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Govt disburses 9bn/- for health specialists training

It will also be sent by email to addresses that applicants used in submitting applications

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has disbursed 9bn/- for training 601 specialists of different levels in various requirements in the health sector to address staff shortage and improve healthcare services.

Health minister told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the funds cover training fees and research allowance for those who will undertake their programmes in the country.

The government will also pay fees, subsistence allowance, stipend, research allowance and airfare for those who are going to study abroad, she said.

The Samia super specialisation health programme is part of government efforts

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Mourners pay last respects service for late Bishop Kweka

By Guardian Correspondent

BISHOP Dr Alex Malasusa, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), yesterday led hundreds of mourners in Dar es Salaam to pay last respects to the late Bishop Dr Erasto Kweka (89), a former ELCT presiding bishop and veteran bishop of the Northern Diocese.

The late Bishop Kweka (born April 24, 1934) died on November Saturday at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) at the Muhimbili National Hospital complex where he was receiving treatment.

In his remarks before the mourners at the Azania Front Church in the city centre, he said the late prelate ill continue to live in people's hearts, noting that he leaves a mark in the church for his long years of service to the church, including at top leadership.

The late Bishop Kweka worked to boost education and health sectors in various parishes in the Northern Diocese, carrying on a long held tradition, while aiding various groups to find gainful occupation to engender happiness and family cohesion.

He will be buried on December 6 at Uswaa Parish of Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, the presiding bishop noted in a moving eulogy.

He said Bishop Kweka was a hard-working person who worked to enable church followers to be independent economically, focusing on pastors who often face challenges to their calling owing to hardships.

Bishop Malasusa underlined the feeling that for the late Bishop Kweka to work for a living was an ethic, emphasizing that people work hard to improve

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Shichanaisaria Erasto Kweka, widow of retired Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's Northern Diocese Bishop, Dr Erasto Kweka, pays her respects to him at funeral service held at Dar es Salaam's Azania Front Cathedral yesterday. Burial is slated for Moshi in Kilimanjaro Region on Wednesday (December 6). To her right is the current Head of ELCT, Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa

13 killed as bus 'rams' shunting train engine

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A BUS with 57 passengers early yesterday collided with a shunting train engine

at a railway crossing at around 5 a.m. in Manyoni, Singida Region, killing 13 people and injuring 25 others.

ACP Stella Mutahibirwa, the regional

police commander, confirmed the accident, saying that the train engine was on

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A crane is pictured yesterday towing the ill-fated Ally's Company commuter bus reportedly involved in a collision with a goods train in Manyoni District, Singida Region, leaving 13 people dead and 32 injured. Photo: Correspondent Elisante John

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Twiga Stars all out for first-leg advantage over Togo

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Barca, Dortmund, Atletico and Lazio into Champions League last-16

Netherlands issues 82 billion/- grant for redeveloping Msimbazi Basin

By Henry Mwangonde

INVEST International, the Dutch government investment agency, is disbursing a euro 30m (82.03bn/-) grant in co-financing the Msimbazi Basin development project.

Treasury permanent secretary Dr Natu Mwamba and the resident Netherlands ambassador, Wiebe de Boer signed the pact yesterday, partly for constructing an elevated bridge as a durable solution to recurrent flooding disturbing business activity in the city centre for years.

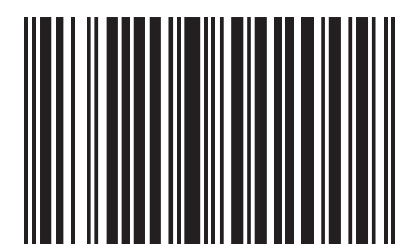
The envoy praised the long standing bilateral relationship between the two countries, with the Treasury top executive describing the grant as consonant with the third five-year plan stretching 2021/22 to 2025/26.

It is also part of a broader government agenda for a competitive industrial economy in the current development decade.

Financing the Msimbazi Basin redevelopment project is also shared with the World Bank and the Spanish government, with the total cost for the project billed at \$260m, the Treasury executive noted.

Spain is extending a \$30m concessional loan, adding to the anchoring \$200m concessional loan from the World Bank, she stated, affirming that the project has components like river

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Govt disburses 9bn/- for health specialists training

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to address the shortage of health specialists and build capacities so that patients with difficult surgical or other demands can be treated locally in the vast majority of cases.

She expressed gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for disbursing the funds, an extension of the big investment in the health sector, where 601 new medical professionals will be trained.

This number is equivalent to 92 percent of applicants for the 2023/2024 financial year, she remarked, underlining that with the on-going efforts the gap of specialised healthcare professionals would be reduced in the next few years.

The government will fully sponsor their studies abroad, she said, urging the beneficiaries for this

year to complete the required procedures by filling out the contracts, essential in accepting the sponsorship.

All the forms should be filled between November 29 and December 12, with a copy of the contracts available on the ministry's website. It will also be sent by email to addresses that applicants used in submitting applications, she stated.

Currently, patients in need of specialised care have to be taken over long distances to find the right medical services, and often fail to cover such costs in time.

When specialists are readily available in regional referral hospitals, patients will be able to access quality healthcare services closer to their homes, reducing the cost of referrals significantly, the minister added.

13 killed as bus 'rams' shunting train engine

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routine shunting.

"The number of deaths could rise as most of the 25 injured passengers are in critical conditions," she said, noting that the bus was heading to Mwanza city from the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam.

She explained that the driver of the bus attempted to rush over the railway crossing without first halting and checking train movements as traffic regulations demand.

Peter Serukamba, the regional commissioner, urged drivers to abide by traffic regulations to avoid unnecessary accidents of that sort, also praising nurses and doctors at the Manyoni and Itigi district hospitals.

The medical staff showed intense

commitment in arranging for treatment of the injured passengers, while Jamila Mbarouk, head of communication at Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) regretted the accident.

She said in a statement that out of 13 people who died, six are women, while among the 25 injured people there are seven women.

The bus of the accident, T 178 DVB belonging to Ally's Star bus service rammed into a light train engine, V 951 9006 moving from Aghondi station, the official noted, citing the railway crossing as rail 587 kilometres point.

"TRC reminds drivers to adhere to safety regulations especially when moving across railway tracks to avoid loss of lives and injuries," the statement intoned.

Mourners attend last respects service for late Bishop Kweka

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their welfare and steer clear of temptations.

"He discouraged people from begging," he said, recalling that the late prelate saw it a duty for all able-bodied members of society to generate an income.

"Being a pastor is not a handicap such that you should beg from others," he said, noting that as church servants, pastors are also expected to support others, "and in that view during his lifetime, the late Bishop Kweka helped many people."

He made reference to the plurality of views or canonical teachings on the issue of becoming rich, pointing out that Bishop Kweka was teaching people to seek economic fulfilment and independence in an honest and hardworking manner, for which the church salutes memory of his services.

He said despite the late bishop being influential inside and outside the country, he remained a humble person who respected others, being honest and working to build his household and relations within and outside the country.

Bishop Malasusa urged mourners to emulate the late bishop in praying for and helping others, while a family member, Dr Kumbaeli Salevi hailed the church leadership for the support it provided to the family when the late Bishop was admitted at JKCI.

The church was also assisting in transporting the body to his home place in Hai District, along with the church members and other mourners who turned up to support the family in mourning the late bishop and family head, he added.

Pictorial spread on Page 4

Presidential election in the DRC: A Katumbi supporter killed in clashes

KINSHASA

A MEMBER of the party of opposition and presidential candidate Moïse Katumbi was killed Tuesday in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo in clashes with supporters of the ruling party, we learned from reliable sources.

Lawyer and father of six children, Dido Kasingi "was killed" in the attack on Moïse Katumbi's procession which arrived in Kindu, capital of the province of Maniema (east) for his campaign, declared Hervé Diakiese, door-spokesperson for Ensemble pour la République, during a press conference in Kinshasa.

The dead man was the youth president of this political group.

Diakiese accused the governor of Maniema, Idrissa Mangala, of being the instigator of this tragedy and demanded his "immediate suspension" and his placing "at the disposal of justice".

Reports have it that the clashes had opposed members of Ensemble pour la République, Katumbi's party, and members of the Union

for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), the ruling party.

"The attackers stoned the procession (of Katumbi) from the grounds of the residence of Governor Idrissa Mangala," maintained Diakiese, believing that it was a "clearly premeditated attack".

Governor Mangala declared that this incident "follows the barbaric behaviour" of Katumbi's supporters. Dido Kasingi "was not killed by the demonstrators, he was mowed down by a vehicle" from Katumbi's procession passing during the "altercation", he added.

Mayor of the town of Kindu, Augustin Mulamba said that this tragedy occurred following "clashes" and "stone throwing" between supporters of Moïse Katumbi and those of the president's UDPS. Felix Tshisekedi.

Tshisekedi arrived in the evening in Bunia, in the province of Ituri (north-east). "What brought me here is the election of December 20, trust again, give me the second mandate in order to pursue our various projects," he declared in a rally.



Jenista Mhagama (3rd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday gifting ITV/Radio One managing director Joyce Mhaviile a souvenir copy of a book entitled Sauti ya Siti. It was at the climax of celebrations to mark the 36th anniversary of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa). The book is a Tamwa publication. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Netherlands issues 82bn/- grant for redeveloping Msimbazi Basin

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channelling, river-bank protection works, sediment control, erosion control; widening along with raising the Jangwani Bridge to accommodate flash flood events.

A key component of the project is to develop the Msimbazi wetland to a city park, relocating the rapid bus depot at Jangwani to Ubungu Maziwa to pave the way for wider use of the floodplain being redeveloped.

She referred to direct and indirect

losses arising from floods at Jangwani area, both in terms of revenue generation and social costs for families living on the reaches of the basin, highly affected during the rainy season.

Frequent floods have been affecting economic activities during the rainy season periodically, temporarily blocking the use of Jangwani Bridge that enables commuters and motorists to access the two ends of the business district, the city centre and to Kariakoo market complex re-

spectively.

These interventions will improve the economic and social wellbeing of a section of the city population, she said, attributing the grant to bilateral initiatives since 2012, in which Netherlands has been promoting sustainable development projects here.

Other projects supported under the collaboration include the rehabilitation of diagnostic services at 34 hospitals in 21 regions with grants totaling euro 11.5m.

The Dar es Salaam Integrated Waste Project was included in this initiative with provision for feasibility study improving waste disposal facilities and collection services, for which a euro 840,000 grant was accorded, she stated.

Dutch aid similarly financed the rehabilitation of the Kilimanjaro International Airport with a euro 14m grant and rural electrification where power plants were set up in Ngara, Biharamulo and Mpanda via a euro 20m grant, she added.



Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (R) and the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Tanzania, Wieber de Boer, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday signing an 82bn/- grant agreement for the implementation of the city's Msimbazi Valley Development Project. The amount constitutes part of the cost of executing a programme to be jointly funded by the World Bank and the Spanish government, with the latter extending a soft loan to the tune of 30 million euros. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Dam flooding displaces hundreds in Ghana

ACCRA

A MAJOR spillage from an irrigation dam in Ghana on Monday displaced more than 200 households and affected hundreds of people in the area.

The flooding occurred in the Ningo-Prampam District of the Greater Accra Region, with residents forced to evacuate as the waters rose. Some people remained stranded in their houses, awaiting rescue.

The spillage was primarily caused by recent heavy rains, with the dam designed to automatically release water when it reaches its maximum storage level.

However, many residents feel

frustrated following what is the third instance of flooding this year.

A Member of Parliament for Ningo-Prampam, Sam Nartey George, voiced his anger over what he saw as a failure of duty by those responsible for the dam's management.

"Yes, there are natural causes for this but it has been exacerbated by the decisions and inactions of people," said George. "The indiscipline in our community, and now we have people paying the price for it. We need to have proper investigations into this matter."

The flood comes once month after another spillage from the Akosombo Dam displaced over 30,000 people along the Volta basin further north.

Kenyan court overturns unpopular payroll levy

NAIROBI

A KENYAN court ruled on Tuesday that a salary levy introduced by President William Ruto in June was illegal, dealing a major blow to the government's aim of bolstering the state coffers.

A law allowing a 1.5 percent levy on the salaries of all Kenyan taxpayers, including employers was passed in June to finance a low-cost housing programme.

Three judges of the Nairobi High Court ruled that the measure was not part of a complete legal framework and that the exclusion of informal workers was "discriminatory and irrational".

"An order has been made prohibiting the collection of (...) the fees known as the Affordable Housing Act", said Justice David Majanja.

The levy was part of a budget bill that introduced many new taxes for Kenyans, against a backdrop of already high inflation.

Anger over rising prices, particularly for basic necessities such as food and fuel, led to a series of sometimes deadly protests against William Ruto's government earlier this year.

Kenya, the powerhouse of East Africa, is plagued by galloping inflation and a plummeting currency, which has caused the cost of repaying its debt to soar.



Beatrice Bandawe (L), Managing Editor of The Guardian's Kiswahili sister daily newspaper Nipashe, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing Jenista Mhagama (2nd-R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), on the 29-year-old publication. This was at the just-ended commemoration of the 36th anniversary of Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA). Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Africa planning to establish its own International Anti-Corruption Court

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFRICA is mulling the establishment of the first International Anti-Corruption Court on the continent to impeach leaders, politicians and other government officials that have been robbing wealth from their respective countries.

"But the envisaged International Anti-Corruption Tribunal will not just deal with corrupt African leaders, but also prosecute their foreign accomplices working or living overseas," explained the Executive Secretary for the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption, Charity Nchimunya.

According to Ms Nchimunya, the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption has been receiving briefings from the parties and people who are pushing for the IACC agenda during its 45th Ordinary Session that has just wound up in Arusha.

The AUABC Executive Secretary said the proposed International Anti-Corruption Court will be quite different from the International Criminal Court (ICC) of The Hague.

"The envisaged IACC will specifically deal with major graft cases especially matters that involve big and influential persons and those being protected by governments who enjoy immunity and those that cannot be tried in

their own country," explained Ms Nchimunya.

Among the meeting agendas, the Board also took key interest in pioneering the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR) working to recover all assets, including cash and minerals that were stolen from the continent by corrupt leaders and concealed overseas and collaboration with other key stakeholders in the fight against Corruption.

Earlier, the Chairperson of the AUABC Seynabou Ndiaye Diakhate revealed that the board has already set proper guidelines for the recovery of illicit acquired assets from the African Continent, that were smuggled abroad by leaders, their relatives or accomplices and other influential people in the member countries.

The African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) is an autonomous organ established within the African Union, in terms of Article 22 the Convention. Until now, a total of 48 countries on the continent have so far ratified the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

Five other states, including Eswatini, Eritrea, Somalia, Djibouti and South-Sudan have signed but not ratified the convention.

The remaining two, that are Cape Verde and Central Africa, on the other hand have neither signed nor ratified the convention.

Activists in Z'bar want good governance systems be strengthened to curtail GBV

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

HUMAN rights stakeholders in Zanzibar have called for strengthened systems of good governance to ensure accountability and access to justice as authorities struggle to end gender-based violence (GBV).

They were speaking at a debate organized by the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) in Zanzibar in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) as part of activities to mark the 16 days of activism against GBV.

Dr Salum Suleiman, a lecturer at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), insisted the need for people to be aware of

all the laws, the thing that she said would help in reducing injustice.

He said by having a good understanding of the laws, may stop involvement in cruelty acts especially against girls and women.

Chairman, TAMWA Zanzibar, Asha Abdi said they are directing all the efforts in increasing people's awareness on good governance and the rule of law. He said the move is geared at reducing challenges related to violation of human rights.

Nabir Mohamed Mussa from the Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO) urged the government to ensure punishment for cul-

prits of GBV cases.

Rashid Mwinyi, Director of the Pamoja Youth Initiative (PYI) said many Tanzanians do not have access to newly enacted laws. He said having access to the laws would enable citizens to make informed decisions including reporting GBV cases to the police force.

Tatu Abdalla Msellem, Coordinator at Tumaini Jipya Pemba (TUJIPE) suggested for the country to come up with a single law to punish perpetrators of gender based violence as well as protection of victims.

Magistrate Sarah Omar from the Zanzibar Resident Magistrates Court said the judiciary executes its duties in accord-

ance with the laws.

She said the judiciary is part of the formulated laws, so it has to make sure that all its activities are in accordance with the country's laws.

The debate brought together human rights stakeholders including officers from the police gender desk, religious leaders, prosecutors, magistrates and social welfare officers.

He said by having a good understanding of the laws, may stop involvement in cruelty acts especially against girls and women

LINDI FORESTS LIMITED
The companies Act, 2002 (Section 345)

MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY WINDING - UP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that **LINDI FORESTS LIMITED** a company with registration number **54989** dully intends to convene a final meeting on 30th December, 2023 in accordance to section 345(2) of the Companies Act, 2002. The purpose of the general meeting is laying before the accounts and giving any explanation thereof.

All parties concerned and who have claims are hereby called to attend the meeting at **Basil & Aired office, Ace Building (1st Floor), Haile Selassie Road, Dar es salaam, Tanzania on 30th December, 2023 at 10am.**

GODFREY BASIL MRAMBA
Liquidator
For **LINDI FORESTS LIMITED**

PACT TANZANIA: STATEMENT OF FUNDS COMMITTED FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE YEAR 2024

The Adolescents and Children, HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE) project is a five-year, USAID-funded global project to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact, in partnership with Palladium, WI-HER, Jhpiego, and No Means No Worldwide.

In line with Regulation 12 of the Government Notice 609 on Financial Transparency and Accountability, Pact Tanzania hereby discloses below funds committed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of financing fiscal year 2024 (1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024) budget for implementation of ACHIEVE project activities. In FY 2024 Pact will implement ACHIEVE Project in 41 councils in 7 regions of Tanzania mainland through six (6) local civil society organizations (CSOs). A significant amount of these funds will be channeled to CSOs to support the implementation of approved project activities. ACHIEVE will also continue to support both President Office Regional Administration and Local and Ministry of community development gender women and special groups to enhance the national and community-level social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for OVC, at-risk AGYW, and PLHIV.

Project Name	ACHIEVE Project
Funding Agency	USAID
Project purpose	ACHIEVE project goal is to Improve access to HIV-inclusive services to improve the health and well-being of OVC. The project has three (3) strategic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SO1: To strengthen the capacity of the national and community-level social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for OVC, at-risk AGYW, and PLHIV. SO2: To strengthen the capacity of local organizations to manage and implement USAID/PEPFAR OVC awards as prime implementing partners. SO3: Improve the health, well-being, and protection of OVC and youth in high HIV-burden communities.
Project duration	October 01, 2023 - September 30, 2024
Funds committed for FY 2023/24	\$ 4,000,000
Regions of implementation	Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Tabora, Kigoma, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Dodoma, and Mbeya.
Local CSOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Service, Health and Development for People Living Positively with HIV/AIDS (SHDEPHA+) Tumaini Community Services Organization (TCSO). HUMULIZA. Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS Dar Es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA). BAKAID Tanzania. Inland Development Tanzania (IDT).

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

WSIS STOCKTAKING, PRIZES AND PHOTO CONTESTS 2024

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines Facilitators/Co-Facilitators is inviting all stakeholders to contribute to the WSIS Stocktaking, an international repository of 14,000+ projects, and the WSIS Prizes 2024, which promote best information and communication technologies practices advancing the WSIS Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Detailed information is available at www.wsis.org/stocktaking and www.wsis.org/prizes.

Also, the WSIS Photo Contest annual competition is open to everyone, which invites participants to submit photographs that showcase how Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are playing an enabling role in achieving the SDGs. The three winning entries in the WSIS photo contest will be awarded and presented at the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event.

Detailed information is available at www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/PhotoContest.

TCRA encourages all stakeholders, including entities representing the government, the private sector, international and regional institutions, civil society, and academia to submit projects or initiatives that leverage the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to advance sustainable development.

No more than one project from the same entity is allowed to be submitted per category. Stakeholders are invited to consult the rules for project submission and nomination criteria at the WSIS Prizes website. All WSIS stakeholders are encouraged to submit ICT projects for which they believe should be recognized and promoted, and for which they do not necessary hold ownership of.

The list of nominated projects will be announced on 15 February 2024 and WSIS stakeholders will be invited to participate and cast their vote by 15 March 2024.

The eighteen (18) winning projects will be announced together with 72 champion projects at the WSIS Prize 2024 Ceremony at the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event (28 May 2024). The winning projects will be showcased in the WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2024 publication, while all submitted descriptions of projects and activities will be reflected in the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2024. The deadline for all submissions is 31st January 2024.

Issued by:
Director General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O. Box 474,
14414, DAR ES SALAAM.

Dar city bids final farewell to former ELCT bishop Dr Kweka



Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Reverends clergy and other faithful carry the casket bearing the body of former ELCT North Diocese Bishop Dr Erasto Kweka shortly after funeral service held at Dar es Salaam's Azania Front Cathedral yesterday. All photos: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Retired ELCT Bishop Elinaza Sendoro (2nd-R) pays his respects.



Dr Alex Malasusa, current Head of ELCT, presides over the funeral service.



Dr Alex Malasusa, current Head of ELCT, presides over the funeral service.



More members of the ELCT clergy perform farewell rites before the casket bearing the body of former Bishop Dr Kweka.



Members of the family of former Bishop Dr Kweka including his widow, Sichanaisaria Erasto Kweka (3rd-R) follow proceedings during the Azania Front Cathedral service.



Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa consoles former Bishop Dr Kweka's widow.



Mourners in their hundreds follow proceedings during the funeral service.



Prof Joyce Ndalichako (2nd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), and Workers Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma (L) exchange ideas with beneficiaries of WCF support in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The occasion was part of the run-up to the commemoration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), this year to be held at national level in Dodoma city. The observance of the Day is meant to help promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Compensation fund comes up with new 'benefit' for workers

By Guardian Reporter

THE government through the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) has announced a new benefit, social rehabilitation service for workers who suffer from work-related disabilities and illnesses.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State, in the Prime Minister's Office (Work, Youth, Employment and People with Disability) made the announcement yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking ahead of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities that is marked on every December 3rd.

At the national level the day will be celebrated in Dodoma and is marked under the theme: "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities".

Prof Ndalichako said: "My brothers and Sisters, we'll soon start providing a new benefit, Social Rehabilitation Services, we will provide training to build skills for employees who get disabled while at work and the type of skills we will provide will depend on what the individual chooses."

She said the government goal is to provide him/her with skills that will be compatible with his/her disability, for example he/she was a driver and had an accident that caused his legs to break, he/she can change and study for a job that he/she can do without relying on his legs.

The minister said that along with building their skills, the facility will also give them the opportunity to build an infrastructure that is compatible with their situation, thus enabling them to afford a life compatible with the environment they live in.

Some of the WCF beneficiaries lauded the government for the

services they receive from the Fund despite being disabled and others losing their loved ones.

"I would like to encourage employers to contribute to their employees, as the contribution rates are low, we are grateful that the Government has reduced the contribution rates to 0.5 percent" said Norbert Tesha, who has been permanently disabled after an accident at work in 2016.

"We do not know our tomorrow, but if there are good foundations laid today, then our tomorrow will be good, everyone is a potential disabled person," said Tesha.

