's showdown.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Tanzania Olympic team set to depart for Paris in three groups

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic team will depart for Paris in three groups at the end of this month, as disclosed by the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

TOC secretary general Filbert Bayi explained that due to flight challenges, the team will leave in three separate groups.

The first group, including the leader of the delegation (CDM) Henry Tandau, will depart on July 22.

The following day, the judokas, their coach and doctor, swimmers and their coach, the TOC president Gulam Rashid, and Bayi himself will depart for France.

The last group, consisting of ath-

letes and their coach, will leave on August 7.

"The Tanzania team will start departing the country on July 22 and will be in three groups due to flight challenges. However, all athletes are currently undergoing training," Bayi said. This year's Olympics will take place from July 26 to August 11.

At the Paris Olympics, Tanzania will be represented by 18 people. Only four athletes, Alphonse Simbu, Gabriel Geay, Magdalena Shauri, and Jackline Sakilu, qualified for the games.

Boxer Yusuph Chungalawe, judoka Andrew Mlungu, and swimmers Collins Saliboko and Sophia Litif will be representing the country on a wild card basis.

Simba not done yet: More departures expected before new 2024/25 season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA's information and communication manager, Ahmed Ally, has asserted that the club is still in the process of trimming their squad ahead of the upcoming season, with several players yet to finalize their contract terminations.

This week, Simba parted ways with Malian midfielder Sadio Kanoute after three years of service and Senegalese Babacar Sarr, who served the club for six months. Other players who have left the club include Kennedy Juma, Clatous Chama, Saido Ntibazonka, Shabani Chilunda, Henock Inonga, and Luis Miquissone as part of the squad overhaul.

Additionally, Pa Omar Jobe is reportedly not part of Simba's plans for next season, as the club has already signed his replacement. Simba secured strik-

er Steven Mukwala from Asante Kotoko on a two-year deal.

Ally shared further insights into the club's plans for the squad overhaul: "Our intention to strengthen our squad for next season is at the highest level, but we need to trim our squad to ensure we have a team of players who can compete for the club badge and also reduce selection headaches for the coach due to a high number of players.

"With that said, in the coming days, we aim to continue to inform Simba fans on the development of the squad as well as introducing new players ahead of the new season. We have almost twelve signings, both local and international players. I can confirm we have a few signings left to introduce before we have a complete squad."

Simba are under the guidance of new coach Fadlu Da-

vids, who took over from Abdelhak Benchikha, who recently left the club to join JS Kabylie of Algeria.

As mentioned by Ally, 12 new players have been signed in a busy transfer window as the club reshapes their squad.

The new signings include center-back Valentin Nouma, Zambian winger Joshua Mutale, Ugandan center-forward Mukwala, Ivorian attacking midfielder Jean Charles Ahoua, Nigerian midfielder Augustine Okajephpa, and Congolese midfielder Debora Fernandez.

Local arrivals are Omary Omary from Mashujaa, striker Valentino Mashaka from Geita Gold, midfielder Yusuph Kogoma from Singida Fountain Gate, and center-back Abdulrazack Hamza from SuperSport of South Africa.

Simba have also signed Kelvin Kijiri (pictured) on a free trans-

fer after his contract expired at Singida Fountain Gate.

Simba are expected to return to Tanzania late this month to prepare for their final international match on Simba Day on August 3. The Simba Day festival, an annual highlight for the club, will mark the team's return from the camp. The festival serves as a celebration of the club's heritage and a platform to showcase the new squad to fans and stakeholders.

Simba will play against Young Africans between August 8 and 11 in the Community Shield mini-tournament slated for next month.

In the CAF Confederation Cup, Simba will play the last round of the group qualifications against either Uhamiaji of Zanzibar or the Libya FA Cup envoys, who are yet to be announced.



Wagika traditional dance group members celebrate with the trophy after emerging winners during the Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival held recently in Bariadi, Simiyu. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

US women's basketball team looks to continue Olympic dominance, seeking 8th straight gold in Paris

BY DOUG FEINBERG

THE U.S. women's basketball team is on a historic run, winning seven straight Olympic gold medals. While no one has come close to ending that streak, the rest of the world is getting better.

