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# PM receives medium-haul ATCL aircraft

*“NIT has been equipped with modern plants to enable it to produce competent engineers and technicians for the aviation sector”*

By Guardian Reporter

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) has received its 14th aircraft, at JNIA, received by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) as the Boeing 737-9 MAX landed from the United States.

This is a move to further boost air transport in the country and increase international. In his remarks at the ceremony, the premier urged ATCL to invest in robust strategies and

ensure that with the planes, ATCL appreciably improves air transport countrywide.

The company must cut regular disruptions of domestic flights in order to attract more travellers choosing the national airline, thus ATCL must ensure that the planes operate efficiently.


The firm needs to conduct adequate market research before sending the planes to a new destination, underlining that all regions are connected by flights, while international

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It's time for water salute for this Boeing 737-9 MAX aircraft shortly after it touched down at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday, with Prime minister Kassim Majaliwa around to receive it as the latest addition to the fleet of Tanzania's flag carrier airline, Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL). Photo: PMO

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**Racism reducing my desire to play football - Brazil's Vinicius**

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**Ministry, Drum Beats sign MoU to run Tanzania Utamaduni Festival**

# Treasury: Dubai firm set to operate DART

*The data underscore the urgent need for an enhanced public transportation system to cope with the city's ever-growing demands, observers assert*

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is set to sign a public-private partnership (PPP) contract with Dubai-based Emirates National Group (ENG) to operate the Dar Rapid Transit (DART) phase I next month.

ENG owns and operates companies that deal with all means of private and public transport, along with their ancillary services.

David Kafulila, the PPP Centre executive director in the Treasury, said in an interview in Dar es Salaam yesterday that ENG emerged the winner in the wake of a tendering process.

The government has taken the initiative of inviting the private sector to operate DART to improve urban transport services in the wake of bus congestion and high rate of damaged buses, skipping passengers on many bus stands

apart from the main terminals.

The investor has a chance to extend operation for phase II of the project if proved to have managed to improve services appreciably, he said, noting that the new investor is expected to bring in a sufficient number of buses to end the congestion.

ENG has global experience in the business for a number of years and it is expected to operate DART efficiently, he stated, explaining that DART and ENG are finalizing the contract to be fair for both parties.

The signing is expected in the next two weeks, he said, with ENG expected to procure buses and provide transport

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# 'Tanzania has honoured 1995 Beijing Platform on Equality'

By Guardian Correspondent, New York

TANZANIA has made demonstrable strides in empowering women economically and promotion of equal access to productive resources as part of its commitment to the ambitions of the 1995 Beijing Platform on Equality.

Riziki Pembe Juma, the Social Welfare Development, Elderly, Gender and Children minister for Zanzibar made this assessment here late last week presenting a report on the issue at the 68th annual meeting on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68).

Tanzania recently launched a revised National Gender and Women's Development Policy (2023) envisaging gender equality measures that give women opportunities to showcase their talents in society, plus specific allocations to realise these objectives.

The conference was focused on global trends in accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, officials noted.

The minister affirmed that the govern-

ment has allocated more resources to address gender inequalities in various sectors, especially those that directly affect girls and women's wellbeing.

An illustration is a move by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to further promote the private sector with a \$400m loan arrangement to banks and other financial institutions where 35 percent of loaned funds are allocated for women agriculture, animal husbandry, beekeeping and seaweed cultivation.

The loan arrangement intended for on-lending to the private sector is

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# Minister scans changes after 60 years of Union

By Carlos Banda

SIGNIFICANT investments in road infrastructures have dramatically changed the country's road situation as data shows that in 1961 a total of 1,360 kilometres were surfaced whereas by the end of 2022 tarmac roads stretched 11,666 kilometres, a cabinet minister has stated.

Dr Selemani Jafa, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office, made this observation at a press conference in Dodoma yesterday ahead of the 60th anniversary of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Despite the change in the image of the country, the key achievement in the period of the union was in the political arena, in fusing the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) and Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP) party of Zanzibar on February 5, 1977, which was otherwise the tenth anniversary of the Arusha Declaration.

"You can see how the nation has strived to connect all regions that were not connected by tarmac roads. We are proud of the road constructions achieved during the 60-year period. The only region that has not been well connected is Kigoma where major works are taking place to connect Nyakanaazi, Kakonko, Kasulu and Kibondo heading all the way to Kigoma," he said.

In the education sector major efforts have

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## PM receives medium haul ATCL aircraft

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travel opportunities are boosted to increase foreign exchange.

He also reminded the Transport ministry to properly supervise the company to ensure that the large investments the government has placed yield positive results.

Employees must be patriotic and avoid acts of sabotage to control the income losses, while improving national capacity for airline operations experts after setting up the relevant courses especially at the National Institute of Transport (NIT), he said.

The Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) ought to heighten flight safety by ensuring that crew and engineers have the qualifications to serve international flights, he said.

The government will continue to strengthen the Treasury Registrar to supervise boards of public institutions to achieve intended goals, he said, noting that ATCL was soon starting new flights to Dubai and South Africa.

"All these are good plans which need close supervision to produce intended outcomes," he said, point-

ing out that the government has intensely invested in the construction and rehabilitation of airports.

Msalato International Airport in Dodoma will accommodate domestic and international flights upon completion, with works having reached 54 percent, taking up 360bn/-, and opening late next year, he said.

Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said the government has procured two aircraft for NIT to train pilots to reduce scarcity of airline technicians.

"NIT has been equipped with modern plants to enable it to produce competent engineers and technicians for the aviation sector," he stated.

Ladislau Matindi, the ATCL CEO, said the company's second five-year strategic plan from 2022/23 to 2026/27, projecting to have 20 aircraft, with 14 planes received, and now has 15 planes.

A long-haul flight plane is expected next month, while the plane received yesterday is medium-haul flight type.

ATCL has raised jobs to 780 staff by February 2024, from upwards of 170 employees in 2016, he said



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mussa Hassan Zungu (L) fills in for the Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson, in chairing a consultative meeting of the legislative assembly's Leadership and Budget Committee in Dodoma city yesterday. The focus was chiefly on the salient aspects of deliberations at meetings of the legislature's sectoral committees relating the implementation of ministerial Budgets for financial year 2023/2024 and estimates of Government expenditure for financial year 2024/2025. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

## Treasury: Dubai firm set to operate DART

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services "while the duty of DART will be revenues."

ENG will be paid for operational costs as laid out in the agreement based on contract provision for the mileage covered, he said, noting that the standard of buses to be procured will also be subject to the contractual accord.

On January 11 President Samia Suluhu Hassan appointed Dr Athumani Kihamia to take over as DART chief executive officer, replacing Dr Edwin Mhede, with the new CEO pledging to address commuters' concerns and work for DART efficiency and reliability.

DART has routinely grappled with challenges like congestion at major terminals and scant space in stations in-between the key terminals, eliminating chances for punctuality or reliability.

At the start the government placed a 650/- fare per trip while the demand was to place the fare above 1,000/-, making it affordable. The government eliminated commuter buses for the key routes for a DART monopoly, harvesting large numbers of passengers but unable to place enough buses, with frequent breakdowns according to reports.

City observers feel that the DART system ought to be an alternative for the usual commuter system, implying having level seat arrangements instead of spacious buses meant for standing commuters.

That way it could raise fares and pick numerous commuters wishing for comfort and class, not look for monopoly and pack people who have no other choice. DART of-

officials talk of strain on the existing fleet of 140 buses, while its passenger base is put at 50,000 per day, asserting that this results in frequent breakdowns that compromises the system's reliability.

Commuters endure long waits, there are often chaotic scenes at bus stops and physical struggles during peak hours, where overcrowding not only raises safety concerns but leaves commuters exposed to pickpockets, etc.

A recent issue of the World Population Review says that current data suggests that the Dar es Salaam agglomeration has a population of up to 8.1m, marking a 4.95 percent increase from early 2023.

The data underscore the urgent need for an enhanced public transportation system to cope with the city's ever-growing demands, observers assert.



**DART has routinely grappled with challenges like congestion at major terminals and scant space in stations in-between the key terminals, eliminating chances for punctuality or reliability**

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been made to improve the education and health sectors as well as access to education and health services by the public, he said.

"In education, primary schools have increased from 3,270 primary schools in 1961 to 20,562 schools in 2024. Secondary schools increased from 41 secondary schools to 6,511 secondary schools in 2024. In the health sector, there have been considerable improvements and investments at various levels, from

1,343 health centres in 1960 to 9,662 health centres in 2024.

"There are also 8,043 dispensaries, 28 regional hospitals, five zonal referral hospitals, six special hospitals, 34 hospitals with regional status and 11 hospitals with zonal status," he said.

Peace and security has been consolidated due to close ties between people of the Mainland and Isles, an achievement that has set Tanzania as an example that other united African countries failed to imitate or maintain, he said.

While inflation was a challenge at the end of 20 years of the union, it has been contained during the 40 years since 1984 from 36.1 per cent to 3.8 per cent in 2023, he said.

Tanzania has gained considerable economic success during the 60-year union as the gross national income has been increasing on a regular basis, lately rising from 156.4trn/- recorded in 2021 to 170.3trn/- in 2022.

In the energy sector, the union has seen Zanzibar abandoning thermal generation by being connected

to the national grid, from Bagamoyo to Zanzibar and then from Tanga to Pemba while Zanzibar is now readying for natural gas exploration after the necessary legislation has been reached, binding both parts of the union.

As the power sector develops with the construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) which cost 6.5trn/- to produce 2,115 megawatts, investment projects are also rising in Zanzibar with skyscraper hotel projects among others.

## Minister scans changes after 60 years of union



It's iftar time for these residents of Zanzibar's Mjini Magharibi Region. Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi hosted the Ramadhan-month event on Monday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) has embarked on an initiative to market cultural tourism attractions in the Southern Highlands regions.

The efforts involve promotion of cultural tourism destinations that attract guests interested in learning about cultures of different communities in the areas to increase peoples' income and stimulate development.

George Mwangi, tourism officer at TTB said yesterday that they have started by training 10 groups of tour guides from Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya and Ruvuma regions, equipping them with essential skills to encourage tourists to visit attraction sites. He said this is part of the implementation of Tanzania Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project. "Cultural groups use activi-

## TTB training tour guides in cultural tourism drive

ties such as traditional dances as a product so that when tourists visit these places they are encouraged to watch entertaining groups and learn the culture and pay for entertainment," he said.

Mwangi said that there is a good number of opportunities that are yet to be seized in the southern circuit.

According to him, apart from learning about culture, tourists are likely to increase the income of the local economy by buying various products produced in the respec-

tive areas as souvenirs.

"This will also help to create employment to our youth who guide tourists," he said.

Hoza Umbula, TTB officer in charge of Southern Highlands said that this type of tourism is one of the new attractions that had not previously been encouraged and that now they have found that it is important to be promoted.

He said that tourists interested in such attractions will also enjoy food and other cultural activities that are available in the communi-

ties, adding that there are so many attractions in the Southern Highlands regions of Tanzania and that REGROW project will help to take people to the areas.

Joseph Ndomondo, one of the tour guide trainees from Ruvuma Region said that last year, promotion initiatives in the tourism sector focused on the northern circuit.

He added that apart from the efforts, the government has also improved transport infrastructure which allows tourists to reach the attractions easily.

## 'Tanzania has honoured 1995 Beijing Platform on Equality'

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provided to banks and financial institutions at three percent interest charge per annum with banks required to charge at a rate not exceeding 10 percent per annum.

Onward lending for private sector loans is intended to increase liquidity within banks and reduce lending rates to small and medium producers, she explained.

The central bank initiative at the behest of the Treasury has increased funding in the agricultural sector where 50.3 percent of women work for their living.

The government also implements the free education and post-dropout re-entry policies to further ensure that access to education is

improved especially for girls, she stated.

Tanzania has also initiated social protection programmes aimed reducing poverty and promotion of equal access to basic needs as an aspect of human rights, she stated.

The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), supporting poor families, hands monthly stipends and facilitates training for prerequisite entrepreneurship skills, enabling income-earning opportunities in small-scale activities for poverty alleviation, she stated.

Since its commencement in 2000, the TASAF programme has made significant contributions to the reduction of poverty among poor households, the minister added.



Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), addresses a news conference in Dodoma city yesterday on the run-up to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the April 26 Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

## Two journalists killed as vehicles collide in Rufiji

TWO journalists have died following a head-on collision involving a private car and cargo truck at Chumbi area in Rufiji District, Coast Region.

Rufiji Special Police Zone Commander Protas Mutayoba said the accident occurred on Monday night, elaborating that Toyota Sienta carrying three journalists was heading to Lindi Region and the cargo truck was heading to Dar es Salaam.

According to him, the truck driver fled the scene soon after the accident and the police launched manhunt in efforts get him and record his statement to help with

the investigation.

He named the deceased as Josephine Kibiriti, a journalist with Sahara Media Group and Abdallah Nanda of Channel Ten, adding that both journalists were based in Lindi Region.

He added that the deceased's bodies were preserved at Ikwiriri Health Centre and one injured person Mziray Abed was receiving treatment at Utete District Hospital.

The journalists were travelling

back to Lindi from Dar es Salaam where they had attended a training organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP).

Mutayoba wanted motor vehicle drivers and other road users to adhere to road safety rules and regulations to prevent unnecessary accidents.

Reports show that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent caused by mechanical problems in vehicles,

6 percent by weather while only 2 percent of road accidents are caused by poor infrastructures.

According to the Global Status Report on road safety 2023 by the World Health Organisation, road traffic injuries are the leading killers of people aged between five and 29 years. Every year road accidents claim lives of more than 1.19 million people, disproportionately affecting the developing countries.

## New leadership in Senegal called on to heal nation after win in poll

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Pan African Opposition Leaders Solidarity Network has urged the Senegal incoming leadership to prioritise healing and transforming the nation which experienced difficult times for the past three years.

Senegal opposition presidential candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye won the election.

The appeal made in a statement released yesterday named the signatories as Martha Karua, (Kenya), Agathon Rwaswa (Burundi), John Mnyika (Tanzania), Zitto Kabwe (Tanzania), Wafula Oguttu (Uganda) and Mwanaisha Mindeme (Tanzania). The network monitored the 2024 presidential election process.

In a joint statement from Dakar, Senegal, the network said: "Under great odds, Senegal has maintained its legacy of peaceful democratic transition, a much needed encouragement to the continent where the integrity of electoral processes and elections is deliberately and continuously under threat from both internal and external actors."

They said: "We believe that the new leaders will never forget the tribulations and punishment that they have faced, simply for leading the opposition. We hope that their memory of this experience will remain an enduring lesson on how to manage political difference while in power and that they will never be tempted to use the power of the state to repress their political opponents or their supporters."

"The victory of the people of Senegal today is also the victory of the people of Africa. Senegal's spectacular comeback from what appeared to be a hopeless situation and near state collapse is a great lesson to the people of our continent never to give up their quest for change, whatever the circumstances. It is a lesson to independent state bodies and the professionals that lead those bodies including judicial officers and other

public officials around the continent on the impact that individual acts of integrity in decision making can have on the lives of the people in our individual countries and on the continent," the statement reads in part

They also congratulated the people of Senegal who showed resilience and inestimable courage in defending their democracy. Network members said they hoped that the experiences in Senegal will be an inspiration and example to the people in many other parts of Africa who face political repression, and a source of encouragement that they, too, can win.

"We congratulate the leaders of the political opposition, PASTEF for their decisive victory at the polls and for leading the people through those difficult years. We recognise the personal suffering that both Ousmane Sonko and Bassirou Faye have endured and the valour with which they have faced their tribulations. They have been an example to their people with whom they have created a mutually enforcing relationship of trust and courage."

"The monitoring of the presidential elections builds on previous engagements on the political situation in Senegal by members of the network. One of those engagements was a visit to Arusha in October 2023 where following our engagement the Africa Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights issued a statement expressing concern about the deteriorating human rights situation in Senegal.

The second engagement in November 2023 was a visit to Dakar as a response to the deteriorating human rights situation and a slide in democratic practice in the country where they met opposition parliamentarians and parliamentarians affiliated to the ruling party as well as human rights leaders and the media, listening to stories of people still deeply affected by the trauma of violence, the statement said.

### Big Announcement

# Stay tuned!...



# FBOs urge govt to improve terms for UHC to bear fruit

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

Health sector stakeholders from Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) have appealed for improvement of service provision agreement between them and the government for successful implementation of the universal health coverage.

Despite a number of successes that have been achieved in the country's health sector due to the partnership between the government and FBOs, especially in terms of facility improvement and services, the stakeholders have raised concern over a need for further engagements.

Presenting a topic on 'Contribution of faith based communities towards improving primary healthcare in Tanzania' during the ongoing International Primary Health Care Conference (IPHC), Dr Frederick Shoo, retired Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania said that success of the universal health coverage depends on good terms agreed upon by both parties.

Among others, Dr Shoo underscored the need for improvement of working policies and agreement of services between the two parties in order to uproot all barriers that seem to upset the FBOs in dispensation of health services in the country.

He said the FBOs play vital role in scaling up provision of primarily healthcare across the country, including constructing hospitals, health centers and dispensaries in rural and urban areas.

"Even the first patient of HIV in Tanzania was diagnosed at a faith based health facility in Muleba District, Kagera Region. This gives a clear picture how FBOs play important role in delivering health services in Tanzania," he said.

Dr Shoo urged Tanzanians to cooperate with clerics from different religious groups in fighting against various criminal activities and moral decay.

"Incidents of divorce, homosexuality and prostitution are rampant with many other negative things cropping up at

family levels; we need to stand together in order to build a new society with healthier people who are active mentally, physically and spiritually," he said.

Dr Chobo Steve, director of social services and head of health department at Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) said Catholic Church plays important role in supporting the government to provide health services.

"For instance, we have 59 hospitals in all of our dioceses across the country, 18 designated district hospitals, 33 voluntary hospitals, 103 health centers and over 200 dispensaries," he said.

He said the church also runs a number of health colleges and universities that train human resources in health who make big contribution in the sector.

Sheikh Othman Zuberi, secretary of youth department at the Muslim Council of Tanzania made a presentation entitled 'Religious practices that support primary healthcare services' in which he said giving children balanced diet is crucial art of primary health.

"We will continue cooperating with the government and other like-minded stakeholders in the private sector to improve health services," he said.



**Even the first patient of HIV in Tanzania was diagnosed at a faith based health facility in Muleba District, Kagera Region. This gives a clear picture how FBOs play important role in delivering health services in Tanzania**

## Kenya misses target to commission power transmission line to Tanzania

By Special Correspondent

KENYA has missed its target of commissioning the \$309.26 million electricity transmission line with Tanzania, delaying start of power exchange between the two economies.

The Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (Ketraco) revealed that commissioning of the line was extended to next month at the earliest from an earlier target of December last year.

Energy Cabinet Secretary Davies Chirchir had earlier said that the line would be completed and commissioned by December last year, a target that was missed amid delays on the Kenyan side.

The 507.5 kilometre line has an intended transfer capacity of 2,000 megawatts and is set to allow the two countries to sell excess electricity to one another besides tapping hydro-power from neighbouring Ethiopia through a regional power pool.

"Ketraco completed the construction at the end of December 2023. Solving snags and commissioning tests will be completed by the end of April 2024," Ketraco Managing Director John Mativo said.

This comes even as the key project financier, the African Development Bank (AfDB) says that the two countries should speed up talks and ink agreement to pave the way for the start of electricity exchange between the two by April.

"Conclude the negotiations within the first quarter of 2024 to pave the way for regional power trade,"

AfDB said in the latest review of the project.