"My four children and I, have benefited a lot from this fund, our friend at the moment is WCF, I always pass by this road, I always say that these are my walking friends and I am pleased to say the monthly benefits have been very supportive, have helped to educate my children and I could not transfer them from the schools they were studying before their father died," Emmaculate Nzigula, another beneficiary of the fund said.

The celebration of the International Day of People with Disabilities, aims to motivate the business leaders in the world to recognize the valuable contribution of people with disabilities.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it is currently estimated that 1.3 billion people in the world live with the challenge of disability; this is equal to 16 percent of all people in the world.

"I would like to encourage employers to contribute to their employees, as the contribution rates are low, we are grateful that the Government has reduced the contribution rates to 0.5 percent"

FCC to embark on training to sharpen public understanding

By Guardian Reporter

IN celebrating the World Competition Day (WCD), the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) is planning to conduct training for various groups to broaden their understanding of the commission's activities.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the world competition week, FCC

Director General, Dr William Erio mentioned some of the groups that will be trained as artisanal miners in Simiyu Region as well as seed producers and distributors from northern zone regions. The training for seed manufacturers will be held in Arusha.

"We are also targeting a group of grape and sunflower processors; the seminar which will be held in the country's capital-Dodoma," said Dr

Erio, mentioning other groups as businessmen and industrialists in Mbeya regions and finally, cashew farmers in Mtwara Region.

"The aim is that people who engage in production of various products and the business community should be aware of our activities and work with us," he added.

He said that for this year the slogan of the celebration which

will culminate in Dar es Salaam is 'Conspiracy between competitors and its effects on consumers' and its climax on December 5 will be celebrated around the world.

He added that they want to make sure every businessman follows the principles of business. He said the WCD climax will be on December 5th whereas celebrations will be held in Dar es Salaam under the theme-Competition Policy for an Inclusive and Resilient Economy.

Erio noted that FCC would wish to see all the businessmen observing available trade regulations. He said that Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Industry and Trade will grace the event on December 5th.

Dar, Rabat inaugurate digital system for collection of crop data

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya

TANZANIA and Morocco have launched a digitalized system for collection of agricultural crops data, a project which is expected to help the country to know projected harvests for internal consumption and exports.

A soil researcher from the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)-Uyole centre Fredrick Mlowe who is the project coordinator said under the new system, statistics will be collected while crops are still at farm.

Speaking at training to extension officers from 24 regions, he said data to be collected by the system will be accurate because previously such data were collected through estimations. He said the training was meant to equip the officers with necessary skills to execute their duties.

Mlowe said the system will help the country to know harvest projections for the specific farming season in comparison with previous and coming seasons.

"This modern system uses satellites in collecting information; data will be collected from at all growing stages of a plant until harvesting. We will use it to collect data from all the farm areas including uncultivated farm lands," he added.

He said the extension officers will be provided with mobile phones to facilitate collection of data which will be added to the system.

Mlowe said they have trained 120 extension officers and their

supervisors from 24 regions. He said training was provided by experts from Tanzania and Morocco, noting the two will also collaborate in providing the gadgets to the officers.

Sales Manager of a Morocco based fertilizer manufacturing company-OCP, Kefas Sima said they are sponsoring the project after supporting a soil testing project. He said the soil testing project was successful hence the need to also assist in data collection for agricultural crops.

According to Sima, the data collection system has been successful in some countries where it is applicable, as governments are aware of the projected harvests for the specific farming season.

He said the data collection will be

sponsored for eight months, meaning data will be collected from planting to harvesting stages.

"With the new system; collection of data will be done accurately. We will have all the information regarding the plants' growth until when it is harvested," said Sima.

One of the extension officers from Rukwa Region, Ocran Chengula said they have learned how to properly use the gadgets to collect data. He said they will now be able to know the exact projected crop harvests in their specific regions.

Katavi Region's agricultural officer, Paulo Sheyo said apart from knowing the projected harvests, the system will also enable them to know whether crops have been attacked by diseases.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

PROVISION OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES FOR WATERAID TANZANIA FOR THE YEAR 2023 - 2026



WaterAid had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organization in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.SO.7557). WaterAid Tanzania operates as a Country Program and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No. 1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

WaterAid work is closely aligned with the Government of Tanzania's Water Sector Development Program (WSDP), and our work aims to unblock the key challenges that the sector is facing in achieving the WSDP targets. We believe that water, sanitation and hygiene should be at the center of development. When citizens have access to WASH services, this also improves their health, education, nutrition, and livelihoods. By working to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 - universal access to water and sanitation, we will also be supporting the country to eradicate extreme poverty and improve the lives of the poorest in Tanzania.

The WaterAid Tanzania has set aside funds for the year 2023 to 2026, towards the cost of operations and maintenance of its different projects and programs. It is intended that part of these funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract (s) for provision of various goods, services and works to the WaterAid Tanzania.

On behalf of WaterAid Tanzania, LUPALILA Company (T) Limited is now inviting eligible, qualified and competent Bidders to submit sealed pre-qualification submissions/expressions of interest for the supply of goods and offer of services. More details about goods, services and works required, selection criteria and submission address and deadline, can be found at the WaterAid Tanzania website: <https://www.wateraid.org/tz/work-with-us>

Eligible interested bidders should Express their Interest to WaterAid Tanzania by **14th December 2023 at 15.00 hours** East Africa Time.

177348

The United Republic of Tanzania MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM



PUBLIC NOTICE:

REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION FOR TOURISM BUSINESS LICENSES FOR THE YEAR 2024

Kindly be informed that applications for new Tourism Business Licenses (TTBL) and renewal of existing tourism licenses for the year 2024 is now open. All tourism operators are hereby advised to start applying for their respective TTBL licenses.

According to Tourism Act No. 29 of 2008, tourism activities which require licenses include: Tour Operators/Safari Outfitters; Photographic Safaris; Hunting Safaris; Travel Agents; Handling Agents; Hot Air Balloon Safaris; Horse Riding; Tourism Sea Ferries and Boat Safaris; Tourism Water Sports (Big Game Fishing, Scuba Diving etc.); Tourism Recreation (Zoo, Snake Parks etc.); Air Charter Services (Non Schedule Flight); Mountain Climbing or Trekking; Car Rental or Hire, Amusement Centers; Professional Safari Photographers (Filming); Exclusive Luxury Accommodation Facilities; Lodges; Tented and Mobile Camps; Town Hotels; Vacation Hotels; Villas; Cottages and Serviced Apartments; Motels; Camping and Caravan Sites; Tourism Hostels; Tourism Home Stays; Cultural Heritage Centers / Art Galleries ; Curio Shops; Cultural Tourism Enterprises, and Tour Guides.

Important; New applications must be accompanied by; (i) TIN Number (ii) Certificate of Incorporation or Sole Proprietor Extract/partnership Deed and (iii) Proof of Nationality of Shareholders.

All applications are processed through the electronic application system, MNRT-Portal, which is available at the Ministry's website www.maliasili.go.tz. It should be noted that, submission of false information is illegal and punishable by law including revocation of a license.

For more information kindly visit our website at www.maliasili.go.tz or visit our Ministry's Headquarter Offices at UDOM, in Dodoma or Tourism Zonal Offices located at Mpingo House, Dar es Salaam; PSSSF building, Mwanza; Iringa NSSF Block; and TANAPA Head Quarters in Arusha.

Issued by:
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION UNIT
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM
Tel: +255759907390/+255 684498345/+255 752992644

Email: dt@maliasili.go.tz
30th November, 2023

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By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

University vows to use more tech in education provision

THE Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) has planned to increase the use of technology in the provision of education, increase research, publications and creativity to keep up with the speed of the digital world.

Prof Yohana Mashalla, HKMU vice chancellor unveiled this yesterday when speaking ahead of the varsity's 21st graduation. He said the improvements are part of the university's strategic plan for the next five years from 2023-2028.

Prof Mashalla said HKMU has completed the evaluation of the implementation of the university's five-year strategic plan for 2018-2023, and earlier this month it launched the five-year strategic plan to be completed in 2028.

He said the plan is based on strengthening the provision of education and administration including the teaching environment, increasing admissions, improving

the internet use and increasing the use of technology in the provision of education to students, academics and staff.

He also said that in the strategic plan, the university has planned to increase research, publications, creativity and strengthen planning and financial systems.

He said that in order to implement the programme, in this academic year, HKMU has admitted 465 new students in various fields.

"This increase in students in the first year will make the college have a total of 1,628 students compared to 1,452 students in the previous academic year," he said.

He added that in the graduation the total number of graduates will be 296 and among them 166 are women and 130 are men while in the Doctor of Medicine Degree there are 65 women and 73 men.

He said that before the graduation

there will be an academic assembly which will also discuss business opportunities and the official guest will be the former Deputy Minister of Finance, Janeth Mbene.

"We have seen that instead of discussing health issues alone, we will call experts who are experts in business and economics so that they can contribute to the provision of experts in the health sector who are also competent in business and economic issues," he said.

He also said the government's move to build many primary and secondary schools has increased the number of students with qualifications to join universities but there have been few opportunities.

"That's why HKMU decided to prepare to face that challenge. We have decided to build a new campus in Boko area so that we can have the capacity to admit many students in various fields we offer," he said.



Arusha Urban legislator Mrisho Gambo (L) pictured in Arusha city yesterday receiving medical equipment, including an X-ray machine, an ambulance and a CT (computed tomography) scanner, which the government has issued to the city's Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital. Right is Dr Alex Ernest, a medical officer with the hospital. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Free registration of under-fives to begin next month, says RITA

By Guardian Reporter

THE long-awaited registration of children under five years in Dar es Salaam Region will start early next month, the Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) Chief Executive Officer, Frank Kanyusi has said.

Kanyusi told a seminar of health and administrative officials who will be directly involved in the registration of the kids and giving them free birth certificates, that implementation of the registration programme in 25 regions has been a success. In the 25 regions some 8,886,778 kids have been registered.

"Yours will be the last region. We have enough experience in conducting this special programme.

You will use the latest technology. We have every reason to believe that this region, too, will make it and make it superbly, he told amused officials who will use state smartphones to register children at mother and child centres and ward offices and send the information to RITA's database.

RITA expects to have 248,298 under-fives registered swiftly and get birth certificates in Dar es Salaam Region. Already 624,755 children or 60.3 percent of the region's eligible children had been registered as of yesterday, Mr Kanyusi explained. He did not say when the registration programme would be launched.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila

urged Dar es Salaam Region parents to assemble at designated offices in their areas to make the registration exercise a success. The registration and certificates are free. We do not expect mischief. State organs are on the alert, he said.

He called for involvement of religious leaders and respected old people in the implementation of the programme.

The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mr Hosea Mitala, urged Dar es Salaam residents to rise to the occasion and make the listing of children a big success. UNICEF is a strategic supporter of the countrywide programme. He thanked the government for taking the programme very seriously.

By Guardian Reporter

JENISTA Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs) yesterday suggested a special leadership training to build the capacity of women journalists.

Mhagama made the suggestion in Dar es Salaam when representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the 36th anniversary of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) – a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental and human rights organization founded and registered on 17th November 1987 under the Societies Ordinance Cap 337 of 1954 with registration number (SO 6763).

She said the special leadership training can be offered by the Uongozi Institute and the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA), noting that the move would make them good leaders in their newsrooms.

Mhagama noted that since most women are honest and do not involve themselves in crimes; it is important to trust and offer them leadership posts.

"Getting a leadership post is easy; but it requires one to be

Mhagama advocates leadership training for women journalists

wise enough to protect it. Women leaders should make sure they perform better so that more women are entrusted with the positions," she said.

Minister Mhagama said that when women oppose the patriarchy system, it does not mean that they are breaking the dignity of a man, but rather pushing a fair system of life as well as equal rights to education, leadership and property ownership.

"Let us celebrate TAMWA's 36th anniversary by protecting the rights of women and children, promoting our values and fighting against Gender Based Violence," stated the Minister, adding that President Samia is proud of TAMWA and its various activities including promoting gender equality.

TAMWA Chairperson, Joyce Shebe said that a number of successes and challenges have been recorded within 36 years. She said the association has been working to ensure gender equality and liberate women from all forms of GBV.

Shebe said one of the challenges is the presence of sexual corruption in the media, the problem that is still too big and hinders efforts in fighting violence against women.

"Sexual corruption still exists in the media industry; this challenge has affected many girls and women, contributing to failure to achieve their targeted life dreams," she added, noting that TAMWA has been at the forefront in issuing declarations against gender based violence, calling upon the government to take measures to control such acts.

Other government officials who attended TAMWA's 36th anniversary event include, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology Celestine Kakele, Director of Information Services and Chief Government Spokesperson, Mobhare Matinyi, women Representatives from Kenya as well as representatives of various development organizations and civil society organizations.



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT
Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work package.

Tembo Nickel Corporation Limited ("Tembo Nickel") is an operating company formed via the Framework Agreement (19 January 2021) between Kabanga Nickel Limited ("Kabanga Nickel") and the Government of Tanzania ("GoT") for development of the Kabanga nickel deposits in the Ngara District in the Northwest of Tanzania ("Kabanga Nickel Project"). Under the Framework Agreement terms, Tembo (owned 84% by Kabanga Nickel and 16% by GoT) has been formally established for the mining, processing, and refining of Class 1 nickel with cobalt and copper co-products.

The Kabanga Nickel Project is the largest development-ready nickel sulphide deposit in the world, unmatched in scale and grade, with at least 30 years life of mine and further exploration upside. Once in operation, the Kabanga Nickel Project will produce Class 1 battery grade nickel, cobalt, and copper refined metals in Tanzania. The cradle-to-gate operation will use hydromet technology that is significantly more cost efficient than smelting. The hydromet process will reduce the carbon footprint, minimise environmental impact, lower capital, and production costs, and contribute significantly to the economic growth of Tanzania.

Tembo Nickel invites the submission of an "Expression of Interest" (EOI) from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for the inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following Scope of Work:

No.	Reference no.	Scope of Work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	TEMBO-2023-07-27	(a) Design of Modular Wastewater (Sewage) Treatment Plant (b) Manufacture (c) Engineering (d) Painting & Corrosion Protection (e) Yard Assembly & Testing (f) Packing and Loading (g) Delivery to site (Ngara District, Kagera Region, Tanzania) (h) Commissioning (i) Training of the Tembo's operators (during commissioning) (j) Operation and Maintenance Manuals (k) Process, Mechanical and Electrical Guarantees and Certification	(a) Must be compliant with the Tanzanian Local Content Legislation and have an approved Local Content Plan. (b) Demonstrate experience in designing and manufacture of Modular Sewage Treatment Plants in the recent 5 years. (c) Provide details of all contracts completed in the last 5 years including value, duration, client contact details. (d) Provide details of current contracts in execution phase. (e) Must have a demonstratable quality management system. (f) Confirm key personnel and contact person with contact details. (g) Confirm details of workshop and fabrication facilities as well as company capacity for the provision of goods and/or services. (h) Safety record over the past 24 months.

The above Scope of Work is intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced Bidders which shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If a Bidder would like to be considered for **pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender**, please submit an EOI on the Bidders' company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Comprehensive company profile
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of Incorporation, Business License, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration
- Years of service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Indicate the above reference number and description of your EOI submission.

EOI's from interested companies that can provide ALL services detailed in the Scope of Work above will be considered. Kindly send your response by email to tenders@kabanganickel.com. The closing date for this re-advertisement is close of business on **15 December 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the reference number, as indicate in the above table, in the subject line of your email. **Submissions made in response to the original advertisement need not be resubmitted.**

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of Tembo Nickel Corporation.

For and on behalf of TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION LIMITED: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT
tembonickel.com

177350

Dar to host African women in business conference next week

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM is next week set to host the second conference on African women in business aimed at discussing, sharing experiences and resolve challenges facing them.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji said that the African conference has been organized by her ministry and the African Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) secretariat.

Themed: "Strengthening Women's Participation in Business and Accelerating the Implementation of AfCFTA, the conference will enable women to strategies to strengthen their participation in business in Africa under the AfCFTA Agreement

and enable them to benefit properly from the business opportunities provided by the agreement.

"Women are the essence of business and they have been an important catalyst in the development of the world economy, so they need to be included to take advantage of the opportunities provided under the Agreement," said Dr. Kijaji

She said 700 people are expected to participate in the conference together with various women leaders from Africa and outside Africa at the level of Presidents, Retired Presidents, Vice Presidents, Prime Ministers, heads of various International Institutions.

She mentioned others who will participate are famous people, ministers in charge of the business sector and gender issues, women, youth and businessmen.

The Minister said there will be business exhibitions involving business women from 55 African

countries. The first conference was held on September 12-14, 2022 in Dar es Salaam and attended by more than 1,000 participants from across Africa.

According to her, the conference is aimed to bring together senior women leaders, ministers, women entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to discuss, give opinions, advice and recommendations to facilitate the preparation of a Protocol to enable women and youth to participate fully in business within the AfCFTA.

The great achievements resulting from the first conference in 2022, includes resolutions that enabled the preparation and completion of a draft protocol for women and youth in business within the AfCFTA.

The conference provided the right ways to solve various obstacles and challenges facing women and youth in business to enable them to participate fully business in Africa.

Some of the challenges facing women in business include limited availability of funds, marketing information, inputs, use of technology, marketing, limited ability to comply with standards and other legal requirements.

Dr. Kijaji also said that among the success includes 18 companies that do business of selling products in the AfCFTA market, including the women's company ANISIA Group (Tanzania) that sells clove products in Morocco and AJA (T) Ltd that sells cotton in Ghana.

She said the companies are fulfilling Tanzania's goal of being among the first eight countries that were given priority to send 10 products that will enter the market from July 2023.

Dr Kijaji also urged women to participate in strengthening the value chain in products, especially agriculture and forestry and sell their products through the AfCFTA market.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a symposium for members of the African women business community to be held in the city next week. With her is permanent secretary Dr Hashil Twaibu Abdallah. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has revised its short to medium-term macroeconomic forecast for Africa, for 2023 and 2024 downwards to 3.4% and 3.8%, from 4.0% and 4.3%.

The slightly lower figures reflect the persistent long-term effects of COVID-19, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, climate shocks, a global economic slowdown, and limited fiscal space for African governments to adequately respond to shocks and sustain post-pandemic economic recovery gains.

The updated data were published yesterday in the Africa's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook (MEO) update, a follow-up to the Bank Group's 2023 Africa Economic Outlook released in May.

While inflationary pressures are receding globally, they are persistent in Africa and continue to weigh heavily on the continent's short-to-medium-term economic performance, according to the

AfDB revises economic forecast for Africa downwards amid global shocks

update. Africa's inflation is now projected to average 18.5% and 17.1% in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

Prof. Kevin Urama, Bank Group's Chief Economist and Vice President said: "The challenging global economic environment and multiple shocks continue to shape Africa's macroeconomic performance. The entrenched inflationary pressures threaten to reverse all the macroeconomic gains made since the easing of pandemic risks while the continued depreciation of domestic currencies in many countries has exacerbated debt service costs."

"In the face of regional and global shocks, the Bank remains resolute in supporting African countries to better navigate these challenges and put economic growth back on track," he added.

In the short term, the MEO update urges countries to continue to implement restrictive monetary

policies to contain inflation. This should be supported by fiscal policies that promote economic diversification and remove supply-side constraints.

Over the medium- to long-term, it calls on governments to scale up efficient investment in human capital and physical infrastructure to boost productivity, regain momentum in economic growth, and create opportunities for more inclusive and sustainable development.

The revised inflation rates represent an acceleration of 3.4 and 7.6 percentage points, respectively, from the earlier projection. Ongoing inflationary pressure has largely been fuelled by supply shocks in agriculture, stronger imported inflation due to weaker local currencies, relatively high commodity prices, and the persistence of fiscal dominance in several African countries.

ABUJA

THE Rural Electrification Agency (REA) of Nigeria is set to play a key role at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the 5th of December, 2023.

As a leading force in advancing sustainable energy access and climate change interventions in Nigeria, the REA will host a multi-format Side Event at the Nigeria Pavilion themed "Renewable Energy for Inclusive Development: Optimizing Innovation for Social Impact and Economic Growth in Nigeria" on the 5th of December, 2023.

The REA will be holding a second Side Event at 4 PM on "Funding the Energy Access Gap in Last-Mile Communities in Nigeria" same day, 5th of December, in partnership with InfraCredit, an institution reputable for unlocking long-term local currency infrastructure finance in Nigeria. This second side event is targeted at a more specialized group of renewable energy developers, financiers, and investors in the global off-grid space. Both events are scheduled to be held at the Nigeria Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP28, Expo City Dubai.

Scheduled to be a focal point in the COP28 agenda, the REA's side event aims to spotlight the nation's data-driven energy transition journey as well as the agency's suite of renewable energy interventions and their impact across the key sectors of the economy.

With a keen focus on optimizing innovation for both social impact, economic growth, and

REA deploys 100+ mini-grids for development in Nigeria in 3 years

environmental sustainability, the agency will showcase its mitigation and adaptation interventions through the use of sustainable energy solutions as it addresses the dual challenge of energy poverty, climate change, and sustainable growth in Nigeria.

The REA, an Implementing Agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria, under the Federal Ministry of Power, is primarily tasked with the electrification of rural and unserved communities. Through data-driven and human-centered interventions, the Agency continues to partner with frontline stakeholders globally to deliver innovative solutions to power last-mile communities, healthcare institutions, tertiary institutions, market clusters, and agricultural value chains.

In 4 short years, the Agency has deployed over 100 solar hybrid mini-grids and over 1.6 million solar home systems, catalyzing transformative development in last-mile communities in Nigeria, unlocking the economic potential of \$9.2B per annum and cutting the self-generation cost of \$14B in 10 years.

Engr. Ahmad Salihijo Ahmad, the MD/CEO, of REA, explained that "The agency's presence at COP28 is a testament to our dedication to delivering sustainable and equitable energy access interventions. We believe that renewable energy is not just a source of power but a catalyst for transformative change, touching every aspect of society and economy."

At the REA side event, global stakeholders, including

financiers, development finance institutions, project developers, members of civil society groups and the media will be treated to engaging and informative conversations on the following key thematic areas:

Innovation for Social Impact: Unveiling groundbreaking initiatives and technologies that are bringing renewable energy solutions to remote and underserved communities in Nigeria, positively impacting lives and fostering social equity.

Economic Growth through Renewable Energy: Showcasing success stories and strategies on Productive Use of Energy (PUE) where renewable energy is driving economic development, creating jobs, and enhancing resilience in the face of climate change.

Inclusive Development Strategies: Discussing policies and practices that ensure inclusivity in the deployment of renewable energy solutions, with a focus on leaving no one behind in the pursuit of universal energy access.

Sustainability: Sharing lessons on data-driven and home-grown sustainability mechanisms designed to aid project ownership, targeted at the optimization of clean energy interventions in Nigeria.

Reaffirming its commitment to advancing access to clean, sustainable energy in Nigeria, the REA is equipped with the requisite technical capacity and institutional frameworks and poised for strategic partnerships as it unveils investment opportunities in the nation's renewable energy sector.