The Americans, who haven't lost an Olympic contest since 1992, won by an average of 16 points in the Tokyo Games. That was their smallest margin of victory since the streak started at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

The biggest challenge for the U.S. will once again be the limited prep time to practice as a unit. The complete team will be together for the first time right before the Paris Games.

"The rest of the world is definitely improving," six-time Olympic participant Diana Taurasi said. "It's not as easy as it's looked over the years."

The 42-year-old Taurasi would know; she has been a part of the last five U.S. Olympic teams. She will be going for a record sixth gold medal in Paris.

The U.S. is trying to break a tie with the American men's basketball team for most consecutive gold medals. The men won seven straight from 1936-68. The two basketball teams hold the longest streak for golds in a traditional team sport in Olympic history.

The Americans understand what's ahead and are focused on



FILE - United States' Brittney Griner (15) runs up court during the women's basketball gold medal game against Japan at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Aug. 8, 2021, in Saitama, Japan. It's definitely a special time for Brittney Griner, who is back for the Olympics. She missed the 2022 World Cup when she was wrongfully detained in Russia for 10 months. She has said that she'll only go overseas to play with USA Basketball. (AP Photo)

the present and not their past. The goal is just to win in Paris and not look at the bigger picture of continuing the dynasty.

"That can't be your every day thought and then you lose sight of what it takes to get there," U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve said. "That's the biggest thing you have to block out. There's a huge narrative we can't escape with this being one of the greatest sports dynasties ever. It's our first experience together with this group and this is our special journey, it's about one gold medal."

It's definitely a special time for Brittney Griner, who is returning to the team for the Olympics. She missed the 2022 World Cup when she was wrongfully detained in Russia for 10 months. She has said that she'll only play overseas with USA Basketball.

"We were all thinking of BG

when she was away and we didn't know if this moment would be possible," Reeve said. "I'm thrilled for her personally and thrilled for our basketball team."

The Americans are in a pool with Japan, Belgium and Germany. The Japanese team were silver medalists at the 2021 Tokyo Games. Group A features Serbia, Spain, China, and Puerto Rico. Group B is comprised of Canada, France, Australia and Nigeria.

Play begins on Sunday, July 28 and ends with the gold medal game on the final day of the Olympics.

Here are some other things to watch for:

WELCOME BACK LAUREN

Australia will receive a huge lift with the return of Lauren Jackson. The four-time WNBA

MVP won three Olympic silver medals and one bronze with the Opals before retiring from playing in 2016 after knee injuries derailed her career. She returned for the 2022 World Cup in Australia and led the team to a bronze medal. Now the 43-year-old forward will be playing in her fifth Olympics.

"What Lauren has done is simply amazing," Australia coach Sandy Brondello said. "She has a great basketball IQ and certainly will help us."

NEWCOMERS

Germany is making its first Olympic appearance led by the Sabally sisters - Nyara and Satou (who plays with the Dallas Wings). The Germans will host the 2026 World Cup and hope to have a strong showing in Paris where they are in a tough pool with the U.S., Belgium and Japan.

"We're just there to have fun," Nyara Sabally said. "It's basketball, you never know what's going to happen. I'm really confident in our team and I think we have a really good team."

LOOKING FOR A WIN

African nations haven't fared well at the Olympics, going 1-36 with Nigeria getting the lone victory in the 2004 Athens Games when they topped Korea in the 11th place contest. Nigeria will look to end that drought as the country plays in its third Olympics.

Spain boss wary of England's threat ahead of Euro 2024 final

BERLIN

LUIS de la Fuente is confident that another European Championship title is within Spain's grasp, yet he remains cautious of England's threat as they prepare for tomorrow's final in Berlin.

Both teams clinched 2-1 victories in the semi-finals, but La Roja and the Three Lions have taken vastly different routes to the Euro 2024 showpiece.