Ketraco's response contradicts Chirchir who had earlier said that the line had been completed by September last year and that it was awaiting testing and commissioning by December 2023.

"The 400 kV (kilovolt) line is finished and we should commission the line before the end of the year and this will allow the two countries to share excess power," Chirchir had said in June last year.

Tanzania first disclosed plans to export power to Kenya in 2016 and had targeted to make the first shipments to Nairobi by 2018.

The line has been marred by delays mainly on the Kenyan side, prompting AfDB to raise concerns.

The Kenya-Tanzania line is integral in linking East African and the Southern African electricity pools, enabling sharing of power between the two regions in a bid to boost supply.

Kenya currently has an electricity exchange deal with Uganda, with the country that imports more from each other paying at the end of a defined period.

This is in addition to a power import deal that Kenya signed with Ethiopia, allowing Nairobi to bring in an initial 200 megawatts of electricity from the Horn of Africa nation in November 2022.

The deal with Ethiopia will last for 25 years and has been key to helping Kenya avoid tapping dirty thermal plants to shore supply at peak demand and also when local generation of hydro-power dipped significantly due to a biting drought last year.



Muhimbili National Hospital's Dr Flavian Shengeza (R) pictured at the weekend attending to Kimwaga Yassin, a pupil from Dar es Salaam's Bunge Primary School, at a free eye health camp hosted in the city by Rotary e-Club of Masaki. A total of 730 pupils and 43 teachers were screened, with some supplied with spectacles. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## US envoy celebrates preservation of ancient ruins

By Guardian Reporter

US Ambassador to Tanzania Michael Battle and Mafia District Administrative Secretary Olivanus Thomas have met to commemorate completion of the third phase of Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) project to restore historic Swahili ruins of Kua on Juani Island.

From 2017 through 2022, the US Embassy awarded a total of \$434,929 (1.1bn/-) to World Monuments Fund (WMF) via the AFCP programme of the US Department of State.

A statement released yesterday by the US embassy in Dar es Salaam said the funding supported the

preservation of the ancient ruins in a collaborative effort with the local community. The celebratory event at Kua Ruins hosted local government officials, a delegate from the Ministry of Natural Resources, World Monuments Fund (WMF) representatives and community members.

Nestled off Juani Island, the ancient Swahili town of Kua traces back to the 13th century, standing as one of East Africa's largest medieval Swahili settlements. The site boasts a significant number of residential structures that have withstood the test of time, including a grand palace and five mosques.

Protected under the Antiquities Act No. 10 of 1964, as amended

by Act No. 22 of 1979, the Kua Ruins are a testament to Swahili architectural ingenuity and historical importance.

Ambassador Battle noted: "Through the AFCP programme, the US has not only preserved the essence of Kua but also ensured local communities benefit from these preservation efforts."

Since its inception in 2001, AFCP has aimed to safeguard notable cultural heritage sites across the globe.

"The American people have generously contributed over one million dollars in grants since 2002, supporting a wide range of preservation projects in Tanzania. These projects include

the restoration of the 18th-century Kizimkazi Mosque in Zanzibar, the ancient trade port ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani, the prehistoric rock art in Kondoa, the 19th-century Bwanga House in Pangani, and the historical Shumba and Micheweni mosques in Pemba, among others," reads the statement.

WMF, the project's lead implementing organization, is a non-profit entity dedicated to preserving the world's most iconic heritage sites. With over 50 years of experience in more than 90 countries, WMF's skilled experts employ advanced preservation techniques to safeguard architectural and cultural landmarks worldwide.



Ireland's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mary O'Neill (C), pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with Kerry Taste & Nutrition Company official Reddy Sandewa (R) and other team members at a fundraiser aimed at supporting children with cancer. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tamwa-Zanzibar calls for gender policy in all sectors

By Carlos Banda

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA Zanzibar) has called on the government to formulate laws and policies to promote adherence to gender equality in all sectors and create a database for ease of access to information on women leaders.

Dr Mzuri Issa, director of TAMWA Zanzibar made the suggestions in Zanzibar at the weekend in a statement at the conclusion of a women empowerment project.

"During the course of this project, we encountered the challenge of low availability of data on women leaders holding various leadership positions; the absence of a policy pushing for strict adherence of gender equality in all sectors, the problem of some leaders

failing to observe equality during appointments and the lack of a gender policy in political parties," she said.

Dr Issa also said that there is a crucial need to have friendly systems advocating for the availability of social services for the public, arguing that without such systems it becomes difficult to access services with ease.

She said the objective of the project was to empower women to become exceptional leaders, adding that the participants were empowered through capacity building programmes to be able to seek, demand and defend their personal and societal rights.

"To attain the objective, we taught them about the policies and rights meant to defend women. We attained this objective through

community influencers trained in leadership affairs and politics who were able to identify 1,000 challenges faced by the society whereby a total of 771 were addressed and more than 400 solved," she said.

"Through public meetings, we reached 11,129 people, especially women in all regions of Zanzibar through awareness meetings, discussions, follow-ups and various training programmes. The project has also reached 200 women who were trained in politics, democracy and leadership so that they can participate effectively in decision-making."

She said that 199 journalists were trained to report on various issues pertaining to women's rights whereby a total of 2,127 news reports were published on radio,

newspapers and on social media to ignite discussions and advocate for accountability among various institutions to bring positive outcomes to the public.

Dr Issa said that through the project, TAMWA Zanzibar created gender policies and gender desks for media outlets whereby seven out of 11 media outlets have already endorsed their gender policy.

She said that the project provided room to meet with government officials, religious leaders, leaders from various media outlets to request for amendment of policies, guidelines and laws.

She commended CCM and ACT-Wazalendo parties for preparing and endorsing their gender policy, adding that the move plays a crucial role to ensure gender equality in political parties.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chamila (2nd-L) symbolically receives medical equipment and supplies from Dr Mteule Amon (L), a representative of the Jhpiego director, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are USAID Afya Yangu Dar es Salaam regional coordinator Joyce Ishengoma (R) and the acting Chief Medical Officer for Dar es Salaam, Dr Ayoub Kibao. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## AU officials laud China's support in promotion of health in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

OFFICIALS of the African Union Commission (AUC) have lauded Africa-China cooperation in the health sector, whereby China has proven to be a strategic partner in dealing with infectious diseases, including Tuberculosis (TB) in Africa.

Sheila Shawa, a senior technical specialist of the AUC, said China has remained a real partner to Africa by building the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to advance public health in Africa.

"The AU Commission develops policies, and the Africa CDC implements those policies by going to each member state. The center is contributing a lot to addressing infectious diseases, strengthening disease diagnosis and developing vaccines," Shawa told Xinhua in a recent interview.

She said the Africa CDC has a huge significance in workforce development, disease outbreak response, surveillance and early warning across the continent.

"We call upon China to further engage in infrastructure development across the continent that will lead to improvement of sanitation and hygiene and ultimately reduction of TB infection," Shawa said.

Francis Chisaka Kasolo, director of the World Health Organization (WHO) liaison office at the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, said the Africa CDC brings additional impetus to AU member states to respond to the TB pandemic and other communicable diseases.

"Having a centralized Africa CDC here is really a bonus for the continent and helps partners, including my own organization, the World Health Organization, fight TB on the continent," Kasolo told Xinhua.

According to a WHO report, an estimated 2.5 million people fell ill with TB in Africa, resulting in around 424,000 deaths in 2022.

Noting that Africa-China cooperation in the health sector is gaining momentum over time, Kasolo said the African Union is working to develop vaccines locally at the Chinese-built Africa CDC complex in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

"China has a history of working with Africa for many years, and now the hope is that it will continue investing in health and supporting African institutions to promote health across the continent," Kasolo added.

The officials made these remarks Friday on the sideline of an event marking World Tuberculosis Day, which falls on March 24 every year to raise people's awareness of the disease, at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, under the theme of "Yes! We can end TB!"

## Migrant deaths soar as conflict forces move to flee, says report

By Guardian Reporter

THE new International Organization for Migration (IOM) report reveals alarming trends in migrant deaths and disappearances over the past decade.

Since tracking began in 2014, more than 63,000 people have died or are missing and presumed dead, according to the Missing Migrants Project, with 2023 the deadliest year yet when over 8,500 deaths were recorded

One in three migrant deaths occurs en route while fleeing conflict

Jorge Galindo, spokesperson at IOM's Global Data Institute:

"The figures are quite alarming. We see that ten years on, people continue to lose their lives in search of a better one. We saw, for example, that 2023 was the deadliest year on record with over 8500 deaths. And the reasons are multiple. The majority of people, over 60% of deaths recorded by the

project are due to drowning. Just in the Mediterranean alone, we see, over 28,000 deaths and disappearances recorded."

Among the report's key findings is the high number of unidentified deaths. More than two-thirds of migrants whose deaths were documented remain unidentified

The report emphasizes the necessity of enhancing search and rescue

Despite political commitments and

media attention, migrant deaths are on the rise

IOM calls for better coordinated data collection and identification processes to provide closure to affected families.

Today, the Missing Migrants Project remains the only global open-access database on migrant deaths and disappearances, compiling information from wide-ranging sources including key informants from governments, UN officials, and civil society organizations.



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme executive director Lilian Liundi pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday opening training for women, the thrust being on ways to enhance the participation of women at various levels of leadership and decision-making. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

**We call upon China to further engage in infrastructure development across the continent that will lead to improvement of sanitation and hygiene and ultimately reduction of TB infection**

## South Africa minister admits tuberculosis is 'still big health threat'

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's Health minister, Joe Phaahla, said on Sunday that tuberculosis (TB) remained a great public health threat in South Africa, claiming more than 1.5 million lives over the last few years.

"For the past several years, it has remained the leading cause of deaths in the country. It also counts for more than half of deaths among people living with HIV, which stood at 53 percent," Phaahla said during the commemoration of World TB Day, which fell on Sunday.

While South Africa continued to be among the nations struggling with the TB pandemic, the country has made hopeful strides in recent years toward lowering the number of TB infections, Phaahla said.

The number of TB cases is expected to drop to 280,000 in 2022 from 644,000 in 2007, the minister said, adding that TB-related deaths are also falling but at a much slower rate.

Phaahla noted that South Africa will scale up the rapid uptake of new tools and innovations to combat the disease and strengthen the routine testing of TB contacts and at-risk populations.

South Africa also needs to address the socioeconomic problems to end TB, including gender inequality, poor nutrition, and poverty, according to the minister.

**...It also counts for more than half of deaths among people living with HIV, which stood at 53 percent**

By special correspondent, Kinshasa

## SADC renews commitment on fight against armed groups in eastern DRC

SOUTHERN African regional leaders have reiterated their commitment to their peacekeeping mission in restive eastern Congo and condemned a letter of protest by Rwanda written last month opposing United Nations support for the mission.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) deployed its Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (SAMIDRC) on Dec. 15 to assist the Congolese government in restoring peace and security in the east, where

violent clashes have escalated.

Leaders meeting at a summit in Zambia's capital Lusaka on Saturday reiterated a commitment from SADC's mutual defence pact stating that "an armed attack against one shall be deemed a threat to regional peace and security," they said in a statement.

Congo is one of the bloc's 16 members. SADC's members approved the mission in eastern Congo in May 2023 with a mandate to support the Congolese army in its fight against armed rebel groups. The regional leaders said they disapproved of a letter Rwanda sent to the United Nations Security Council in

February opposing its plan to support the Southern African mission.

Regional forces from East Africa, deployed in November 2022, began leaving Congo in December.

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in eastern Congo has also begun withdrawing its troops.

# Ministry of Health set for adoption of research engaging multi-interventions

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Ministry of Health is working with development partners to allow use of implementation research in the health sector.

Implementation research engages a wide range of interventions in a health system to provide a variety of policies, programmes as well as individual practices and services intended to improve people's health.

The move supported by the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) seeks to enable Tanzania to elevate the health delivery system to the level of universal health coverage (UHC).

Among the ongoing strategies which are currently at ministerial level, include capacity building, setting up of supportive infrastructure and sourcing of needed funds to help practical adoption of the system.

This was said here yesterday by Dr Chipole Mpelembe, the Health Systems Specialist from the Prime Minister's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government).

She made a presentation during the second day of the International Primary Health Care Conference (IPHC) 2024 which is taking place in Dodoma.

In her topic 'Beyond Business as Usual', Dr Mpelembe said that a number of initiatives are currently being conducted to create roadmap to translate implementation research into reality.

She observed that adoption of the system is projected to play a major role to help solve various setbacks that haunt the health sector in the country, especially primary healthcare.

"As the government works to achieve universal health coverage through improving the primary healthcare system, practicing implementation research becomes vital," she said.

Dr Ulrika Baker, health manager for primary healthcare at UNICEF who led the presentation said the

international organization was keen to support Tanzania to fully practise implementation research in the health system.

Dr Kasusu Klint from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) emphasised the need for effective dissemination of needed knowledge on implementation research.

He observed that implementation research was a vital vehicle to enable the country to succeed in the quest to attain universal health coverage.

"As we prepare to adopt the use of implementation research in our health systems, serious investment must be made in relevant knowledge among health practitioners, infrastructure as well as sustainable financing," he said.

James Kengia, coordinator of research and publications at the Prime Minister's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said that execution of implementation research would play a big role in bringing existing gaps between research and practice in the country's health sector.

He underscored the need for collaboration from more development partners in supporting the government to effect implementation research in the health sector.

"After the ministerial level, the knowledge and skills about implementation research will be imparted to health workers at the regional and district levels and this calls for financial resources," he said.



**As the government works to achieve universal health coverage through improving the primary healthcare system, practicing implementation research becomes vital**

# Don lauds Samia, wants more done to bring efficiency

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

TANZANIAN academician has lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for opening up the country to the outside world and expanding economic activities and political space.

Speaking in an exclusive interview in Dar es Salaam recently, Prof Abel Kinyondo of the University of Dar es Salaam said that Tanzania is making strides in attracting new investors.

The Associate Professor of Development Economics said that for instance, during her recent visit to Norway, President Samia invited investors from Norway to consider Tanzania as a regional hub for trade and commerce, underscoring the country's commitment to principles of good governance, human rights and the rule of law.

"Tanzania has what takes to become a regional hub because of our geo-political advantage," he said.

He mentioned some of the advantages if are well utilised would make Tanzania a regional hub to trade and commerce as: "We are surrounded by landlocked countries, like Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Congo, Malawi, and Zambia," he said.

"By default we are a regional hub;

what we need to do is to ensure our infrastructure and other facilities are good and we become zero-tolerant on corruption."

He said that he knows some business people in Zambia who do business very close to the Tanzania-Zambia border but use Durban Port in South Africa instead of the Port of Dar es Salaam.

Prof Kinyondo suggested that in order to become a regional hub in trade and commerce, Tanzania should ensure there is efficiency in clearing cargos at the Port of Dar es Salaam and in logistical services.

"If do these, then we automatically become a regional hub because politically we are the most stable in the region and surrounded by landlocked countries."

According to him, there are various studies that have indicated that if the Port of Dar es Salaam becomes efficient by getting rid of delays, all the landlocked countries would use it.

Citing Singapore as an example, he said that 60 years its economy was like Tanzania's but today Singapore is an economic giant that mints most of its money in global shipping and logistics.

"They have managed to reach that level because they said no to corruption and embraced meritocracy," he said.



Muheza district commissioner Zainabu Abdallah (L) graces the handing over cuts of water, toilet and sewage infrastructure to Bonde Secondary School, Mdotte Primary School and Michungwani vegetable and fruit market in Muheza township at the weekend. The facilities are courtesy of a project implemented by the Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority. She is with Majengo councillor Mukadam Sabuni (R) and the agency's acting director, Rashidi Shabani. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

SCHOLARS in the country have been asked to use their education to solve various problems facing society instead of expressing contempt for the uneducated.

This was said over the weekend by Prof Purity Gatobu of the All Nations Christian Church International (ANCCI) University in Kibaha Township, Cost Region.

She was speaking during award ceremony of honorary doctorate degrees in leadership and governance to the director of St Mary's schools, Dr Rose Rwakatare and motivational speaker Angella Bondo.

She said that those awarded honorary doctorate degrees by the university have done tremendous

# Your education must help solve people's problems, scholars told

job in helping the society in various fields.

"You deserve an honorary doctorate because there was no favouritism. After our branch here in the country gave us your qualifications, we did a research and found out that you have really done great things to help the society," she said.

"When you get these degrees, don't harass people. Instead, you should be humble by being close to the people and improve their lives more than what you were doing before you got this honour."

The university also awarded undergraduate degrees and

master's degrees to some graduates who have studied online and passed the college's exams.

Speaking immediately after being awarded, Dr Rwakatare said for a long time she has used her talents and to help various groups in society including women, children and youth by giving them various resources to enable them to overcome poverty.

"I am very grateful for this recognition for my work and it has given me encouragement that the world watches what am doing," she said

She said the degree she was awarded has given her the

motivation to continue serving the society by providing various assistance to the community.

Bondo said that for 22 consecutive years she has been serving the society in various fields including providing entrepreneurship education where she has succeeded to reach many Tanzanians.

"When you help the society, you touch women, children, youth and even men. So, I am grateful that this university has seen my work and decided to award me an honorary doctorate and I promise that this will be a catalyst for me to continue serving the people," she said.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko cuts the ribbon at Sojo village in Nzega District yesterday to launch East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) fuel heating systems. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

# ACT congratulates Senegalese president-elect on victory

By Guardian Reporter

THE opposition ACT-Wazalendo has congratulated Senegalese President-elect Bassirou Diomaye Faye for the decisive win in the General Election held on Sunday.

In a statement issued by Dr Nasra Nassor Omar, ACT-Wazalendo shadow Minister for

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said that the election showed a commendable display of democracy and commitment to fair electoral practices, highlighting the robustness and vitality of Senegal's democratic institutions.

She said that President-elect Faye's triumph mirrors the trust in him by the Senegalese people,

particularly the youth who clearly voiced their support for his promised leadership.

"As Senegal embarks on this new phase, we are confident that President-elect Diomaye Faye will guide the nation towards enhanced prosperity, unity, self-determination, and advancement for all its citizens," she said, adding:

"We applaud the active engagement of the Senegalese people in the electoral process and their dedication to upholding democratic principles."

The party said it eagerly anticipates witnessing the positive influence of President-elect Faye's governance to strengthen growth and stability of Senegal.



Tulia Trust officials (in T-shirts) pictured yesterday presenting 200 bags of cement to Fanuel Kyanula (white shirt), councillor for Sinde ward in Mbeya Urban District, in support of the construction of two classrooms and a teachers' office at the district's Mlimani Primary School. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

# AU and TikTok for empowering of African youth on digital safety

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Union (AU) and the video-sharing social networking platform TikTok have announced a joint initiative called 'Safer Together' campaign to empower African youth with the knowledge and tools to navigate the digital world safely.

The 55-member continental bloc said in a statement at the weekend that the campaign, which was launched at the recent TikTok Safer Internet Summit in Ghana, aims to empower not only Africa's young people but also parents and educators on digital safety.

Prudence Ngwenya, director of Women, Gender and Youth Directorate at the AU Commission, lauded the partnership as a vital step toward empowering Africa's youth and safeguarding their digital future.

"The Safer Together campaign is in line with the AU's ongoing efforts to promote and advocate not only for safe online experiences for young people in Africa but also for their mental well-being through the One Million Next Level Initiative," Ngwenya said.

The One Million Next Level Initiative seeks to provide opportunities for 300 million African youth by 2030 in the areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship, as well as health and well-being, according to the AU.

