



Parents urged to invest in proper feeding

Page 3



Team to probe Arusha Muslim Union's assets

Page 4



Govt hailed for tabling 'workable Budget'

Page 7

Page 13



PM: Uphold the peace, shun signs of violence

Families have to lead in addressing moral decay, he says

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called upon Tanzanians to uphold peace and refrain from acts that promote violence, threatening unity and harmony.

Gracing the national Eid assembly at the King Mohammed VI Mosque in Kinondoni in the city, the premier urged families to take the leading role in addressing moral decay.

Lauding religious leaders for their prayers for peace, unity and stability, he said the peace we have is the key to achieving social, political and economic development.

He praised the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) for planning and coordinating Hajj activities, enabling Muslims to implement the important pillar of faith.

The council also needs to coordinate the professionalism of all institutions that send Muslims for pilgrimage, he said, with the council's secretary general Sheikh Nuhu Mru-ma urging the wider society to reaffirm unity regardless of religious loyalties.

"We must protect and maintain peace because without peace we cannot have the opportunity to perform worship and other rightful activities," he said, pointing at the need for Muslims to take a leading role in environmental care.



...we need to refrain from listening to people who spread hatred, but also we have the right to vie for various positions during the exercise

The council expects to launch a tree-planting exercise on Friday (June 20) to complement government efforts, he said, similarly appealing to Muslims across the country to participate in the due elections.

They can seek to be elected or take part in choosing who is elected as it is their constitutional right, so they must turn out in large numbers to register to vote as the voter register update is being rolled out, he emphasised.

Sheikh Suwedi Twaibu, secretary for the council of religious experts, said that Muslims need to be at the forefront of upholding peace, pointing at the coming general election as a test.

In his remarks at the Eid assembly at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, he said that at this time when Tanzania is about to elect leaders, "we need to refrain from listening to people who spread hatred, but also we have the right to vie for various positions during the exercise."

Sheikh Mustapha Rajabu, the regional sheikh, called upon able-bodied believers to remember the less privileged, including widows, orphans and the elderly.

During the celebrations, the less fortunate have often been supported by the more able as this was the time to show solidarity so that all can celebrate.

Ambassador Adadi Rajabu, chairman of the Personal Data Protection Commission hailed the people of Muheza for participating in prayers for his deceased family members in the Kerenge Village cemetery and offering

TURN TO PAGE 2

USAID backs multi-sector drive to curb anti-microbial resistance

"As a community we can only do a few things to deal with AMR such as properly following advice of health professionals, follow instructions from veterinary and agricultural experts"

By Guardian Reporter

WITH funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Prime Minister's Office is coordinating an inter-ministerial 'breakthrough action project' to fight the sources of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among people and various types of livestock.

Health minister Umyy Mwalimu (pictured) affirmed the start of the project over the weekend at a meeting with Alex Klaitis, the acting USAID head of mission, affirming that the campaign is directed against recklessness in drug use as costly to users and impacts profitability in the targeted sectors.

She said the campaign focuses on antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases, highlighting the need for actions to prevent antimicrobial resistance as it develops in each instance of faulty use of drugs for human treatment and for various types of livestock.

Campaigning against the spread of zoonotic diseases works at the local level to develop community awareness to take up preventive action, she said, asserting that drug resistance is a serious challenge.

Its effects are diseases recurring and

TURN TO PAGE 2



Eid el-Hajj prayers well under way at Dodoma city's Jamhuri Stadium yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Insure for livestock sector threats, DPM urges banks

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

BANKS need to come up with insurance services suitable for mitigating livestock sector risks facing herders all over the country, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Doto Biteko has declared.

Gracing the closing ceremony of a three-day livestock exhibition and Auction 2024 organised by the Tanzania Commercial Cattle Society (TCCS), he also unveiled a livestock insurance policy.

The insurance facility was set up

by the NMB Bank and is geared towards mitigating livestock-related risks to protect herders in case of unforeseen disasters, he stated.

Banks need to give more support to the livestock sector, as yet a key pillar of the

TURN TO PAGE 2

Zanzibar, UAE open Hajj accounts

Saudi Airlines slated to start direct Hajj flights, says Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to open joint accounts to coordinate Hajj activities, in particular organising the annual pilgrimage.

President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi unveiled this move yesterday when ad-

ressing the Eid assembly at Micheweni in Unguja North Region, saying that the two accounts will be operated by the Tanzania Hajj Mission office.

Saudi Airlines will next year commence direct flights from the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA), to provide pilgrims with an opportunity to travel easily and at lower

cost, he said.

The moves takes up government interest to initiate a Hajj Fund to enable more Zanzibaris to travel for Hajj, he said, noting that a special committee had already presented an operational format for the fund, and the two accounts.

The government will soon start putting into effect the committee's recommendations, focusing on the establishment and management of the Hajj fund, managing zakat funds, visits to Islamic heritage sites

TURN TO PAGE 2



USAID backs multi-sector drive to curb anti-microbial resistance

FROM PAGE 1

taking time for patients or animals to recover owing to the spread of stronger pathogens resistant to drugs, causing disability and even death, she stated.

Other economic effects of the situation include spending much time and money on treatment, cutting time allocated for gainful activities, family pains and loss of income, she stated.

The government is intensely engaged in dealing with AMR with the campaign meant to increase awareness about AMR and bring positive changes in personal attitude in handling medical drugs, both for persons and animals, the minister noted.

She outlined a work plan for the fight against AMR, the national action policy straddling 2023 to 2028, headed by the national committee for the fight against AMR. It is placed under the multilateral 'one health' project, where various concerned agencies and development partners contribute to specific projects.

The USAID director said the campaign builds on the 60-year partnership between the people of the

United States and Tanzania, noting that the US is Tanzania's largest bilateral donor.

The US has contributed upwards of \$7.5bn in assistance, unlike loans with repayment requirements, in the past 20 years to strengthen security, boost economic growth, expand democratic participation, along with improving health, education and nutrition for ordinary Tanzanians, he explained.

"Together, let us move forward to protect the health and well-being of all Tanzanians," the diplomat intoned, backing up the minister's appeal to Tanzanians to ensure proper use of drugs to avoid further spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and priority zoonotic diseases (PZDs).

"As a community we can only do a few things to deal with AMR such as properly following advice of health professionals, follow instructions from veterinary and agricultural experts," she emphasised.

On top of that people need to use correct drugs for livestock, farms and washing hands with clean water with soap, maintaining the cleanliness of the domestic and wider environment," she added.

PM: Uphold the peace, shun signs of violence

FROM PAGE 1

food gifts.

He praised President Samia and the government for steps taken in dealing with criminal activities, urging religious leaders to reaffirm co-operation with the government in condemning evil acts.

The prayers were held at the main mosque in Muheza, Tanga Region, with Sheikh Omari Athumani Zuberi, the local imam, leading prayers for marking Eid Al-Adha, commemorating Prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son as a sign of his obedience to God.

S. Africa's unity government now has 5 parties, ANC says

JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress said yesterday that South Africa's new government has five parties in it so far, representing more than two thirds of the seats in the National Assembly, and talks with other parties were ongoing. Following last month's election, the ANC was forced to forge alliances with other political parties after failing to win a parliamentary majority for the first since the 1994 election that marked the end of apartheid.

ANC leader Cyril Ramaphosa was re-elected as South Africa's president by parliament on Friday, as his party drew support from its largest rival, the white-led, pro-business Democratic Alliance, as well as two smaller parties - the socially conservative Inkatha Freedom Party and the right-wing Patriotic Alliance.

The ANC said on Monday that another smaller party, GOOD, had also signed up to be part of the unity government pact. This collective represents 273 seats in the National Assembly, or 68 percent, the ANC said in a statement.

South Africa's parliament has 400 seats. The ANC won 159 seats, the DA is the second-largest party with 87 seats, the IFP has 17 seats, PA has 9 seats and GOOD has a single seat.

The ANC said the unity government would ensure representation in government for all participating parties and would make decisions by consensus.

Among its priorities, the unity government is set to focus on rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the promotion of fixed capital investment, job creation, land reform and infrastructure development, the ANC said.

"The president will exercise the prerogative to appoint the cabinet, in consultation with leaders of GNU (government of national unity) parties, adhering to existing protocols on government decision-making and budgeting," the ANC said, adding it was still in discussions with more parties to join the government.

The Marxist Economic Freedom

Fighters party, which has 39 seats, has said it will not be part of a government that includes the DA or the Freedom Front Plus - two parties that draw support from the white minority.

The uMkhonto we Sizwe party, led by former President Jacob Zuma, is also not part of the unity government.

With 58 seats in the National Assembly, it has said it will join an alliance of smaller opposition parties in parliament called the "Progressive Caucus", which includes the EFF and the centre-left United Democratic Movement.

This alliance will be the official opposition to the unity government.

"With populist parties choosing to reject the GNU, and the ANC's bigger partners in the governing coalition centre-leaning and favouring more liberal economic policies, we think the GNU opens the possibility for more growth-friendly structural reforms and prudent macroeconomic policy choices," HSBC economist David Faulkner said in a note.

"But the GNU could also face ideological divisions and exacerbate fractures within the ANC, factors that could make establishing a stable policy framework difficult."



The president will exercise the prerogative to appoint the cabinet, in consultation with leaders of GNU (government of national unity) parties, adhering to existing protocols on government decision-making and budgeting



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and other Muslim faithfuls enthralled in Eid el-Hajj prayers at a mosque in Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni suburb yesterday. Photo: State House

Insure for livestock sector threats, DPM urges banks

FROM PAGE 1

country's economy employing several million people directly, and providing indirect opportunities to millions of others, he pointed out.

The cattle population has shot up to 37m in the past few years while the sector's contribution to the country's economy is still very low, he affirmed, explaining the situation to prevalence of traditional cattle keeping practices.

Experts at the Livestock and Fisheries ministry need to come up with innovative strategies to enable livestock farmers to switch to modern livestock rearing practices, he urged.

The government has already finalised an agricultural sector master plan that seeks to address several challenges hindering agro-sector sustainable development, he said, commending NMB Bank for its role in agro-sector growth, appealing to other banks to emulate this example.

Lenders need to widen insurance policy scope to benefit more potential beneficiaries, he said, explaining that the new insurance product is part of the bank's commitment to protect livestock keepers against financial loss from sudden or unexpected risks.

"I'm indeed happy about this new policy. It's a new concept in the Tan-

zanian market," he said, while Alexander Mnyeti, the Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister urged livestock farmers to switch from traditional to modern livestock keeping practices.

The ministry had embarked on a massive livestock keeping sensitization drive across the country but the response is still low, he stated, pointing at the persistence of relying on traditional livestock keeping practices that undermine productivity.

"Gone are the days when cattle keepers travelled long distances in search of pasture," he said, while Christopher Mwalugenge, agro-sector wholesale head at the NMB

Bank, said the new insurance policy covers several types of livestock-related risks, including death and theft.

The bank understands livestock as valuable investments, with livestock keepers needing to be covered for sudden loss as this helps keep keepers and ranch operators work smoothly. "That is why we came up with this new insurance policy at only 20,000/-per annum," he said.

NMB Bank remains focused on protecting the beneficiary's investments by providing customized livestock insurance coverage to secure the herd's future and livestock business as a whole, he added.



Dar es Salaam's Vingunguti 'goat market' a true beehive of activity yesterday morning as residents of various parts of the city sought goats to slaughter for Eid el-Hajj, the retail price having risen markedly to between 120,000/- and 200,000/- per goat. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

FROM PAGE 1

and related places as Islamic tourism, he said.

"The Hajj is an obligation for those who are able to perform it. Hajj is like an institution for education and knowledge for Muslims. The visit to Mecca is training that has an important contribution to refrain from all evil actions," he stated.

Zanzibaris need to promote peace and unity in the community as this

Zanzibar, UAE open Hajj accounts

helps to optimise cooperation in achieving community objectives. "Unity and solidarity in the community enhance blessings, charity and compassion by thinking of people in need with a view to helping them. With this we will have a peaceful society," he further noted.

He said that as Muslims celebrate Eid el Hajj, it is important to encour-

age each other to work to maintain good care of children, protecting them from harm.

Zanzibaris were celebrating the important day while the government works to implement various development projects in education, health and other social services, he stated.

"The government has invested

heavily in construction of modern storey schools at Maziwa Ng'ombe, Kojani, Konde, Utaani and Kifundi. This goes along with the construction of teachers' houses and other supporting infrastructure," he said.

Building various roads at tarmac level to facilitate smooth transport services was taking place in many areas, he added.

Africa can increase fishery output by at least 1 million tonnes annually, report finds

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA has the potential to increase its freshwater fishery output by at least 1 million metric tonnes (MT) annually by reviewing current regulations on harvesting, according to a new report.

The report from the African Natural Resources Management and Investment Center (ANRC) said the continent should promote fishery management policies that encourage traditional fishing techniques, especially ones which focus on targeting all available fish populations in a fishery, as opposed to models based on the “selectivity of catches, with the aim of avoiding catching small fish.”

Currently, fish product output within Africa’s freshwater systems is estimated at 3.3 million tons of fish annually, but the potential, according to the report, is actually around 4.5 million MT.

“Developing the potential of inland fisheries is a major challenge but can also be viewed as an opportunity to meet Africa’s growing need for fish and, hence, better nutrition,” the report said.

Though the approach sounds negatively exploitative on the surface, the report acknowledges, it actually enables “much higher levels of production while still preserving the integrity of ecosystems.”

“The balanced harvesting approach proposes to distribute moderate fishing pressure over the widest possible range of species, stocks, and sizes in an ecosystem in proportion to their natural productivity,” the report said.

Conversely, the conventional single-species fisheries management approach that most fisheries in Africa take to harvesting has, for decades, failed to “prevent over-fishing, lacking control over the continuous increase in fishing capacity or the technological developments that went with it,” according to the report.

“Conventional fisheries management [also] fails to take into account the interactions between species and that the structure of ecosystems, by focusing heavily on target selectivity, has been severely impacted despite all the conservation measures implemented,” the report said.

The report estimates that if current fish consumption rates per person continue at 10 kilograms every year on the continent, the gap between Africa’s supply and demand will reach a deficit of 12 million MT by 2050, requiring innovative strategies, such as the one proposed, to balance out.

To warm the industry up to the new approach, the report recommends educational programs targeting such stakeholders as fishery managers, tourism fishing captains, conservationists, and civil society organizations on the principles of balanced harvesting.

RC urges parents to invest in proper feeding to lessen stunting in children

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA regional commissioner (RC) Queen Sendiga has urged residents in the region to take seriously the children’s stunting statistics and invest in their children proper feeding to address the challenge.

RC Sendiga made the call over the weekend here during the commemoration of the International Day of the African Child.

She noted that despite the significant progress made by Tanzania in addressing all forms of malnutrition among children under five over the last decade, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition in the country is still high, with stunting at 30 percent as per report of the Ministry of Health and National Bureau of Statistics, 2022).

The RC said there is a spread mind-set among people that eating a balanced diet is expensive, which is not true.

“Eating a variety of foods which are vegetables, fruits, cereals/grains, starchy tubers or roots, nuts and seeds, all these are affordable and available in our localities, we need to change these mindsets and start feeding our children well,” she noted.

Sendiga wanted parents to see the stunting statistics as shameful and act accordingly to make their children healthy.

During the event, stakeholders and children called for improvement in policies, education system and how the court operates to further protect children rights.

Ally Juma, a pupil at Galapo Primary School in the district said that if the systems are properly looked at, they will facilitate provision of justice to children but also control stunting and strengthen child protection.

Grace Swai, programmes manager at the ‘So They Can Tanzania’ said that as an organisation, they have been working hard to promote children welfare by educating them on their rights.

She said the organisation implements programmes that encourage the use of pupil-centred learning, which ensures that children are involved and given priority in everything.

“We need to ensure that we provide the right education to our children from kindergarten, this involves constructing classrooms and other infrastructure to enable pre-school children to learn and play in a conducive environment,” she said.



Kilolo district commissioner Joachim Nyingo pictured at Ilula town yesterday presenting Day of the African Child commemoration gifts to children cared for at an orphanage. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Kilolo

KILOLO district commissioner Joachim Nyingo has encouraged men to protect their families and not leave to women alone the burden of taking care of their children.

Nyingo made the call here over the weekend when speaking at the climax of the International Day of the African Child, themed: “Education for all children in Africa: the time is now”, which aligns with the African Union’s Year of Education which focuses on building resilient education systems to ensure increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa.

He advised men to be responsible and assist women in feeding their children and taking care of their health and education. Nyingo emphasized the importance of parents and guardians ensuring

Be responsible towards families, DC urges men

the protection, security, and provision of essential needs for their children, tasking men to play their crucial role of protecting children in all spheres of life for better child bringing.

According to him, men should be equal partners in child care and household work, should ensure that their children are adequately fed, and see that their children receive health care.

He said that children need to be fed, clothed, housed, and cared for. Children whose parents provide for them live bet-

ter lives, feel valued, and have better relationships with both their parents.

“It is shameful to see some men becoming so irresponsible that all they do with their money is drink and engage in extra-marital affairs,” he said.

Benson Lwakatare, SOS Children’s Villages project officer suggested the need for parents to unite to combat issues like child abuse and poor nutrition.

“If we do not prepare the nation of tomorrow by preparing the child today, we should expect to have a troubled so-

ciety,” said Lwakatare. African Child Day is a significant event that brings attention to the rights and needs of children across the continent. It serves as a call to action for all stakeholders to work towards creating a safer, healthier, and more inclusive environment for African children.

Through awareness, advocacy, and action, the day aims to honour the legacy of the Soweto Uprising while promoting the well-being and rights of children today and in the future.



Dr Denis Tippe, director of the Uyoile centre (Mbeya Region) of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, pictured at the weekend running an on-farm session on quality finger millet farming for farmers from villages surrounding the centre. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) has embarked on a programme for the restoration of soil fertility in its seed estates to boost production.

Dr Sophia Kashenge, ASA chief executive officer (CEO) unveiled this over the weekend in an interview said that the agency was currently working on several strategies to increase seeds production level to at least 9000 tonnes annually.

“In order to achieve the set seeds production target, we have realized the need to restore soil fertility in our seed estates, including removing soil acidity, the development which we remain optimistic about that will automatically help to push for increased seed production

Soil fertility replacement initiative launched to boost seed production

pace,” she said. According to her, the agency has so far procured several cloud-connected soils testing machinery (soil scanners) in readiness to undertake the vast project professionally.

“We have been annually performing soil health testing exercises in all of our seed farms to determine the proper type of fertilizers necessary to be used in each farm,” she briefed.

Dr Kashenge said that ASA has already found proper bidder for handling

a special tender for the distribution of agricultural limes to the seed estates under soil infertility and acidity challenges, added: “The seed farms in need of agricultural limes include Kilangali, Mbozi, and Dabaga farms.”

She said during the 2022/2023 agricultural season the agency managed to surpass the projected seed production levels as set under the Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Programme (TF-SRP).

During the season, 2022/23 ASA

planned to produce at least 6,000 tonnes of seeds from its all seed estates, but successfully, it raised a total of 7,600 tonnes.

The \$300 million worth programme, Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program (TF-SRP) is for results and is financed by the International Development Association (IDA), and it works to support the implementation of three result areas under the government’s wider Agriculture Sector Development Programme II (ASDP II).



JOB ADVERTISEMENT

WASCO ISOAF Tz is a Tanzania –incorporated company with its head office in Dar es Salaam and its plant in Nzega District, Tabora Region. The Company has been contracted by the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project as a Thermal Insulation Contractor.

The Company is looking for the qualified Heavy Machine Operator as per the following details;

LIFTING SUPERVISOR JOB ADVERT (2 POSTS)

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Understanding and implementation of lifting procedure and local legislations.
2. Ensuring that all personnel involved in lifting operations understand the requirements of this procedure.
3. Coaching and mentoring of onsite lifting personnel and participation in RA.
4. Facilitate and supervise critical lifting operations as well as non-critical, if required.
5. Maintaining lifting equipment stock levels.
6. Ensure rigging and hardware arrangements are suitable and in line with LOP.
7. Ensuring that all lifting operations performed on site are prepared, organized and executed as per this procedure.
8. Carry out with SLS/CPLO regular inspections/audits on lifting equipment in use.
9. Developing all non-critical LOP as well as associated JSA/JHAs.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- > Competent Certifications in Heavy Equipments General
- > At least 8 years of experience in working as a lifting supervisor
- > Experience in construction/mining projects is an advantage.

Mode of Application:

All qualified applicants please send your CV through recruitment-t@isoaf.com

Application Deadline: 2nd July 2024

Please note that, should you not be contacted for more than two weeks after the deadline, consider your application unsuccessful at this stage.



Sophia Mjema (C, in headcloth), President Samia Suluhu Hassan's advisor on issues related to women and special groups, in jovial mood with members of women's groups gathered in Iringa municipality yesterday. It was on the sidelines of economic strengthening programme activities coordinated by the National Economic Empowerment Council. Photo: Correspondent Damas Makangale

Probe team formed to examine assets of Arusha Muslim Union

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has formed two committees including a probe team tasked to investigate theft and misuse of properties of the Arusha Muslims Union in Arusha Region.

Speaking to the members of the Union in Arusha over the weekend, the RITA Chief Executive Officer, Frank Kanyusi said the probe committee was tasked to complete the assignment in two weeks' time and the interim committee was entrusted to oversee and safeguard all properties of the Union.