Spain's impressive journey, overcoming formidable opponents such as Croatia, Italy, Germany and France, positions them as favourites to lift the trophy this weekend. However, De la Fuente acknowledges the unpredictability that a final brings, remaining mindful of the challenges ahead.

"Maybe Spain have offered a better version so far at the finals [than England], but that won't have any influence on a one-off game," the 63-year-old told reporters.

"England have quality players that can appear at any moment. We are up against a really powerful side full of experience, not just in terms of the national team, but at club level as well. It's going to be tough.

"Before starting the tournament, England and France would have been favourites, as well as Germany for the fact they were playing at home.

"We have had the chance to keep overcoming those games [against the favourites] and now we have another huge match. But we're looking forward to this one. We want to keep growing. This group of players are going to keep fighting to try and win the trophy."

De la Fuente will have a wealth of options at his disposal for Sunday's showdown, with reports suggesting Alvaro Morata will spearhead the attack. Additionally, Dani Carvajal and Robin Le Normand are set to return from suspension, boosting Spain's defensive lineup.

Despite their standout performances earlier this week, it appears unlikely that Ollie Watkins and Cole Palmer will earn starting spots for England. However, Luke Shaw could potentially begin the match, and fans are hopeful he can replicate his impressive performance from the previous final in 2021.

(AGENCIES)

Uruguay players defend decision to enter crowd to protect families amid Copa America brawl

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

URUGUAY striker Luis Suárez defended his teammates' decision to enter the stands following a 1-0 loss to Colombia in the Copa America semi-finals, saying the action was necessary to defend families and supporters.

After a physical and emotional game that included seven yellow cards and one red card, players exchanged words and shoves at midfield of Bank of America Stadium on Wednesday night.

Uruguay players, including Darwin Núñez, noticed an altercation behind the team's bench and about a dozen or so players then climbed into the stands as the melee continued.

Some players were seen throwing punches before Charlotte Mecklenburg Police officers and stadium security restored order after about 10 minutes.

"Obviously when one has your woman, your little child, your father, elderly people you want to go and see if they're OK," Suárez said.

"Here these things, it's an image that no one wants to have created but obviously if someone is attacking your family you want to go and defend them. But that doesn't justify the image that it created. We had to protect our families that were there."

CONMEBOL, South American soccer's governing body, said Thursday its disciplinary committee opened an investigation.

"It is unacceptable that an incident like this turns passion into violence," the statement said.

Suárez said he could see family members and children in the crowd and he worried about their safety. More than 70,000 fans attended the game, and at least 90% cheered for Colombia and wore their bright yellow colors.

"(They) were trapped and things were falling on them and you felt helpless," Suárez said.

Uruguay's José María Giménez called the situation a "disaster."

"Our family is in danger," Giménez told Fox. "We had to get on top of the stands ASAP to rescue our loved ones with babies. ... It's a disaster because all of the matches are the same. Our families are in danger because of some who drink one or two shots of alcohol that don't know to drink and behave like children."

Stadium seating choices for families and friends of players were arranged by Uruguayan soccer's governing body. More protected luxury suites were an option. The Uruguayan soccer association has not made a public statement on the fight.

"There was some argument in the midfield, and when I saw that happening, I went to the locker room. I thought they were thanking the fans for their support," Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa said after the game. "But then I learned there were some problems over there, unfortunately." AP

Great entertainers Spain bring much-needed thrills to Euro 2024

BERLIN

ENGLAND and Spain face off in tomorrow's Euro 2024 final after taking very different routes to Berlin in a tournament that has at times lacked for thrills.

Spain have been a class apart despite a devilishly difficult draw that has seen them beat 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Croatia, holders Italy, hosts Germany and the pre-tournament favourites in France.

By contrast, England have stumbled their way into a first ever final on foreign soil thanks to a series of late goals to paper over the cracks despite the wealth of talent available to manager Gareth Southgate.

They were among the continent's powerhouses who were accused of turning European football's showpiece into a tough watch.

England topped Group C despite scoring just two goals in three games, form which drew such opprobrium from their own fans that Southgate was pelted with beer cups after a 0-0 draw against Slovenia.