REQUEST FOR TENDER

NEW CRUSHER PROJECT

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

Supply of Electrical and Instrumentation Equipment, Cables, Ladders, Junction Boxes and Racking for the New Crusher Project

Tender Ref: NM032/2023

Qualification Criteria

No	Reference no	Description of work	Requirements
1	NM032/2023	<p>The Package is for the Supply of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LV Cables & Terminations • MV Cables & Terminations • Lighting & Small Power • Electrical Cable Ladders & Supports • Instrumentation Cables & Terminations • Instrument Racking & Support Steelwork • Junction Boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Procurement, manufacture, and supply of the electrical and Instrumentation for a similar sized project in Tanzania. Provide project profiles over the last three years for assessment. ii. Company Profile and capability statement. These should include photo of the fabrication and distribution workshop, confirmation of floor size and location. iii. List of personnel and organogram. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed Bill of Quantities with reference CC0271-016-000-ELE-BOQ-0001_EI Equipment Supply_Rev D - Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specifications; requirements and drawings with the following references: SANS101057; SANS 101339 and SANS 101411-1986; CC0271-016-000-ELE-BOQ-0001_EI Equipment Supply_Rev D; CC0271-016-100-CI-GAD-001. Sheets 01 to 17; CC0271-016-100-CI-GAD-003-01; CC0271-016-100-CI-NTW-001-01; CC0271-016-CI-BLD-001-01 REV 0; CC0271-014-CI-INL-001_Rev 0 iv. Class three, weekly schedule in Excel format confirming the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All Material Procurement completed, number of weeks after PO received. b) Number of weeks after PO placement when equipment will be ready for shipping. c) Quality Control Plans, documents, certificates provided during manufacturing. d) Warranty & Guarantee period to be provided. e) Provide a costed list of critical and strategic spares and two years operational spares. v. Local Content Regulations compliance

Submission of Proposals
If your company meets the qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the RFP package (BOQ, Technical Specs, etc.), send your request along with your company profile to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a proposal through this advertisement.

Qualification of any company submitting a "proposal" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your submission unsuccessful.

Key Dates

- Last Date to Submit RFP Package request 06 December 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER, 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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We need enough quality facilities to defeat mental health challenges

WHEN mental health problems are discussed, many may tend to think more of the men than the women.

This is primarily because most people often believe that women are more resilient to pressures in life, accommodating pain while remaining sober - unlike men.

Experts say that when a person cries or weeps, much of what is hurting is expressed, while retaining it inside may lead to disaster. While much of this may be dismissed as guesswork, mental health problems are very real, arising from difficult conditions in life without answers.

Government agencies handling welfare issues particularly in relation to women have lately been deliberating on the plight of women and how to alleviate the impact of mental diseases.

One aspect is the need to improve women's access to gainful occupations and, at another dimension, for them to be able to get assistance in case of bearing children and when no family support is available.

This is what commonly befalls those getting pregnant out of wedlock and are chased from home after being denied and abandoned by their presumed partners, etc.

There are also cases of domestic pressure - for instance, where a woman has placed her life's hopes but everything goes up in flames. Men go berserk too, of course.

While the government is working hard to devise a medical welfare system where everyone contributes to the Community Health Fund, there is need for an underlying social dimension of welfare, especially for unemployed single mothers.

It is understandable that institutional pressure is lower on that side because of moral precepts on pregnancy - and many women could find themselves left in the cold. They would languish in solitary confinement, as trade with bare hands is unable to give them

assurance.

Therefore, it is undeniable that many women face more acute situations trying to balance wishes and reality as, after childbirth, few can smoothly start again in life. To the contrary, men could move out and resettle elsewhere, seldom bothered by responsibilities.

Yet, it so often happens that the cases taken to hospital for mental health are those of men rather than women, as the men's mental problems are usually expressed or "settled" through violence. Admittedly, there are also cases of depressed or desperate women living that way though silently.

For one thing, women have slightly easier access to economic activities but often the sort that can't help them make ends meet, considering the ferocity of competition.

In many cases, some credit facilities meant for women go to the well-connected in district councils, thus supporting or empowering relatively wealthy families or households instead of uplifting those really targeted.

There is a sphere where women are asked to 'recognise themselves', set objectives, respect certain values and show discipline, as all this will ostensibly help them in taking one step forward in life.

It is directed more at the poor, while resources will more likely flow to the well to do who don't need such advice but just to fly higher, if you will. Asking anyone, be it a man or a woman, to alter an image that the person has on himself or herself of life or dignity he or she has sustained for all years since becoming an adult is not easy.

One just cannot easily admit that one has no dignity to fight for or protect. After such a loss, plain living is what matters to cover the loss in dignity.

In the circumstances, what is often known as the help network is then disturbed to make the nerves give way since life has a limited supply of positive hormonal drives. A delicate balancing act is badly needed when it comes to that.

Uplifting the quality of university education gains from partnerships

EFFORTS to implement vast changes in our country's education system, basically directed at primary and secondary schools, resonate with initiatives all over Africa.

This is notwithstanding the fact that what really pulls them countries together is the quality of education and training in institutions of higher learning.

Top-level educators from various African countries have recently engaged in a ponderous meeting coordinated by the Tanzania Commission of Universities (TUC), the thrust being on what to do about the situation. Africa's universities have a network that is creating liaisons on quality mechanisms, checking on output and the sort of competences delivered in lectures, etc.

One method that participants in the African universities quality assessment network have been pursuing is exchanging lecturers and students as well as conducting research on problems or challenges they commonly face.

Keynote speeches urged those overseeing or administering university education to ensure that quality standards are observed.

The whole idea of forming networks is entirely usable when there is a framework of standards that is working and is usable, and seldom when it has to be created all over again.

Many of those familiar with university learning and ability to communicate among those graduating are often alarmed at what they come across, and this appears to be something of a general picture.

There are likely to be numerous flashes of brilliance in any annual graduate output, but that would scarcely be inadequate.

Opening the quality networking

conference, Tanzania's Education, Science and Technology minister (himself an academic of long standing) talked of relentless calls to lower quality at universities.

He said that, despite the pressure, compromise is not an option as yet. But critics cite universities and colleges apparently financially struggling so much that they now offer courses at as low as diploma or even certificate level as having long thrown in the towel.

Just how far this polytechnic orientation has cast a shadow on university training ought to be examined by the sort of research studies that conference participants were labouring on.

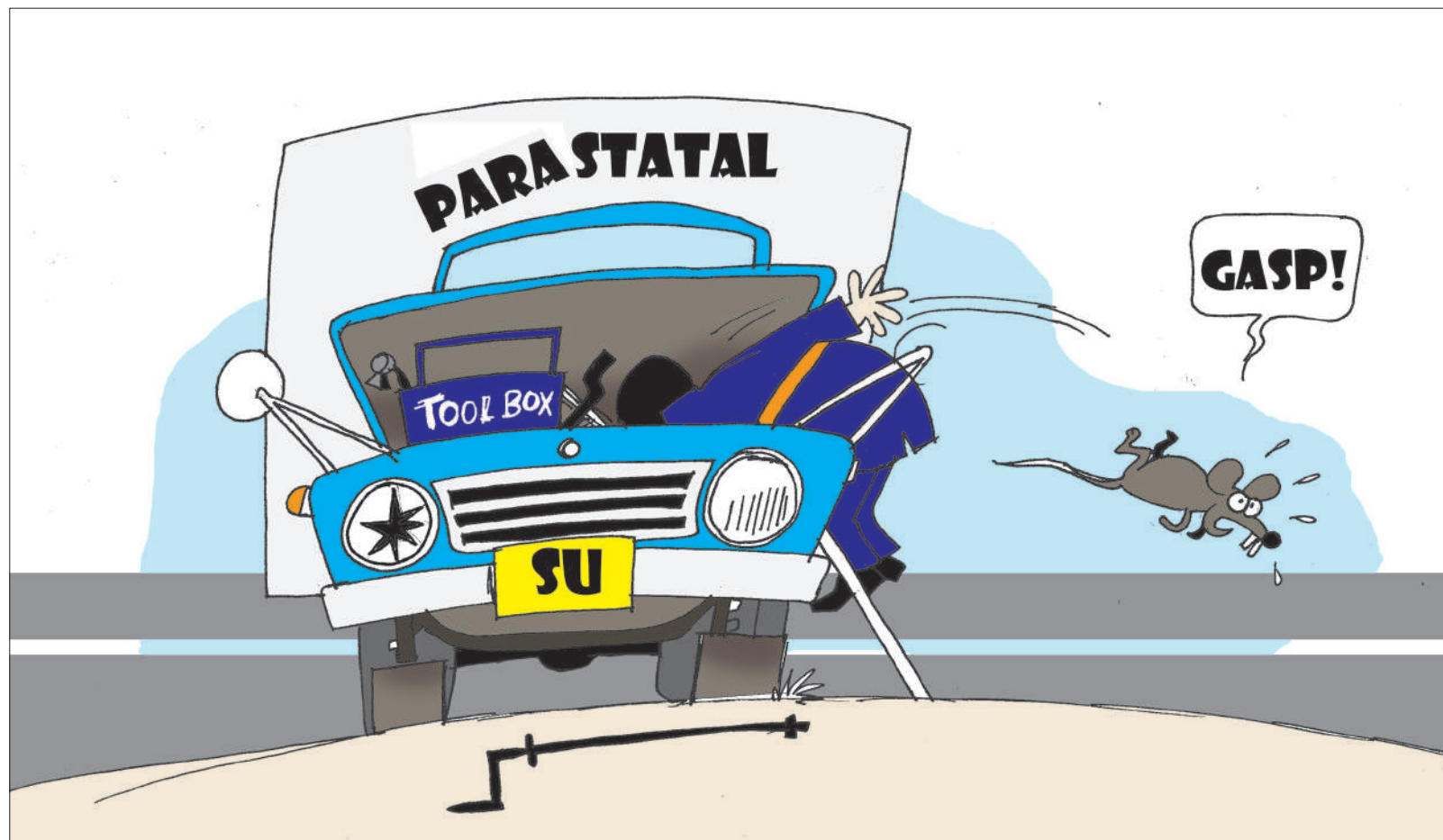
But it isn't just this "innovation" that is affecting university education or training standards. Earlier, there was the habit of lecturers delivering lessons by dictation rather than argument, which mostly induced cramming.

But, to be honest, it is not easy for a conference of current practitioners in universities across the region, to correct these anomalies.

This is, in the first place, because they already face enormous pressure inside and outside their lecture theatres - this including strictures on what to say either in classroom or outside it on what various issues and developments as they ought to do in their professional capacities.

It is thus crucial for policy and decision makers at a higher level to seek collaborative attachments with foreign institutions, not merely across borders as in the current networking also those in the more technologically and otherwise advanced countries.

They can thus decide to fuse or forge their own 'homegrown' syllabuses with what is taught outside, and only thereafter think more intensely about inspecting the quality of delivery in their own settings. Just a thought...



Covid reinfection can be a dangerous signal of weakened immunity: Here's what to do...

By Yuhong Dong

COVID-19 infections and reinfections can create a vicious cycle, but there are ways to break the cycle by focusing holistically on strengthening our immunity.

Over 80 per cent of Americans have decided against getting the latest Covid-19 booster. Yet, as winter approaches, they also don't want to get re-infected with Covid-19.

While some people never get infected or are able to quickly recover with no lingering symptoms, for many, a Covid-19 infection or reinfection has become a vicious cycle. How can we avoid reinfection and break out of this pattern?

Our immunity has a pattern

A Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Oxford study published in Nature Communications last month (this October) identified 71 individuals with two well-sampled SARS-CoV-2 infections out of 94,812 viral samples.

Researchers found that those who cleared infections quickly after the first infection also cleared the virus quickly the second time. The samples were taken from players, staff, and affiliates of the National Basketball Association between March 11, 2020 and July 28, 2022.

The researchers found that people who were infected multiple times "may differ in important immunological and behavioural ways from those who only underwent one infection during the study period".

Although people may look similar in appearance, if we had a pair of glasses that could view the microscopic world, their immune systems would each look very different from a microscopic perspective.

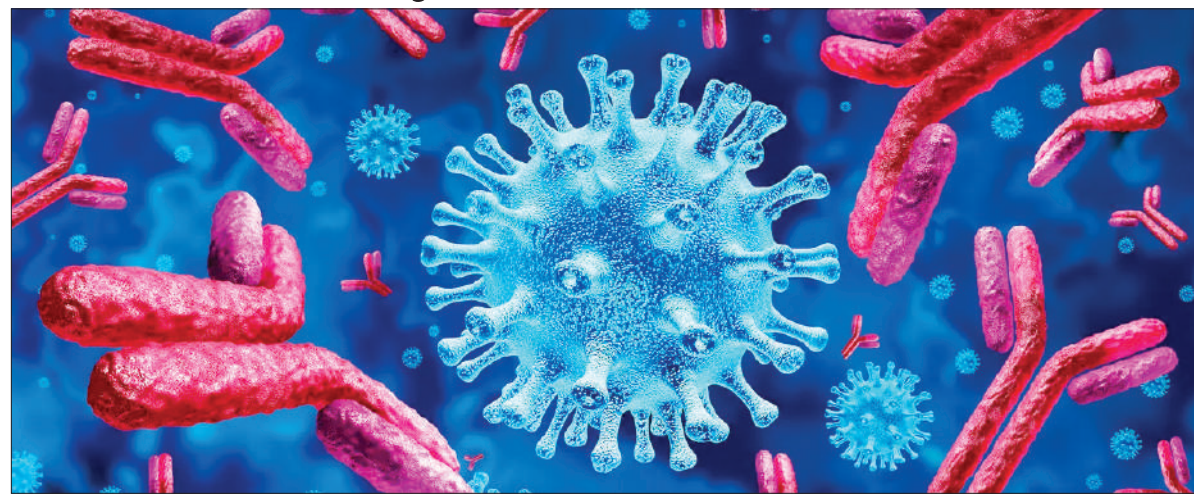
The immune system is like an elite force of Navy SEALs, protecting the human body day and night from viral and germ attacks. Interestingly, in Chinese, the term "immunity" translates as "free of infections/pandemic".

Infection signifies weakened immunity

We each have a complex immune system that is influenced by many factors that determine our strengths and weaknesses.

Factors including genetics, malnutrition, inflammation, exposure to toxins and parasites, disease damage and a malfunctioning lymphatic system can impact our antiviral immunity when we are confronted by a virus.

In 1918, during the Spanish flu, doctors in Boston and San Francisco conducted a set of human challenge



experiments. They deliberately used viral secretions from Spanish flu patients and dripped them into the eyes, nose or mouth of healthy subjects. Surprisingly, no one was infected with the influenza virus.

When someone gets sick or has an infection, it is a clear signal of weakened immunity. Our bodies let us know that we have to be mindful of our immunity when it is not functioning well.

Reinfection is a second alert

A recent study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine revealed that three years after being infected with Covid-19, more than half (54 per cent) of adults in a Chinese cohort continued to experience at least one symptom.

The study also highlighted higher rates of reinfection and pneumonia following the emergence of the Omicron variant.

As the symptoms induced by Omicron are often mild, people may think that another reinfection is perhaps nothing serious. However, having multiple Covid-19 reinfections can be detrimental. Therefore, once infected, we should strive to avoid further infections.

In November 2022, a study using data from the US Veterans Affairs healthcare system was published in the journal Nature Medicine. The study included 443,588 individuals who were infected once, 40,947 who were re-infected (two or more infections), and an uninfected control group (5.3 million).

Compared with those without reinfection, the group with reinfection had a 1.2 times higher mortality rate, a 2.3 times higher hospitalisation rate, and more than a two-fold increase in lung and kidney complications, in addition to cardiovascular and blood clotting issues.

There are a few possible mechanisms. First, the commonly reported long-Covid syndrome caused by previous infections may set the stage for increasing the risk of contracting even worse adverse clinical consequences after

reinfection.

In other words, it leaves the immune system in a compromised position so it will be ineffective in fighting another infection.

Second, a Nature study suggests that repeated Omicron infections may overly activate the immune responses of B cells (cells that generate antibodies) from previous viruses, thereby suppressing the human antibody response against the newly emerged variant.

Third, when the immune cells encounter the virus, they produce weapons called "antibodies" that bind to the virus. While this can be helpful, not all antibodies are protective. Some types may have detrimental effects by facilitating viral entry into the cells, resulting in even more severe disease.

Last but not least, many people with reinfections have been vaccinated. But many vaccines, including those with mRNA, instruct our bodies to generate spike proteins, lipid nanoparticles, aluminum, etc., all of which can damage the function of our innate immunity.

Some people believe that vaccine-induced antibodies can help us clear the virus in a faster manner. However, in the October Nature Communications study noted above, researchers "did not detect significant differences in viral kinetics of the second infection according to vaccination status". Viral kinetics is the speed at which the virus declines once someone gets infected.

Reinfections indicate need to repair immunity

If you own a BMW, you would want to maintain it to make sure that it functions optimally. When it breaks down, you would want to take it to a certified BMW repair shop. You wouldn't just let someone who isn't properly trained repair it, right?

Although far more complex, our immune system is like a finely tuned BMW. We have to maintain it well to keep it functioning properly.

Repeated infections indicate that there may be an issue with our immunity and we need to find the root cause of the infection to properly repair it.

As we have introduced in multiple immune series, the basic elements for strong immunity include eating properly, sleeping well, reducing stress, and detoxification.

However, other essential aspects to consider are our mental and spiritual well-being. Health is not merely the absence of disease or illness. To be completely healthy, we must be sound in body, mind and spirit.

Numerous scientific studies have shown that as an important part of the human body, the spirit also affects our health. People's thoughts, personalities and moral values can have a profound effect on their health.

A 2015 study by Harvard University and the University of California-Berkeley found that honest people had stronger antiviral immunity and dishonesty resulted in negative health outcomes.

In addition, maintaining an altruistic attitude, avoiding negative emotions like stress, and finding a meaningful purpose in life all contribute to our antiviral immunity. To step out of the pandemic permanently and break the vicious cycle of Covid-19 infection, we need a fresh, holistic perspective to enhance our immunity in a more powerful way.

* A medium.com dispatch. Dr Yuhong Dong is a senior medical columnist for The Epoch Times. She is a former senior medical scientific expert and pharmacovigilance leader at the Novartis headquarters in Switzerland and a four-time Novartis award winner. She has preclinical research experience in virology, immunology, oncology, neurology and ophthalmology and also has clinical experience in infectious disease and internal medicine. She earned her MD and a doctorate in infectious diseases at China's Beijing University.

Towards Brighter Tomorrow: India's G20 Presidency and the Dawn of a New multilateralism

By Narendra Modi

TODAY marks 365 days since India assumed the G20 Presidency. It is a moment to reflect on, recommit to, and rejuvenate the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - that is, 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

As we undertook this responsibility last year, the global landscape was grappling with multifaceted challenges. These included recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, looming climate threats, financial instability, and debt distress in developing nations - all amid declining multilateralism.

In the midst of conflicts and competition, development cooperation suffered, impeding progress.

Assuming the G20 Chair, India sought to offer the world an alternative to status quo, a shift from a GDP-centric to a human-centric progress.

India was determined to remind the world of what unites us, rather than what divides us. Finally, the global conversation had to evolve - the interests of the few had to give way to the aspirations of the many. This required a fundamental reform of multilateralism as we knew it.

Inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and decisive - these four words defined our approach as G20 president. And the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), unanimously adopted by all G20 members, is meanwhile testimony to our commitment to deliver on these principles.

Inclusivity has been at the heart of our presidency. The inclusion of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member of the G20 integrated 55 African nations into the forum, expanding it to encompass 80 per cent of the global population. This proactive stance has fostered a more comprehensive dialogue on global challenges and opportunities.

The first-of-its-kind 'Voice of the Global South Summit', convened by India in two editions, heralded a new dawn of multilateralism.

India mainstreamed the Global South's concerns in international discourse and has ushered in an era where developing countries take their rightful place in shaping the global narrative.

Inclusivity also infused India's domestic approach to the G20, making it a People's Presidency that benefits that world's largest democracy.

Through 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation) events, the G20 reached 1.4 billion citizens, involving all states and Union Territories (UTs) as partners. And on substantive elements, India ensured that international attention was directed to broader developmental aims, aligning with the G20's mandate.

At the critical midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, India delivered the G20's 2023 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), taking a cross-cutting and action-oriented approach to interconnected issues, including health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

A key area driving this progress is robust Digital



Public Infrastructure (DPI). Here, India was decisive in its recommendations, having witnessed the revolutionary impact of digital innovations like Aadhaar, UPI and Digilocker first-hand.

Through the G20, we successfully completed the Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, a significant stride in global technological collaboration. This repository, featuring over 50 DPIS from 16 countries, will help the Global South build, adopt and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

For our One Earth, we introduced ambitious and inclusive aims to create urgent, lasting and equitable change.

The Declaration's 'Green Development Pact' addresses the challenges of choosing between combating hunger and protecting the planet by outlining a comprehensive roadmap where employment and

ecosystems are complimentary, consumption is climate conscious, and production is planet-friendly.

In tandem with all this, the G20 Declaration calls for an ambitious tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Coupled with the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance and a concerted push for Green Hydrogen, the G20's ambition of building a cleaner and greener world is undeniable.

This has always been India's ethos and, through Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE), the world can benefit from our age-old sustainable traditions.

Further, the Declaration underscores our commitment to climate justice and equity, underlining the need for substantial financial and technological support from the Global North.

For the first time, there was a recognition of the quantum jump needed in the magnitude of development financing, moving from billions to trillions of dollars. The G20 acknowledged that developing countries require US\$5.9 trillion to fulfil their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2030.

Given the monumental resources required, the G20 emphasized the importance of better, larger and more effective Multilateral Development Banks.

Concurrently, India is taking a leading role in UN reforms, especially in the restructuring of principal organs like the UN Security Council, that will ensure a more equitable global order.

Gender equality took centre stage in the Declaration, culminating in the formation of a dedicated Working Group on the Empowerment of Women next year.

India's Women's Reservation Bill 2023, reserving one-third of India's Parliament and state legislative assembly seats for women, epitomizes our commitment to women-led development.

The New Delhi Declaration embodies a renewed spirit of collaboration across these key priorities, focusing on policy coherence, reliable trade and ambitious climate action.

It is a matter of pride that during our Presidency, the G20 achieved 87 outcomes and 118 adopted documents - a marked rise from the past.

During our G20 Presidency, India led deliberations on geopolitical issues and their impact on economic growth and development.

Terrorism and the senseless killing of civilians are unacceptable, and we must address it with a policy of zero-tolerance. We must embody humanitarianism over hostility and reiterate that this is not an era of war.

I am delighted that India has, during our Presidency, achieved the extraordinary: it has revitalised multilateralism, amplified the voice of the Global South, championed development, and fought for the empowerment of women, everywhere.

As we hand over the G20 Presidency to Brazil, we do so with the conviction that our collective steps for people, planet Earth, peace and prosperity will resonate for years to come.

** Narendra Modi (pictured) is India's Prime Minister.*

Old school teachers must embrace digital literacy to remain relevant

OUR world has changed tremendously in the past decades in terms of science and technology. Workplace has also changed as everyone tries to embrace modern technology so that they don't lag behind. Teachers who are agents of change in the society must embrace science and technology by having computer literacy among other skills so that they remain relevant.