"The interim committee has been tasked to review the Union's Constitution and ensure competent and God-fearing leaders are elected within 60 days and that the probe team completes its work and submit a report to RITA within 14 days," Kanyusi said.

He named the two committees in a meeting attended by RITA Man-

agement, Arusha District Administrative Secretary (DAS), Khamana Simba who represented the district commissioner, BAKWATA Regional leaders, Outgoing leaders of the Union and members.

"I have directed the outgoing Board of Trustees to a report of incomes and expenses," he said, noting that the elections to get new leaders to oversee the union would be conducted in sixty days from now according to the constitution.

RITA boss also reiterated his plea to the interim committee picked to oversee and protect properties of the union that they were not the owners, instead their duties were purely to oversee and safeguard them from any wrong doings.

The Arusha DAS, Khamana Simba advised members of Arusha Muslims Union to remain calm and united as the government through RITA stepped in to ensure that the permanent consensus was reached.

"The six-phase government under the stewardship of President

Samia Suluhu Hassan is following each and every development and also committed to the problem being solved amicably and those to be found involved in theft of the Union properties, legal action will be taken against them," the DAS said.

On the other hand, the Union members Mustapha Mohamed and Kassim Collins congratulated the government for intervening into the conflict, saying stern and legal actions should be taken against all culprits to serve as a lesson for the coming new leaders.

Speaking at the same platform, RITA Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Irene Kesulie allayed fears the union members that no stone would be left untouched and also advised members owe the union to the procedure.

"You are obliged to write a letter to RITA indicating your claims for the Union. RITA is here to protect your rights in accordance with laws and constitution," RITA deputy CEO explained.

Sometimes dreams need a push

Get your dream car with financing of up to 90% with Vehicle Asset Finance.

Call 0800 750 078 to apply for Absa Vehicle Finance

absa.co.tz

Your story matters



Terms and conditions apply.
Absa Bank Tanzania Limited (registered number 38557) is regulated by the Bank of Tanzania.

Climate-smart farming shields Zim farmers from drought spell

MUTOKO

WITH utmost pride, Marova Moyo admired the lush green butter beans in her garden in Mutoko, a district in Mashonaland East Province of Zimbabwe.

For the 62-year-old farmer, nothing is as therapeutic as witnessing the legumes flourish under her care.

Despite the El Nino-induced drought facing Zimbabwe, Moyo and her husband, Abel Katsande, still harvested enough grain to last until the next harvest, thanks to climate-smart farming practices that ensure the sustainable use of land and resources.

After noticing declining harvests due to deteriorating soil quality, Moyo adopted conservation farming, a climate-smart method in which farmers dig holes to use as planting basins that retain moisture, allowing crops to thrive even with limited water.

"We realized that it's the only way to ensure that we preserve the soil, protect our health, and conserve the environment at the same time getting high yields," said Moyo.

The conservation farming concept involves minimum soil disturbance, crop rotation, and the use of mulch. Mulch helps conserve moisture and suppress weeds, while manure improves soil structure.

"The advantage is that on a small portion, you can harvest enough to sustain your family and sell the surplus," said Moyo.

Moyo is a member of the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF), an organization that envisions improved livelihoods of organized and empowered smallholder farmers practicing sustainable and ecological agriculture.

Ever since she adopted conservation farming on a one-and-half-acre (about 0.61 hectares) piece of land, the yields have more

than doubled. The practice has also helped her commercialize farming.

Moyo expressed her belief that the key to her success is adhering to the principles of agroecology, a sustainable farming way that works with nature. "Every part of the ecosystem has a role to play," she said.

The mango tree in her garden, for example, provides fruit to her family, and the surplus goes to the market. The leaves it sheds provide mulch, and the pruning provides firewood. When she gets tired, she rests under the shade. The tree also helps prevent erosion and provides a shield against wind.

All she does in return is to water the tree.

When crops are harvested, nothing is discarded. "Everything is recycled here. Even the maize stalks, we use them as mulch, some as livestock feed. Goat and chicken droppings are used as manure," Moyo said.

Agroecology plays an important role in promoting sustainable farming, said Patience Shumba, program officer for the ZIMSOFF. "In the face of climate change, agroecology offers a holistic and integrated approach that can protect, restore, and improve agriculture and food systems."

While many families will need food aid this year, Moyo's small portion provided enough for her family.

"People now realize that even if there is a drought, I won't sleep on an empty stomach. If there's no rain, I still harvest. So many people are now coming to learn how I do it," she said.

A few kilometers from Moyo's field, Kahukwa Kanyonganise constructed a water-harvesting system that collects runoff water from nearby Rocky Mountains and channels it into a reservoir beneath them. The water is used to irrigate his crops.

Inventive financing solutions needed to curtail African farmers' challenges

By Special Correspondent

THE need for innovative financing mechanisms for Africa's farmers is becoming increasingly urgent as the continent faces challenges such as climate change, low productivity, and conflict, according to African Risk Capacity (ARC).

At the 10th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), experts urged policymakers to assess farmers' needs and improve access to funding to meet the Malabo Commitment to end hunger by 2025 and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Key strategies include collaborative efforts, private sector engagement, and strategic partnerships.

The ARC highlights the significance of Africa's agricultural sector, which provides 70% of the continent's food supply. However, it is under threat from increasing extreme weather events caused by climate change, leading to soil degradation. This degradation costs farmers up to \$1,400 annually and has affected 65% of Africa's soil, upon which 83% of sub-Saharan Africans rely for their livelihoods.

Addressing these challenges requires significant investment, yet investor caution and funding obstacles persist. Overcoming these hurdles is crucial for achieving agricultural transformation and food security outlined in the African Union Agenda 2063.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, increasing global food insecurity by disrupting Ukraine's agricultural exports, presents an opportunity for Africa, according to ARC. "By improving yields and insuring them against climate risks, African farmers could help close the gap, unlocking immense economic growth and development potential. Tapping into finance would also help farmers expand into the 60% of arable land that is still uncultivated on the continent."

Register for the Artemis ILS Asia 2024 conference

Under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), African governments aim to allocate 10% of national budgets to agriculture and

rural development, but more may be needed. Governments could also help by subsidising climate insurance to encourage investment, with private sector involvement crucial for driving innovation and addressing industry challenges.

ARC Ltd, the financial arm of the ARC Group, demonstrates the impact of addressing farmers' needs and forming strategic partnerships. The company offers micro and meso insurance products to small and medium-scale farmers, protecting assets and income from droughts and other risks. By insuring banks against defaults during severe weather events, ARC Ltd. enables more lending to farmers for productivity and income growth.

Lesley Ndlovu, CEO of ARC Ltd., states, "There is no story that can be told about African development without taking into account agriculture and the need to protect investments in the sector."

Moreover, ARC Ltd. has been involved in various projects across Africa to expand climate insurance and benefit African farmers.

ARC Ltd. has also partnered with the US Government (USG) on an \$11.7 million project to protect vulnerable smallholder farmers and African governments against climate risks. Ange Chitate, Project Head and ARC Ltd. Chief Operating Officer, explains, "Our priority with this grant is to provide coverage to 19 states." Chitate adds, "With the support of the USG, we will be refining and developing innovative products to meet the evolving needs of these countries."

Future plans involve developing tailored micro and meso insurance for diverse beneficiaries, including pastoralists and humanitarian organisations.

ARC concludes, "With escalating climate risks, innovative financing solutions like parametric insurance have significant potential to safeguard farmers' livelihoods and drive development across the continent. Increased awareness and understanding are essential to encourage uptake. More investment in this space and policy reforms are also imperative to scale up climate risk management strategies and to empower Africa's farmers."



Small-time lime mining in progress at Nanyala village in Mbozi District, Songwe Region, as found at the weekend - amid appeals by those involved for the government and other stakeholders and well-wishers to chip in with assistance for enhanced productivity. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Yassin

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Govt wins praise for addressing corporal punishment in schools

SAVE the Children International has commended the government for taking initiatives to minimize corporal punishment in schools through the issuance of guidelines but underscored that more measures still need to be done.

The organisation urges the government to take more efforts and come up with alternative punishments that will wisely change the behaviour of children and make them become more self-confident and trust those who teach them.

Speaking recently in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the Technical Working Group on ending corporal punishment in Tanzania Save the Children International-Tanzania's Director Angela Kauleni said corporal punishment is not merely a disciplinary measure but a violation of human rights

and an impediment to the holistic development of our children.

"At Save the Children International, we firmly believe that every child deserves a future. Our mission is to give children around the world a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. Today, this Thematic Group marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards ensuring the protection and dignity of every child in our nation."

Kauleni noted: "Today, we stand united with a clear and unwavering vision: to create a Tanzania where no child experiences the fear or pain of corporal punishment. This vision aligns with our

national commitments to uphold children's rights, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Tanzania proudly ratified."

According to her, the formation of the technical working group was not just a formal gathering; it is a declaration of stakeholders' collective efforts to foster an environment where every child can grow, learn, and thrive free from violence.

Research has consistently shown that corporal punishment has devastating long-term effects on children's physical and mental health, their ability to learn, and their overall well-being. It perpetuates a cycle of violence and

stifles the growth of a peaceful and just society.

"By addressing this issue, we are investing in the future of Tanzania, ensuring that our children grow up in environments that nurture their potential and respect their inherent dignity," she added.

Kauleni said: "We know this journey will not be easy. Changing long-standing attitudes and practices demands persistent effort, robust advocacy, and comprehensive education. It requires us to engage with communities, support and train parents and teachers, and ensure that non-violent forms of discipline are both understood and accessible."



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Geophrey Pinda (in specs) inspects a decades-old printing machine at Ardhi Institute Tabora while on a tour of Tabora municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN body calls for investment in African children's education

By Special Correspondent

SIGNIFICANT investment in primary education for African children is essential for the continent to achieve its long-term transformation goals, stated the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). This call comes ahead of the Day of the African Child, celebrated on Sunday.

UNICEF highlighted the poor state of education funding in Africa, revealing that fewer than 20 percent of countries allocate at least 20 percent of their public budgets to primary education for children.

"To secure Africa's future prosperity, we urgently need a

continental revolution where commitments are translated into tangible actions, enabling children to acquire the foundational skills necessary to advance to higher education and realize their full potential," said Eteza Kadili, UNICEF's regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa, in a statement.

The theme for the 2024 Day of the African Child, observed annually on June 16, is "Education for all children in Africa: the time is now," emphasizing the critical need to achieve universal childhood literacy on the continent.

UNICEF noted that despite education's vital role in developing human capital to drive Africa's

growth, funding for education has dwindled, leaving millions of children without basic literacy and essential skills.

While African governments have made considerable efforts over the past decade to increase primary and secondary school enrollment, many schools still lack basic facilities, face overcrowding, and suffer from a shortage of teachers.

According to UNICEF, four out of five African children aged 10 cannot read and understand a simple text, reflecting the poor learning outcomes across the continent.

UNICEF estimates that \$183 billion annually is needed to support children's education in Africa and meet the Sustainable

Development Goal on education. Currently, available resources total \$106 billion, resulting in a financing gap of over 40 percent.

The agency also pointed out that African governments allocate around two percent of their education budgets to pre-primary education, while 20 percent is directed to tertiary education.

Gilles Fagninou, UNICEF's regional director for West and Central Africa, stressed the urgency of the situation, noting that over 100 million primary and secondary school-aged children in Africa are out of school. This highlights the pressing need to invest in new learning facilities that are adequately staffed and equipped.

ENERGY The combined Vivo Energy Group now has over 3,900 service stations, and more than two billion litres of storage capacity across 28 African markets

Engen and Vivo Energy combination completed, creating a pan-African energy champion

Combined Group spans over 3,900 service stations, and more than two billion litres of storage capacity across 28 African markets

Cape Town, South Africa.

Engen and Vivo Energy are pleased to announce the completion of the transaction to combine their respective businesses, with PETRONAS today selling its 74% shareholding in Engen to Vivo Energy, creating a pan-African energy champion.

The combined Vivo Energy Group now has over 3,900 service stations, and more than two billion litres of storage capacity across 28 African markets.

The Phembani Group, Engen's long-standing B-BBEE shareholder, is continuing its strategic association with Engen and will remain invested as a 21% shareholder in the South African business. A new 5% employee share ownership programme is being created, resulting in Engen South Africa being 26% owned by historically disadvantaged persons.

Following the announcement of the transaction in February 2023, all parties have been working hard to secure regulatory approvals and fulfilment of conditions precedent across the seven markets where Engen operates. These have now been completed,



Engen filling station.

with conditions.

In a joint statement, Stan Mittelman, CEO of the Vivo Energy Group, and Seelan Naidoo, Managing Director and CEO of Engen, said: "We are delighted to conclude the transaction, and will now work together to take the 'best of both' from Engen and Vivo Energy, positioning the combined organisation well for growth and success in the years to come."

The enlarged Vivo Energy will only make changes that add value, keeping a 'business as usual' approach for customers, partners, suppliers, and employees. The new organisation will continue to place a strong focus on delivering added value and benefits for

customers and stakeholders.

Mittelman and Naidoo added: "As part of the transaction, Vivo Energy has committed to invest a significant amount of capital expenditure to maintain and grow Engen's operations in South Africa, ensuring a modern and efficient business, for the benefit of the South African population. We have also committed to major investments in renewable solar power generation projects to help transform the economy, while supporting a just energy transition for the country."

Phuthuma Nhleko, Chairman and Co-founder of Phembani Group, said: "Having been invested in Engen since 1999, we are

excited to continue our involvement, partnering in a strategic relationship with Vivo Energy in the next phase of Engen's growth as a key player in South Africa's economy."

Chris Bake, Chairman of Vivo Energy, concluded: "I would like to thank PETRONAS for its stewardship of Engen over the last 25+ years. Together with the Phembani Group, they have grown Engen into a valuable corporate citizen. The combination of Vivo Energy and Engen to create a pan-African champion not only benefits customers in South Africa and across the continent, but also sets up the new Group to achieve its vision to be Africa's leading and most respected energy business."

About the Vivo Energy Group:

The Vivo Energy Group operates and markets its products in countries across North, West, East and Southern Africa. The newly extended Group has a network of over 3,900 service stations in 28 markets operating under the Engen and Shell brands and exports lubricants to a number of other African countries. Its retail offering includes fuels, lubricants,

card services, convenience stores, restaurants, and other non-fuel services. It provides fuels, lubricants, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and chemicals to business customers across a range of sectors including marine, aviation, mining, construction, power, transport, agriculture and manufacturing. It is continuing to develop innovative energy solutions to enhance sustainability.

The Company employs around 6,000 people and has access to over 2.1 billion litres of fuel storage capacity.

For more information about Vivo Energy, please visit www.vivoenergy.com and www.engen.co.za

Media contacts:
Gavin Smith, Engen
+27 214 034 312
gavin.smith@engenoil.com

Rob Foyle, Vivo Energy
+44 7715 036 407
rob.foyle@vivoenergy.com



How to Buy Nipashe and The Guardian Newspapers at www.ippmedia.com or epaper.ippmedia.com

Through the website epaper.ippmedia.com

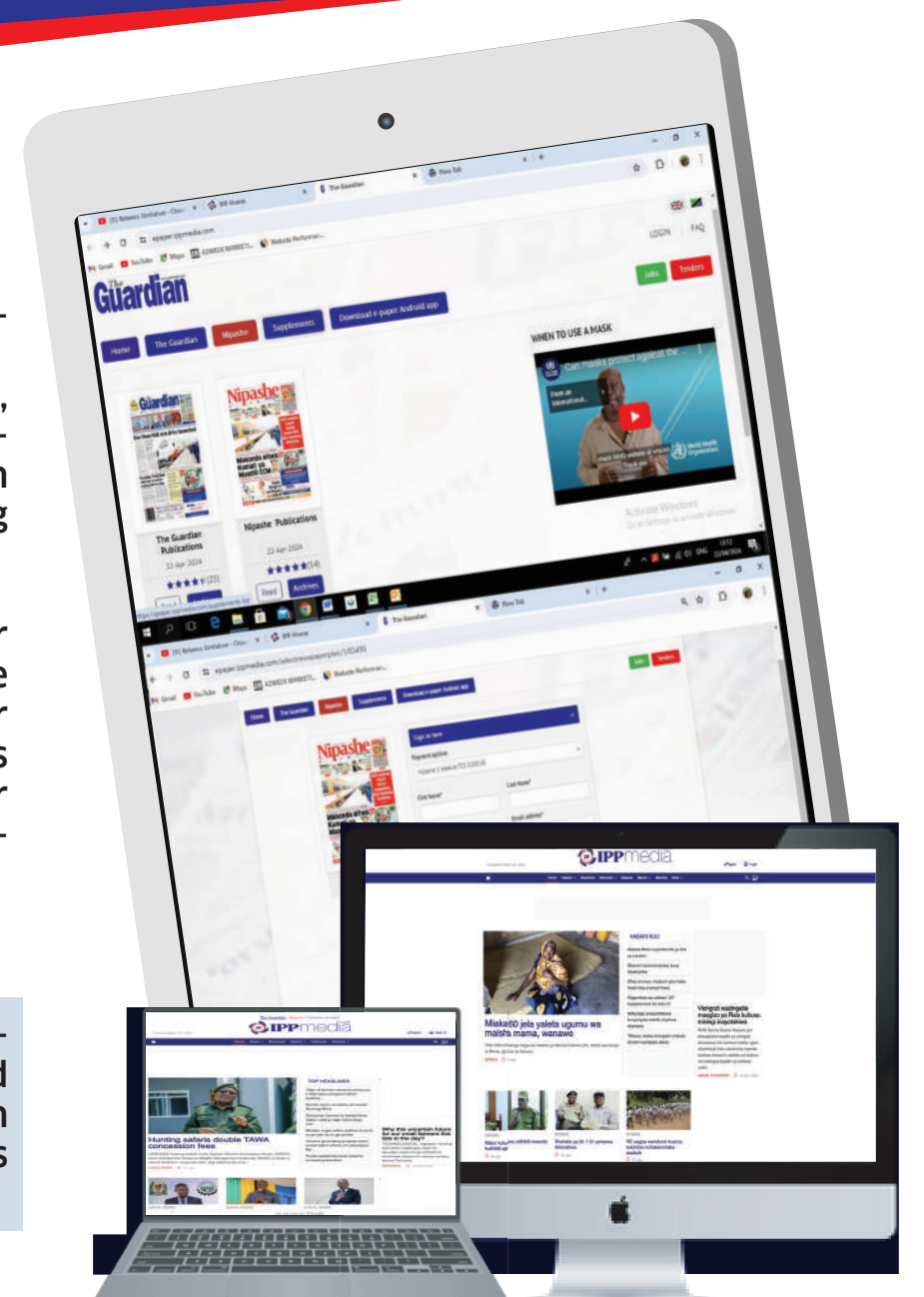
1. Open the epaper.ippmedia.com website from your browser, select the version of publication you want to purchase, whether **Nipashe** or **The Guardian** by clicking "Read"
2. It will send you to another page where you need to fill in your information and the package you want to join. Then click "**subscribe**"
3. It will take you to the payment page where you can pay with either **bank card** or **by mobile money** transfer after correctly filling in your required information
4. Through **mobile Money**, choose the mobile network, write your number and tick the box to accept the terms and conditions. The **push SMS** will pop out on your phone to deduct

the amount after allowing the transaction from your mobile account. When the payment is completed, you will receive a payment confirmation **email** and **SMS**, then login into your account and start reading the publication of your choice

5. Through the **bank card**, you enter your card information and allow the amount to be deducted from your account after accepting the terms and conditions. Then log in to your account and finally enjoy the publication of your preference

Through the www.ippmedia.com website

6. Open your browser www.ippmedia.com website on the right hand side you will see "**E-Paper**" click on it and follow the processes same as **number 1-5**



Don urges firms to organise regular career fairs to help varsity students

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN companies have been urged to create a culture of organising career fair events to help students to have understanding about job issues and thus be able to face the market after graduating.

Dr Kilaza Mwaikono, Acting Director of Academic at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when speaking at the career fair organised for students by the Dar es Salaam-based building materials firm-ALAF Ltd. The event was themed 'Building Bridges' aimed at nurturing young talents with skill sets for success.

The event featured interactive workshops and panel discussions focused on participating in a well-coordinated question and answer session, allowing for a more personalized and engaging experience.

Dr Mwaikono said that career fairs were so important in creating good graduates.

"Career fairs will ensure our students are well prepared and exposed to face the market out there career wise and know exactly what to expect when they get out there," he said.

He lauded the firm for initiating the career fair and said it was a good way of giving back to the community.

He called on the students to take advantage of the Career Fair as such events were rare and that the Dar es Salaam-based firm had set a good start for them.

"This a very wise idea for the firm

to bring in part of the DIT alumni who are now employed at the company to motivate the current students and share experiences about the current job market out there," he said.

Eng Tumaini Minja, One of the DIT alumni said he got recognised by the firm through the career fair programme and worked as a trainee for one year before being hired and promoted a year later.

He is now seven years later, the head of colour roofing sheet.

He said the firm has seen the value of employing Tanzanian youth hence they have invested in the career fair to ensure they get the right workers.

Jumbe Onjero, ALAF human resource manager said: "Building Bridges symbolizes our commitment to creating strong, enduring connections between Students preparing for job seeking and industry requirements."

According to Onjero, the career fair was a perfect opportunity for individuals to hear success stories on career growth, network with their professionals, and learn more about the unique skill sets required for individuals to meet their career goals.