Should Southgate's men go on to lift the trophy, Jude Bellingham's 95th-minute overhead kick to avoid a last-16 exit to Slovakia will go down as one of the most significant goals in English history.

But it was also their first shot on target of the match.



Spain have been the standout team at Euro 2024. AFP

Similarly, Bukayo Saka's stunning strike to equalise against Switzerland on 80 minutes in the quarter-final was the first time England hit the target.

"Our intention is always to play well with the ball -- in football you have an opponent that's trying to stop you," said Southgate when quizzed on the lack of entertainment in England games. "None of this is easy."

"Change the channel if you're bored"

Yet Southgate was far from the only coach who stood accused of failing to maximise bountiful resources by deploying overly-cautious tactics.

France advanced to the

semi-finals without one of their players scoring a single goal from open play.

Despite that, coach Didier Deschamps was defiant when questioned by a Swedish journalist over the lack of entertainment offered by his side.

"If you are bored you can watch something else. It's ok. You are not obliged," the French boss hit back when criticised over his side's lack of goals.

"We have the ability to share emotions, to make lots of French people happy with the results we have had, especially in what is a difficult time in our country...if Swedish people are bored that is not too important for me."

Portugal were another of the favourites who failed to fire.

Blessed with one of the deepest squads in the tournament, coach Roberto Martinez's refusal to drop Cristiano Ronaldo backfired as his side crashed out on penalties to France in the quarter-finals having failed to score in any of their last three games in Germany.

The 114 goals at the tournament so far, at an average of 2.28 per match, is down on the 2.78 at the previous Euros three years ago and the 2.69 at the 2022 World Cup.

Bucking the trend has been Spain's new generation, looking to follow in the steps of the

all-conquering side that won three consecutive major tournaments between 2008 and 2012.

Drawn into the toughest group, Luis de la Fuente's men shone from the start, scoring three times in the opening half in a 3-0 win over Croatia.

A 1-0 victory over Italy did little justice for the scale of Spanish domination in Gelsenkirchen, before they rounded off the group stage with a 1-0 win over Albania despite making 10 changes.

Even an early own goal to give Georgia a shock lead in the last 16 did not derail the Spanish charge as they stormed back to dish out a 4-1 thrashing.

Spain ended German dreams in Stuttgart with their own piece of late drama as Mikel Merino's header edged the highest quality game of the tournament 2-1.

Lamine Yamal's stunning strike to become the youngest ever Euros goalscorer lit up the 2-1 semi-final win over France.

"They've been the best team," added Southgate, on the challenge of facing Spain. "We'll have to get the ball off them first."

England will need their best display to stop the Spanish juggernaut but the tournament could also do with a classic final if it is to be remembered fondly by neutrals in years to come.

AFP

Spain and England meet in Euro 2024 final but it isn't a classic, deep-rooted international rivalry

BERLIN

THE Women's World Cup final. Now the men's European Championship final.

For two pre-eminent soccer countries, Spain against England is hardly a classic and deep-rooted international rivalry but back-to-back title matches in the space of 11 months at major tournaments could yet usher in the start of one.

For some, Spain's 1-0 victory in Sydney in August in the biggest match in women's soccer was overshadowed by what happened afterward, when Spanish federation president Luis Rubiales kissed star player Jenni Hermoso on the lips during the trophy ceremony to spark a player rebellion, a reckoning on gender and ultimately his removal from power.

What will Sunday's Euro 2024 final bring?

What we do know is that Spain has been the best team in the tournament and England has been the ultimate survivor, having come from behind in all of its knockout-stage games.

More unknown is how the teams match up because, somewhat refreshingly in the modern age, they haven't met in any game – competitive or otherwise – since a pair of Nations League qualifiers in 2018, and not in a major tournament since the European Championship in 1996.