Parents and learners expect a lot from teachers. Like journalists, teachers are expected to know a thing or two about almost everything. This means that teachers are catalysts for change in the society. It becomes a challenge to teach learner who are tech savvy when you are digitally illiterate.

It should be remembered that many parents nowadays have computers at home alongside other internet-connected gadgets such as smartphone. Now, a teacher who is the role model



doesn't possess even a smartphone! This means learners might be ahead of such old school teachers when it comes to access to information, something which is not proper.

The school environment should be made to attract learners to learn and make it a special place by having technological devices which manifest the destiny of learners after their studies. A learner observing a

teacher using a laptop motivates them to love schooling. They try to visualize their destiny that one day they may become people who can use such technological devices too.

As an insider, I know that when introduced to programmes or arrangements which require financial spending, teachers normally hesitate. But it is so because of lack of good planning. Suppose a teacher wants to possess a refurbished laptop costing 250,000/-. One can pay only 10,417/- per month in two years.

Teachers need to invest in their professional development so that they retain their status in the society. A value is retained by using a value. Investment in professionalism is vital if someone wants to remain relevant in the field. When learners discover that the laptop at home is used for playing music videos but the teacher's is for displaying lessons as they see the difference between home and school.

Teachers are role models and hence the society should not count the costs of enabling them retain their status. Parents in collaboration with school owners, teachers and government can jointly make sure that teachers become leaders in scientific and technological revolution in education. We should not allow teachers to lag behind in science and technology as that will mean the entire society lagging behind. It is necessary for teachers to be computer literate as this helps them in several ways.

One of the reasons for teachers to be computer literate is the device helps in preparing notes and illustrations. This reduces costs of buying exercise books regularly. Notes on computers can be edited at any time to make them up-to-date.

The second reason for teachers to be computer literate is secure record keeping. Records of test results or notes can safely be

stored on a computer unlike in exercise books where the risk of damage is high. With computer and internet, important documents can be stored off-line, online and even in cloud. That is how technology has advanced.

The third reason why teachers should be computer literate is ease of preparing results. One of the things which attract attention of both parents and learners is results which must come after doing examinations or tests. In the weeks of preparing results, teachers are more than exhausted when they compute results manually using just calculators.

But there is this magic called computer programme called Excel which can do this otherwise tedious job in a very short period of time. A teacher has a lot of work to do and hence it is not wise to let them continue suffer in preparing results manually.


The fourth reason why teachers should be computer literate is ease of communication. Teachers need to communicate with other teachers in various places of the world so that they can get new ideas and experience. It is more convenient and official to send e-mails on computers than other means of communication.

Computer literacy is inevitable. Lacking it is lagging behind and hence being irrelevant. We cannot resist change but we ought to prepare to cope with it so that we can deliver to the expectations of education stakeholders who are the government, parents and learners.

I know old school folks who do not know what a computer keyboard is and think that smartphones and the internet are for the younger generation to waste their time and money.

I submit to these fellows that change is inevitable and it is here with us.

Learning a new thing is always hard especially for those who consider themselves 'old'. But experts tell us that learning new things is the best way to maintain mental health and avoid memory loss for senior citizens. Teaching is learning. Old school teachers must embrace digital literacy to remain relevant



CLASSROOM MATTERS

By
Thomas Lyimo

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Rescued India workers tell of yoga and phone games underground

By Cheryll Mollan

THE 41 Indian workers rescued from a tunnel in Uttarakhand state after being trapped inside for 17 days are safe and recuperating in hospital.

In a video released to the media, they can be seen eating on their hospital beds and appear to be in good spirits.

The workers got trapped inside the tunnel on 12 November after a portion of it collapsed due to a landslide.

They were freed on Tuesday evening after a mammoth rescue operation that overcame many obstacles.

There was a sense of national relief after rescuers pulled out the last of the 41 men from the tunnel amid darkness.

They were wheeled out on stretchers through a 90cm (3ft) pipe that had been inserted through a wall of debris that was blocking them in.

This happy conclusion came after a day filled with anticipation, as authorities announced that there had been a breakthrough in the rescue operations.

Videos of the workers emerging from the tunnel capture them bounding out, smiling, waving and shaking hands with those present at the scene.

There was an air of jubilation among their colleagues and family members too, many of whom had spent days outside the tunnel, praying for the rescue operations to succeed.

They could be seen garlanding the workers, embracing them and giving them sweets.

Chaudhary Lal, who was photographed kissing his son Manjit - one of the trapped workers - told the BBC that he was happy and relieved to see his son.

"I have already lost one son to an accident at a construction site. I couldn't stand to lose another," he said.

Dhanpati, mother of Ram Sundar, told ANI news agency that Diwali was celebrated in their village on Tuesday after her son's safe exit from the tunnel instead of on 12 November - the actual festival day.

Many family members of trapped workers have praised rescue officials and thanked them for bringing out their loved ones safely.

Meanwhile, the workers have also been speaking to



The trapped workers take a photo of themselves moments before they were rescued.

the media about their experiences. One of them shared with ANI a video he took of his colleagues at Chinyalisaur Community Health Centre, where they have been taken for medi-

cal check-ups.

The video captures the workers sitting on their beds and checking their mobile phones, eating, drinking tea and clicking selfies. Some can be seen

brushing their teeth while others are standing around a water station and chatting.

Satya Dev, who was among the trapped men, told the Times of India newspaper that

it was "claustrophobic" inside the tunnel and it was a relief to get out.

Another worker, Chamra Oraon, told the Indian Express newspaper that there were

times when he felt restless inside the tunnel and wondered when he would be pulled out.

"But I never lost hope," he said, adding that he spent time playing games on his mobile phone, which he would charge using portable chargers slipped in through a pipe by rescuers. "We couldn't call anyone since there was no network so we spoke among ourselves and got to know each other," he told the newspaper.

Another worker, who spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a phone call, said that the workers would motivate each other to stay positive and that they would all eat their meals together.

"We would go for walks and practice yoga to keep active inside the tunnel," he said.

Another worker described how initially they only switched on their phones to check the time to conserve batteries. But once they received chargers, they could use their phones more freely to keep themselves entertained.

A section of the 4.5km (3 miles) Silkyara tunnel caved in on 12 November. The tunnel is part of the government's ambitious Char Dham project which aims to connect key Hindu pilgrim sites through two-lane paved roads in the Himalayan state.

Environmentalists and residents have blamed rapid construction, including the Char Dham project, for land subsidence in the region, saying this contributed to the tunnel collapse. **BBC**

Suicide: Another face of the economic crisis in Venezuela

By Humberto Márquez

IN the wee hours of one morning in early November, Ernesto, 50, swallowed several glasses of a cocktail of drugs and alcohol in the apartment where he lived alone in the Venezuelan capital, ending a life tormented by declining health and lack of resources to cope as he would have liked.

In the last message to his relatives, which they showed to IPS, he wrote that "I can't stand what's happening to my eyes, I can't afford an ophthalmologist, my molars are falling out, it hurts to eat. I can't afford a dentist after years of being able to pay my expenses, now my dreams, plans, goals are disappearing."

Years ago Ernesto, a fictitious name at the request of his family, was a successful salesman in various fields, a breadwinner for family members, a supporter of causes he found just. In his last note, he scribbled rather than wrote: "I did what I could, for my family and my country, but I will not continue being dead in life."

The cascade of crises that have placed Venezuela in a complex humanitarian emergency have given rise to many complicated cases like Ernesto's, reflected in an increase in suicides, especially in the sectors most vulnerable to lack of resources and to uncertainty and hopelessness.

The suicide rate "doubled between 2018 and 2022 compared to 2015, and it is very likely that the complex humanitarian emergency has been a determining factor in the increase," demographer Gustavo Páez, of the

non-governmental Venezuelan Observatory of Violence (OVV), told IPS.

This country of just over 28 million people went from a rate of 3.8 suicides per 100,000 people to 9.3 in 2018, with slight declines to 8.2 in 2019 and 7.7 in 2022, according to the OVV.

The annual average number of cases registered in the last four years is 2,260.

Rossana García Mujica, a clinical psychologist and professor at the public Central University of Venezuela, told IPS that these rates, although lower than the world average of 10.5 per 100,000 inhabitants and low in relation to other countries in the region, may nevertheless conceal underreporting.

The expert pointed out that "added to our complex humanitarian crisis, the last official yearbook (on the issue) came out in 2014," and said that the decrease in the rate "could be due to the apparent economic improvement, but 2023 has been a difficult year and most probably these figures will not remain steady."

Humanitarian emergency
The HumVenezuela platform, made up of dozens of civil society organizations, says the crisis in the country classifies as a complex humanitarian emergency due to the combined erosion of the economic, institutional and social structures that guarantee the life, security, liberties and well-being of the population.

Starting in 2013 Venezuela suffered eight consecutive years of deep recession that cost four-fifths of its GDP, more than two years of hyperinflation, and collapsed local currency and wages, health and basic services in much of the country.



A man carries a few items in his market bag in Caracas. The situation of poverty, of being unemployed and without the possibility of bringing home enough food and other products is recognized as a determining cause of crises leading to suicide. CREDIT: Provea

The multidimensional crisis also triggered the migration of more than seven million Venezuelans, according to United Nations figures.

In 2021 and 2022 there was a slight recovery in the economy, especially in consumption, partly due to the influx of remittances from hundreds of thousands of migrants, which came to a standstill this year.

The suicide rate "fluctuates at the pace of the complex humanitarian emergency," said Páez, because "as the macro economy deteriorates, so does the family's ability to access food, services, recreation and medicine. This leads to mental disorders associated with suicidal behavior."

R. was an impoverished young woman who recorded a video that she posted on the social networks. She lived in the interior of the coun-

try, coming every month to Caracas to seek chemotherapy treatment in medicine banks provided by the government. She said that the last time, like other times, "they sent me from one end of the city to the other."

"They were providing chemo until three in the afternoon. I arrived 15 minutes late. They refused to give it to me. I went to sleep at a relative's house. I climbed about 200 steps (the steep hills in Caracas are crowded with poor neighborhoods). I'm so tired, my legs hurt, I give up, I don't want to fight anymore," she said in a quiet voice.

Páez said that another reason that may influence frustration and depression leading to self-harming behaviors is the grief in families due to migration, associated with the humanitarian emergency and impacting millions of

families.

Ages and networks

In Venezuela "the economic issue, for those over 30 and especially for men between 40 and 50, is a determining factor," psychologist Yorelis Acosta, who works with groups and individuals vulnerable to depression and fear, told IPS.

Acosta, who also teaches at UCV, said that "self-harm or the decision to take one's life is closely related to 'I don't have a job', 'I'm out of work', or 'I have a disease and I can't afford my treatment.'"

"During economic crises, suicides go up," she said.

García Mujica said that "when we stop to look at which are our most vulnerable groups, men between 30 and 64 years old and young people between 15 and 24 lead the way."

"In my practice I have observed a subjective increase in anxiety disorders and depression in adults, both closely associated with suicide and self-injury in young people, along with eating disorders," said García Mujica.

Along with suicide, "self-harm is a way of coping with emotional pain, sadness, anger and stress that could have to do with intolerance of frustration and the immediacy associated with social networks," said the expert.

"In my opinion, apart from our complex humanitarian crisis, we do not escape the problems also inherent to globalization and we have a very severe problem at the family level of face-to-face communication," she added.

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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Africa's heritage sites in peril as planet heats up

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

FROM the snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro to the ruins of the ancient Tunisian city of Carthage and Senegal's slave island of Goree, Africa has a wealth of iconic cultural and natural heritage sites.

But climate change impacts, from higher temperatures to worsening floods, now threaten to condemn these and dozens more African landmarks to the history books.

As rich nations scramble to protect their cultural landmarks from extreme weather and rising seas, African countries face additional hurdles such as funding shortages and a dearth of archaeological expertise, said conservationists and researchers.

"These sites are places that we learned about at school - they are our identity and history. They are irreplaceable. If we lose them, we will never get them back," said Nick Simpson, research associate at the African Climate and Development Initiative at the University of Cape Town.

"Africa has already experienced widespread losses and damages attributable to human-induced climate change: biodiversity loss, water shortages, food losses, loss of lives, and reduced economic growth. We can't afford to lose our heritage also."

Some historical landmarks have already succumbed.

For visitors to the historic colonial slave forts scattered along West Africa's coastline, an important ritual is to pass through the "Door of No Return" - a centuries-old doorway which leads directly from the citadel to the shore.

The custom pays homage to the millions of Africans who were forcefully taken from their homeland during the transatlantic slave trade, retracing their final steps as they were led from the dungeons through the door to slave ships - never to return.

But at Ghana's 18th century Danish slave-holding post, Fort Prinzenstein, the original metal doorway and an adjoining passageway is now missing.

"The main 'Door of No Return' has been washed away by the tidal waves a long time ago," said James Ocloo Akorli, caretaker of the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Africa has about a fifth of the world's population, but produces less than 4 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions, the major driver of climate change.

Despite this, the continent is disproportionately affected by climate impacts such as droughts and floods, underlining the need

for countries to invest in projects that protect infrastructure and improve resilience.

At the COP27 U.N. climate summit in Egypt, which started on Sunday, world leaders will debate how much financial assistance rich countries should provide to developing nations to help them cope with the effects of global warming.

There is no comprehensive data on the total number of African heritage spots at risk, but research co-led by Simpson on coastal sites found that 56 locations are already facing flooding and erosion exacerbated by rising sea levels.

By 2050, if greenhouse gas emissions continue on their current trajectory, this number could more than triple to 198 sites, said the study, published in the scientific journal *Nature Climate Change* in February.

Places at risk include the imposing ruins of the Numidian-Roman port of Sabratha in Libya, Algeria's ancient Punic-Roman trading post of Tipasa and Egypt's North Sinai archaeological sites, the study found.

Kunta Kinteh Island in Gambia, and the Togolese village of Aného-Glidji - both tied to Africa's slave trade history - are also in danger, it said.

A vast array of sites of exceptional natural value are also extremely vulnerable as higher temperatures melt glaciers, raising sea levels and bringing more coastal erosion.

These include rich biodiversity hubs such as Cape Verde's Curral Velho wetland with its unique vegetation and migratory birds and Aldabra in the Seychelles, one of the world's largest raised coral atolls, and home to the Aldabra giant tortoise.

"African sites are really, really in danger because of climate disruptions," said Lazare Eloundou Assomo, director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

"We see typhoons, we see floods, we see erosion, and we see fires. I would say climate change is one of the major challenges that world heritage is facing now - and in the future."

Assomo said he was particularly concerned about sites such as Africa's tallest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania, which is expected to lose its glaciers by 2040 and is experiencing increased outbreaks of wildfires.

As climate change threatens the future of Africa's natural and cultural riches, jobs and tourism linked to the heritage sites are also being jeopardised.

This could spell disaster for at-



tractions such as Ghana's slave forts, Namibia's indigenous rock art, and the wildebeest migration in Kenya's Maasai Mara, which together draw droves of visitors and millions of dollars in annual tourism revenues.

In Ghana, for example, the castles have not only shaped the country's history but have also become pilgrimage sites for the African diaspora looking to reconnect with their roots and honour their forefathers.

Events such as Ghana's "Year of Return" in 2019, to mark 400 years since the first recorded African slaves arrived in the Americas, saw record numbers of African-Americans and European Africans visiting the country for heritage tours.

In Namibia, tens of thousands of visitors arrive each year to see some of Africa's largest collections of rock art, generating much-needed income for local communities in the sparsely populated southern African nation.

The ancient rock paintings and engravings, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Twyfelfontein, were created by San hunter-gatherers long before Damara herders and European colonialists arrived.

But archaeologists fear climate-linked flash floods, dust, vegetation growth; fungus and desert animals seeking water close to these sites pose a threat to the art's survival.

From Indonesia to Australia, archaeologists have found climate change impacts such as more variable temperatures, flooding and wildfires are causing blistering, peeling, and even rock explosions at important sites of ancient art.

Independent Namibian archaeologist Alma Mekondjo Nankela fears the same lies in store for her nation's rock art heritage.

"We can really see that the artwork is deteriorating and it's deteriorating actually very fast," she said, adding that most of the factors causing the deterioration were "likely linked to climate change."

She added that urgent funding and resources were needed to further understand and track long-term climate changes over the years.

In Kenya, one of world's most famous natural heritage attractions - the mass migration of the wildebeest - is also at risk, say wildlife conservationists.

The migration, one of the greatest spectacles of animal movement on earth, sees hundreds of thousands of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle making their annual trek from Tanzania's Serengeti National Park across the border into the Maasai Mara in Kenya.

The sight attracts hordes of safari-goers every year, eager to witness the iconic scenes of the wildebeest that run the gauntlet of hungry Nile crocodiles as they cross the Mara River.

Tourism - much of it centred on Maasai Mara safaris - is a key economic pillar for Kenya, providing more than 2 million people with jobs and accounting for about 10 percent of the East African nation's gross domestic product (GDP).

But conservation experts say the great migration is under threat due to increased droughts and floods in the Mara's delicate ecosystem, which is depriving the wildebeest of grazing land.

This has affected the number of animals migrating to Kenya, and the period they stay for. "The wildebeest migration is happening later and they stay for a very short time," said Yussuf Wato, wildlife programme manager at conservation non-profit WWF Kenya.

"And then, because the rain has delayed to come to the Mara, or the rainfall in the Serengeti is prolonged, they do not come to the Mara as they have sufficient pasture on the other side."

But despite the potentially far-reaching consequences of climate-related loss and damage to Africa's heritage sites, the threats

have gained much less attention than risks for other cultural and natural landmarks in richer nations.

One study estimates that only 1 percent of research on the impacts of climate change on heritage is related to Africa, despite the fact that the continent has been on the frontlines of global warming for decades.

"We need more national archaeologists," said David Pleurdeau, an assistant professor at France's National Museum of Natural History in the human and environment department, leading an archaeological team in the Erongo region of Namibia.

"We need more training for Namibian students, funding, and for the Namibian Heritage Council to employ more archaeologists," said Pleurdeau, who works with Namibian archaeologist Nankela.

Some countries such as Ghana and Egypt have made heavy investments in the construction of sea defence walls and groins to protect their coastal sites.

But Simpson said such "hard protection" strategies often do not take into account future sea levels and can distort the site's natural ecological equilibrium.

Hybrid protections that include natural infrastructure such as rock walls combined with saltmarshes, sea grasses or restored mangroves to slow the action of waves, can be more effective.

It is also essential to improve governance around threatened sites and ensure local communities are involved in preservation and protection efforts, he added.

Back at Fort Prinzenstein, the caretaker Akorli points to some words etched on the dilapidated back wall of one of the few remaining slave dungeons: "Until the lion has his historian, the hunter will always be a hero," it reads.

"Often history can be distorted," said Akorli. "Sites like these tell us the painful truth. This is why we need to look after them - we need to know what happened in the past, so that we can learn in the future."

Drought-tolerant rice from China helps feed Africa, cuts methane emissions

By Li Lei

A Type of drought-tolerant rice developed in China is boosting food production in African countries while slashing methane emissions, which have been linked to global warming.

China has been working for decades to help bolster food self-sufficiency in Africa, with the introduction of the strain of water-saving and drought-resistant rice into countries including Burundi and Kenya more than a decade ago just one example.

An expert said newly developed rice varieties have not only bolstered rice yields in some of the most hunger-prone regions on the planet, but also reduced farming's carbon footprint and fertilizer demand as global temperatures rise.

Research on drought-tolerant rice dates back more than two decades in China, with Chinese scientists crossbreeding hybrid rice varieties widely planted in the country with those known

to thrive on dry lands to get the drought-defying properties, said Liu Zaochang, a researcher with the Shanghai Agrobiological Gene Center who was involved in the variety's promotion in Africa.

Liu said it could rival hybrid rice in terms of yield and prosper in suboptimal fields. It saves labor because farmers can bypass the lengthy process of nurturing rice seedlings and directly plant rice seeds in the fields, and its demand for fertilizers is just one-third of its conventional counterparts.

"Data has shown that the variety has curbed water use by more than 40 percent, and reduced methane emission by at least 70 percent," he said on Tuesday at a media event in Beijing organized by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Liu said methane is 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide in terms of its global warming effect, and more than 20 percent of the world's methane emissions come from rice production.



He said drought-resistant rice varieties are a "sustainable option" in meeting the climate change challenge.

The drought-tolerant variety has helped African countries

curb their reliance on rice imports, he said.

Liu said cassava and corn previously played a dominant role in African diets, but rice consumption has been rising

along with living standards. However, increased demand for rice had led to greater reliance on food imports, creating financial burdens and making African countries

more susceptible to supply chain woes.

"Drought-tolerant rice varieties have great potential and can help achieve food self-sufficiency in Africa," Liu said.

Home to large swathes of untapped arable land, Africa is key destination for China's agricultural assistance projects.

Zhu Qinghua, deputy director of the foundation's China office, said on Tuesday that more than 60 percent of the world's undeveloped fields are in Africa, but a shortfall in farming-related investment and other hurdles meant the continent struggled to feed its 1.5 billion people.

The situation is set to worsen given rising global temperatures, which could increase the chance of crop disease and pest plagues and reduce crop yields, he said.

Zhu called for increased investment in agricultural research, saying it was critical for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

"Vulnerable farming communities cannot adapt, and global climate goals cannot be achieved, without significant science-based advances in food systems," he said.

Young musician's death exposes Zimbabwe's wanting health system

By Farai Shawn Matiashe

ARISING Afropop musician, Garikai Mapanzure, popularly known by his stage name Garry, has become the latest high-profile victim of Zimbabwe's deteriorating health facilities.

Garry, who was 25, died in mid-October after sustaining grave injuries in a horrific accident near his home in Masvingo, 295 kilometres from Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

His family blames poor medical equipment after spending hours battling for his life at a government-run Masvingo Provincial Hospital in the same city.

Garry has joined many Zimbabweans who have been losing their lives as a result of a lack of medicine, a shortage of ambulances, and a lack of oxygen supplies.

He left behind his wife and a year-old son.

His family also lost Garry's friend, a student at Great Zimbabwe University, and a niece, who all died on the spot.

Collapsing health system

Speaking at the funeral of the Afropop sensation in Masvingo, Garry's sister, Kudzai Mapanzure-Chikwanha, said the health system in Zimbabwe failed Garry.

"He held on for 12 hours, but there was nothing in Masvingo," she said.

Garry suffered from the injuries for 12 hours, while the family was told that there was no computed tomography (CT) scan used to detect injuries inside one's body.

They also could not fly him to Harare as there were no ambulances with oxygen support on board and no air ambulances.

Mapanzure-Chikwanha pleaded with the government to improve the country's health system.

"Just one scan could have saved Garry," she said.

The southern African nation's health sector has been collapsing for several years now with shortages of health workers, a lack of critical equipment like intensive care unit beds, and shortages of basic drugs, including paracetamol.

Johannes Marisa, president of the Medical and Dental Private Health Practitioners Association of Zimbabwe, tells IPS that Zimbabwe does not meet the World Health Organization's six building blocks of 2007, which are combined to make a robust health delivery system.