He said that DIT and ALAF look forward to extending the fairs to various colleges, universities and secondary schools countrywide.

"Career fairs will ensure our students are well prepared and exposed to face the market out there career wise and know exactly what to expect when they get out there"

IFAD's campaign eases remittances to Uganda

KAMPALA

THE UN's International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) has launched a new programme to ensure easier transmission of money from other countries into Uganda. This was in line with the International Day of Family Remittances that was held at the weekend.

In a partnership with FlexiPay, a digital payment platform and a regional remittances operator, it aims to enable customers to send and receive money from abroad with ease.

In its recent reports, the World Bank indicated that Uganda registers about \$1.43 billion annually from the estimated 2 million Ugandans working abroad.

According to David Berno, Remittances and Inclusive Digital Finance Officer at IFAD, remittances play a crucial role in reducing poverty and enhancing food security in developing countries.

He said that they joined the campaign to facilitate remittances because money remittances enable families to meet their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and education, and can also contribute to local economic growth through increased consumption and investment.

"Therefore by supporting money remittances, IFAD aims to promote financial inclusion, empower smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs, and ultimately contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction," he said.

Josephine Nakato Kasacca, Lead Customer Experience and Operations for FlexiPay said the new partnership will ensure a quick, secure, convenient and affordable completion of borderless financial transactions, starting with more than 20 countries immediately. By the end of the year, the number is expected to have increased to 70.

"In line with our purpose: 'Uganda is our home, we drive her growth,' we believe that by

helping as many people as possible meet their financial needs with innovative services, it goes a long way in driving economic growth," she said. Kasacca termed FlexiPay the ideal platform for both sending and receiving payments, emphasising affordability, and "dozens of unmatched benefits one cannot find on other similar platforms."

Some of the countries Ugandans can receive money from include: Kenya, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Qatar, Oman, United States, South Africa, France, Canada, Israel, South Korea, India, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Kuwait, Bahrain, Australia and Poland.

FlexiPay uses mobile applications and systems based on advanced encryption and other security measures to protect the sensitive financial information and transactions of all users, making it more secure.

On Friday, the G20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) unveiled a new report that provides evidence of the transformative impact of digital remittances, as a driver of financial inclusion and poverty reduction worldwide.

IFAD noted that despite persistent gender gaps, the hard-earned money sent back home by migrant workers remains a vital lifeline for over 800 million people, particularly for women and vulnerable populations.

The report "Promoting Financial Inclusion through Digitalization of Remittances", authored by IFAD with contributions from the World Bank, showcases significant strides in digitalizing remittance distribution channels.

"The digitalization of remittances is spearheading change, especially in rural and underserved areas. It is connecting millions of unbanked people to basic financial services that make a real difference in improving their lives," said Pedro de Vasconcelos, Manager of IFAD's Financing Facility for Remittances.



Scooping of sand from Dar es Salaam's Msimbazi Valley in progress at a Vingunguti suburb section of the river yesterday, the explanation from those behind the activity being that they help to unclog and expand the river to mitigate the impact of floods. Well, maybe, but experience in various places has long shown this leading to disaster with rivers keeping widening until they eat up human settlements and damage related infrastructure and property. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Reporter

Stakeholders hail govt for tabling 'workable budget'

FINANCIAL stakeholders have hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government for coming up with a down-to-earth budget, which boosts business growth in line with the country's economic development.

Commenting on the fiscal 2024/25 budget tabled in the National Assembly by the Minister for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba last week, Managing Director of the Bank of Africa (BOA) Esther Maruma said the measures which have been outlined by the government greatly help bring relief to Tanzanians as well as bolster efforts for competitive and inclusive economic growth.

Maruma, who led a BOA delegation of senior officers

to attend a budget session in Parliament, said this year's budget touches all groups of people as well as sectors in the country.

She expressed its commitment to making improvements in serving all customers, the business community and companies in achieving the government's agenda to promote financial inclusion in Tanzania.

She explained that the government implemented budget and financial policies aimed at enabling the private sector and corporate companies, whose

economic measures were geared towards boosting economic growth and creating a friendly and enabling environment for the business community, curbing inflation and increasing the scope of the tax collection base.

Maruma said the bank was commanding a good capital position and carrying out its activities in accordance with legal requirements.

She said her bank had sufficient capital to conduct business as required and provided services digitally, which enabled it to

continue coping with changes, while attracting more new customers and retaining the existing ones.

Maruma had an opportunity to visit the Dodoma Regional Commissioner's Office, Dodoma BOA Branch and she met various stakeholders.

At a meeting with the Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule, Maruma shared BOA's strategies and how the bank planned to cooperate with the government in fostering the country's socioeconomic development.



It's time for a roaring last-minute Eid al-Hajj business in chickens for slaughter at this roadside open-air 'market' in Dar es Salaam's bustling Manzese suburb, as found yesterday morning. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Niger activists promote tree planting to check deforestation

NIAMEY

EVERY Eid in Niger, there is an uptick in the usage of firewood to cook meals for the celebration. In the capital Niamey, vendors remarkably increase their stocks of wood in the days leading up to Eid.

According to forecasts by the Niger Ministry of the Environment, more than 50,000 tonnes of wood are burned on Tabaski day alone in the capital.

It is for this reason that since

2017, volunteer environmentalists have been working to raise awareness among Nigeriens of the consequences of tree cutting on the environment.

Their organization has launched a campaign called "Tabaski Ecolo". In addition to raising awareness, it is distributing mango seedlings, showing the capital's inhabitants the benefits of tree planting.

"As young climate activists, we said to ourselves that we must not stand idly by in the face of this, because this abusive logging is

not without consequences for the environment. If we continue at this rate of consumption, over time future generations won't be able to cope, which is why we want to stop it," said Mohamed Siradj Adamou, a member of the NGO Young Volunteers for the Environment.

Only a tiny percentage of the country has access to electricity in Niger. The entire population of 26 million cooks almost entirely on wood.

"We the population need to plant enough trees to cover area

area being invaded by the desert", said Aïssatou Sow, a resident of the capital.

In Niger, meat is traditionally grilled to preserve it. For several years now, people have been calling for alternatives to the use of wood.

Niger, which is facing rapid desertification and climate change, loses around a hundred thousand hectares of arable land every year. As a result, drought, food shortages and advancing ever closer to the capital.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

TIC 1.2trn/- tripartite Mkulazi sugar, soybean, corn pact can change things

THE Tanzania Investment Centre's recent signing of agreements to lease 30,000 hectares of Mkulazi farms in Morogoro Region to three companies for sugar, soybeans and yellow maize may seem ordinary, but it could be a game changer.

It is an investment pegged at 1.2 trillion/- in total preliminary value, going by no lesser an Authority than the agency's own executive director, who signed the pact accompanied by two cabinet ministers and a deputy minister.

The director was quoted as having described the pact as the first fully agro-sector multi-million-dollar accord in history, evidently resulting from presidential opening up efforts and visitations.

While the TIC chief executive said that the agreements stood as the first major agro-sector investment accords since independence, the more accurate citation was that they are first in the country's period of economic reform.

That goes back nearly 40 years ago, a period during which insufficient reform has hindered major agro-sector investments especially targeting the export market.

There were developments in the past few years that prepared the way for a pact of this sort, including Indian investments in avocado farms and general uplift in horticulture.

What many 'outsiders' did not know is that the implementation of the Mkulazi sugar industry plan could be widened into a far more complex agricultural sector 'special economic zone', even as it involves just a few companies.

What the TIC top executive did not say was that the accord mirrors what was in the far-off past tabled in negotiations about a 'new international economic order' but which hit a concrete wall of defiance.

It was a suggestion by US President

Ronald Reagan back in October 1981 telling President Nyerere that, when the circumstances got right, he could send just four farmers who could feed Tanzania using combine harvesters.

It is said that the summit in the Mexican resort of Cancun, where five or six leaders from poor and middle-ranking developing countries met directly with the conservative US president, was the only such conference in post-war global diplomacy.

The Reagan proposal was rejected off hand as fears about a small number of US farmers capturing our country's economy by taking up swathes of land and urban economy (grain supplies in shops) depending on them, put many public officials off mood just to talk about it.

The new pact is something close to what the US leader suggested, and it means that we now have the mood to discuss it.

The TIC head saw the companies making a large investment in the cultivation of sugarcane for sugar production along with soybeans and yellow corn basically for export, with each firm having been allocated 10,000 hectares.

This largely mirrors the circumstances the US leader had in mind, if its fuller potential is exploited, and it primarily relates to domestic market implications.

Contrary to current plans in signing on the three firms to agricultural sector export and import reduction interest, the issue is how it can help our country towards what is classically known as an industrial revolution.

There was a citation from President Nyerere discounting an industrial revolution and tying economic vision to agro-sector transformation, which in the strict sense is to yield one's will to the inevitability of poverty.

PPP can provide Africa with US\$100bn yearly for electricity supply and access

JUST how costly it is for Africa to speed up its electricity generation needs and speed up industrialisation was visible late last week at the 2024 Africa Gas Innovation Summit (AGIS) in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

A highly rated expert said that over US\$100 billion investment is needed annually to meet Africa's electricity demand by 2030, ironically a figure to which rising numbers of watchers on the continent are getting used.

It has been mentioned in relation to a global climate change fund that is yet to materialise, and it is cropping up here as well.

The Moroccan head of hydrocarbons and mines who brought it up said that Africa faces the challenge of low electrification, low agricultural yields, low urban-rural economic integration and a deficit in advanced structures in most sectors.

That was to say that deep - some pundits would say serious - investments are needed in the whole gamut of economic activity to rid Africa of these challenges rapidly enough.

It is within this context that the magic figure of \$100bn is brought up, in a manner similar to appealing for funding.

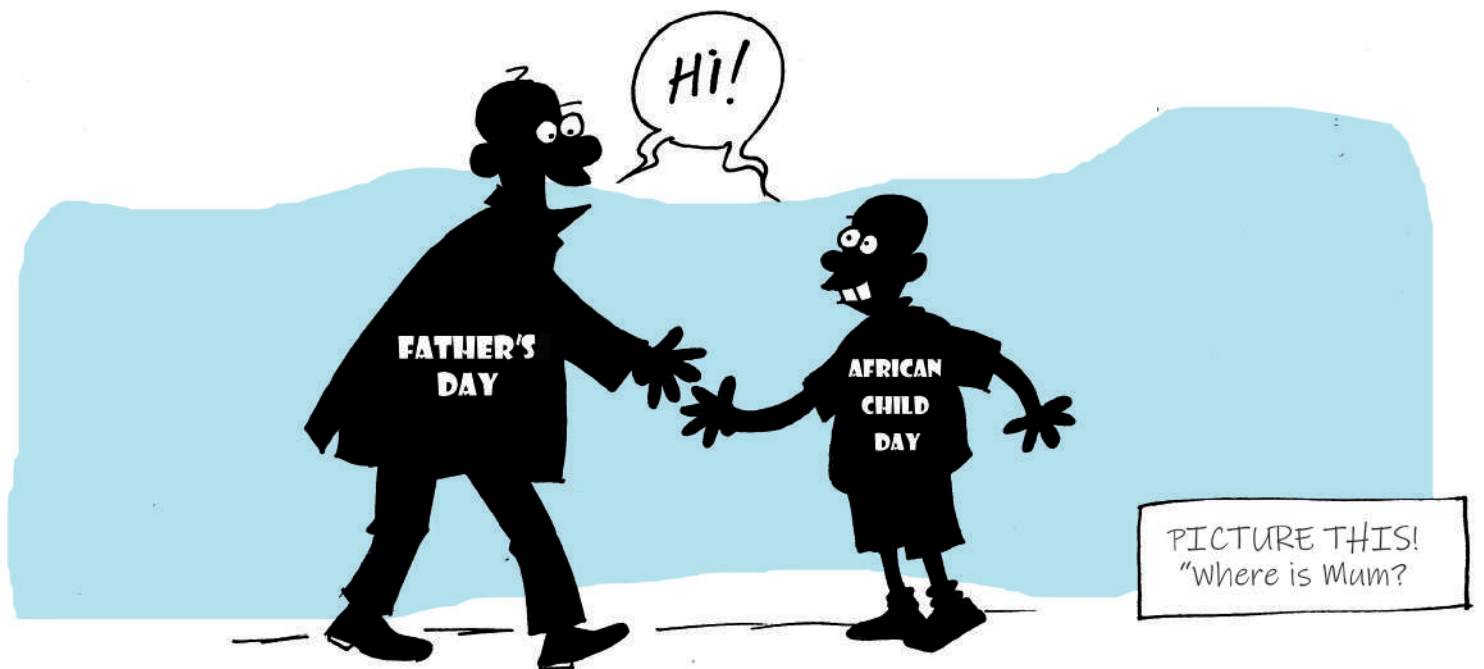
Most international meetings when discussing questions of this sort focus on grants on the one hand and concessional loans on the other hand, as this merits roundtable and open conference discussions. They need an ethical element, a concept of obligation to optimise access or willingness to make such funds available to needy countries. Strict investments don't need conferences as market data is available and suffices for all intents and purposes, and this is what Africa pushes to eschew amid a plethora of aid conferences with world powers.

It will definitely not be different with electricity as Africa tries to avoid the market, open up its electricity sector and let foreign companies buy shares or make a complete takeover, run the business and pay millions of dollars in taxes. When 50 African countries are doing that they will be assured of the \$100bn they need to take care of the climate change impacts which they are seeking in rounds of donor conferences, as it will be revenue from electricity firms, now sorely missing. Power companies will place \$100bn dollars for electricity in the take-over costs where debts are liquidated for large shares of public firms, then placed on the stock exchanges for the public to buy what remains of the shares.

This evidently isn't what most African governments are elected for; admittedly as well, nowhere in the demands of opposition parties, flogging the tired donkey of corruption in high places as the reason for poverty. Yet with an actual start of operationalising the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) the need to capture markets of other countries possibly stands a chance of pulling various countries to work at an equal level with major Western companies. We can start.

Then it will not be an issue of ministers saying how much we need in a sector but markets, and similarly cancel large public debts where national electricity monopolies have more than their fair share of the debt by GDP contributions. Here, without gold and natural gas exploitation, depending on thermal power generation to run industry, homes, public offices would long have crippled the Treasury, wrecking the political system in its wake. We don't often see all this.

JUNE 16, 2024



UN's Development Goals: Rich nations lead while world's poor lag far behind

By Thalif Deen

WHEN the 193-member UN General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution, back in September 2015, the goals were highly ambitious: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, eliminate inequalities, protect human rights, promote gender empowerment and ensure economic, social and environmental development - and much more.

The deadline for achieving these targets was set at 2030.

But nine years after the resolution - and six years ahead of 2030 - the SDGs are mostly far behind, particularly among the world's developing nations.

And the targeted goals are like a mirage in a parched desert: the more you get closer, the further it moves away from you.

According to the UN, the implementation of the SDGs has been mostly undermined by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, the devastating impact of the ongoing climate crises, rising debt burdens, the growing military conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and the rash of civil wars in Asia, Africa and the Middle East triggering unprecedented humanitarian crises resulting in a setback to economic progress worldwide.

As a result, there is a demand that the unattainable 2030 deadline should be extended by world political leaders meeting in New York September 22-23 for a much-ballyhooed Summit of the Future.

Meanwhile a new report on SDGs released June 17, is considered especially timely amidst deep climate crises, declining multilateralism, and ahead of the "Summit of the Future," as it provides a new Index of countries' support to UN-based multilateralism, identifies priorities to upgrade the United Nations (endorsed by 100+ leading scientists and practitioners worldwide), and illustrates new pathways demonstrating how to achieve sustainable food and land systems by mid-century.

According to the 9th edition of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), none of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track to be achieved by 2030, and only an estimated 16% of the SDG targets are progressing.

The report was prepared by the SDSN's SDG Transformation Center and coordinated by Guillaume Lafortune in cooperation with Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs. Since



2016, the global edition of the SDR has provided the most up-to-date data to track and rank the performance of all UN member states on the SDGs.

Globally, the five SDG targets on which the highest proportion of countries show a reversal of progress since 2015 include: obesity rate (under SDG 2), press freedom (under SDG 16), the red list index (under SDG 15), sustainable nitrogen management (under SDG 2), and - due in a large part to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors that may vary across countries - life expectancy at birth (under SDG 3).

Goals and targets related to basic access to infrastructure and services, including SDG9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), show slightly more positive trends, although progress remains too slow and uneven across countries.

Additional key insights include: -Barbados ranks the highest in its commitment to UN-based multilateralism on a new Index; the United States ranks last.

-SDG targets related to food and land systems are particularly off-track. Globally, 600 million people will still suffer from hunger by 2030 while obesity is on the increase.

Danielle Nierenberg, President and Founder, Food Tank, told IPS: "I think this report finds that there is a lack of political will to achieve the SDGs - most nations are not investing enough in food and agriculture or farmers".

She said policy-makers have their heads in the sand and need to realize the urgency of investing in solutions that help farmers, eaters, and food businesses.

"We need more investment in food system transformation that actually meets the needs of food

producers and achieves a planet-friendly diet-food that are nutrient dense, resilient to climate change, delicious, and accessible and affordable," said Nierenberg.

Frederic Mousseau, Oakland Institute's Policy Director, told IPS: "This new report is yet another alert that we urgently need to take decisive action on food and agriculture."

"The world already produces over twice as much food than we need to feed the population. However, over half of the food harvested goes into agrofuels and animal feed, with massive detrimental impacts on the environment, biodiversity, and our health".

Agrochemical corporations and governments, he said, continue to tell us that "we need to increase food production to feed the world, using more land and fossil-fuel based industrial agriculture."

"The truth is that we actually need to produce less food. We must drastically curb the amount of commodities used for animal feed and agrofuels and phase out the use of polluting chemicals for agricultural production", he declared.

According to the SDSN report, the pace of SDG progress varies significantly across country groups. Nordic countries continue to lead on SDG achievement, with BRICS demonstrating strong progress and poor and vulnerable nations lagging far behind.

Similar to past years, European countries - notably Nordic countries - top the 2024 SDG Index. Finland ranks number 1 on the SDG Index, followed by Sweden (#2), and Denmark (#3), plus Germany (#4), and France (#5).

Yet, even these countries face

significant challenges in achieving several SDGs.

Average SDG progress in BRICS (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China, and South Africa) and BRICS+ (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) since 2015 has been faster than the world average.

In addition, East and South Asia has emerged as the region that has made the most SDG progress since 2015. By contrast, the gap between the world average SDG Index and the performance of the poorest and most vulnerable countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), has widened since 2015.

In addition to the SDG Index, this year's edition includes a new Index of countries' support for UN-based multilateralism covering all 193 UN Member States and new FABLE pathways demonstrating how to achieve sustainable food and land systems by mid-century.

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, President of the SDSN and a lead author of the report, says: "Midway between the founding of the UN in 1945 and the year 2100, we cannot rely on business as usual. The world faces great global challenges, including dire ecological crises, widening inequalities, disruptive and potentially hazardous technologies, and deadly conflicts, we are at a crossroads."

"Ahead of the UN's Summit of the Future, the international community must take stock of the vital accomplishments and the limitations of the United Nations system, and work toward upgrading multilateralism for the decades ahead."

IPS

By Gilbert Nakweya

African research ‘stifled by unequal partnerships’

AFRICAN scientists are often undervalued and marginalized in collaborative research projects, leading to flawed research questions and biased interpretation of data, academic leaders told a panel discussion.

Speaking during a webinar on fair and inclusive partnerships organised by the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) on 3 May, they highlighted the power imbalance in research partnerships between scientists in Africa and their counterparts in higher income countries.

SARIMA, a member organisation of research and innovation managers, helps strengthen the capacities of research management for science granting councils in Africa.

“Research grant calls are developed by people in funding agencies in the global North,” says Lyn Horn, director of the office of research integrity, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

“Collaborations and consortia are developed in response to those grant calls and researchers in the global South are merely added because the call requires this.”

She said inequity and unfairness in research partnerships between Africans and their counterparts in higher income countries undermine research integrity.

“Inequity and lack of fairness in research partnerships is a holdup to research integrity,” said Horn.

Research integrity relies on honesty and transparency throughout the entire research process and this requires adequate resources, including financial, human, systems, and infrastructure support, she explained.

“If funding requirements and processes don’t account for the lack of human and system support, unfavourable currency exchange, and inadequate budgeting, local researchers may be unfairly disadvantaged,” Horn warned.

She said this could lead to the need to cut costs due to tight budgets which can undermine research integrity.

Horn says that without equal partner involvement in research teams, especially in instances where race, ethnicity, gender and culture are involved, interpretations of data can be biased, while research agendas can become flawed and neglect important research questions.

“The dominant perspective of high-income countries’ grant holders can unduly influence research methodologies and analysis,” said Horn.

Rennie Munyayi, manager of postgraduate development at Namibia University of Science and Technology, said in collaborations between African researchers and researchers from higher income countries, African researchers received smaller budget allocations and had limited roles in the projects.

“We need to ask ourselves if these are really research collaborations or merely stakeholder involvement,” Munyayi said, adding that African researchers are also marginalised in decision making processes.



Experts say inequity in research partnerships between Africans and their counterparts in higher income countries undermines research integrity.

“They are disempowered,” she said.

Munyayi said through enabling local researchers to take the lead in defining research goals, methodology, and implementation, Namibian University of Science and Technology is promoting research integrity.

“Upholding ethical research practices and engagement in social responsibility has been put at the heart of principles guiding research partnerships for the university,” she explained.