Here are the highlights from the 27 meetings between the men's teams of Spain and England since the first in 1929:



FILE - England's Marcus Rashford, background, scores his side's second goal as Spain's Dani Carvajal tries to stop him during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Spain and England at Benito Villamarín stadium, in Seville, Spain, on Oct. 15, 2018. (AP Photo)

PEARCE'S REDEMPTION

It is one of the defining images in the history of English soccer: Stuart Pearce crunching home a penalty and letting it all out in an emotionally fueled celebration that brought him to tears at Wembley Stadium. It was the Euro '96 quarterfinals and England and Spain were in a shootout after a nervy 0-0 draw. Six years earlier, Pearce had been one of two England players who failed to score in a shootout loss to Germany in the World Cup semifinals. Here he was again, stepping up for his country and this time delivering. After the ball hit the net, he briefly stopped then repeatedly punched the air and shouted "Come on" to the fans as he wept.

England won the shootout 4-2, with Fernando Hierro and Miguel Ángel Nadal missing for Spain.

FOUR-GOAL LINEKER

The best individual display in a Spain-England game came from Gary Lineker, who

scored all four of England's goals in a 32-minute span in a 4-2 win in an international friendly in 1987. The game took place in Madrid and Lineker played at the time for Barcelona, making him something of an

enemy for fans in the Spanish capital. It was classic Lineker, too, with his first three goals being finished inside the six-yard box – where he was lethal – before he completed his quadruple with a left-footed strike from near the penalty spot. Lineker scored another four-goal haul against Malaysia in 1991. Three weeks before the Spain game, Lineker netted a hat trick against Real Madrid at Barca's Camp Nou.

ZARRA'S WINNER

The first of the teams' two meetings in the World Cup came in 1950, when England was coming off one of its most humiliating defeats ever – 1-0 to the United States in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Three days later, Spain ended England's campaign with a 1-0 win at the storied Maracana in front of more than 74,000 spectators. Telmo Zarra, the Athletic Bilbao great whose status as La Liga's record scorer was taken by Lio-

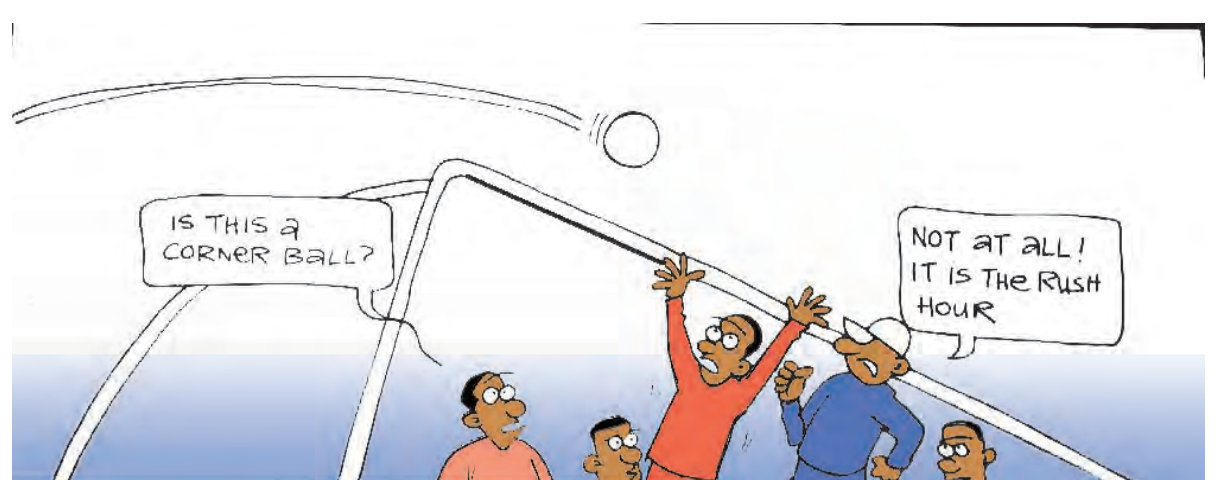
nel Messi, grabbed the 48th-minute winner for Spain, which advanced to the final four only to finish bottom of the group. The other World Cup meeting was in 1982, which Spain hosted, and it was a 0-0 that ultimately eliminated both countries from the three-team group stage in the second round.