Ngwenya noted that while access to the internet can help children and young people stay connected, improve their digital literacy, and diversify their livelihoods, it is

crucial that they are provided with a safe environment to reap the benefits of digital platforms.

The campaign includes a wide array of in-app activities, such as educational video content, hashtag challenges, endorsements by content creators, and notifications, the AU said.

The joint initiative will also provide "Digital Safety Toolkits" to support educators and guardians in tackling key digital safety topics, available through a dedicated microsite on TikTok, offering an engaging guide for fostering safer online behaviours.

Fortune Mgwili-Sibanda, government relations and public policy director for TikTok in Sub-Saharan Africa, underscored TikTok's commitment to nurturing a digitally safe environment for all. "Our partnership with the AU women, gender, and youth directorate reinforces TikTok's deep commitment to the diverse tapestry of markets across Africa," he said.

The AU and TikTok also expressed their joint commitment to creating a more inclusive and safer digital space for Africa's youth. The AU said the partnership will empower young people with the tools and confidence to navigate the online world with wisdom and safety.

*"Our partnership with the AU women, gender, and youth directorate reinforces TikTok's deep commitment to the diverse tapestry of markets across Africa"*

## KIGALI

RWANDA'S lower house of parliament has passed a bill that proposes stricter regulations to protect forests in the country.

The bill forbids the harvesting, use and trade of immature trees.

It additionally requires Rwandans to obtain permits from authorities before cutting any trees, including privately planted ones.

The bill also proposes harsher penalties for those who cut trees before they mature or without a licence, with fines of up to 3m

# Rwandan parliament passes bill restricting cutting of trees

Rwandan francs (\$2,300; £1,800).

"This law aims to further preserve the environment and prevent the effects of climate change," the lower house of parliament said after passing the bill on Monday.

Rwanda also aims at using the bill to sell carbon credits, pro-

government New Times new website reported last year, citing Environment Minister Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya.

But the proposed law is unpopular among many Rwandans, who view it as an inconvenience that will make it difficult to access

wood for cooking, construction and other common uses.

Rwanda's tree conservation efforts have grown the country's forest cover from 10.7 percent in 2010 to 30.4 percent in 2022, according to the environment ministry.

## JOHANNESBURG

THIRTY years after Nelson Mandela's government took over and introduced a policy to build low cost houses in South Africa, millions of people still live in shanty towns.

The idea behind the initiative, known as the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), was to reverse the devastating legacy of apartheid.

Although the RDP policy successfully delivered more than three million homes for the poor, factors like population growth, rapid urbanisation and internal migration have contributed to its

# Millions still 'stuck' in shanty towns 30 years after apartheid

regression.

One of those who have been living in a Soweto shanty town since the mid-1980s, is 76-year-old Lala Maria Sebetlele.

"We were told to patiently wait here because they will help us. But they never did. They promised to build houses, install electricity and fix roads," she said.

She said life in a shanty town is "unbearable".

"You have to be a resilient person to survive. There's no electricity. The roads are almost non-existent.

On sunny days, the shack gets too hot. You can't stay inside. When it's cold, it gets very cold. When it's raining, it gets flooded."

The South African government blames the scarcity of resources, saying there are many competing priorities.

In an attempt to help ease the accommodation burden, the University of Johannesburg has come up with an initiative of its own, using a highly sophisticated 3D printer that constructs a fully-fledged house in about 10 hours.



Residents of Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni suburb discuss ways of ensuring safety of children left at home while their parents or guardian are away. This was at a meeting organised by local CSO Kipunguni Community Voice Centre at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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## Sugar prices drop ought not to be just a Holy Month gift

HERE has been understandable relief among the public in parts of the country where retail sugar prices have eased from nearly twice the amount prevailing only as recently as a week ago.

Yet, as some people reached for comment have said, flooding the market with the sweetened is seen to be tightly linked with the fasting month of Ramadhan.

This opens up issues as to when the political system will be able to adopt a position of the right to basic needs at the lowest available prices. It is a sore thumb issue, as price is a tool used at will.

So far, there is a verified price change to the bottom in most parts of Dar es Salaam city. However, it is unclear how far that extends to the regions and right into villages.

Indeed, this was a week-long survey which shows that the selling of sugar at indicative price by regulatory agencies is there to stay.

It is unclear, though, whether it will durably go beyond the fasting month. The reference to the relief being felt particularly during Ramadhan was a little invasive and looks much like a gift.

The surprising aspect is that it was the unloading of 100,000 tonnes of sugar from overseas last month that is now making the difference.

This belies the fact that sugar shortages due to massive rains and the flooding of sugar plantations in various places was visible back in October.

Yet, permits to bring in sufficient amounts of sugar from outside waited four months to be provided - and this underlies the socioeconomic parameters of the issue.

A shortage of sugar is associated with regulations to protect sugar industries from competition, itself a rather unprincipled position.

Street interviews picked up remarks from shop goers suggesting

that the public wishes to see the regulatory authorities monitoring observance of indicative price.

This is because there are some traders who have been selling sugar well above the government's indicative price.

In other words, these indicative prices were supposed to be observed all along but were being flouted by some traders, and this says a lot about what the public knows about the issues.

This isn't in terms of available information as all basic data are there but they are digested in ways that reflect political biases and convictions, with the regulators running no risks in barring imports and blaming traders.

One consumer reached for comment was elated at the reduction in the price of sugar in the neighbourhood, emphasizing that traders should reduce the price because sugar is a basic necessity in life.

One could hardly have put it better, as the fact that there is plenty of cheap sugar for the asking in the market and that there is a publicly admitted plan to stop imports and squeeze billions from consumers is not in the mental frame of the citizenry. It isn't a matter of information but, rather, of culture.

Some buyers were of the view that buying sugar at indicative prices arose from the fact that the government had removed value added tax and other levies to relieve people of unbearable prices, unaware that all it did was to issue permits - and belatedly, for that matter.

In other words, even if sugar prices reverted to where a kilo sells well beyond 3,000/- everywhere it would not be astonishing.

It would either be that the fasting is over and so prices return to normal, or perhaps the taxes have been imposed, or finally it is traders that are cheating!

## Railways revamping offers unique opportunities, if PPP is intensified

WITH completion and start of operations of the standard gauge railway becoming a reality, SGR is seen as a unique rail because it connects the country with road, lake and rail transport modes in the eastern Africa region as a whole.

Top officials of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) have confirmed that presidential assent has been obtained for the amended Railways Act - to facilitate open access arrangements on SGR with private providers of freight services.

That is already being done on the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (Tazara) network with an accord being reached with a major logistics firm based in Dar es Salaam, ready to flood the rail with cargo freight.

The Tazara management's focus is on the length it will take to recoup the construction costs, the plan being that it will take up to 15 years from the time operations start.

At the same time, the SGR construction has been moving concurrently with the renovation of the meter gauge railway, including extensive facelift of cargo wagons and passenger coaches.

All this looks good enough, even a new day in railway operations in the offing, but worries remain.

There Tanzania Intermodal and Rail Development Project (TIRP) is meanwhile projected to cost US\$300 million and is already approved by the World Bank as an effort to create reliable open access railway infrastructure from Dar es Salaam and centred on Isaka

terminal.

Well managed, it stands to become a hub for interconnection with regional railways and other transport modes. But there are lingering worries as to all this being sustainable.

The point is that if we had the right ideas and approach to what is now being billed as the regional central transport corridor.

But if anyone recalls the sort of accidents that often occur in the railway system, and the same system takes far more trains, it is more than a little worrying.

Accidents aren't a matter of technical ignorance but relate to monitoring and reporting systems, demanding PPP in operational controls.

As the TIRP project is multinational in character, it provides an opportunity to make a change in railways operations in like manner as at least for port operations.

While in the latter case the problem was congestion, the threat to railway transport credibility could be tremendous because TRC's management of rail and motorised boats transportation has been hair-raising in terms of the worries it has raised from time to time.

Were any of similar challenges to come up especially on SGR, it would ruin all strategic ambitions and reduce the infrastructure into a sort of white elephant.

It is a matter of taking precautions and not laying all the railway modernisation eggs in one - TRC - basket in its operational mode.

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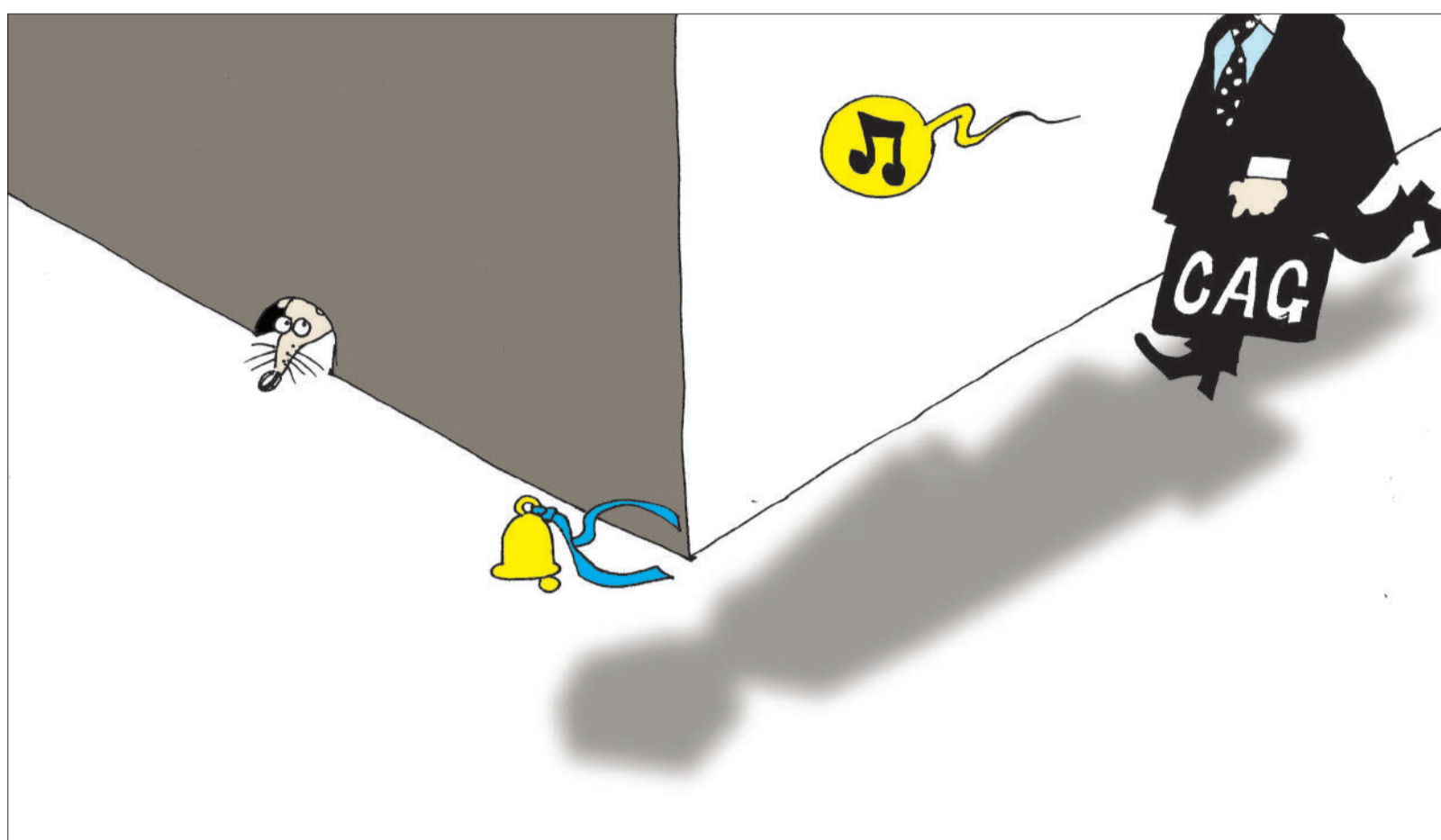
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## Will Israel defy another UN Security Council resolution?

By Thalif Deen

THE UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution for a temporary ceasefire in the ongoing conflict in Gaza - adopted by a 14-0 vote with the US abstaining - marks a significant step forward in momentarily halting the five-month-old fighting which has claimed the lives of over 32,000 Palestinians and 1,200 inside Israel.

But a lingering question remains: how will Israel respond?

Clearly, Israel has had a longstanding notoriety for flouting UNSC resolutions - and still never having to pay a price for such violations - primarily because of the unyielding support of the United States.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics, University of San Francisco, who has written extensively and authoritatively on the politics of the Security Council, told IPS: "By my count, Israel has initially stood in violation of as many as 40 UN Security Council resolutions for at least a decade following their passage, though they eventually came into compliance with about a dozen of those. They remain in violation of the others".

Successive U.S. administrations, including the Biden administration, have made clear they would veto any UN Security Council resolution that would impose sanctions or any other kind of pressure to force Israel into compliance, he said.

While it is certainly a positive development that the Biden administration did not veto Monday's Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire as it has previously, the United States again demonstrated its isolation in the international community by being the only country to not vote in favor.

The Biden administration threatened to veto the original draft resolution calling for a permanent ceasefire, only agreeing to not cast a veto in return for dropping the word "permanent".

White House spokesperson John Kirby said the United States did not vote in favor because the resolution did not condemn Hamas, despite the fact that it did not condemn Israel either.

The wording of the various clauses which the Biden administration also apparently demanded are revealing: While it "demands" that Hamas release the hostages, the United States made sure that the resolution only "emphasizes the urgent need" to get desperately-needed aid to Palestinians and that it did not mention that it is Israel that is preventing it, said Dr Zunes, currently Torgny Segerstedt Visiting Research Professor, at the



Members of the UN security council in New York.

Department of Sociology and Work Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

At the same time, even though the ceasefire resolution, if honored, would only stop the fighting for two weeks, it is significant that the United States allowed for even a temporary ceasefire resolution to pass without conditioning it on the release of Israeli hostages, he noted.

"This is no doubt a reflection of the growing domestic and international pressure the Biden administration has been facing over its support for Israel's horrific war on the people of Gaza.

Whatever the wording of the resolution, however, it is unlikely that Israel will abide by it and the United States would certainly veto any attempt by the United Nations to enforce it," he declared.

Oxfam's UN Representative and Head of New York Office Brenda Mofya said: "We welcome the Security Council's adoption of a ceasefire resolution so Palestinians in Gaza can have much-needed respite from the relentless and devastating Israeli violence and critical aid can reach them".

However, this resolution, while a step in the right direction, falls short of the permanent ceasefire which is truly required and comes too late for the over 32,000 Palestinians in Gaza that have been killed, and thousands more unaccounted for, while the Security Council wrung its hands over semantics, she argued.

"For nearly six months, the rest of the international community has repeatedly called for a permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and the provision of unrestricted aid into Gaza. It is long overdue for UN Security Council Member States to finally heed these calls with the moral leadership that is rightfully expected of them and to stop the killing and suffering in Gaza.

"Now this resolution has passed, it is imperative for Member States to fulfil their obligations to ensure that it is implemented so that Palestinians never endure violence such as this again. This includes immediately halting the transfer of weapons, parts, and ammunition to Israel and Palestinian armed groups," she said.

"A mere two-week pause is not enough. This initial cessation in violence must lead to a permanent ceasefire that lasts and a sustainable peace for Palestinians and Israelis alike, so people in Gaza can mourn their loved ones and begin the long road of recovery and reconstruction," declared Mofya.

Louis Charbonneau, UN director at Human Rights Watch said Israel needs to immediately respond to the UN Security Council resolution by facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, ending its starvation of Gaza's population, and halting unlawful attacks.

Palestinian armed groups should immediately release all civilians held hostage. The US and other countries should use their leverage to end atrocities by suspending arms transfers to Israel, said Charbonneau.

In a statement issued on March 25, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US abstention on the Security Council resolution comes on the heels of the Russian and Chinese veto "of our comprehensive draft resolution in the Council, reaffirms the U.S. position that a ceasefire of any duration come as part of an agreement to release hostages in Gaza".

"While we do not agree with all provisions included in this text, adjustments made by the resolution's sponsors over recent days are consistent with our principled position that any

ceasefire text must be paired with text on the release of the hostages", he said.

This resolution further explicitly recognizes the painstaking, non-stop negotiations being conducted by the Governments of Egypt, Israel, Qatar, and the United States to achieve such a release in the context of a ceasefire, which would also create space to surge more lifesaving humanitarian assistance for Palestinian civilians, and to build something more enduring.

"Because the final text does not have key language we view as essential, notably a condemnation of Hamas, we could not support it. This failure to condemn Hamas is particularly difficult to understand coming days after the world once again witnessed the horrific acts terrorist groups commit," Blinken said.

"We reiterate the need to accelerate and sustain the provision of humanitarian assistance through all available routes - land, sea, and air. We continue to discuss with partners a pathway to the establishment of a Palestinian state with real security guarantees for Israel to establish long-term peace and security," he declared.

Nihal Awad, National Executive Director of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), said the Biden administration's long overdue decision to permit the passage of a Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire "will only be impactful if our government takes concrete steps to support it."

The far-right Netanyahu government is already flouting the resolution and promising to continue its genocide in Gaza. The Biden administration should respond by ending the transfer of any new weapons to the Israeli government and taking steps to pursue a just, lasting peace, he said.



By Telesphor Magobe

## Health benefits of breastfeeding during infant's first six months

A new-born baby is the joy of the family and the first thing the mother does is to ensure the baby feeds well to keep it strong and healthy. Safe delivery is an exciting moment not only for the mother, but also for the entire family. Under normal circumstances, the new-born baby should be breastfed as early as within one hour after delivery as breast milk provides the new-born baby with good quality proteins, fats, vitamins, calcium, iron and other minerals.

However, when it is the first born baby, the mother may feel her breast milk is insufficient to feed her baby and she may be tempted to feed it other types of food such as powdered milk, water, porridge and juice. When breast milk is really insufficient, it is recommended to use powdered milk (Lactogen) as a substitute for breast milk as recommended by a medical doctor.

Yet, the problem is usually not that the mother's milk is insufficient, but that the mother could be inexperienced in how to feed her baby and she may think she doesn't have sufficient milk to breastfeed her baby. In other families, in addition to breastfeeding, the baby may also be given water, powdered milk, porridge and juice, thinking that this is what keeps the baby healthy and strong.

Mainland Tanzania Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population (TFBDGs, 2023) formulated by the Ministry of Health under Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) and technical and financial support from FAO recommend exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of the baby's life. The guidelines provide that the mother's milk contains all the nutrients the baby needs, so "there is no need to add other types of food [besides] breastfeeding."

Citing UNICEF (2016) and Victora et al. (2016), the TFBDGs (2023) provide that: "Infants from birth to six months get their entire nutrient and water requirements from the mother's breast milk, so they do not need additional liquid or food." The guidelines add that giving water to the baby during the first six months of its life reduces the effectiveness of breastfeeding and may cause diarrhoea to the baby. So, water must be avoided during the first six months of breastfeeding.

### Colostrum

Before breastfeeding their babies, some mothers squeeze for a while their breasts so that the first milk (colostrum, not "cholesterol") oozes out, thinking it is contaminated breast milk unfit for the new-born baby. But, according to the TFBDGs (2023), colostrum is rich in antibodies and white blood cells that help the baby's immune



system fight against harmful microorganisms. Thus, colostrum is protective for the new-born baby and instead of being oozed out it should be given to the new-born baby.

"The high levels of secretory immunoglobulin A (SIgA) found in colostrum helps to protect the new-born's digestive tract and protects against viruses and bacteria." The guidelines add that "colostrum also helps babies make their first bowel movements and get rid of the meconium - the tar-like faeces that collect in the bowels before birth - thereby helping to prevent new-born jaundice." Awareness of the nutritional benefits of colostrum is needed to

make mothers breast feed their new-born babies with colostrum within the first hour of delivery.