Munyayi said researchers in the Namibia University of Science and Technology, have now been equipped with skills, resources and opportunities needed to lead and participate in collaborative research projects.

She called for higher investments in research by global South countries and urged African researchers and research institutions to only enter collaborations that are mutually beneficial to all parties.

“Get into collaborations where you know you will have a voice, preferably join collaboration before the development of the research agenda and proposal stage,” Munyayi said.

“Collaboration should start even before resources are allocated.”

Thinking is inevitable in making meaningful life decisions

By Thomas Lyimo

IN any societies there are people of different perspectives. Some individuals believe that everyone believes in something which they have to stand for. The conviction is that if someone does not stand for something they will fall by anything. This means that decisions that someone makes may interest some individuals or surprise others.

Different individuals have different ways of valuing things and hence different perspectives in life. The difference on how individuals have registered their success also determines their way of looking at things. Success can act as a blockage to accepting new ideas. This is due to the reason that success leads to comfort. It makes it difficult for successful people to accept new ideas whose fruits have not been seen by someone.

But some thinkers hold that comfort may lead to failure. This is when an individual stops learning new ways of doing things because the successes they have registered make them relax. When someone relaxes is when other people can become winners in a certain endeavour.

The challenge in learning new things is that it takes time. Someone needs to be ready to take risk when they want to learn some new facts. Patience and readiness to sweat more are prerequisite in learning new facts. Knowledge is power which may lead to freedom and hence it cannot be attained easily. A lot of research and trials are needed before something can be accepted and people be convinced to follow it in the course of searching for success. Learning improves our thinking.

There are many opportunities that someone can exploit and succeed but exploiting an opportunity successfully demands a lot of thinking. There is a lot of things to do but someone cannot do all of them as there are factors limiting one of them being time. Spending your time in one activity means a failure to spend the same time in another activity. This means that choice of what to be done must be done carefully by identifying the possible benefits of doing something.

It has been a great challenge for individuals to establish whether what they are doing is the best thing or they can do something else. This situation necessitates the need to have criteria for decision making which will reduce the degree of error in our undertakings and increase chances for success and advancement. The following criteria which are linked to thinking can help in making decisions.

One of the criteria is allocation of time to activities. Whenever an individual is given a work to do or has decided to do something they need to know amount of time that is enough for that work. Spending less time or more time in doing something may cause some challenges whose effects will be felt after some-



time. An individual must be able to allocate amount of time in doing something as they have a number of activities to do and resources such as money for their payment is very scarce. If someone spends more time than the required they may demand more in terms of payment something which can cause misunderstanding.

Another criterion for decision making is to know the alternatives. To know if what someone does is right or wrong needs understanding of alternatives. The necessity of what someone does is determined by consideration on alternatives. An individual needs to know what other duties or pieces of work which can substitute what they are doing currently. It is not wise to reject something even if its value is low if assurance

of getting another thing of higher value is not guaranteed.

Also planning on how to use saved time is a criterion for decision making. It is a blind struggle to try to save time without knowing how the saved time will be used for some benefits. The pursuits of saving time must aim at causing improvement in the performance of activities of a person. Time is the most valuable resource which can be used to generate other resources. This is why the saying; time is money. Not doing anything with the saved time shows lack of determination.

Again knowing the value of time in relation to your knowledge and skills is a criterion for decision making. The value of time that a person is willing to put into a certain peace of work is determined by the level

of knowledge and skills that someone retains. Therefore for a skilled labour to decide to do a type of work which does not require the level of skills which they retain may be a wrong approach unless the intention is learning something above the payment that they will receive.

It is not a simple task to decide on a certain matter. The multi-dimensional relations cause a lot of tensions when someone wants to decide. Peoples’ lives are guided by many perspectives such as religious, legal, economic and philosophical or restraints imposed on us in the course of upbringing and schooling by parents and teachers respectively. With all these guidelines thinking as a way to decide becomes important. Let us think before making decisions.

By Holly Honderich

Going down the 'rabbit hole' of wearable blood-sugar monitors

BLOOD sugar monitoring devices could soon be on the arms of millions of Americans after regulators cleared two new devices for use without a prescription. Is it a way to improve our health? Or is the data just another distraction?

In the middle of the night last June, Cindy Bekkedam woke up to the sound of an unfamiliar alarm. It was loud, like an emergency alert, and it was coming from her phone. More specifically, it was coming from a newly installed app linked to a glucose sensor embedded in her arm.

According to this app, her blood sugar had dropped to a concerning low while she slept, which had triggered the alarm.

"So I got up in the middle of the night and ate a granola bar," she said.

Continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), which monitor glucose levels in real time, have been used by millions of diabetics for years. As a dietitian in Ontario, Canada, Ms Bekkedam had hers installed to better understand the technology for her patients with diabetes.

But her two-week trial became somewhat of a cautionary tale.

"I was freaking out," she said. "I actually questioned, oh my goodness, do I have diabetes?"

She didn't. And, after some extra research, she found that her glucose levels were entirely normal. But constantly getting updates on her blood sugar highs and lows, without having a medical condition that required it, incited some unnecessary fear.

"That's where I think people could go down a rabbit hole," she said.

But these devices may be in the hands - or on the arms - of many more people very soon, thanks to two recent Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approvals for more widespread use. This week, Abbott Laboratories announced it had received federal clearance for two over-the-counter CGMs, including one for those without diabetes.

Use of CGMs is already rising, with the tell-tale arm patches easily spotted during morning commutes in major American cities. But experts say that even if there is no proven harm, there is little evidence to warrant spending the hefty fees - as much as \$300 (£240) a month - if you're not a diabetic.

Abbott's Lingo, which is a CGM for people without diabetes, is marketed to consumers "who want to better understand and improve their health and wellness". It was one of two devices cleared by the FDA for sale, and is already available in the UK. The FDA's 510(k) regulatory process evaluates medical devices for safety and efficacy, but marketing claims are not part of the review.

"Understanding your body's glucose is key to managing your metabolism so you can live healthier and better," an Abbott spokesperson said. Many experts say evidence is scant that CGMs are beneficial to those without diabetes.

Abbott said that flattening glucose curves could help improve energy, mood and sleep and pointed to studies showing the impact of glucose spikes on overall health, and the role of CGMs in monitoring them.

There is scepticism about such claims in the medical community, but one thing experts agree on is that CGMs have significantly improved the care of some people living with diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is when an individual's pancreas stops producing insulin, so regular injections are needed. Type 2 diabetes is more common and occurs when the cells in the body become resistant to insulin and so more is needed to keep blood glucose levels within a normal range. It can usually be controlled through medication, diet, exercise and close monitoring, although some take insulin. Traditionally, diabetics monitored their blood sugar with finger-prick tests, but CGMs can alert people with diabetes when their blood sugars are running dangerously high and low, and if insulin needs to be injected.

But many experts say that the evidence for CGMs improving the health of non-diabetics is effectively non-existent. They insist the devices are, at best, a distraction and at worse could lead to dangerous fixations.

A growing trend



Continuous glucose monitors have become powerful tools for those living with diabetes



Many experts say evidence is scant that CGMs are beneficial to those without diabetes

CGMs are big business. Market leaders have estimated sales will reach \$20bn globally over the next four years.

Earlier this year, the FDA cleared the sale of an over-the-counter CGM made by Dexcom, meant for Type 2 diabetics who don't use insulin but want to avoid regular finger-prick tests. And some new CGM startups, like Signos, Nutrisense and Levels

Health, now market prescription devices off-label as tools for energy, mood and metabolism.

The devices are becoming popular among some in health, wellness and sports industries.

Dutch marathoner Abdi Nageeye, who will compete in the Paris Olympics, said earlier this week he is wearing a CGM to try to better track his body's available energy.

Nick Norwitz, 28, who graduated from Oxford University with a PhD in nutrition and is currently in his fourth year of medical school at Harvard, said he believes CGMs can be powerful tools because glucose is "a bellwether for what's happening hormonally in your body".

He has studied their use while at Harvard, and said he welcomes more research in the field.

Norwitz said he believed that over the long term, the hormonal changes associated with frequent glucose spikes could cause negative effects, including through fat gain.

But, he added, glucose is just one metric, and shouldn't drive all health decisions.

"To be clear, I don't think that means if you eat a mango and have your blood sugar go up that it's 'worse' for you than were you to have a plate of bacon," he said.

Interest in how CGMs can help you change your diet has flourished in some corners of the internet too. Depending on your algorithm, a search for glucose monitors on TikTok or Instagram could lead you to dozens of testimonials from health and wellness influencers espousing the technology's benefits.

One such influencer, Britney Bouchard, who promoted a particular CGM start-up on her TikTok and offered her followers a discount code, said wearing a CGM helped her adjust her diet to reduce glucose spikes. She received an affiliate commission when people bought the device through her link.

"I could tell a difference immediately, in my energy, my sleep and my brain fog," said Ms Bouchard, a 41-year-old health coach from Los Angeles.

In her opinion the CGM showed her that her body "was unfortunately very, very sensitive to carbohydrates... even fruit", she said, recalling that eating a pineapple had made her feel "jittery" and sick.

"If I have oatmeal I will be tired within an hour."

A solution in search of a problem

But while some researchers and businesses claim that CGMs can have great benefits for the average person, many in the scientific community are sceptical, pointing to a lack of evidence.

Spikes in glucose are a symptom - not a cause - of diabetes, said Oxford researcher and dietitian Dr Nicola Guess. She said there is "no benefit" to CGMs for those who are not diabetic.

"Normally you would identify a problem and invent a solution to fix it," she told the BBC. "This is backwards. It's like we've got this technology, now we just have to find groups of people who we can convince that they need this technology."

One key issue experts point to is that it is surprisingly hard to find much data on what blood sugar patterns look like in people without diabetes. This makes it hard to interpret an individual's results in a meaningful way.

And most people's sugars will spike with fruit - a food group rich with vitamins and nutrients - but that's not a reason to stop eating it.

Dr Ethan Weiss, a clinical cardiologist with the University of California, San Francisco, agreed there is scant evidence that tracking glucose levels in people without diabetes can measurably improve their health.

"I'm aware of studies that show you can change your diet and you can decrease glucose spikes. I'm not aware of any studies showing that [tracking glucose] is actually doing anything beneficial, in a meaningful way, like reducing your risk of disease," he said. "I think mostly it's the devotees who believe it."

But, Dr Weiss added, he was not aware of any studies showing the CGMs caused damage, either.

Others, including Dr Guess, said that the potential for harm was very real. Instead of focusing on the foundational building blocks of health - things like regular exercise, and a nutrient-rich diet - trackers like CGMs encourage us to focus on the minutiae of imperfect metrics. And, in worst-case scenarios, they can foster new problems, like disordered eating.

"I worry that instead of doing simple things to improve our health we are turning mealtimes into scientific experiments," she said.

"I just feel like in some ways people have forgotten the point of living."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Lack of emergency plan in districts weakens response

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale, Morogoro

MANY district councils in the country do not have disaster response strategies and thus fail to respond effectively when disasters strike, let alone prepare for imminent disasters and undertake post-disaster management.

This was revealed at the launch of Disaster Preparedness and Management Strategy for Morogoro Municipal Council which took place in Morogoro Municipal recently. The strategy was prepared by Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN Tanzania) with guidance from the Prime Minister's Office.

Experts from Morogoro Regional Office, Morogoro Municipal and other stakeholders were involved in drafting the strategy. A similar document was also prepared for and recently launched in Ifakara Town Council in Morogoro Region.

"Out of 185 urban and district councils in Tanzania, only 30 have disaster preparedness and management strategies. This has often led to inadequate preparations to deal with disasters when they strike. There has also been ineffective response to disasters and weak post-disaster management," said Bonaventure Mchomvu, CAN Tanzania Operations Manager. He was briefing participants before the official launch of the document.

He explained that disasters that are partly due to climate change have hit major sources of livelihoods including farming, fishing and pastoralism; and generally Tanzanians have become more vulnerable due to lack of knowledge and awareness, lack of resources and lack of requisite technology.

"The document we are launching today provides guidance to and identifies responsibilities to all stake-

holders at the district, ward and village levels in relation to measures to be taken before disasters strike, what should be done during disasters and what actions should be taken in the aftermath of disasters," he explained, adding that the ultimate aim is to provide timely, adequate and effective response to disasters in order to save lives, property and the environment.

However he warned that in order for the document to become handy it must be updated so as to respond to changing conditions. "Climate change impacts have become more frequent and more severe and so have disasters. This calls for us to look miles beyond normal and usual conditions and review the strategy from time to time, short of which the document will not serve its purpose and our response to strategies will be ineffective," he noted. He cited the example of Ifakara Town which usually gets 1,200 mm of rainfall annually but this year it recorded 2,500 mm of rainfall, which is way above normal.

Speaking at the launching ceremony Morogoro DC who was represented by Deputy District Administrative Secretary Hilary Sagala explained that the document will provide guidance on preparations that the district will have to make. "There are short-term preparations and long-term preparations that we have to make. Both of them should enable us to respond effectively to disasters and restore normalcy to communities," he said. "We did not have such a document to guide us in the management of disasters; now we know what action to take, how to do and when to act. Our efforts should be more fruitful now than previously when we acted based on experience and individual cases," he added.

However, the DC was quick to point out that obstacles still remain in providing effective response to



disasters despite the guidance. "Implementation of this guidance requires substantial resources even at the preparation stage. They include manpower, finance, equipment and technology. Some areas that are likely to be hit by disasters are inaccessible and this may hamper distribution of relief aid. So while we are thinking of translating this document into action we must think of how to deal with these obstacles," he noted.

Acting Morogoro Municipal Council Director Jofrey Kamwava said the fact that less than half of all urban and district councils in the country don't have disaster preparedness and management strategies casts a long shadow on our ability to prepare for disasters, to han-

dle them and manage post-disaster situations. "We are lucky that today we have launched this guiding document. It is upon us now to direct our efforts on the preparation part and determine what resources we have, what we don't and how we can bridge the gap between what we have and what support we need from others. We must begin right away because disasters have no timetable. They often strike unannounced," he explained.

The disaster preparedness and management strategy also provides a plan of action for all the three stages; preparation management and post-disaster action.

"Now that we have a plan it is our duty to educate both rural and urban communities on

what they are required to do particularly when there are no disasters. They must be aware that disasters come and go but leave behind substantial loss of lives and property and livelihoods so they must be ready for any eventuality," explained Elizabeth Badi, Morogoro Municipal Disaster Management Coordinator. She said that the strategy provides an opportunity for the Council to determine its strength and weakness in disaster management and preparedness and thus take appropriate measures. "We must know what support we need and where to get it," she said.

Morogoro Municipality has 19 wards and 275 sub-wards all of which are covered by the Morogoro Municipal Disaster Preparedness and Management Strategy that has been launched.

Kenyan farmer becomes champion of climate change

By Marco Silva, Nairobi

CLIMATE change deniers have found a new champion in Kenyan farmer Juser Machogu. On social media, he has become known as a flagbearer for fossil fuels in Africa, but there is more to his campaign than meets the eye.

At first glance, the 29-year-old Machogu is just a young farmer with a knack for social media.

On X, formerly Twitter, he regularly posts videos of himself weeding his land, planting garlic, or picking avocados - offering viewers a window into life in rural Kisii, south-west Kenya.

While farming content may get him clicks, likes, and retweets, it is Machogu's denial of man-made climate change that has helped supercharge his online profile.

Since he began posting debunked theories about climate change, he has received thousands of dollars in donations - some of which came from individuals in Western countries linked to fossil-fuel interests.

Machogu insists this has not influenced his views, saying they are genuinely held.

Scientists have proven that the Earth is heating up because of greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere when we burn fossil fuels - like oil, gas, or coal.

But Machogu disagrees.

"Climate change is mostly natural. A warmer climate is good for life," Machogu wrongly claimed in a tweet posted in February, along with the hashtag #ClimateScam (which he has used hundreds of times).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says Africa is "one of the lowest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change".

However, it is also "one of the most vulnerable continents" to climate change and its effects - including more intense and frequent heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and devastating floods.

Despite all this, Machogu continues to insist "there is no climate crisis".

On social media, he has repeatedly posted unfounded claims that man-made climate change is not only a "scam" or a "hoax", but also a ploy by Western nations to "keep Africa poor".

"[His views] are definitely coming up from a place of lack of understanding," says Joyce Kimutai, a climate scientist from Kenya who has contributed to IPCC reports.

Dr Joyce Kimutai Dr Joyce Kimutai delivers a talk, while holding a microphone Dr Joyce Kimutai

Joyce Kimutai says Machogu's views are not shared by many Kenyans.

"This is not religion, this is not just belief. It's about analysing the data and seeing changes in the data.

"Saying that climate [change] is a hoax is just really not



true," Dr Kimutai added.

Machogu began tweeting false and misleading claims about climate change in late 2021, after carrying out his "own research" into the topic.

Since then, he has launched his own campaign - which he dubbed "Fossil Fuels for Africa" - arguing that the continent should be tapping into its vast reserves of oil, gas, and coal.

"We need fossil fuels to develop our Africa," Machogu tweeted last year.

This view appears to be shared by some African governments, who have given their

go-ahead to new oil and gas projects despite pledging to "transition away" from fossil fuels.

Leaders like Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni have argued that it is hypocritical for Western nations to impose restrictions on African states, when they have become rich from fossil fuels.

But climate activists like 24-year-old Nicholas Omonuk, from Uganda, point out that fossil fuel exploration has not always been a synonym for growth and development in Africa.

"In [Nigeria's] Niger Delta, there's been

oil extraction since the 1900s, but people there are still poor and are still suffering from health risks and from pollution," he said.

Crude oil pollution has affected fishing and farming communities in Nigeria's Niger Delta

And yet, Machogu believes he has found a willing audience for his message - he has more than 25,000 followers on X.

"I think Africans are really embracing the fact that I'm saying: 'Fossil fuels for Africa,'" he said.

But by tracking conversations involving

Machogu's X handle, BBC Verify found that most users engaging with his account are actually based in the US, the UK, and Canada.

However niche its views may be, this online community has thrown its support behind Mr Machogu and helped him fund his campaign.

"Through saying whatever I say, I have seen my follower count going up and I've got people reaching out to me saying: how can we help you?," he said.



AI: Navigating the future of marketing landscape – Part 6

Page 14



How boosting women's financial savvy could help you live a long, fulfilling life

Page 14



Could cellular-agro be the next new innovation for East Africa!

Page 15

Traditional export earnings hit historic high

By Guardian Reporter

EARNINGS from traditional exports reached the historical high of US\$1.05 billion (nearly 2.6trn) during the year ended in May 2024, with tobacco accounting for 40 percent of total earnings.

The amount is equivalent to a third of exports earnings from gold, which is the leading domestic exports earner; slightly lower than US\$1.3 billion earned from exported manufactured goods, and nearly 15 percent of total value of domestic exports earnings.

Data by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), crop boards and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) show that the first US\$1bn mark by traditional exports was recorded in 2020; whereby earnings from exported cashewnuts accounted for nearly 50 percent of total earnings, followed by tobacco.

Cashewnuts took the lead in recording the highest exports earnings for two consecutive years in 2020 and 2021, although the earnings in 2021 were less than half of the earnings recorded in 2020 due to the faults of government procurement policy.

This time around, cashew was second to tobacco in recording the highest growth of earnings, which was closely followed by coffee.

Cotton, the white gold grown in nearly 16 regions of Tanzania mainland by 600,000 farmers, re-

mained on its fourth position since 2020, although the earnings in 2024 were lower than earnings recorded in 2020.

Data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) show, the earnings from tobacco, the leading traditional export, amounted to US\$409.5 million as targeted by the government, from US\$178.2 million recorded during the year ended in May 2023 and US\$174.2 million in 2020.

Tanzania is currently ranked second tobacco producer in Africa behind Zimbabwe, as total production for 2023/2024 amounted to 122,858 tons as 95 percent of produced tobacco is exported and the remaining is locally processed into cigarette and other tobacco products, which some are exported.

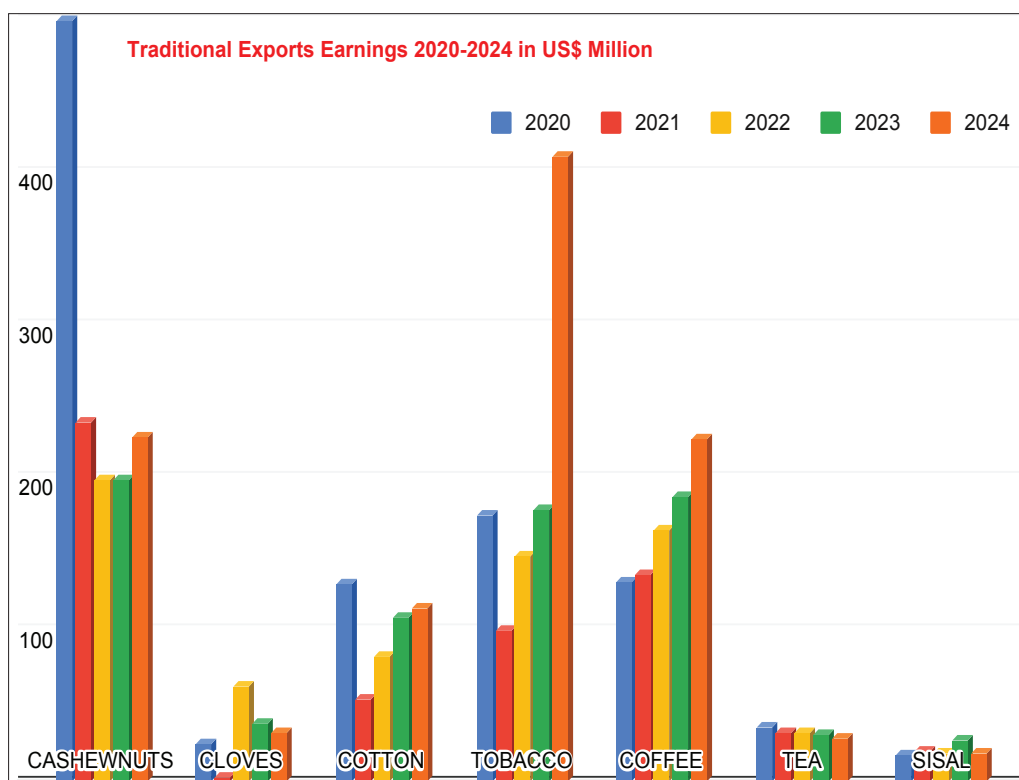
Minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe said the target is to reach 200,000 tonnes during the next season (2024/2025) and 300,000 tonnes in 2025/2026.