HEAVIEST WIN

The biggest margin of victory in matches between Spain and England came in their second meeting, in 1931. England won 7-1 in an international friendly at Highbury, the former home of Arsenal, with three players – Jack Smith, Tommy Johnson and Sammy Crooks – each scoring twice. Spain's biggest win over England was 3-0 in a friendly in Madrid in 1960, when Eulogio Martínez scored twice for a star-stacked team containing Alfredo Di Stefano and Francisco "Paco" Gento.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Great entertainers Spain
bring much-needed
thrills to Euro 2024

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Azam's head of the Communication Department, Thabit Zakaria. Agencies

Azam FC wary of APR challenge in CAF Champions League opener

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC, through their head of the Communication Department, Thabit Zakaria, have stated that they will not underestimate APR in the CAF Champions League preliminary stages first leg, scheduled to take place from August 13-15.

The Chamazi-based side will kick off their campaign at home by hosting APR before traveling to Rwanda for the reverse leg encounter, to be played between August 20 and 22 at Amahoro Stadium. The winner will proceed to face either JKU SC of Zanzibar or Pyramids FC of Egypt on the path to the group stages.

This presents another opportunity for Azam to achieve their first dream of reaching the group stages of the CAF interclub competition, having attempted and failed many times before. The overall winners after the two-legged fixtures will advance to the next round, where they will play against either JKU (Zanzibar) or Pyramids FC (Egypt) in another home-and-away series before potentially making it to the group stage.

Last season, Azam were eliminated in the first preliminary stage of the CAF Confederation Cup by Ethiopian representatives Bahir Dar Kenema in a 4-3 penalty shootout after a 3-3 aggregate score over both legs.

APR had an abysmal Champions League campaign during the 2023/24 season, bowing out in the second round following a 6-1 defeat at the hands of Egyptian side Pyramids FC. After winning the 2023/24 league, the army side has made significant recruitments this transfer window as they look to return to Africa's biggest club competition much stronger, with fresh ambitions to at least reach the group stages.

Speaking ahead of their pre-season preparations following their CAF Champions League preliminary fixture with APR, Zakaria emphasized that Azam cannot underestimate APR because they have yet to achieve anything significant in the competition.

"APR is not a team to be underestimated. With respect, we haven't achieved anything yet in the CAF interclub competition. The Rwandan side is a hard and tough team to play against; they have played qualification stages for many years but have yet to qualify," said Zakaria.

"The hunger they have is what drives us to be cautious and focused on building a strong team in the CAF Champions League so that we can achieve our goal. I know it will be tough, but we will put in intensive preparations to succeed."

Azam have kicked off their pre-season training in Zanzibar with a match against Zimamoto before heading to Morocco for international friendlies next week under coach Youssouph Dabo. The team is looking sharp, with new signings eager to prove themselves before a potentially challenging season.

New faces in the squad include Ivorian midfielder Franck Tiesse, defender Yoro Mamadou Diaby, Colombian midfielder Ever Meza, and Colombian striker Jhonier Blanco.

Locally, Azam have added striker Adam Omar Adam and midfielder Nassor Saadun.

Gamondi aims for Yanga dominance in CAF Champions League qualifications



Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi welcomes the side's attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki at their pre-season camp on Thursday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans will begin their CAF Champions League campaign against Rwandan club Vital'O FC, following the draw held last Thursday in Cairo. The Premier League champions will be aiming for a strong start in the first round, with a potential second-round clash against either Commercial Bank of Ethiopia or Ugandan side AS Villa awaiting them if they emerge victorious.

Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi has expressed strong ambitions for the team.

"The goals of the club and myself as a coach are to ensure that the team qualifies for the group stage by winning all our matches. Together with the technical bench, we will develop significant strategies to achieve this," he stated.

Gamondi's commitment to the club extends beyond just local success.

"For me, the biggest reason why I am with Yanga is to compete in the CAF Champions League. I want to show the entire continent, and not just Tanzania but Africa specifically, that there are teams here capable of competing with the best in the CAF Champions League," he emphasized.