"These include the health workforce, medicines and drugs, health financing, governance, service delivery, and information systems. If a country lacks any one of these building blocks, their health delivery system becomes weak," he says.

"It is like a house that is held on five pillars instead of the required six. If you look at our Zimbabwean situation, you find the health workforce is in shambles because of brain and health financing, which is poor."



Nurses earn poor salaries in Zimbabwe and often go abroad to work, something which is exacerbating the already poor healthcare system. Credit: Farai Shawn Matiashe/IPS

Zimbabwe's budget for health care in 2023 fell short of the Abuja Declaration of April 2001, which calls for at least 15 percent of the total budget to be allocated to the health sector.

"We fall short of the Abuja Declaration. This means health financing has never been adequate in Zimbabwe for a time immemorial," he says.

Marisa says nepotism and cronyism have destroyed the health sector.

"You look at leadership again, or governance. You will find that people who are not competent are running offices. Some people without management qualifications are running big hospitals because of patronage and nepotism," he says.

Marisa says most hospitals are operating without medicines, drugs, ambulances, and oxygen.

"If you look at the medicines and drugs again, they are not even there. Yet medicines and drugs are part of the six building blocks. We will continue to lose as many people as possible," he says.

Just a few weeks after Garry's death, a bus that plies a route from Harare to South Africa was involved in an accident in Masvingo Province.

Those who were injured were taken to Chivi District and Masvingo Provincial Hospital, where they spent several hours without assistance due to a lack of equipment and basic drugs for pain relief, according to eyewitnesses.

Brain drain

More than 4000 nurses have left Zimbabwe since 2021, according to the country's Health Services Board.

Most healthcare workers are leaving for the United Kingdom and the United States.

The number of Zimbabweans granted worker visas increased sharply to 8,363 in September 2022 from 499 in 2019, according to the UK Office of National Statistics.

Zimbabwe's weak healthcare facilities as well as poor salaries and remunerations are some of the reasons behind the brain drain.

Zimbabwe has only 3,500 doctors for a popula-

tion of almost 15 million people, according to the Zimbabwe Medical Association.

Itai Rusike, an executive director at the Community Working Group on Health, says the current situation is that the health facilities are not capable of providing basic health care.

"The capacity of public health facilities to screen, diagnose, and manage communicable and non-communicable diseases and conditions has declined to all-time low levels and remains weak in this challenged health delivery system," he tells IPS.

"These include diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular conditions, injuries, cancer, and mental health through the training of health care workers, procurement of diagnostic equipment and consumables, as well as advocacy towards healthy lifestyles."

Rusike said the health crisis is compounded by conditions that increase the risk of traumatic injury.

"For example, the state of our roads in Zimbabwe's road network raises concern, especially when they are further damaged by heavy rains and other climate disasters," he says.

"Poor roads not only raise the risk of accidents but also mean that ambulances cannot easily access patients in need. During the rainy season, rural roads become even more impassable, making access to emergency services even more difficult."

Marisa says the poor healthcare system is even affecting the elites with the best medical aid in the country.

"The medical aid societies are giving headaches to medical practitioners. There are so many service providers who are rejecting the best medical aid card holders," he says.

"This is because no one has confidence in several medical societies operating today. They find excuses for not paying."

Medical aid societies charge exorbitant prices, which are beyond the reach of many people in the country who are unemployed, while those employed earn paltry salaries.

Private healthcare facilities are expensive and are mainly found in big cities like Harare and Bulawayo.

Rusike says when public emergency care services are not adequately funded, staffed, or provided, it leads to a growth of commercial and privatised services.

"While this is a private sector response to demand and can help to minimise morbidity and mortality, it is not appropriate to rely on the private sector for this service. It leads to inequities in access to health care," he says.

"The driving force of private provision is maximising profits and not the needs of the most disadvantaged members of society."

IPS UN Bureau Report

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 34 -

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

ACROSS:

- Water in Swahili
- moving at a low speed
- become more successful than
- a person or thing that loses
- a friendly form of address in India
- a pioneer of the American animation

DOWN:

- mould
- keep away or refrain from
- put jesses on
- irenic
- heaven
- show someone the way
- Chief city of Poland
- a long difficult journey
- a job
- originally called
- Chief city of Italy
- secular
- beg in Swahili
- .ax
- take action

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

DEPORTEE	ENROL	OLEATE
OLIVE	OYO : SEE	TIPSTER
HOT: USE	VOTE	HERERO
HOME	UTTERER	EVE
HOD: SLY	ASTERN	TREYS

Yesterday's solution

DOME	ADAGE	GUARDIAN
OVEN	GAD	FEU
VEAL	ENDOW	
ERNIE	GEY	OGRESS
IVY	ODOR	SHIRT
OWNER	T	LACE
MAGNATE	M	ORACLE
ASS	E	A
N	UGANDAN	A
		TITLE

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Thursday 30 November 2023

Global Islamic banking to reach \$4trn by 2026

RIYADH

THE global Islamic banking sector is set to be worth \$4 trillion by 2026, driven primarily by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, according to recent data.

In their State of Fintech report, red-mad-robot, a digital enabler, highlighted that the Islamic banking sector saw a massive surge from 2018 to 2021, growing from \$1.8 trillion to \$2.8 trillion.

"The leading role in the development of Islamic banking belongs to the GCC countries. They account for 43 percent of global Islamic banking assets, followed by other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region at 40 percent.

Meanwhile, 59 percent of total assets are controlled by just two jurisdictions – Iran, 37 percent, and Saudi Arabia, 22 percent," the report stated.

Furthermore, the report highlighted that the Islamic fintech market witnessed significant growth, with estimated transactions reaching around \$79 billion in 2021.

It is projected to grow at an average rate of 18 percent annually, potentially hitting \$179 billion by 2026. Major players in this market include Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey, as well as the UAE, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Indonesia is at the forefront in terms of the number of Islamic fintech firms.

Promising areas for the sector's digital evolution include crowdfunding, investment platforms, and robo-advisors.

Additionally, there is a focus on payment

services, digital banks, and smart contracts, as well as blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies. The report also highlighted the significance of financial sector information security and insurtech.

Moreover, Asia is home to 42 of the top 100 Islamic banks. These banks account for 29 percent of the total assets of these leading institutions, highlighting the dynamic nature of the sector's landscape across different regions.

Saudi Arabia's Al-Rajhi Bank is distinguished as the leading Islamic bank in the world, showcasing the influence and strength of Islamic banking within the Kingdom.

Several factors are fueling the demand for Islamic banking services. These include the growth of the Muslim population, the digitization of the Islamic economy, and an increasing global demand for halal products.

On the supply side, the expansion of Islamic banking is influenced by national strategies, government regulation, and enhanced trade activities within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the report stated.

These elements collectively contribute to the growth and diversification of Islamic banking services, affirming its significance in the global financial landscape.

Total sharia-compliant assets worldwide (excluding Iran) grew by 12.8 percent to \$1.6tn in 2022, with 57 percent held by standalone Islamic finance institutions, according to data from The Banker Database.



The growth registered is significantly higher than for the banking sector as a whole, which saw a 1.7 percent contraction in assets in dollar terms for 2022. And while GCC players remain dominant, the remainder of the sector continues to thrive, with non-GCC lenders seeing 3.5 percent growth

for the year. Profitability is on the rise in the sector as well, with two-thirds of the institutions in the main ranking registering a rise in pre-tax profit for the year, with currency depreciation responsible for a significant number of annual losses posted.

Some 89 lenders meanwhile reported profits of \$100m or more. Return on assets (ROA) for the sector remains robust at 1.5 percent, compared with 0.71 percent in The Banker's Top 1000 World Banks ranking from earlier this year.

Saudi Arabia's status as the world's dominant Islamic banking market – both in the Middle East and worldwide – remains intact in this year's ranking. The country's banks manage 40 percent of the world's sharia-compliant banking assets, with nine lenders in this year's top 20.

The country's banking sector was one of the primary beneficiaries of an unexpected oil windfall in 2022, as prices surged following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, making it the fastest-growing economy in the G20 for the year.

Al Rajhi Bank comfortably remains the world's largest Islamic bank in this year's ranking.

In addition to being Saudi Arabia's largest provider of personal mortgages, auto and personal loans, it has also seen improvements in its corporate loans business, its market share growing from 8.7 percent to 11.9 percent in 2022.

The bank's ROA for 2022 stood at 2.25 percent, higher than any other bank in this year's top 20.

BoT seeks to review interbank forex market code of conduct

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) is seeking to review the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM) code of conduct, in order to promote the effective functioning of the wholesale market and promote stability in the country by aligning it with the Global Code.

According to the public notice, with reference number No. IA.170/178/01/37 issued this week by Emmanuel Tutuba, Governor, BoT, to all foreign exchange authorized dealers in the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market, the central bank is expected to publish the revised Code of Conduct in January 2024.

The reference is made to circulars with Ref. No. IA.248/301/01-F124 and Ref. No. FA.178/248/01/28 issued in May and August 2023, respectively and public notices issued on 20th June and 16th October 2023, which intended to enhance Foreign Exchange (FX) liquidity in the market, limit dollarisation and safeguard and foster macroeconomic



Emmanuel Tutuba, Governor, BoT

stability.

"The Bank reminds all banks and financial institutions to always adhere to foreign exchange regulations and directives, including renouncing the

facilitation of foreign exchange trading undertaken by unlicensed dealers or individuals," the notice reads.

Foreign exchange authorized dealers in the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market are therefore requested to review the IFEM Code of Conduct, 2019 and provide inputs on or before 15th December 2023.

The 2019 code of conduct prohibit abuse of market practices, emphasizes confidentiality, prohibit fraud, entertainment and gifts, the use of drug, alcohol and other addictive substances for members dealing operations as well as money laundering activities.

Five years ago, the central bank suspended five banks from trading in the interbank foreign exchange market for one month for violating the market's code of conduct.

The suspended five banks were reportedly not following the code of conduct by trading at off-market rates and/or not submitting the transactions that they made to the central bank.

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Money has recorded an impressive growth with the mobile money transfers platform account holders increasing by 11 percent in the first quarter of this financial year ending September 30 compared to the last quarter of the last financial year ending June 30.

The growth rate of Airtel Money accounts hovers comfortably at 3.4 percent in the first quarter of this financial year ending September 30, which is above the industry average of 2.7 percent, this is according to the quarterly Communication Statistics report issued by the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority.

The healthy expansion of Airtel Money is attributed to improvements done on the platform and innovative upgrading and add-ons, including integration with service provision protocols of internationally renowned service providers, including airline transport ticketing.

Partnerships with globally recognized international remittance companies such as Thunes, TERAPAY, and MFS Africa remittance hubs means Airtel money customers can receive and remit money in over 200 countries worldwide.

In addition, Airtel Money customers can send and withdraw money without incurring the government Levy for

Airtel Money growth edges industry average Fy's Q1

amounts of up to 29,999/-.

Airtel Money has also got services like Timiza Akiba for savings, Lipa Ada for paying school fees, Bima Kidigital for insurance sign-up and Airtel Vicoba for group savings and credits.

On a quarter-to-quarter basis, the Airtel money accounts have grown by 11 percent, jumping from 10.1 million subscribers in the quarter ending June 2023 to 11.2 million in the quarter ending September 2023.

Mobile money subscriptions, according to the telecom industry regulator, refer to the count of all active SIM cards with mobile money service accounts which have registered an activity/have been used at least once in the past three months.

According to the report, the gross mobile money accounts subscription has increased from 47.3 million accounts in the quarter ending June 2023 to 51.4 million accounts in the quarter ending September 2023.

On the other hand, the number of mo-

bile money transactions for this quarter has been growing at an average of 3 percent per month.

Also, mobile money transactions increased from 420,675,884 in June to 422,390,546 in September 2023, recording a 0.4 percent growth. The number of transactions has increased for the past three years from 3.4 billion in 2020 to 4.2 billion in 2022.

The number of subscriptions has also been growing at an average rate of 13 percent per annum, while annual average transactions have been increasing at around 11 percent.



Airtel Money has also got services like Timiza Akiba for savings, Lipa Ada for paying school fees, Bima Kidigital for insurance sign-up and Airtel Vicoba for group savings and

Dollar slides as treasuries rally more on Fed bets

NEW YORK

THE dollar fell along with Treasury yields, on growing expectations that the Federal Reserve is done with policy tightening and may start cutting interest rates next year.

The US currency dropped for a fifth day as it weakened against all its Group-of-10 peers and most emerging-market counterparts in Asia.

"Attention will now move to Chair Powell's speech on Friday to see if the tone points to a clear pivot towards easing," Daragh Maher, head of FX strategy for the US at HSBC, wrote in a note. "If it materializes, this would clearly be a challenge to our bullish US dollar view."

The Bloomberg Global Aggregate bond index is up 4.9 percent in November and on course for its best month since December 2008, after recent data indicated slowing inflation and weaker economic activity. The rally followed fresh dovish rhetoric from Fed officials and billionaire investor Bill Ackman's bet on sooner-than-predicted rate cuts.

The MSCI All Country World Index of stocks has gained 8.8 percent so far this month, its most since November 2020.

Fed swaps are anticipating over 100 basis points of rate cuts by the end of 2024 after Governor Christopher Waller said the bank is well positioned to push inflation to a 2 percent target.

Two-year Treasury yields dropped another five basis points to 4.69 percent after shedding 15 basis points Tuesday while a Bloomberg gauge of the dollar is on track for its worst month in a year, as fears of a recession and dovish Fed commentary spurred investors to wager the central bank will have to reverse its most aggressive tightening cycle since the 1980s.

Stocks in Asia were mixed. A gauge of Hong Kong shares fell over 2 percent and headed for its lowest close in a year, weighed by losses in some tech firms following a growth warning by food-delivery giant Meituan. Meanwhile, Australia remained a bright spot after cooling inflation bolstered the case for the local central bank to resume pausing interest rates next week.

US equities futures edged higher while their European counterparts were flat.

The New Zealand dollar rallied about 1 percent against the

greenback after the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's new policy rate forecasts show a slightly higher track 2024, implying a chance of an increase, and no reduction until mid-2025. The central bank kept interest rates unchanged for a fourth straight meeting Wednesday.

Emerging Asian currencies also jumped, led by the Thai baht and Taiwanese dollar. Japanese yen rose to the strongest level in more than two months, partly due to month-end corporate demand.

"The latest round of dovish Fed comments, which open the door to rate cuts in 2024, follows cautious comments from Fed officials in early October, which we noted as the start of the pivot," said Tony Sycamore, a market analyst at IG Australia Pty. "In my thirty years in markets, I have not seen a central bank come close to executing such a well-timed pivot, punctuated by a patch of softer inflation and labor market data."

In a speech entitled "Something Appears to Be Giving," Governor Waller – one of the most-hawkish officials – said he's "increasingly confident that policy is currently well positioned to slow the economy and get inflation back to 2 percent." While acknowledging the many uncertainties, his colleague Michelle Bowman refrained from telegraphing an imminent hike.

Elsewhere, oil held its biggest gain in a week as traders awaited a high-stakes OPEC+ meeting on supply. Gold extended gains to its highest level since May, also buoyed by hopes of a Fed policy shift.

On the economic front, US consumer confidence rose for the first time in four months in November, aided by more optimistic views about the outlook for the labor market. Home prices hit a fresh record high, according to seasonally adjusted data from S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller.

In the corporate universe, Meituan shares tumbled the most in more than a year after the company warned that growth in its main meal delivery business would slow this quarter and spending on promotions rise. PDD Holdings surged 18 percent after reporting a stronger-than-anticipated doubling in revenue, as hit shopping app Temu ramped up discounts and marketing to grab consumers from Shein and Amazon.com.



Global financial system underprepared for cyber attacks

By Julian Jacobs

THE ransomware attack on the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, which resulted in a disrupted US Treasury market in November, provides yet another example of the issues the financial sector faces when dealing with cyberattacks.

Cyberattacks pose substantive risks to individual institutions and the financial system at large. Attacks - from state actors, criminal groups or individual hackers - can take the form of cash theft, data corruption, payment disruption and leakage of the often highly sensitive information financial institutions hold.

The transmission of such cyberattacks into threats to financial stability primarily occurs through a breakdown of trust. A loss of confidence in financial markets and the economy poses liquidity risks, spurring bank runs, capital flight and broad market panic. Such a contagion could create losses and significant price fluctuations.

Yet there are additional transmission risks that are under-discussed. Chief among them is the issue of financial market concentration. Many emerging markets are digitalising their financial sectors without adequate protection against cybercrime. If developed markets can more adequately protect their financial system from attacks, this might spur a movement of activity towards those markets and their local currencies. At an individual bank level, the mechanism is the same. Banks with worse cybersecurity protections may see their demand fall in favour of those with better records. This may kindle trends observed in the US, where smaller regional banks have teetered as major institutions experience an influx of demand. These shifts were similarly spurred by a loss of confidence in smaller, more risk-prone banks.

The irony is that this concentration - at both the bank and individual country market level - poses new risks. Although it may be harder to attack larger and better-resourced institutions and markets, the impact of a hacker successfully doing so would be far more damaging, especially amid higher concentration. Financial firms are investing heavily in cybersecurity. Yet artificial intelligence-enabled malware and hacking tools can be a leveller. Amid a rapidly changing technological landscape, there is a risk that banks will not adequately anticipate the methods of attack that hackers will use.

Cybercrime risk mitigation can involve a cocktail of encryption, multi-factor authentication, hardware security modules, collaboration with cybersecurity consultants or exports and the use of the cloud. Though it is difficult to draw neat comparisons, many central banks appear to be lagging in the development of these sorts of rigorous cybersecurity

provisions. However, there is a lot of variation across institutions, markets and regions. Some financial institutions additionally offer stress testing, which involves assessing how rapidly they could deploy liquidity, capital and key services in the event of a compromising cyberattack.

What should be done?

Cybersecurity should be included explicitly within assessments of financial stability risk. Engaging in cybersecurity stress testing is a good start, but more needs to be done to quantify the potential impact of a major attack. Better data and modelling techniques are likely to help since they allow institutions to understand the costs of attacks more effectively and determine how best to respond. Relatedly, there is a need for greater regulatory convergence to create international co-operation and shore up the financial system in the face of growing attacks, which would hurt the global flow of capital and trade. Sharing information - between countries as well as between the private and public sectors - can help protect institutions from attacks. Overcoming barriers emerging from uneven regulation could involve smoothing out global national security and data protection laws.

Perhaps most important for financial firms and central banks is to seriously consider their response in the event of a successful attack. Complete deterrence of all cyberattacks may be impossible using existing technology. Yet financial



institutions can help protect global financial stability in the face of such attacks by ensuring that they will always be able to resume operations quickly. Doing so can avert some of the risks associated with market panic and loss of confidence, as well as the implications for liquidity and capital flows. The importance of adopting such tests may be greatest for smaller markets where attacks could be more likely to succeed - due to more limited infrastructure - and spur capital flight.

Greater deterrence may help with this. Global efforts - such as identifying and disrupting cyberattackers - could make cybercrime riskier and more expensive. AI could also be leveraged. Cyber criminals are using AI tools to bolster the effectiveness of cyberattacks. As these AI systems become more complex and robust, financial institutions may find that developing their AI-enabled cybersecurity system is the best way to combat attacks from weaker AIs. Given the speed and sophistication with which the most advanced AI systems can hack, it may be that the best police for an AI hacker is a more powerful AI.

Finally, blockchain-based initiatives theoretically could help

protect financial institutions from cybercrime. Distributed ledger technology provides significant protections that other payment systems do not. Proposals such as Worldcoin - a cryptocurrency project - could greatly reduce fraud through biometric-based payment verification. Yet there are risks to the further deployment of blockchain-based solutions.

There is considerable heterogeneity across the financial system. Large banks tend to have highly advanced cybersecurity provisions, while smaller ones are likely to have 'weaker' systems because they have invested less in protections. Yet determining what counts as a 'strong' versus 'weak' system is not always obvious. There is similar variation across global central banks, with smaller market central banks having less robust cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity regulations and safety at the global and individual financial market levels remain underdeveloped. Over half of central banks or supervisory authorities do not have a national cyber strategy for the financial sector, and just under half have no cybersecurity regulations. Regulatory harmonisation between countries remains weak. However, some global institutions - such as the Financial Stability Board, Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructure and Basel Committee - have begun to strengthen coordination and foster convergence in regulation.

Julian Jacobs (pictured) is Senior Economist at Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF).

Brewery empowers road incidents data collections for traffic officers

By Guardian Correspondent

ROAD safety is a shared responsibility that demands the collective efforts of governments, communities, and individuals.

As roads networks continue to expand and traffic congestion becomes a daily challenge, the need for effective road safety interventions and planning has never been more pressing. At the heart of these efforts lies the indispensable role of accurate and timely data collection.

Despite advancements in technology and increased awareness, road accidents remain a global concern. According to the World Health Organization, more than 1 million people lose their lives in road traffic crashes each year, with millions more suffering from debilitating injuries.

The economic and social costs associated with road accidents are staggering, emphasizing the urgency for comprehensive road safety measures. In Tanzania, according to the Global Road Safety Partnership and the International Federation of the Red Cross, the country loses about 3.4 percent of its GDP caring for victims of road accidents.

Accurate and timely data serve as the bedrock upon which successful road safety interventions are built. Without a deep understanding of the factors contributing to accidents, authorities are left to make decisions in the dark.

Robust data collection provides insights into the types of accidents, their frequency, the contributing factors, and the demographics of those involved. This information is invaluable for crafting targeted and effective strategies to address specific challenges.

While recognizing the importance of data, Tanzania faces challenges in collecting accurate and timely information. Limited resources, outdated technology, and bureaucratic obstacles can hinder efficient data gathering. Investing in modern data collection methods is crucial for overcoming these challenges and ensuring a proactive approach to road safety in Tanzania.

As part of efforts to improve road safety in the country, Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) in collaboration with Road Traffic Police have launched a mobile phone application to enable traffic police officers to collect and relay data on road accidents electronically.

The application, dubbed Road Data Collection System (RDS), marks a significant departure from the analogue system, where data is gathered manually at respective police stations and thereafter aggregated at district, region, and, finally, at national level.

Speaking during a training session for road traffic police officers in Dar es Salaam recently on the use of the new application, TBL's Director of Logistics, Nancy Riwa, said the brewer and its parent company AB InBev are committed to reduce avoidable road accidents in Tanzania.

"We are committed to improve road safety in the country and uplift the welfare of the society around us", Riwa said during the training for road traffic police officers who will be deployed in the pilot project.

Adding, "Many road accidents can be avoided if everyone played his/her part. The application will enable the road traffic police officers to collect data digitally and eventually make proper decisions in dealing with the menace."

Riwa extended appreciation to the police force for agreeing to partner with TBL in undertaking the groundbreaking initiative which is aimed towards eradicating and reducing road accidents which can be avoided.

Through the innovation, which is being implemented as a pilot project in Dar es Salaam, traffic police officers will be able to collect data such as drawings, date, people and vehicles involved in accidents and upload the information in the application.

The road traffic police officers involved in the pilot project will be required to install the application on their smartphones and use the same for recording and uploading road accidents in their respective areas.