### Health benefits of breastfeeding

Breastfeeding is beneficial to both the baby and its mother. World Health Organisation (WHO) suggests that breastfeeding fosters healthy growth, improves cognitive development and performance in intelligence tests and makes babies develop better resistance to common childhood diseases such as diarrhoea, other bowel diseases, respiratory, ear infections and malaria.

It also provides warmth, closeness and contact, which

helps the child's physical and emotional development. "Breastfeeding promotes proper jaw, teeth and speech development - the action of breastfeeding helps the child's jaw to develop as well as muscles such as the tongue. This assists with clear speech, protects against dental caries and reduces the risk of orthodontic problems," according to TFBDGs (2023).

To the mother, breastfeeding is associated with lower cardiovascular disease risk, including high blood pressure and high cholesterol (not "colostrum"). According to the guidelines, breastfeeding reduces the risk of ovarian cancer, breast cancer and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Citing WHO (2016) and Kramer & Kakuna (2012), the guidelines say that "Mothers who breastfeed exclusively and frequently have less than a 2-per cent risk of becoming pregnant in the first six months postpartum, provided that they still have amenorrhoea [absence of monthly menstrual periods]." Therefore, knowledge of how best to feed the baby is needed to make it mentally and physically healthy all the time.

### Research-based statistics in Tanzania

TFBDGs (2023) suggest that almost all women (98 per cent) in Tanzania breastfeed their children as about 51 per cent of infants are breastfed within one hour and 93 per cent are breastfed within 24 hours after delivery. About 59 per cent of the women practised exclusive breastfeeding. At age 4-5 months, only 27 per cent were on exclusive breastfeeding compared to 84 per cent at 0-1 month and 59 per cent at 2-3 months.

In some instances, infants aged below six months consume water (11 per cent) and other milk 4 per cent, other than breast milk and about 22 per cent of infants aged below six months are provided with complementary foodstuffs in addition to breast milk. It suffices to say that after the first six months, infants can be provided with other types of foodstuffs.

## Women inventors make gains, but gender gaps in patents remain

By Victoria Masterson

WOMEN are making gains as inventors. But men are still ahead by some margin, the latest data suggests.

An analysis of records from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the government agency that grants patents and registers trademarks in the US, shows women have increased their participation in scientific patenting across all areas.

Women in electrical engineering are progressing the fastest. The share of women inventors in this sector doubled from 5 percent to 10 percent between 2000 and 2022.

Chemistry has the highest share of women inventors, at 18%. Women inventors also represent 16 percent of design patents.

Mechanical engineering has the smallest share of women inventors, at 5 percent in 2022.

Meanwhile, women represented only 10.9 percent of all US patents in 2022, though this share is still up from 7.2 percent in 2020.

Women in science and engineering

The figures are detailed in a report by US statistical agency the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). It outlines several key factors linked with increasing the number of women in science and engineering who become patented inventors, including collaborating with university advisors in graduate programmes.

"This collaboration is associated with higher rates of first-time patenting by women, identifying a role for mentorship at universities in the invention process," the NCSES reports.

What's the World Economic Forum doing about the gender gap?

Only 17 percent of inventors holding international patents were women in 2022, while 83 percent were men, it finds.

Women also account for less than a quarter of jobs globally in science, engineering and technology. And women held only one in three research posts in 2020.

Participation of women in research and STEM fields remains far from parity

Women inventors are almost 40 years behind

men in patenting

It will take women until 2061 to achieve gender parity in international patenting, based on current trends, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and food chemistry had the highest rates of women inventors, with "far fewer" women inventors in mechanical engineering.

By region, Latin America and the Caribbean perform strongly, with women representing 21 percent of all listed inventors. In Asia, women inventors represent 17 percent of the total, while in North America and Europe, women account for 15 percent and 14 percent respectively of all listed inventors. For Africa and Oceania, the figure is 13 percent.

"Much work" is still needed to ensure women in all countries have equal opportunities, the WIPO says. This should include policies and actions to stimulate gender diversity in teams - and more research into the societal and technological factors fuelling the gender gap in patenting.

Women are underrepresented in STEM roles

The World Economic Forum notes that women remain "significantly underrepresented" in STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics occupations, in its Global Gender Gap Report 2023.

This is an important set of well-paid jobs expected to grow in significance and scope in the future, the Forum adds.

While a growing number of women STEM graduates are entering work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics roles, many of them leave after as little as a year, the report notes.

This helps to explain why women currently account for 29.4 percent of entry-level workers in STEM jobs, but only between 12.4 percent and 17.8 percent of high-level leadership roles.

The Global Gender Gap Report has been measuring gender gaps since 2006 and in 2023 covers 146 countries.

The Forum helps to promote the critical role of women in science and technology through initiatives like the Technology Pioneers.



There is still a significant gap between the number of male and female inventors.

# Unpaid caregivers, a symbol of inequality in Chile

By Orlando Milesi

**I**N Chile, as in the rest of Latin America, the task of caring for people with disabilities, the elderly and children falls to women who, as a result, do not have access to paid jobs or time for themselves.

Unpaid domestic and care work is crucial to the economies of the region, accounting for around 20 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Measurements by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) found that in 16 Latin American countries, women spend between 22.1 and 42.8 hours per week on unpaid domestic and care work. Men only spend between 6.7 and 19.8 hours.

Ana Gúezmes, director of ECLAC's Division for Gender Affairs, said that "in most countries women work longer total hours, but with a lower proportion of paid hours."

"This work, which is fundamental for sustaining life and social well-being, is disproportionately assigned to women. This situation impacts women's autonomy, economic opportunities, labor and political participation and their access to leisure activities and rest," Gúezmes said at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

The situation is far from changing as it is replicated in young women who devote up to 20 percent of their time to unpaid work.

## Women left on their own as caregivers

Paloma Olivares, 43, chairs the Yo Cuido Association in Santiago, Chile, which brings together 120 members, only two of them men.

"Women caregivers are denied the right to participate on equal terms in society because we are forced to choose between exercising our rights or doing caregiving work. And we cannot choose because it is a job we do for a loved one, for a family member," she said.

"We are left in a position of inequality, of absolute vulnerability because you have to devote your life to supporting someone else at the expense of your personal life," she said.

Olivares stopped working to care for Pascale, her granddaughter, who was born with cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus.

Three days after her birth, a bacterium became lodged in her central nervous system. She was hospitalized for almost a year and became severely dependent.

At the time, she was given a seven percent chance of survival. Today she is eight years old, goes to school and lives an almost normal life thanks to the work of her caregivers.

She is now cared for by her mother Valentina, who had her at the age of 15. Paloma was able to return to paid work, but her daughter abandoned her studies to take care of Pascale.

"When you start being a caregiver, friendships end, because no one can keep up. Even the family drifts away. That's why most caregiving families are single-parent, the woman is left alone to care because the man can't keep up with the pace and the emotional and economic burden," she said.

Olivares participated from Mar. 12 to 14 in a public hearing, digital and in person, on the right to care and its interrelation with other rights, in a collective request of several social organizations and the governments of Chile and other Latin American countries before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR Court), based in San Jose, Costa Rica.

In the request for an opinion from the IACHR Court, "we asked the Court to take a stance on the right to care and how the rights of women in particular have been violated because there are no public policies in this regard. We want the Court to pronounce itself on the right to care and how the States should address it so that this right is guaranteed and so the rights of caregivers are no longer violated," she explained.



On International Women's Day on Mar. 8, thousands of Chilean women of all ages took to Santiago's central Alameda avenue to demonstrate peacefully for several hours and turn the Chilean capital into a stage for protest and demands for their rights. Some of them were women caregivers accompanied by dependent women. Photo: IPS

It is expected that the Court's pronouncement on the matter will come out in April and could establish minimum parameters regarding women caregivers for Chile and other Latin American countries.

## Critical situation for women caregivers

Millaray Sáez, 59, told IPS by telephone from the southern Chilean city of Concepción that her son Mario Ignacio, 33, "is no longer the autonomous person he was. Since 2012 he has become a baby."

She chairs the AML Bío Bío Corporación, an association of women in the Bío Bío region created in 2017 to address the question of female empowerment and today dedicated to the issue of caregivers.

"I have been a caregiver for 30 years for my son who has refractory epilepsy. He became prostrate in 2012 as a result of medical negligence," said the international trade engineer who has become an expert in public policies on care with a gender perspective.

Sáez said "the situation of women caregivers is very bad, very precarious. There is a single cause, which is the work of caregiving, but the consequences are multidimensional... from physical deterioration to the lack of legislation to protect against forms of violence, and ranging from the family to what society or the State adds." She also pointed to the economic consequences of dependent care.

She cited cases in which caregivers spend over 150 dollars a month on diapers alone for a person who needs them. And she pointed out that the government provides an economic aid stipend of just 33 dollars a month.

## The magnitude of the problem

It is a pending task to determine the number of women caregivers in Chile.

The government of leftist President Gabriel Boric created a system for caregivers to register and receive a credential that gives them access to public services.

"The credential is the gateway to the Chile Cuida System. With it we seek to make them visible in services and institutions and to reward them for their work by saving them waiting time in daily procedures," the Minister of Women and Gender Equity, Antonia Orellana, explained.

So far, there are 85,817 people registered, of whom 74,650 are women, or 87 percent of the total, and 11,167 are men, according to data provided to IPS on Mar. 14 by the Under secretariat of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Development and Family.

But Chile has 19.5 million inhabitants, and "17.6 percent of the adult population has some degree of disability and, therefore, requires the daily care and support of other people in the home," the minister said.

That means 3.4 million Chileans depend on a caregiver.

According to Orellana, facing the care scenario projected by the aging of the population will require the collaboration of everyone to "create and sustain an economic and productive system that generates decent work and formal employment, leaving no one behind."

## Other urgent demands by women

Sociologist Teresa Valdés, head of the Gender and Equity Observatory, told IPS that there are many social problems facing Chilean women today, "especially those related to access to health care, social security, unequal pay and access to different goods

and services."

Valdés regretted that the term "women caregivers" is used to refer to the role that women play and the tasks that are culturally assigned to them as a priority.

"We are all caregivers, all women work double shifts. The time-use survey shows that we work an additional 41 hours per week of so-called unpaid reproductive care work," she said.

According to Valdés, the main advance in this problem is to include it in the debate because these are policies that require a lot of resources and extensive development, since they have to do with the structure of the labor market.

"Part of the proposal should be how to 'de-genderize', how care becomes a task of shared responsibility and not only that women have more time to take on the care tasks," she said.

"When we call women caregivers, we are referring to the group most affected by the conditions of sexual division of labor and family reproduction," she added.

The expert proposes progressively identifying ways to support women caregivers in order to provide them with available time and take care of their mental health.

She praised the programs promoted by some municipalities to free up time for these women to enjoy leisure and self-care.

"We have to move towards a cultural conception that we are all dependent. Today I depend on you, tomorrow you depend on me. Care is a social task in which I take care of you today so that you can take care of me tomorrow. And that is something that has to start from the earliest childhood," she argued.

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# L. Victoria's Kalangala islands energy divide: Struggle, potential for farmers

By Special Correspondent, Kampala

KALANGALA, an archipelago of 84 islands with a population of 66,000, was shrouded in darkness and limited opportunities until 2015. That year marked the establishment of the Bukuzindu Power Plant, a hybrid 1.6 MW solar-diesel facility located on the main island of Bugala in Lake Victoria.

The impact of this reliable energy source has been significant. Islanders who mostly relied on fishing, have embraced farming, with many now relying heavily on the electricity provided by the plant. Daniel Kyeswa, a farmer, has been cultivating coffee since 2020, a crop that demands substantial energy for processing.

"Even if I have many bags and sacks of coffee, I just bring them here, they process it because power is available. And even to communicate is easy," says Kyeswa, highlighting the convenience brought by the power plant.

The increase in agricultural activity has had ripple effects on Uganda's coffee export volume, which rose by 25 per cent, reaching 5.83 million bags worth \$867 million in the year ending July 2023. Compared to oil palm which generates at least \$280,000 annually on Ssesse islands alone, there are now over 1,000 coffee farmers in the district. According to the Alliance to Save Energy, producing a cup of coffee consumes about a kilowatt-hour of power.

With 1000 kilowatt of thermal and 600 of solar, the Bukuzindu station supplies 3,000 households

However, the solar power generation comes with its challenges, as Emmanuel Ongom, the Power Plant Operations and Maintenance Engineer at Bukuzindu, explains, "The downside to solar generation is storage. The energy is available when people don't need it... And this creates a problem in itself. So, there is a mismatch."

For those living on islands without access to power, the struggle continues. Nammanda Nsubuga, who left volleyball to farm on the dark Bunyama Island eight years ago, faces significant challenges. She must transport her produce to Bugala Island for processing and storage, resulting in losses, especially with perishable items like milk. "If government could subsidize bringing in solar panels and those inverters, everything else would be so easy for us... We have to give the milk away," laments Nsubuga, underscoring the economic losses due to lack of electricity. Farmers are encouraged to tap into solar energy, but the high costs remain prohibitive for many individuals. On Bugala Island, the Ssesse Farm Institute showcases the benefits of solar power with its solar-powered irrigation system.

"When I started comparing the expenses, I discovered that the amount of money I use for a year I can now use it on solar more than five years," explains Stephen Nabasa, the Principal of Ssesse Farm Institute, emphasizing the cost-effectiveness of solar energy.

The government is advocating for mechanization in agriculture, recognizing it as the largest em-



Kalangala 1.6 MW Solar-Thermal hybrid power station

ployer in Uganda. It has set up centers to help thousands of farmers across the country but still, energy is needed to operationalize and access the facilities. So, with only a few able to afford mechanized solutions, local leaders are calling for an expansion of off-grid solar projects.

"The district will be easier to manage. The government will generate more taxes as there will be more small-scale industries, there will be more irrigation schemes to us small-scale farmers and the rest," says Rajab Ssemakula, the Chairperson of Kalangala District, highlighting the potential benefits of increased access to electricity.

Under the Electricity Access Scale-up Project, at least 94 MW of PV capacity has been installed in the country of 46 million people, offering a glimpse of hope for off-grid solar solutions.

But access to electricity is increasing, now reaching over 42 percent of the total population. 82 percent is from renewable energy.

While expensive for individual farmers, the transformative impact of solar energy on agriculture cannot be overstated.

This report was produced with support from the African Centre for Media Excellence and Mott Foundation.

# Chinese-built electric buses winning over Rwandan market

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

CHINESE manufacturers of electric buses have set BasiGo, a Kenya-based company, on course toward its business sustainability but also the start of a significant role in advancing Rwanda's transition to greener transportation.

It is roughly three months since BasiGo launched pilot electric buses in public transport in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, in collaboration with city authorities, following their successful introduction in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

The company imports fully-built electric buses from China and works with three public transport company operators in Rwanda.

The pilot phase has been successful, winning over customers who had no prior knowledge of the com-

pany brand, according to Doreen Orishaba, the company's managing director.

"The pilot has really been successful. We had targeted to run it for three months and within these few months, the bus operators have already seen the advantages of going green. We already have reservations for 132 units," Orishaba said in a recent interview. "Different bus operators have reached out to us and would like to place orders of up to 132 units. I'm sure the number is going to keep growing. We are really grateful for the enthusiasm with which the market has received these electric buses." This success has been made possible through factors such as collaboration with innovative Chinese companies.

It is easier to scale when the buses fully built are imported, and the sus-

tainability agenda is clear, according to Orishaba.

"We choose China because they are the leading manufacturers in battery technology, which is the heart of our business. We look at the performance of the battery, which is the heart of our buses," she said. "What China has been able to get right is the pricing, which makes business sense. That is one of the areas where we could credit the Chinese manufacturers."

A fully charged bus can travel 300 km without the need to be recharged while charging points are installed at specific spots in the capital.

The company's goal is to deliver 100 buses in the next 12 months on the streets of Kigali, and 200 buses in the next two years each with the capacity to carry 70 passengers.

"Our mission is to create the future of electric public transport. We started in Nairobi, and now we are here in Kigali. We are very excited about Rwanda," Orishaba said.

The Rwandan government has been promoting the use of electric locomotives. Electric and hybrid vehicles are exempted from taxes, one big incentive that makes them a lot more attractive. The government has also given a better tariff for charging electric vehicles.

The government assigned electric charging stations a larger industrial tariff which is the best tariff in the entire electricity tariff regime in the country.

Even with an enabling environment for electric vehicles, however, there had not been an electric bus in Rwanda until BasiGo came into the space. BasiGo electric buses are

much cheaper to operate, according to Orishaba.

The company's mission is to make the electric bus as affordable to the operator as possible.

At the heart of the company's sales strategy is the lease model, where it asks for a small security deposit per bus and the rest is paid under the pay-as-you-drive financing model. It is a mileage-based fee, charged based on every kilometre driven.

The cost of electricity is embedded into the bus's cost, as well as regular service and maintenance, which make the bus even cheaper. The operator can also track the bus; all the information on the bus is brought to the operator.

Innocent Umuhzo, one of the company's drivers, said besides being good for the environment, the

electric buses are also great for the wallet because the operator spends less on charging compared to what would be spent at a petrol or gasoline station.

Umuhzo said the fuel he would need to fill a diesel-powered bus costing above \$100, yet electricity worth about 30 dollars is enough to drive from Kigali town center to Remera Taxi Park, about 10 km from the city center. "We used to face challenges of lack of diesel. The diesel-powered engines easily break down. The consumption of electric buses is low," he said.

The buses are equipped with cameras, so passengers feel a bit safe because the footage can always be traced should anything happen on the bus. The drivers are also able to know what is behind them and what is ahead.

Passengers testify that the bus is quiet, and at the end of the day, they look forward to sitting in that quiet environment, seeking to unwind.

Frank Nkotanyi, a passenger, said unlike old gasoline-powered buses which produce dangerous fumes, electric buses conserve the environment 100 percent. He added that the buses are well-built in the interior, and installed with mobile phone charging pots as well as internet, which make passengers happy.

"We are replacing the reliance on imported diesel with the use of locally generated electricity; in that case, the government is making savings. But the main reason why we started as BasiGO is the environmental concerns. For every bus BasiGO puts on a Rwandan road, we are helping mitigate up to 30 tonnes of CO2 emissions," said Orishaba. "So, at the end of the day, we are ending up with a quieter bus, cleaner environment, cheaper operations, and more savings for the operator and government."

Orishaba cited setting up charging infrastructure for the buses among the major challenges, which requires proximity to the high-voltage power line, but should not be an overloaded line.

"Charging infrastructure is complex and capital intensive. The power to feed the chargers is what makes it a bit complex and expensive," she said.



# In conflict-hit Mozambique, tropical storm warns of hunger and the next cyclone

By Peyvand Khorsandi

**E**XTRME weather has a fondness for Mozambique, one of the world's most climate-disaster-prone countries. Five years ago, the deadly and devastating cyclone Idai struck, and then last year came cyclone Freddy, which caused destruction across southern Africa.

"We don't have enough time to conclude one assessment and get our heads around a response, and start mobilizing, before another shock arrives," says World Food Programme Country Director Antonella D'Aprile on a video call from Maputo.

Last week, tropical storm Filipo landed, wreaking havoc across the central and southern regions of Inhambane, Gaza, Maputo, and Sofala. Around 48,000 people have been affected, with 10,000 homes completely or partially destroyed, along with schools, health centres, and power lines - 100,000 people were left with no electricity.