Ahead of their clash with Vital'O FC, Gamondi admitted he has limited experience with Burundian clubs but remains optimistic.

"To be honest, I have never played against any Burundian club, although I remember visiting the country with the national team of Burkina

Faso. I believe that Yanga fans will turn up in large numbers as they did in last season's match against El Merrikh in Rwanda," he added.

Young Africans' prospects of reaching the group stage appear promising, contingent upon their performance against their assigned opponents. The team has officially commenced pre-season training, readying themselves for the upcoming challenges.

In preparation for the Champions League, Young Africans will also compete in the inaugural Toyota Cup, a friendly match against South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs, scheduled for Sunday, July 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM East African Time.

Additionally, the team is set to face arch-rivals Simba in one of the semi-final matches of the Community Shield tournament. The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has confirmed that the 2024 Community Shield tournament will take place from Thursday,

August 8, 2024, to Sunday, August 11, at a venue yet to be announced.

While Young Africans prepare for their continental challenge, another Tanzanian representative, Azam FC, will also be embarking on their CAF Champions League campaign.

Azam will start their journey against APR FC of Rwanda. Should they advance past this stage, they will face either Zanzibar's JKU or Egypt's FC Pyramids in the second round for a spot in the group stage. This path presents a formidable challenge for Azam, highlighting the competitive nature of the tournament.

According to the CAF system, the Champions League clubs are divided into three groups to organize the preliminary matches. There are five elite teams that bypass the preliminary stage: Al Ahly, Esperance, Mamelodi Sundowns, Petro de Luanda, and TP Mazembe. Four additional teams, recognized as the highest ranked based

on CAF points, include Young Africans, FC Pyramids, Raja Casablanca, and CR Belouizdad.

This ranking system, combining the top five teams with the highest-ranked four, identifies the best teams in Africa according to CAF standards for premier club competitions.

Despite their high ranking, Young Africans, along with the other top-ranked teams, must still navigate the preliminary stages to progress in the tournament, unlike the five teams that automatically advance.

Young Africans' campaign in the CAF Champions League is not just about advancing through rounds but about making a significant impact on the continental stage. With strategic planning and robust fan support, the team aims to showcase Tanzanian football at its finest and make a deep run in one of Africa's most prestigious football competitions.

...Yanga won't underestimate Vital'O, says Ali Kamwe

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans' information and communication officer, Ali Kamwe, has disclosed that they will not underestimate Vital'O when the two sides meet in the preliminary round of the 2024/25 CAF champions League.

Tanzania's envoys in the CAF Champions League, Young Africans and Azam FC, discovered their fate in the coveted African football competition following the 2024/25 CAF inter-club competitions draw conducted on Thursday in Cairo, Egypt.

Young Africans, who are the defending Premier League champions, will lock horns with Burundi's Vital'O in the CAF Champions League first preliminary round next month.

The first leg of the encounter will be held in Bujumbura on the weekend of August 16-18 should CAF approve Prince Rwagasore Stadium to host the game.

The return leg will be held on the weekend of August 23-24 in Dar.

The aggregate winner between the two teams will take on either SC Villa of Uganda or Ethiopian club Commercial Bank in the final play-off round.

Kamwe asserts it will be misleading for Young Africans to assume Vital'O will be a walkover based on their past performance.

"We, as Young Africans, should forget last season's stories. Let's forget what happened last season. Yes, we played in the quarter-finals and were eliminated by Mamelodi Sundowns but let's move on from that story. It is the past. Now let's start a new chapter. Let's set our goals well.

"Let's go one step at a time. That is the characteristic of Young Africans, going step by step. The biggest poison we should not swallow is underestimating the opponent when it

comes to the Champions League in Africa.

"Our focus should now move to Burundi. Let's go and think about this game and, like we did last season, if the match is in a neighbouring country it's time for Young Africans to show Africa what it means to be the people's team and how big we are.

"Basically, these are the matches to get praise and for us in Young Africans, praise is what we love. So members and fans of Young Africans, rest assured your team is preparing for the game," he added

Flexibles by David Chikoko