The information will then be approved by District Traffic Officers (DTOs) and later relayed to Regional Traffic Officers (RTOs) and eventually to the main server at the headquarters of Road Traffic Police.

For his part, Kinondoni Regional Traffic Officer (RTO) SSP Solomon Mwangamilo, underlined the importance of data in making proper decisions for reducing road accidents.

"Accurate data is very important for an institution like the police force to make proper decisions since it will be able to make an analysis of the situation and take appropriate measures."

"I would like to thank TBL for raising their voice and collaborating with the Police Force, this will greatly strengthen law enforcement for all road users and bring our performance up to a digital standard," he observed.

SSP Mwangamilo said it was high time that the road traffic police in Tanzania kept up with the rest of the world in adopting technology for curbing road accidents in the country.

Once the data is uploaded to the server it will enable close monitoring and evaluation of road accidents in a particular area. This will enable law enforcers to take appropriate mitigation measures in their respective areas. Moreover, regular drivers will benefit from expedited insurance claims processing, reducing the time and complexity associated with such procedures.

The innovative app is set to reshape the landscape of road traffic data collection, analysis, and reporting in Tanzania as it is expected to play a pivotal role in streamlining road traffic data collection. This is a continuation of Tanzania Breweries' long running history of support to Tanzanian authorities on road safety.

Magazi beats gender-based challenges in mining sector

WORKING in the mining sector was traditionally considered as men's profession. Girls were historically shining away from taking mining courses in colleges and universities. But this tradition is now being broken, as large numbers of women are now venturing into the sector, through taking up various positions, ranging from engineering to geology. MODESTA MAGAZI (pictured), one of the few mining geologists in Tanzania, explains how she managed to break the gender barriers in mining profession.

What motivated you to venture into mining sector?

I was born in Kahama District, which is famous in mining activities. When I was young, studying in primary and secondary school, I used to see people wearing reflective clothes. One day, I had a chart with one of the ladies who told me that she was working with mining site at Kakola.

I was very interested to know what they were doing. I remember she gave me a short story of what they were doing, and she advised me if I wanted to work in mine; I should opt for mining engineering or geology studies. After the explanation, I was very interested and kept it in mind.

When I got the chance to join the university studies, I had to fulfill what I was dreaming by enrolling for a Bachelor of Science, with majoring in geology.

After three years of my studies at the University of Dar es Salaam, I graduated with a bachelor of science in geology.

When did you join Barrick Gold and what position do you currently hold?

After completion of my university studies, I was later employed by Barrick Gold Corporation as a junior geologist during the same year of my graduation. As of now, I am serving as a senior geologist.

What major achievements you have recorded over the last 5 years at Barrick?

In the past five years, I have acquired new skills on working in open pit as production geologist.



Later, I served as senior Reconciliation geologist for two years before working on underground mining section as senior geologist. I have now been seconded to Bulyanhulu Gold Mine to widen my knowledge and skills on underground mining.

What is your view on Barrick's employment policy on gender equality?

There is a big improvement on balancing gender on the new employment at our company. I remember that I was the first woman to be employed in the geology department at North Mara. Currently, there are number of women working in our department. I would say that the company is doing well on gender equality when it comes into employment.

Are there any specific women's empowerment programs interested you at Barrick Gold?

There is no any program being introduced specifically for women career growth for the company. Women we are

using a lot of energy to prove that they are capable, but we are receiving some supports from the management. Based on my view, empowering women is something that needs to be emphasized by the company. So far, I know only one lady who is at the top management level at North Mara.

What is your comment on the company's on health and safety policy at the workplace?

The company policy on health and safety is going home safe and health every day, which is good. I would say that the company is doing its best to ensure that everyone is aware of health and safety policy.

What is your view regarding Tanzania's mining sector in general?

Mining is growing and more people have a broader understanding of the sector, which is currently contributing greatly to foreign exchange earnings. In a meantime, the sector

is creating a good number of employment opportunities to the people of this country. Therefore, the sector has enabled the improvement of standards of living among Tanzanians.

What advice would you give to girls dreaming to work in mining sector?

This is a good option. What I would like to advise them is that they must be strong enough to overcome challenges, because mining sector is currently men dominated sector. Therefore, I would say that there a lot of challenges, but they need to be strong, because you can't survive longer due to the negative forces from some of your team members.

How do you strike a balance between your official duties and your family life?

Not easy at all. I have passed through different challenges, but I thank God that I am surviving. I would also like to thank some of my supervisors and my husband for supporting my career, because it would have not been here where I am without their support and courage.

The information will then be approved by District Traffic Officers (DTOs) and later relayed to Regional Traffic Officers (RTOs) and eventually to the main server at the headquarters of Road Traffic Police



Traffic Police officers trying Road Data Collection System (RDS)

China's local governments scramble to rescue small banks

BEIJING

LOCAL governments in China have sold record amounts of so-called special bonds this year to inject capital into struggling smaller banks, as authorities seek to contain spillover risks from a deepening property crisis and a sputtering economy.

Special-purpose bonds are a form of off-budget debt financing used by local governments in China, with the proceeds raised typically earmarked for specific policy goals, such as spending on infrastructure projects.

Local governments plan to use the proceeds of the latest bond sales to purchase equity or convertible bonds from smaller banks, most of them state-owned, effectively recapitalising them, according to the deal prospectuses.

The governments have raised 152.3 billion yuan (\$21.05 billion) via such bonds so far in 2023 to replenish the capital of small and medium-sized banks, according to data from the official China Electronic Local Government Bond Market Access.

But total funds raised so far are modest compared to the

banks' needs, analysts say.

China's small, regional banks would need to address a capital shortfall of an estimated 2.2 trillion yuan based on a scenario where up to 20 percent of regional lenders face capital inadequacy, according to an October report by S&P Global Ratings.

Highlighting Beijing's push to avoid a financial crisis like the one in 2008, the value of special-purpose bonds issued this year is already more than double the 63 billion yuan issued in 2022, and is the highest on record since such instruments were introduced in 2020 to help smaller lenders impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The trend highlights how more and more of the country's smaller banks are being propped up with government support, amid a deepening crisis in the property market, which accounts for about a quarter of the economy.

Authorities have been ramping up measures to support real estate, including relaxing home purchase restrictions and lowering borrowing costs, although these have failed to shore up a meaningful recovery.

The People's Bank of China



(PBOC) and the National Financial Regulatory Administration (NFRA) did not respond to Reuters request for comment.

DEEPER IN DEBT

The intensified efforts to support smaller banks also come amid growing worries about the impact of ballooning local government debt on the economy.

Local government debt reached 92 trillion yuan (\$12.6 trillion), or 76 percent of China's economic output in 2022, up from 62.2 percent in 2019, according to the latest data from the International Monetary Fund.

While policymakers are highly con-

cerned over rising debt levels, Beijing has little option but to support smaller banks to contain spillover risks, analysts said.

"It is important to avoid any failures of even the smallest institutions, as a single failure could generate knock-on effects and spread

financial contagion to other financial institutions," said Gavekal Dragonomics researcher Zhang Xiaoxi.

It was not immediately clear if the central authorities had given any guidance to the local governments on recapitalising smaller banks, and who were the buyers of these special-purpose bonds.

Some provinces are accelerating plans to reform and defuse risks at local, high-risk small and medium-sized banks and to replenish capital via multiple channels, central bank governor Pan Gongsheng said in Beijing earlier this month.

CONTAGION RISK

Local governments and banks are fundamental to China's economy, with Beijing tasking provincial and city officials with meeting ambitious growth targets.

But after years of over-investment in infrastructure, plummeting returns from land sales, and soaring COVID costs, economists say debt-laden municipalities now represent a major risk to the world's second-largest economy.

The issuance of fresh debt by the local governments to recapitalise banks, coming at a time when their own liabilities are growing rapidly, could make the financial balancing act for municipalities even more precarious.

High borrowing costs bite UK business

LONDON

HIGH borrowing costs and weaker demand are hitting UK business creation, prompting a fall in the number of enterprises that is adding to pressure on the stagnating economy.

The number of businesses set up in 2022 dropped 7 per cent to 337,000 compared with 2021, driven by sharp decreases in retail, couriers, real estate and construction, according to a Financial Times analysis of data published by the Office for National Statistics last week.

The figures, which were taken from the ONS-maintained Inter-Departmental Business Register, also showed a 5 per cent rise in the number of businesses closures, meaning they overtook creations for the first time since 2010.

The yearly data points to lower dynamism in the economy as fewer companies are left to provide jobs and boost output growth.

While larger businesses are generally more productive, new businesses are on average more creative and innovative, meaning that a fall in their number could translate into a drag on already sluggish UK productivity.

Tina McKenzie, policy and advocacy chair at the Federation of Small Businesses, said the figures were "a mirror to the economic challenges business faces today...from rising costs...to late payments and flagging consumer demand".

The trend is confirmed by separate

IDBR data published this autumn, which showed that the number of active businesses dropped in March 2023, the first fall since 2011.

According to separate quarterly figures, corporate insolvencies in England and Wales hit their highest since the 2008 financial crisis in the six months to September 2023.

IDBR data tracks all enterprises in the UK registered for VAT or PAYE. As a result, it does not include some businesses such as small, single-person, limited companies and some non-profit groups, as well as unregistered or inactive businesses.

Government support helped many businesses survive the Covid-19 pandemic, but a combination of high borrowing costs, strong wage growth, high energy and materials prices and weakening demand has made conditions harder since the end of 2021.

Meanwhile, a decline in household spending in the three months to September contributed to the stagnation of the economy.

Ashley Webb, economist at consultancy Capital Economics, said the "significant increase" in energy prices and tighter monetary policy meant setting up a business had become more expensive since the start of 2022, "particularly if they were financed through borrowing".

Elevated interest rates – now at a 15-year high of 5.25 per cent – have curbed the availability of funding for companies, which flowed freely during a decade of nearly free borrowing until the end of 2021.

Neil Ross, associate director for policy at techUK, said there had been "big issues on the interest rate side, [with a] lack of funding. That's been a big problem for getting early-stage companies off the ground."

Dom Hallas, executive director at Startup Coalition, which represents tech businesses, said that although plenty of businesses were still being created, recent data was a reminder that start-ups could not be taken for granted.

"For a long time, I think there was a truism in British policy that 'We've done startups now, we're really good at that and now we need to do scale-ups,'" he said. "The reality is there are challenges all over the growth spectrum."

According to the IDBR data, some sectors that are

sensitive to interest rate rises, including construction and real estate, showed particularly big swings in business creations and closures. Last year, the number of new businesses in building construction dropped 8 per cent, while closures soared 41 per cent.

Richard Fleming, managing director at consultancy Alvarez & Marsal, said rising borrowing costs had led some investors to defer projects, heaping pressure on the sector. A cooling residential market had also hit regional housebuilders, he added.

The surge in new businesses during the pandemic, helped by new funding opportunities and the opening of new markets thanks to the shift online and hybrid working, registered an inversion last year.

For example, the number of new businesses operating in retail dropped from 38,900 in 2021 to 29,420 in 2022, the lowest since consistent data first became available in 2017. Meanwhile, closures in retail rose almost 30 per cent in 2022 to the highest in at least six years.

The number of new couriers also shrank by one-quarter in 2022, after doubling between 2019 and 2021.

Emma Jones, founder and chief executive of Enterprise Nation, a platform that supports small businesses, said she had witnessed a "huge boom" in business births during Covid as entrepreneurs "became alive" to gaps in the market.

But "it was inevitable that some of these would be impacted by...pressures like the cost of living crisis and...inflation".

S. Africa central bank, Treasury discuss on contingency reserve

JOHANNESBURG

THE Institute for Economic Justice, economists, academics, and civil society organisations have urged Treasury to consider utilising South Africa's Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Reserve Account (Gfecra) to avoid a reduction in funding for government programmes, services, and expenditures.

The central bank officially acknowledged that it is in ongoing discussions with the National Treasury regarding accessing the contingency reserve to this end.

"We are engaged with the Treasury...We have bought in international expertise to engage on these matters, including on how to deal with the capital position of the bank," the South African Reserve Bank (Sarb) governor Lesetja Kganyago said at a media briefing on Thursday, 23 November, after the monetary policy committee held rates steady.

The potential withdrawal amount, the timeframe over which it might occur, and the associated costs for the central bank, are in the process of being determined.

Kim Silberman, economist and macro strategist at Matrix Fund Managers, suggests that the gains from gold and foreign-exchange reserves can be utilised by the National Treasury through either selling the reserves or retaining them and resorting to money printing.

In the scenario where the Sarb prints money equivalent to a portion of the profits from the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves, Silberman explains that this would require measures to offset the effects of the newly printed money on the economy.

This could involve selling government securities which could attract foreign investors or taking other steps to absorb the excess money supply, essentially withdrawing it from active circulation in the economy.

"This process would involve the Sarb paying interest at the repo rate," Silberman said.

Silberman said essentially obtaining funding at the repo rate would provide inexpensive financing for the Treasury, but it should be viewed as additional debt, not a "magic pot of gold at the Sarb".

BANKING & FINANCE



WORLD

Australia issues national apology to victims of pregnancy drug

CANNBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has delivered a national apology to victims of a pregnancy drug that caused birth defects.

In a speech to the parliament yesterday, Albanese offered an "unreserved and overdue" apology to survivors of thalidomide, saying the system failed both mothers and chil-

dren affected by the morning sickness drug.

Yesterday marked 62 years to the day since thalidomide was withdrawn from sale in Australia after it was linked to birth defects.

"We understand an apology does not balance years of inaction and inadequate support. We know the toll of thalidomide is still felt today," Albanese said.

A 2019 Senate inquiry into thalidomide in Australia found that more urgent action in 1961 when the link between the drug and birth defects was discovered could have prevented 20 percent of cases and recommended a national apology.

There are 146 registered survivors of thalidomide in Australia, most of whom were in attendance at the parliament for the apology.

India has walked the talk on climate change, says envoy

DUBAI

AHEAD of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for the COP28 Summit, Indian Ambassador to UAE, Sanjay Sudhir said on Tuesday that New Delhi has always walked the talk on the issue of climate change.

He also said that everyone including the global leaders is eagerly waiting for PM Modi to share his vision on this issue with the world.

Speaking to ANI, Sudhir said, "COP28 Summit is a very important and big international conference. PM Modi coming here, itself shows how big the event is. We are eagerly waiting for PM Modi's visit... the world leaders are waiting. Everyone is eager for him to share his vision with the world".

The Indian envoy further said that India has played a leadership role under the vision of PM Modi on the issue of climate change.

"Regarding climate change, India has walked the talk. India has played a leadership role under the vision of PM Modi. The fact that we account for one-sixth of world's population, has its own challenges. But despite that we announced the International Solar Alliance and other initiatives," he added.

The International Solar Alliance is an alliance of more than 120 signatory countries that aims to reduce the dependence on non-renewable sources of energy like fossil fuels. It was conceived as a joint effort by India and France. Currently, 116 countries are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement.

Prime Minister Modi will be travelling to Dubai, United Arab Emirates from November 30 to December 1, to attend the World Climate Action Summit.

The World Climate Action Summit is the High-Level Segment of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Notably, COP28 is being held from November 28 - December 12 under the Presidency of the UAE.

During the COP26 in Glasgow, PM Modi announced five specific targets, titled "Panchamrit", as India's unprecedented contribution to climate action. During the Summit, he also announced Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).

During his visit, PM Modi will also hold bilateral meetings with some of the leaders participating in the Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release. PM Modi is visiting UAE at the invitation of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. **ANI**

Ahead of COP28, the world still far behind in climate fight

AHEAD of this year's COP28 climate summit in Dubai, UN agencies have released several reports offering updates on global progress in limiting climate change.

Here are some of the most important findings:

Global greenhouse gases are still rising

Global greenhouse gas emissions rose by 1.2 percent from 2021 to 2022, reaching 57.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent for the year, according to the UN Emissions Gap Report.

If countries don't quickly plan for steep cuts, global temperatures will rise nearly 3 degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels in this century, it said - far beyond the 1.5C (2.7F) threshold that scientists say would begin to trigger catastrophic effects.

The report, released on Nov 20, looks at how countries' planned climate action compares with what is needed to meet global climate goals. It found those pledges put the world on track for a temperature rise of 2.5C-2.9C (4.5F-5.2F).

Even in the most optimistic emissions scenario, it found there is just a 14 percent chance of holding warming to 1.5C - adding to a growing body of scientific evidence suggesting the central goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement is out of reach.

Countries are lagging with emissions-cutting targets

Planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions are expected to fall only 2 percent below 2019 levels by 2030, a far cry from the roughly 43 percent reduction the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says is needed to have a hope of limiting warming to 1.5C.

ALSO READ: US warming faster than global average, assessment shows

Like the Emissions Gap Report, the NDC Synthesis Report analyz-



A digital billboard displays an unofficial temperature, on July 17, 2023, in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, United States. AP

es countries' pledges, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), to determine where governments are in their ambition to wean themselves off fossil fuels.

Instead of expected warming under various climate models, however, it assesses emissions trends.

The report looked at nearly 200 submissions, including 20 new or updated NDCs received as of September 2023. National plans saw only a marginal improvement over last year's ambitions, with emissions then projected to rise 11 percent compared to 2010 levels.

The world's fossil fuel plans threaten climate goals

Global fossil fuel production is set to be more than double the level needed to limit warming to 1.5C, according to the Production Gap Report published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report analyzes the difference between planned fossil fuel production and the amount deemed consistent with meeting global climate goals.

It found that the top 20 fossil fuel-producing countries altogether are planning to produce 110 percent more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5C, and 69 percent more than is

consistent with 2C (3.6F).

None of these 20 countries has committed to reducing coal, oil and gas production in line with limiting warming to 1.5C, it said.

Wealthy countries are offering less help for adaptation

Rich countries' promises to help poorer ones adapt to climate change have slowed, with a shortfall now 50 percent larger than UNEP had previously estimated, the agency reported in November.

UNEP researchers found in this year's Adaptation Gap Report that adaptation efforts globally cost about \$387 billion per year in 2021, while the funds available for these efforts totaled just \$21 billion.

That created an estimated shortfall of roughly \$366 billion.

In 2009, developed countries pledged to provide \$100 billion per year in climate finance to developing nations. While the pledge was supposed to strike a balance between adaptation and mitigation, that balance was never defined.

Mitigation projects, or efforts to rein in climate-warming emissions, were favored because they were more likely to provide financial return on investments, the report said.

US President Biden's son Hunter offers to testify before Congress in December

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden (pictured) said on Tuesday that he would testify before Congress in December, in response to a Republican-led impeachment investigation into the president and his family.

Abbe Lowell, Hunter Biden's attorney, told chairman of the House Oversight Committee James Comer, a Republican from Kentucky, that the president's son will answer "any pertinent and relevant questions" lawmakers might have, but said his questioning must take place at a public committee hearing.

"A public proceeding would prevent selective leaks, manipulated tran-



scripts, doctored exhibits, or one-sided press statements," Lowell wrote in a letter to the chairman. "Your empty investigation has gone on too long wasting too many better-used resources. It should come to an end," the letter continued.

Lowell said Hunter Biden will appear at such a public hearing "on the date you noticed, Dec. 13, or any date in December that we can arrange."

The letter came weeks after Comer subpoenaed the president's son and called for closed-door depositions, as he conducts an impeachment inquiry into the Democratic president. His uncle James Biden, the president's brother, was subpoenaed the same day. So far, Republicans have failed to reveal evidence directly implicating President Biden in any wrongdoing, but they insist the evidence is troubling.

The Republican leaders of the oversight and judiciary committees, who are leading the impeachment inquiry, claimed Hunter Biden was "actively involved in the web connecting the Biden family to foreign money," and said he has "personal knowledge" of whether

the president has been involved in his family members' business dealings.

Besides the impeachment investigation, Hunter Biden was indicted on gun and tax-related charges, becoming the first child of a sitting president to be criminally indicted.

Since the start of this year, the country has witnessed the historic 15-ballot floor fight in the election of a House speaker, former President Donald Trump facing multiple criminal charges, the criminal charges against Hunter Biden, and the ouster of a sitting House speaker, all of which are unprecedented and offers a window into the depth of the division and chaos in Congress. **Xinhua**



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) meets with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday, at the UN headquarters, in New York. XINHUA

China calls for 'effective' peace conference on two-state solution

UNITED NATIONS/NEW YORK

CHINA calls for convening a more authoritative, inclusive and result-oriented peace conference as soon as possible to set a roadmap and timetable for the two-state solution to the Palestine-Israeli issue, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

China supports the United Nations in playing a leading role to that end, said Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, during a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the UN headquarters in New York on Tuesday.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a global focus, and the role of the United Nations and its actions are drawing global attention, Wang said.

On this issue, China has always been on the side of peace, on the side of human conscience, and on the side of international law, he said.

China supports the United Nations and the secretary-general in playing a unique and indispensable role in dealing with the issue, said Wang.

As the president of the UN Security Council for the month of November, China, maintaining close communication with Arab countries and other relevant parties, has made the Palestinian-Israeli conflict a key priority of the council, he said.

China has also received a joint delegation of foreign ministers from Arab and Islamic countries in Beijing and reached consensus on convening a high-level Security Council meeting, at which China hopes the council could speak with one clear voice, Wang said.

Wang said the Security Council Resolution 2712 is the first step toward a ceasefire and a good start toward the political settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The key point now is whether the humanitarian pause currently in effect could be extended and whether the flames of war would resume in Gaza, he said.

China's position is clear. First, war should not be allowed to return. A comprehensive ceasefire should be in place in order to prevent an even larger humanitarian disaster. People in captivity should be released, Wang said.

Second, humanitarian supplies should have unhindered access to Gaza. More border crossings should be made available and an effective monitoring mechanism should be established.

Third, the two-state solution, which

is the greatest common denominator of the international community and the fundamental way out to the Palestinian-Israeli issue, should be brought back as soon as possible, he said.

Guterres, for his part, expressed appreciation for China's constructive role in pushing for a political solution to the Palestinian-Israeli issue and alleviating the humanitarian situation in Gaza during its Security Council presidency.

He thanked China for convening a high-level Security Council meeting with the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

The upcoming meeting, the first one for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2712, is of great importance, said the UN chief.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains concerning. Civilian casualties, particularly of children, are unprecedented and unacceptable. The temporary pause in hostilities is not enough. Humanitarian supplies for Gaza are far from enough, Guterres said.

There is a need to open more border crossings and simplify procedures so that humanitarian supplies can reach Gaza in a rapid and unimpeded manner, said Guterres.

The United Nations is firmly in favor of the two-state solution as the fundamental way to solve the Palestinian question, he said, expressing the hope that the Security Council could reach more consensus on it.

Wang, on behalf of the Chinese government, mourned the deaths of UN staffers in the latest round of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Wang also met separately with Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira and Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir in New York on Tuesday.

During his meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Mauro Vieira, Wang said China and Brazil should strive for new consensus in the UN Security Council and push for a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire between Israel and Palestine, the release of captives, and a return to the two-state solution as the fundamental one to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Vieira said the Brazilian side agrees with China's position. The temporary ceasefire should be extended first and eventually the peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel should be achieved through the two-state solution, Vieira said.