"It comes on top of a very dire situation because the last IPC (the global standard for measuring food insecurity) indicated 3.3 million people food-insecure between last November and March," says D'Aprile.

"WFP is ready to respond in case the Government requests our support with a 30-days ration for a family of five for up to 50,000 people," she adds. "We are doing assessments with them in Sofala, where we also have an all-terrain vehicle on standby to reach remote areas with food and get the first communications with the isolated communities hit by the storm."

"We have a team deployed with the Government - with the National Institute for Disaster Management - to support in preliminary assessments in some of the districts that have been cut off from communication."

In an odd bit of good news, at least in Gaza province the effects of Filipo were to an extent mitigated by its drought-struck plains - handiwork of the El Niño climate phenomenon, which, bizarrely, ended up "a sort of protection from the heavy rains," says D'Aprile. "The river and the basins didn't rise because the soil absorbed the waters."

Displaced by conflict While Filipo luckily didn't make the grade as a cyclone, it's cast a spotlight on the huge problems WFP faces in Mozambique, especially in the north - following attacks between December and 3 March, 113,000 people have been forced to leave their homes by the violence in Cabo Delgado, the biggest wave of displacement since the outset of conflict there in 2017.



A woman assesses damage to her home caused by tropical storm Filipo in Morrumbene District, Inhambane Province, Mozambique.

"This is not a good sign," says D'Aprile. "It means that the non-state armed groups have a strategy and the intent is really to destabilize again the province."

People await the distribution of seven-day rations from WFP in Erati, Nampula province - since December, 113,000 people have been displaced because of attacks in Cabo Delgado.

Children and women account for 62 percent and 23 percent of the newly displaced - many have crossed into neighbouring Nampula province where WFP is working closely with UN partners UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration, equipping people with tents, hygiene kits, and enough food for a week.

So while "it's fortunate that the degree of the tropical storm went down to moderate," says D'Aprile, "we are overstretched."

To put that in perspective, in January 2023, WFP assisted 1 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and host community members in northern Mozambique. "Through January this year, we only managed to assist half that figure".

"It's very complex," says D'Aprile. "By May 2024, because of a lack of resources, we'll have to go down to 215,000 people - that's a drastic reduction at a time of need."

Currently, WFP supports 30,000 people in the district of Erati in Nampula, complementing Government efforts, with IOM and UNICEF. In the area south of Cabo Delgado, we've managed to assist 17,000 people.

"We've managed to do so by adopting two mechanisms," says D'Aprile. "One: half-rations so we can reach more people. Two: prioritizing by using vulnerability-based targeting."

WFP would not be able to respond to another shock without even more drastic vulnerability targeting. That means: "It's no longer a case of 'You are affected by conflict, we are there to support all of you' - we can't because resources are more and more scarce."

She explains: "We looked at people, not based on their displacement status but on their vulnerability status to understand who to target with the limited resources we have, who to prioritize based on a vulnerability profile achieved after two years of calling in data - WFP Mozambique is on the cutting edge in mapping vulnerability."

While this mode of checks is

being picked up by a number of countries in which WFP operates, D'Aprile says it is "something that is making me as a Country Director seriously preoccupied because it's a very tough decision to make."

The hard fact is, with an unprecedented and severe reduction in funding, "if WFP Mozambique had to face another major shock, whether climate, conflict, food prices, or inflation - we would not be able to respond or we'll have to apply an even more drastic vulnerability targeting to understand how to prioritize - so a very, very tough call indeed."

"I would entirely fund the home-grown school feeding programme," she says. "Education is one of the poverty drivers in the country - that leads to food insecurity."

"I would increase the programmes we run with the Government adapting to climate change."

"I would give enough food to all the displaced people in the north of the country - while increasing also the livelihood programmes for them that we have in Cabo Delgado, especially for displaced young people."

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 87 -

Crossword grid with clues: 12. Gear in Kiswahili, 13. groundless, 16. a plant in Kiswahili, 17. an animal with a braying call, 19. Swahili word meaning command, 20. put, lay, 21. a phrase that is overused and shows a lack of original thought.

Word search grid with words: OERSTED, MOOD, NOSE LEAF, DRIER, ADDA, APRIL, BORAGE, HOES, OPERATOR, ALLAH, SEE: FEES, MOAN, ENOK, STRANGE, OPPOSED.

ACROSS: 1. a long, involved account or series of incidents, 5. a particular level of rank, 8. Kampala is her mother city, 10. a state of unconsciousness produced by drugs.

Yesterday's solution: SANGOMA, DILIVONTIAN, LIVING SUPER, OMITTED, NEARMISS, OPPONENT, CASSIASSITY, ANNOY, ORISA, R SAG MOOIE, ELEGANTLY, FOWN, YEOMAN, OSSETIA.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME: 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I, 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC, 06.30 AM NIPASHE, 06.50 AM MATANGAZO, 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN, 07.10 AM MATANGAZO, 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI, 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI, 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II, 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI, 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III, 08.20 AM BIASHARA, 08.30 AM MATANGAZO, 08.40 AM BRAND TALK, 08.50 AM NEWS BRIEF, 09.00 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS, 09.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO, 09.20 AM BRAND TALK, 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA, 09.40 AM NEWS BRIEF, 09.50 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS, 10.00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO, 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO, 10.20 AM NEWS BULLETIN, 10.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS, 10.40 HRS DJ SHOW, 10.50 HRS NEWS BRIEF, 11.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS, 11.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR, 11.20 HRS NEWS BRIEF, 11.30 HRS DAKKA 45, 11.40 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS), 11.50 HRS NEWS BRIEF, 12.00 HRS AFRO TIZI, 12.10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS), 12.20 HRS NEWS BRIEF, 12.30 HRS AFRO TIZI, 12.40 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS), 12.50 HRS AFRO TIZI, 01.00-05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO).

# BUSINESS

## I&M Group subsidiaries attain strong growth in profitability

By Guardian Reporter

I&M Group has reported a pre-tax profit of KES13.3 billion (nearly 260bn/-) for the year ended 31st December 2023, driven by double digit growths of profitability in its subsidiaries across the Eastern African region.

A statement issued by the group on Monday said the regional operations in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Mauritius, attributed the 15 percent growth in its profits to an increase in its operating income and 24 percent to the overall profitability.

"For the period ending 31st December 2023, 78 percent of I&M Group customers across the region were digitally active. Non-branch transactions also increased to 81 percent," the statement.

In Tanzania, the Bank recorded a pre-tax profit of KES309 million up from a loss of KES689 million in 2022 on the back of strong growth in total assets of 47 percent, with loans and deposits growing by 45 percent and 55 percent respectively.

I&M Bank in Rwanda also reported a 24 percent increase in pre-tax profit for the period under review.

The Bank's strong performance was driven by increased economic activity in the region, with loans and deposits growing by 48 percent and 39 percent respectively, which led to growth in Net Interest Income and Non-Funded Income.

I&M Bank Uganda posted strong growth in operating income of 41 percent. Total assets reported a 44 percent year on year growth to close at KES 38 billion, with growth in the loans and deposits book at 53 percent and 38 percent respectively.

However, I&M Bank Kenya posted an operating income growth of 14 percent

year on year, 7 percent increase in operating profit and a 1 percent drop in pre-tax profit, due to higher loan loss provisions.

The statement further said, the group's joint venture investment in Mauritius, Bank One, recorded a growth of 80 percent in pre-tax profit year on year, driven by the growth of the loan portfolio as well as higher non-interest income.

"In the context of the Group's strategic focus, the 2023 performance is a clear affirmation that the iMara2.0 strategy which came to an end in 2023 after a three-year period, has delivered remarkable year-on-year results," the statement said.

"The focus on delivering the iMara2.0 strategy over the past three years has seen Return on Equity grow from 10 percent in 2020 to 15 percent in 2023. Operating income grew by 20 percent from KES 36 billion in the previous year to KES 43 billion with 20 percent of this revenue coming from new strategic initiatives during this phase."

Commenting on the results, Kihara Maina, I&M Group PLC, Regional CEO noted: "Building upon the success of our recently concluded iMara 2.0 strategy, we have witnessed remarkable achievements in both profitability and growth in our various business units. As we venture into the next chapter with our iMara 3.0 strategy, our primary aim is to sustain the growth through continued focus on enhancing our digital solutions platforms and building an ecosystem to support our customers' businesses, as we seek to become Eastern Africa's Leading Financial Partner for Growth."

The Group's balance sheet grew steadily with total assets increasing by KES142 billion to KES580 billion.



About 30 per cent of all households consider grid as their main source of electricity. File Photo

## Only half of households connected to electricity in mainland Tanzania: NBS

By Guardian Reporter

With increased access to energy among Tanzanians, only five out of ten households are connected to electricity in Tanzania mainland, with Dar es Salaam Region being on top with nine out of ten households.

According to the Impact of Access to Sustainable Energy Survey (IASES) 2021/2022 released recently by the national Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the percentage of households connected to electricity in Tanzania mainland has increased to 45.8 percent in 2021/22 from 32.8 percent in 2016/17.

The percentage of households connected to electricity is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Almost nine out of ten households in Dar es Salaam (87 percent) and seven out of ten in other urban areas (70 percent) are connected to electricity.

In contrast, the report shows about four in ten households (36 percent) are connected to electricity in rural areas.

At regional level, electricity connection is not evenly distributed in the Mainland Tanzania, the report notes as it reveals substantial differences in the share of households connected to electricity across the regions in Mainland Tanzania.

The rate of connection is 50 percent or above in the eight regions of Katavi, Lindi, Tanga, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Njombe, Rukwa and Dar es Salaam.

However, according to the report, the rate in the three regions of Mara, Shinyanga and Simiyu is less than 20 percent and the remaining 15 regions the connection is between 20 and 50 percent.

The report's results show that 72 percent of households in Mainland Tanzania reside in communities with access to electricity.

In Dar es Salaam, all households live in communities (streets) that have grid connection, followed by 70.9 percent of households in other urban areas.

For those residing in rural areas, the report shows approximately two thirds of households (66.7 percent) live in communities with electricity.

Focusing on regional variations, the report shows that more than half of the households in most regions live in communities (villages, hamlets, and streets) that are connected to electricity.

It is only in five regions of Ruvuma, Singida, Tabora, Kigoma and Shinyanga where less than half of the households live in communities with access to electricity.

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) aims to increase access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services as it addresses the three dimensions of energy services including affordability, reliability, and modern energy services.

The SDG 7.1.1 indicator shows that, more than half of households in Mainland Tanzania (51.3 percent) access electricity in various forms.

The share is relatively higher in Dar es Salaam (82.2 percent) and other urban areas (68.5 percent). In rural areas, however, only 41.1 percent of households have access to electricity.

According to the report, in Mainland Tanzania, there is a significant variation in accessing electricity at regional level.

More than 80 percent of households in Dar es Salaam have access to electricity as per SDG7 definition, the percentage is between 40 and 60 for most of the other regions.

Simiyu and Manyara regions have the lowest access rates with less than a quarter of households accessing electricity.

The report shows that about 30 percent of all households in Mainland Tanzania consider grid as their main source of electricity.

In Dar es Salaam it is the main source for about 85 percent of the households while in rural areas, about 10 percent of households reported grid as the main source while solar based sources (home systems, multi light and solar lantern) are the main sources for about 55 percent of the households.

Around one third (33 percent) of rural households do not have electricity.

## African leadership under scrutiny amid Middle East crisis

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE ongoing crisis in the Middle East has opened doors for African leadership on a global stage, a newly launched book has said.

The book released this month, titled 'Middle East in Crisis & Conflict: A Primer', by African geopolitical strategist Taufiq Rahim, covers wide-ranging geopolitical, economic, and social ramifications of the enduring conflict.

The book emphasizes on the need for African leaders with global aspirations to understand the dynamics of the M. East conflict.

"Africa, in particular, stands at a crossroads, as the continent's leaders must navigate the shifting landscape of international relations," the book reads in part.

It adds "with Africa's economic future, especially as the Global South consolidates into a formidable bloc. While the immediate focus is on the localized violence in Gaza, there are broader consequences already unfolding."

According to the book, the shifting alliances due to the conflict that is already emerging, will re-orient around how African countries will engage the Gulf, the Middle East and even the broader Global South.

In comparing the ripple effects of the Middle East conflict to the Russia-Ukraine war unveils subtle yet impactful consequences. While the latter disrupted grain imports and energy markets, the former exerts its influence in even sharper ways. Particular attention is paid to the rise of extremist activities across Africa.

Yet it is the clear gap of leadership in the West amidst this crisis that is strengthening the growing consolidation of BRICS nations, as well as the need for investment and trade routes that connect the

Middle East and Africa directly. Political solidarity is giving way to economic solidarity.

In response to these challenges, African leaders must seize the opportunities presented by the vacuum left by Western powers. By providing leadership and resources in humanitarian efforts, Africa can assert its continental power projection.

"Moreover, this moment offers a unique chance for African businesses to expand into regions traditionally dominated by Western brands. Taufiq Rahim has a personal background from the East Africa, which has enriched his perspective on these issues," the book shows.



I&M Group Regional CEO Maina Kihara

By Guardian Reporter

## DSE stocks indices start the week in flat

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices started the week in flat, after share prices of all listed companies ended the session unchanged.

Despite of the flatness, the market recorded a turnover of 1.25bn/- following the transactions of 529,433 shares traded in 204 deals.

CRDB Bank's counter was top mover, after recording the transactions of 223,006 shares valued 122.2m/- traded at a price ranging

from 540/- to 560/- per share in 141 deals.

The DSE daily market report shows the largest bank counter closed the day with 356,556 outstanding bids and 324,980 outstanding offers while the share price ended the day unchanged at 550/-.

Tanzania Portland Cement's (TPCC) counter was second top mover, after recording the trans-

actions of 100,764 shares valued 435.2m/- in seven deals, of which 100,000 shares were transited through block pre-arranged market board.

All TPCC transacted shares were traded at a price ranging from 4,300/- to 4,320/-. Its market share price also remained flat at 4,320/-.

The report further shows that the counter of the largest listed

company, Tanzania Breweries Limited's (TBL) recorded the transaction of 100,000 shares valued 600m/- traded through pre-arranged block trade, at a discounted price of 6,000/- per share in one deal.

NICO's counter followed after recording the transactions of 85,925 shares valued 51.6m/- traded at a weighted price of 630/- per share in 20 deals, while

Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL) transacted 14,760 shares valued 30.9m/- traded at a price of 2,100/- per share in four deals.

Other active counters during the day were NMB Bank, the second largest listed company and second largest bank in terms of assets, after transacting 2,446 shares valued 11.6m/- traded at a price ranging from 4,740/- to 4,800/- per share in 12 deals and

TCCIA Investment Company, which transacted 1,352 shares in eight deals.

The market report shows foreign investors sold shares valued 432m/- which was equivalent to 34.49 percent of total value of shares sold against buying value of 21m/- which was 1.68 percent of total value of shares bought.

The report shows, since the start of this quarter, foreign investors have so far sold shares valued 26.2bn/- which is equivalent to nearly four times of the value of shares they sold during the first quarter of last year.

## Bank inaugurates digital app for VICOBA

By Guardian Correspondent

In a bid to support the efforts of the sixth-phase government in ensuring that financial services reach many people conveniently and affordably, DCB Commercial Bank has launched the VICOBA APP targeting VICOBA customers and other social groups.

The launch of the DCB VicobaApp took place in Kitunda, Ilala, just outside Dar es Salaam yesterday, coinciding with the launch event of owning five Coasters project, organized by the Unity of Entrepreneurship Groups in Kivule (UVUKI), under the Tanzania Entrepreneurship Groups Federation (SHIVUTA), with the guest of

honor being the Secretary-General of UWT Taifa, Jokate Mwegelo.

Speaking at the event, DCB Bank CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi, said the APP would enable VICOBA members to conduct their transactions more easily and securely, thus stimulating economic development in society.

"We recognize the importance of technology in improving people's lives, which is why we have decided to introduce the DCB VicobaApp to help VICOBA members and other social groups' access financial services more easily through their mobile phones.

"Established about 22 years ago through the initiative of

the former Late President Benjamin William Mkapa, our main priority has been to uplift the lives of Tanzanians with average economic income, especially small and medium entrepreneurs, but focusing more on Tanzanians who have often lacked the criteria for obtaining loans and ease of investing in commercial banks," said Mr. Moshingi.

In this context, Moshingi said DCB has been a pioneer in initiating loan services for small-scale entrepreneurs, individual customers, and VICOBA groups, so through this partnership, our bank's customers will be able to access their accounts easily wherever they are and at any time and

receive services.

Through the DCB VicobaApp, VICOBA customers will be able to access various services including depositing money without any deductions, borrowing loans and making repayments, selecting leaders for their groups, receiving text messages for each member when one deposits money into the group, all done through mobile phones.

DCB's Commercial Director, Lilian Mtali, said their bank is proud to provide loans amounting to one trillion Tanzanian shillings to entrepreneurs and employees, and now the bank is capable of providing loans of up to five billion shillings to an individual.



DCB Commercial Bank Plc managing director Sabasaba Moshingi (C) and commercial director Lilian Mtali (R), with Tanzania Entrepreneurship Groups Federation Director, Andrew Paul, during a function organised by Unity of Entrepreneurship Groups of Kivule held at Kitunda in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

"In ensuring that our goal of improving the lives of Tanzanians and reducing poverty is achieved, DCB has always been initiating innovative accounts and services, such as the DCB Skonga education account, the Wahi Ac-

count for those with goals achieved through gradual investment, Salary & Half-Salary Loan accounts, Retiree Accounts, Home Loans, Special Accounts (FDR), and many others," added Mtali.

## Unlocking Opportunities: The case for southern Africa's cross-border energy projects pursuit II

By Nj Ayuk

THE previous article concluded with the writer emphasizing the critical importance of cross-border cooperation in order for Africa's energy projects to come to fruition.

...Where extraction was the concern, neighboring nations have amicably negotiated operational territories, and it's no different in Africa. But when it comes to the feasibility of transportation, domestic distribution, and export, intra-African cooperation is more nuanced than merely the location of gas fields relative to borders.

Developing an effective and prosperous natural gas infrastructure and distribution network will require an earnest commitment to collaboration among nations. Conveniently, as illustrated in "South African Gas Optionality," potential cross-border partnerships literally criss-cross Africa's southernmost region.

Pipelines running from Lusaka, Zambia to floating storage regasification units (FSRUs) in either Lobito, Angola, or Walvis Bay, Namibia, could centrally connect with another running along the new TAZAMA refined product pipeline, which links Ndola, Zambia, to the active natural gas operations and the Coral floating LNG (FLNG) operation under development south of the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Further south in Mozambique, the rail network connecting Nacala to Lusaka, with stops in Malawi at Blantyre and Lilongwe, along with Chipata, Zambia, offers an inland transportation route. With SSLNG trucking support, the connected railway from Beira to Lusaka with stops at Harare and Zave brings Zimbabwe into the fold, accommodating Invictus Energy's recent promising finds in the Cabora Bassa Basin and completing Mozambique's rail and SSLNG value chain.

Along the very active coast-



line of South Africa, a potential pipeline could run from East London, near the proposed site for Coega's gas-to-power infrastructure, to the existing refineries at Mossel Bay and Cape Town. From there, the pipeline could connect with a potential FSRU at Saldanha before continuing through the offshore Orange Basin sites

and terminating at a future LNG facility at Elizabeth Bay in Namibia.

A complex but rewarding cooperative To see improvement in the quality of life for Africans across the continent, Africa must stay the course toward industrialization, and natural gas should be a significant driver in that regard.