Tobacco production and procurements in Tanzania is under contract farming between farmer cooperative unions and buyers. The crop, which is currently facing criticism on its health implications across the globe, is mostly grown in Tabora and Katavi regions.

Currently, Zimbabwe is the leading tobacco producer with 296,000 tonnes, followed by Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Uganda.

The TRA data show that coffee was the second top export earner among traditional exports after fetching US\$224.7 million from US\$187 million in 2023 and US\$130 million in 2020.

More than 90 per cent of the country's output comes from small farmers rather than estates, employing 400,000 house-



holds and directly affecting more than 2.4 million inhabitants.

According to the ministry of agriculture, coffee production targets for 2023/2024 was 85,000 tons and until May, a total of 66,071 tonnes was already been recorded, which was equivalent to 78 percent of the target.

However, the minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe has directed the TCB to ensure an increase of coffee production to 300,000 tonnes in 2024/2025 season.

According to the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) the new buying season 2024/2025 started in May this year in Kigoma and Katavi regions and is expected to end in July in northern zone of Tanzania, comprising

of Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, Morogoro and Tanga.

To spur coffee production, TCB has already distributed millions of new coffee seedlings to different regions of Tanzania.

According to 6Wresearch, the premier, one stop market intelligence and advisory center, Switzerland seems to be the most attractive market (in 2028) in terms of export potential of Tanzanian coffee followed by South Africa, Belgium, USA and Japan.

However, in terms of total import

demand across all countries, USA occupies the top position.

Hence considering overall import demand, USA leads the importing demand but considering Tanzania as a partner, Switzerland provide high unmet demand potential as Compared to others for 2028, 6Wresearch outlook shows.

The BoT report also shows that the fourth largest traditional export earner was cotton, which recorded earnings amounting to US\$113.3 million during the year ended in May, compared to US\$107 million during similar period ended in May 2023, but lower than US\$128.8 million recorded in 2020.

The new cotton buying season for 2024/2025 was also launched last month with an indicative price of 1,150/- per kilogramme of cotton, an increase of 90/- compared to 2023/2024 season for first class and 575/- per kilo for second class.

However, some farmers across the country still dissatisfied with the announced indicative price.

However, the BoT and TRA report shows three traditional export crops including tea, sisal and cloves recorded the decline of their exports earnings during the reported period.

The earnings from exported tea declined to US\$27 million during the year ended in May, 2024, from \$30.5 million recorded at the end of May 2023, while those of cloves and sisal declined to US\$32 million and US\$18.8 million compared with US\$27 million and US\$38.3 million recorded in 2023.

Ukerewe: Decline in fish stocks, climate change hurting families

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE decline in fish stocks and the impacts of climate change have had devastating effects on local communities and small-scale fishers in Ukerewe Island, Mwanza region. This has led to a significant economic shock which has forced many fishermen to abandon their families in search of better opportunities elsewhere.

Sophia Donald, the Executive Director of Sauti ya Wanawake Ukerewe (SAWAU), a Civil Society Organization based in Ukerewe, highlighted these issues during a recent feminist awareness training on climate justice.

The training, organized by Women Action Towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED) and Nandiwe Feminist Wellness and Coaching Center, was supported by the Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT).

Currently, fishermen have had to relocate to other islands such as Gana, Irugwa, Kunene, and Bwiro in search of fish due to the scarcity of fish resources in their usual fishing grounds. This has worsened the economic situation for many families in Ukerewe Island.

The impact on parenting in Ukerewe Island has been severe, with children left to fend for themselves as their parents seek employment opportunities elsewhere. Many children are unable to attend school and are forced into child labor, such as carrying sardines at the fishing beach, to earn money for basic necessities.

Women in the community are also suffering, struggling to feed their families due to food shortages. Many are forced to pay for casual work or even exchange sex for employment opportunities with fishermen. This has led to a rise in sexually transmitted diseases and sextortion across the island.

The drastic decline in fish catches since the 2000s has been a clear indicator of the changing environ-



Empowering Women's Rights Seminar in Ukerewe District, Mwanza Region. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

ment and has had a profound impact on both the local communities and fishermen in Ukerewe Island. It is essential for stakeholders to come together to address these challenges and work towards sustainable solutions for the future.

The impacts of climate change on Ukerewe residents, particularly fishermen, have been devastating as they are facing significant economic losses due to the decline in fish stocks caused by climate change.

SAWAU has recognized the suffering of Ukerewe residents and has initiated a new program aimed at educating the community on how to mitigate the effects of climate change in their local areas.

With support from WFTT, the organization has received 30m/- for the program and develop some guidelines which would help in protecting the rights of women and girls while promoting climate justice.

Didas Malenga, a fisherman from Bu-

lamba village in Bukindo Ward in Ukerewe, echoed the challenges faced by the fishing community due to climate change. He noted a significant decline in both the volume and size of fish species caught per fishing trip, forcing many fishermen to venture to other islands in search of fish as the population increases. This situation has drastically altered fishing activities compared to previous years.

"In the 1970s, we used to return home with 200 buckets filled with sardines, equivalent to 20 sacks of sardines per day. However, today we are lucky to catch 10 or 20 buckets of sardines per day," he lamented.

Fishermen now have to travel farther into Lake Victoria in search of fish and sardines, utilizing modern fishing boats for this purpose. The impact of climate change is evident in the changing market prices as well. In the past, a 20kg bucket of fish would fetch a retail price of 1500/-, whereas now the same bucket of sardines

Sugar price interventions restore public confidence

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

VARIOUS stakeholders and traders have commended the recent government move to control sugar price hike.

Speaking to this paper over the weekend some traders said recently the sugar industry in the country faced many challenges especially the issue of sugar prices rising illogically so it needed the government intervention.

Salum Abdalah who has a super market at Sinza Mori said some sugar mills increased the price of sugar and refused to lower it despite getting all the necessary assistance from the government to increase production.

"This situation reached its peak during the holy month of Ramadan, where the price of sugar rose from 2,500/- per kilo to 4,000/- and up to 6,000/- in other areas per kilo, causing many complaints from the people. The government decided to take drastic measures to control the situation by issuing permits to import sugar to other traders in the market," he said.

He said the move brought positive results as sugar prices started to drop from 4,000/- per kilo to 2,800/- per kilo.

He added that the good thing is that the government did not end there but it saw the need to take more action where it send the bill in parliament to make amendment in order to break the monopoly of sugar factories.

"For the benefit of the five rich owners of sugar mills, the government cannot hold its 65 million people captive and continue to suffer from the price of sugar for the benefit of the few we really appreciate the government intervention and we want to see action like this taken when crisis occurs," he said.

"With the aim of pressuring the government to cancel the changes, the owners of those factories who want to monopolize sugar business returned to their corrupt practices to bribe some politicians to shout against these good measures of the government but government should stand firm on this matter," he said.

Joseph Mbaga who has a shop at Mwenge said he don't understand if it is wrong for small or large companies to be allowed to import and sell sugar in the market to lower the price.

"Are only large companies entitled to the opportunity to import and sell sugar?, I think the answer is no so government should continue with this move to give opportunities to various

companies to import sugar to avoid monopoly of few factories and companies which will cause price hike," he said

"The question to ask is, do some people want the government not to take any action while corrupt groups continue to exploit its citizens. It is obvious that if this problem were left unchecked, the cost to the economy would be very high," he said.

Hamdum Ulanga of Magomeni Market said inflation of the price of sugar would affect various sectors of the economy and would lead to increasing the cost of living for citizens and reducing the ability to buy other important products.

He said without the government intervention this could cause serious harm to the economic well-being of the nation.

He said it is time to say no to sabotage and protect the interests of the people adding that the government exists for the people and should continues to ensure that justice is done for all.

Idd Salum, a resident of Tandika, says the government has done a good thing to ensure that it intervenes in the sugar issue and allows other traders to import sugar to eliminate monopoly.

"If only two large companies are left to import sugar, we will be going back to where this product will last and the price will rise, so the government's action to intervene and allow small and large companies to import sugar is a very good thing for Tanzanians," he said.

One of the sugar traders in Tandika, Haule Shangu, said that the sugar business should not be left to a small group because by doing so they can use the opportunity to hurt the citizens.

He said that the sugar business makes a lot of money, so the government should look at it with a special eye because few people want to own the industry so that they can play with the price of sugar as they want.

"I applaud the steps the government took after finding out that few people can play with the price of sugar and decided to allow other companies to import sugar," he said.

"I personally congratulate the Minister of Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, for the way he handled the sugar issue and decided to give permits to other companies to import sugar to reduce the shortage of sugar and ensure that the price of sugar does not hike," he said.

AI: Navigating the future marketing landscape – 6

By Alley Mtatya

Continued...

There are many practical applications for video sizing for example from Meta and a little bit of LLM augmentation you can experiment with copying of which it is in its early stages. On the subject of marketing writing copies aka copy writing. Some foreign ad agencies have already started laying of copy writers. Definitely copy writers will be the first to go if they do not upgrade their knowledge or expertise combined with AI. The execution part of that field is reiteration against very specific attributes of matching your persona to your writing style, but the computers (AI) are better than that or better than people are. Therefore, minimizing the human function, the humans were inadequate it is a testable and proven hypothesis. Like it got tested it came back it got evaluated you set the KPI or the OKR then you say go then it keeps reiterating until it gets it right.

The probabilistic of its writing compared to deterministic of human writing for example when you write something you can slightly change it, but here AI is just going to keep trying again but in a different framework, therefore it is going to measure its results in an immediate way. Yes, so copywriting will be hurt first in terms of sectors but if a copywriter navigates with it, he or she will reap the rewards as it will be an added skill set to his or her already matched talent.

Production of music and videos as a sector as well will be hurt. Again, if the talent does not take advantage of these tools by educating and learning from them on how to increase productivity or work more efficiently with it. For example, it

DIGITAL MARKETING

Alley Mtatya



will not be necessary to take your drone and shot a video of the beach coastline, you don't need to. Does that mean your whole movie or music will be made by AI? No, but the entire unit production budget may go to AI instead of a team of people in production. That is where this is going in the long-run. Basically, these little incremental additions, which by the way may provoke people a lot as well as change a lot of cultures in the process. I recall during a video shot for a client some years back we would go as a full team, client service, creative director, a whole video production crew of 6 to 7 people including the lighting, camera, props etc. consider that this would take approximately a week of video taking depending on the clients brief and needs. Some clients have up to 3 or 4 projects and the budget would shoot out of the roof for the client. So, the industry is going to be shaken to its core.

AI is not going to substitute leadership, nor is it going to substitute creative thinking in real sense. On the other hand, from a capabilities point of view and automation it will democratize competition significantly. It will differentiate your organization vs others in the creativity area. That can be unleashed on leadership, and that is the golden moment as far as we marketers are concerned.

"Today is different than yesterday is different than tomorrow", goes the saying.

Longevity and health are always paramount to focus on for anyone with a career growth path. Love and passion for the marketing discipline will assert that desire to grow with technology or any other new leads that develop or assist the marketing field to grow. Take a progressive stance on the quality of opportunity at hand. To grow your career all round. Let's be honest, as we build our careers, we don't always have that latitude so let us keep trying to push boundaries. You have one life and eventually you will get it right somehow.

As the marketing field evolves exponentially, the next generation of marketers must acquire the necessary skill set in order to succeed in this evolving landscape. Which includes tapping into technological, being creative, data and analytics driven and expanding one's creative skills to embrace emerging markets, it's undoubted that AI will shape the future of work.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is digital marketing specialist based in Dar es Salaam

Why we must act now to revive women's leadership prospects in AI-driven office

By Sue Duke

WOMEN have always paid a heavy price for economic instability. And with the global labour market cooling down from the hiring frenzy of 2020 and 2021, it is female professionals who are losing out. As hiring slows, the marginal progress made in recent years to increase the number of women in leadership is being wiped out.

In its annual Global Gender Gap Report, the World Economic Forum leverages LinkedIn data to identify and highlight key trends for women in the workplace. This year, our data shows that women are less likely than last year to reach a leadership position, which is bad news for women and bad news for the economy.

Continued erosion of women in leadership

In 2022, the global hiring rate for women into leadership roles topped 38 percent. It has fallen each year since and is now down to 36 PERCENT.

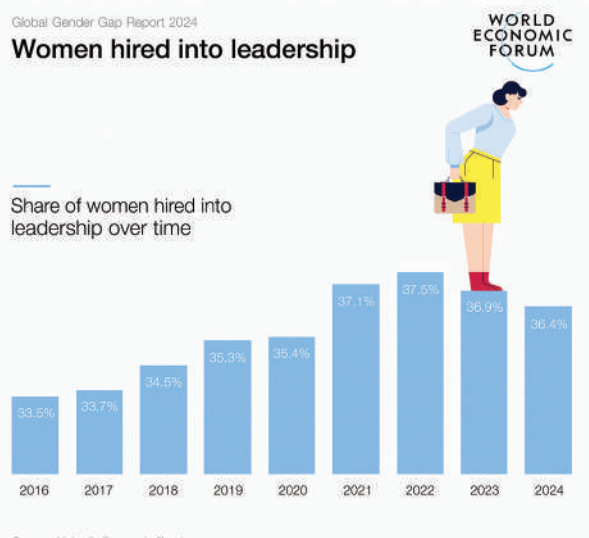
It's a slow but steady downward trend that we're seeing globally, including in major economies such as the United States, the United Kingdom and France. This decline should set off alarm bells across sectors and countries; female representation at the leadership level has risen by less than 1 percent in six years (30.9 percent to 31.7 percent).

Generative AI is at a pivotal moment

This slowdown comes during a period of workforce transformation. Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is shaking up how we work, with three in four people in desk-based roles now using it in their jobs.

This new technology calls for new skills: LinkedIn predicts the skillsets required for jobs globally will change by as much as 68 percent by 2030. Many of these will be soft, interpersonal skills that help us work well together, such as team leadership, strategic leadership and collaboration. Of the soft skills listed on LinkedIn, women were found to have a 28% higher share than men.

At the same time, women are pushing forward with their own technical upskilling. Since 2016, the share of female AI talent and the concentration of women working in AI engineering has grown significantly.



Share of women hired into leadership over time. Photo: Courtesy of Global Gender Gap Report 2024/LinkedIn Economic Graph

So the advent of GenAI presents an opportunity to help close the gender gap.

When women miss out, so does the economy

Women make up a significant part of the global workforce and during economic instability, it's even more important to enable every worker to reach their potential. Seeking gender parity in the workplace is essential not only for the experience of women but also for the health of the global economy. However, as it stands, not a single country or industry has achieved gender parity in leadership. The 2024 report suggests that it is unlikely to change soon without a major shift in approach.

There are undoubtedly some green shoots for female representation. Industries where more women join in entry-level roles, such as education, government and consumer services, see more women ultimately reaching senior positions too but there is still a dip. That drop in female representation at the top levels of companies is even steeper in male-dominated industries such as real estate, financial services, supply chain and transportation.

We are trapped in a vicious labour market cycle that prevents women in leadership, which in turn damages our economy.

We must act to break the cycle

Gender parity and its consequences demand systemic, economy-wide solutions. The answer here is not to wring our hands and ask ourselves how this could have happened but to move fast and course correct before we lose even more ground.

Policymakers must enable and demand actions that businesses must take to support women as they move through their careers to open doors which might otherwise be closed.

Fair hiring practices and an inclusive approach to upskilling and career growth, including training and mentorship schemes, especially in pre- and middle-

management roles, will help drive more women into senior positions.

And keeping gender front of mind when upskilling employees so women are given the same opportunities as men to learn and progress in high-growth areas such as AI.

Focusing on candidate skills during hiring can help put women on the front foot when applying for jobs. LinkedIn research found that the increase in women applying for jobs was almost twice the increase observed in men when they were shown how their existing skills overlapped with the job requirements, with a similar impact on hiring outcomes.

The evidence shows flexible working policies also help women, who typically apply for more hybrid and remote roles than men. We know that care responsibilities can disproportionately impact women, so workplaces must have policies that counteract this imbalance.

If we don't act now, we'll lose women at the leadership level and continue to feel the negative effects of that loss on our economy. We can't look forward to a future workplace transformed by AI without addressing the inequity that is still holding women back throughout the world.

Sue Duke is the head of Global Public Policy and Economic Graph Team, can be reached via LinkedIn



On average, women earn 23 percent less than men globally. Photo: Courtesy of WEF

How boosting women's financial savvy could help you live a long, fulfilling life

By Morgan Camp

IN 2100, I will be 100 - and likely still alive. If I retire at 62, the average retirement age for women in the United States, where I live, I will have 38 post-career years to fund - only two less than the years I'll spend working full-time. That's an entire additional life.

Of course, I may not actually retire at 62. In fact, most of us will probably continue working long after this age if permitted by government policy and workplace support. However, even if we retire at 72 or 82 or 92, women will still struggle to be financially secure.

Globally, women earn 23 percent less than men on average, lose \$399,600 in lifetime wealth accumulation and disproportionately need to take time off work due to unpaid caregiving responsibilities. These figures will only grow in countries like the US, where the 65+ age group is set to reach nearly a quarter of the total population by 2050, while the working population that supports them shrinks.

Women's financial literacy

The idea of living an extra life should be exciting. But if we don't have the tools and education to fund our lives while working, we can't structure our longer lives properly to make the extra time purposeful. Boosting women's financial literacy could be the first step towards achieving the necessary financial freedom to be excited about living a longer life.

The World Economic Forum's recent Longevity Economy Principles report demonstrates how effective and inclusive financial ecosystems promote individual freedom to make decisions while providing supportive system guardrails. Women's financial literacy is key to this decision-making ability.

Here are three things you need to know about women's financial literacy:

Only 33 percent of the global population is deemed financially literate, and rates for women are disproportionately lower than for men in almost every country and every age group in the world. This literacy lacuna, among other factors, is causing people worldwide to outlive their retirement savings by up to 20 years, which impacts women the most.

Women live longer in retirement and accumulate less lifetime wealth. We experience more career interruptions due to unpaid caregiving coupled with lower career growth opportunities. Moreover, women with low financial literacy spend an average of 16 hours per week dealing with financial issues and are five times more likely to struggle to meet basic needs now, let alone after they retire.

The global centenarian population is expected to grow to 4 million by 2054, with the number of Americans aged 100 and over quadrupling during this time, for example. So there is no question that we are living longer. To live a purposeful 100 years, however, we need the freedom to restructure our lives. That freedom starts with financial literacy and access to financial tools and services - all of this will help us learn how to invest in our 100-year lives. Access to education has always been a potent prerequisite to empowerment.

In a world where women have only 77 percent of the legal rights of men and make only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns, policymakers and the financial services industry must prioritise women's financial literacy.

Women aged 65 or older receive 26 percent less retirement income than men. More than half of women in the workforce - up to 90 percent in developing countries - can only find opportunities in the unstable informal economy, which doesn't typically offer a pension plan.

As these startling inequalities of opportunity compound across generations, women are trapped in financial insecurity, which prevents them from enjoying the full benefits of longevity. Deep, systemic inequalities like these require a policy push for access to financial education and services, as well as industry investment in women's economic opportunities.

On a positive note, more women are now in the workforce than ever before, and more wealth is being transferred into their hands. By 2030, women will control 66 percent of America's wealth - double the estimates made in 2020.

Increased access to financial education and services can help women harness the power of this wealth transfer. But these services must not perpetuate gender disparities by only offering generic financial products that don't suit women's needs.

Closing gender employment gaps could boost GDP per capita by 20 percent. So, if policymakers and the financial services industry prioritize women's financial literacy, the societal benefits will be felt throughout every 100-year-long life.

Living to 100

I will be 100 in 2100. However, whether I'm a fulfilled 100-year-old could depend almost entirely on my access to financial education and services now.

An entire extra life can be possible and purposeful if the public and private sectors prioritize women's financial literacy. Only then can we find the financial freedom to sustain our century. What could your 100-year-long life look like?

This article was written by Morgan Camp, Coordinator, Financial and Monetary Systems, at the World Economic Forum. He can be reached via social media.

Could cellular-agro be the next new innovation for East Africa

By Didier Toubia

FOOD systems in East Africa have a long way to go in terms of development, perhaps more so than any other region of the world.