Brazil is ready to work closely with China to prompt the UN Security Council to take new actions and make a unanimous and clear voice, he added.

Xinhua

Effective management of disagreements reduces risk of conflict, confrontation in China-US relations

CHINA and the United States are different in history, culture, social system and development path. They have encountered, are currently encountering, and will continue to encounter differences and disagreements. How to view these differences and responsibly manage the disagreements tests the wisdom of both countries.

During the summit meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden in San Francisco, Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out that China and the U.S. should manage disagreements effectively, and put forward it as one of the five pillars

for China-US relations.

Disagreements should not be a chasm that keeps the two countries apart. Instead, the two sides should look for ways to build bridges to help them walk toward each other, Xi said.

It is important that they appreciate each other's principles and red lines, and refrain from flip-flopping, being provocative, and crossing the lines. They should have more communications, more dialogues and more consultations, and calmly handle their differences as well as accidents,

said Xi.

Xi's remarks provide crucial guidance for China and the U.S. to efficiently manage disagreements.

Difference and disagreement in itself is no cause for alarm; the key is to have the vision and layout to seek common ground and resolve differences.

For 22 years, there were estrangement and antagonism between China and the U.S. Converging interests enabled the two countries to rise above differences and make the handshake

across the Pacific Ocean.

The Shanghai Communique released in 1972 ended the long-standing isolation between China and the U.S. and launched the process of normalizing the China-U.S. relations. It showed that the two major countries with different social systems were willing to coexist peacefully.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger once praised the Shanghai Communique as a new example of diplomatic document that respects the dif-

ferent views of both countries, and this preservation of divergent opinions adds greater significance to the document.

Over 50 years ago, both sides were able to correctly view their differences and responsibly manage their disagreements. Today, it is imperative to show similar wisdom and courage.

Difference and disagreement in itself is no cause for alarm; the key is not to let them overshadow the relationship between China and the U.S.

Although the two countries

are different in history, culture and social system and have embarked on different development paths, they have made many achievements \$760 billion of annual bilateral trade and over \$260 billion of two-way investment, 284 pairs of sister provinces/states and sister cities, and over 300 scheduled flights every week and over five million travels every year at peak time.

Despite the differences, the two peoples are both kind, friendly, hardworking and

down-to-earth. They both love their countries, their families and their lives, and they both are friendly toward each other and are interested in each other.

It is the convergence of many streams of goodwill and friendship that has created a strong current surging across the vast Pacific Ocean, it is the reaching out to each other by the peoples that has time and again brought China-U.S. relations from a low ebb back onto the right track. History has repeatedly proved that China and the U.S. are capable of rising above differences and managing disagreements. **People's Daily**

Pope Francis says he is 'still not well' due to flu

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis sounded wheezy and limited his speaking at a public event yesterday, a day after he canceled a trip to the COP28 climate summit in Dubai because of health issues.

"Dear brothers and sisters good morning and welcome," the 86-year-old pontiff said at his weekly audience, held indoors in the Vatican's Paul IV hall.

He then said an aide would read his main text in his place, "since I am still not well with this flu and (my) voice is not nice".

On Tuesday, the Vatican said Francis would no longer make a planned three-day trip to Dubai, starting Friday, for COP28 on doctor's orders.

"Although the Holy Father's general clinical condition has improved with regard to the flu and inflammation of the respiratory tract, doctors have asked the pope not to make the trip," a statement said.



Pope Francis arrives in the Paul IV hall on the occasion of the weekly general audience at the Vatican, yesterday. AP

He was greeted in the packed hall by applause and chants of "Viva il papa" ("Long live the pope"). Francis spoke again at the end of his audi-

ence, to call for the continuation of a truce in the Gaza Strip, the release of all hostages, and humanitarian aid access into the territory.

"We call for peace," he said, also mentioning Ukraine.

The pope, who is getting on-the-ground reports from Gaza's Catholic parish, expressed concern for the lack of water, bread, and the suffering of ordinary people.

"War is always a defeat, everybody loses (apart from) one group that profits a lot: arms manufacturers who make good money from the death of others," he said.

Francis, who has trouble walking due to a knee ailment and sometimes uses a wheelchair, arrived at his Wednesday audience walking, aided by a cane.

His audience also featured a brief show by circus artists, including a clown, acrobats and jugglers, who performed on the podium alongside Francis.

He thanked them for offering a "moment of joy."

Agencies

Xi stresses foreign-related legal system development

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed the need to strengthen foreign-related legal system development, as he chaired a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on Monday.



Xi (pictured) highlighted the need to create law-based governance conditions and a favorable external environment for advancing Chinese modernization.

Xi emphasized that bolstering the rule of law in foreign affairs serves the long-term need for building a strong nation and advancing national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization.

He further underscored the immediate importance of foreign-related legal system development in fostering high-standard opening-up and addressing external risks and challenges. Calling for attention to the importance and urgency of the issue, Xi stressed the need to foster a foreign-related legal system and capacity that meet the needs of high-quality development and high-standard opening-up.

A professor from Wuhan University gave a lecture, after which members of the Political Bureau had a discussion.

Speaking after the discussion, Xi pointed out that foreign-related legal framework is an important part of China's legal system.

He emphasized that the fundamental purpose of advancing law-based governance in foreign-related affairs is to safeguard the interests of the country and the people through legal means, facilitate progress in international rule of law, and advance the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

The path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics must be followed with unwavering commitment, Xi added. Xi underscored the importance of well-structured top-level design, adding that foreign-related legislation, law enforcement, jurisdiction, law compliance and legal services ought to be advanced simultaneously.

In addition, efforts should be taken to advance reform in the system and mechanism of foreign-related trial and judicature, said Xi. He also highlighted the need to cultivate arbitration institutions and law firms of international prestige.

Xi urged efforts to build a strong legal security chain to protect China's overseas interests.

He noted the necessity for guiding Chinese citizens and enterprises to abide by local laws and regulations when going abroad, and that they should apply laws and rules to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests. The international order based on international law must be resolutely upheld, Xi noted, adding that China should actively take part in the formulation of international rules and promote the rule of law in international relations.

Xi said the rule of law is the best environment for doing business. He stressed building an open and transparent foreign-related legal system, strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights, safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of foreign-funded enterprises, and fostering a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment.

Noting that the institutional opening-up should be steadily expanded and trade and investment liberalization and facilitation should be improved, Xi said effective measures and mature experience of high-standard opening-up such as the ones tested in pilot free trade zones should be timely elevated to law provisions.

Efforts should be made to improve measures and relevant laws and regulations to facilitate foreigners who live in China, Xi added. Xi also underlined the importance of fostering professional personnel.

Xi emphasized the need to strengthen confidence in the rule of law, and actively interpret China's unique concepts, propositions, and successful practices related to the rule of law in foreign affairs. He highlighted efforts to promote the creative transformation and development of fine traditional Chinese legal culture.

Xinhua

US fully responsible for situation in Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone – Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON bears full responsibility for events unfolding in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"The entire current collapse on the territory [of the Gaza Strip], where a colossal tragedy related to the Palestinian-Israeli

confrontation has unfolded, is completely and fully the responsibility of the United States, or, rather, I should say, [due to] the irresponsibility [of the US]. It is only they [who are responsible]," she told the Sputnik radio station.

According to the diplomat, it was precisely Washington's policies that have served as the primary sources of tension in the



conflict zone.

Tensions flared up again in the Middle East on October 7 when militants from the Gaza Strip-based Palestinian radical group Hamas staged a surprise incursion into Israeli territory from Gaza.

Hamas described its attack as a response to the aggressive actions of Israeli authorities against the Al-Aqsa Mosque on

the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City.

In response, Israel declared a state of war readiness; announced a total blockade of the Gaza Strip, home to 2.3 million Palestinians; and began delivering air strikes on the enclave and certain parts of Lebanon and Syria. Clashes are underway in the West Bank as well.

Agencies

Untreated diseases could kill more than bombings in Gaza, WHO warns

UNTREATED diseases could eventually kill more people in Gaza than bombings if the health system is not restored, the World Health Organization says.

Diarrhoea and respiratory infections are widespread among children in overcrowded UN facilities where almost 1.1 million people are sheltering.

Patients with chronic illnesses like cancer are also receiving no treatment.

The warning comes as a truce between Israel and Hamas entered a fifth day, after a 48-hour extension was agreed.

The deal mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States should see an additional 20 Israeli women and children held hostage in Gaza being released in exchange for 60 Palestinian women and teenagers in Israeli prisons.

On Monday, 11 hostages and 33 prisoners were freed on the fourth and final day of the initial agreement, bringing the totals to 50 hostages and 150 prisoners released.

Nineteen foreign nationals, one of whom has Israeli citizenship, have also been handed over by Hamas under separate agreements.

Israel launched a military campaign in Gaza and imposed a siege in response to an unprecedented cross-border attack by Hamas



As the truce in Gaza continues for a fifth day, aid agencies say more humanitarian assistance is needed

gunmen on 7 October, in which at least 1,200 people were killed and about 240 others taken hostage.

Gaza's Hamas-run government says more than 14,800 people have been killed in the territory since the war began.

The UN estimates that more than 1.8 million people in Gaza have fled their homes over the past seven weeks. About 60% of them are sheltering in 156 facilities belonging to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, Unrwa.

WHO spokeswoman Dr Margaret Harris told a news conference in Geneva that an assessment of those shelters had found outbreaks of infectious diseases, with cases of diarrhoea among

children aged five and older more than 100 times normal levels by early November.

No treatment is available for them, she said, without which infants in particular can deteriorate and die very quickly.

According to the UN, only five hospitals are partially operational in the north of Gaza, the area that has been the focus of the Israeli ground offensive.

Eight of the 11 hospitals are functional in the south, where the Israeli military has ordered civilians to flee. Only one of those hospitals has the capacity to treat critical trauma cases or perform complex surgery.

"Eventually, we will see more

people dying from disease than we are even seeing from the bombardment if we are not able to put back [together] this health system," Dr Harris warned.

Addressing journalists via video link from Gaza, Unicef spokesman James Elder reported seeing hospitals full of children with horrendous war wounds.

He described seeing one child missing part of his leg lying untreated on a hospital floor for several hours because of a lack of medical staff. Other injured children were lying in car parks and gardens outside, he said.

Displaced children and their families are also suffering because of a lack of proper shelter and clothing to protect them from the rainy and cold weather currently in Gaza.

Over the first four days of the truce, 800 aid lorries entered Gaza, with some reaching the north, according to US officials. That is an increase in comparison to the preceding few days, but it is still just a fraction of the usual number.

The UN agencies say that in such conditions, a resumption in fighting should be unthinkable, they are calling again for a permanent ceasefire.

Israel's prime minister has promised that its military will "go to realising our goals with full

force" when the pause ends.

However, Qatar's foreign ministry said on Tuesday that it would use the extension to seek a "sustainable truce that would lead to further negotiations and eventually an end... to this war".

"We are working with what we have. And what we have right now is the provision to the agreement that allows us to extend days as long as Hamas is able to guarantee the release of at least 10 hostages," spokesman Majed al-Ansari told reporters in Doha.

He added that mediators hoped to receive information from Hamas about the more than 150 Israelis and foreign nationals still being held hostage, who include children as young as 10 months old as well as a number of soldiers.

A senior Hamas source in Qatar told the BBC that not all of the civilian hostages were in its hands. Some were with smaller armed groups like Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which like Hamas is classed as a terrorist organisation by Israel, the UK and other Western powers.

According to the source, Hamas needs more time to collect information and contact people. Communication is very difficult because of the damage to the telecoms network and the shortage of fuel to power it.

Agencies

A glimpse into express packaging box's carbon reduction journey in China

IN recent years, China has constantly promoted the minimization, standardization and recycling of express packaging, continuously reducing energy consumption while boosting the green development of its express delivery sector.

China's express delivery sector has maintained rapid growth over the past decades. During the annual "Double 11" online shopping spree (from Nov. 1 to Nov. 16), express delivery enterprises across the country collected a total of about 7.77 billion packages, surging 25.7 percent from a year earlier, according to the State Post Bureau.

How can such a burgeoning industry accelerate its transition to green logistics services? A whole-process tracking of the warehousing, packaging, delivery and recycling of an express packaging box by People's Daily may offer a glimpse into the efforts.

At 11:15 a.m. on Nov. 5, a woman named Wang who lives in Dongxihu district, Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei province, placed and confirmed an order for some products on an e-commerce platform.

Nearly at the same time, an order with a serial number ending with 7205 was officially created 50 kilometers



A consumer puts used cardboard boxes into a recycling bin at a distribution station of Cainiao, the logistics arm of China's e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, in a residential area in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang province. (Photo/Zhang Jie)

away in the largest logistics park in central China - a smart logistics park of Cainiao, the logistics arm of China's e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, in Jiangxia district, Wuhan.

After intelligent stacker cranes accurately picked up goods one by one from racks ten stories high in a warehouse, automated guided vehicles standing by steadily transported them along a preset route to a packing platform.

When all the goods, which included laundry detergent, yogurt, and facial masks, were ready, an instruction suggesting a customized packaging solution appeared on the computer screen at the packing platform: use No. 8 box, which is 26 centimeters long, 20 centimeters wide, and 20 centimeters high.

"We used to rely solely on experience for packaging. To avoid changing boxes midway and affect efficiency, we tended to choose bigger boxes, resulting in waste to some extent," said Lin Fang, a packer who packed the goods ordered by Wang.

The problem has been effectively solved by the intelligent box recommendation system of the logistics park, which can automatically generate a packaging plan encompassing box size, product arrangement and protection measures, according to Lin, who added that the system has also greatly improved box space utilization.

While talking to People's Daily reporters, Lin completed the packaging and skillfully pulled out a tape, and then neatly cross-sealed the cardboard box and affixed a waybill to the package. At 11:30 a.m., the package was officially released from the warehouse.

The adhesive tape used at the warehouse now is much "slimmer" than the one used before, according to Yi Qing, manager of the warehouse.

"The width of the tape was reduced from 60 millimeters to 48 millimeters, the cross-shaped sealing avoids excessive wrapping, and the adoption of waybills using thermal paper instead

of regular paper can further reduce material usage," explained Yi.

It is estimated that the above-mentioned measures can reduce carbon dioxide emissions generated during the packaging of each cardboard box by about 65 grams.

After departing from the warehouse, the securely packaged goods went through a 100-meter-long corridor via a conveyor belt and entered an automatic sorting line along with many parcels.

While improving efficiency, automation also results in growing energy consumption, according to Tang Anxin, an executive in charge of the distribution center of the logistics park.

"Our fully automated parcel sorting system can save 70 percent of manpower, but has also become the main electricity consumer of the logistics park," Tang said.

"Although our electricity consumption has increased, the electricity is greener," said Tang, leading People's Daily reporters to the roof of a warehouse to show that nearly two thirds of the rooftops of the logistics park are covered with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels.

"The distributed rooftop solar PV

system has a total area of over 50,000 square meters. By directly converting sunlight into electricity, it not only meets the power demand of the distribution center, but can also feed the surplus into power grid," Tang said.

Since it was put into operation in September 2020, the rooftop PV power system of the logistics park generates about 4.1 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually, which is equivalent to a reduction of 2,500 tonnes a year in carbon dioxide emissions. This means that by using electricity produced by PV power system, handling each package can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 40 grams.

At 12:57 p.m., Wang's package rolled off the sorting line and was loaded onto a vehicle driven by Xiang Jun, leaving for a distribution station of Cainiao in a residential area in Dongxihu district.

The driver told People's Daily that he switched to a new energy vehicle for cargo transportation early last year. The vehicle travels an average monthly mileage of 4,500 kilometers, saving 50 percent of the operating cost per kilometer compared to a similar fuel vehicle, Xiang said.

People's Daily

SPORT



Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)'s Assistant Secretary for Ideology, Publicity, and Training Department Shaibu Akwilombe (3rd R), hands over five cows to Yanga's Elders Council advisor (3rd L) in Dar es Salaam recently. The cows were a fulfillment of a pledge by CCM's Secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Paul Makonda, to award Yanga following the squad's 5-1 win over Simba SC in a recent NBC Premier League tie. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT IMANI NATHANIEL

Tanzania to host International Kung Fu Clubs Championships next year

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA is expected to host the International Kung Fu Clubs Championships in Dar es Salaam in February next year.

Tanzania Wushu Association (TWA) Director of Finance, Planning, and Strategy Kawina Hadji Konde disclosed in Dar es Salaam early this week that the championships will be known as 'Dr. Samia Wushu Clubs International Championships'.

According to Konde, the showdown has been scheduled for February 16-18 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and invitations have been extended to all East African countries, China, and Mauritius.

Konde stated: "We will host the 'Dr. Samia Wushu Clubs International Championships' which is slated for February next year, will involve Sanda and Taolu competitions."

"We expect Wushu clubs from across East African countries to attend, we have also extended invitations to China and Mauritius, the judges for the championships will come from China," he said.

He disclosed that his association has requested China's Embassy in Tanzania to fund the championships to the tune of 32m/- and they are hopeful that the government of China will support them.

Konde said there will be cash and material awards to be handed over to top winners.

The TWA official disclosed this at the Taiji Quan which was organized by Professor Wu Dong who coaches at the Beijing Sports University, International Development, Research Centre for Wushu.

Konde thanked China's Embassy in Tanzania for facilitating Professor Wu Dong's visit to the country.

The lecture that was held at the China Cultural Centre in Tanzania, located in Dar es Salaam, was attended by Kung Fu learners, instructors, and female students from Zanaki Secondary School.

Wu Dong said Tai Ji Quan has traditionally been practiced for multiple purposes, including self-defense, mindful nurturing of well-being, and fitness.

National Arts Council (BASATA) Executive Secretary, Kedmon Mapana, the guest of honour at the lecture,

and National Sports Council (NSC) officer Nicholas Mihayo hailed the Chinese government for the lecture.

The two stated the training has come at a good time- adding the government welcomes the development of sporting activities, including Kung Fu, from other cultures.

Mihayo highlighted that Tanzania is embracing Kung Fu and other developing sporting activities to become part of globalization.

The NSC official stated: "We are living in a global society where we exchange different cultures, and sports help us share and unite with other cultures."

"The coming of Chinese Kung Fu in Tanzania helps us strengthen the relationship between the two counties, and the good thing is that many people in the country love Kung Fu, as witnessed by the presence of Zanaki Secondary School girls here, this shows that the sport is growing," he said.

Chinese Counsellor of Education and Culture in Tanzania, Che Zhao Guang, said sports plays an important role in strengthening people's relations.

The official noted: "Tanzania and China have been in a relationship which now clocks 60 years, we have been together all these years and it's the wish of both countries to see that our relationship is growing from strength to strength."

"Culture and sports are very vital as they are also some of the components which cement the relationship between the two countries," he said.

“

The coming of Chinese Kung Fu in Tanzania helps us strengthen the relationship between the two counties, and the good thing is that many people in the country love Kung Fu, as witnessed by the presence of Zanaki Secondary School girls here, this shows that the sport is growing

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

TFRA team's pool player wins title in SHIMMUTA Games

TANZANIA Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) team's pool player Frank Kapama has emerged as the event's winner in this season's Inter-Parastatal and Non-Parastatal Sports Federation of Tanzania (SHIMMUTA) Games that ended in Dodoma last weekend.

Schola Mbalila, also from the same squad, beat the rest of

the performers in the sack race to the contest's top spot.

Kapama booked a place in the pool final following his victory over players from several sides who participated in the tournament.

The winner has for that matter managed to defend his title in the showdown and was adamant he must again lift the title in next year's showdown

in honour of his institution.

Kapama said he is grateful to the TFRA leadership that offered him the opportunity to participate in the games.

He said he and his colleagues believe they will beat other teams in next year's games.

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) squad was crowned the SHIMMUTA

Games' soccer champion after defeating the TANAPA team 4-2 in the penalty shootout of the final that took place at Jamhuri Stadium.

The teams were, until the conclusion of 90 minutes, locked to a barren draw and the clash moved to the penalty shootout. The TANAPA squad as a result ended as runner-up in the SHIMMUTA football

showdown.

The TRA side, having been champions for the second time in a row, was awarded a trophy as well as silverware for several other competitions the team excelled in.

Emmanuel Boniface, the TRA team's skipper, said good training is the major secret of his squad's victory, given they have been working out every

SPORTS

CAF run: Local title ruins Yanga's hopes, flips in preliminary, flops in Group Stage

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

HOPES that local champions, Young Africans SC, will have a chance of attaining the quarterfinals were put to ruins on its first Group Stage clash in an away match in Algiers, silenced 3-0 by Algerian champions CR Belouizdad.

There was a sort of rediscovery of realism among pundits the following day, taking note of how the Jangwani Street side, alias Yanga, appeared to have no answers to the way the home side took the match. No one suggested that the side could level scores back home.

With that difficult match over the shoulder, the Jangwani Street club had little time to either grieve over the match or expect an easier time in its coming matches, as its next stop is Egyptian giants Al Ahly, who are by some rankings or observations better than Belouizdad.

At least one pundit put it squarely that the Jangwani Street side will have no respite ahead of the next match as there is no room for signing at least one good defender - as it comes before the short registration window.

It has taken a sobering defeat for fans and pundits to realize that the side was dazzling at a lower level of contest.

While their archrivals were beaming with satisfaction after the results at midnight on Friday, they did not have much to smile about the next day with a 1-1 draw at home with lower-rated Ivorian club, ASEC Mimosas.

At least Simba's chances of coming either first or second in their group were not visibly at issue, unlike their next street rivals, who face two opponents with a higher record in the continental club championship.

This is a result of having come up on top of the table in the past Premier League season.

The Jangwani Street side did all it could, some will say by fair and foul means, to emerge champions in the local Premier League in the past season, unaware that this would not be of much help in the CAF Champions League.

Most people - even at that level perhaps - think that the draw for instance at the preliminary stage and also at the Group Stage features weak and strong teams in a random manner, which is not the case.

There is a wish within CAF and its supervisory agency, FIFA, where top



Yanga's midfielder, Pacôme Zouzoua (L), attempts to dribble past CR Belouizdad's midfielder Mamadou Samake when the clubs faced each other in Group D clash of this season's CAF Champions League at Stade du 5 Juillet in Algiers last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

sides are given other top sides to eliminate, giving minnows a chance.

In that case, the team finishing on top gets stronger elimination opponents and equally strong Group Stage opponents, and this has worked badly against Yanga for the second year running.

They were eliminated in the previous preliminary stage by Sudanese giants Al Hilal, without civil war, it could have happened this time too. Thus the side saw off a weakened Al Merrikh and now face a tough group.

Comparing the groups which the two city rivals play within, it is clear that they are asymmetrical, in the sense that the Yanga group is more packed with strong teams while the Simba SC group is relatively modest by comparison.

It makes the Msimbazi Street side breathe more freely as by comparison with their next street rivals, it is as if they are in the Group Stage while their rivals are already in the quarterfinal stage, facing possibly the toughest opponents they could find.

A group with the Algerian and Egyptian top sides is not an ordinary Group Stage situation.