Despite how environmental activists and Western powers shudder at the idea of an industrialized Africa, when faced with their own energy crisis brought on by the Russia-Ukraine war and the sabotage of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, the European Union was quick to designate natural gas as a climate-friendly fuel source. And they're right to do so. As mentioned in "South African Gas Optionality," the carbon emissions of a fully industrialized and electrified Africa would likely never exceed 4 percent of global emissions. Not only is natural gas the cleanest burning fossil fuel, but it is also Africa's ticket out of energy poverty.

Through the production, domestic distribution, and export of natural gas, as well as gas-to-power initiatives, Africa will become healthier and wealthier and capable of building the alternative energy infrastructure that will eventually render our reliance on fossil fuels obsolete. On a reasonable timeline, Africa will follow the developed world in powering itself via a combination of wind, solar, and green hydrogen, but none of this will come to pass unless we work together.

As evidenced by the intricacies of just some of the proposed projects among the southern African nations and considering the numerous other projects under way or in development throughout the rest of the continent, cross-border cooper-

ation will be imperative if we are to tack a happy ending onto the great African energy success story.

With initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), individual nations will trade in goods, resources, and services more easily, and workers will cross borders freely, adding manpower to projects outside their home country. Once the AfCFTA is fully implemented, I'm confident it will facilitate intra-African trade, bring any disputes to a resolution, and speed up commerce where it was once slowed by tariffs and other bureaucratic barriers, but we can always do more.

The nations of Africa need to unify in mindset and mission if we are to become a global energy powerhouse. This is, of course, in no way a call for a redrawing of boundaries, an erasure of national identities, or the capitulation of smaller nations to wealthier ones, but we must increase the frequency and volume at which we work with one another.

Every African government, indigenous company, and individual citizen should cultivate the idea that we are also one people working together to profitably supply the world around us while improving conditions at home.

**Nj Ayuk (pictured) is Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber.**

## Insurance firm awards best performing agents

By Steven William

IN a bid to motivate its agents across the country, Sanlam General Insurance has awarded them with different prizes including Motorcycles, Bajaj and laptops for their best performances in 2023.

Speaking during the award ceremony, the insurer's head of marketing Charles Magori said the company is usually giving out prizes each year as the top winners during last year was awarded a brand new IST vehicle.

Sanlam General Insurance, which has an experience of 40 years in Tanzania's insurance industry has a branch network across the country in Mwanza, Mbeya, Arusha, Dodoma, Mbagala, Zanzibar, and will soon open a branch in Morogoro region.

"For the whole year, different

agents have won different prizes including cash through our "Vuna Point" programme targeting to award best performing agents," he said.

Sanlam General Insurance provides various tailor-made, specialised products to ensure business and commercial appliances are protected against the risks faced to enable owners to take care of managing and growing your venture.

They include motor, fire, engineering, marine, package, homes, miscellaneous or accident, banasurance business and agri-businesses.

"We combine products, services and expertise through a series of partnerships to provide a comprehensive service to our customers. We provide both personal and commercial general insurance cover with the main purpose to



Sanlam General Insurance head of marketing Charles Magori (R), presents a three-wheeler ownership card to representative of Beatrice Ngowi who emerged as the best performing agent during the award ceremony held recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

help our customers in Tanzania protect themselves from the insurable risks they face in their commercial activities and daily lives," he added.

According to insurance Market Performance Report released by the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) the Tanzanian insurance industry gross written premiums (GWP) amounted to 1,138bn/- in 2022, representing a nominal increase of 25 percent from 911.5bn/- written in 2021.

The growth in gross premiums for general insurance policies increased from 746bn/- in 2021 to 895bn/- in 2022, representing a significant growth of 20 percent.

The sector also saw new players entering the market, a diversification in their investment portfolio, and enhanced financial inclusion, with new and innovative insurance products and services being introduced, expanding insurance coverage and outreach.

## Uganda now has middle income status, says UNDP

KAMPALA

THE just released UNDP Human Development Index report, indicating that Uganda had reached middle-income status, prompted fewer reactions compared to the government's announcement in 2022 that the country had fulfilled the necessary indicators.

Experts are of the view that it could be that the announcement has generated little excitement because Uganda stated that they had actually achieved this two year ago, or perhaps, the country faces the unexciting answer to the question, "So what?"

Nevertheless, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) congratulated Uganda on "attaining the indicators", adding that the task was now to sustain the progress.

Of interest, the HDI showed that Uganda had made progress, much better than her regional peers, in improved services, especially health and education, but also, even though many Ugandans state otherwise, on personal incomes. It also said Uganda that Uganda had made progress regarding reducing social inequalities.

Uganda climbed from position 166 in 2021/2022 to 159 in 2023/2024, on the global index that ranked 193 countries and territories. The government has defended the two indicators: education and health access with evidence of physical infrastructure like health centers and educational institutions built over the years, though the quality of health and education standards continue to be questioned.

It means, however, that more Ugandans now access medical services and schools within a certain distance than was the case before. The Human Development Index (HDI), from which the country reports are drawn, is a statistical composite index of life expectancy, education (years spent in school and levels completed) and per capita income indicators.

A country scores a higher level of HDI when the lifespan is higher, the education level is higher, and the GNI (purchasing power parity) per capita is higher. HDI is divided into four tiers: very high human development (0.8-1.0), high human development (0.7-



During a meeting last year, Finance PS Ramathan Ggoobi briefed President Yoweri Museveni that Uganda had achieved middle-income status two years earlier. File Photo

0.79), medium human development (0.55-0.70), and low human development (below 0.55).

In the latest HDI, therefore, the UNDP ranked Uganda with 0.550, just at the cut-off line, up from the 0.525 score of 2021 which had kept it in the lower category. "According to the Human Development Report 2023-2024, Uganda has for the first time moved to the category of 'medium human development'," UNDP posted on X, repeating what officials had said during the launch of the report.

Susan Ngongi Namondo, the UNDP Resident Coordinator also said that the UN Committee on Development Policy (CPD) had announced that Uganda had attracted the requisite indicators for the lower middle-income status. It is not mentioned which population and GNI figures the CPD had assessed to determine Uganda's status, what the per Capita income was, and whether it is in agreement with the World Bank assessments.

Middle Income Status is different from the middle Human Development ranking, as it is dependent on economic indicators based on the value of goods and services, while the Human Development Index is the value of human life or standard of living. On the income side, it means that all Ugandans combined now earn (GNI) more than what they were earning when the previous report was compiled.

**Who got it wrong?**

GNI, which refers to the total incomes of nationals within and out of the country minus the incomes of foreigners resident in the country, is now the World Bank's preferred method of classification of economies as opposed to GDP (a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific period by a country).

The two measures usually offer almost the same values, but in 2022, when Uganda National Bureau of Statistics (UBoS) an-

nounced a GDP Per Capita of more than 1,046 dollars enough to put the country in the lower middle-income bracket), the World Bank said that its calculations, based on GNI showed a far different picture of 840 dollars per person. UBOS based its calculations on the financial year 2021-2022, while the World Bank used the calendar year 2021.

There were also differences in the population figures at the time, though both used the 2002 and 2014 national census results to make their 2021 estimates. However, based on the UN estimation factors, the World Bank adjusted this data upwards based on post-census surveys, by about 2.3 million people.

**Who cares?**

In 2021, the government reporter in the National Household Survey, that 15.5 million Ugandans (a third of the population) were in the middle-income status, which indicator, even if it could be disputed, made more sense of incomes as a show of national transformation.

According to the World Bank in 2022, Africa's richest countries by GNI per capita were Seychelles (the only high-income economy on the continent), Mauritius, Gabon, Botswana, Libya South Africa, and Equatorial Guinea, all with GNI above 5,000 dollars per person.

This also came as countries were suffering the effects of COVID-19 which had seen more people fall below the poverty line. Nevertheless, it gives a glimpse of what to pick from a country's Per Capita Income and the economic status or classification.

Based on the 2022 figures, for example, Equatorial Guinea, one

of the richest countries on the continent by GDP, GNP, and Per Capita Income due to its vast petroleum revenues, is also one of the poorest on the continent. The World Bank shows that 76 percent of the Equatorial Guineans live below the poverty line, much like 55.4 percent of South Africans.

At the same period, the Bank said the poverty levels in Uganda, which had declined to 30 percent before the pandemic was estimated between 30 and 35 percent of the population. So, the class of a country by income does not necessarily mean a better or worse standard of living, as the wealth of the nation may as well be held by a very small minority.

**Whether or not to celebrate**

Under its low-income country status, Uganda benefits from special development programs with development partners, such as trade and economic agreements with some countries and blocs, which are recognised by the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Among them is the All But Arms trade deal under which the European Union allows ports from Uganda quota-free and tariff-free. Such preferential treatments do not apply to middle-income countries and Uganda will have to forfeit them.

Jan Sadek, the Head of EU Delegation in Uganda said as Uganda moves towards achieving the status, it should focus on signing the EU-East African Community Economic Partnership Agreement to avoid trade disruptions. This was also hinted on by UNDP's Ms Namondo. "It will cause short-term disruptions in the budget. Some things will disappear," she said urging for proper planning for this shift.

# Rwanda clarifies decision to impound rice from Tanzania

KIGALI

THE Minister of Trade and Industry, Ngabitsinze Jean Chrysostome, has shed light on the recent decision by the government to impound tonnes of mislabelled rice from Tanzania, an issue that has caused public outcry especially among importers.

Last week, authorities, including Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) and Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) seized the sale of more than 720 tonnes of imported rice from Tanzania, saying the rice was unfit for human consumption due to an excessive number of broken grains. The rice that was seized belonged to several importers and was not as good as what was stated on the packaging. This suggests that some importers might have been charging more for rice that was of lower quality.

The Minister stated in an interview on the national broadcaster that the FDA and RRA collaborated to discover that the contents of the packaging did not match what was advertised.

"The people who would have purchased the goods would have suffered and be surprised, particularly those Rwandans who enjoy purchasing rice, but ultimately, it comes down to the fact that we are not abiding by the norms and regulations in East Africa," Ngabitsinze said.

He said that the decision was made to protect consumers from inferior products.

In total, out of the 26 trucks totaling more than 14,000 tonnes that have been seized, only 163 tonnes met the permissible standards and were taken to the market.

The remaining trucks are divided into three categories: the first is classified as first grade; however, upon inspection in the laboratory, it was discovered that this category was actually classified as the second. The other, classified as first category, is also classified as third category.

This indicates that the traders misrepresented the nature of the product they were importing, which could have resulted in customers paying more for a product that could have been purchased for less.

100 tonnes of rice were imported in another batch, but the FDI lab technicians discovered that the rice contained so much broken grain that it could not even be categorized. As



Trucks carrying rice confiscated by the Rwanda Revenue Authority parked at Dubai Ports World Rwanda in Kigali. Photo: RRA

a result, the rice needed to be sent back to its original source or fed to animals. The minister of trade and industry clarified that following discussions with traders, they

chose to allow rice that fit within their category and met acceptable standards to be sold at regular price. However, it must be altered and packaged properly.

Ngabitsinze also emphasized that the crucial factor is safeguarding customers, ensuring that they pay the correct price for the appropriate product in the appropriate

category and with the appropriate packaging. "Many explanations for the situation have been offered; some have implied that it is po-

litical, but I would like to make it clear that this is not the case because this is solely an instance of a transaction between the buyer and the seller," he added.

## CBE recovers over \$10m lost due to technical bug

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

ETHIOPIA'S largest commercial bank has announced that it has recovered more than three-quarters of the money it lost due to a technical glitch that allowed clients to withdraw or transfer more funds than they had in their accounts.

In a press statement released on Tuesday, the head of Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Abe Sano, disclosed that over \$14 million (£11 million) was withdrawn from cash machines or transferred to other accounts during the incident that occurred on March 16th.

As of now, more than \$10 million has been successfully recovered. Initial reports from local media suggested that the total amount transacted during the glitch could be as high as \$40 million.

The bank's chief mentioned that thousands of clients have willingly returned the money they received erroneously. However, those who have not done so may face criminal charges.

Last Wednesday, CBE president Abe Sano issued a warning that individuals who do not return money not rightfully theirs will face prosecution.

In an interview with the BBC's Newsday, Abe stated that the bank would pursue legal action against those who fail to return the funds by the week's end.

He emphasized, "There is no way for them to evade accountability, as digital transactions can be traced and our customers are identifiable. Those involved are legally responsible for their actions."

A CBE staff member informed the BBC that it was more challenging to locate funds transferred to external banks compared to tracing sums moved within the CBE accounts. Abe mentioned that the bank was currently in the process of reporting non-compliant customers to the authorities.

Contrary to reports suggesting withdrawals of \$40 million (£31 million) by customers, Abe clarified that the actual amount improperly taken was considerably less. The precise figure will be confirmed following an audit set to conclude later this week.

Abe explained that an audit was necessary as some of the 10,000 customers who made withdrawals during the glitch had actually conducted legitimate transactions.

On the early morning of Saturday, March 16, 2024, customers of the bank discovered they were able to withdraw more money than was available in their accounts at CBE. Reports from local media indicated that over \$40 million (£31 million) was either withdrawn or transferred to other banks.

It took several hours for the institution to halt these unauthorized transactions.

During a press conference on Monday, Abe revealed that a total of 490,000 transactions had been recorded before the issues were identified. He mentioned that a majority of those who withdrew excess funds were students.

Word of the glitch quickly spread across universities mainly through messaging apps and phone calls, resulting in long queues forming at campus ATMs on Saturday morning.

Abe had previously assured that individuals returning the money would not face criminal charges. Last Wednesday, he informed the BBC that some of the excess funds had already been returned.

A student from Addis Ababa Science and Technology University revealed that acquaintances of his were choosing to keep the extra money.

"There is a notice in our cafeteria advising students to return the funds to avoid legal repercussions, but I have not witnessed anyone doing so. Instead, I have seen posts on TikTok where students are pledging not to return the money," he shared with the BBC.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
<b>TUESDAY 19 March</b>			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:55	Habari za saa
6:00	HABARI	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	14:40	Kipindi maalum: NHIF rpt
7:30	HABARI	14:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	15:00	Meza huru
8:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Waloto wetu
9:30	Kumekucha Kishindo	17:00	Music: The Base
9:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Hapa na Pale
9:55	Habari za saa	19:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
10:00	Waloto wetu	19:30	Jarda la wanawake
10:25	Jagna	19:30	Kipindi maalum: BOT
10:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Soap: Laws of love
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	20:00	Habari
11:55	Habari za saa	21:05	Abu Yako
12:00	Al Jazeera	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
12:30	Alya ya jamii	21:35	Ripoti maalum:
12:55	Habari za saa	22:30	Soap: Uzalo
13:00	Kipindi maalum: NHIF rpt	23:00	Jiji letu
13:20	Usafiri Wako rpt	23:30	Music: The Base
13:50	Shikabamba	00:30	Al Jazeera
13:55	Habari za saa	<b>THURSDAY 21 March</b>	
14:00	Shikabamba	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
14:25	Igizo rpt: Slay Queen	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
14:55	Habari za saa	6:00	HABARI
15:00	Meza Huru	6:40	Kumekucha
16:30	Waloto wetu	7:30	HABARI
17:00	Music: The Base	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
18:00	Hapa na Pale	8:55	Habari za saa
18:15	Mapishi	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama	9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love
19:30	Soap: Laws of love	9:55	Habari za saa
20:00	Habari	10:00	Waloto wetu
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	10:30	Shamba lulu
21:35	Kipindi Maalum: Nhasi na Macangra	10:55	Habari za saa
21:50	Chetu ni chetu	11:00	Ripoti maalum:
22:30	Soap: Uzalo	11:55	Habari za saa
23:00	Jiji letu	12:00	Al Jazeera
23:30	Music: The Base	12:30	Jarda la wanawake rpt
00:30	Al Jazeera	12:55	Habari za saa
<b>WEDNESDAY 20 March</b>		13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	13:30	Art and Lifestyle
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:55	Habari za saa
6:00	HABARI	14:00	Shambani za pwanji rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	14:55	Habari za saa
7:30	HABARI	15:00	Meza huru
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	16:30	Waloto wetu
8:55	Habari za saa	17:00	The Base
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	18:00	Hapa na Pale
9:30	Soap: Laws of love	18:15	Mapishi
9:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Igizo: Mizengwe
10:00	Waloto wetu	19:30	Jagna
10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt	19:30	Usafiri wako
10:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Soap: Laws of love
11:00	Habari za saa	20:00	Habari
11:55	Habari za saa	21:05	Kipima Joto
12:00	Al Jazeera	21:30	Jiji letu
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	23:00	The Base
12:55	Habari za saa	00:30	Al Jazeera
<b>FRIDAY 22 March</b>		<b>SATURDAY 23 March</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
7:30	HABARI	8:00	Al Jazeera
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	9:00	Waloto wetu
8:55	Habari za saa	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	10:35	Mjue Zaidi rpt
9:30	Soap: Laws of love	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
9:55	Habari za saa	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:00	Waloto wetu	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt	13:20	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa	13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:00	Habari za saa	14:40	Igizo: Mizengwe
11:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Igizo: Slay Queen
12:00	Al Jazeera	15:30	Monday Agenda Rpt
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	16:00	Hapa na Pale
12:55	Habari za saa	18:15	ITV Top 10 rpt
<b>SUNDAY 24 March</b>		19:00	Jungu kuu
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	19:30	Shika Bamba
6:00	HABARI	20:00	Habari
6:40	Kumekucha	21:05	Igizo: Slay Queen
7:00	Habari	21:40	Art and Lifestyle
8:00	Al Jazeera	22:10	ITV Top 10
9:00	Waloto wetu	22:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
9:55	Habari za saa	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
10:00	Waloto wetu	<b>WED 20 March</b>	
10:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	06:00	Al Jazeera
11:45	Mjue Zaidi	09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
12:45	Mjue Zaidi	10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
13:30	Usafiri wako	11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
15:30	Mwangaza	12:30	Our Earth
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt	13:00	Telenovela   Plead Guilty rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo	14:00	Capchat
18:10	Hapa na Pale	15:00	Mizengwe rpt
18:15	Mabatoko ya wizi	16:00	Tomorrow Today
19:30	Igizo: Slay Queen	16:30	In good shape
20:00	Habari	17:00	Meza huru
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko	17:30	Out & About Rpt
21:10	Igizo: Mizengwe	19:30	EcoAfrica
21:25	Kipindi maalum: Michezo Supa Jackpot	20:00	Our Earth Rpt
21:40	Mjue Zaidi	20:45	Telenovela   Plead Guilty 21:30
22:20	Soap: Uzalo rpt	22:00	Capital Prime News
00:30	Al Jazeera	23:00	Capchat rpt
<b>FRID 20 March</b>		23:00	Al Jazeera
06:00	Al Jazeera	<b>Frid 20 March</b>	
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	06:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt	09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt	10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
12:30	Our Earth	11:30	Capchat
13:00	Telenovela   Plead Guilty rpt	12:30	Decor
14:00	Capchat	13:00	Telenovela   Plead Guilty rpt
15:00	Out & About rpt	14:00	Culinary rpt
15:30	EcoAfrica	14:30	Ripoti Maalum
16:00	Business Edition Rpt	15:00	Dk 45 rpt
17:00	Culinary delight rpt	16:00	Dw News Africa rpt
18:00	Innovation rpt	16:30	The Monday Agenda rpt
19:00	Culinary delight rpt	17:30	Meza huru
20:00	Sports Gazette	19:00	Rev
20:30	Monday Agenda Rpt	19:00	Out & About Rpt
20:45	Telenovela   Plead Guilty 21:30	20:00	Abu Yako
Prime News	Capital	20:15	Local Pgm: Business Edition
22:00	Dakika 45	20:45	Telenovela   Plead Guilty 21:30
22:45	The Décor	22:00	Malumbano ya hoja rpt
23:15	Al Jazeera	00:00	Al Jazeera
<b>THURS 20 March</b>		<b>Sat 23 March</b>	
06:00	Al Jazeera	08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	09:00	Rev rpt
11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt	09:30	Jagna rpt
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt	10:00	Culinary delight rpt
12:30	Our Earth	10:30	Innovation rpt
13:00	Telenovela   Plead Guilty rpt	11:00	Out n' about rpt
14:00	Capchat	11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
15:00	Out & About rpt	12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt
15:30	EcoAfrica	12:30	Our Earth rpt
16:00	Business Edition Rpt	13:00	Business edition rpt
17:00	Culinary delight rpt	13:30	Al Jazeera
18:00	Innovation rpt	14:00	Telenovela   Plead Guilty rpt
19:00	Culinary delight rpt	14:30	EcoAfrica
20:00	Sports Gazette	15:00	Dw News Africa rpt
20:30	Monday Agenda Rpt	16:30	The Monday Agenda rpt
20:45	Telenovela   Plead Guilty 21:30	17:30	Meza huru
Prime News	Capital	19:00	Rev
22:00	Dakika 45	19:00	Out & About Rpt
22:45	The Décor	20:00	Abu Yako
23:15	Al Jazeera	20:15	Local Pgm: Business Edition
<b>FRI 20 March</b>		20:45	Telenovela   Plead Guilty 21:30
06:00	Al Jazeera	22:00	Malumbano ya hoja rpt
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	00:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt	<b>Sat 23 March</b>	
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt	08:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Our Earth	09:00	Rev rpt
13:00	Telenovela   Plead Guilty rpt	09:30	Jagna rpt
14:00	Capchat	10:00	Culinary delight rpt
15:00	Out & About rpt	10:30	Innovation rpt
15:30	EcoAfrica	11:00	Out n' about rpt
16:00	Business Edition Rpt	11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
17:00	Culinary delight rpt	12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt
18:00	Innovation rpt	12:30	Our Earth rpt
19:00	Culinary delight rpt	13:00	Business edition rpt
20:00	Sports Gazette	13:30	Al Jazeera
20:30	Monday Agenda Rpt	14:00	Telenovela   Plead Guilty rpt
20:45	Telenovela   Plead Guilty 21:30	14:30	EcoAfrica
Prime News	Capital	15:00	Dw News Africa rpt
22:00	Dakika 45	16:30	The Monday Agenda rpt
22:45	The Décor	17:30	Meza huru
23:15	Al Jazeera	19:00	Rev
<b>SUN 24 March</b>		19:00	Out & About Rpt
06:00	Al Jazeera	20:00	Abu Yako
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt	20:15	Local Pgm: Business Edition
11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt	20:45	Telenovela   Plead Guilty 21:30
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt	22:00	Malumbano ya hoja rpt
12:30	Our Earth	00:00	Al Jazeera

## WORLD

# Putin says Moscow terror attack committed by radical Islamists

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that the deadly terrorist attack in the Crocus City Hall in suburban Moscow was carried out by radical Islamists, but many questions still remain.

"We know that the crime was committed by the hands of radical Islamists, whose ideology the Islamic world itself has been fighting for centuries," Putin said at a meeting on measures taken after the terrorist attack.

The Russian president said it is already known who carried out the terrorist attack, but now "we are interested in who ordered the crime."

He said that the United States, through various channels, is trying to

convince everyone that there is supposedly no Kyiv trace in the bloody terrorist attack, that it is the Islamic State (ISIS).

However, Putin believes questions still remain. "It is necessary to obtain answers to a number of questions, for example, are radical, even terrorist, Islamic organizations really interested in striking Russia, which today stands for a fair solution to the escalating Middle East conflict," he said.

Putin also noted that it is necessary to answer the question of why the terrorists tried to go to Ukraine after committing a crime in Crocus, and who was waiting for them there.

Calling the attack an act of intimidation, Putin said, "the question arises who benefits from this."



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting, discussing measures in response to the terrorist attacks at the Crocus City Hall concert venue, via a video conference at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence, outside Moscow, Russia on Monday. AP

The investigation into the terrorist attack should be carried out to the highest degree professionally, objectively and without political bias, despite the general desire to punish the perpetrators, Putin added.

On Monday, the Moscow Basman District Court on Monday approved the detention of three more people involved in Friday's terrorist attack.

The detainees are members of the same family: Isroil Islomov, the father, and his two sons, Dilovar Islomov and Aminchon Islomov. They face charges of group terrorism and will be held until May 22. If convicted, they could receive life sentences. Chairman of the Investigative

Committee Alexander Bastrykin said the Islamovs provided the terrorists with "an apartment for living, a car for transportation, and transferred funds."

According to the investigation, the Islamov brothers were drawn into the terrorist group in early 2024.

The Russian Federal Security Service had previously reported the arrest of 11 suspects linked to the terrorist attack, four of whom executed the assault.

Friday's terrorist attack occurred at the Crocus City Hall in the suburbs of Moscow, resulting in 139 deaths and 182 injuries to date.

Xinhua

# China calls for implementation of Gaza ceasefire resolution

UNITED NATIONS

A Chinese envoy on Monday called for the implementation of the just-adopted Security Council resolution that demands an immediate cease-fire in Gaza for the holy month of Ramadan.

Nearly six months after the outbreak of the conflict, over 32,000 Palestinian civilians have lost their lives. For those, Monday's resolution comes too late. But for the millions of people in Gaza who remain mired in an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, this resolution, if fully and effectively implemented, could still bring long-awaited hope, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations.

"Security Council resolutions are binding. We call on the parties concerned to fulfill their obligations under the UN Charter and to take due action as required by the resolution," he said. "We expect the states with significant influence to play a positive role on the parties concerned, including by using all necessary and effective means at their disposal to support the implementation of the resolution."

All harm against civilians must cease immediately and the offensive on Gaza must stop at once. A cease-fire for the month of Ramadan is only the first step. It must serve as a basis for a permanent and sustainable cessation of hostilities, said the Chinese ambassador in an explanation of vote.

At the same time, the blockade of Gaza and the man-made barriers to access of humanitarian supplies must be lifted immediately to ensure that humanitarian supplies can enter Gaza in sufficient quantities expeditiously to reach people in need in a safe and timely



Zhang Jun (center, front), China's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), speaks at a Security Council meeting on the Ukraine crisis, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Feb 23, 2024. XINHUA

manner, said Zhang.

Israel must fully cooperate to open Rafah and other land crossings. The UN agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, is indispensable and irreplaceable for the people of Gaza to receive international humanitarian assistance, he said. "We urge all parties to fully restore funding to UNRWA

as soon as possible. We categorically reject Israel's recent vicious campaign of attacks against UNRWA and the UN system as a whole."

The Security Council must continue to follow closely the situation in Gaza and get ready for further action when necessary to ensure the timely and full imple-

mentation of the resolution, said Zhang.

China will continue to make unremitting efforts together with all parties to bring an early end to the fighting in Gaza, alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe, and implement the two-state solution, he said.

Xinhua

# Xi, Honduran president honour 1st anniversary of ties

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and Honduran President Xiomara Castro exchanged congratulations yesterday over the first anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

Xi pointed out that in March last year, China and Honduras established diplomatic ties, opening a new chapter in their bilateral relations.

He noted that during Castro's successful state visit to China last June, they held talks and reached important consensus, setting the direction for the development of bilateral relations.

Over the past year, the two sides have upheld the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit, and common development, ensuring that bilateral relations started to grow from a high level, he said.

Xi said he highly appreciates Honduras's firm adherence to the one-China principle, stressing that facts have proved that the establishment of the China-Honduras diplomatic relations is a correct political decision made in compliance with the historical trend and serves the fundamental interests of the two nations.

Xi said he attaches great importance to the development of China-Honduras relations and is willing to work with Castro to take the first anniversary of bilateral ties as an opportunity to consolidate mutual support, expand all-round cooperation, and jointly write a better future for China-Honduras relations.

Castro said that China, with a multi-millennial civilization and a major role to play in the historical process, is a role model for the world and an important partner of Honduras. The past year saw China's dedication to innovative development, its participation in efforts to find solutions to global problems and strenuous assistance with worldwide poverty reduction efforts, she said.

Honduras firmly sticks to the one-China principle and is willing to develop ties with China that feature independence and mutual respect, she said, expressing her wish that the two peoples will enjoy a long-lasting friendship.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcoming ceremony for President of the Republic of Honduras Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento at the square outside the east entrance of the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China, June 12, 2023. XINHUA

# Netanyahu says US 'abandoned' Israel in UN Vote

TEL AVIV

PRIME Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu accused the US of "abandoning" Israel after it abstained in a vote held Monday by the UN Security Council, which called for a suspension of fighting in Gaza during the remaining two months of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. By not exercising its veto, the US allowed the non-binding resolution to pass.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) released a statement on the vote saying, "The United States has abandoned its policy in the UN today. Just a few days ago, it supported a Security Council resolution that linked a call for a ceasefire to the release of hostages."

"China and Russia vetoed that resolution partly because they opposed a ceasefire that was linked to the release of hostages," said the PMO. "Yet today, Russia and China joined Algeria and others in supporting the new resolution precisely because it had no such linkage."

The statement also said it was "regrettable" the US did not veto the new resolution, which calls for a ceasefire that is not contingent on the release of hostages.

"This constitutes a clear departure from the consistent US position in the Security Council since the beginning of the war," it said.

The PMO said the resolution gives Hamas "hope that international pressure will force Israel to accept a ceasefire without the release of our hostages, thus harming both the war effort and the effort to release the hostages." ANI

# EAM Jaishankar conveys PM Modi's greetings as he calls on Philippine President Marcos

MANILA

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar yesterday called on Philippine President Bongbong Marcos and conveyed the greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to President Marcos.

"Honoured to call-on President @bongbongmarcos of the Philippines. Conveyed the personal greetings of President @rashtrapatibhvn and PM @narendramodi. Valued his warm sentiments towards the India-Philippines partnership. His guidance for taking it to

new areas will strengthen collaboration between our two democracies," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar, who is on an official visit to Manila, held a 'warm and productive' meeting with Philippines Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Enrique Manalo and discussed wide-ranging issues of security and maritime cooperation.

During the meeting, both leaders exchanged views on global, regional, and multilateral issues, including Indo-Pacific, ASEAN, West Asia, and global and regional issues.

In a post on X, EAM Jaishankar spoke about his meeting with Philippines counterpart saying, "Warm and productive meeting with @SecManalo of Philippines. Wide ranging discussion on advancing ties in political, defense, security & maritime cooperation, trade & investment, infrastructure, development cooperation, education, digital, technology, culture and consular domains."

Jaishankar while addressing a press conference with the Philippines Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Enrique Manalo said that India firmly supports the Philippines in upholding its national sov-

ereignty and will continue to further enhance cooperation in various fields, including defence and security.

"We firmly support the Philippines in upholding its national sovereignty. So I think our position is very clear. Now, regarding defence cooperation, you need to look at cooperation at its whole merits. It is not necessary to await the particular situation but it's natural today, whose trust and comfort are growing so rapidly, that we would look at various and new areas of cooperation and certainly defence and security," EAM said.

ANI

ON the streets of Changsha, central China's Hunan province, it's easy to buy an authentic cup of African coffee.

Leveraging the two major platforms hosted by Hunan province, namely the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and the China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, Changsha has established a distribution, processing and trading center for non-resource products from Africa, where coffee is one of the most prominent product categories.

By integrating the entire chain from direct sourcing from Africa, domestic processing, brand incubation to sales, the overall cost of coffee products made at the center is around 30 percent lower compared to similar products on the market. As a result, the Afri-

# Hunan province strives to build inland hub for opening-up



A fully loaded train departs from Huaihua, central China's Hunan province, heading towards Vientiane, Laos along the China-Laos Railway, Oct. 30, 2023. Photo: Tian Min/People's Daily Online

Belt and Road cooperation, building the pioneering zone for in-depth China-Africa trade and economic cooperation with high standards.

It has actively implemented

strategies to enhance the development of the China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, striving to build itself into an inland hub for opening-up.

In 2022, the province's for-

eign trade for the first time exceeded \$100 billion, achieving a new milestone in its opening-up efforts.

So far, Hunan has established five international trade routes, including the China-Europe freight train service, the Chenglingji Port in Yueyang, the Hunan-Guangdong-Africa rail-sea intermodal transport corridor, the Huaihua International Land Port, and the air cargo hub centered around the Changsha Huanghua International Airport.

Additionally, Hunan has made coordinated plans for logistics channels throughout the province and concentrated efforts to develop five international freight centers.

At the 12,000-squaremeter China-Africa E-commerce Livestreaming Incubator in the China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation, Promotion, and Innovation Demonstration Park in Changsha, African products are often promoted through livestreaming, including fresh flowers from Kenya, Ethiopian coffee, chili peppers from Rwanda, among others.

In recent years, the China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation, Promotion, and Innovation Demonstration Park has established an "African product brand warehouse," attracting over 100 African products to settle in.

Benefiting from an integrat-

ed cross-border e-commerce system that combines online channels, offline operations, and supporting services, the infrastructure for e-commerce logistics, financial settlement, and overseas warehouses is keeping improving. An increasing number of African primary agricultural products have established their own brands and are moving towards more advanced processing and higher value-added production.

So far, Hunan has established 18 national-level industrial parks, seven special customs supervision zones, and four comprehensive cross-border e-commerce pilot zones, which make a more comprehensive "testing ground" and resource base for Belt and Road cooperation.

People's Daily



# Where did Homo sapiens go after leaving Africa?

WASHINGTON

OUR species emerged in Africa more than 300,000 years ago, with a migration out of the continent 60,000 to 70,000 years ago heralding the start of the global spread of Homo sapiens. But where did these pioneers go after leaving Africa?

After years of debate, a new study offers an answer. These bands of hunter-gatherers appear to have lingered for thousands of years as a homogeneous population in a geographic hub that spanned Iran, southeast Iraq and northeast Saudi Arabia before going on to settle all of Asia and Europe starting roughly 45,000 years ago, scientists said on Monday.

Their findings were based on genomic datasets drawn from ancient DNA and modern gene pools, combined with paleoecological evidence that showed that this region would have represented an ideal habitat.

The researchers called this region, part of what is called the Persian Plateau, a "hub" for these people - who numbered perhaps only in the thousands - before they continued onward millennia later to more distant locales.

"Our results provide the first full picture of the whereabouts of the ancestors of all present-day non-Africans in the early phases on the colonization of Eurasia," said molecular anthropologist Luca Pagani of the University of Padova in Italy, senior author of the study published in the journal Nature Communications.

Anthropologist and study co-author Michael Petraglia, director of the Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution at Griffith University, said the study "is a story about us and our history - our goal was to unravel some of the mystery about our evolution and our worldwide dispersal."

"The combination of genetic and paleoecological models allowed us to predict the location where early human populations first resided as soon as they exited Africa," Petraglia added.

These people lived in small, mobile bands of hunter-gatherers, the researchers said. The hub location offered a variety of ecological settings, from forests to grasslands and savannahs, fluctuating over time between arid and wet intervals.

There would have been ample resources available, with evidence showing the hunting of wild gazelle, sheep and goat, Petraglia said.

"Their diet would have been composed of edible plants and small- to large-sized game. Hunter-gatherer groups seemed to have practiced a seasonal lifestyle, living in the lowlands in the cooler months and in the mountainous regions in the warmer months," Petraglia said.

The people inhabiting the hub at the time apparently had dark skin and dark hair, perhaps resembling the Gumuz or Anuak people now living in parts of East Africa, Pagani said.

"Cave art simultaneously appeared as soon as people left



A person stands in Pebeh Cave, in the southern Zagros Mountains, Iran, in this undated photo obtained by Reuters on Monday. Pebeh Cave was occupied by hunter-gatherers as early as 42,000 years ago, inferred to be Homo Sapiens. PHOTO: REUTERS

the hub. So these cultural achievements might have been brewed while in the hub," Pagani said.

Their eventual dispersal in different directions beyond the hub set the basis for the genetic divergence between present-day East Asians and Europeans, the researchers said.

The study tapped into modern and ancient genomic data for European and Asian people.

"We found particularly useful the oldest genomes, dating from 45,000 to 35,000 years ago," said molecular anthropologist and study lead author Leonardo Vallini of the University of Padova and the University of Mainz in Germany.

The researchers devised a way to disentangle the extensive genetic mixing of populations that has occurred since

the dispersal out of the hub in order to pinpoint this region.

There were earlier small-scale excursions of Homo sapiens out of Africa before the pivotal migration 60,000 to 70,000 years ago, but these appear to have been dead-ends.

Homo sapiens was not the first human species to live outside of Africa - including the area encompassing the hub. Ancient interbreeding by our species has left a small Neanderthal contribution to the DNA of modern non-Africans.

"Neanderthals are attested in the area before the arrival of Homo sapiens, so the hub may well have been where that interaction took place," Vallini said.

Agencies

## African campaigners say climate-resilient future at stake amid financing gaps

NAIROBI

THE transition to a green, just, and resilient future in Africa is in jeopardy as the Industrial North dithers in honoring financial pledges to help the continent cope with the escalating climate crisis, African campaigners said on Monday at a forum in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Despite accounting for less than 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa has borne the brunt of planetary warming with limited financial and technical capacity to cope with the phenomenon, the green campaigners observed.

Million Belay, general coordinator of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), a green lobby based in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, said the continent should demand a fair share of multilateral funds meant to tackle climate change.

"We are suffering from devastating impacts of climate change, yet a huge chunk of finance promised to this continent by major emitters has not been forthcoming," Belay said.

He noted that many African countries are grappling with a shrinking fiscal space and elevated level of public debt, constraining their ability to finance green projects.

Convened by the AFSA and partners, the three-day forum brought together African policymakers, green campaigners, and experts to evaluate the outcomes of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, last year.

## Macron: Islamists who hit Russia had tried to attack France

PARIS

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that the gunmen who killed 137 people in a concert hall outside Moscow were part of an Islamic State branch that was behind foiled attempts to attack France over the past few months.

This explains why the French government on Sunday increased the country's security alert to its highest level, Macron and Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said. More soldiers will be put on standby and ready to patrol sensitive sites, including schools.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for Friday's Moscow attack.

Russia, which has challenged assertions by the United States that the Islamic State militant group orchestrated the mass shooting in Moscow, continued on Monday to suggest Ukraine was to blame. "This attack was claimed by Islamic State," Macron said, "and the information available to us, to our (intelligence) services as well as to our main partners, indicates indeed that it was an entity of the Islamic State which instigated and carried out this attack. "This specific group ... had



French President Emmanuel Macron takes part in a commemorative ceremony at the Felix Eboué monument at the Place des Palmistes in Cayenne, as part of a two-day visit to the French overseas department of Guiana, on Monday. AFP

over the past months carried out several (attack) attempts on our soil," he added. Attal later said these included a foiled planned attack on the city of Strasbourg, in eastern France.

"The claim of responsibility for the (Moscow) attack by a branch of Islamic State that planned attacks in European countries includ-

ing France prompted us to increase the Vigipirate (security threat assessment) to its highest level," Attal said, speaking from a Paris train station.

"We will deploy exceptional means everywhere on (French) territory," he said. Some 3,000 soldiers are currently part of the

"Sentinelle" operation that patrols sites such as railway stations, places of worship and schools and theatres. Another 4,000 will be put on standby, Attal said.

France has thwarted two would-be attacks since the start of the year, he said.

France has been hit by a series of Islamist attacks over the past decade, the worst of which, in 2015, targeted the Bataclan concert hall and cafes and bars in Paris - which some Parisians said helped them understand why security would now be beefed up.

"It (the Moscow concert hall attack) brings to mind the Bataclan years, so yes, it's something that has left a mark in us forever," said IT worker Raffaele Alegretti.

Macron, who was speaking as he arrived for a visit in French Guiana, also said France had offered to increase cooperation with Russian intelligence services over the concert hall attack "so that we continue to fight effectively against these groups which are targeting several countries".

Agencies

## UN Chief on Ramadan solidarity visit to Jordan, to meet Palestine refugees served by UNRWA

NEW YORK

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the Wihdat Camp for Palestine refugees during his ongoing Ramadan solidarity visit to Jordan.

UN Chief Guterres (pictured) is on a visit to meet Palestine refugees being served by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan.

"We are at a centre dedicated to the well-being of Palestine refugees. Allow me to begin with an invitation to join me in a moment of silence in tribute to our United Nations colleagues and all others who have been killed in this conflict," he said in his opening remarks.

Emphasising that UNRWA is a hot topic these days, he said that, however, one fundamental thing is often lost in the debate, i.e., people.

He further highlighted that Jordan is home to 2.4 million Palestinian refugees, the largest number in the region.

During his visit, he also heard stories and saw a glimpse of UNRWA's exceptional work in the region.

"I had the privilege to visit a health centre where young mothers and their children are receiving high-quality primary health care, where labs perform state-of-the-art medical tests, and where a pharmacy is dispensing life-saving medication to patients at no charge," he said.

Additionally, he sat in on science and English language classes at a girls' school and saw young women in a science lab learning and experimenting with principles from Archimedes.

"I visited a class teaching English along with the values of human rights and conflict resolution. I also met with 6 truly inspiring young student parliamentarian leaders, including 3 students from Gaza. It was a heartwarming visit in heartbreak-

ing times," Guterres added.

UN Chief Guterres further emphasised that the UNRWA is a life-line of hope and dignity, not just in Jordan, but also in Syria, Lebanon, the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Further, he said that UNRWA is providing education for over half a million girls and boys, health care for around 2 million people, extending job opportunities and community and family support, and ensuring a social safety net for nearly half a million of the poorest Palestinians.

"Beyond and behind those facts, UNRWA is profoundly contributing in ways that can't be measured on a graph - advancing social cohesion, promoting stability and building peace," he said.

Guterres added, "Imagine if all of this was taken away. It would be cruel and incomprehensible - especially as we honour the 171 women and men of UNRWA who have been killed in Gaza - the largest number of deaths of UN staff in our history."

He further assured that UNRWA would ensure that it would abide by the values of the United Nations in all its actions.

"So, taking into account recent unacceptable events, an independent review is well underway to strengthen and improve UNRWA, and I look forward to its recommendations. We must strive to keep the one-of-a-kind services that UNRWA provides flowing because that keeps hope flowing," he said.

Guterres stressed that, in a darkening world, UNRWA is the one ray of light for millions of people.

"I trust that, working all together, we will be able to mobilise the international community to make sure that UNRWA will be able to provide its essential services to Palestinian refugees here in Jordan and in all other areas where UNRWA is active," he said.

ANI



People lay flowers to mourn victims of a terrorist attack in Moscow, Russia, on Saturday. XINHUA



# SPORT



Kitunda FC's Shabani Mbaraka (2nd R) shoots past Kipera FC's footballers during a friendly clash held at Kitunda Primary School's venue in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## National athletics team set for World Cross Country Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's national athletics team departs today evening for Serbia to battle it out in this year's edition of the World Cross Country Championships set to take place at Park of Friendship in Belgrade on Saturday.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) acting secretary-general said the team which was attending the residential camp in Arusha was made up of nine athletes and one coach.

He said initially AT selected 12 athletes and two coaches but, due to financial challenges the association is facing, the number of athletes and coaches was reduced to nine and one coach.

"The team is departing the country tomorrow evening, initially, we planned to send twelve athletes and two coaches but the international federation sent us eight tickets," the official pointed out.

"AT managed to raise funds for two tickets, we are happy that all athletes are ready for the showdown," he said.

He mentioned the female athletes making the trip are Hamida Nassoro, Ernesta Mngolu, Annastazia Dolomongo, and Neema Festo.

Male athletes are Boay Dawi, Mao Hhando, Decta Tezforce, and Herman Sulle while John Wele is

the only junior athlete selected to represent the country in the championships.

Last year's World Cross Country Championships were held in Bathurst, New South Wales, and ended with Tanzania's team performing well in the showdown.

Due to the outcome, Tanzania's quota was increased to nine participants from the four that represented the country last year.

The four athletes who represented the country in last year's championships were Inyasi Sulle, Fabian Nelson, Mathayo Sumbi, and Josephat Joshua.

Originally, the World Cross-Country Championships were due to take place at Medulin and Pula in Croatia on February 10.

World Athletics Council though realised that preparations for the showdown had not been advanced sufficiently and the showdown was therefore shifted to Serbia.

## Kihwelo aims to improve Singida Fountain Gate FC fitness

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC head coach Jamhuri Kihwelo aims to make use of the international break to improve the fitness of his players and improve results ahead of the remaining nine NBC Premier League fixtures.

Kihwelo led Singida Fountain Gate FC to the squad's first Premier League win since the January transfer window was closed, having edged Namungo FC 1-0.

Singida Fountain Gate FC players Thomas Ulimwengu and Dickson Ambundo were shown red cards during the match while Namungo FC captain Erasto Nyoni was also sent off.

Attacker Nicholas Gyan's thunderbolt separated the two outfits in the game while fellow striker Francis Kazadi missed a penalty in the first half to deny Singida Fountain Gate FC a two-goal lead.

Speaking ahead of the international break, Kihwelo said his focus is to improve his players' fitness level.

The tactician said: "We have almost one month to improve ourselves, our fitness level is very low and I have to make sure my players' fitness is high when the league returns, that is why poor results were obtained by the team."

The gaffer added: "I am pleased with the first three points I picked with one week at the club since I took the reigns of the previous coach, I have to address our discipline issues, the red card that referee Ramadhan Kayoko showed my players was fair and we have to change our attitudes and stay in games."

"I said our fitness level is down, the mind wants to act fast but the body refuses. The

outcome is being undisciplined, so far the performance was awesome for my players and we went home to improve more," the gaffer noted.

Singida Fountain Gate FC has 24 points after honouring 21 games in the league log-garnering six wins, six draws and lost nine matches.

Namungo FC head coach Mwinyi Zahera was not pleased with the referee's decisions as he lauded his players' performance despite the loss.

The Congolese gaffer stated: "I understand we previously failed to get a win in four away games, and now we have failed again in our outing match."

Zahera disclosed: "We were forced to lose the game, something that I am not pleased with but, performance-wise, my players showed good football, something I am proud about."

"Although we have to improve in front of goal, we have so many chances but fail to convert. We are disorganized in making runs in the box and wide areas of the game," the gaffer added.

"We have to play so much in and near the both to score enough goals, something that needs to be improved."

Zahera also said he is happy with the progress of his side, albeit only one win in the last seven games, although he cautions his players to be clinical and begin winning games as the league is set to draw to a close.

Namungo FC is sitting ninth in the log after posting 23 points having honoured 21 games in the league log- registering five wins, eight losses, and eight draws.

## SPORTS

# Simba SC and Yanga face testing battles in CAF Champions League quarterfinal ties

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

THIS Friday will be D-Day for Simba SC as they seek to get the better of Egyptian behemoths Al Ahly in the first leg of their greatly awaited two-legged CAF Champions League quarterfinal tie.

With the first leg slated to take place this Friday at the majestic Benjamin Mkapa Stadium here in Dar es Salaam, Tanzanian supporters are undoubtedly on tenterhooks as Al Ahly is not just a run-of-the-mill club.

Indeed, Al Ahly is indisputably the most successful club in African football lore as the Egyptian juggernauts have gloriously claimed more CAF Champions League trophies than any other side in the eventful history of continental football.

In light of that, one does not need to be a first-rate neurosurgeon to see that this Friday's clash will be a colossal encounter for Simba SC as they will be facing off against an impeccable opponent whose hunger for success is famously insatiable.

It is hoped then that the Benjamin Mkapa stadium will be packed to the gills with Simba SC devotees this Friday, whose loud cheering will hopefully spur the Msimbazi street side to ultimately prevail in the first leg.

With regards to reigning national champions Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, the Jangwani Street outfit will lock horns with Mamelodi Sundowns this Saturday in the first leg of their consequential CAF Champions League quarterfinal tie.

Like Simba SC, Yanga will host the classy South African side Mamelodi Sundowns in the first leg at the magnificent Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Without a shadow of a doubt, Sundowns will be daunting opponents for Yanga to face as, apart from lifting the CAF Champions League trophy a



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Mo Simba Arena, Bunju in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for various tournaments including the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

couple of years ago, the South African powerhouses have seemingly secured countless South African Premier Soccer League (PSL) titles as well.

That being said, this is not to suggest that Yanga will meekly capitulate to Mamelodi Sundowns even though the sterling South African club is truly a force to be reckoned with.

Indeed, lest we forget, Yanga is a football club with strength in depth and one hopes that in their first leg against Sundowns this Saturday the Jangwani Street side can put their highly regarded South African opponents on the back foot right from the off.

Let us now ponder on the fortunes of our national football team, Taifa Stars, who were slugging it out against European opponents Bulgaria in their opening FIFA Series 2024 contest last Friday.

Sadly, although Taifa Stars ultimately suffered a slim 1-0 defeat, there were still a few encouraging positives that could be drawn from the Stars' overall display.

For example, in the 15th minute following a lovely move, Kibu Dennis unleashed a powerful shot that unfortunately struck the woodwork.

And, after the Bulgarians had taken the lead in

the 51st minute, it was distinctly pleasing to note that Taifa Stars did not merely roll over for their opponents to further subdue them.

In fact, to the contrary, Stars earnestly sought an equalizer in the aftermath of Bulgaria's goal and the Tanzanians agonizingly missed the target by a whisker when Clement Mzize's shot struck the crossbar in the dying minutes of the fascinating battle.

All in all, then, despite losing the exciting football contest, there should be plenty of vital lessons for Taifa Stars' technical bench to chew on.

# Ministry, Drum Beats sign MoU to run Tanzania Utamaduni Festival

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dar es Salaam-based Drum Beats Carnival (T) Limited through which the latter will run the Tanzania Utamaduni Festival on behalf of the ministry.

The MoU was signed at the ministry's offices at Mtumba in Dodoma by the Acting Permanent Secretary, Nicholas Mkapa, and the Drum Beats Carnival (T) Limited Chief Executive Officer, Celestine Mwesigwa.

Speaking after the signing, Mkapa said that the ministry had high expectations from Drum Beats in running the festival which is the biggest in the country.

"We do not mean that the government is not responsible anymore, we have just extended cooperation to the private sector so it can be done more professionally and in a bigger way but we will maintain the supervisory role," he said.

The Acting PS appealed to Tanzanians to turn up in huge numbers during all stages of the festival from the grassroots to the national level as this is a national event that is aimed at promoting the Tanzanian culture.

"This will also go ahead in promoting tourism, hence it is important to promote it widely to ensure the message reaches out there," said Mkapa.

Also speaking after the signing, the Director of Culture in the ministry, Mnata Resani, said the festival will be held from August 25-28, 2024 in Songea, Ruvuma.

Resani pointed out that the new cooperation between the ministry and Drum Beats is a good sign that the festival is destined to be of a higher quality.

"There will be a variety of items, including

food from different communities, artifacts, clothes, and a street carnival," he said, adding that the government will go all out to promote the festival to ensure high participation.

The Drum Beats CEO, Mwesigwa, said his firm is all set and will collaborate closely with the ministry to ensure that the festival is a huge success.

"We have all it takes and are ready to collaborate with the ministry to ensure that the set objectives are met and even surpassed," he explained.



The Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Nicholas Mkapa (2nd L), and the Drum Beats Carnival (T) Limited Chief Executive Officer Celestine Mwesigwa (2nd R), sign a Memorandum of Understanding for running the Tanzania Utamaduni Festival at the ministry offices in Dodoma on Monday. Others are the ministry's Director for the Legal Department, Lugano Rwetaka (L), and the coordinator from Drum Beats, Aggrey Marealle. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

“

I said our fitness level is down, the mind wants to act fast but the body refuses. The outcome is being undisciplined, so far the performance was awesome for my players and we went home to improve more



# SPORT

**Ukraine eye first major tournament since Russian invasion**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national team are pictured training in Baku, Azerbaijan last week-end - gearing up for Monday's 2024 FIFA Series match against Mongolia, which ended in a 3-0 victory for the former. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

## Taifa Stars have work to do despite defeating Mongolia, says coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA secured a comfortable 3-0 victory against Mongolia in their last match of the 2024 FIFA Series played in Baku, Azerbaijan on Monday.

After losing their first match 1-0 to Bulgaria on Friday, Taifa Stars desperately needed a pick-me-up victory to end their six games winless run. Mongolia ranked 190th in the FIFA rankings presented a perfect opponent.

However, despite dominating the game, it was not until the second half that Taifa Stars finally broke the deadlock through attacker Kelvin John.

Goal-getter Abdulhamis Suleiman scored the second and later left-back Novatus Miroshni netted the third for Taifa Stars.

It was the first victory for Taifa Stars in 2024 after finishing bottom of their AFCON 2024 tournament with one loss and two draws against Morocco, Zambia, and DR Congo respectively.

Reacting to the game, Hemed Suleiman, Taifa Stars caretaker coach said he was happy with the performance of the team but there is plenty of room for improvement going forward.

Suleiman revealed: "We have won, it is a good result for us after losing the first match. First of all, I would like to thank my players, they have played well and given their all."

"But I still have work to do because we created a lot of chances and we could have scored more than that," Suleiman disclosed.

"In some matches, you won't get chances like that. I think we are making little progress, there is more work we need to do," the coach pointed out.

"We need to get back on the pitch and correct the mistakes we made so that we can play better next time."

Suleiman stressed: "I would like to thank the players for playing well and managing the game as much as possible. As I said earlier, it was a difficult start in the first half."

"Mongolia camped in their own goal. Attacking a team that was that defensive was difficult. All in all, I am grateful for the result," he remarked.

Suleiman who is taking charge of Taifa Stars following the suspension of Adel Amrouche also acknowledged the mini-tournament has helped Taifa Stars as they prepare to resume their 2026 World Cup Qualification campaign in June.

"This tournament has built us to some extent. If you compare the performance of the first match and today, there are two different things. We have learned many things," the gaffer noted.

Taifa Stars will continue with their hunt for a ticket to the United States of America (USA), Canada, and Mexico in June with back-to-back games against Zambia.

Taifa Stars posted mixed results at the start of the World Cup qualifier beating Niger 1-0 on the road before succumbing to a 2-0 home defeat to Morocco in November last year.

## Simba SC wraps up CAF CL last eight duel preparations

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

FOR about a week now, Simba SC has been secluded in Zanzibar, diligently preparing for the upcoming 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal first leg against Al Ahly.

Simba SC has concluded its training camp in the serene Zanzibar. The team will now make their way back to Dar es Salaam, where they have two more days to fine-tune their preparations before the crucial match scheduled for Friday at 9 p.m.

The Msimbazi Street outfit's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has utilized this period effectively to ensure his team is well-prepared.

Training sessions are held at night, mirroring the conditions of the upcoming game.

The club disclosed that the priority is to reach the CAF Champions League's last-four phase hence the need to clear the Al Ahly hurdle to achieve the feat.

The only acceptable outcome at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Friday is a victory for Simba SC. The team and its supporters are geared up for an intense showdown.

Simba SC's management has confirmed the arrival of Al Ahly's contingent in the country on Wednesday, two days ahead of the clash with the Msimbazi Street outfit.

In a proactive move, Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, has urged fans to seize the remaining days to secure their tickets and ensure a packed Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

"Now, as we approach the crucial week, it's decision time for our fans to secure tickets for our showdown against Al Ahly," Ally expressed on his social media platform.

Commenting on the status of the team's goalkeeper, Aishi Manula, who got injured during Taifa Stars' match against Bulgaria in Baku on Friday, he said they are waiting for the official update from the senior national team's doctors.

"We are waiting to hear from them about the seriousness of his injury and whether he needs a long time to recover or not," he said.

Furthermore, he disclosed that until now, no injuries have been reported among their players.

He also remarked that some of Simba SC's players who were in Taifa Stars' squad for the 2024 FIFA Series were expected back in the country to join their teammates.

While Platinum, Tanzanite, and VIP A tickets have been sold out, there has been a sluggish pace in the purchase of remaining tickets.

However, it is expected that momentum will pick up in the coming days, with hopes of a full house at the Mkapa Stadium.

With just two days left until the highly anticipated quarterfinal match between Simba SC and Al Ahly, anticipation is reaching a fever pitch.

The duo will interface in the second leg clash at Cairo International Stadium in Egypt on April 5 whose overall winner books a ticket into the CAF Champions League semi-finals.

This Friday marks the showdown at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, where Simba SC will go head-to-head against Al Ahly, aiming for a spot in the semi-finals.

## Al Ahly in Dar for CAF Champions League clash against Simba SC



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinals. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

EGYPT'S Al Ahly squad is scheduled to arrive in Dar es Salaam today for the crucial CAF Champions League quarterfinal first-leg clash against Simba SC on Friday.

Hossam Ghaly, a member of Al Ahly's Board of Directors, Khaled Bibo, the club's Football Director, and Samir Adly, the Managing Director, arrived in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The trio was part of the advance party dealing with all crucial matters related to the trip including accommodation and training facilities booking.

The Egyptian champions will have some pre-match training sessions at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club in the evening to prepare themselves ahead of the big game.

Al Ahly will then have a feel of the match venue, Benjamin Mkapa

Stadium, on Thursday evening.

The Egyptian soccer powerhouse's return leg match against Simba SC will take place at Cairo International Stadium on April 5.

The aggregate winner of this clash will go on to face the victor in another quarterfinal tie between DR Congo's TP Mazembe and Petro de Luanda of Angola in the semi-finals set for late April.

On the one hand, Simba SC hammered Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0 to finish second in Group B of the premier continental showdown, two points off leaders ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast.

On the other hand, Al Ahly topped their group ahead of Tanzania's Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, having garnered 12 points in six matches.

Despite facing each other six times in the last five years, the two sides will be meeting for the first time at this stage of the competition.

During the inaugural edition of the African Football League (AFL) last October,

Simba SC and Al Ahly could not be separated after drawing both games in Dar es Salaam and Cairo.

However, Ahly advanced to the next round based on the away goals rule, given it registered two goals away.

In the 2020/21 season, Simba SC topped their CAF Champions Group, and their only loss came to Al Ahly when both sides had already qualified.

Simba SC edged Al Ahly 1-0 in Dar es Salaam courtesy of Mozambican midfielder Luis Miquissone's first-half strike.

Al Ahly exacted revenge with a similar scoreline in the last Group Stage game of the campaign in Cairo.

In 2018/19, Al Ahly handed Simba one of their biggest continental defeats with a 5-0 score in Cairo.

Simba SC managed to win 1-0 thanks to Meddie Kagere's goal in the reverse tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium which helped them secure a second-place finish behind the Egyptian giants and ahead of third-placed AS Vita of DR Congo.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
14:00 5SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

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

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

**eastafrika RADIO**

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

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**