To help ensure long-term food security and food safety, East African nations can embrace a tactic that has proven effective for the Global South, with regard to benefiting from technology ahead of the Global North. They can skip incremental stages in development and leapfrog their way to new, transformative methods of food production.

Avoiding the negative impacts of intensive agriculture

Africa as a whole is increasing its agricultural output, but, as economics columnist Peter Coy asserted in April, "it's managing to do so only by massively increasing its inputs," a course of action that inhibits long-term economic and nutritional success.

As intensive agriculture scales, it exacerbates serious negative impacts, including biodiversity loss, soil degradation, deforestation, the depletion of natural resources and emissions of methane and other greenhouse gases. What's more, these impacts, in turn, worsen the strain on production itself.

In the face of these negative impacts, East African countries can invest in and preserve smallholder farming and simultaneously leapfrog by complementing these farms with new forms of local protein production, such as precision fermentation, cellular agriculture and algal production, which can increase output while avoiding most of intensive agriculture's negative effects.

Just as how India and other countries largely bypassed copper phone landlines in favour of cellphones, how China and other countries largely skipped manual credit cards in favour of mobile payments and how much of Africa bypassed overreliance on central power grids in favour of solar energy, East African nations can use this complementary approach to leapfrog

intermediate steps in protein production.

In much of East Africa, smallholder farms carry unique social, economic and cultural importance. They often serve as the main financial assets capable of supporting families, cementing social bonds and playing key roles in core institutions like marriage.

Meanwhile, new forms of protein production can provide higher sheer quantity, which is not the core competency of smallholder farms. In contrast to intensive conventional farming, these innovative forms of protein production have positive environmental and public health effects. They can slash methane emissions, the fastest way to slow down and reverse global warming, and they can protect biodiversity by reducing the need for humanity to infringe on natural ecosystems for land, water and other resources. In addition, they can support job creation and local economies.

These forms of production take place in closed environments and without antibiotics, significantly reducing the risks of antibiotic resistance and zoonotic diseases. They can operate independently of specific climate conditions, making them resilient to weather-related and climate change-induced shocks. And, because there's no slaughter involved, there is a reduced risk of contamination and food-borne illnesses.

At scale, applications of new protein production (such as cultivated meat, an application of cellular agriculture) can reduce the pressure on conventional producers to meet increasing demand for animal proteins. Together, smallholder farming and new methods of production can optimize the overall protein ecosystem and meet this demand with fewer and better-managed animals than intensive agriculture can.

New methods of protein production are not yet cost-efficient at scale, but in any case, there is work to be done on the ground before they are implemented. It will take time to build the foundational infrastructure, research and development necessary to fulfil their potential.

It's important to develop and implement economic models that align with the complementary strategy described above.

While integrating new production methods into local food systems can improve farmers' livelihoods in certain places, doing so may not necessarily yield the same socioeconomic impact elsewhere. A one-size-fits-all approach could exacerbate existing inequalities and hinder equitable development. With this in mind, countries should create custom-made frameworks that consider distinct historical trajectories, economic structures and cultural contexts, addressing communities' specific circumstances.

It is vital to begin supporting smallholder farms now. Government incentives, in the forms of subsidies and tax breaks, take time to materialize in action and impact. It's also crucial to nurture pools of talent to manage and implement these new production methods. Governments should invest in specific fields of higher education, including bioprocessing and public health, so that when new production methods are scalable, these nations will be ready in terms of manpower.

Even regulatory frameworks need time to solidify. They can also benefit from leapfrogging. Whereas the frameworks reviewing submissions for new proteins have had to learn on the go (since they are reviewing technological applications that were science fiction only a few years ago), frameworks in East Africa could pick up where the others have reached thus far.

The Global North is investing significant resources in advancing new methods of protein production towards cost-efficient scalability, in part because it needs to thwart further impact of intensive agriculture.

In the face of climate change, resource scarcity and rising populations, nations in East Africa and across the Global South have an opportunity to do what the Global North did not. By leapfrogging intensive agriculture, they can meet their populations' demand for high-quality nutrition with sound and environmentally sustainable sources of protein. The time to lay the groundwork is now.

Didier Toubia serves as the Co-Founder and CEO of Aleph Farms, can be reached via social media.



Geared up for a rescue mission. File Photo

Why investing in nature makes ecological and economic sense

By Razan Al Mubarak

NATURE is our lifeline. Our forests and the ocean are the lungs of the planet, not only regulating our climate but supporting the livelihoods of over a billion people.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28 in Dubai was a clarion call to the global community - place nature at the heart of climate action or risk derailing the significant efforts underway to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The need for action has never been more urgent.

I am therefore honoured to have been nominated as the new Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Champions for

Nature community. This group, which includes leaders at the CEO and minister level, is dedicated to creating a more sustainable economy that benefits nature and people equitably. Our goal is to set greater ambition for environmental goals, influence narratives talking about nature as core infrastructure and build strong public-private partnerships. As Co-Chair, I will help ensure that business and financial decisions increasingly consider nature and biodiversity as key factors.

The investment imperative

With almost \$2billion committed to forest, ocean, and coastal ecosystem projects and a unanimous agreement that all

countries should halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, the critical role of nature in addressing the climate emergency is now firmly established. So, what does this mean for investors? Despite a growing regulatory focus on nature-related risks, impacts and dependencies, money continues to flow in the wrong direction. At least \$5 trillion of private finance went to activities with negative impacts on nature in 2022, 140 times greater than current amounts going to nature-based solutions (NbS).

Given NbS have the potential to supply around one-third of mitigation needs and could save \$104 billion in adaptation costs by 2030, the status quo makes little ecological or economic sense.

Degradation of the ocean and marine ecosystems risks costing the global economy around \$8.4 trillion over the next 15 years, and the ocean is the most under-funded Sustainable Development Goal.

Moreover, ill-prepared investors risk being blindsided by the ambition and pace of new policies to halt and reverse nature loss, the number of which has doubled in the past 12 months.

Three pillars of mobilizing finance for nature

The good news is that investible NbS including sustainable agriculture are proving profitable and scalable today, and have the potential to create over 390 million jobs by 2030.

Tackling deforestation is a core component of credible net-zero plans, and businesses and investors are better equipped than ever to place nature at the core of their decision-making processes, thanks to milestones such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the Science Based Targets Network, Finance Sector Deforestation Action initiative, and the Nature Action 100 initiative.

Building on this, I propose the following three pillars to investors looking to leverage this significant opportunity;

Halt and reverse deforestation

Net-zero targets cannot be met without action on deforestation yet a number of key companies and financial institutions are per-

sistently ignoring their role in exacerbating the problem. This needs to change and leaders within the sector are demonstrating how, with initiatives like the Tropical Forest Alliance playing a pivotal role in galvanising the finance sector on this critical issue.

Through the Finance Sector Deforestation Action Initiative, 35 leading financial institutions with more than \$8 trillion assets under management (AUM), are committed to eliminating agricultural commodity-driven deforestation risks in their investment and lending portfolios and increasing investments in nature-based solutions by 2025.

In addition, the Investor Policy Dialogue on Deforestation, an investor-led sovereign engagement initiative supported by 81 financial institutions from 21 countries with approximately \$10.5 trillion AUM, aims to halt deforestation in the most vulnerable biomes of the world, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), calls for members to embed deforestation into their transition planning and the Investor Agenda Action Plan guidance emphasizes how investors' action will simultaneously support biodiversity and food security, whilst minimizing risk in the face of future regulations.

To be continued...

Razan Al Mubarak is the co-chair of the Champions for Nature, a multi-stakeholder community hosted by the World Economic Forum, can be reached via social media.



Investing in nature, makes ecological and economic sense. File Photo

Bank unveils vehicle purchase financing

By Francis Kajubi

Vehicle ownership is now becoming easier in Tanzania, after a local bank unveiled a new financing scheme that will enable Tanzanians to buy brand new and used motor vehicles.

The Vehicle Asset Finance (VAF) is a medium-term financing solution designed to help Tanzanians to purchase both new and used vehicles through local dealerships without the need to have the full purchase price funds upfront.

This solution reflects on the bank's strategic focus on providing financial solutions that resonate with its customers' lives and aspirations.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the launch of the scheme last week, the Head of Retail Banking of the financing bank Ndabu Swere, said, "We are extremely excited to launch Vehicle Asset Finance. This is testament to our commitment to listen to our customers and solutioning their challenges and needs. We understand that purchasing a car is not easy because cars are not cheap, and since people are not always liquid, they may need assistance from somewhere and especially when car dealers need upfront payments. So, this is where Vehicle Asset Finance comes in.

The product frees the customer's cash, leaving them with more flexibility to either invest or use their savings for any unforeseen costs that may come up during the year.

"Our quick, simple, and affordable application process provides peace of mind to the customer, as we manage every aspect—from identifying reputable car suppliers to ensuring financed vehicles meet high standards through a robust valuation arrangement. We have entered into agreements with reputable vehicle distributors and sellers, who will be the main suppliers of certified used and new vehicles for our customers. We also guarantee end-to-end management, including payment of relevant government taxes, transfer fees, and insurance on behalf of the customer - allowing customers to focus on more pressing matters as they press on writing their next chapter of their success journey," she concluded.

Beda Biswalo, the bank's Marketing and Communications Manager, said "Our Vehicle Asset Finance solution is not only a business strategic addition to our offerings, but it's also deeply connected with our Brand Promise that says, "Your story matters". At Absa we care deeply about the stories of our customers and the progress they make in life. We are inspired by our customers' journeys and want to be part of their scripts, part of the true stories they will tell for years to come when they narrate their success journeys".



Our quick, simple, and affordable application process provides peace of mind to the customer, as we manage every aspect—from identifying reputable car suppliers to ensuring financed vehicles meet high standards through a robust valuation arrangement

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD



Swiss President Viola Amherd and Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis speak on June 10, 2024 in Bern during a press conference ahead of a Ukraine peace conference organized by Switzerland. AFP

Peace conference on Ukraine ends without consensus

GENEVA

PEACE conference on Ukraine ended on Sunday in Burgenstock, Switzerland, with some attendees failing to sign the joint communique.

According to the signatory list, those who did not sign the final communique include Armenia, Bahrain, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, among others.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said at Saturday's meeting that "it is essential to emphasize that any critical process will need Russia's participation."

Switzerland hosted the conference. Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis also mentioned at a press conference on Sunday that most of the decisions made by this conference cannot be implemented without Russian participation.

With Reuters inputs, over 90 countries attended the two-day talks at a Swiss Alpine resort even

though Moscow was not invited.

Brazil attended only as an "observer". Leaders including US Vice-President Kamala Harris, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron gathered at the mountaintop resort of Buergenstock. US President Joe Biden, in Europe for other events last week, did not attend. As Sunday's talks turned towards issues of food security and nuclear power, some leaders left early.

In her closing remarks, Swiss President Viola Amherd warned that the "road ahead is long and challenging".

No country came forward to host another such meeting, with notable silence from Saudi Arabia, mooted as a possible future venue. Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said the kingdom was ready to assist the peace process but a viable settlement would hinge on "difficult compromise."

"None of the participants in the 'peace forum' knows what he is doing there and what his role is," said Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's former president and now deputy chairman of the country's Security Council.

Agencies

If Putin's Ukraine peace proposal rejected, next offer to be tougher – Russian intel chief

MOSCOW

THE conditions of the next peace proposal for Ukraine if the current one is rejected will be more complex and harsh, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Director Sergey Naryshkin (pictured) said in an interview with TASS.

"The conditions on which peace can be achieved and some sort of a peace agreement may be signed will become more complex and tough for Ukraine," he said, replying to a question as to what will happen if Ukraine refuses Russian President Vladimir Putin's peace proposal.

Earlier, Putin presented new peace proposals on settling the Ukraine conflict, providing for the recognition of Crimea, the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions as parts of Russia, the establishment of Ukraine's non-aligned and non-nuclear status as well as its de-

militarization and denazification and the lifting of anti-Russian sanctions. The Kiev regime has rejected this initiative.

Agencies



Kremlin views NATO's rhetoric on putting nukes on alert as escalation

MOSCOW

THE recent remark by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg that the bloc's allied members are discussing putting their nuclear arsenals on alert is another bout of tensions, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"This is nothing else but an escalation," Peskov (pictured) said.

Unlike Western officials, the Russian president never talks nukes "at his own initiative as he takes the issue seriously," the Kremlin spokesman said. "Whenever President



[Vladimir] Putin comments on the issue of nuclear arms, he does so, taking someone's questions or questions from report-

ers, including foreign ones," he explained.

Also, the NATO chief's statement runs counter to the declaration issued following last weekend's conference on Ukraine in Switzerland, Peskov added. The communique, he said, ruled out such rhetoric as inadmissible.

Stoltenberg told The Daily Telegraph in an interview that NATO allies had started consultations on the need to put nuclear weapons on alert, including against the background of China's plans to increase the number of its nuclear warheads.

Agencies

Former South African leader Zuma's party says it will join opposition in parliament

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party will join an alliance of smaller opposition parties in parliament in a bid to take on the African National Congress and Democratic Alliance-led coalition government, it said on Sunday.

The ANC and its largest rival, the white-led, pro-business Democratic Alliance, agreed on Friday to work together in a coalition it called "government of national unity", a step change after 30 years of ANC rule.

Former president Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto we Sizwe party came in a surprisingly strong third in the May 29 election which saw the ANC lose its majority. MK won 14.6 percent of the vote which translated into 58 seats in the 400-seat National Assembly.

However, MK lawmakers boycotted the first sitting of the National Assembly on Friday after filing a complaint at the country's top court alleging vote-rigging, which the court dismissed as without merit.

Reading a statement on behalf of Zuma, spokesperson Nhlamulo Ndhlela told



uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) party leader and South Africa's former president Jacob Zuma (center) and MK party's spokesperson Nhlamulo Ndhlela (left) hold a press conference in Johannesburg on Sunday. AFP

reporters that the MK party will join the alliance called the "Progressive Caucus", which includes the Marxist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and the centre-left United Democratic Movement.

This alliance commands close to 30 percent of the seats in the National Assembly, Ndhlela said, sitting next to Zuma - who had a cough but answered questions after the statement - and the leaders of a number of small parties.

"This united effort is necessary because the 2024 election has also resulted in the consolidation of right-wing and reactionary forces who are opposed to economic freedom, radical economic transformation, racial

equality and land repossession," he said.

Ndhlela said that MK had decided to take up its seats in the National Assembly after receiving legal advice and that it would continue to raise its allegations of a rigged election in parliament and in courts.

The Independent Electoral Commission has said the election was free and fair.

Zuma also slammed the unity government - which includes two smaller parties, the socially conservative Inkatha Freedom Party and the right-wing Patriotic Alliance - calling it "meaningless" and a "white-led unholy alliance".

Nile Basin countries urged to utilize Nile River for common development

ADDIS ABABA

SCHOLARS have called for the Nile Basin countries to join forces to fairly utilize the Nile River to meet their peoples' soaring demand for water, energy, and food.

The call was made on Saturday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, on the margins of the 3rd Annual Forum for Regional Integration and Reasonable Utilization of the Nile under the theme "Shared resources for shared future and prosperity."

"The countries in the Nile Basin have to discuss cooperation modalities and come up with principles and standards through which they can share the Nile water fairly."

Emmanuel Kasimbazi, a professor at the School of Law in Uganda's Makerere University,

told Xinhua in an interview. Kasimbazi said the Nile Basin countries need to cooperate to manage transboundary water resources sustainably, like the Nile, amid the growing demand for water and energy from their rising populations.

The Nile Basin spans the countries of Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Noting that lack of financial and technical capacities remains a challenge to utilize the Nile, the longest river in Africa, Kasimbazi said Nile Basin countries need to establish a legal framework to help them address those challenges and meet their peoples' surging demand for electricity and water. Musambayi Katumanga, a lecturer at Kenya's University of Nairobi, said the Nile Basin countries need to reach a certain

kind of agreement to reasonably utilize the Nile to transform the lives of their citizens.

"The countries in the Nile Basin need to add value to their common water resources to generate energy, produce food, and deal with climate change," Katumanga told Xinhua. Katumanga said it is mandatory for Nile Basin countries to cooperate and fairly utilize the Nile, and by doing so they will be able to address water, energy, and food shortages as well as expand water transportation and industrialization in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region.

The forum aims to champion equitable and reasonable utilization of Nile waters based on the principle of developing transboundary water resources through sharing best experiences and practices.

Xinhua

'Overcapacity' narrative contradicts economic common sense

By Jin Ruiting

RECENTLY, some American politicians have been continuously hyping up the false narrative of "overcapacity" in China's new energy industry.

They wrongly claimed that China has excessive production capacities in new energy vehicles (NEVs), lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products, asserting that the so-called "overcapacity" has posed negative impacts on global markets. Such claim is not fact-based and goes against the overall trend of economic globalization.

As a matter of fact, the "overcapacity" narrative is a well-worn tactic of the United States to undermine other countries' com-

petitive industries, which is driven by a hegemonic mindset.

"Overcapacity" doesn't exist at all in China's new energy industry.

China's new energy industry has higher capacity utilization rates than other countries. An opinion piece from Just Auto, a London-based magazine providing global automotive industry news and analysis, shows that in 2023, the capacity utilization rates of auto companies in China such as BYD Group, Tesla's Shanghai factory, and SAIC Group were around 80 percent. In comparison, Hyundai Motor's capacity utilization rate was only 23 percent, and Kia Motor's was only 25 percent.

The current production

capacity of the global new energy industry is far from sufficient to meet the market demand.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global demand for NEVs will reach 45 million units by 2030, which is more than three times the global sales in 2023 and nearly five times the production in China in 2023. The global demand for power batteries will reach 3,500 GWh by 2030, which is more than four times the global volume in 2023 and more than five times the production volume in China in 2023.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), in order to achieve the Paris Agreement goals, the global cumulative photovoltaic in-

stalled capacity needs to exceed 5,400 GW by 2030, which is nearly four times the global cumulative installed capacity in 2023 and about nine times the cumulative installed capacity in China in 2023.

The "overcapacity" narrative contradicts economic common sense.

According to economic law, countries participating in the global division of labor based on their comparative advantages is an important path to improve the global allocation of resources and an important way to improve productivity and people's wellbeing.

In recent years, China's new energy industry has achieved rapid development through vigorous market competition and

continuous technological innovation - a fact evident to the international community.

China has always adhered to the principles of opening up and sharing, forming close industrial chain cooperation with various countries. This has promoted the improvement and upgrading of the global industrial chain, providing strong momentum for the new energy industry worldwide.

Labeling China's new energy industry with "overcapacity" goes against the international division of labor and violates the principles of free trade and fair competition. It ignores the vital role of international trade in improving the wellbeing of people around the world. China's strengths in the

new energy industry have been hard-earned through true capabilities and competitiveness.

China enjoys a comparative advantage stemming from its complete range of sectors and categories in manufacturing. China has been the world's top manufacturing country for 14 consecutive years, with the added value of the manufacturing sector accounting for around 30 percent of the world's total in 2023.

In the new energy sector, the country has developed a complete industrial chain encompassing material research, engineering design, manufacturing management, and final assembly and systems integration.

China benefits immensely from its vast domestic

market and rich diversity of application scenarios. In 2023, both production and sales of China's NEVs exceeded 9 million units, maintaining robust growth momentum. China's huge consumer market provides a favorable environment for the research, development, and upgrade of new energy technologies.

Offering high-quality and affordable green products for countries worldwide, China has made a vital contribution to the global green and low-carbon transition.

Jin Ruiting is a researcher with the Institute of Macroeconomic Research of the National Development and Reform Commission

Netanyahu denounces tactical pauses in Gaza fighting to get in aid

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticized plans announced by the military on Sunday to hold daily tactical pauses in fighting along one of the main roads into Gaza to facilitate aid delivery into the Palestinian enclave.

The military had announced the daily pauses from 0500 GMT until 1600 GMT in the area from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northwards.

"When the prime minister heard the reports of an 11-hour humanitarian pause in the morning, he turned to his military secretary and made it clear that this was unacceptable to him," an Israeli official said.

The military clarified that normal operations would continue in Rafah, the main focus of its operation in southern Gaza, where eight soldiers were killed on Saturday.

The reaction from Netanyahu underlined political tensions over the issue of aid coming into Gaza, where international organizations have warned of a growing humanitarian crisis.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who leads one of the nationalist religious parties in Netanyahu's ruling coalition, denounced the idea of a tactical pause, saying whoever decided it was a "fool" who should lose their job.

Divisions between coalition, army

The spat was the latest in a series of clashes between members of the coalition and the military over the conduct of the war, now in its ninth month.

It came a week after centrist former general Benny Gantz quit the government, accusing Netanyahu of having no effective



strategy in Gaza.

The divisions were laid bare last week in a parliamentary vote on a law on conscripting ultra-Orthodox Jews into the military, with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant voting against it in defiance of party orders, saying it was insufficient for the needs of the military.

Religious parties in the coalition have strongly opposed conscription for the ultra-

Orthodox, drawing widespread anger from many Israelis, which has deepened as the war has gone on.

Lieutenant-General Herzi Halevi, the head of the military, said on Sunday there was a "definite need" to recruit more soldiers from the fast-growing ultra-Orthodox community.

Reservists under strain

Despite growing international pressure for a ceasefire, an agreement to halt the fighting still appears distant, more than eight months since the Oct 7 attack by Hamas fighters on Israel triggered a ground assault on the enclave by Israeli forces.

Since the attack, which killed some 1,200 Israelis and foreigners in Israeli communities, Israel's military campaign has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health ministry figures, and destroyed much of Gaza.

Agencies

Xinhua president meets UN global communications chief

UNITED NATIONS

PRESIDENT of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua on Thursday met with UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Melissa Fleming, during which the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the UN headquarters in New York.

At the meeting, Fu said that Xinhua not only reports on UN activities but also engages in extensive exchanges and cooperation with UN agencies globally.

"Xinhua is one of the most active media organizations worldwide in reporting UN affairs and maintains close cooperation with several UN agencies on public welfare projects," Fu said.

He noted that Xinhua was invited to join the UN SDG Media Compact in 2023, which led to the signing of the current MoU that elevates bilateral cooperation to the level of a strategic partnership.

In September 2018, the United Nations launched the SDG Media Compact, an initiative to advance awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Fu emphasized Xinhua's commitment to focusing on the UN themes of peace and development, saying that Xinhua strives to spread the voice of the UN across the globe through Xinhua's global network.

Reviewing the successful hosting of the fifth World Media Summit and the preparations for the upcoming sixth summit in October, Fu invited Fleming to visit China, attend the summit, and visit Xinhua.

For her part, Fleming expressed appreciation for Xinhua's longstanding commitment to developing relations with the United Nations and its efforts toward achieving the UN 2030 SDGs.

The UN official expressed a strong interest in comprehensive cooperation with Xinhua, saying that she looks forward to growing coverage of UN activities by Xinhua. She also echoed Fu's sentiments on elevating their cooperation to the level of a strategic partnership.

The two sides agreed to further deepen exchanges and cooperation in the fields of news and information, conduct high-level visits, and enhance public awareness of the UN SDGs.

Xinhua



UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Melissa Fleming presents President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua with a certificate of membership to recognize that Xinhua joined the UN SDG Media Compact, at the UN headquarters in New York, on June 13, 2024. Xinhua

Celebration of Eid al-Adha in Gaza overshadowed by ongoing war

GAZA

"If you ask anyone in Gaza what their (holiday) wish is, they will, without a second thought, say it's for the war to stop and for life to return to how it was," said Intisar, a displaced Palestinian woman on the occasion of Eid al-Adha.

Intisar was busy arranging a tent for the displaced on the beach of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, where the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict has shattered the joy and sweetness of the Eid al-Adha holiday, when the locals used to decorate homes and meet with families and friends.

According to Islamic traditions, Muslim families buy cattle, usually a goat or sheep, as a sacrifice in the early morning of Eid al-Adha and distribute the meat to the poor as a charity gift. "Overnight, we have become displaced people who have no hope of surviving this deadly war," her husband Samer Awad told Xinhua, recalling recurrent Israeli strikes on Hamas targets in Gaza.



Palestinians hold Eid al-Adha prayers by the ruins of ar-Rahma Mosque destroyed by Israeli air strikes, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

The conflict and massive strikes on the Gaza Strip have brought heavy losses to civilian lives and properties and forced 1.9 million into internal displacement since October 2023, according to figures released by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator.

"On this day last year, my children were busy wearing new clothes and playing with their

friends," the 45-year-old man lamented.

This year, instead, due to the war in Gaza, they have to wait in a long queue to collect fresh water, the father of seven lamented about the grueling hardship in Gaza where the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has lasted for more than eight months.

Children in the war-torn Palestinian enclave have to spend six to eight hours a day collecting water

and food, often carrying heavy weights and walking long distances, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said.

"Sweets have disappeared from my destroyed house. I don't know if we will ever return to our living areas and rebuild our homes. They (the Israeli army) killed everything in our lives.

They killed the hope in us," Intisar said. Palestinians used to celebrate the holiday by decorating streets and alleys, slaughtering sacrificial animals, exchanging visits to offer greetings, and children and young people by visiting parks and playgrounds in the Strip with their families to have fun.

All the holiday rituals, however, were absent from the family of Ahmed Mansour, who was displaced from his home in Gaza City after October 2023. "I was not able to buy new clothes for my children and we could not prepare the cakes. In short, this holiday came without joy," the 35-year-old father of three told Xinhua.

Israel has been launching a large-scale war on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7, 2023, after Hamas carried out a military attack on Israeli towns near the Strip, killing about 1,200 and capturing around 250 others.

Nevertheless, Mansour's children chanted "Eid had come" among the sheltering tents through loudspeakers and sang songs to bring comfort and happiness to the displaced Palestinian families.

Xinhua

AU mission says troop drawdown will not leave 'security vacuum' in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE African Union's (AU) senior envoy to Somalia has reassured Somalis that the withdrawal of troops from the country will not lead to a "security vacuum."

AU Special Representative for Somalia Mohamed El-Amine Souef said the pan-African body will not abandon Somalia even as the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) prepares to withdraw an additional 4,000 troops by the end of June.

"Even as ATMIS troops drawdown, we will ensure there is no

security vacuum," Souef said after a two-day visit to Jowhar, south-central Somalia, according to a statement issued in the Somali capital of Mogadishu on Saturday night.

He said the transition will be well coordinated between the federal member states (FMS), the Somali government, and international partners.

During the visit, Souef lauded the Burundian troops for their efforts in countering and degrading al-Shabab, urging them to remain vigilant and work closely with the Somali security forces and the lo-

cal community.

The visit is part of the AU envoy's tour of the FMS to assess the operational preparedness, welfare, and morale of troops as the African body prepares a follow-up mission after the exit of ATMIS.

"We came to assess the work of our contingent, and everybody we met spoke highly of our contingent, including the president, the civil society representatives, the elders, and the local authority officials.

They mentioned our contingent's commitment, experience, and willingness to support and

assist in terms of civil-military cooperation and security," Souef said. According to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2710 (2023), ATMIS is mandated to withdraw 4,000 troops in the third phase of troop withdrawal and be replaced by Somali security forces.

Souef praised the UN and ATMIS personnel stationed in Jowhar for their commitment and sacrifice to the peacebuilding process in Somalia. He expressed confidence in Somalia's recent election to the UN Security Council, its admission to the East African Community, and the lifting of the arms embargo as

positive signs for the country's future and the entire continent.

ATMIS withdrew 5,000 troops from Somalia and handed over 17 military bases to the Somali security forces during the first and second phases of the drawdown concluded in 2023. Marius Ngendabanka,

ATMIS deputy force Commander in charge of operations and plans, reiterated the AU mission's commitment to strengthening peacebuilding efforts in the region and working with the Somali National Army to secure Hirshabelle State.

Pentagon's secret anti-vax campaign to undermine China during COVID-19 pandemic exposed

WASHINGTON

AT the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. military launched a secret misinformation campaign to discredit Chinese vaccines in the Philippines, a nation severely impacted by the deadly virus, drawing widespread condemnation from public health experts, a Reuters investigation has found.

This is the first time a media outlet has exposed this clandestine operation.

"It aimed to sow doubt about the safety and efficacy of vaccines and other life-saving aid that was being supplied by China," said Reuters in the investigation released Friday.

Through phony internet accounts meant to impersonate Filipinos, the military's propaganda efforts morphed into an anti-vax campaign, it said, adding that social media posts decry the quality of face masks, test kits and the first vaccine that would become available in the Philippines -- China's Sinovac inoculation.

Reuters identified at least

300 accounts on X, formerly Twitter, that matched descriptions shared by former U.S. military officials familiar with the Philippines operation.

Almost all were created in the summer of 2020 and centered on the slogan #Chinaangvirus, meaning China is the virus in Tagalog, a major language of the Philippines.

After Reuters asked X about the accounts, the social media company removed the profiles, determining they were part of a coordinated bot campaign based on activity patterns and internal data.

The military program started under former President Donald Trump and continued months into Joe Biden's presidency, Reuters found -- even after alarmed social media executives warned the new administration that the Pentagon had been trafficking in COVID misinformation.

A senior Defense Department official acknowledged the U.S. military engaged in secret propaganda to disparage China's vaccine in the developing world, but declined to provide details, Reuters



A nurse holds up a used vial of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine at a sports complex used as a vaccination area in Marikina City, Metro Manila, Philippines 2 March 2021.

said. A spokesperson for the Philippines Department of Health said the "findings by Reuters deserve to be investigated and heard by the appropriate authorities of the involved countries." Some aid workers in the Philippines, when told of the U.S. military propaganda effort by Reuters, expressed outrage.

Briefed on the Pentagon's secret anti-vax campaign by Reuters, some American

public health experts condemned the program, saying it put civilians in jeopardy for potential geopolitical gain. "I don't think it's defensible," said Daniel Lucey, an infectious disease specialist at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine.

"I'm extremely dismayed, disappointed and disillusioned to hear that the U.S. government would do that," said Lucey, noting the effort to stoke fear about Chinese

inoculations risked undermining overall public trust in government health initiatives.

According to the investigation, the Philippines had among the worst inoculation rates in Southeast Asia.

Only 2.1 million of its 114 million population were fully vaccinated -- far short of the government's target of 70 million.

In June 2021, COVID cases in the Philippines exceeded

1.3 million, and almost 24,000 Filipinos had died from the virus. The difficulty in vaccinating the population contributed to the worst death rate in the region.

Some Filipino healthcare professionals and former officials contacted by Reuters were shocked by the U.S. anti-vax effort, which they say exploited an already vulnerable citizenry.

"Why did you do it when people were dying? We were desperate," said Dr. Nina Castillo-Carandang, a former adviser to the World Health Organization and the Philippines government during the pandemic. "We don't have our own vaccine capacity" and the U.S. propaganda effort "contributed even more salt into the wound," she noted.

"I'm sure that there are lots of people who died from COVID did not need to die from COVID," Esperanza Cabral, who served as health secretary under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, was quoted by Reuters as saying.

To implement the anti-vax campaign, the Defense Department overrode strong ob-

jections from top U.S. diplomats in Southeast Asia at the time, Reuters found.

Sources involved in its planning and execution say that the Pentagon, which ran the program through the military's psychological operations center in Tampa, Florida, disregarded the collateral impact that such propaganda may have on innocent Filipinos.

"We weren't looking at this from a public health perspective," a senior military officer involved in the program was cited by Reuters as saying. "We were looking at how we could drag China through the mud."

In uncovering the secret U.S. military operation, Reuters interviewed more than two dozen current and former U.S. officials, military contractors, social media analysts and academic researchers. Reporters also reviewed Facebook, X and Instagram posts, technical data and documents about a set of fake social media accounts used by the U.S. military.

Xinhua

SPORT



Bryson DeChambeau holds the trophy in the bunker after winning the US Open golf tournament, on Sunday, June 16, 2024, in Pinehurst, N.C. AP Photo

Bryson DeChambeau wins another US Open with a clutch finish to deny Rory McIlroy

PINEHURST, N.C. BRYSON DeChambeau climbed back into the most famous bunker at Pinehurst No. 2, this time with the U.S. Open trophy instead of his 55-degree sand wedge, filling the silver prize with grains of sand to commemorate the best shot of his life.

Rory McIlroy wanted to bury his head in the sand.

DeChambeau won his second U.S. Open title on Sunday by getting up-and-down from 55 yards in a bunker – one of the toughest shots in golf – to deliver another unforgettable finish at Pinehurst and a celebration just as raucous as when his hero, Payne Stewart, won with a big par putt in 1999.

“That’s Payne right there, baby!” DeChambeau screamed as he walked off the 18th green.

This was nothing like DeChambeau winning at Winged Foot in 2020, when there were no fans and no drama. This was high suspense that ultimately came down to a trio of short putts.

McIlroy, who for so much of the final round looked certain to end 10 years without a major, had a one-shot lead until missing a 30-inch par putt on the 16th hole. Tied for the lead on the 18th, with DeChambeau behind him in the final group, McIlroy missed a par attempt from just inside 4 feet.

He was in the scoring room watching, hoping, for a two-hole playoff when DeChambeau got into trouble off the tee as he had done all day. But then DeChambeau delivered the magic moment with his bunker shot to 4 feet and made the par putt for a 1-over 71.

“That bunker shot was the shot of my life,” DeChambeau said.

Moments later, McIlroy was in his car, the wheels spinning on the gravel to get out of Pinehurst without comment. There wasn’t much to say. This one will sting.

“As much as it is heartbreaking for some people, it was heartbreak for me at the PGA,” said DeChambeau, for a month ago made a dramatic birdie on the 18th hole at Valhalla, only for Xander Schauffele to match him with a birdie to win the PGA Championship.

“I really wanted this one,” DeChambeau said. “When I turned the corner and saw I was a couple back, I said, ‘Nope, I’m not going to let that happen.’ I have to focus on figuring out how to make this happen.”

True to his form as one of golf’s great entertainers, he put on quite the show.

The par putt wasn’t as long or as suspenseful as Stewart’s in 1999. The celebration was every bit of that. DeChambeau repeatedly pumped those strong arms as he screamed to the blue sky, turning in every direction to a gallery that cheered him on all week.

As much as this U.S. Open will be remembered for DeChambeau’s marvelous bunker shot, McIlroy played a big part. He not missed a putt under 4 feet for 69 holes on the slick, domed Donald Ross greens. And then with the U.S. Open on the line, he missed two over the final three holes for a 69.

McIlroy had the look of a winner. He ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch around the turn. He was a model of cool, the opposite of DeChambeau’s exuberance. He walked confidently to the 14th tee with a two-shot lead as the chants grew louder.

“Ror-EE! Ror-EE!”

DeChambeau could hear them, and he pounded a 3-wood on the reachable par-4 13th – the tees were moved forward to 316 yards – to the middle of the green for a birdie to stay close.

McIlroy took bogey from behind the 15th green, but he stayed one ahead when DeChambeau, playing in the group behind

him, had his first three-putt of the week on the 15th when he missed from 4 feet.

And that’s where this U.S. Open took a devastating turn for McIlroy.

He missed a 30-inch par putt on the 16th hole to fall back into a tie. On the 18th hole, McIlroy’s tee shot landed behind a wiregrass bush. He blasted out short of the green and pitched beautifully to 4 feet. And he missed again.

DeChambeau kept fans on the edge to the end. He pulled his drive to the left into an awful lie, with a tree in his back swing and a root in front of the golf ball. The best he could manage was to punch it toward the green, and it rolled into a front right bunker.

“One of the worst places I could have been,” DeChambeau. But he said his caddie, Greg Bodine, kept it simple.

“G-Bo just said, ‘Bryson, just get it up-and-down. That’s all you’ve got to do. You’ve done this plenty of times before. I’ve seen some crazy shots from you from 50 yards out of a bunker,’” DeChambeau said.

During the trophy ceremony, the shot was replayed on a video screen.

“I still can’t believe that up-and-down,” DeChambeau said.

Since he won the U.S. Open at Congressional in 2011, McIlroy has seven top 10s in this championship without a victory – it’s been more than 100 years since anyone did that well without going home with the trophy.

DeChambeau becomes the second LIV Golf player to win a major, following Brooks Koepka at the PGA Championship last year.

An image of Stewart’s famous pose was on the pin flag at the 18th, and DeChambeau put on a Stewart-inspired flat cap during the trophy presentation, later replacing it with his “Crushers” cap from LIV.

He finished at 6-under 274.

Patrick Cantlay lingered around this duel all afternoon, unable to get the putts to fall at the right time until he missed a 7-foot par putt on the 16th hole that ended his chances. He closed with a 70 and tied for third with Tony Finau, who matched a Sunday best with 67 without ever having a serious chance of winning.

This is not the same DeChambeau had become such a polarizing figure – a target of heckling for slow play and his spat with Brooks Koepka. In the sandhills of North Carolina, he had thousands on his side. He signed autographs during his round, he engaged with fans and he delivered one hell of a show.

And when it was over, he looked at the double-decker grandstands around the 18th and thousands circling the 18th green and invited them to his party.

“I want all of you guys somehow,” he said, pointing at them in every direction, “I want you guys to touch this trophy because I want you to experience what this feels like for me. You were a part of this journey this week, and I want you to be a part of it for the after party.”

DeChambeau wasn’t flawless. He hit only five fairways, the fewest in the final round by a U.S. Open champion since Angel Cabrera at Oakmont in 2007. He couldn’t escape the trouble on the 12th, leading to a bogey that dropped him two shots behind. He had his first three-putt of the week at the worst time, on the 15th to briefly fall behind.

But he showed the mettle of a two-time U.S. Open champion at the end.

“What’s most impressive about Bryson is not that he hits the ball far. Everybody knows it,” said Matthieu Pavon, who played with DeChambeau and shot 71 to finish fifth. “I was amazed by the quality of the short game on 18. It’s a master class.”

AP

SPORTS

Taifa Stars breathe new life into worrying FIFA 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign

By Lloyd Elipokea

AS a nation that is positively gaga about football, it has been an endless source of sorrow that we have hitherto tried in vain to qualify for the revered football World Cup.

With the last World Cup in Qatar having been done and dusted, the focus of football-playing countries on the African continent has shifted to the forthcoming 2026 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the USA.

It should be noted here that countries have to partake in qualifiers to earn the right to feature at the football World Cup, which is perpetually an epic sporting occasion.

And regarding our long nursed hopes of qualifying for the upcoming World Cup in 2026, our national football team, the Taifa Stars, had been experiencing some arduous challenges prior to our high-stakes showdown against Zambia last Tuesday.

Indeed, in the run-up to our immense clash against Zambia, the Taifa Stars had only amassed a tally of three points from two games, which left us precariously placed in a decidedly tricky Group E.

So, with everything to play for, the Taifa Stars went into the hugely anticipated contest against their hosts Zambia and the Stars were admirably the quickest out of the starting gate.

In what was an unforgettably remarkable start to the football duel, the Taifa Stars seized the initiative in only the fifth minute when our striker Waziri Junior struck to hand his side the deserved lead.

Trailing the Stars 1-0 after only a mere five minutes of the game had elapsed, the Zambians piled on the pressure in their resolute efforts to net the leveler.

Time and again, though, during a scintillating first half, the Chipolopolo tested our man between the sticks,



Tanzania national soccer team (Taifa Stars) before their World Cup qualifier Group E match against Zambia (Chipolopolo) in Ndola last Tuesday. Taifa Stars won 1-0. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

Ally Salum, but our exceptional shot-stopper was impeccably able to deny Zambia’s repeated attempts to net an equalizer.

This trend of Zambia continually trying to

open up the Taifa Stars’ defence was maintained in the second half but our defenders laudably kept their composure despite facing seemingly unending pressure.

And then, the final whistle was blown, which of course meant that the Taifa Stars had famously claimed a morale-boosting triumph.

Consequently, that massive triumph has seen the Taifa Stars leap to second place in Group E behind only the Atlas Lions of Morocco, who enviably have a 100 percent record after three games played.

It is hoped then that the Stars can continue being on the up and up when the qualifiers for the football World Cup resume in earnest on the continent.

Let us now dig into the ongoing 2024

European Football Championship in Germany, which is now excitingly in full swing.

Indeed, the European Football Championship this year served up a veritable thriller in its opening clash when the hosts, Germany comfortably walloped the luckless Scotland 5-1 in what was an absolutely gripping encounter.

Interestingly, the competition this year will see a number of household names of African origin playing a pivotal role in their respective teams’ exertions to claim the coveted trophy.

This roll call of football greats of African descent includes the Gallic superstar Kylian Mbappe, the English menace Bukayo Sako and the imposing Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku among others.

It seems certain then that these illustrious football players will wow crowds with their superlative football skills, which can only enhance the standard of the football on display as a result.

Mo Dewji steps in to revitalize Simba, secures Ayoub Lakred for one year

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a significant move that underscores his commitment to strengthening the team, Mohamed Dewji, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Simba SC, has successfully negotiated a one-year contract extension for the club’s star goalkeeper, Ayoub Lakred.

The decision ensures that Lakred will remain with the 2020/21 premier league champions until June 2025.

Sources within the club confirmed that the Moroccan goalkeeper, who had previously decided not to extend his stay with the Msimbazi Street-based side, was persuaded to change his mind following an in-depth conversation with Dewji.

The conversation, reportedly conducted over the phone, was instrumental in Lakred’s decision to stay with the club despite lucrative offers from top teams in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia, including his former club FAR Rabat.

“Ayoub has decided to stay. He resigned a one-year contract and now he is committed until June 2025. It was Mohammed Dewji who convinced him to stay. Initially, he did not want to continue with Simba as several clubs in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia were interested in him,” revealed a reliable source within the club.

Contrary to rumors, the conversation did not take place in Dubai. Instead, Ayoub, who is currently in Morocco with his family, was reached by phone by Dewji.

The timely intervention by Dewji, known for his strategic acumen, was critical in retaining the services of the 27-year-old shot-stopper.

Lakred joined Simba at the start of last season. His initial performances were met with skepticism from the club’s supporters, who doubted his ability to compete with Aishi Manula, another top goalkeeper.

However, Lakred soon silenced his critics, showcasing exceptional skill and adaptability as he acclimatized to the Tanzanian climate and the team’s environment. By the end of the season, he had firmly established himself as the team’s number-one goalkeeper,



Simba SC shot-stopper Ayoub Lakred. Agencies

delivering outstanding performances in both the Premier League and the CAF Champions League.

“We faced challenges towards the end of the season, but Ayoub’s contributions were invaluable. His impressive saves, especially against strong opponents in the CAF Champions League and Premier League, played a crucial role in our campaign. With this new contract, I believe he will reach even greater heights next season,” the source added.

The decision to extend Lakred’s contract comes at a critical juncture for Simba. The club has not won the Premier League title for the past three seasons, with their long-time rivals Young Africans claiming the championship each time.

Dewji’s recent return to a more hands-on role within the club’s administration has sparked hope among fans that Simba will reclaim their dominance in Tanzanian and African football.

Following the final Premier League match against JKT Tanzania on May 28 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Lakred appeared to bid farewell

to the fans, signaling his potential departure.

However, Dewji’s assurances to fans last week, promising a revival of the club’s fortunes, seem to have materialized with this contract renewal.

Dewji’s proactive management style and his commitment to addressing key issues within the team are evident in this development. His leadership is seen as a beacon of hope for Simba, aiming to end their title drought and restore their status as a powerhouse in African football.

The fans, buoyed by the recent developments, are optimistic about the future. Dewji’s strategic vision and ability to make critical decisions, such as retaining top talent like Lakred, have rejuvenated the club’s ambitions.

As Simba prepare for the upcoming season, the extension of Lakred’s contract is a positive signal of the club’s intent to rebuild and reclaim glory.

The goalkeeper’s proven track record and exceptional skills will be pivotal as the team aims to overcome past challenges and achieve new milestones under Dewji’s stewardship.

Eriksen scores in Denmark's 1-1 draw with Slovenia at Euro 2024, 3 years after his onfield collapse

STUTTGART, Germany

FOR Christian Eriksen, Denmark's opening game at the European Championship was a much happier occasion this time.

The Manchester United midfielder scored the opening goal in a 1-1 draw with Slovenia on Sunday. It was his first match at the Euros since suffering a cardiac arrest in Denmark's opener in the previous edition of the tournament in 2021.

Eriksen neatly slotted a finish into the corner in the 17th minute of the Group C game in Stuttgart.

Erik Janza equalized for Slovenia in the 77th with a shot that took a big deflection and span beyond Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

It was exactly 1,100 days ago that Eriksen collapsed on the field at Parken Stadium in Copenhagen while playing for Denmark against Finland. In scary scenes, medics worked frenetically to give him chest compressions before he was carried away on a stretcher.

AP

At Euro 2024 the talented Belgium team almost escapes the 'Golden Generation' tag. But not quite yet

FRANKFURT, Germany

SO close, so nearly made it.

After more than 25 minutes of questions to Belgium captain Kevin De Bruyne and coach Domenico Tedesco on Sunday, the dreaded words "Golden Generation" had not yet been heard.

And then it happened – with the very last question, to Tedesco, on the eve of his team's opening European Championship game against Slovakia.

"It's a typical German question about the Golden Generation," quipped Tedesco, who is Italian-born though a German citizen. "I was expecting that one."

One day, Belgium coaches and players will not be pulled back to the gilded crop of prospects who seemed sure to one day win an international title, and possibly should have at Euro 2016.

It's been a label, and a millstone, for Belgium since the 2008 Beijing Olympics where an emerging squad included Vincent Kompany, Marouane Fellaini and Jan Vertonghen.

De Bruyne and Eden Hazard were maturing in the team that reached the 2014 World Cup quarterfinals. The Red Devils were stunned at the same stage of Euro 2016 by Wales despite extra established stars Thibaut Courtois in goal and Romelu Lukaku in attack.

Marc Wilmots left as coach and was replaced by Roberto Martinez, who is now at Euro 2024 with Portugal.

There were eliminations as the world's top-ranked team by eventual champions: in the 2018 World Cup semifinals against France, and a Euro 2020 quarterfinal match to Italy.

Then another stunner, failing to advance from the 2022 World Cup group stage in Qatar, albeit because eventual semifinalists Croatia and Morocco did.

"Qatar is over now. It was a disappointment, yes, but it was 18 months ago," De Bruyne said Sunday ahead of the playmaker's third attempt to win a European title. "It is a new tournament, a new coach. The team has changed quite a lot."

Since the World Cup, veterans like Hazard, Dries Mertens and Toby Alderweireld have retired from the national team. Courtois fell out with Tedesco and is not in Germany.

De Bruyne is still here with Vertonghen (37), Lukaku (31) and Axel Witsel (35). Another Manchester City star, winger Jérémie Doku, is already at his third major tournament at 22 and much is expected from 21-year-old Johan Bakayoko on the right flank.

Belgium is still ranked No. 3 by FIFA.

"I wouldn't say our squad is third in the world right now but in a tournament it doesn't even matter," said De Bruyne, whose 33rd birthday falls between the round of 16 and the quarterfinals.

"There are a lot of young players in the team and they're really motivated," De Bruyne said, whose team is strongly favored in Group E that also includes Ukraine and Romania.

The 38-year-old Tedesco, leading Belgium at a tournament for the first time, acknowledged there was a squad overhaul.

"There is huge quality among the young prospects," said Tedesco, "who are already ready for this stage."

AP

UEFA charges Albania over 'provocative message' and fireworks in Euro 2024 loss to Italy

FRANKFURT, Germany

ALBANIA is facing four UEFA charges over a "provocative message" allegedly displayed by its fans and other behavior in a European Championship loss to Italy.

UEFA said Sunday that the Albanian soccer federation was facing disciplinary proceedings over the message, the throwing of objects, use of fireworks and an "invasion of the field of play". One person entered the field of play near the end of the game, which Albania lost 2-1.

UEFA didn't say which message it objected to, only that the charge relates to "transmitting a provocative message unfit for a sports event."

Some Albanian fans had displayed flags of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Ethnic Albanian separatists from the group fought a 1998-1999 war with Serbian forces in what was then the province of Kosovo.

Kosovo declared independence in 2008. Serbia doesn't recognize it as independent.

A flag depicting a map of "Greater Albania" was also displayed at the game. The charges are the first disciplinary matters announced by UEFA at Euro 2024, which began Friday.

AP

A flag depicting a map of "Greater Albania" was also displayed at the game. The charges are the first disciplinary matters announced by UEFA at Euro 2024, which began Friday

66

Chosen by Kim Kardashian and loved by fans, Bellingham fires England to 1-0 win over Serbia at Euros

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

JUDE Bellingham is the star of Kim Kardashian's male underwear range, England icon David Beckham mimics his trademark goal celebration, and a Beatles classic has become his anthem as adoring fans serenade him with "Hey Jude" when he's on the field.

Bellingham, it seems, can do no wrong.

No surprise then that he was the player to get England off to a winning start at the European Championship with a first-half goal to beat Serbia 1-0 in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday.

"Every game I feel like I can make an impact, I feel like I can decide games," the Real Madrid star said. "I really enjoy playing football so when I go out there, I play with a fearlessness because I love doing it so much. It is a release for me."

Wearing the No. 10 jersey once adorned by Wayne Rooney, the midfielder stooped to head in Bukayo Saka's cross in the 13th minute. Bellingham raced away, arms outstretched in a pose Madrid fans have grown to love and Beckham has replicated on social media in tribute to a player who doesn't turn 21 until later this month.

Bellingham has already done his talking on the field after a spectacular debut season at Madrid where he scored 23 goals, won the Spanish title and the Champions League.

He is also making a splash off it.

Like Beckham, his appeal goes far beyond soccer. Presumably that was what Kardashian knew about Bellingham was chosen to front the menswear range of her SKIMS underwear. He's also the star of an advertising campaign for sportswear giant Adidas, which features Beckham, who is just another of Bellingham's many fans.

So much, so soon for someone so young could be seen as a cause for concern.

But Bellingham is not your average player.

"He writes his own script," England manager Gareth Southgate said.

Weghorst returns from World Cup clash with Messi and lifts Netherlands to beat Poland at Euro

HAMBURG, Germany

BEING barked at by Lionel Messi in a testy post-game exchange that became a viral meme was a strange way for Wout Weghorst to leave the 2022 World Cup after his goals had set up an epic quarterfinal drama.

The Netherlands forward's return to major tournament action Sunday was a happy event – again scoring late off the bench and this time decisively in a 2-1 win over Poland to begin a European Championship group that includes title favorite France.

The imposing striker struck with a low left-foot shot in the 83rd minute with his first touch after coming on to replace Memphis Depay, who had missed several shooting chances as the Dutch appeared sure to waste a winning opportunity.

Weghorst might not look the most elegant player, but his reputation for being effective was earned at the World Cup in Qatar 18 months ago.

His two late goals against Argentina – the second from an uber-ute, free-kick routine in the 11th minute of stoppage time – sent a memorable quarterfinal into extra time at 2-2 against the eventual champion.

Weghorst and Messi were among 15 players shown yellow cards by the time it was all over on the field. Then they carried it on deep inside the stadium.

This time, Weghorst's goal was worth a win that puts some pressure on France, which already beat the Dutch twice in qualifying last year and plays Austria on Monday.

"I said it this morning to my girlfriend: 'Scores level, 0-0, 1-1, 20 minutes to go.' It was a bit later. But you feel it and visualize it for yourself," Weghorst told Dutch broadcaster NOS.

Poland was forced to cope without its injured star Robert Lewandowski but soon found a goal from his replacement who matured in Major League Soccer.

Adam Buksa used all his 1.91 meter (6-foot-3) height – a bit shorter than Weghorst at 1.97 meters – when circled by four Dutch defenders at a 16th-minute corner to



England's Jude Bellingham (10) scores on a header during the first half in a Group C match against Serbia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on Monday, June 17, 2024. AP Photo

Having already played at the last Euros and the World Cup in 2022, Bellingham is the first European player to appear at three major international tournaments before the age of 21, according to statistician, Opta.

His goal was certainly the story of this game – sending England to the top of Group C after Denmark drew 1-1 with Slovenia. Christian Eriksen scored for the Danes – three years after suffering a cardiac arrest on the field at the last Euros. England plays Denmark in Frankfurt on Thursday.

Southgate's team might have gone into that match on the back of a bigger margin of victory, with Harry Kane coming close to scoring in the second half when Serbia goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic pushed his far post header onto the underside of the bar.

England was a beaten finalist at the last Euros, losing on penalties to Italy in the final three years ago. It is one of the favorites to go one better this time around.

But off-field issues overshadowed

the buildup to the game against Serbia, which had been deemed high risk due to concerns about violence between rival supporters. Some of those fears were realized when police rushed to separate brawling fans in Gelsenkirchen earlier in the day.

Social media footage showed men throwing chairs at each other outside a restaurant festooned with Serbian flags in the city. Inside the stadium there were boos during the anthems.

England fans were soon celebrating once the game got underway after Bellingham's decisive moment.

And he's got no problem with the song supporters have attached to him.

"I listen to the Beatles a lot. My style of music is a bit old so that is right up my street," he said.

Over in Hamburg, Dutch fans were also partying and turned the city into a sea of orange. The Netherlands secured a come-from-behind 2-1 win against Poland in Group D thanks to Wout Weghorst's late goal.

Meanwhile, riot police in Germany

intervened to stop brawling soccer fans before Sunday's match between Serbia and England at the European Championship soccer tournament.

Social media footage showed men throwing chairs at each other outside a restaurant festooned with Serbian flags in the western city of Gelsenkirchen. One group quickly left as riot officers arrived and wrestled at least one man to the ground.

A Serbian fan told The Associated Press that a group of England fans had thrown glasses and stones at the area outside the restaurant where he and others were sitting together drinking beer.

"There was a clash and we are fine. So that's it, we are going to the game, we hope we will win. This is about football," said the man, who identified himself only as Vladimir and said he was from the Serbian capital Belgrade.

Reporters who arrived shortly after the fighting found the street littered with broken glass and tables as several dozen police officers stood by.



Wout Weghorst of the Netherlands, left, scores his side's second goal during a Group D match against Poland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Hamburg, Germany, on Sunday, June 16, 2024. AP Photo

guide a header into the net. Buksa had 2 ½ prolific years with New England Revolution until returning in 2022 to join French club Lens.

Cody Gakpo leveled in the 29th with a shot that was deflected and deceived goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny. It was fair reward for a vibrant first half for the Dutch who ended the game with 21 attempts on goal.

Gakpo is a fast starter at major tournaments. He scored in all three group-stage games at the World Cup that led the Netherlands to a clash with Argentina. That day in Doha, Weghorst also replaced De-

pay when he came on in the 78th.

A reliable option for the Dutch, former Manchester United forward Weghorst now has four goals in five national-team games this year and he scored three more in the Euro 2024 qualifying group – compared to the seven goals he scored for his German club Hoffenheim this season.

The Netherlands win was preserved by goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen with key late saves from substitute Karol Wiederski and, with the last touch of the game, a long-range shot by Nicola Zalewski.

Lewandowski sat out the game

to rest a leg muscle injury and is targeting Poland's second game, against Austria on Friday.

The Dutch will play France on Friday, also getting a full day's more rest than its next opponent.

About 50,000 Dutch fans made the short trip to Hamburg and there was a shooting incident involving police before the game in the downtown St. Pauli district near where many had gathered. It did not seem related to the soccer.

Police said they shot and injured a man who was threatening them with an ax and a Molotov cocktail.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Chosen by Kim Kardashian and loved by fans, Bellingham fires England to 1-0 win over Serbia at Euros

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Mo Dewji appoints Simba's new Board of Directors



Mohamed 'Mo' Dewji.

By Correspondent Michel Mwebe

Simba SC bid farewell to legendary striker John Bocco

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club have officially bid farewell to one of Tanzania's most prolific attackers, John Bocco.

The veteran striker (pictured), known for his remarkable goal-scoring prowess, has been a key figure in the club's recent successes and a fan favorite among Tanzanian football enthusiasts.

Bocco's tenure with Simba has been nothing short of extraordinary. Since joining the club from Azam FC in the 2017-18 season, he has been a cornerstone of Simba's attacking force, scoring over 100 league goals and setting records along the way.

His goal-scoring exploits have cemented his status as the top native striker in the league's history, a record that will be remembered for years to come.

Bocco's journey with Simba has been decorated with numerous accolades. Under his leadership, Simba clinched the Premier League title three consecutive times.

His on-field abilities were complemented by his discipline and exemplary conduct, making him a role model for his teammates and young players alike.

Despite his illustrious career, the 2023/24 season proved to be a challenging one for Bocco. Early reports indicated that he suffered an injury during the preparations for the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup, which significantly impacted his participation in the season.

Consequently, Bocco was not part of the Simba squad for the second round of the league, as he focused on coaching the club's youth team under the guidance of head coach Juma Mgunda.

In an official statement, Simba expressed their gratitude and admiration for Bocco's contributions: "Our captain and leading striker John Bocco will not be part of the squad. We thank him for his dedication and service to the club."

Bocco's career highlights include winning the Golden Boot in the 2020/2021 season. Despite missing most of the first-round matches due to injury, he made a stunning comeback in the second round, scoring two goals per game and finishing the season with 16 goals.

His remarkable performance edged out rivals such as Chris Mugal, who scored 15 goals, Prince Dube from Azam FC with 14 goals, and Meddie Kagere with 13 goals.

In terms of all-time records for the Golden Boot in the Tanzanian Premier League, Bocco sits sixth with his highest tally of 19 goals in the 2021/2022 season. Topping the list is Mohammed Hussein 'Mmachinga' of Young Africans, who scored 26 goals in 1997. Abdallah Juma of Mtbwa Sugar follows with 25 goals in 2005 while Meddie Kagere holds third place with 23 goals in the 2018/2019 season and 22 goals in the 2019/2020 season.

Amisi Tambwe of Young Africans scored 21 goals in the 2015/2016 season, placing him fourth. Similarly, Stephane Aziz scored 21 goals in the 2023/2024 season and Simba's Emmanuel Okwi is fifth with 20 goals in the 2017/2018 season.

Beyond his goal-scoring feats, Bocco has been celebrated for his leadership and mentorship within the team.

His presence both on and off the pitch has left an indelible mark on Simba, inspiring younger players to emulate his professionalism and commitment to the sport.

As Bocco steps away from his role at Simba, his legacy will continue to inspire. The club and its supporters extend their deepest gratitude for his years of dedication and the unforgettable moments he brought to Tanzanian football.

While his departure marks the end of an era, it also heralds the beginning of a new chapter for both Bocco and Simba SC.



Junior female cricketers step up preps for ICC U-19 Women's T20 WC Qualifier



Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar (in light blue shirt) poses for a photo with cricketers making the national U-19 women's squad when he visited the latter at a training session at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) venue recently. The cricketers are shaping up for the 2025 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier penned for August in Rwanda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's national U-19 women's cricket team has stepped up its preparations for the 2025 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier with a series of trials at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) venue last week.

The trials, according to the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Media & Communication officer, Atif Salim, sought to identify the best young female cricketers who will represent the country in the ICC U-19 Women's World Cup Qualifier scheduled for August in Rwanda.

Salim revealed that under the supervision of head coach Arun Yadav, 28 promising girls were divided into two teams, Tarangire Girls and Ruaha Girls, and participated in three trial games.

Yadav's objective was to observe how the girls perform under pressure, emphasizing that their performance in these trials is critical.

The TCA Media & Communication officer said on the final day of the trials, the association's Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar visited the UDSM ground to witness the conclusion of the matches.

During his visit, Sreekumar addressed the young female cricketers, offering encouragement and motivation.

Salim noted that Sreekumar emphasized that failure to make a selection for the final squad should hardly be the end of the journey for the cricketers, urging the girls

to continue practicing and improving their skills.

As a token of appreciation and support, Salim noted, Sreekumar handed over protein bars to all 28 participants of the trials.

The final list of 18 cricketers was, according to Salim, set to be announced the same week, marking the second step in forming the team that will battle it out in Rwanda.

The trials, Salim added, represent a significant milestone in the development of women's cricket in Tanzania, showcasing the talent and dedication of the young players. The national U-19 women's team trials at the UDSM ground, he stressed, have highlighted the potential and commitment of Tanzania's young female cricketers.

Salim stated that with the ICC U-19 Women's World Cup Qualifier on the horizon, the trials were crucial for building a competitive team slated to represent the nation in the regional showdown.

The official said that the guidance from tactician Yadav and the support from the TCA Chairman, Sreekumar, have been instrumental in motivating the female cricketers to strive for excellence.

As the final squad was slated to be announced, the focus will shift to preparing for the challenge ahead in Rwanda.

Qualification for the 2025 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup has a series of regional qualification tournaments to determine the final four places at the global showpiece slated to be hosted by Malaysia and Thailand.

In another development, TCA expressed its delight that Tanzania's national women's cricket team has been honoured as the Best Tanzania National Women's Team in the 2023 National Sports Council Awards.

The award was accepted with great pride by TCA Chairman Sreekumar at the ceremony held in Dar es Salaam recently.

Salim stated the prestigious recognition underscores the national women's cricket team's exceptional performance and unwavering dedication throughout the year.

The official revealed winning this award is a significant milestone for women's cricket in Tanzania, highlighting the sport's growing importance and the incredible talent in the national team.

He congratulated the squad for the outstanding achievement, adding the female cricketers' hard work, perseverance, and skill have not only brought immense pride to the nation but also served as a beacon of inspiration for young girls aspiring to excel in sports. The national women's golf team and national women's football squad 'Twiga Stars' were also the nominees for Best Tanzania National Women's Team in the 2023 National Sports Council Awards.

Achievements that helped the national women's cricket team grab the honour include the qualification for the 2023 All-Africa Games' women's cricket competition, held in Ghana from March 7-13, 2024.

The national women's cricket squad, moreover, lifted the silverware in this year's edition of the prestigious women's cricket showpiece on the continent, namely the Nigeria Invitational Women's T20 International tournament.

The Nigeria Cricket Federation-organized showpiece took place at Tafawa Balewa Square Cricket Oval in Lagos from February 25 to March 3.

It climaxed with Neema Pius-led national women's cricket team garnering a resounding 92-run victory over Sierra Leone to lift the title.

SIMBA Sports Club shareholder, Mohamed 'Mo' Dewji, has named a new board of directors as part of efforts to revive the club's dwindling fortunes.

With the end of Salim 'Try Again' Abdallah's tenure last week, Mo took to social media to announce he had formed a new board of directors on Sunday.

"By the authority given to me in accordance with the Contractual Agreement with Simba Sports Club Limited (Memorandum of Association) and the Rules of Agreement (Articles of Association), section 40; I would like to introduce the following to be Board Members on the Investor's side," Mo said.

He has re-appointed Abdallah, Mohamed Nassoro, and Crescentius Magori. The trio were first appointed as club directors when Mo took charge of Simba in 2017.

Together with considerable financial support from Mo, they helped to oversee a successful period for Simba, including winning four league titles, three Federation Cup triumphs, and on and off-the-pitch growth.

Magori was the club's first CEO, a position he held for two years before stepping down in 2019.

In 2021, Abdallah became the club's chairman following the resignation of Mo Dewji.

After another unimpressive season for Simba, Abdallah made the decision to step down from his role to pave the way for the return of Mo Dewji last week.

Hussein Kita, Zulfikar Chandoo, and Rashid Shangazi are the other members of the new board tasked with reviving Simba's fortunes ahead of the new season.

Last season, Simba secured the Community Shield and Union Cup but fell away in the Premier League, African Football League and Federation Cup.

Simba ended the season in third place, meaning they missed out on qualification for the CAF Champions League for the first time in six years.

They will now take part in the less glamorous CAF Confederation Cup next season.

They also suffered their biggest derby defeat in the last 40 years when they collapsed in the second half to lose 5-1 to their arch-rivals Young Africans.

Mo has vowed to reclaim back Simba's lost glory.

He is reported to have taken a hands-on approach in the recruitment of players in a bid to bolster the squad for a successful campaign.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