How far this situation will affect Yanga's outlook in this season's championship run, especially given the shenanigans that come towards the end of the season is unclear.

The lesson here is that when a club is a champ the chances are that it faces stiff opposition at the elimination stage (as ordinarily Al Merrikh are tougher opponents than Power Dynamos for that matter), in which case being champs is a rather costly luxury.

So long as both city rivals are in the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League, there will be four positions for

the Mainland Tanzania Premier League in next year's tournaments, where the runners-up breathe easier than the champions.

Such disappointments have a way of fusing temerity and caution in the club rank and file, that they should not push the leadership to fight for the championship by all means, as in the final analysis being champs is a burden when it comes to higher competitions.

Chances that the Jangwani Street side either recovers from the hit in Algiers, or the fans start finding a confident form again, are fairly limited, and the fact that they have only Medeama SC from Ghana to somewhat uplift expectations helps nothing.

The Ivory Coast-based side playing their archrivals, Simba, showed that even here the hope is mild, not anything to be assured about, and then Al Ahly.

The Jangwani Street side would have been in a more celebratory mood had they landed their archrivals' group than the one they have, as their chances of pushing to the quarterfinals are virtually frozen.

Their rivals had this sort of situation last year in encountering Raja Casablanca, losing 3-0 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and improving the score to a 3-1 defeat at the King Mohammed V Stadium in Morocco, but both sides had qualified for the quarterfinal stage.

The Yanga loss comes too early in the Group Stage, and they have other clashes resembling those opponents.

JKT Queens, Yanga Princess begin away, Simba Queens at home in SWPL

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE complete fixture lists for the 2023/24 Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League season have been released.

The campaign is due to kick off on December 20 and will end on May 17, 2024.

JKT Queens will begin the defense of their Women's Premier League title away to Bunda Queens in Mara on Wednesday, December 20.

Esther Chaburuma-coached army side is aiming to win a fourth Women's Premier League title following their winning campaign last term.

The squad will be hoping to get off to a flying start against the newly promoted Bunda Queens side, with kick-off at 4 pm.

On the same day, Simba Queens will begin the new season by welcoming Ceasia Queens.

The game will be played at TFF Kigamboni Centre, with kick-off at 4 pm. Simba Queens lost the title JKT Queens by one point

Fountain Gate Princess who finished third last season will use the Jamhuri Stadium on the opening day with a home game against Amani Queens.

Yanga Princess travel to Dodoma to face Baobab Queens, while Alliance Girls vs Geita Gold Queens complete the line-up for the first round of the campaign.

A difficult start to the season for Yanga



Yanga Princess midfielder, Cidália Cutá (C), negotiates her way past Geita Gold Queens' defenders as the outfits locked horns in a match that was part of this season's Mwananchi Day celebrations which took place in Dar es Salaam in July this year. Yanga Princess secured a 3-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS

Princess sees them face both Simba Queens and Fountain Gate inside the opening five games.

The trip to face Fountain Gate Princess will take place on January 10 just after the derby game with Simba Queens.

Yanga Princess, under highly-rated Zambian coach Charles Haalubono, will have another tough assignment in round six when they face defending champions JKT

Queens on January 22.

The first heavyweight clashes of the season come in just the third round of fixtures as Simba Queens host Yanga Princess on January 3. Last season's top two- JKT Queens and Simba Queens - lock horns for the first time on January 9 - while the reverse fixture is scheduled on April 17.

The 2023/24 Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League campaign will involve 10 teams from nine different regions.

It will be preceded by a curtain-raiser tournament involving the top four teams from the previous campaign.

JKT Queens won the league for the first time in four years, dethroning Simba Queens who had kept the crown for three consecutive seasons.

They have won the title three times, matching Simba Queens. All six league crowns have been shared between Simba Queens and JKT Queens.

have secured for the second time in a row.

He said that along with winning the soccer showdown, the team will continue training so that it can next year defend its top honour.

Kayombo said that their team proved to be competent since the tournament started, which is why it was ultimately declared champion after defeating the TANAPA squad.

Liverpool set to clinch place in Europa League knockouts

LONDON

LIVERPOOL and their Premier League counterparts West Ham United and Brighton can all clinch spots in the knockout phase of the Europa League today with a round of group games to spare, while troubled Ajax face elimination from the competition.

The Anfield side could have already wrapped up their place in the next round earlier this month, but they succumbed to a 3-2 defeat by Toulouse amid a euphoric atmosphere in France, albeit only after having a last-gasp equaliser ruled out by the VAR.

That victory was celebrated, understandably, by Toulouse and their supporters as one of their greatest ever results, but it should go down as nothing more than a minor setback for Jurgen Klopp and his team.

Having won their previous three outings in Group E despite massive changes to the line-up each time, Liverpool need only avoid defeat at home against LASK of Austria in order to secure progress before their final match away to Union Saint-Gilloise in Belgium next month.

Indeed they will qualify regardless provided the Belgians do not win in Toulouse at the same time, but there is also a chance the Reds could wrap up top spot in the group – that would ensure they advance straight to the last 16 rather than having to participate in an extra round of play-offs.

While Liverpool sit just two points off the top of the Premier League, LASK are third in the Austrian Bundesliga, five points behind leaders Red Bull Salzburg.

Their biggest threat is likely to come from goal-scoring midfielder and captain Robert Zulj, but it would be an enormous shock if they took anything from their trip to England.

West Ham are in a similar position to Liverpool, knowing a win this midweek will take them through from Group A but that they could qualify regardless if results elsewhere go their way.

The Hammers will be in north-

ern Serbia to take on TSC Backa Topola, a team they defeated 3-1 in London in September but who have just claimed a notable 4-0 win away at domestic league leaders Partizan Belgrade.

David Moyes's team are level atop their group with Freiburg and will qualify for the knockout phase come what may as long as the Germans avoid defeat at home to Olympiakos of Greece.

- Ajax revival -

Brighton and Hove Albion will extend their first ever European adventure into the new year if they get the better of AEK Athens away in Group B, which would be a measure of revenge after they lost 3-2 when the sides met in England in September.

Roberto De Zerbi's side looked up against it when they followed that by drawing 2-2 in Marseille, but they have since beaten Ajax twice to find themselves eyeing the next round.

Beaten Europa League finalists in 2022, Rangers have a chance to qualify this Thursday if they win at home to Aris Limassol of Cyprus in Group C.

Rangers have an impressive record at home in the Europa League, winning seven and drawing one of their last eight matches there in the competition.

They did lose 2-1 away to Aris in October, but that was before the appointment of Philippe Clement as manager, since when they are unbeaten.

"It is a massive game at Ibrox on Thursday where we need to get three points to put us in a good position in the group and that is all our main focus now," captain James Tavernier said after Sunday's 1-1 draw at Aberdeen.

Marseille and last season's runners-up Roma can also qualify, but Ajax need to beat the French club away to keep alive their chances.

It has been a dreadful season so far for the Dutch giants, although they are undergoing a revival domestically, with three wins and a draw in their last four games since John van't Schip became coach.

AFP

Barca, Dortmund, Atletico and Lazio into Champions League last-16

BARCELONA

BARCELONA, Borussia Dortmund, Atletico Madrid and Lazio all qualified for the knockout phase of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Manchester City bounced back from 2-0 down to beat RB Leipzig with both teams already qualified, while Paris Saint-Germain and Newcastle drew 1-1 and both need a result on matchday six to go through.

Atletico Madrid booked their place with a sumptuous volley from defender Mario Hermoso and two own goals firing them to a thrilling 3-1 win over Dutch champions Feyenoord.

"I am very happy for the players. Today, we knew how difficult our opponent would be," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone to Movistar.

That left Atletico with 11 points in Group E ahead of 10-point Lazio, who had a tense wait after playing earlier and needing a Feyenoord defeat to confirm their place.

Veteran Italian striker Ciro Immobile shot the Italian side into the last-16 in a 2-0 win over eliminated Celtic in Rome, leaving Feyenoord to join the Europa League.

In Group H, Barcelona came from behind to beat Porto 2-1 as Portuguese duo Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix both netted to turn the game on its head after Brazilian winger Pepe opened for Porto. "It was a final and we won it ... we've put the club in the last-16, which is where it deserves to be," Cancelo told Movistar.

The Spanish champions now have 12 points while Porto are locked on nine alongside Shakhtar Donetsk, who beat Antwerp 1-0 in Hamburg.

- Newcastle pay the penalty - Borussia Dortmund secured their spot in the last-16 with a 3-1



Erling Haaland scored his 40th Champions League goal in Manchester City's 3-2 win over RB Leipzig. Agencies

win at AC Milan, who are staring early elimination in the face.

Marco Reus' early penalty and second-half strikes from English teenager Jamie Bynoe-Gittens and Karim Adeyemi secured passage into the next round with a match to spare for Dortmund.

There was late drama at the Parc des Princes when a 98th-minute Kylian Mbappe penalty earned Paris Saint-Germain a 1-1 draw with Newcastle United.

It looked as though Newcastle – who won 4-1 when the sides met at St James' Park last month – were going to leave Paris with all three points in the Group F encounter thanks to Alexander Isak's 24th-minute opener.

PSG had run out of ideas by the time they were gifted an opportunity to salvage a draw in injury time when the VAR decided a Tino Livramento handball in the box was worthy of a penalty.

Mbappe made no mistake from the spot, and PSG hold onto second place in the group behind Borussia Dortmund.

"I'm feeling very flat, but very proud of the players and their

commitment levels," said Newcastle coach Eddie Howe to TNT Sports.

Meanwhile, Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe hit out at the decision to award Paris Saint-Germain a last-gasp penalty that denied his team a Champions League win over the French club on Tuesday.

The Premier League side were leading 1-0 at the Parc des Princes thanks to Alexander Isak's 25th-minute goal, until Polish referee Szymon Marciniak awarded PSG a penalty deep in injury time following a VAR check for a handball by Tino Livramento.

The award appeared harsh, and Kylian Mbappe converted the spot-kick to earn PSG a 1-1 draw that changes the outlook for both clubs going into the final round of matches in Group F.

"In my opinion, it wasn't the right decision," insisted Howe as he spoke to reporters after the game. "It was a ricochet that when it is slowed down looks totally different to the live event.

"It hits his hand, but I don't think his hand is in an unnatural posi-

tion. I feel it is a poor decision.

"It is hugely frustrating for us because at that moment you know how little time there is left in the game, but there is nothing we can do about it now."

A win would have taken Newcastle into their final group game at home to AC Milan next month with their fate in their own hands in terms of securing qualification for the last 16.

Instead, the draw leaves them in third place, and PSG will join the already-qualified Borussia Dortmund in going through if they win their last game in Germany.

Newcastle must beat Milan at St James' Park and also hope for a slip-up by PSG on the final matchday.

"I just feel for the players after what they have given and for how they have performed in very difficult circumstances, and what that decision does to the group because now the destiny is not with us," Howe added. "That is tough to take after being so close to being in that position."

Newcastle's first Champions League campaign in two decades has so far been a story of ups and downs, with a 4-1 win at home to PSG last month being followed by consecutive losses against Dortmund before Tuesday's game.

"You have to look at what the players have given and I can't be deflated by what they have given tonight," said Howe, who was hoping to mark his 46th birthday on Wednesday with a victory.

Asked about his team's European campaign so far he added: "We have been thrown in at the deep end with the group, with high-class opposition, great stadiums and brilliant atmospheres.

"We are desperate to stay in the competition and show a better version of ourselves because I don't think people have seen that yet."

VAR the villain as late penalty call denies Newcastle rearguard win in Paris

By Pete Hall

FOOTBALL you cruel, wicked thing. For so long, it looked as though, as sure as the rain, a frustrated Paris Saint-Germain were set for a seventh defeat in nine against English opponents to leave their hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout stages in Newcastle's hands.

PSG threw everything at a bruised and battered Newcastle, but no matter how much they huffed and puffed they couldn't break their curse. Their Champions League tale of woe was about to gain another chastening chapter.

But sometimes battle-weary sides don't always get what they deserve, as a Kylian Mbappe stoppage time penalty denied an injury-ravaged Newcastle a crucial victory in the cruellest fashion, with the help of the relentless villain of the piece: VAR.

Newcastle fans around the city were in buoyant and rather philosophical mood ahead of the match, with no repeat of the clashes with PSG's ultras on the eve of the encounter.

They weren't overly concerned about an impending defeat that would end their European adventure prematurely. Their depleted side surely did not have enough in the tank to best PSG on their own turf, not after they had put five past Monaco at the weekend. The Geordies, thousands of whom were ticketless, were in the French capital to have fun, regardless.

Nothing gets the pulses racing like the modern-day phenomenon the traditionalists among us can really do without – the pre-match light show – and PSG's was typically overextravagant.

The home tifo game was strong, however, with Newcastle's backline still thinking about the imagery as the match got under way and the hosts swarmed all over the startled group strugglers.

Mbappe almost added a sublime



Kylian Mbappe equalised from the penalty spot late in the second half. (Reuters)

finishing touch to an early slick move but was denied by Nick Pope in the away goal. PSG's front three were breathing as one imposing beast.

In the blink of an eye, however, Alexander Isak should have scored after being picked out by Miguel Almiron, only to quickly make amends by firing the visitors in front 24 minutes in, sending the away end into bewildered delirium.

The opener owed much to the tenacity of Tino Livramento, who kept riding tackles, even as his feet seemed to be buckling with every step. Almiron shot for goal, Gianluigi Donnarumma made a mess of trying to palm the shot away and Isak was on hand to tap home – the Swede becoming the first Newcastle player since Alan Shearer against Inter Milan in 2003 to score an away Champions League goal.

It was then a matter of settling in and doing what they could to get under the skin of their opponents – something that happens all too readily in these parts, especially against teams from across the Channel.

Knowing there wasn't cavalry of sufficient calibre on the bench to call upon to freshen things up, the visitors had to leave everything out there to complete their assassination of the Parisiens, and that is exactly

what Eddie Howe got.

Mbappe was the only one really looking like he had the ingenuity to unlock the resolute Geordie rearguard, missing an overhead kick early in the second half before sashaying his way into the penalty area to create an opening for Bradley Barcola, who had to score, only for Pope to fling out a hand to claw the ball away.

Two big penalty appeals were waved away and the gesticulations turned into over-zealous protestations one too many times for the referee's liking, earning several PSG players a caution. They were doing it again in Europe.

A league double over the might of PSG – nobody saw this coming so soon into the Saudi regime.

More pertinently, however, victory over AC Milan in their final group match in two week's time and the knockout stages beckons.

Mbappe flashed just wide right at the death, Ousmane Dembele, once the world's second-most expensive player, was denied by another close-range Pope wonder-save, while Barcola again fluffed his lines.

It took a Livramento handball, spotted by VAR, to break Geordie hearts. Their knockout stage hopes are still alive, but it could, and should, have been so much more rosy.

THE INDEPENDENT

S.Korea suspend striker Hwang Ui-jo over sex video investigation

SEOUL

STRIKER Hwang Ui-jo has been suspended by South Korea seven weeks before the Asian Cup because of a police investigation into allegations he illegally filmed an ex-girlfriend.

The Norwich City forward is accused of filming a sexual encounter with the former partner on his phone without consent. He denies the allegation.

Hwang played for South Korea in two World Cup qualifiers this month, scoring a penalty against Singapore, but the Korea Football Association (KFA) on Tuesday suspended him pending the outcome of police investigations.

The 31-year-old remains able to play for English second-tier club Norwich and scored in a 3-2 defeat at Watford on Tuesday.

"Until a definitive conclusion is drawn, we have decided to exclude Hwang from the national team," a KFA statement said.

Lee Youn-nam, who heads the KFA's ethics committee, told reporters that national players must conduct themselves "with a high degree of morality and responsibility".

"Considering the fact that the player is being investigated as a suspect, it is difficult for him to carry out normal national team activities," Lee said.

"Football fans have high expectations for the national team, (so) we have deemed it inappropriate to select Hwang Ui-jo for the national team."

Hwang, who is on loan at Norwich from Nottingham Forest, has scored 19 goals in 62 appearances for South Korea.

Coach Jurgen Klinsmann said in a statement issued by the KFA: "I fully understand the current situation and will respect the decision of the Korea Football Association."

Klinsmann picked Hwang for recent World Cup qualifying wins over Singapore and China, after the police had begun their probe, and defended his decision at the time.

"There is always speculation," said the German World Cup winner after returning from the 3-0 win over China in Shenzhen last week.

"Until there's nothing proven... I don't believe it."

The Asian Cup kicks off in Qatar on January 12, with South Korea opening their campaign against Bahrain three days later.

AFP

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Coach Jurgen Klinsmann said in a statement issued by the KFA: "I fully understand the current situation and will respect the decision of the Korea Football Association."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Barca, Dortmund, Atletico and Lazio into Champions League last-16

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Ángel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Coastal Union, Geita Gold FC square off at Mkwakwani Stadium

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

COASTAL Union will be looking to bounce back from Monday's NBC Premier League defeat when they host Geita Gold FC at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga this evening, with kick-off slated for 7 pm.

'Wagosi wa Kaya', as Coastal Union is nicknamed, suffered the squad's fifth defeat of the season, conceding a 2-1 loss away to Singida Fountain Gate FC on Monday.

The Tanga side has taken five points from as many home matches so far in this campaign.

In general, the home side has won just two of their 11 games. As a result, they go into this encounter staying just one point above the relegation zone and desperately need a victory to stay in safety.

Coastal Union have had issues in the final third this season. They scored the second-fewest goals (six) in the opening 11 games. Only Tabora United has scored fewer goals than Coastal Union.

Meanwhile, center-back Lameck Lawi will miss the match for Coastal Union due to his involvement with Tanzania national U-18 team in the ongoing CECAFA U-18 Boys Championship in Kenya.

Geita Gold FC, on the other hand, will look to keep up the squad's winning form. The squad defeated Namungo FC 1-0 in Geita on Sunday.

Teenager striker Valentino Mashaka netted the only goal of the game for Geita Gold FC 11 minutes before normal stoppage time to see the gold miners earn back-to-back wins for the first time this season.

The two wins have pushed them up to ninth in the league table having thirteen points from their opening 11 games of the campaign.

They have won once on the road this season, drawing twice and losing two games.

Since losing 3-1 to Mtbwa Sugar in October, Geita Gold FC has gone four games without a loss. They kept clean sheets in all four of those fixtures suggesting the defence has improved.

With tough matches scheduled against Singida Fountain Gate FC, Azam FC, and Simba SC over the next weeks, Geita Gold FC supporters will certainly be highlighting this match as a real opportunity for their side to climb into the top half of the table.

Just three points separate Geita Gold FC and fifth-placed Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in the table.

Victory would move them into top-four contention while a loss could see them fall back to the relegation zone.

In head-to-head stats, Coastal Union and Geita Gold FC have met in four league matches since 2021/22.

Twiga Stars all out for WAFCON Q first-leg advantage over Togo

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national women's soccer team, Twiga Stars, welcome opponents, Togo, to Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the evening for the first leg of the CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers' second round.

The return leg for the qualifiers' second round has been set for Stade de Kégué Stadium in Lomé on December 5, 2023.

The aggregate winner over two legs will qualify for the CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations, slated for 2024 in Morocco.

Twiga Stars, on the one hand, booked their place in the second and final qualifying round with a penalty shootout victory over Cote d'Ivoire in the opening round.

In the first leg, Twiga Stars lost 2-0 to Ivory Coast in Abidjan, on September 23. They won by the same margin at Azam Complex Stadium four days later to make the scoreline 2-2 before triumphing 4-2 in post-match penalties.

Head coach Bakari Shime will count on the service of a growing foreign-based contingent led by Turkey-based Opah Clement and Aisha Masaka- who is doing well for her Danish club, BK Häcken, in the UEFA Women's Champions League. Eneka Kasonga- based in Saudi Arabia- and Diana Lucas, who plies her trade at Ausfaz Assa Zag of Morocco, are also key performers for Twiga Stars.

The Tanzanian ladies are ranked 151st globally and 30th on the continent. They have had a relatively great year that has seen them progress to the third round of the Olympic Women's football qualifiers.

As a result, they were nominated for the CAF Women's National Team of the Year award. However, they did not make it to the final shortlist.

Twiga Stars made their first and last appearance in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations finals in 2011 but failed to go past the Group Stage in the tournament held in South Africa.

Togo, on the other hand, cruised past Djibouti with a comfortable 6-0 scoreline in the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers to book a date with Tanzania.

The West African nation's side is currently ranked 120th in the FIFA



Players making Tanzania's senior national women's soccer squad are pictured participating in training in Dar es Salaam recently, preparing to confront Togo in this year's qualifiers for the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations in the afternoon PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Women's World Rankings and is the 16th-best team in CAF.

Togo qualified for the Africa Women's Cup of Nations for the first time in 2022. They did not go past the Group Stage after

recording one draw and two losses.

In head-to-head records, this will be the first meeting between the two sides that will be out to gain an advantage in the first leg.

Yanga coach calls for decisiveness in CAF CL tie against Al Ahly

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA head coach Miguel Gamondi has challenged his players to be decisive on the ball and in front of goal in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D game against Egypt's Al Ahly slated for Saturday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The NBC Premier League defending champions lost their first fixture of Group D of the CAF Champions League, conceding a 3-0 loss to Algeria's CR Belouizdad at Stade Juliet 5 in Algiers last weekend.

The Argentinian coach said his goal is to ask his players to respect their opponents based on the experience and quality they have in the competition.

He further urged his attackers to clinically use the few chances they get in the CAF Champions League to propel their outfit to victory due to the difficulty of the competition.

"We shouldn't play with no pressure because we may not be able to effectively accomplish what we practiced during training," Gamondi said.

The tactician revealed: "Al Ahly is a big team and we have to play more technically to get what we want and be more resilient."

The Argentine stressed: "We have to be clinical, squandering chances in front of the goal, like the way we did in the away game against CR Belouizdad, should not be allowed."

"We also have to be careful in keeping the ball and knowing what areas we shouldn't give easy counter breaks," the coach added.

Speaking about their preparations for the game, Gamondi said that they have planned to surprise Africa by getting the first victory in the Group Stage of the premier continental showpiece against the defending champions.

He said that after losing their game against CR Belouizdad, they have identified their mistakes and they continue to work on them.

The tactician maintained that the goal is to make sure they use their home venue advantage well to take all nine points in the three matches they will play at home.

"Discipline in the game is an important thing especially when you play with the biggest and best team here in Africa," he stressed.

The tactician noted: "In the last match we were beaten 3-0, what cost us is the discipline of the game, if you make a few mistakes against such teams they will punish you, I think it's the area we need to improve."

The country's envoys hope their CAF Champions League Group D mission on Saturday revamps the hope for a proper campaign after starting on a backpedal, having dropped three crucial points at the away venue.

The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium will be busy this weekend as Sudan Premier League champions Al Hilal welcome Esperance de Tunis for a Group C encounter tomorrow.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Movie
13:55 Dandao za Michezo
14:00 Movie
14:30 Ujenzi (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Ubongo Kids
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dandao za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurosa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 TOP 10
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurosa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

TOP 10
It is a list of the hottest Bongo Flava music videos that are loved by the viewers

eastafrica RADIO

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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM