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## Respiratory, urinary tract admission cases rising

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

RESPIRATORY tract diseases, malaria and urinary tract infections are on the rise, as the government improves facilities for treatment of patients diagnosed for epidemic and other infectious diseases in public health facilities. Health minister Umyy Mwalimu made this remark at the National Assembly yesterday when tabling estimates for the sector, set at 1.24trn/-, for fiscal 2023/24. The government has allocated 20.7bn/- for epidemic and communicable diseases, on the basis of alarming signs of a surging threat of diseases tied to the respiratory tract system, she said. From last July to end of March, respiratory tract infections was the leading threat among ten communicable

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## PPP to rake in \$9bn capital investments

By Correspondent Peter Nyanje

PROJECTS lined up under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement are set to bring into the country up to \$9bn (21.2trn/-) in capital investments in the next few years, a top official has asserted.

David Kafulila, the PPP commissioner at the Treasury, said in an exclusive interview that the bulk of the projects lined up for PPP relate to road construction along with power generation and transmission.

PPP initiatives bring the private sector into joint projects with public agencies, to execute projects for public use where

the private sector raises the funds for the works involved.

This is a massive amount of money, set to relieve the burden of allocating sufficient funds for all the needed projects, he said, asserting that the massive capitalisation will boost the country's foreign direct investment (FDI) portfolio, thus attracting

more foreign investment.

The large investments will create numerous job openings, occasion skills transfer and boost local and foreign trade, he said, noting that this is what is

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A young student details about whom were not immediately available when photojournalism guru Emmanuel Kwitema caught up with her yesterday morning wastes no time balancing herself by clinging to the horizontal overhead pipe, pulling out her note-book and flipping through her notes ready for her morning classes upon ultimately reaching school. She was on board a commuter bus headed for Gerezani in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo Market zone from Tegeta Nyuki.

## US pledges \$12m to youth agribusinesses

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States has pledged \$12m (28bn/-) to support Tanzanian youth in starting, operating and financing agricultural businesses.

US Ambassador Michael Battle and USAID country director Kate Somvongsiri yesterday launched the Feed the Future (FtF) Private Sector Strengthening Activity (PSSA) in Zanzibar and Dodoma, involving youth in the Mainland and Zanzibar.

At the launch in Zanzibar a week ago, the envoy said that US partnership with



**PSSA can only achieve its goals in partnership with the Tanzania government and private sector partners**

Tanzania is directed at generating new job opportunities, improving access to financing, and advising on an enabling environment where entrepreneurs can invest in

Tanzania's future. Dr Hussein Omari, Agriculture deputy permanent secretary, said there are opportunities for synchrony between PSSA and 'Building a Better Tomorrow,' an initiative for involving the youth in commercial agriculture. The government is taking up the US initiative to support the youth in the private sector along with promoting local and international investment, he said. At the PSSA launch in Dodoma on Thursday, the country director for the United States

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## Respiratory, urinary tract admission cases alarming

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diseases, touching a majority of patients who sought treatment during the period, she elaborated.

Ministerial data shows that 24 percent of those admitted had respiratory tract diseases followed by urinary tract ailments (13 percent) and malaria (7 percent). Still respiratory disease cases chalked up 23 percent of admissions back in 2021/2022, she said, noting that malaria cases hovered between 10 and 11 per cent of admissions for the past two years. Respiratory tract diseases took a hefty 18.8 percent of admissions of patients above five years of age, urinary system ailments 16.1 percent and malaria 6.5 percent.

Non-communicable diseases have gradually increased, predominant in the top ten diseases driving people to seek treatment at health facilities, she said.

Under five children in the inpatients department had pneumonia by 25.5 percent, malaria by 19.18 percent and diarrhea by 13.8 percent, the data indicates.

Malaria led for patients aged five years and above at 13.8 percent, the urinary system chalking up 9.77 percent of patients, and high blood pressure putting to bed 8.92 percent of patients, she said.

As of late March 32.7m had been tested for Covid-19 infection, an equivalent of 53.4 percent, with 46.8m doses of coronavirus vaccines distributed, upwards of 39.1m doses used or 84 percent of distributed amounts, she said.

Nearly 7,200 health centers were used for vaccination, with 302 coronavirus incidents reported without deaths being registered over the past year, compared to 1,557 incidents with 43 deaths the previous year.

Similarly 535,708 girls were vaccinated against the risk of the human papilloma virus (HPV), while from last July to March 35.87m patients were at-

tended upon in various public health facilities, the minister noted.

Strengthening specialized treatment services in public hospitals to eliminate the need for traveling abroad for treatment is envisaged in the coming year, she said.

The 'Samia Health Super Specialisation' set to groom specialised doctors through scholarships in local and foreign universities was being rolled out now, with 981 medics pursuing PhD training enrolled by late March. A total of 179 are pursuing their studies abroad, with the government having spent 8bn/- so far in the programme.

Moves to deploy 100 specialists in district hospitals for capacity building of medical staff in those centres, transferring skills and mentorship were being pursued, she said.

Over the past year top referral hospitals, chiefly the Benjamin Mkapa facility in Dodoma and various wings of the Muhimbili National Hospital introduced new professional services.

Muhimbili added intra-gastric balloon services where 87 patient had taken up the treatment, priced at 4.2m/- while admission in foreign hospitals fetches \$6,000 to \$15,000 depending on the facility, she said.

Similarly an extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy was introduced, attracting 380 patients by late March, while at the Dodoma facility, bone marrow transplant was introduced in January.

So far three patients have been treated, with the treatment helping humans with creating a strong immune system, boosting the lymphatic glands where anti-bodies that fight intrusive organisms are generated, she said.

The facility had also introduced the pace-maker device which by late March had attracted 12 patients, whereas 18 patients had undergone open heart surgery at the facility, she added.

## US pledges \$12m to youth agribusinesses

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Agency for International Development, said that 'Feed the Future' prioritises investing in youth.

By working together with private sector associations and aligning with the ministry's youth initiative, the US can support the implementation of policies that help youth overcome barriers to economic empowerment.

"PSSA can only achieve its goals in partnership with the Tanzania government and private sector partners," she stated.

In addition to helping enlisted youth access business loans, imparting vital business skills and penetrating markets, the USAID initiative works to ensure fair and equitable

use of business regulations to support young entrepreneurs

In the Southern Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) regions of Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro, plus Unguja and Pemba regions of Zanzibar, PSSA will award grants on an open, competitive basis to private sector associations, organisations and lead firms working to improve the business enabling environment, to expand economic opportunities for youth, she explained.

Overall, PSSA aims to reach 30,000 youth, enhance business support services for 6,000 youth-led enterprises, offer financial services to over 3,000 young people, she added.



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu tables her ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2023/2024 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## PPP to rake in \$9bn capital investments

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needed to stimulate the economy.

The government will be able to divert money meant for such projects to other needs, especially social services as they are unattractive to private investors, he said.

Some of the projects are in advanced stages of implementation, thus promising to start seeing the results of PPP in the near future, he specified.

Construction of a 205km dual carriageway from Kibaha in Coast Region to Morogoro through Chalinze is among projects set to be taken up under

PPP, he said.

The Treasury is in advanced stages of picking a contractor for the Kibaha - Chalinze highway portion, he said, noting that a Korean company, CHIEL, was paid \$7.1m for a feasibility study and financial model on the project.

The firm said in its report that upwards of \$350m needs to be invested for the Kibaha - Chalinze section and \$510m for the Chalinze - Morogoro section, he said, noting that the model will also be followed for construction of Isongole - Tunduma in Coast Region, where a private firm has come up wishing to implement the project.

For a private firm to come forward unsolicited and express its readiness for the project shows that the private sector has confidence in the PPP arrangement, he said.

As Tunduma is the biggest border post in the country, this project will go a long way in strengthening commerce with border countries, he said.

Up to 70 percent of transit cargo offloaded at the Dar es Salaam port exits through Tunduma, thus making Isongole - Tunduma road one of most congested highways, so unlocking its potential will boost cross border transactions and external trade as a whole, he affirmed.

firmed.

On energy, Kafulila noted that two hydropower projects, three solar power projects as well as three wind power projects have been lined up for execution under a PPP format.

There are plans to develop wind power projects in Same, Dodoma and Singida for 210MW in total, he said, pointing at plans for geothermal generation at Lake Ngozi in Songwe Region.

The 82km power interconnection line to Malawi is also lined up, billed to cost \$57m, he said, hinting that the Ngozi Lake geo thermal project will be among the first to be imple-

mented as renewable energy projects are being sought after in global markets at present.

The Tanzania Malawi interconnection will be the first power transmission project to be executed by a private entity, he said, asserting that 29 projects have been lined up under PPP format, with feasibility studies for 14 projects already conducted.

Engaging credible firms with international reputation for PPP projects was vital, so the Treasury has to work with reputable audit firms in the preliminary phases of project appraisal, he added.

## Dar expected to bid Membe final farewell tomorrow at Karimjee Hall

By Henry Mwangonde

RELIGIOUS services for the paying of last respects for the late Bernard Membe (69) are expected to be held at Dar es Salaam's Karimjee Hall tomorrow.

Mustafa Ismail, the family spokesman, said the burial ceremony is being planned for Londo village. Mtama constituency in Lindi Region next Tuesday.

In the wake of the shock exit of the former Foreign Affairs minister, President

Samia Suluhu Hassan was among those who sent condolences to the family and associates of the deceased.

Ex-minister Membe died aged 69 at the Hubert Kairuki Hospital in Dar es Salaam where he had been rushed in the early hours of yesterday.

Membe's personal physician Prof Haroun Magori, a specialist at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) said the late Membe was healthy but contracted pulmonary embolism (PE), where a blood clot gets stuck in an artery in the lung, blocking blood flow to part of the lung.

The president said she had received news of the sudden death of the former minister, "a dedicated civil servant and diplomat who for 40 years served the country with passion."

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said Membe was a dedicated diplomat and a public servant who served the country well at all levels.

"The late Membe once served in various positions including as foreign affairs minister, his works and qualities of a good leader will always be missed," the Zanzibar leader noted.

Membe served at Foreign Affairs from

2007 to 2015, succeeding Dr Asha rose Migiro who moved to the United Nations headquarters as under-secretary general. He took forms for the CCM presidential candidate nomination that was fraught with intra-party rivalry, leading to a group moving to leading opposition party, Chadema.

Critics believe the late Membe was to have gained from the striking down of numerous rivals but it was the late Dr John Pombe Magufuli

who won the day, while NEC members, early the following day, sang praises of the former premier Edward Lwasa, saying they had confidence in him.

Still critical of the CCM candidate and fifth phase leader, he intimated picking forms again and was expelled from CCM in 2020, emerging at ACT-Wazalendo as presidential candidate in the following general election. It was a crippled campaign which he soon abandoned.

Biographical write-ups of the former minister say he served as a national security analyst at the President's Office from 1978 to 1989, then studied at Johns Hopkins University, a prestigious academic institution in the United States, working for a master's degree in international relations from 1990 to 1992.

He was then assigned to the diplomatic service as consular official in the High Commission in Canada until 2000. He was appointed deputy

minister of Home Affairs by President Jakaya Kikwete after the 2005 general election.

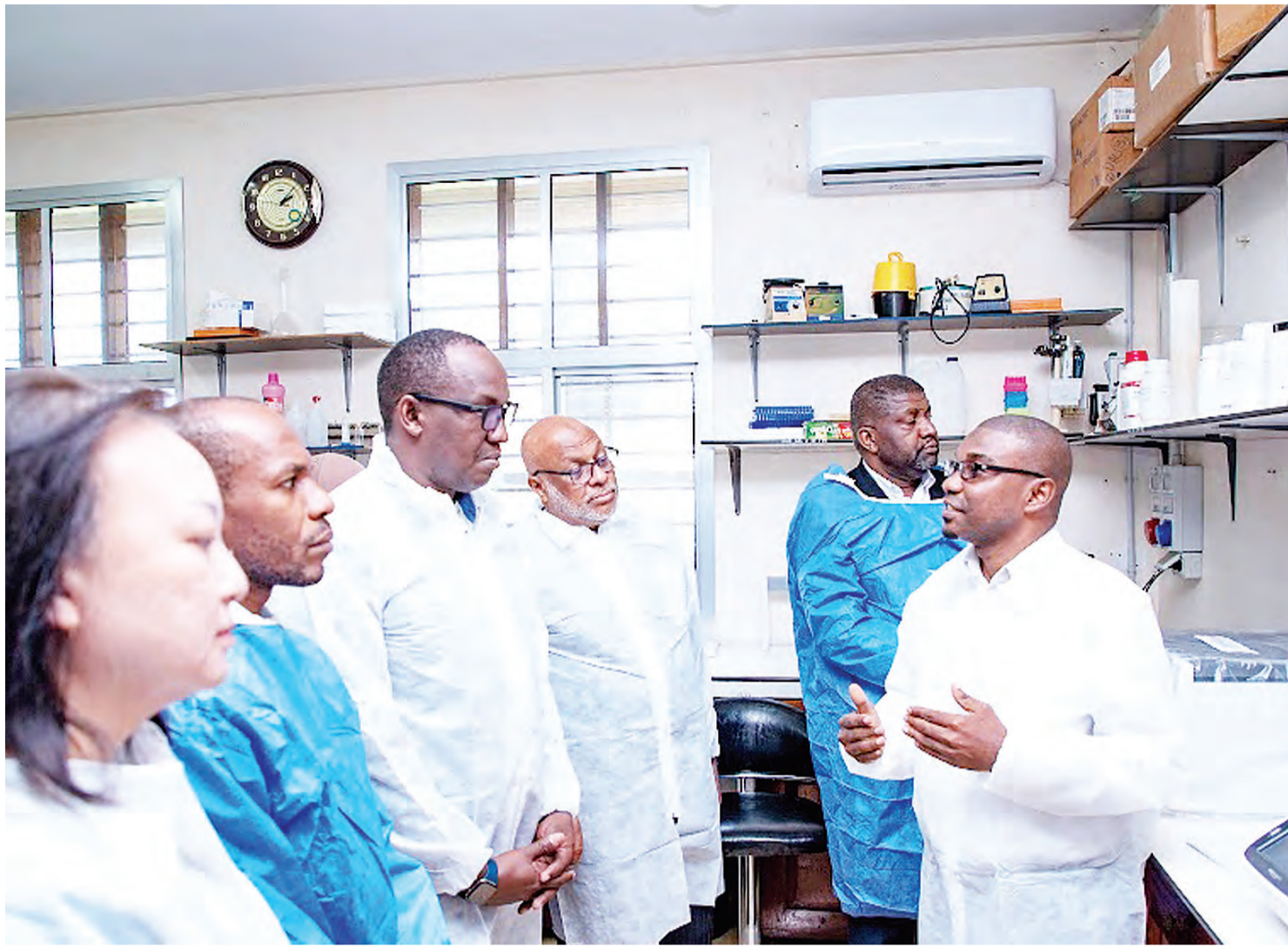
In October 2006 he was moved to Energy and Minerals in the same position then rose to Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation minister.

After the ACT-Wazalendo flag bearing stint, he ended his opposition itinerary in March 2022, returning to CCM praising the reconciliation moves of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.



Former President Jakaya Kikwete, who is also the Global Partnership for Education Board chairman, shares a light moment with former United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-moon in Seoul yesterday. The South Korean politician and diplomat served as the eighth UN chief from 2007 to 2016. Kikwete is in South Korea for consultations with government leaders and various organisations on ways to continue improving education in developing countries. Left is Tanzania's Ambassador to South Korea, Togolani Mavura. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





The head of Pemba Island's Molecular Biology Laboratory, Dr Ghanil Mohamed (R), makes remarks earlier this week when receiving a lab worth 1.8bn/-. Others are CDC's Division of Global Health Protection Division Tanzania deputy associate director Christie Vu (L), Management and Development for Health CEO Dr David Sando (3rd-L) and Zanzibar Minister for Health Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (4th-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 44 bottles of blood donated to support children expected to undergo surgery

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A total of 44 bottles of blood have been donated to support children who are expected to undergo surgery during a special surgery camp that will be conducted by experts of the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Institute (JKCI).

At the camp, JKCI will collaborate with fellow specialists from the Little Heart project of Muntada Aid Organisation based in London in the United Kingdom (UK).

The blood was collected by various individuals and organisations and will be used in the camp that started yesterday in Dar es Salaam and will end on May 19, his year.

Speaking about the donation, the specialist of heart surgery for children at JKCI Godwin Sharau, said the need for blood for heart surgery to children is great as one child can use two to four bottles of blood during surgery.

Secretary General of an Institute that is involved in social services like blood donation, JAI Saad Salim, said that donating blood is one of their priorities as they know that this was an essential need to help save lives of people.

"This is common practice in our group to donate blood to save the lives of others, here at JKCI this is our second time to donate blood, the first time we donated blood in 2015 where through our Institute 35 units of blood were obtained," he said.

Salim wanted the public to create a culture of donating blood so as to support various people who are fighting for life and others in need.

"Society should realize that the need for blood is great, so it is necessary to donate blood in our hospitals because when you donate it goes to help other citizens who also wish to be healthy like we are," Salim emphasised.

Mary Meshy, national blood programme eastern zone officer, Mary Meshy said the response of the people to donate blood has been great for its amount but the community should still realize that blood has never been enough so they should continue donating to be able to save the lives of others.

"Many people have been touched and they come here JKCI to donate blood, but the need for blood is still great, the woman who should donate blood should not be pregnant or breastfeeding and should not have any diseases, especially inherited ones," emphasized Mary Meshy.

A student of Paradigms Institute located in Kimara, Dar Es Salaam, Denis Mziba said they have seen the importance of participating in the blood donation exercise to help children who are in need.

"We have seen the importance of donating blood for children to be able to undergo heart surgeries here at JKCI and we promise we will continue to do this all the time," Denis said.

## US, ARPA offers molecular biology laboratory in Pemba

By Guardian Reporter

THE US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with the support from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) has handed over the first Molecular Biology Laboratory (PHL) worth 1.8bn/- in Pemba, Zanzibar targeting to enhance detection systems.

Speaking during the handover event held recently in the island, Christie Vu, deputy associate director for the division of global health protec-

tion - CDC Tanzania said the handover aimed at upgrading and strengthening laboratory schemes in conducting disease surveillance activities.

"Many factors affect our health security, like infectious diseases, humanitarian crises, and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. As we hand over the laboratory today, our collective goals are to strengthen preventive measures as well as pathogen detection systems that build confidence in preparedness and response," she said.

According to her, Zanzibar will be ready to detect known and unknown diseases through state-of-the-art molecular tests while tracking emergence of variants of diseases such as COVID-19.

"CDC urges the revolutionary government of Zanzibar to rapidly expand utilization of these capacities to strengthen disease surveillance, monitor disease trends and detect outbreaks early. With these capacities and robust collaborations Zanzibar builds confidence in their preparedness and readiness capacities in health security and advancing global

public health," she added.

Zanzibar Minister for Health, Nassor Mazrui, commended donors' move saying the capacitated laboratory will detect new and re-emerging viruses such as Ebola, monkeypox, yellow fever, rift valley fever, and others that cause infectious diseases.

"The laboratory reduces turnaround time for virus identification from 14 days to a day healthcare workers should therefore promote, maintain, and operate the laboratories with integrity for public health," he said.

The US CDC, through its partners Medical Department for Health (MDH) and UNICEF, supported about \$1.5 million in Zanzibar to upgrade the Zanzibar Public Health Laboratory in Unguja and establish the laboratory in Pemba. CDC mentors and trains the laboratory workforce to achieve rapid and measurable improvement in laboratory data quality and services. Both laboratories conduct disease surveillance to further protect the people in Zanzibar against diseases.

In particular, the support included

strengthening surveillance activities and diagnostic capacity, the procurement of equipment, reagents, and consumables.

Establishment of this molecular biology laboratory in Zanzibar is very potential to improve the availability of testing resulting in improved surveillance capacity, reduced waiting time, improved preparedness, and disease protection to more than 1.8 million residents of Zanzibar and more than 390,000 tourists visiting the isles annually.

## Govt resolves dispute in Mbarali District

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

MOHAMED Mchengerwa, minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, has acted on the recent directive by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to resolve a conflict between residents at Mwanvala village in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region and Ruaha National Park.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Thursday, the Premier urged the minister together with ministry officials and authorities in Mbeya Region to immediately meet with the villagers and their leaders, a move geared to end the dispute.

During a meeting with the villagers yesterday, the minister instructed the ministry's Permanent Secretary to take disciplinary actions against all government officials involved in the conflict.

He however asked villagers surrounding the park to observe the law, urging them to stop invading parks and other reserved areas. He said during the crackdown by game wardens, some villagers were found some ten kilometres inside the park, thus forcing game wardens to take them out by force.

Mchengerwa provided 1m/- to each of the five villagers who were directly involved in the fight with conservationist. He assured the residents that the current border dispute between them and the park is going to end as on Monday next week, he will sign a new GN that will clearly show boundaries be-

tween the village and Ruaha National Park.

The minister noted that boundaries of the park were set in 1910 when the park was known as Saba Game Reserve and in 1946 it was known as Rungwe Park before it was christened Ruaha National Park in 1964.

He said the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is determined to end human wildlife conflicts, thus ensuring peace.

"Article 68 of the ruling party (CCM) emphasizes on preservation of natural resources, we should all work together to preserve them for the benefit of current and future generations," he asserted.

In that session, Ng'ao Laini has asked the Government to look at the best way to relocate the citizens and allocate them better places to live when it is decided to remove them from the Park.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera who was accompanied by the Regional Defence and Security Committee and CCM leaders in Mbarali District, assured the villagers that the government will make sure all citizens are treated fairly.

Homera said they are going to conduct an assessment on how the families and people were affected when game wardens removed villagers from the reserve so that they are paid compensation.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi waves when receiving a nurses marching during yesterday's celebrations to mark International Nurses Day. Photo: Zanzibar State House

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE government has launched registration window for the coming Africa's Food Systems Forum (AGRF) 2023 billed to pave way for Tanzania and Africa to offer solution to the entire world's food security.

Speaking here yesterday, Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe urged Tanzanians in the private sector to turn out in large numbers and register for the key gathering scheduled to take place in Dar es Salaam in September, this year.

Bashe said that the forum organized by Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) which was

## State opens registration window for AGRF 2023

launched on March 17th by President Samia Suluhu Hassan is a podium for the country to help propel development of agriculture and food systems, but far above, it is a prestigious opportunity to promote the country's tourism packages, among others.

Being the first country to host the summit since its rebranding, Bashe said Tanzania is committed in preparing and assuring that the coming gathering is being held positively to enable Africa becoming the solution for the entire world's food security.

He said: "The global food demand for the next 25 year is projected to go up by 15 percent; we know there are

huge threats in front of us, but it is prudent for the African continent to turn the threats into possible opportunities," he observed.

As the host, the issue of food security and food sovereignty in the African continent is of our prime priority, Bashe remarked.

"Last few days I signed letters of at least 38 ministers from different countries who will be here for the forum, and personally, I have contacted my fellow ministers in neighbouring Kenya, Uganda and Zambia, inviting them to take part as well," he informed.

The minister noted that Tanzania considers the event as the vital busi-

ness forum taking into consideration that agriculture is business.

Bashe said he is considering to promotions through media outlets to ensure majority of relevant stakeholders from within and outside the country are aware of the opening of the registration window for the forum which is expected to attract more than 3,000 people from different parts of the world.

"We're mulling to invite members from the country's tourism sector to use the forum as a vital podium to help promote the beauty of Tanzania to the rest of the globe," he informed.

Managing Director for Africa's food Systems Forum (AGRF), Amath Pathe Sane, expressed to have been impressed by the serious manner to which the host Tanzania is continuing making effective preparations ahead of the event, saying he remained optimistic that the event will bear fruitful results.

The AGRF is the premier platform for advancing the agriculture and food systems agenda on the continent; from food security to agri-food investments.

The annual summit convenes leaders, policymakers, scientists, heads of governments and private institutions, farmers, and the youth

in the agriculture and food systems landscape to discuss and agree on practical actions and solutions that drive Africa's food security and better livelihoods for all.

The 2023 summit aspires to position Africa as the place for innovation, investments, and to advance a stronger, more diverse, and resilient food system. The Summit will look to energize and spotlight continental progress beyond the call for aid.

The summit will showcase Africa's solutions to Africa's food systems transformation while spotlighting leadership, accountability, inclusion and investment opportunities in Africa in general and in Tanzania in particular.



## Ministry underscores need for govt to protect local industries

By Guardian Reporter

A delegation of 40 people including 14 leading companies in transporting tourists and journalists from major media outlets in China have landed in the country for a two-week tour in various destinations.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mohamed Mchengerwa said the trip is a result of President Samia Suluhu Hassan to market the country's attractions through The Royal Tour Documentary.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, Mchengerwa said the tour operators and travel agents are from 14 big companies in China along with the media practitioners form six major stations who arrived in the country from Zanzibar.

The delegation will visit various parts in the country including national parks of Tarangire, Manyara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro, and a popular site—Olduvai Gorge, Dar es Salaam and Arusha cities. The visitors are also expected to conduct meetings with tourism stakeholders.

"The delegation will meet with stakeholders on May 18th, 2023 in

Arusha, an event that will be graced by the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism," read the statement.

Tanzania Ambassador to China, Mbelwa Kairuki said through verified Embassy's Twitter account that the tour has been organised by the Tanzania's diplomatic mission in China in collaboration with Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB), Zanzibar Tourism Commission (ZTC) under the sponsorship of Air Tanzania Company limited (ATCL).

The envoy said the purpose of the tour is to attract Chinese tourists in the country.

Elaborating on the activities to be conducted by the Chinese delegates in Tanzania, he said they will visit various tourism attractions in Zanzibar including Stone Town, Dolphin Tour as well as visiting hotels.

The envoy said on May 13th, they expect to hold a meeting with tourism stakeholders at Hyatt Park in Zanzibar.

In Dar es Salaam, they will visit Makumbusho Village Museums and Tanzania and Zambia Railway Station (TAZARA) before holding a meeting with their fellow stakeholders to discuss trade collaborations.



Tanzania Women Chambers of Commerce (TWCC) CEO Mwajuma Hamza (2nd-R) receives a dummy cheque for over 297m/- from USAID Tanzania Mission director Kate Somvongsiri in Dodoma city yesterday. The money is meant to support the implementation of a project aimed at increasing youth participation in economic activities and building their capacity to benefit from agriculture. Looking on is the Ministry of Agriculture Deputy Third right is Agriculture ministry deputy permanent secretary Hussein Omari. Photo courtesy of TWCC

## EABC to equip businesses with knowledge on AfCFTA

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has embarked on a campaign to equip businesses in the region with necessary skills and knowledge on the technical and administrative aspects of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Rules of Origin to seize opportunities provided by the preferential trade regime.

EABC yesterday hosted a webinar on the AfCFTA Rules of Origin in collaboration with the World Customs Organisation (WCO) through

the European Union-WCO African Rules of Origin Programme, convened over 200 businesses from East Africa and the continent.

Speaking at meeting EABC Executive Director John Bosco Kalisa said, "AfCFTA Rules of Origin will promote the 'Made in Africa' campaign."

He stated that Rules of Origin should be flexible, predictable, and simple for SMEs to trade in the 1.2 billion AfCFTA market.

"Rules of Origin should integrate continental value chains of agro processing, automotive, textiles,

pharmaceuticals, and transport and logistics to boost intra-Africa trade," said Kalisa.

Project Manager, Regional Cooperation-Infrastructure, EU Delegation to Tanzania and EAC Sagoh Djete, reiterated European Union's commitment to promote free movement of goods in EAC and continent.

The webinar equipped 200 businesses from the East African Community (EAC) with the necessary skills and knowledge on the technical and administrative aspects of the AfCFTA.

In her presentation, Unami Tihole, Origin Expert, EU-WCO RoO Africa Programme, said that as of February 2023, 46 countries have deposited their instruments of ratification of the AfCFTA agreement. She explained that 36 Tariff Offers, including three (3) Customs Unions (EAC, ECOWAS, and CEMAC), have been technically verified, and Rules of Origin (RoO) covering 88.3percent of tariff lines have been agreed upon.

Rules of Origin are rules and regulations that determine the "economic nationality" of a product.

AfCFTA Rules of Origin are found in the Protocol on Trade in Goods' Annex 2 on Rules of Origin and Appendix IV to Annex 2. Experts in the field shared valuable insights during the webinar, covering essential topics and addressing common challenges faced by businesses in complying with the AfCFTA Rules of Origin.

The AfCFTA Rules of Origin (RoO) will attract more Foreign Direct Investments, offer opportunities for SMEs to engage in regional value chains, provide preferential market access (No Quotas; waived

duties; competitive prices), reduce the cost of doing business through self-certification by MSMEs (< USD5,000), and approved exporters. This will foster economic transformation of the continent through industrialisation.

To qualify for AfCFTA Rules of Origin (RoO), businesses should know the criteria for tariff liberalisation, types of proof of origin, the country's designated competent authority, registration procedures, and procedures for the issuance of proof of origin.

## '40-person delegation of Chinese companies' officials, journalists in Tanzania for a two-week tour'

By Guardian Reporter

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Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba pictured in Arusha city yesterday addressing a meeting of the Finance and Economy ministers of East African Community member countries called to discuss the economic bloc's Budget relative to the Budget estimates of the individual states for financial year 2023/2024. He is flanked by Investment, Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (L) and Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba. Photo: Finance ministry

## Kenya due to spend a hefty amount on new trains, railway repairs

THE Kenyan government has reportedly announced plans to invest about U.S.\$731 million to revamp the Nairobi-Mombasa standard gauge railway (SGR), build new sidings, and buy more locomotives and wagons in the next three years.

The government hopes the country's most expensive

piece of infrastructure will help to grow the economy and improve the standard of living for Kenyans.

A report by the country's National Treasury shows that the country's transport ministry will receive an additional U.S.\$714.7 million for the "Development of Standard Gauge

Railway" between July 2023 and June 2026. This decision will boost the total spending on the SGR project to over U.S.\$5.7 billion by June 2026, reports revealed.

The rest of the funds, which have been allocated under the "Mombasa to Nairobi SGR" will largely be used to build new

feeder lines and rehabilitate the old metre gauge railway (MGR) lines, reports The East African. Charged at the rate of 2%, the Railway Development Fund (RDF) is reportedly levied on all goods imported into the country for home use.

The East African further reports that, in the next 12

months, the government will also build a new 2.8-kilometre Metre Gauge Railway (MGR) link from Mombasa SGR Terminus to Mombasa MGR station at a cost of U.S.\$18.29 million. These funds will also be used to construct a railway bridge across the Makupa causeway that links Mombasa Island to

the Kenyan mainland.

U.S.\$11.7 million - New Metre Gauge Railway (MGR) line linking the Naivasha Inland Container Depot to the existing Longonot Railway Station

U.S.\$2.93 million - Construction of a Railway Metro Line connecting Athi River Station to the East African Portland

Cement

U.S. \$3.3 million - a figure that is set to increase to U.S. \$11.4 million and U.S. \$13.83 million in 2024/25 and 2025/26 - Another Railway Metro Line connecting Athi River Station to NSSF and Mavoko



## 3 Tanzanians, two foreigners appear in court allegedly over money laundering

By Guardian Correspondent

THREE Tanzanians and two other foreign nationals from Nepal and Cameroon yesterday appeared before the Kisutu magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam facing seven counts of money laundering.

The suspects names are Bhusal Govinda (Nepal), Takoounga Anselme (Cameroon), Emanuel Gaudios, Raymond Richard, Caroline Magafu and Grace Sureshi who are Tanzanians. They are accused of obtaining 1.4bn/- on false pretence.

Reading the charges before the chief resident magistrate Mary Mrio, Senior State Attorney Grolia Mwenda assisted by another attorney from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Thuwaiba Hussein claimed before the court that on September 2022 in Dar es Salaam the suspects colluded to join a criminal network to earn \$623,000 equivalent to 1.4bn/- from Zhejiang Afol Import and Export Co. Ltd.

He alleged that between August 19 and September 29, 2020 in Dar es Salaam, Magafu and Bhusal earned 1.4bn/- from a mining company using an account at Stanbick Bank as payment for selling 100 tons of copper through Steca Export and Import Company, when they knew it was not true.

It is also alleged that on September 2022 in Dar es Salaam Gaudios, Richard and Sureshi colluded to forge documents against

the law.

Mwenda also claimed that on September 16, 2022 at Nkruma Street the suspects fogged a bill of lading, showing that Stecas Export and Import, had transported 44 tonnes of copper to Zhejiang Afol Import and Export Co. Ltd when they knew it was not true.

He also claimed that the suspects also fogged a document showing that Stecas Export and Import had transported 66 tonnes of copper to Zhejiang Afol Import and Export Co. Ltd which was not true.

It is alleged that on September 2, 2022 at the same place the suspects being employees of Glob Vest Group Ltd, earned money from Zhejiang Afol Import and Export Co LTD as payment for transporting 44 tonnes of copper.

He said between August 19 and September 29, in Dar es Salaam the suspects were involved in a transaction worth 1.4bn/- while knowing that the issue was criminal.

After reading the charges, Mrio explained to the suspects that the suspects are not supposed to respond as the court had no jurisdiction to hear the charges.

He said investigations for the case was not complete and requested that the case be heard at another date. He postponed the case until May, 25 this year for a mention. Suspects were taken to custody as the charges have no bail.



Widow Magreth Katabazi (C) of Buzuruga ward in Mwanza city pictured yesterday holding her twin daughters Neema Abel and Rehema Abel, aged 18, who are paralysed in the limbs alongside having impaired speech owing to spinal cord and brain problems. She is pleading for help from the public to pay for the duo's medical tests and treatment, which she said would cost more than 40 million/-. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

## Ministry of Health to upgrade Mirembe hospital status

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE ministry of health has declared to upgrade the Dodoma based Mirembe National Mental Hospital (MNMH) status to a National Specialized Institute for Mental Health Diseases in its 2023/24 financial years priorities as victims of mental health related diseases surge.

2bn/- has been allocated in the next budget to facilitate this transformation plan that covers grooming mental health professionals in the areas of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

The funds will also be used to strengthen rehabilitative medicines services at the hospital among others.

The decision comes when the government has already in the current fiscal year started taking initiatives for training mental health experts.

Tabling 2023/24 budget estimates pegged at 1.24trn/- in the National Assembly yesterday, Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu said between July 2022 and March 2023 Mirembe hospital had treated 212,065 patients of which 138,625 an equivalent of 65.3 percent suffered from mental health

diseases.

According to her, during 2020/21 the hospital had attended 131,711 patients of which 79,619 an equivalent 60.4 percent were mental health victims. However, during the period, 104,400 attended out patients while 107,665 inpatients.

The hospital had waived medical expenses worth 77.93m/- at the hospital that covered 10,867 patients. The money covered food, diagnosis, and medicines. The minister said the hospital has sensitized 18,154 students during the current fiscal year from different learning levels

on mental health related matters. It also sensitized 25,564 Dodoma region residents on the same.

"The ministry will in 2023/24 continue sensitizing the public on threats related to mental health problems and ways to overcome them. The ministry will also collaborate with universities and colleges in producing mental health experts," said Mwalimu.

She further asserted that in addressing the problem the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) will in the 2023/24 financial year establish the bach-

elor's degree course in Clinical Psychology. Short courses will also be established through health colleges to prepare experts for serving at region and referral hospitals.

The ministry has also during 2023/24 planned to continue strengthening specialized treatment services in public hospitals as a way of bringing even closer the services to people who are forced to travel abroad for treatments.

To achieve this, the ministry has already introduced a new programme dubbed 'Samia Health Super Specialization' intended at

grooming specialized medical doctors through scholarships in local and foreign universities.

As of March 981 medical doctors pursuing a PhD have been enrolled of which 179 are pursuing their studies abroad. The government has spent 8bn/- so far in this programme. "The ministry has already made an arrangement of deploying 100 specialized medical doctors to district hospitals for capacity building, skills transferring and mentorship programmes in district hospitals across the country," said Mwalimu.



The US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Battle (C), poses for a souvenir photo yesterday during a tour of the Zanzibar Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) led by Zanzibar Health minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (to his right). The delegation also included CDC Tanzania Country director Dr Mahesh Swaminathan and his AMREF Health Africa counterpart, Dr Florence Temu. It was out to learn about how the centre handles public health emergency alerts and response activation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 735 pupils selected to join Form One in Kilindi haven't reported

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

ABOUT 735 pupils who were selected to join Form One in Kilindi District, Tanga Region have not reported to their respective schools, it has been reported.

A report presented yesterday to the district council by the chairman of the community services committee Juma Bewa shows the pupils are part of the 5,037 who passed to join secondary school last year.

According to Bewa the number is the biggest in recent years, derailing efforts to promote education in the district and the region at large.

In the report, Bewa said as of March 31, this year pupils who reported to schools where they were selected were 4,272.

"Out of the figure, those who reported, boys were 1,992 and girls were 2,280 which is equivalent to 85-percent, but for those who have not reported boys were 327 and girls were 408," he said.

Explaining on the pupils who were selected to begin secondary education, Bewa said a total of 5,035 including boys who were 2,335 and girls were 2,702 and were selected to join 22 secondary schools in the district.

In another development, the chairman said in the 2023 academic year, enrolment in primary schools was beyond target where it reached 138.6 percent for nursery school and 141.8 percent for standard one.

## Netherlands lauds Iringa Region authorities for supervising implementation of WASH projects

By correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

NETHERLANDS government has applauded the Iringa Region for supervising the implementation of the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project thus bringing remarkable progress.

In the project, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is supporting the Iringa Region to accelerate implementation of sanitation and water programmes which are funded by the Netherlands government.

Johanna Baak, an official from the Netherlands government made the appreciations during her two-day visit to the region to witness progress of various projects supported by her government.

She expressed happiness on how the project is bringing positive impacts to the community.

Baak stated that the Netherlands government is supporting access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) because it brings a lot of benefits in many fields.

Chief of WASH at UNICEF Tanzania,

Frank Odhiambo, said the project is meant to help the region improve sanitation and water services.

He said that the region has made remarkable progress since the project was initiated due to the commitment of the regional leaders.

Odhiambo explained that with the support of UNICEF, all districts have roadmaps that guide investments being made to improve WASH services.

Lugodalutali village leadership in Igombavanu Ward in Mufindi district

thanked the donors for being able to improve the toilet and water infrastructure.

Head teacher at Lugodalutali primary school, Sihaba Mhonda said that the leaders of the village government, citizens, teachers and students have promised to manage the built infrastructure so that it can be used properly as well as carry out repairs and maintenance when damage occurs.

Mhonda added that the attendance of students at the school has increased from 96 percent to 99.8 percent per

month due to the decrease in absenteeism.

The improvements made at the school has also helped increase academic performance of students from 94 to 96 percent as well as decreasing outbreak of water-borne diseases

Regional health officer, Hadija Haruni said the region has successfully decreased outbreak of various diseases such as cholera, typhoid, fever and diarrhoea after reaching 91 percent of households with quality toilets.



## Nsekela urges cooperative societies' leaders to be transparent, embrace professionalism

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CHAIRMAN of the Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), Abdulmajid Nsekela has called on leaders of cooperative societies to be transparent and embrace professionalism to ensure sustainability of the associations.

He promised to manage the association with great professionalism to ensure it continues to grow, thus making significant contribution to the economy.

He made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a conference organized by the Dar es Salaam Cooperation Forum themed 'cooperation for sustainable development'.

The meeting was attended by heads of cooperatives from Kinondoni, Kigamboni, Temeke, Ilala and Ubungo Districts of Dar es Salaam Region.

"You cannot have a sustainable life if you don't adhere to the principles of good governance; in managing the cooperatives, honesty and transparency are important things to consider if the associations are to grow and contribute to the country's economic growth," emphasized Nsekela.

He said that cooperatives have done great things in liberating the country socially, politically and economically, hence the need for leaders to manage

them carefully.

He said Tanzania does not have a shortage of corporate professionals because the government established the cooperative college in Moshi Kilimanjaro Region which has been producing a number of professionals each year.

He said although some cooperatives are facing various operational challenges, there are cooperatives that have been doing well including, Ngome and Tanesco, advising other cooperatives to follow their steps.

Nsekela said the government, through the Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), has planned to continue managing cooperatives in the country so that they continue to contribute to the country's economy.

"When I met the registrar of cooperatives for the first time I told him that those who gave us the honour to lead them wants to see changes because cooperatives are tools that can bring about desired development for the nation and individuals," said Nsekela.

He said the government is determined to improve and develop cooperatives, adding that cooperatives have been used as an important tool to promote development.

Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Dr Benson Ndiege, said the cooperative societies face various challenges especially when their leaders could not embrace transparency.



Cooperative Development Commission chairman Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-R) presents a KCBL Co-operative Bank share ownership certificate to Bandari Saccos chairman Ernest Nyambo at the Dar es Salaam Cooperative Forum meeting on Thursday. Looking on are DCF chairman Musa Chowo (R) and Federation of Tanzania Cooperatives chairman Charles Jishuri. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Vodacom announces 10.2 percent year-on-year growth

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania Plc, has announced a top-line growth of 10.2-percent year-on-year, generating 1.1 trn/- in service revenue for the twelve months which ended 31 March 2023.

Addressing investors and other key stakeholders during a call to announce the preliminary results, Managing Director, Philip Besimire explained that the strong financial performance recorded over the past year is significant progress in the company's purpose-led strategy and notable achievements in its social contract initiatives.

"It is pleasing that during the year we progressed well with the implementation of our purpose-led strategy. It was encouraging to see good progress in the fulfilment of our social contract pledges and

solid financial performance," said Besimire.

The company recorded a profit after tax of 44.6bn/- an improvement from a loss of 20.3bn/- in the previous year. The growth was supported by solid performance in data, a recovery in M-Pesa, and accelerated fixed revenue growth that together translates to a double-digit growth year-on-year, generating an impressive service revenue.

However voice revenue declined by 1.2percent to 283.5bn/-, reflecting competitive pricing pressure, while M-Pesa revenue grew by 8.4 percent to 357.1bn/-, driven by the uptake of new services and a diversified product portfolio.

Mobile data revenue increased by 34.2percent to 273.7 bn/-, demonstrating strong demand for data services and accelerated smartphone adoption. Fixed revenue

grew by 27.3percent to 19.5bn/-, supported by infrastructure investments and customer acquisition.

On the other hand, EBITDA increased by 9.7percent to 329.4 bn/-, driven by strong top-line growth and effective cost-containment measures. The company demonstrated resilience amidst global and operational headwinds, effectively managing cost pressures.

The company has made significant strides in fulfilling its social contract, leveraging technology to improve lives and drive positive societal change.

"We accelerated farmers' registration on our M-Kulima platform to reach 3.1 million from just 140,000 registered farmers in March 2022. Through M-Pesa, we distributed proceeds worth 4.6bn/- to the enrolled farmers, providing secure and efficient cashless transactions,

market information, and weather forecasts," said Phillip.

The company also focused on its "inclusive care" initiatives, aimed at facilitating convenient access to services for people with special needs. Dedicated counters in retail outlets were established and implemented a sign language service through WhatsApp video. Over 1,300 visitors benefited from these inclusive care initiatives during the financial year.

Also, in 2022 the country's first 5G network was introduced demonstrating the company's commitment to taking Tanzania to a digital age through strategic initiatives.

This is in line with the company's network investment to meet growing customer needs whereas 156bn/- was directed towards network coverage, capacity enhancement, and IT infrastructure im-

provements adding 390 4G sites, 231 5G sites, and deploying 283 kilometers of fiber which supported the significant increase in 4G and 5G traffic, as well as providing high-speed connectivity to businesses.

"The annual escalation of service contracts, particularly those involving tower leases, and extra investments in innovative technologies like 5G were the key contributors to our operational expenses this year.

He said the company invested \$63.2 million in the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority's spectrum auction and purchased four blocks of key low- and mid-band spectrum.

"With this acquisition, we will be able to maximize fixed-wireless access growth potential and make even more progress toward closing the digital divide," said Phillip.

Vodacom M-Pesa has shown a

growth trajectory thanks to the deduction of the mobile money levies and the company's customer-centric strategy and expansion of its M-Pesa products portfolio.

"Following the reduction of levies, the volume of peer-to-peer and cash-out transactions is increasing. We applaud the government for reducing taxes, which sparked a boom in mobile finance and enhanced our support for M-Pesa's push for financial inclusion.

We increased the number of companies enrolling in our electronic payment system, growing our merchant base to 150,000, and realizing significant growth.

Over 2m customers transacted 6 trn/- digitally through merchants. Additionally, Vodacom Tanzania's lending products portfolio served over 4 million customers, issuing 1trn/- in micro-loans, including sup-



Dodoma City deputy mayor Jamal Ngalya (R) presents a certificate of appreciation to Chamwino councillor Jumanne Ngede at a meeting for the councillors held earlier this week after the ward emerged winner in environmental sanitation. Others are Chamwino ward executive officer Lucas Venance (L) and Dodoma City director Joseph Mafuru. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## East African CSOs call upon leaders to embrace renewable energy

KAMPALA

THE 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2023, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the region voiced concern over East African leaders' discussions to exploit oil in the region, which could exacerbate climate change.

The meeting which ended on Thursday last week was attended by 41 CSOs and youth from East African countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

They voiced their concerns over their governments' and oil companies' plans to enhance investments in oil and gas in East Africa.

The regional petroleum conference themed 'East Africa as a hub for Investment in Exploration and Exploitation of Petroleum Resources for Sustainable Energy and Socio-economic Development' brought together top East African government representatives with the aim

of developing a common energy policy (mainly anchored in oil) to be backed with a protocol that will define the regional framework to support the development of the petroleum sector.

"It's concerning that regional leaders should meet to discuss how to build new oil projects when the world is transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy. In its 2021 World Energy Outlook report, the International Energy Agency (IEA) indicated that oil demand is expected to level off in the mid-2030s and decline in 2050," said Dickens Kamugisha, the CEO of Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) from Uganda.

He added: "Yet East African countries are borrowing huge amounts of money to invest in oil and gas. How will they recoup the monies that are invested? East Africans are poor and should not be straddled with assets that could become stranded. Governments should

avoid investing in coal, oil and gas."

Charity Migwi, Regional campaigner, 350Africa.org said: "Africa has significant renewable energy potential, which if developed, can position the continent to lead the global green energy transition. Instead of seemingly doubling down on fossil fuels, we urge East African leaders to prioritize the adoption of safe and sustainable renewable energy."

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that at the current rate, global warming would reach 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2040, which could cause severe environmental and economic damage. Suppose the EAC member states proceed in this direction, they will undermine the scientists and put undue pressure on frontline communities in the region suffering climate change consequences," said Hilda Flavia Naka-buye, a Fridays for Future Uganda co-founder.

## SADC chair appeals for enhancement of regional integration

By Guardian Reporter

CHAIRPERSON of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo has called for renewed and dedicated efforts towards deepening regional integration and the attainment of sustainable development.

Tshisekedi made the call recently during his official visit to the SADC Secretariat to appreciate the work done by the Secretariat in facilitating the SADC regional

integration agenda and to provide guidance on the Secretariat's implementation of SADC programmes.

Tshisekedi highlighted that since its formation, SADC has made great strides and will continue to be relevant for a long time to come as an essential vehicle for promoting regional integration, economic and social-political development.

President Tshisekedi cited as a huge milestone, the signing of over 33 protocols which provide a framework of cooperating in a wide range of sectors including agriculture, food security and natural

resources, infrastructure, industrial development, trade, investment and finance, social and human development, and peace and security.

The SADC chairperson highlighted the enormous potential of the region for trade, investment and economic growth.

He said: "As a united community with 16 member states, with a combined GDP of about \$720 billion, and a combined population of over 360 million people, of which 74.6 are youths, we have a huge market for investment and economic

development."

He added that the SADC region's strong legal and policy frameworks which include the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030; SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063); SADC Regional Agricultural Policy; and SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), coupled with abundant natural resources including minerals, present a conducive environment for trade and investment opportunities to thrive.

He called on the region to remain united

against threats to peace and security which threaten SADC's efforts for integration and prosperity.

The Chairperson recognised the dedication and leadership of Dr Hage G. Geingob, President of Namibia, and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation for convening SADC Organ Troika Summit in Windhoek on 8th May, 2023, dedicated to address the security situation in the eastern DRC and for continuing to play a crucial role in ensuring that the region remains peaceful and stable.



## Songea residents applaud govt for installing road traffic lights

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RESIDENTS of Songea Municipality in Ruvuma region have commended the government through TARURA in the region for installing road traffic lights at Matarawe area that had experienced many road accidents in the past.

Speaking at different times to this paper here, they said it was the first time to see the lights operating at the area that is in proximity to five primary schools, a secondary school and a college.

They said the lights are a big saviour on the lives of students

and other people as there were many accidents in the past that cost lives.

They said Songea is Ruvuma Region's headquarters hence for TARURA to install traffic lights is a great government achievement.

They also appealed to the government through road safety authorities to take up the responsibility in educating the public on how the traffic lights function as intended as many people are ignorant of them.

Matarawe Ward Councillor, Judith Mbogoro expressed gratitude to the government for recognizing the importance in installing traffic lights in the

area. She said the road is important as it is used to transport the sick from Mjimwema Health Centre to Songea Regional Hospital as well as being near several schools.

Echoing similar remarks, Christopher Banda, Headmaster of Matarawe Secondary School said the traffic lights will eradicate frequent accidents along the road, and called for the traffic police to educate the students on how they operate.

Ruvuma Regional Police Commander, Marco Chillya said he has already directed the Region's Traffic Head to make sure education is provided to all road users on the lights.



Peter Toima (L), CCM regional chairman for Manyara, shares a light moment with Terrat councillor Jackson ole Materi (R) and Ngorika councillor Albert Msole at the party's Parents Week event held at Loiborsiret in Simanjiro District earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## ARU and stakeholders embark on project to address risk of flooding, water scarcity in Dar

By Getrude Mbago

ARDHI University (ARU), Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) and University College Dublin (UCD) of Ireland have jointly launched a special project aimed to address the increasing risk of flooding and water scarcity in Dar es Salaam Region.

Dubbed: "Water Management through Ecohydrology for Climate Change Adaptation (WECOAdapt), the one and half year project is supported by Irish Aid at a tune of euros 137,000 (352m/-).

Speaking during the first stakeholder engagement workshop in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Dr Liana Ricci from UCD said urbanisation, land use and climate change were bringing a number of negative impacts to society especially those living in unplanned settlements.

Dr Liana said the project will be implemented in two phases where the first one will involve conducting a baseline survey by visiting communities, stakeholders and leaders to validate various challenges and thus come up with recommendable

solutions.

"This will include conducting a survey in settlements and residents living along Msimbazi, Mbezi and Mzinga Rivers in the five districts of Dar es Salaam Region, we will dig out to find major challenges facing communities and their recommendations to resolve them," she said.

She said catchment imperviousness of the river basins have increased thus causing floods, erosion, land and marine pollution.

She said: "Our aim is to develop and integrate scientific knowledge, from Ecohydrology modelling, with community knowledge from participatory back-casting to co-develop adaptation pathways and a decision support toolkit including sustainable adaptation finance mechanisms."

Dr Liana noted that Dar es Salaam is among fastest-growing coastal cities in Africa with more than 70 percent informal underserved settlements.

"Women contribute less to greenhouse gas emissions and are more likely to be negatively affected by

floods and droughts, and ecosystem degradation. Vulnerable and low-income people, including women, usually live in informal settlements located in areas at higher risk of flooding and disasters and are highly affected by ecosystem degradation," she explained.

"There is high dependence on natural resources ecosystems services due to hybrid rural-urban livelihoods with climate change and land use increasing risk of water scarcity and flooding. Inadequate drainage systems and waste disposal exacerbating the impact of floods," she noted.

Dr Given Mhina, assistant local project coordinator from Ardhi University hinted on the note that marginalized communities are facing multiple challenges due to climate change as they do have the capacity to overcome them alone without having coordinated efforts but the project will equip them with skills on how to address the challenges in their places.

"We cannot blame anyone for the challenges but what is needed here

is working in coordination, government institutions should work as a team, the private sector as well, the community also has a role to play to overcome the challenges," he said.

Dr Tim Ndezi, CCI executive director said that more coordinated efforts are needed to ensure that in the seed phase which will take 12 months, will involve establishing sub-projects in the selected five sites asper challenges in the respective areas.

"These may include tree planting, waste management, cleaning the environment as well as rivers and many other initiatives that respond to the impacts of climate change," he said.

Nancy Kataraihya, Programme Officer- Development at the Embassy of Ireland said "This event marks a successful commencement of a good partnership between University College Dublin and Ardhi University and CCI supported by the SDG Challenge which is funded by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and implemented with partner Science Foundation Ireland."

She said Ireland and Tanzania have a fruitful relationship that spans decades, and includes a number of key areas of cooperation - including gender equality and women's empowerment, social protection and public health.

She said Ireland is and has been at the forefront of discussions on the global climate crisis and in efforts to support those countries least responsible for climate change to adapt and access financing and support.

"Hence over the years, Ireland has and is responding strongly, domestically and internationally, to the urgency engendered by the climate crisis through our International Climate Finance Roadmap," she noted.

Nancy asserted that WECOAdapt falls under the theme of Adaptation which aligns very well with Ireland's International Development Policy, A Better World, the focus of which is to reach those furthest behind first and to channel support to those most at risk of being left behind.

"WECO Adapt aims to create a new conceptual and methodological framework and co-develop solutions for the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy (2012 - 2026), Tanzania Urban Resilience Program (TURP) and National Water Policy of the United Republic of Tanzania. The initiative might look as a small step now but could create multiple benefits for many in the longer term, whilst also bringing two universities with a common goal together in advancing important climate adaptation strategies," she asserted.

During discussion, stakeholders including National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) commended the initiative emphasizing for more coordinated efforts to address challenges in marginalized settlements especially those brought by climate change.

Happiness George from HakiArdhi underscored the need for the country to enact a special Climate Change Act so as to strengthen efforts in the mitigation and adaptation measures.

## ITFC signs deals worth \$1.1 billion with Mali, Gambia, and Djibouti

JEDDAH

THE International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) has signed four major agreements with Mali, Gambia, and Djibouti amounting to over US\$1.1 Billion on the first day of the 2023 IsDB Group Annual Meetings in Saudi Arabia.

The financing will support the countries' key sectors: agriculture, energy, and health, in addition to the private sector. This, in turn, will help to create economic growth opportunities for the countries and ensure a stable and secure supply of essential products.

The first is a five-year US\$500million framework agreement between ITFC and the Republic of Mali. The agreement was signed by Alousséni Sanou, Minister of Economy and Finance, Mali, and Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol, CEO ITFC. The agreement will ensure closer cooperation and coordination of efforts between the Government of Mali and ITFC. This financing will pave the way for an extension of the strategic partnership to new collaboration areas in energy, agriculture, private sector, and health. The collaboration will also include Technical Assistance and Capacity building programs under the Arab Africa Trade Bridges (AATB) Program.

Another two Direct Murabaha Financing agreements were signed by Seedy K.M. Keita, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, The Gambia, and Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol, CEO of ITFC. The first is a Direct Murabaha Financing Operation of US\$35 million for the National Water & Electricity Company (NAWEC) in The Gambia. This financing will enable NAWEC to reliably generate electricity for the country in a more cost-effective manner. The second agreement is a Direct Murabaha Financing Operation of US\$20 million for the Gambia National Petroleum Company (GNPC), for the import of refined petroleum products.



Construction of a bridge meant to keep a railway line securely separate from a road under way at Chang'ombe in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne

## 152 million babies born preterm in last decade, new report reveals

By Guardian Reporter

AN estimated 13.4 million babies were born pre-term in 2020, with nearly 1 million dying from preterm complications, according to a new report released by United Nations agencies and partners today.

This is equivalent to around 1 in 10 babies born early (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) worldwide.

Born too soon: decade of action on preterm birth, produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Na-

tions Children's Fund (UNICEF) together with PMNCH—the world's largest alliance for women, children, and adolescents, sounds the alarm on a "silent emergency" of preterm birth, long under-recognized in its scale and severity, which is impeding progress in improving children's health and survival.

The report includes updated estimates from WHO and UNICEF, prepared with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, on the prevalence of preterm births.

It finds that preterm birth rates have not changed in any region in the world in the past decade, with 152 million vulnerable babies born too soon from 2010 to 2020.

Preterm birth is now the leading cause of child deaths, accounting for more than 1 in 5 of all deaths of children occurring before their 5th birthday. Preterm survivors can face lifelong health consequences, with an increased likelihood of disability and developmental delays.

Prof Joy Lawn, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Co-lead of the report said: "This new report shows that the cost of inaction over the last decade was 152 million babies born too soon. While some regions are more affected, preterm birth threatens health progress in every country. Greater investment in the care of vulnerable newborns can save millions of families from heartbreak. More

work is also needed to prevent preterm birth, which will also improve progress in reducing stillbirths and maternal deaths."

A Tanzanian, Dr Nahya Salim, Born Too Soon co-author and national lead of Newborn Essential Solutions and Technologies 360 (NEST360) said: "There is now no excuse for silence. We now have in our hands the devices and the knowledge to change outcomes for our most vulnerable

newborns. I am proud to see my government now investing and committed to implementation across even rural areas. The next decade can and must be different for those facing preterm birth here and everywhere."

Dr Anshu Banerjee, Director for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing at WHO said ensuring quality care for these tiniest, most vulnerable babies and their families is absolutely im-

perative for improving child health and survival.

"Progress is also needed to help prevent preterm births -- this means every woman must be able to access quality health services before and during pregnancy to identify and manage risks," he said.

Helga Fogstad, Executive Director, PMNCH said: "Born too soon underlines why we must increase investment and accountability for preterm birth - the world's largest cause of death of children under the age of five.



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At The News**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## LHRC right on English as helpful teaching medium

CHANCES that the English language is placed on the forefront in the newly proposed education and training policy as the medium of instruction in all levels of education are at best modest. But it is a tempting proposition which well-meaning observers, not overly tied down to cultural formalities, ought to see something positive in it. It is a matter of where the country wishes to be both in the region and in the wider world, and whether language matters in that or not.

Despite that the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) is not at the first instance an NGO operating in education sector issues, it didn't strictly speaking move out of its professional margin of work in issuing this appeal. Enabling young men and women to excel or at least show workable competence in the key language of professional activity is essential to overall ability to obtain openings at work. It is also essential for attracting investors who expect the workforce to read an elementary manual in English, like drug prescriptions.

What is not understood in the issue is that the more we make Kiswahili not just a language but a national vocation, almost a religion, the more Tanzania sinks deeper into the quagmire of unemployable graduates. This blocks East African integration because opinion worries that our neighbours, competent in English, will get all the jobs. So we can't integrate but we have open markets, in which case we can specialise in relatively non-technical occupations, among ourselves or in serving visitors, whether in tourism or investments, as in leisure industry.

The debate about a teaching medium will take diametrically different

proportions if the supposedly new education policy is actually tabled and voted. From what LHRC says about it, it is a playback from September 2014 or thereabouts. It was approved in a legislative chamber that scarcely had a quorum, as most MPs had already left after the marathon budget session. So the following year the government opted not to start overhauls in an election year.

It is hard to say that likely reactions to the LHRC proposal will be enthusiastic, or even subdued to the powerful Kiswahili lobby, which confused a cultural commodity that we can gain by exploiting, and chaining ourselves to its ethos as such. LHRC says the idea is to facilitate the generation of a far more competent workforce, something that the Kiswahili lobby fails to realise. They don't grasp the depth at which the workforce from universities in particular is incompetent.

If there are forces within the government that are overly mindful of the depth at which our graduates have sunk, they ought to know it isn't going to be a walk on the park to foist English, not Kiswahili, as the teaching medium. There is a massive cultural prism identifying Tanzanians with Kiswahili, and the new policy being talked about is intended to more or less erase English in schooling. The Std VII exam is removed and pupils move to secondary school learning in Kiswahili. High school and colleges will then adapt to Kiswahili, for a full blown Bantustan policy that many observers don't realise that we are adopting. The current policy review is a cultural revolution against English; it will remove Tanzania from most technological pursuits, making way for leisure as panacea.

## Wanted: Community awareness about pediatric cancer in Africa

THE University of Cape Town's in South Africa is leading an important nationwide call for action: to increase much-needed awareness on childhood cancers to catapult early diagnosis and treatment and improve outcomes for children living with cancer in the country, on the continent and around the world.

Therefore, early treatment is crucial for better treatment outcomes in children with cancer. There are thousands of children who die of cancer each year without ever being diagnosed in Africa and Tanzania is no exception.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), roughly 400 000 children and adolescents develop cancer every year. In high-income countries, where care and services are easily accessible, more than 80 per cent of children with cancer are cured. But it's a different case scenario for children in low- to middle-income countries where less than 30 per cent are reported to survive the disease.

This is often as a result of a lack of diagnosis, misdiagnosis, delayed diagnosis or obstacles accessing care in resource-constrained settings.

The sooner a medical team makes a diagnosis, the better. We can't stress the importance of seeking help early. The sooner a medical team makes a diagnosis, the better. Early referral means a lower disease stage, which will require less intensive treatment that will lead to few, if any, long-term effects and a much better chance of survival.

The most common types of cancer in children in Africa are leukaemia and malignant brain tumours, both of which affect children respectively. Paediatric oncologists also frequently treat children with malignant tumours of the bone, muscles, nerves, eyes, kidneys and liver, as well as of the testes and ovaries.

Despite ongoing research in this area, the cause of cancer is still un-

known. Some [cancer types contain] identifiable genetic abnormalities, but according to experts the causes are different in each tumour. They say there's not one identifiable abnormality for all cancers.

Specialists highlight several key tell-tale signs that parents and caregivers need to look out for in children of all ages that could indicate early signs of cancer such as unexplained bleeding and an unusually pale skin colour; enlarged lymph nodes; unexplained masses (growths); unrelieved bone pain that moves from one site to another and wakes children at night; persistent high fever, loss of appetite and weight loss; eye defects - an eye that protrudes forward, acute onset of a squint and loss of light reflex.

neurological defects - weakness on one side of the body, recurring morning headaches, vomiting and seizures. Scientists and clinicians have made massive strides with improving childhood cancer outcomes in the last few decades.

This has been directly attributed to collaborative research efforts led by large international consortia in Europe and the United States. According to experts one of the most exciting research developments that has come to light recently includes the molecular reclassification of the disease.

This process allows clinicians to use molecular signatures of tumours to categorise the risks associated with the type of cancer, predict the prognosis accurately, and select the most appropriate treatment for the patient.

In addition, ground-breaking developments in surgical and radiotherapy techniques, as well as advanced chemotherapeutics and improved supportive care like paediatric intensive care support have equally contributed to improved outcomes in the Africa and globally. Interestingly,

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Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

# To confront global current crises, it's time to put our money where our mouths are

By Ayesha Khan, Éliane Ubaljoro and Yuriko Backes

THE finance sector's role in the current global crises - notably climate, biodiversity, and food security - is significant.

Polluting activities and environmentally-destructive practices for short-term economic gains have catapulted us to our current untenable situation. We're 'sawing off the branch we're sitting on' by sacrificing life-giving ecosystem services for profit, and that branch is sagging and splitting under our weight.

As we lurch from one climate crisis to another, leaving millions of the most vulnerable - particularly women and other marginalised identities - scrambling to survive large-scale flooding, extreme temperatures, and scorching heatwaves that decimate lives and livelihoods, we must radically reframe how we define success.

Finance can powerfully drive the change we seek. Significant commitments have been made, such as the pledges to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 made by tens of thousands of businesses and institutions through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Race to Zero campaign; the food industry's zero deforestation pledge at this year's UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP27); new finance-related targets in the Con-

vention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to increase financing for nature and biodiversity; advances in the EU sustainable finance taxonomy; and emerging initiatives like Business for Nature.

The sustainable financing gap remains formidable: finance flows to Nature-based solutions (NbS) are currently less than half of what is needed by 2025 - and only a third of what is needed by 2030 - to limit climate change to below 1.5 degrees centigrade, halt biodiversity loss and achieve land degradation neutrality.

There is a particularly critical need to build up financing - and action - for biodiversity, as one of our most valuable natural capital assets which is crucial in addressing the challenges we face.

Meanwhile, nature-negative flows are estimated to exceed nature-based solutions by three to seven times. In the past six years, investments in the fossil fuel industry have continued at a steady pace, as has funding of projects leading to deforestation - such as livestock farming in the Brazilian Amazon in a largely unrestricted way.

Moreover, despite wealthy nations pledging USD 100 billion annually for climate mitigation and adaptation, less than 3% of adaptation funding has reached the countries in the Global South that need it the most.

This leaves the world out of bal-

ance. As 600 million smallholder farmers, who feed much of the developing world, struggle to respond to the most recent drought, flooding, or extreme weather event, huge numbers of the already-vulnerable become increasingly food-insecure, and can fall into irreversible poverty traps. We need to do better.

To turn this around, governments and multilateral institutions play an important role. But while governments currently provide about 83% of Nature-based solutions financing, a significant boost from this sector is unlikely given the confluence of crises taking its attention.

So, the pressure is also on the private sector to step up efforts - requiring increased investment in sustainable supply chains, paying properly for ecosystem services, and reducing or dropping nature-negative activities. Over 400 private sector companies asked to be regulated at COP15, and this goodwill must be harnessed.

We must also consider how to deploy the hoped-for influx of financing. We know Indigenous Peoples and local communities play key roles as 'stewards' of many of Earth's landscapes. But between 2010 and 2020, they received less than 5% of development aid for environmental protection, and under 1% for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Channelling sustainable finance

to these communities - especially women - can simultaneously spur community development, empower women, and nourish ecosystems. We must design instruments that are better-positioned to attract private capital towards efficient financing, including by using blended finance models to layer risk-taking development capital and grant instruments with more commercially-oriented funds.

There are so many sustainable, scalable solutions that already exist across Africa, Latin America and Asia and there comes a time to harness them. Let's bridge the gaps between investors and community-led projects and build the resources of our landscapes' stewards - in all their guises - to tend to our planet's precious remaining species, ecosystems, and carbon sinks.

The time is now. Let's meet the moment together.

Ayesha Khan is Regional Managing Director at Acumen, Pakistan. Éliane Ubaljoro is incoming CEO of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF). Yuriko Backes is Luxembourg's Minister of Finance. They are three of the 16 Women Restoring the Earth 2023 and spoke at the Global Landscapes Forum's 6th Investment Case Symposium to drive sustainable land-use investments in the Global South.

# Private companies take lead in revolutionising education

By Yariv Cohen and Angela Homs

AFRICA is often described as the youngest continent and the future workforce of the world. However, to fulfil this potential, the education systems in Africa must be improved to ensure positive growth globally and, more specifically, for local communities.

Unfortunately, a series of reports sponsored by the First Ladies of Malawi and Uganda, as well as Ministers of Education from multiple African countries, including Rwanda, Tanzania, and Ghana, found that children in Africa are five times less likely to learn basic skills than those living anywhere else in the world.

Additionally, the ability of education systems on the continent to ensure even rudimentary literacy skills for their students has declined in four out of ten African countries over the last three decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only made things worse. School closures caused by the pandemic exacerbated previously existing inequalities, and children who were already most at risk of being excluded from a quality education have been most affected.

For instance, the World Bank reports that in

South Africa, Grade 2 students lost between 57% and 70% of a year of learning compared to their pre-pandemic peers, and Grade 4 students lost 62% to 81%.

In Uganda, where schools were closed for two years, the share of young students who could read and comprehend a story did not reduce between 2018 and 2021, but the share who could not even read letters of the alphabet doubled in size.

Africa's education vulnerabilities are not just in preparing the future with early childhood education, with adult education and workforce re-education still far behind global standards.

A recent UNICEF report circling 40 African countries states that one in four African countries spends less than 0.5% of their education budget on adult learning, while a further 18% reported spending less than 1%. For some context, OECD countries spend an average of 3.8% of their GDPs on adult education and active labour market programmes.

To improve and develop Africa's education sector, governments alone will not be able to solve these issues. The sector presents a significant opportunity for private entities who could enjoy meaningful impact along massive markets with expected population growth. Around 60% of Africans

are under 25 years of age, and Africa's population is growing three times faster than the global average, projected to surpass Asia as the most populous continent by 2070, according to UN projections.

Governments and private entities must collaborate to create immense value and make a significant impact. Many solutions to these issues are not obvious. For example, companies in early childhood education seek to complement in-class learning with on-air or online educational content.

Akili Network is educating African children through TV with its shows Akili Kids!, Akili Fam!, and others.

Akili's content not only provides away-from-school learning opportunities for children but it was also found useful as an informal learning opportunity for children who cannot attend school. Akili is now the most-watched TV channel by children 17 years old and younger in Kenya.

Other companies are preparing and connecting young African men and women with the world's best educational institutions. Craydel's platform provides guidance and support for students to apply to global high schools and universities, including searching for schools, applying for scholarships, visa applications, and more.



# Man who assaulted and wounded wife handed five-year imprisonment

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we briefly looked at World Press Freedom Day, which is marked each year on May 3. We also briefly and generally looked at the 2023 World Press Freedom Index prepared by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

With regard to the latter we said the situation of journalism in 180 countries and territories across the world was 'very serious' in 31 countries, 'difficult' in 42, 'problematic' in 55, and 'good' or 'satisfactory' in 52 countries.

In other words, it was 'bad' in seven out of 10 countries and good or satisfactory in only three out of 10 countries. This means that in many countries and territories media freedom or freedom of opinion and expression, is still not fully protected and so the journalists' safety is at great risk.

Today, I invite you to briefly look again at an incident we had looked at before a few months ago. It is a development from where we had stopped. It was about a man who, armed with a machete, attacked his wife and caused her to sustain several wounds on different parts of her body.

It happened about three months before the man assaulted his wife and caused her to sustain several wounds. His wife left him and went to stay with her parents while she was still nursing her wounds.

But on New Year's Eve 2023, while his wife was still

staying with her parents, the wife had gone to a recreation centre to watch a film. On her way back home (at about 23:00) she felt that a person was running after her and because she didn't know who it was, she also started running to avoid possible danger.

It didn't take long before the man started attacking her. His wife ran to a nearby house to seek help but before she was helped, the man had wounded her several times on different parts of her body. She then fainted and seeing that, the man fled from the village and went to hide in a guest house a few kilometres from the village where he thought he would be safe.

He was reported to a police station and his wife was taken to hospital. She was first taken to a ward level health facility where she was referred to a district hospital and she was again referred to a regional hospital where she was admitted.

As she was hospitalized, relatives started hunting for the man and after they were tipped off about his whereabouts, they informed police and was then arrested. He was taken to police custody but after fulfilling bail conditions, he was bailed out by his uncle.

Since it was a police



case, relatives of the husband suspected that the case could land in court, so they started going to the relatives of his wife to seek reconciliation. The wife had never been to a police station before, but was asked when she felt better to go and record a statement on how she was attacked and wounded.

She had not also been in court before so she was afraid of going to court and sought to get the case out of court, but she didn't know how to do it. Some villagers told her that if she proceeded with the case she wouldn't benefit from it in terms of compensation. One of the questions she was asked included: "If your husband is imprisoned what will you benefit?" So, after

learning that she wouldn't benefit from her husband's imprisonment, she felt it was useless to continue with the case. If she were able to withdraw it from court she would have done it. But a policeman who was investigating the case told her that she only was a prime eyewitness to help the prosecution, so it was not upon her to decide what to do with this criminal case. Meanwhile, ignorant as they were, the relatives of the husband offered to pay some money as a way of settling the case out of court. So, the relatives of the husband offered to pay 1.2mn/-, but would start with 800,000/- before the trial date.

After the relatives received the money, the wife went to court

when the date was due. Seeing that, the husband fled again from the village and even on the judgment day, he was not present in court. Before that, his surety was told to look for him before the judgment day, which he agreed, but he too was not present when the district magistrate delivered the judgment.

So, in the absence of the accused as well as his surety, the magistrate read the judgment after the prosecution had closed the investigation. The man was charged with and convicted of the offence of assault and causing actual bodily harm contrary to Section 241 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022).

The section states: "Any person who commits an assault occasion-

ing actual bodily harm is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for five years." The district magistrate told his wife to report to the police if she heard of or knew the whereabouts of her husband or his surety.

**Today's proverb: "Genius is a capacity for taking trouble."**

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## The Law and You



# Tanzania's Southern Highlands have huge carbon absorption potential

By Prof Raphael Mwalayosi

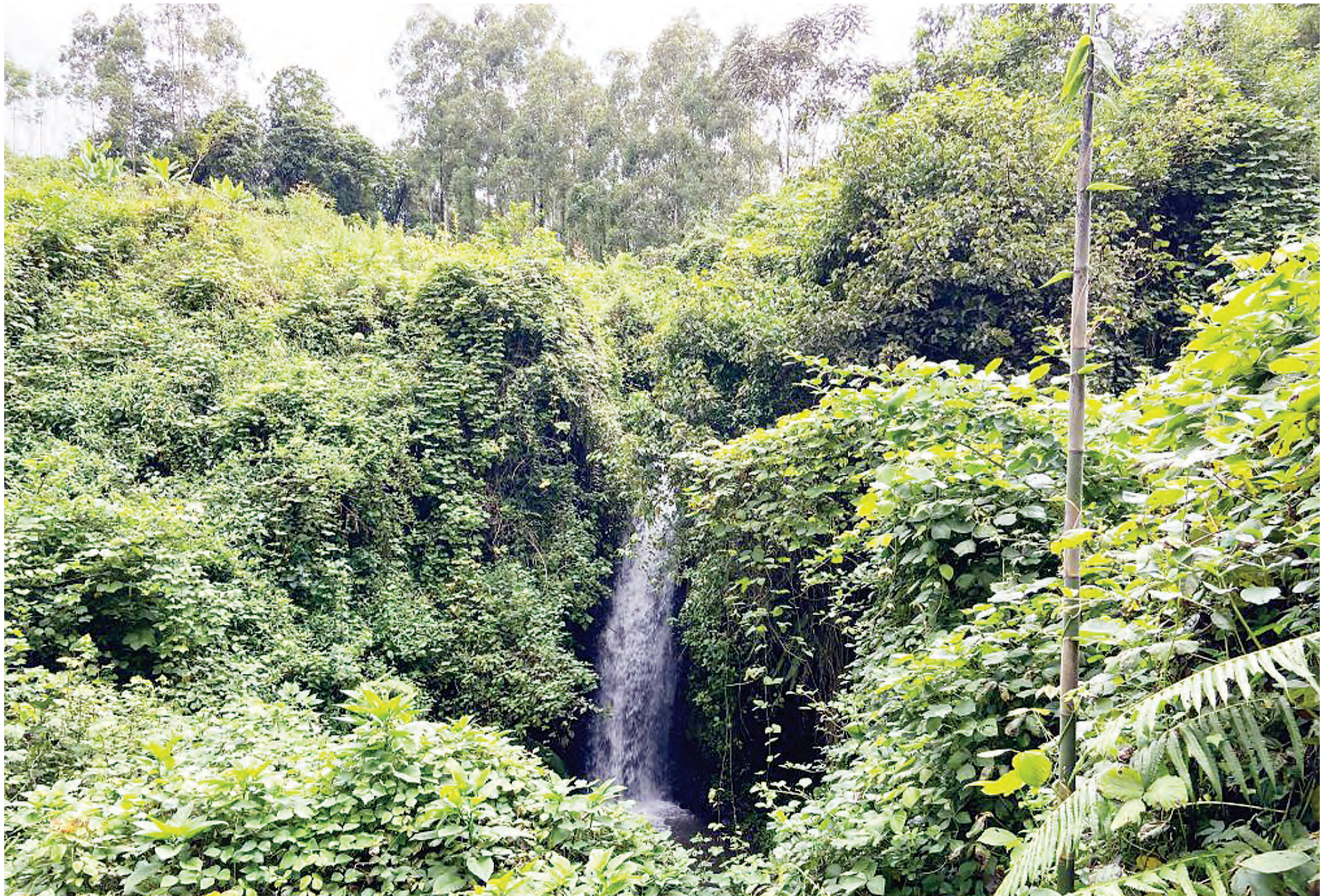
**D**IFFERENT land cover types have varying carbon storage potentials or sequestration depending on their above-ground and below-ground biomass and on their physical properties.

As a consequence of land cover change, there can be a loss or gain in the potential carbon sequestration capacity of a landscape. The importance of such an ecosystem service resides in the potential carbon dioxide absorption capacity and can contribute to emission reductions in order to avoid climate change and its related risks.

A hectare of natural forest can store more carbon than a hectare of grassland or cropland. Therefore, when a forest is cleared to allow cropland expansion, the carbon sequestration potential of the landscape is diminished. However, modification of agricultural practices and the choice of crops are recognized methods of carbon sequestration, as soil can act as an effective carbon sink. It is therefore important to consider crops that cultivated in an area as this can have a sizeable impact on carbon sequestration.

Thus, carbon sequestration or absorption has been identified as one potentially important ways to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

The importance of forest ecosystems for carbon sequestration and climate regulation is now known worldwide. Tropical forest ecosystems where tree species have different growth habits can account for nearly 45 per cent of global terrestrial carbon storage. However, forest resources have been under



tremendous pressure since the very beginning of civilization due to demand for food and forest products.

For example, according to the Tanzanian forest reference emission levels, the annual deforestation rate is 469,420 hectares for mainland Tanzania, with the Southern Highlands, especially Njombe, Mbeya and Iringa regions together contributing nearly 16 per cent of the total deforestation rate.

The main drivers of the deforestation in these regions are large scale cash crop farming, livestock grazing, food crop cultivation and settlement expansion. It is apparent that sustainable forest management for climate regulation and social-economic development is inevitable in the Southern Highlands in particular and in Tanzania in

general.

The potential for the southern highlands zone to regain or sequester carbon has been well documented. Thus, due to increased demand for wood supply and favorable environment for crop cultivation, the Southern Highlands have opened up a new livelihood opportunity for smallholder farmers, triggering massive tree planting (especially of pines) both on large and small scale.

On the other hand, natural vegetation especially miombo woodlands which have previously been degraded, and now regenerating profusely, contributes to substantial carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. Using secondary data from published and unpublished literature and databases, the amount of carbon stock

from different vegetation types also indicates high potential for carbon sequestration in the Southern Highlands.

Some of the important potential areas for carbon sequestration in the Southern Highlands include: Sao Hill plantations and nearby wetlands; Matamba village and Kitulo ranch in Makete District; and around the water sources within the Uporoto Forest Reserve.

Thus, the upland areas of the Southern Highlands are dominated by forest plantations, grasslands, natural forests and wetland vegetation with a mean of 38.7 tonnes per hectare of aboveground carbon (AGC).

The midland areas are dominated by forest plantations, grasslands, riverine vegetation and some miombo

woodlands with a mean of 23.8 tonnes per hectare of AGC, while the lowland areas are dominated by miombo woodlands and riverine vegetation with a mean of 37.4 tonnes per hectare of AGC.

**The author is an environmental ecologist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0754 270 196.**



# A short tale of a tree and a Moroccan wedding party

By **Baher Kamal**

**A** MUCH needed break amidst so many alarming news, with a brief story of a tree, a bottle of liquid gold, and a wedding gift.

It is useless to remind you that all trees are wonderful living beings, with an amazing vital system to drain water through their roots, and breathe through their leaves to bring this water to their trunk, branches and leaves.

All of them are sources of most of the oxygen on Earth while absorbing harmful greenhouse gases. Their roots greatly contribute to fixing the land, thus reducing the risk of further degradation and desertification. Let alone purifying the air.

**This particular tree**

Among them, one is special: the Argan tree.

A native species of the sub-Saharan, Southwest region of Morocco, where it grows in arid and semi-arid areas, this tree is the defining species of a woodland ecosystem, also known as Arganeraie, which is rich in endemic flora.

The argan tree used to grow throughout North Africa, but currently, it only grows in southwestern Morocco. It is estimated to be the second most abundant tree in Moroccan forests, with over 20 million trees living in the region.

The argan tree is one of the world's wild plants, which are

used by an estimated 3.5 to 5.8 billion people, with one billion humans depending on them for their livelihoods and food security.

Furthermore, wild plants offer great economic and nutritional benefits for these communities and for societies around the world. In fact, between 2000 and 2020, the global trade value of medicinal and aromatic plants alone increased by more than 75%, as reported by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In spite of that, two in five of the world's plant species are at risk of extinction due to habitat loss, sustainable use and climate change.

**Hidden in plain sight**

Here is the case of just one of these wild plant species hidden in plain sight:

Argan can be found in cosmetics, food and pharmaceuticals. Mostly used as an oil, its anti-ageing properties are popular for cosmetics, and its demand in the food industry has turned it into the most expensive edible oil in the world, FAO adds.

**Under the burning sun**

Now see what the UN further tells about its importance on the occasion of this year's International Day of Argania: It withstands temperatures of up to 50° Celsius.

It is a bastion against desertification, it can reach 10 metres in height and can live for



The argan tree forest constitutes a vital fodder reserve for all herds even in periods of drought. All parts of the argan tree are edible and very appreciated. Credit: Shutterstock

200 years.

Its woodlands provide forest products, fruits and fodder.

Its leaves and fruits are edible and highly appreciated, as is the undergrowth, and constitute a vital fodder reserve for all herds, even in periods of drought.

It is used as fuelwood for cooking and heating. And also as medicines and

cosmetics.

**A mainstay of indigenous Berbers**

For centuries, the argan tree has been a mainstay of the Berber and Arab-origin indigenous rural communities, which developed a specific culture and identity, sharing their traditional knowledge and skills through non-formal education, par-

ticularly the knowledge associated with the traditional production of argan oil by women, the world body explains.

The argan-based agro-forestry-pastoral system uses only locally adapted species and pastoralism activities and relies on traditional water management provided by the Matifiya - a rainwater reservoir carved into the rock,

hence contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to the conservation of biodiversity.

**The 'liquid gold'**

But there is more: the world-renowned argan oil, which is extracted from the seeds and has multiple applications, especially in traditional and complementary medicine and in the culinary

and cosmetic industries.

In addition, argan oil is given as a wedding gift and it is used extensively in the preparation of festive dishes.

The fruit of the argan tree is a green to light yellow berry in the centre of which is an almond made up of several seeds gorged with oil. It takes about 150 kg of fruit to produce 3 litres of argan oil.

**The argan women**

Indeed, it is said that, since the 13th century, the Berber women of North Africa have been making argan oil for culinary and cosmetic purposes.

The International Day of Argania further explains that the fruits are hand-picked and dried in the sun, then pulped, grinding, sorting, milling and mixing. Its nuts are crushed and its almonds crushed to filter the oil.

Women lead the entire extraction process through knowledge transmitted from one generation to the next. In fact, rural women and, to a lesser extent, men living in the reserve practice traditional methods to extract argan oil from the fruit of the tree.

"Traditional know-how specific to the extraction of the oil and its multiple uses is systematically transmitted by 'argan women', who teach their daughters from a young age to put it into practice."

What else would you expect from a tree?

By **Thalif Deen**

**T**HE world's news media – both under authoritarian regimes and democratic governments – continue to come under relentless attacks and political harassment.

"Freedom of the press is the foundation of democracy and justice. It gives all of us the facts we need to shape opinions and speak truth to power. But in every corner of the world, freedom of the press is under attack," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on World Press Freedom Day May 3.

Journalists and media workers, he said, are directly targeted on and offline as they carry out their vital work. They are routinely harassed, intimidated, detained and imprisoned.

At least 67 media workers were killed in 2022 – a 50 per cent increase over the previous year. Nearly three quarters of women journalists have experienced violence online, and one in four have been threatened physically, according to the UN.

But there is also an increase in non-physical attacks, including defamation lawsuits against media organizations challenging their legitimate right to free expression.

The Washington-based US Agency for International Development (USAID) last week

## USAID offers protection to journalists, NGOs facing defamation lawsuits

launched Reporters Shield, a new membership program that protects journalists around the world – who report in the public interest – from defamation lawsuits and legal threats.

Established as a U.S.-based nonprofit organization by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, Reporters Shield has been described as "a first-of-its-kind global program that defends investigative reporting around the world from legal threats meant to silence critical voices".

USAID, which has a long history of fostering the growth of independent media across the world, plans to work with Congress to contribute up to \$9 million in seed funding for this groundbreaking new program to support media outside the United States, according to a May 2 press release.

In a statement released last week, USAID said investigative journalists and civil society organizations reporting in the public interest are increasingly facing lawsuits that aim to harass and silence them by burdening them with the cost and time of a legal defense until they abandon their stories or go out of business entirely.



Reporters Shield will help to reduce these risks through training and pre-publication review, as well as funding legal representation to fight lawsuits and other legal actions meant to intimidate and financially burden reporters.

In order to keep the program sustainable, member organizations participating in Reporters Shield will pay reasonable annual fees that are based on a variation of factors, including location of the outlet and how many stories they produce a year.

"To be considered for membership in Reporters Shield, an organi-

zation must be legally registered and focus primarily in news, public interest, and/or investigative reporting; publish reporting in print and/or online; have non-profit status or transparent ownership; be independent from political, commercial, or other undue influence or interference; and have editorial independence and adhere to professional editorial standards".

Reporters Shield is accepting applications worldwide and will be reviewing them in a phased approach, with some regions receiving benefits in the coming months, and others added later this year and in 2024.

Interested organizations can find more information and apply for membership by visiting [reporters-shield.org](http://reporters-shield.org).

The development of Reporters

Shield has been supported by the generous pro bono legal support of the law firms of Proskauer, Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC, and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

[www.usaid.gov/democracy/reporters-shield](http://www.usaid.gov/democracy/reporters-shield).

Mandeep S. Tiwana, Chief Programmes Officer at CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organizations (CSOs), told IPS "these are hard times for media freedoms due to disinformation and attacks on civic space spurred by deepening authoritarianism, denigration of democracy through populism and consolidation of wealth by oligarchs".

Uncovering serious human rights violations and high-level corruption, he pointed out, is becoming increasingly dangerous and costly for investigative journalists and civil society activists.

When few companies are ready to sign the Anti-Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) pledge and crafty politicians are busy undermining the independence of judiciaries, this initiative comes at a critical time," he declared.

According to the Anti-SLAPP pledge by Global Citizen, an international education and advocacy organization, strategic lawsuits against public participation, or SLAPPs, are not a legitimate business strategy for companies.

"The private sector thrives in functioning democratic societies, where the right to freedom of expression is a respected bedrock principle and where everyone can express their views without fear of intimidation or reprisal".

"Lawsuits and legal tactics meant to silence civil organizations and human rights defenders aren't just bad for societies, they're also damaging to companies. When companies stifle free expression, they limit their ability to manage risk related to their operations and global supply chains."

As companies that are committed to operating in societies where people are able to exercise fundamental rights, said Global Citizen, "we pledge to: define Strategic lawsuits against public participation, or SLAPPs, as both lawsuits and legal tactics that are designed to silence critics and abridge citizens' ability to exercise fundamental rights."

Refrain from engaging in SLAPPs against human rights and environmental defenders and civil society organizations that support affected rights-holders.

Recognize the critical role that civil society organizations and human rights defenders play in creating a profitable enabling environment for the private sector.

Encourage partners and suppliers within our value chain to refrain from engaging in SLAPPs to silence legitimate activism.

**IPS UN Bureau Report**

# 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 MUZIKI 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



## Donation of new machines to boost small-scale processors and farmers in country's six regions

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

VALUE addition of agriculture products is crucial to the sector's development in Tanzania and improving the livelihood of the country's smallholder farmers.

To contribute to agricultural transformation, IITA-Tanzania and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (ABC), through the Supporting and Strengthening Community Resilience in Tanzania (SSUCORETA) project purchased 14 processing machines for smallholder farmers and processors groups to increase processing efficiency in value addition of their products.

SSUCORETA handed over eight cassava milling machines and six sunflower oil presses to farmers and processors in six regions—Dodoma, Geita, Kagera, Manyara, Morogoro, and Mwanza. Production from the new machines will increase the value of agricultural commodities, boosting revenue and income for smallholder farmers and processors.

During the installation, the beneficiaries also received hands-on training on properly operating the machines. Speaking at the hand-over of cassava slicing machines to the Kolping Society of Tanzania group in the Kagera region, the project coordinator from IITA, Lembris Laizer, noted that the SSUCORETA project empowers farmers to add value to their crops, particularly cassava, sunflower, and beans.

"By its appearance, the machine seems too small, but once it starts processing, you will see how efficient it is. This machine can process cassava, sorghum, and carrots," Lembris noted.

Lestuta Deogratius, a treasurer of the Kolping Soci-



Processors learning how to use a sunflower oil press

ety group from the Kagera region, applauded the new machines' efficiency, noting that while their previous machines would take a day to process, the new machines take a few hours. They are also more efficient and less expensive to operate, yet process high-quality cassava flour. "Thanks to SSUCORETA, we will manage to get a good market for our cassava flour," Deogratius said.

She added that the group plans to ex-

pand their production in cassava farms to increase cassava flour production and enhance their income.

Gabriel Matemtu, a cassava value chain off-taker and Production Manager of Kipipa Millers LTD from the Mwanza region, noted that the company used to get poor quality cassava chips from the aggregated farmers due to poor post-harvest handling and considerable delays in producing enough quantity. But the new machines will

improve the farmers' chips quality.

"The new cassava slicing machine can process at least ten metric tons per day and boost cassava flour production because I will get quality cassava chips in large quantities. My advice to youths is to ensure a consistent supply of quality cassava chips, and our company will offer them competitive prices, form cooperatives, and engage in cassava and other crops farming to have decent employment and earn in-

come," Matemtu said

Kinyakala youth group leader Pendo Petro Mahiga, a farmer and processor from Rubeho village in Gairo District, grows cassava, sunflower, and maize.

Unfortunately, their old machine was damaged, and they could not repair it because of the financial constraints caused by COVID-19. "We are happy with the new machine because it saves the group from the oil loss that used to happen while processing sunflowers.

The new machine saves us from losing three liters for every 70 kg bag of sunflower grain of oil from leakage. It does both splitting and filtering of the oil at the same time, compared to the old machine," she explained.

SSUCORETA is a two-year project (2022- 2023) funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with a major goal of restoring and increasing the productivity and profitability of key food and oilseed crops and enhancing market access for rural women and young farmers in Tanzania to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 and enhance resilience.

The project is implemented in collaboration with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and the Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

## UN: Global progress in tackling maternal, new-born deaths has stalled since 2015

By Guardian Reporter

A new report from the United Nations (UN) said that global progress in reducing deaths of pregnant women, mothers and babies has flat lined for eight years due to decreasing investments in maternal and newborn health.

The report showed that over 4.5 million women and babies die every year during pregnancy, childbirth or the first weeks after birth - equivalent to 1 death happening every 7 seconds - mostly from preventable or treatable causes if proper care was

available. The report, Improving maternal and newborn health and survival and reducing stillbirth, assesses the latest data on these deaths - which have similar risk factors and causes - and tracks the provision of critical health services.

Dr Anshu Banerjee, Director of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing at the World Health Organization (WHO) said: "Pregnant women and newborns continue to die at unacceptably high rates worldwide, and the COVID-19 pandemic has created further setbacks to providing

them with the healthcare they need." Dr Banerjee added: "If we wish to see different results, we must do things differently. More and smarter investments in primary healthcare are needed now so that every woman and baby - no matter where they live - has the best chance of health and survival." Steven Lauwrier, UNICEF Director of Health said: "As is too often the case, vulnerability, fear, and loss are not spread equally around the world. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, babies, children and women who were already exposed to threats to their well-being,

especially those living in fragile countries and emergencies, are facing the heaviest consequences of decreased spending and efforts on providing quality and accessible healthcare."

Dr Julitta Onabanjo, Director of the Technical Division at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said the death of any woman or young girl during pregnancy or childbirth is a serious violation of their human rights.

She said: "It also reflects the urgent need to scale-up access to quality sexual and reproductive health services as part of universal health

coverage and primary health care, especially in communities where maternal mortality rates have stagnated or even risen during recent years."

She said governments should take a human rights and gender transformative approach to address maternal and newborn mortality, and stamp out the underlying factors which give rise to poor maternal health outcomes like socio-economic inequalities, discrimination, poverty and injustice.

The report shows that progress in improving survival has stagnated since 2015, with around 290 000 maternal

deaths each year, 1.9 million stillbirths - babies who die after 28 weeks of pregnancy - and a staggering 2.3 million newborn deaths, which are deaths in the first month of life. The COVID-19 pandemic, rising poverty, and worsening humanitarian crises have intensified pressures on stretched health systems.

Since 2018, more than three-quarters of all conflict-affected and Sub-Saharan African countries report declining funding for maternal and newborn health.

according to the latest WHO survey on the pandemic's impacts on essential health

services, around a quarter of countries still report ongoing disruptions to vital pregnancy and postnatal care and services for sick children.

Meanwhile, around two thirds of emergency childbirth facilities in sub-Saharan Africa are not considered fully functional - meaning they lack essential resources like medicines and supplies, water, electricity or staffing for 24-hour care.

Based on current trends, more than 60 countries are not set to meet the maternal, newborn and stillborn mortality reduction targets in the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

## Carbon trading in Tanzania: Opportunity for investment

By Baraka Thomas

THE fight against global climate change ranks high on the international political agenda. Tanzania is among the countries affected by climate change impacts and variability, with extreme weather conditions and climate events manifested through increased seasonal variation in rainfall and temperature, drought and floods among others.

Climate change impact affecting socio-economic and development sectors such as energy, agriculture, tourism, water, marine and coastal, thus, affect the country's economic growth.

In response to the situation, the Tanzanian government has put in place adaptation and mitigation mechanisms to safeguard attained development and achieve sustainable development.

The concept of carbon credit and carbon trading has been introduced in accordance with international policy to control Green Houses Carbon (GHC) emission in the environment.

In nutshell, carbon credit or carbon offset means a tradable permit or certificate that gives the right to emit one tone of carbon dioxide or an equivalent of another greenhouse gas. Examples of the credits includes Certified Emission Reduction (CERs) and Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)

On the other hand, carbon trading means buying and selling of carbon credits under a recognized international carbon standard.

In the past few years, there has been a marked increased effort on the part of international organizations promoting carbon credits trading initiatives in countries of the South for global reduction of greenhouse emissions in line with

the international regime for climate change.

Globally, carbon trading started in 1997 when some 180 countries signed the Kyoto Protocol.

The Protocol called for countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 and 2012 to 5 percent below 1990 levels, a target that was unfortunately never met. Article 6 of the Paris Accord 2015 calls for carbon trading to be carried out on a voluntary basis.

As a party of the global community, Tanzania has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992; Kyoto Protocol of 1997; and Paris Agreement of 2015.

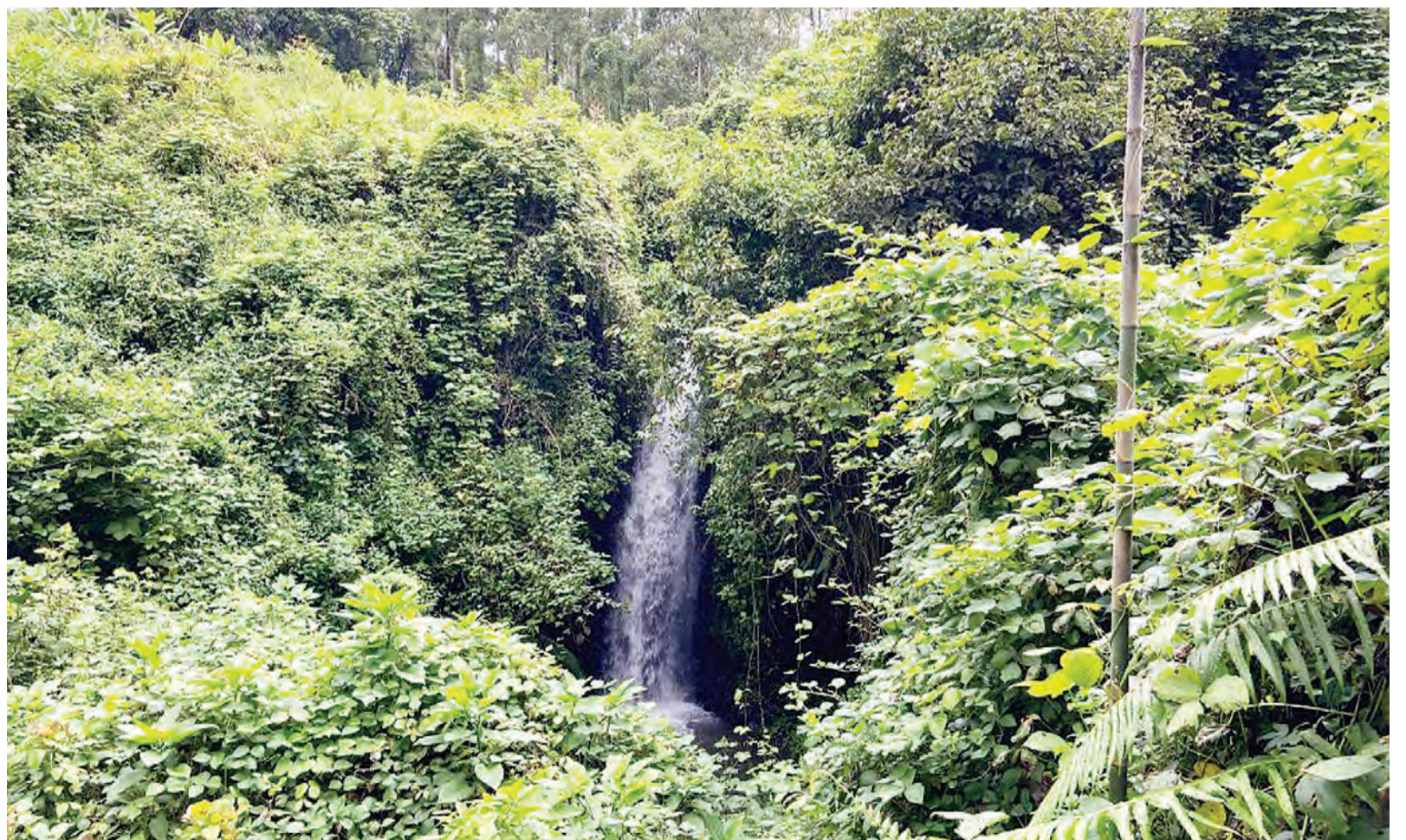
These treaties among other things provide mechanisms for parties to meet their emission reduction commitments but also benefit from carbon credits trading mechanisms as one of the market base approach strategies to mitigate climate change effects on earth.

However, the Paris Agreement of 2015 introduces new carbon trading mechanisms which encourage parties to take action to address climate change both mitigation and adaptation.

These actions include reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks as well as voluntary cooperation, cooperate approaches and Non market approaches.

The above international treaties have the objective to reduce the Green Houses Gas (GHG) emission in less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels and take in measures to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Therefore, there is an obligation



for Tanzania to implement measures to reduce GHG emissions, aligned with the objectives of those conventions as the result, Tanzania domesticated those conventions.

Further to that, Tanzania has in place a domestic framework of implementation of carbon trading which are in line with Climate Change Conventions. These framework includes, Environmental Management (Control and Management of Carbon Trading) Regulations, 2022, National Carbon Trading Guidelines of 2022, these Guidelines are in line with the National Environmental Policy (2021), the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021-2026), the Environmental Management Act Cap.191, and National Environmental Master plan for Strategic interventions (2022-2032)

Most developing countries have been facing two major challenges in promoting investments in low carbon projects. These challenges are a lack of legal and institutional framework in place to promote and regulate carbon trade projects and social-economic (financial) challenges which involve lack of skills, expertise

in carbon trading, and law level of technology may hamper the carbon projects investments in host countries.

Tanzania however, has in place the legal and institutional framework which provides for an opportunity for individuals, legal persons to register as the firm, company, NGOs and public institutions to invest in carbon projects as long as they possess relevant expertise on carbon credits projects and are registered under relevant authorities. This is a great investment opportunity to investors which need to be properly utilized.

### Pros and Cons of Carbon Trading

Much as there is an opportunity in investing in carbon Credits projects as the one of market based approach initiated by international climate change framework for the purpose of reducing emission on earth it has some of pros and cons as follows;

The pros are that it generates income sources for companies, promotes cleaner technologies, leads to faster cuts in pollution, it is a source

of revenue for the government, supplements taxpayer's resources and gives consumers the power to decide.

The Cons includes allowed emissions levels that are set too high, credits and penalties are cheaper than converting to cleaner technologies, some credits are given away, companies can cheat the system, increase the prices for goods and services and that there is no global consistency in the system.

It is worth mentioning that, although carbon credits and carbon trade systems reduce emissions and can lead to faster cuts in pollution, they also tend to increase the price of oil, coal, and natural gas in an effort to force companies to switch to alternative forms of energy. These initiatives are expensive and negatively impact the economy.

Generally, for Tanzania to attract more investors in carbon credits projects it must develop a low carbon investment promotion strategy which requires an integrated market approach that combines product development, incentives and promotion.









Airtel Africa CEO Olusegun Ogunsanya

## Airtel Africa profitability increases by 13pc in Q4

LAGOS

Airtel Africa's net profit attributable to owners rose 13.4 percent quarter-on-quarter to \$195 million in the January-March quarter owing to recognition of deferred tax credit from some markets and other tax-related adjustments.

Revenue from operations fell 0.6 percent quarter-on-quarter to \$1.34 billion in Q4FY23 due to a fall in voice and mobile money revenues.

On a y-o-y basis, revenues grew 18.6 percent in constant currency terms and profit rose 2.8 percent.

The slowdown in revenue growth from the previous year was due to a loss of tower sharing revenues following the sale of towers in Madagascar, Malawi and Tanzania in the second half of the year and national identification-related barring of voice services in Nigeria, the company said.

During the quarter, Airtel Africa added 1.5 million subscribers, taking its total base to 140 million and its average revenue per user (Arpu) was flat at \$3.2.

"Over the last year, the operating environment has been challenging in many ways, yet our strategic focus on providing reliable, affordable and accessible services across our markets have enabled us to sustain our topline growth momentum," CEO Olusegun Ogunsanya said.

"Strong customer and Arpu growth over the year demonstrate that demand for our services remains very strong and gives us the confidence to continue

investing to support our future growth potential," Ogunsanya said.

Revenue from the voice business fell over 4 percent quarter-on-quarter to \$619 million, whereas its data revenue rose 3.3 percent quarter-on-quarter to \$469 million.

The mobile money business fell 3.8 percent quarter-on-quarter to \$176 million.

In Q4, Airtel Africa's Ebitda margins rose marginally to 49.1 percent.

On a year-on-year basis, the margins contracted 63 basis points from 49.7 percent owing to an 82.4 percent year-on-year increase in finance cost.

"The resilience of our underlying Ebitda margins has shown the effectiveness of our operating model, despite significant inflationary and foreign exchange pressures," Ogunsanya said.

As of March end, the company's net debt was at \$3.52 billion, a fall of 3 percent from the preceding quarter.

"Over the year, we invested \$500m on additional spectrum, including 5G, across many of our OpCos (operating companies) which, combined with our capex, will underpin our growth ambitions. Despite this investment, and driven by a disciplined capital allocation policy, our balance sheet remains strong and has been further de-risked over the last year by the prepayment of \$450m HoldCo (holding company) debt in July last year," he added.

The remaining debt at HoldCo is now \$550 million, falling due in May 2024, the company added.

## Oil prices slip, set for fourth weekly drop

BEIJING

Oil prices fell on Friday, set for their fourth weekly decline, as renewed economic concerns in the United States and China revived anxieties about fuel demand growth in the world's two largest oil consumers.

Brent crude futures dropped by 48 cents, or 0.64 percent, to \$74.50 a barrel by 0635 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were down 39 cents, or 0.55 percent, to \$70.48.

Both benchmarks are set to fall by about 1.1 percent for the week, which would be the longest streak of weekly declines since November 2021.

With talks over the US government's debt ceiling stalled and renewed fears that another regional bank is in crisis, there is mounting concern that the US will enter a recession. A decline in new loans to businesses in China and weaker economic data there earlier in the week refocused doubts about its recovery from COVID restrictions driving oil demand growth.

Additionally, cooler inflation data from both countries suggested consumer demand was weak, said Tina Teng, a market analyst at CMC Markets in Auckland.

"Oil is a growth-sensitive commodity,

which was impacted by these bearish factors," she said in an email.

Price rose earlier on Friday, after falling for the previous two sessions, on some demand expectations following comments from the US energy secretary that the US could repurchase oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) once some sales finish in June.

The US government has said it will buy oil when prices are consistently at or below \$67 to \$72 per barrel.

However, the talks to raise the \$314 trillion US federal debt limit may not reach an agreement in time to prevent a government debt default, which could cause severe market dislocations.

And, shares of US regional bank PacWest Bancorp plunged 23 percent on Thursday after it said its deposits declined and it had posted more collateral to the US Federal Reserve to boost its liquidity.

China's April consumer price data rose at a slower pace and missed expectations, while factory gate deflation deepened, suggesting more stimulus may be needed.

The oil market largely ignored the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) global oil demand forecast for 2023, which projected demand in China, the world's biggest oil importer, would increase.

# Foreign investors come back on DSE by exchanging TBL shares

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign investors showed up again on Thursday this week at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) by exchanging Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) shares through the block trade pre-arrangement market board, which has elevated them to dominate trading activities in the first half of the current quarter.

The DSE daily market report shows the brewery transaction involved the trading of 395,000 shares valued 2.37bn/.

The transaction has elevated foreign investors to dominate DSE activities during this first half of the current quarter as they have so far injected 4.881bn/- or 57.12 percent of total value of shares bought since the start of the quarter, against 42.88 percent of total value injected by local investors.

Turnover from shares sold by foreign investors amounting to 4.497bn/-, which is 52.62 percent of the value of total shares sold during the first half of the current



quarter, against 47.38 percent of total value recorded by local investors.

Apart from TBL shares transaction, foreign investors also injected 24.5mn/- through buying shares of other companies, making the total buying amounted 2.394bn/- on Thursday this week, which was 97.45 percent of total value of shares bought during the

day.

Second top mover was CRDB Bank Plc, which transacted 142,770 shares valued 70mn/- traded in 45 deals at a price ranging from 480/- and 500/- per share, followed by NICO which transacted 8,000 shares valued 3.2mn/- traded at a price of 400/- per share in two deals.

Other active counters were

NMB Bank Plc, which transacted 2,903 shares valued 10.1mn/- traded at a price of 3,480/- per share in two deals and Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL) which transacted 1,612 shares valued 2.19mn/- traded at a price of 1,360/- per share in four deals.

Swissport counter was also active during the day, after recording a turnover of 1.733mn/- through transaction of 1,133 shares traded at a price ranging between 1,500/- and 1,640/- per share in four deals.

Vodacom Tanzania counter recorded a turnover of 37,740/- following the transaction of 51 shares traded at a price of 740/- per share in one deal.

Top gainers were East African Breweries Limited (EABL), which its share price gained by 1.67 percent after closing at 2,440/- on Thursday from 2,400/- recorded during the previous day and Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), which its share price gained by 9.68 percent after closing at 1,360/- against 1,240/- respectively.



The project's beneficiary farmers in the cassava production as well as value additional chain. Photo by Correspondent Valentine Oforo Dodoma

## IITA assists farmers to recover from consequences of COVID

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is implementing a major project to restore and increase productivity and profitability of key food and oilseed crops, and enhance market access for rural women and young farmers in Tanzania.

Dubbed 'Supporting and Strengthening Community Resilience in Tanzania (SSUCORETA)' the two-year project supports the recovery of priority food crop value chains from the effects of COVID 19, strengthen community resilience, markets, and trade development.

The project is funded by Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China through International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The initiative is being executed

in partnership with The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and has so far benefited a total of 12,456 farmers in six regions.

The Project Coordinator, Lembris Laizer told The Guardian in Morogoro, Mwanza, Geita, Manyara, Singida and Dodoma.

Out of beneficiaries, 6,443 are women, 6, 213 men while 162 extensional officers have trained on needed good agronomic practices and application of digital tools to increase crop productivity.

"The project's core vision is to assist the farmers who engage in the cultivation of sunflower, common beans as well as cassava to heighten their production and productivity, as well as attaining profitable value chains," he

unveiled," he said.

"The focus was to assure a network of 10,000 farmers (especially women and youth) access quality cassava seed, boost productivity by at least 30 percent through the application of recommended agricultural practices".

To achieve this, five business platforms have been formed and 185 business partners have been engaged into three commodity value chains.

For instance, Lake Zone region has become the major trading hub for dried cassava chips with at least 66 higher level aggregators trained on improved post-harvest management and marketing linkages and they are supplying the products sourced from smallholder farmers to neighbouring counties of DRC Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Uganda," he insisted.

On his side, Frank Reuben, the project implementer from TARI explained that in the sunflower side, the initiative was capacitating the growers through provision of modern edible oil processing facilities.

"For instance, SSUCORETA Project has provided five sunflower oil press machines and eight cassava chipping machines will add value to two crops and benefits small and medium enterprises. Value addition of agriculture product is of paramount important to the sector's development in Tanzania and improving livelihood of the smallholder farmers," he expounded.

The role of TARI is to provide technical backstopping in seed systems and complementarity with other ongoing programs including Agriculture and Fishery Development Program (AFDP) funded by IFAD.



# Adani's firms weigh raising up to \$5bn, sources say

NEW DELHI

Three companies controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani (pictured) are considering a fundraising that may draw as much as \$5 billion, according to people familiar with the matter, in a pivotal test of investor confidence in the tycoon's empire less than four months after a scathing short-seller report plunged it into crisis.

Adani Enterprises Ltd., the flagship, as well as Adani Green Energy Ltd. and Adani Transmission Ltd., may raise between \$3 billion and \$5 billion for a war chest to bolster the businesses, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

The boards of the three firms are meeting Saturday to consider raising funds via the sale of shares or other securities, according to exchange filings late Wednesday. They didn't disclose how much they intend to raise or who they're working with for potential deals. Adani Group stocks, which climbed Thurs-

day, were largely lower in early Mumbai trading Friday as MSCI Inc. said it will remove two companies from its India gauge.

The companies' boards usually approve fundraising plans to enable management to quickly tap markets when opportunities arise. Discussions are still underway and there's no certainty the companies will announce a sum they're looking to raise after the Saturday board meetings, the people said.

A representative for the Adani Group declined to comment on the fundraising details.

Any move by the Adani Group companies to tap a broader group of investors for funds could backfire if the market isn't convinced that the cloud hanging over the stocks has lifted – or find the prices still too high.

Despite the coal-to-cement conglomerate denying fraud allegations made by Hindenburg Research in January, the broadside triggered a week-long stock rout that wiped out more than \$100 billion of market value, forcing the bil-



lionaire to scrap a \$2.4 billion share sale by his flagship firm priced at pre-attack levels.

Global index provider MSCI said that two Adani Group companies – Adani Transmission and Adani Total Gas Ltd. – will be excluded from its India gauge at the end of May. Both stocks fell as much as 5 percent on Friday. Adani Enterprises erased its early gains and was trading 0.6 percent lower in Mumbai.

Removal from MSCI's India gauge will lead to

a combined outflow of about \$390 million from the two stocks, according to estimates by Brian Freitas, an independent equities analyst who publishes on Smartkarma.

Freitas, who had seen this exclusion coming, said the passive selling will keep the two stocks under pressure. "Especially Adani Transmission, where there could also be some fundraising," he added.

The Adani family in early March raised about

\$1.9 billion selling shares in four firms to US investment firm GQG Partners, held investor roadshows and prepaid debt as they raced to bolster confidence and repair the damage from short seller's accusations.

Adani company board meetings every year include proposing enabling resolutions to raise capital, which is part of their annual financial planning, the people said.

An analysis by Bloomberg of exchange

filings shows Adani Enterprises and Adani Transmission have sought board approval for fundraising every year in April or May since at least 2019. Adani Green Energy secured such permission every year except in 2021, the data shows. The three firms raised almost \$2 billion from Abu Dhabi-based International Holding Company PJSC in April last year.

The current round of fundraising, once finalized, will be the first for Adani companies after the Hindenburg attack and the ensuing market rout. A successful share sale would go a long way toward cementing Adani's recovery from the crisis, though much would also depend on the terms of the deal and the profile of investors.

The stock meltdown earlier this year also cooled Adani companies' heated valuations. Added to the rout, a further discount could make them more attractive to investors.

Adani Enterprises posted a 138 percent jump in its latest quarterly profit while revenue rose 26 percent, boosted partly by the mining and airport businesses, and gross debt shrank by 6.5 percent.

# Stocks rise on the luxury earnings; rand at record low

London

Stocks rose as investors found confidence in strong earnings from Cartier maker Richemont and signs that US lawmakers are making progress on a deal to raise the debt ceiling.

Richemont gained 7.8 percent to a record, fueling a broad rally across European luxury stocks. S&P 500 futures traded higher after President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy postponed a meeting on the debt ceiling that was planned for Friday. The delay reflects progress in staff-level discussions, according to people familiar with the talks.

"We believe that they will find a deal – we need to remember negotiations have only just started," said Marie Jacot-Cardoen, chief executive officer of Edmond de Rothschild Asset Management France, on Bloomberg Television. "It is likely political antagonism will increase before deal is reached, but we believe a compromise will be found."

Globally, stock markets have seenawed this week on mixed US economic data and ongoing worries about the debt ceiling. While tech stocks have continued to outperform, with the Nasdaq 100 Index climbing 1 percent so far this week, there's plenty of skepticism about the industry.

Bank of America Corp. strategists led by Michael Hartnett wrote in a note on Friday that a recession will "crack credit and tech" just as it did in 2008.

Meanwhile, South Africa's rand sank 1.6 percent against the dollar to the lowest level on record. President Cyril Ramaphosa is starting an investigation into allegations that the country supplied weapons and ammunition to Russia.

Investors remain focused on what major central banks will do next in their rate-hiking campaigns to quell inflation. US data Thursday showed initial jobless claims reached the highest since October 2021 while producer prices rose less than economists expected, suggesting Federal Reserve policy tightening may finally be having an effect. "There's a chink of light – inflation is beginning to show some signs of easing, boosting hopes the Fed's rate hiking cycle is near an end and this means companies can start prioritizing growth, rather than servicing debt," said Angeline Ong, a financial analyst at IG Group.

The dollar was steady, poised for its biggest weekly gain since March. Treasury yields ticked higher.

In other corporate news, THG Plc shares fell as much as 23 percent after the company ended talks with Apollo Global Management Inc. in the latest failed takeover attempt of the struggling UK online retailer.

Tesla Inc. gained in US premarket trading after the electric-car maker raised prices of its Model X and Model S cars in the US, the third change in less than a month.

# Tea firms see lower prices on Pakistan, Egypt woes

NAIROBI

A shortage of hard currency in Egypt and Pakistan will continue hitting the tea market in Kenya with the listed firm Kakuzi projecting low returns this year from the commodity on the back of woes facing the two top buyers of Kenyan beverages.

Pakistan and Egypt account for 55 percent of the total tea exports that Kenya sells to the world market.

Camellia Plc, the UK-based parent company of Kakuzi, says the price for tea from year to date has remained low when compared with the same period last year, occasioned

by low demand from the two countries.

The firm says pricing levels looking forward will depend on production volumes and quality as well as the continued shortage of hard currency in Pakistan and Egypt.

"In 2023 our prices to date have been significantly below that of the same period of 2022 reflecting a continuing reduced demand from Kenya's largest two buyers, Pakistan and Egypt," said the company in its financial report for the year ending December 2022.

"Pricing levels looking forward will depend on production volumes and quality as well as the



continued shortage of hard currency in these regions."

The two countries have been grappling with a shortage of dollars that has seen Egypt devalue its pound while Pakistan imposed restrictions on imports to preserve currency in the country.

A shortage of forex currencies in Pakistan and Egypt significantly hit Kenya's tea exports in February cutting the earnings by at least \$5 billion.

Kenya Tea Board (TBK) says the shortage of dollars, coupled with the

ongoing war in Russia cut the export volumes to Pakistan, Egypt and Moscow by 33 percent in February compared with the corresponding period last year.

The TBK says exports to these countries dropped by 17 million kilos in February, the highest decline to be recorded since 2020.

"Lower export volumes were due to less import by Pakistan, Egypt and Russia whose combined volumes of import was less by 17.4 million kilogrammes owing to challenges of forex reserves affecting these

markets and shipping and logistics occasioned by the Russian-Ukraine war," said the TBK.

Kakuzi says its crop for the first quarter of the year is significantly ahead of the same period last year, raising hopes of good earnings on the back of high volumes that may offset the low prices.

The firm says its Kenyan estate's crop production was down 12 percent on account of dry weather last year when compared with the previous year while the total factory volumes were down nine percent.

# China may cancel US corn in shift to Brazil

BEIJING

Top corn importer China could cancel more purchases of the grain from the US because the country can buy more cheaply from Brazil and as some local producers of hog feed replace corn with wheat in their rations.

Corn futures in Chicago have come under pressure from Chinese cancellations of 832,000 tons in the past three weeks. Increased competition from Brazil is underscored by forecasts for it to pass the US as the top exporter this year.

China went on a corn buying spree in March, with purchases of almost 4 million tons announced by the US government between March 14 and April 14. But US corn is now less competitive, with supplies from Brazil about \$30 a ton cheaper for delivery in the third quarter, traders said.

Weak domestic demand for corn as animal feed is also a reason behind the cancellations.

"Demand for corn is really poor," said Wang Xiaoyang, a senior analyst with Sinolink Futures in Henan, one of the top grain-growing provinces. "Feed producers are using a lot of wheat to replace corn as prices keep falling."

Wheat prices are about 180 yuan (\$26) a ton cheaper than corn in Henan, and they may decline further as a bumper harvest is about to arrive on the market. Wheat also has a higher protein content than corn, and can also be used to replace some of the soybean meal used in feed.

Struggling hog farmers are doing all they can to cut feed costs, so replacing corn with wheat is a natural choice, traders and analysts said. The economy is also taking longer than

expected to recover from Covid, which is affecting restaurant demand for food and consumption of corn for starch.

The country's corn imports hit a record of over 28 million tons in 2021, before dropping to about 21 million tons last year, according to customs. In-bound shipments were 7.5 million tons in the first three months, up 6 percent from a year earlier, with most of the cargoes coming from the US, Brazil and Ukraine.

The cancellations come as China expects a bumper corn crop. Farmers in the northeast, the top production region for corn and soybeans, are more inclined to grow corn this year due to higher profits and easier management, CITIC Futures said, despite a government push to grow more soybeans.





# Rich Kenyans get helicopter tax cuts in budget plan

NAIROBI

Wealthy Kenyans and politicians will import helicopters and planes at cheaper prices after President William Ruto's administration proposed to scrap three taxes on aircraft and parts at a time the Treasury plans to hit the middle class with higher fuel and salary taxes to fund the Sh3.59 trillion budget.

In the Finance Bill, 2023, the government proposes to exempt importers of aircraft, especially choppers, from paying the 16 percent Valued Added Tax (VAT) while scrapping the 3.5 percent import declaration fee (IDF) and the two percent Railway Development Levy (RDL).

"The major beneficiaries are buyers of aircraft not exceeding 2,000 kilograms and helicopters of less than two tonnes and aircraft of more than 2,000 kilograms," said Robert Waruiru, a partner in charge of tax and regulatory at Ichiban Tax & Business Advisory.

The tax cuts will come as a major boost to the aviation industry, which decried the re-introduction of these levies by

the former administration of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

But they may not sit well with thousands of middle-class workers whose payslips have come under the biggest attack as the new administration loads additional levies to fund an ambitious pension, healthcare and housing plan.

Other than airlines, Kenya Police, Kenya Power and Kenya Wildlife Service, choppers have also become popular among wealthy individuals and politicians.

Wealthy Kenyans, including politicians during elections, hire helicopters and spend between Sh150,000 to Sh400,000 per hour.

Importers of helicopters are now one of the biggest beneficiaries in the latest amendments after the Treasury Cabinet Secretary Njuguna Ndung'u proposed to have them placed under the exempt status for three levies.

Before July 2021, the purchase of certain types of helicopters, aeroplanes and aircraft gear as well as parts such as tyres did not attract any tax.

The exemption also applied to individuals seeking to lease or



Helicopters used by leaders to attend a political rally by the Azimio coalition at Nyamamai Stadium, West Mugirango in Nyamira on July 1, 2022. PHOTO | NMG

hire helicopters. However, in the Finance Act 2020, persons seeking to hire or buy aeroplanes of an unladen weight not exceeding or exceeding 2,000 kilograms started paying VAT on their imports in what was aimed at collecting an additional Sh38.9 billion from wealthy individuals and industries.

The unladen weight of any aircraft is the weight when it is not carrying passengers or goods.

Currently, only aircraft parts such as propellers, balloons, glid-

ers, hang gliders and other non-powered aircraft are exempt from paying the 16 percent VAT when brought into the country.

Imported aircraft weighing less than two tonnes and all types of helicopters are subjected to IDL and RDL, in what targets wealthy individuals who might import these birds for own comfort.

Industry players have welcomed the tax cuts as a major boost to tourism.

"The ever-increasing number of taxes are negatively impacting the

air transport sector as Kenya is the only State regionally levying several taxes on aircraft, spare parts and fuel, making the industry uncompetitive and unsustainable," said the Kenya Association of Air Operators chief executive officer Liz Aluvanze on Thursday.

"The association has over the years made petitions to the government to review the tax regime so as to provide the much-needed relief to the industry players in order to give them a fighting chance in the face of fierce regional and

global competition," Ms Aluvanze added.

Cap Mercy Makau, founder and president of the Young Aviators Club of Africa, said reducing the cost of importing spare parts and light aircraft is a huge benefit to Kenya because the cost of training would go down.

"It would promote tourism and sports aviation, growing the general aviation sector through recreational aviation, hence creating jobs," she said.

In the Finance Act of 2020, Kenyatta's administration also introduced a 25 percent import duty on the importation of helicopters, a move that pushed up the cost of buying these aircraft.

The move was part of the Treasury's objective of getting rid of the many exemptions as advised by the International Monetary Fund.

According to the former Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani, the country was not getting any benefit from these exemptions for aircraft.

Mr Yatani noted that rather than these helicopters being used for humanitarian purposes such as flying patients from remote areas, they were being used by wealthy individuals and businesses to move around.



Gabon President Ali Bongo

## Bank of America to lead \$500mn debt swap for Gabon

WASHINGTON

Bank of America Corp. will arrange a \$500 million debt swap for marine conservation in Gabon, as these types of deals gain in size and popularity, according to people familiar with the planned transaction.

The deal, due to be announced in July, will involve The Nature Conservancy, a US-based conservation nonprofit, said the people, who declined to be identified. Until now, Credit Suisse Group AG has dominated this market, having run similar debt conversions for Belize, Barbados and Ecuador.

Bank of America and Gabon's environment minister declined to comment. In a statement, TNC said it's "pleased that Gabonese leaders see value in conservation, but we're unable to discuss projects that the nation may be pursuing."

Banks in Europe and the US are vying to play a role in structuring and arranging new debt-for-nature swaps, deals that yield fees and boost their profile in the sustainable debt market. Developing countries with valuable ecosystems are turning to debt-for-nature swaps as a way to lower their debt burden and, at the same time, meet commitments to protect 30 percent of their land and sea by 2030.

Credit Suisse arranged the first such deal, a \$364 million transaction for Belize in November 2021. Last year, the Swiss bank sealed a \$150 million swap for Barbados. And this week, it closed the largest ever debt-for-nature swap, a \$656 million deal for Ecuador to help fund the conservation of the threatened waters around the Galapagos islands.

Debt-for-nature swaps have been around since the 1980s, but until recently were dominated by nonprofits and bilateral creditors. In their modern guise, a structure conceived of by Credit Suisse and TNC and made possible by credit enhancement from development banks like the US Development Finance Corp. and the Inter-American Development Bank, institutional investors can buy-in via bonds issued to finance the new sovereign debt.

Gabon has created 20 protected areas covering 26 percent of its marine waters, or 53,000 square kilometers (20,500 square miles). Those include the largest breeding populations of leatherback and olive ridley turtles, as well as 20 species of whales and dolphins.

The African country has \$700 million of debt falling due in 2025 and \$1.8 billion due in 2031, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

I TV		CAPITAL TV		
<b>THURSDAY 11 May</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamba lulu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT 13:30 Kipindi maalum: Brela 13:45 Shamsam za pwani rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shamsam za pwani rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Kipindi maalum: TMDA 19:00 Usafiri Wako 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 20:00 Habari 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	13:30 Nyumba rpt Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ 14:30 DW: Afrimax rpt 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kisilam 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Kipindi maalum: REA 18:45 Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo 21:30 Igizo: Mizengwe 21:45 Mjue Zaidi 22:20 Bongo movie: 23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt 02:05 Al Jazeera	22:00 Jagina rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
<b>WED 10 May</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt 12:00 Dw News Africa rpt 12:30 Our Earth 13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Bussines Edition Rpt 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Decor 23:15 Al Jazeera	09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Business edition 12:00 Out and About 12:30 Our earth 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Tomorrow Today 16:30 Eco@Africa 17:00 Dw News Africa rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Decor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Innovation Rpt 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Business edition 12:00 Out and About 12:30 Our earth 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Tomorrow Today 16:30 Eco@Africa 17:00 Dw News Africa rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Decor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Innovation Rpt 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Dw News Africa rpt 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:05 Out & About Rpt 20:00 Aibu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana 21:00 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera
<b>FRIDAY 12 May</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri Wako 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 11:15 Jungu kuu 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Art and Lifestyle 13:20 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka 21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen 21:40 Art and Lifestyle 22:10 ITV Top 10 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt 01:15 DWTV	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Monday agenda rpt 12:15 Spots gazette 12:45 Filler doc 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Our Earth 20:00 Decor Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Tomorrow Today 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Out & About Rpt 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Our Earth Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat 23:00 Al Jazeera
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## WORLD

## Fighting ebbs across Israel-Gaza border, ceasefire efforts go on

GAZA/JERUSALEM

FIGHTING subsided across the Israel-Gaza border yesterday after days of Israeli air strikes and Palestinian rocket fire disrupted life for millions of people, amid Egyptian efforts to cement a ceasefire.

Israeli forces launched a campaign against the Islamic Jihad militant group's leadership in the early hours on Tuesday, accusing them of planning attacks on Israel. Islamic Jihad, the second largest armed group in Gaza after the ruling Islamist Hamas, has since fired over 800 rockets, some deep into Israel.

At least 31 Palestinians in Gaza, including women and children, have been killed in the past three days of fighting, while one person in Israel was killed when an apartment was struck by a rocket in a Tel Aviv suburb.

In Gaza, a small impoverished coastal territory blockaded by Israel and Egypt since 2007, people woke up to empty streets, many keen for a respite after days of explosions.

Amin Abuelkheir hoped to reopen his fish restaurant after closing it four days ago. "Our life has stopped, the sea is closed to us, and we have stock that we are unable to sell. We hope there will be a truce," Abuelkheir said.

A tense calm allowed Israelis, still on alert, to venture away from shelters at the start of the weekend and make Sabbath preparations with the last air raid siren sounding late on Thursday.

The latest flare-up caps more than a year of resurgent Israeli-Palestinian violence that has killed more than 140 Palestinians and at least 19 Israelis and foreigners since January in a seemingly



Palestinians inspect the rubble of a house after it was struck by an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip yesterday. AP

never-ending cycle.

Islamic Jihad spurns co-existence with Israel and preaches its destruction. Top ministers of Israel's current religious nationalist government rule out any state sought by Palestinians in territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Egypt is continuing to mediate truce efforts, but an official announcement has yet to emerge. Two Palestinian officials familiar with the talks said the sides were debating a draft proposed by Cairo.

Among truce terms, Islamic Jihad wants Israel to commit to ending strikes against its leaders. Israel has rejected that. Israel appeared to be hoping that Islamic Jihad, if depleted of rockets and commanders, would halt hostilities unilaterally.

At least 80 people have been injured in the air strikes that destroyed five buildings and damaged more than 300 apartments Gaza, where residents have been experiencing decades of a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Israel's military said that over 100 Palestinian rockets - many of them improvised - had fallen short, killing four people inside Gaza, including a 10-year-old girl. Islamic Jihad denied that its rockets had caused deaths in Gaza.

Israel occupied the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in the 1967 war, as well as East Jerusalem which Palestinians want for their capital. Israeli forces and settlers withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Statehood talks between Israel and the mainstream Palestinian Authority, based in the West Bank, have been frozen since 2014.

Agencies

## Chinese modernisation to 'create opportunities' for the world

OSLO

THE Chinese modernization strives for common prosperity for all, which will not only create a better life for the Chinese people, but also provide a bigger market and more opportunities for the rest of the world, visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said here Thursday.

Ever since Norwegian companies entered the Chinese market in as early as 1888, they have maintained long-term cooperation with their Chinese partners and got deeply engaged in China's reform and opening up, making important contributions to the mutually beneficial cooperation and friendly exchanges between the two countries, Qin said when meeting with representatives of the Norwegian business community.

China will stay committed to reform and opening up, focus on high-quality development, promote win-win cooperation, and provide a better investment environment for global enterprises, so as to bring new development opportunities, he said.

The Chinese economy, with strong resilience, will achieve stable, sound and sustainable development, and continue to be a powerhouse of the world economy, he said.

Qin said that the Chinese modernization also features harmony between humanity and nature, which will create broad space for green and low-carbon cooperation between China and Norway.

The two countries, both supporters of and participants in economic globalization, oppose protectionism and the push for



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang meets with representatives of the Norwegian business community, in Oslo, Norway, May 11, 2023. (PHOTO / FMPRC.GOV.CN)

decoupling and severing supply chains, he stressed.

Under the current circumstances, it is all the more important for China and Norway to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation

and jointly promote trade liberalization and facilitation so as to deliver more results through their cooperation, he added.

During the meeting, the Norwegian representatives said they are

willing to further deepen cooperation with China, as China is an important market and trading partner for Norwegian enterprises.

Strengthening dialogue and communication between the governments and business communities of the two countries is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding and expanding areas of cooperation, they said.

Qin listened attentively to their views and suggestions on strengthening China-Norway economic and trade cooperation, and answered questions regarding the Ukraine crisis, green transformation, intellectual property protection and China-US relations.

Qin is on a visit to Germany, France and Norway from May 8 to 12 at the invitation of his German, French and Norwegian counterparts.

## Forum calls for ASEAN to enhance connectivity, joint action

JAKARTA

EMERGING as a new growth center of world economy, Southeast Asia has to enhance connectivity and joint action to overcome challenges including post-pandemic recovery, geopolitical tension, climate change and digital disruption, according to participants in a regional forum held yesterday.

Arsjad Rasjid, chairperson of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), said the ASEAN economy has a "growing impact on global trade".

With a steady rise in GDP for the past few years, ASEAN is now the world's fifth largest economy and the fourth largest exporting region, Rasjid said in his welcome speech at the 2023 ASEAN Leadership and Partnership Forum being held in Jakarta. This has "major im-

plications" on the future of investment inflows and resilience of the global supply chain.

"ASEAN is no longer a regional power which sits on the sidelines of the global economy," Rasjid said, alluding to this year's theme of the ASEAN summit. ASEAN countries are "broadly regarded as the future base of global production and consumption, or as (the Indonesian) government has defined it, as a new epicenter of growth."

Indonesia is this year's rotating chair of the regional bloc.

The two-day forum is held after the 42nd ASEAN summit at Labuan Bajo in eastern Indonesia. The forum's theme "ASEAN Matters - Centre of Growth, Opportunities & Prosperity", was organized by the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry



The first session of the special roundtable dialogue of ASEAN Leadership and Partnership Forum is held at Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday.

(KADIN), ASEAN Economic Club, and Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia. It was supported by the Economic Club of Kuala Lumpur and the World Business Chamber.

Rasjid, who also serves as KADIN's chairman, said it is in the best interests of ASEAN to approach the future of its development with

"a spirit of togetherness, togetherness and cooperation as a solid community".

Michael Yeoh, chairman of the forum and KSI's president, said in his introductory speech that ASEAN, as an organization, can only remain relevant to the next generation if there is a "greater sense of

purpose, a greater sense of belonging to ASEAN". This is why people to people connectivity needs to be prioritized. He said this can be done through the conduct of more educational and youth exchanges among ASEAN members.

Rasjid and Yeoh's speeches was a prelude to the morning session which focused on ASEAN connectivity.

One of the panel discussants is Kirida Bhaopichit, director of Economic Intelligence Service at the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). Kirida said climate change, increasing US-China competition and how artificial intelligence is threatening job security are among the major challenges that the region has to overcome. She said connectivity and collaboration will help the region "survive through this perfect storm".

Agencies

## West 'miscalculated' with economic war against Russia, says magazine

LONDON

WESTERN countries have failed to achieve their goals with the economic war they unleashed on Russia following the onset of its special military operation in Ukraine, according to an editorial by the British Spectator weekly published on its website on Thursday.

According to the magazine, the West quickly became aware that other countries were not ready to stop doing business with Russia, which rapidly redirected its oil and gas supplies to China and India.

The bans introduced by the West have been surmounted with parallel imports. That said, the European economy is smarting from the consequences of its sudden rejection of Russian energy.

The Spectator points out that the Russian economy was also hurt but not as seriously as Ukraine's allies hoped.

"The West embarked on its sanctions war with an exaggerated sense of its own influence around the world.

As we have discovered, non-western countries lack the will to impose sanctions on either Russia or on Russian oligarchs.

The results of the miscalculation are there for all to see. <...> The Russian economy has not been destroyed; it has merely been reconfigured, reoriented to look eastwards and southwards rather than westwards," the article says.

The authors admit that in itself, the plan to declare the sanctions war on Russia "was not necessarily wrong" but point out that the West "is badly mistaken" if it continues to think that in the future, "it can fight wars purely by economic means, without bombs or bullets."



The UN-chartered vessel MV Valsamitis is loaded to deliver 25,000 tonnes of Ukrainian wheat to Kenya and 5,000 tonnes to Ethiopia, at the port of Chornomorsk, east of Odessa on the Black Sea coast, on Feb 18, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

## UNICEF steps up support for Sudanese children displaced by military conflict

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Thursday that it is stepping up humanitarian support for children on the move affected by the ongoing conflict in Sudan as an estimated 82,000 children have fled to neighboring countries and approximately 368,000 more are newly displaced inside the country.

The brutal conflict in Sudan has exacted a devastating toll on the country's children, with thousands having experienced deeply traumatic events or been driven from their homes in search of relative safety, said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell in a press release.

"Their situation remains precarious, and continued support and assistance from the international community and humanitarian partners are critical," she said.

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), more than 164,000 people have sought refuge across borders since the outbreak of the military conflict in Sudan on April 15.

In addition, the International Organization for Migration estimates some 736,000 people are newly internally displaced within Sudan since the start of the conflict. Almost 3.8 million people were already internally displaced within Sudan prior to the outbreak of violence.

Many communities receiving displaced populations are already affected by multiple crises, with basic services and existing humanitarian capacity already overstretched. The rainy season is expected to heighten access challenges and increase the risks of disease, said UNICEF.

The conflict in Sudan is also disrupting cross-border trade and movement, leading to a sharp increase in food prices in neighboring countries, with a higher risk of food insecurity in vulnerable host communities, it said.

In Sudan, UNICEF has provided emergency health kits, essential supplies and medicines to hospitals and primary health care centers to support the treatment of the injured and access to life-saving and basic health services.

UNICEF is also supporting displaced children and families, striving to ensure the continuity of essential services, including the provision of nutrition supplies to help keep more than 80 percent of facilities functioning in affected areas, said the fund.

Xinhua

## UN: Over 100,000 kids would die of hunger over Haiti conflict

PORT-AU-PRINCE

MORE than 115,600 children in Haiti are expected to suffer severe wasting from malnutrition this year, the United Nations children's agency UNICEF said on Thursday, as an escalation of armed violence worsens food insecurity and a cholera outbreak.

That number is more than 30 percent higher than the 87,500 children UNICEF registered as suffering from the condition last year. It warned of a severe funding gap that "could put the lives of more than 100,000 children at risk of immediate death."

Heavily armed gangs have taken control of large swathes of the Caribbean island nation, with much of the violence centered in the capital Port-au-Prince, where the UN estimates more than 600 people were killed in April alone.

"The results of this study come at a key time since they will certainly be useful to us in planning our interventions on all fronts, in our fight against food insecurity," Prime Minister Ariel Henry said in a speech.

UNICEF released its study days after the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights renewed calls for an

international force to support Haiti's fight against armed gangs. Henry's caretaker government had requested a "rapid" strike force last October.

The US international law enforcement bureau said on Monday it had delivered armored vehicles purchased by Haiti's National Police, who are also awaiting another delayed order of armored vehicles from private Canadian firm INKAS.

The international community has, however, been wary of sending troops in support of Henry's unelected government.

Meanwhile, a grassroots vigilante

justice movement known as "Bwa Kale" has gained force in recent weeks, challenging gangs and carrying out summary executions - sparking both optimism and fears of renewed violence.

"We are in a context that is sadly not going to become better in the coming months," said Victor Napoletano, who coordinates the International Rescue Committee's Haiti response in conjunction with local non-governmental organizations.

"Kidnappings are happening every day. Dead bodies are appearing every day. Not just one or two, its five or 10

that are being reported," he said.

In March, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) closed a hospital in the capital saying it could not guarantee the safety of its patients or staff.

UN agencies have repeatedly warned of chronic underfunding and "catastrophic" hunger in Haiti, saying lack of basic services lie at the root of the escalating violence.

**The results of this study come at a key time since they will certainly be useful to us in planning our interventions on all fronts, in our fight against food insecurity**





# WHO: Weight loss drugs 'no silver bullet' to fight obesity

LONDON

NEW highly-effective weight loss drugs such as Novo Nordisk's Wegovy are not a "silver bullet" for addressing the rapid rise in global obesity rates, the World Health Organization's nutrition chief said, as the agency conducts its first review of obesity management guidelines in more than 20 years.

The global health body is first revising guidelines for treating children and adolescents with obesity, and will then update recommendations for adults, Francesco Branca, WHO director of nutrition and food safety, told Reuters.

The WHO last issued global guidelines on the topic in 2000, which are used as a blueprint for countries without the resources to draft their own plans.

As part of the work, the WHO has commissioned the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research, in Milan, Italy, to assess the evidence for the use of all drugs for children and adolescents - from older options like GSK's Xenical to newer, more effective treatments like Wegovy and Eli Lilly and Co's Mounjaro, Branca told Reuters.

"The kind of communication that has been done around these drugs - 'We've found a solution' - that's wrong," said Branca. Drugs for obesity are important but must be "part of a comprehensive approach," he said. "This is not a silver bullet."

Branca said that other interventions, including diet and exercise, remain critical to help manage obesity. The latest WHO data shows that the percentage of children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 who are obese or overweight has risen to just over 18 percent in 2016 from 4 percent in 1975, and this now represents more than 340 million people.

Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Wegovy and Mounjaro were originally developed for type 2 diabetes to help control blood glucose. More recently, they have been shown to help people lose around 15 percent of their body weight, capturing the attention of patients, investors and even celebrities.

Part of a class of drugs known as GLP-1 agonists, they are given by a weekly injection and work by affecting hunger signals to the brain and slowing the rate at which a person's stomach empties, making them feel full longer.

Studies suggest people are likely to have to take the drugs for the rest of their lives to keep the weight off.

Wegovy is approved for weight-loss in the United States and Europe, while Mounjaro is expected to receive US approval later this year. The enormous demand for the drugs is expected to be worth \$100 billion in annual sales within a decade, with as many as 10 different drugs on the market.

US medical groups are also review-



A selection of injector pens for the Wegovy weight loss drug are shown in this photo illustration in Chicago, Illinois, US, on March 31, 2023. (PHOTO / REUTERS)

ing their obesity treatment guidelines to consider the best use of Wegovy and similar drugs, with some specialists advocating broad use while others recommend prioritising them for high-risk patients with health conditions, like dia-

betes or heart disease, that are exacerbated by excess weight.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended using such medicines in children age 12 or older with obesity, even though the long-term impacts have yet to be studied.

## More robust

The WHO said its revised guidelines will be based on more robust methodology than previous iterations and include up-to-the-minute science. The first draft of the new management guidelines for children and adolescents are expected by the end of this year.

Branca said the researchers at Mario Negri, as well as other institutions working on the guidelines, had been extensively vetted to avoid conflict of interest concerns.

Novo Nordisk was suspended earlier this year from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry for its marketing practices, such as alleged funding of health professionals and providing training that the association alleged was intended to promote its drug.

"We really screen the potential conflicts of interest," said Branca.

He described obesity as a "rising epidemic".

"There are multiple reasons why we really have to take much more serious and bolder action," he said.

Agencies

## Ukraine crisis: China's special envoy to visit 5 countries

BEIJING

CHINESE Government on Eurasian Affairs Li Hui (pictured) will visit Ukraine, Poland, France, Germany and Russia to communicate with all parties on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis starting from May 15, China's foreign ministry said yesterday.



Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced this at a press conference in Beijing while responding to a related question.

Since the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, China has been actively promoting peace talks in an objective and just manner, he said.

Li's visit to relevant countries shows Beijing's commitment to promoting peace talks and fully demonstrates that China firmly stands on the side of peace, said Wang.

At present, the Ukraine crisis is still escalating, and spillover effects continue to appear. The international community is increasingly calling for a ceasefire to stop the war and ease the situation, he said.

China is willing to continue to play a constructive role in building more international consensus on the ceasefire, the cessation of war, the opening of peace talks, and the avoidance of escalation of the situation, and make China's contribution to promoting the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Wang added.

Xinhua

## UN General Assembly president calls for debt relief for middle-income

UNITED NATIONS

UN General Assembly President Csaba Korosi on Thursday called for debt relief, as well as equitable access to new technologies, for middle-income countries.

The 110 middle-income countries, which account for three-quarters of the global population and nearly one-third of global GDP, are central drivers of global development, he told a General Assembly high-level meeting

on middle-income countries.

"Your geographies, ecosystems, cultures, and economies are incredibly diverse -- with varying vulnerabilities. Some of you encounter frequent drought and desertification, while others face tropical storms and sea-level rise.

But all of you face the common challenge of establishing your capacity to cope with these extreme conditions in ways that ensure resilience," he said. Korosi said it is time to get

serious about debt relief in middle-income countries, which host the majority of the extremely poor in the world.

In the torrent of today's global crises, some countries have been forced to prioritize short-term economic goals over longer-term aims. In many countries, including small island developing states, high public debt service is crowding out investment in green, resilient and equitable transformation, he noted.

Various debt-relief instruments can be considered. The debt-for-climate or debt-for-nature swaps offer a win-win for debtors, creditors and donors to meet national development objectives in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, said Korosi. He noted that the International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Trust and Food Shock Window, along with the loss and damage fund agreed on at the latest UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt, open

avenues to expand contingency financing to countries in need.

Middle-income countries need equitable access to new technologies, science and innovation that spur resilience in the long run, said Korosi.

This is a shared charge, and international partnership is key. The revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development is an important vehicle for strengthening this worldwide cooperation, he said. It is also time for the international

community to go beyond GDP as the primary measure of development, since GDP has never been designed for that, he said.

"We need a measurement that captures... the total assets of a nation since its balanced growth is the essence of sustainable development." Currently, 90 countries compile the System of Environmental Economic Accounting, he said, encouraging more governments to do so.

Xinhua

## Humanitarian Heidi Kühn wins 2023 World Food Prize for 'replacing mines with vines'

WASHINGTON

HEIDI Kühn, founder of California-based non-profit organization Roots of Peace, has been named the 2023 World Food Prize Laureate for her work to replace mines with vines in post-conflict regions over more than 25 years.

The announcement was made by former U.S. ambassador to China Terry Branstad, President of the World Food Prize Foundation, at a ceremony held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. on Thursday.

Kühn (pictured) 65, embodies the commitment of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, who founded the World Food Prize in 1986, to cultivate peace through agriculture, said Branstad, also a former Iowa governor.

"I am honored to announce her as the 2023 Laureate for her work to provide a way forward for more than a million people living in war-torn regions around the world. Roots of Peace provides a model of how to overcome threats and challenges that can impede regions for years after conflict," said Branstad.

Branstad was joined in the ceremony



by the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, another former Iowa governor.

According to a press release by the foundation, Kühn, a mother of four and a cancer

survivor, founded Roots of Peace in 1997 to replace the remnants of war with farmland.

The organization also trains farmers in modern agricultural practices, from planting and harvesting to marketing through international exports. Kühn's work has supported de-mining partners in Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Croatia, Israel, Iraq, the Palestinian territories and Vietnam, allowing local farmers safe access to irrigation canals and arable land for cultivation.

Roughly 60 million individuals residing in nearly 70 nations and territories are at risk of encountering landmines, according to the United Nations, including rural communities where farming is the primary source of livelihood and income.

The World Food Prize Foundation, based in Des Moines, Iowa, aims to elevate innovations and inspire action to sustainably increase food quality, quantity and availability for all.

To date, the World Food Prize has been awarded to 52 individuals from 21 countries and the United Nations. Late Chinese professor Yuan Longping won the 2004 World Food Prize for his breakthrough in developing the genetic materials and technologies essential for breeding high-yielding hybrid rice varieties.

Xinhua

## Iran releases Irish man on 'consular, humanitarian' grounds

TEHRAN

THE Iranian Embassy in Dublin said that an Irish national imprisoned in Iran has been pardoned

and released on "consular and humanitarian" grounds.

The Iranian Embassy announced in a post on its Twitter page on Thursday evening the

Irish national's release was a result of "constructive diplomatic engagement between Iran and Ireland," identifying the Irish citizen as Bernard Phelan.

Phelan (pictured), a Paris-based travel consultant, was arrested in October 2022 in Iran and sentenced to over six years in prison for "sending security information" abroad after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died in a Tehran hospital on Sept 16, a few days after her collapse at a police station. The 64-year-old man was held in a prison in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad.

Given that the Irish national had entered Iran with a French passport, his case was pursued by the French Embassy in Tehran.

In a phone call with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Thursday, Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin thanked Iran for releasing Phelan.



## US House passes Republican bill tightening border security

WASHINGTON

THE US House of Representatives on Thursday approved Republican legislation intended to stop immigrants and illegal drugs crossing the nation's southwestern border with Mexico, leaving it to the Senate to attempt a broader, bipartisan immigration bill.

The package, which Democrats have warned will be blocked in the Senate, would set tight limits on asylum seekers and require

them to apply for US protection outside the country. It also would resume construction of a wall along the border and expand federal law enforcement efforts.

The House voted 219-213 to pass the bill, with no Democrats in favor and one Republican opposed.

"The key component of this bill is where we say, 'If you come to our country, you will get to, according to the law, file your asylum claim...but you will be

detained or you will be returned while your claim is adjudicated,'" said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan during debate on the bill.

The vote occurred in anticipation of the Thursday midnight expiration of the Title 42 immigration restriction that began under former president Donald Trump in 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has allowed US authorities to expel migrants to Mexico without the chance to

seek asylum, citing health concerns.

Officials at the southwestern border were seeing large influxes of immigrants in the final days of Title 42 expiration.

"My Republican colleagues are trying to take us back to the failed, illegal and immoral policies of the Trump administration," said Representative Jerrold Nadler, the senior Democrat on the Judiciary panel.

"This bill serves as a wholesale

ban on asylum. No one would be able to seek asylum in the United States if they cross between ports of entry or if they had or could have had even temporary status in a third country," Nadler added.

While the House bill is not expected to get to President Joe Biden's desk for signing into law, there are hopes in the Senate that it will spark negotiations for a bipartisan, comprehensive border security and immigra-

tion reform measure in coming months.

Independent Senator Kristen Sinema told reporters hours before the House vote that the Republican bill would open the way to shaping a "final package" to address not only border security but also reforms to the US asylum system and the manner in which visas are doled out.

Over the past three decades, meaningful immigration reforms have been unsuccessful in

Congress. As Biden gears up for re-election next year, the large numbers of people seeking asylum in the United States have raised voter awareness.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released this week found 54 percent of respondents, including 77 percent of Republicans and 34 percent of Democrats, opposed opening the border to more immigrants every year and only 26 percent said they approved of Biden's handling of immigration.





Ihefu SC trains in Tanga early this week, preparing for this season's tie against Coastal Union which will take place in the region this weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF IHEFU SC

## Ihefu SC aims to bounce back in Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IHEFU SC assistant coach Zubeir Katwila has said they aim to bounce back from back-to-back defeats in this season's NBC Premier League to extend their chances of avoiding relegation playoff games.

The Mbeya-based team lost 2-0 to Simba SC at home and later went on to lose to relegation battlers Polisi Tanzania.

Katwila noted that the team assembled this season has what it takes to finish on a higher note but they have not reached the potential even though they are still in a good position to do better.

The gaffer revealed they are concentrating on doing well in the remaining games because nine points are important.

"We can't underestimate any team but we're preparing to win coming games. We are playing two games out of three at home, and we have to make it count," the gaffer noted.

Katwila added: "The players know what to expect against the last three opponents, and we told them not to panic, all they have to do is remain

composed at all times and, above all, play their game and make sure we pick many points."

"We lost back-to-back games but that's now in the past. If we don't build on it and pick something against Coastal Union in our next match, it would be nothing," the gaffer noted.

Ihefu SC will confront Coastal Union at Mkwakwani Stadium this weekend with a win guaranteeing the former's ultimate survival from relegation playoffs games.

So far, Ihefu SC is in the eighth spot in the league log with 33 points after winning 10 games, garnering a draw in three games, and losing 14 games.

"The league is not over yet, we must do well in all remaining matches and if we continue to compete we can move up or remain in the current position," he said.

He pointed out that the last remaining matches are very competitive and, if his team slips, it can drop and finish the league in the last position.

"I do motivate the players, but the good display against Coastal Union will for sure lift them higher in the next game."

## Simba SC vs Wydad AC: Match blessings and psychoanalysis of penalty loss

By Correspondent John Kimbute

RESULTS of the Simba SC vs Wydad Athletic Club encounter at the King Mohammed V Stadium in Casablanca on April 28 can be taken as a case study of sporting equity, perhaps the most rightful results based on how far the two teams have worked for them.

The first aspect of how a team has worked for a certain outcome is an investment, and on top of it, there are skills applied to that investment (especially coaching skills).

Then there is the singular hard work, of utmost application of the learned skills.

That is why the results were baffling to a range of pundits, as they did not reflect what is on the ground in terms of physical investment, especially in squad value or assembling of players.

The way the matches were played, the home and away encounters which ended in kindred fashion as if the two sides were practically at par, each having home advantage but just that much, left several questions either unanswered or they were implicitly answered by the outcome, in a baffling way.

For once, before the two matches, no pundit was daring to say that the two sides are equal in practically every parameter and it depends on how far each side applies the skills it has on the pitch.

Yet this is the sort of reality that was seen on the pitch, as in the first encounter at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, nicknamed 'Estadio Lupaso', the visiting side did not have their best striker, a Senegalese that one kept hearing as named Sambou (despite that the name has a Central African resonance).

They said he was the top scorer in this season having bagged 18 goals for the side, and is the one who scored a crucial header against Simba SC.

The question is whether it is now true or it can be said to be



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Sadio Kanouté (L), races past Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club midfielder, Ayman El Hassouni, during a 2022/23 CAF Champions League last-eight return leg clash at Mohammed V Stadium in Casablanca April 28. Wydad Athletic Club recorded a 4-3 victory in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

true that the level of investment notwithstanding, Simba SC and Wydad Athletic Club are at par, and it all depends on how one uses skills on the ground.

That would make squad intensity a negligible factor in competitive football, limiting comparisons to tactical formats adopted by this or that coach, such that it cancels physical advantage in terms of assembling a squad and putting it to work.

It would be difficult to accept that formulation as right, and even in the latest double encounter the idea of parity didn't quite arise.

In that case, it is an issue of interpretation how it came about, but competitive soccer is an interplay of ability and psychological disposition, for individual players and the squad as a whole.

And as a certain Adam Smith once said, in all individual enterprise or effort, there is a 'hidden hand of providence' that settles issues, and quite often at

that level the design is instantly visible, though one has to know the rules.

With that kind of approach, what happened starts falling into place.

The trouble is what aspect to privilege and what to make secondary, whether it is squad strength plus technique, and then the 'hand of providence' or one starts directly from this hand, hence squad depth and technique coming later.

This latter scenario would be somewhat absurd, for the 'hand of providence' has to go to those who deserve it, or more accurately, if they minimally deserve it.

In that case, Simba SC has what it takes to compete with Wydad at par, and with luck, get results.

In that case, the results recorded at the home encounter and in return tie could be said to be the best possible for the Msimbazi Street side, as honourable as they could be.

It was a better performance than Yanga's 1-1 draw with Al Hilal in Dar es Salaam and the former's one-goal loss to the latter in Omdurman, within the vicinity of Khartoum, as then it meant Yanga was weaker, though Al Hilal was not superior, better organized perhaps.

In terms of organization, Simba SC proved equal to Wydad Athletic Club but there was a trump card, had he been in Dar es Salaam, the earlier euphoria could have diminished, and paled.

If only in the presence of that single player, the difference between the two teams starts to come out, despite that Simba SC has lately made an effort in improving the club's strength, where the presence of Jean Baleke has rapidly improved its standing, both in the domestic league and in continental tournaments.

In the absence of the Wydad Athletic Club key striker, Baleke was unsurprisingly man of the match in the single touch hit of the ball.

Workings of the 'hand of providence' were for instance quite visible in the manner in which the penalties played out, in the background of the fact that Wydad Athletic Club has a superior side but Simba SC was rewarded for their hard work, faith in the squad abilities

But Wydad Athletic Club had to go forward, and Simba SC excited by penalties, it was a boost for their morale and standing before the fans, made possible by the 'first absence', as it were.

Penalties are not just a throw of a coin as providence uses them. Wasting two penalties made the loss decisive for Simba SC, a real defeat rather than bad luck, with Shomari Kapombe given the burden of the first wasted penalty, iconic Clatous Chama had to be the next.

As the side's most dependable player, he carries such a burden easily, unlike a middle-ranking player, and, in two wasted penalties, the memory also fades.

## Tanga to host BondeKaya Ecotourism Marathon in July

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

ECOTOURISM is a vibrant growing form of tourism aimed at ensuring that the environment is conserved and local communities surrounding the protected areas are benefiting.

As if effectively

promoted, ecotourism generates revenue, and host communities use such revenue to invest in the natural resources that attract tourists.

Despite Tanzania having been endowed with natural forest reserves ecotourism activities are relatively minimal due to such factors as accessibility problems to some protected areas, inadequate infrastructure,

insufficient marketing, and promotional campaign, and lack of access to capital.

Vision Sports, a Subsidiary of Vision Investments has, in conjunction with Magoroto Forest Estate, set out to promote and conserve Eastern Usambara mountain natural forest by organizing a marathon, dubbed BondeKaya

Marathon.

The event, slated for July 1, is expected to bring together about 500 runners from various parts of Tanzania and beyond the country's borders.

According to Vision Sports Director Ally Nchahaga, the races will take place at the Magoroto forest reserve area, located almost 14 kilometers from Muheza

township.

"BondeKaya Marathon is a race like no other, before the day, we will have a two-day environment conservation workshop enhancement for social activities including tree planting to conserve the environment to be held on Thursday."

"There would be a bonfire camp festival on Friday and, on Saturday, will host races and

mountain biking that will make this marathon a unique sporting competition in Tanga," Nchahaga disclosed.

He noted that the races have been categorized as 5 kilometers Fun Run/Walk, 10 kilometers Corporate Challenge, 18 kilometers Trail Run as well as either 30 kilometers or 40 kilometers mountain bike.

He said the registration fee for 10 kilometers Corporate Challenge is 50,000/-, and 70,000/- is a fee for each of the runners in 18 kilometers Trail Run and Mountain Bike will have contenders paying 100,000/- each in the registration fee.

He moreover pointed out that the registration procedures have already started, adding runners

should hurry to register online and all payments should be done through mobile network payment 'Lipa Namba 6703066 BondeKaya Marathon'.

The official insisted: "The limited number for this marathon is expected not to exceed 500 runners, hence runners and athletes should hurry in registering".

## Twanga Pepeta laments ban on entertainment venues

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM-based dance music troupe, African Stars, has asked the government to review its decision to ban a section of entertainment venues for violation of the rules and regulations for environmental conservation.

The troupe, popularly known as Twanga Pepeta, issued the request a few days after the National Council for Conservation and Environmental Management (NEMC) had ordered several venues in some areas of the country to stop operation after committing the offense.

The band's manager, Hassan Rehani, said it had six shows to be staged in various venues but now the venues' owners are afraid of fines and shutdown orders from the council.

The leader stated: "The NEMC Director General's statements surprise me, victims are often people on the receiving end of the noises and musicians."

"I do not vouch for the legitimacy of the incident but the NEMC should be neutral to help us and people that want good sleep," the leader added.

The leader disclosed that the decision by NEMC to make use of a Sound Level Meter, an equipment for measuring sound at different frequencies, still casts doubt considering venue owners are fined but NEMC servants do not know the geography of the areas the equipment is to be deployed.

"NEMC should tell us where the council will measure and the way the exercise is to be conducted to help artists and those who want

good sleep get their rights, not being biased," he said.

Recently, NEMC Director General Samuel Gwamaka said after reflecting on the economic impact, 20 entertainment venue owners who wrote the council and acknowledged their mistakes were allowed to operate.

On May 8, NEMC ordered the closure of 89 bars and entertainment venues in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Dodoma after discovering there is music sound that exceeded the required standards from the venues.

The council was first forced to shut them down after providing education for five years, with the official claiming people were having trouble sleeping and there was an increase in complaints.



African Stars band 'Twanga Pepeta' dancers entertain revelers at the troupe's past show which took place in Dar es Salaam.





## Desperate Espanyol aiming to delay rivals Barca's title glory

BARCELONA

ESPANYOL host Catalan derby rivals Barcelona tomorrow with a dual aim -- earning three vital points in the battle for survival and also delaying the visitors' La Liga title triumph.

Xavi Hernandez's side can win the league for the first time since 2019 if they emerge victorious at the RCDE stadium, an unthinkable proposition for home supporters.

The Catalans can also lift the title if both second place Atletico Madrid and third place Real Madrid fail to win their matches against Elche and Getafe respectively.

By contrast, Espanyol are fighting for their lives at the other end of the table, currently 19th and three points from safety with five games remaining.

They were relegated in 2020 for the first time in almost three decades but immediately returned to the top flight in 2021.

Espanyol became the first La Liga side to score at Camp Nou this season with a 1-1 draw against Barcelona in December, and only Real Madrid have accomplished the feat since.

Joselu struck a penalty to equalise that day and the Spanish international striker warned Barcelona that despite the teams' positions, in a derby there is a level playing field.

"In the first match they also came into it very strongly," Joselu told DAZN.

"They (thought they) were going to put five against us at the Camp Nou and we got a very positive result.

"They have a lot of advantage over us coming into the second match, but in the end, a derby is a derby and you can see it all in derbies.

"One side can be better and another worse, but there, all strengths are levelled out."

Espanyol's defeat last weekend by Sevilla leaves Barcelona's "other" club in a precarious position.

"We have to keep fighting because there are games and points left, we will not give up," insisted defender Leandro Cabrera.

However of the clubs fighting relegation, Espanyol have arguably the worst remaining fixtures.

As well as Barcelona's visit on Sunday, they host Atletico Madrid and Almeria at home, as well as visiting Rayo Vallecano and Valencia.

The last time Espanyol beat Barcelona in La Liga, coach Luis Garcia was playing for them, in February 2009 at Camp Nou.

Barca midfielder Sergio Busquets will likely feature in one of his last games for the club after announcing Wednesday he would leave at the end of the season when his contract expires.

The 34-year-old, who has featured over 700 times for the club, has five official matches remaining with the Catalan giants.

As a World Cup and European Championship winner with Spain, some Espanyol fans may be inclined to offer him farewell applause, but he won't be banking on it in enemy territory with so much at stake.

Player to watch: David Silva

The 37-year-old playmaker has been a key figure for Real Sociedad this season, with his performances a big reason for their climb to fourth place. Silva has agreed to stay for another season with the Basque side and can celebrate his contract extension on Saturday against Girona.

Key stats

25 - Barcelona have kept 25 clean sheets this season, one short of the all-time La Liga record  
174 - Real Mallorca striker Vedat Muriqi has won the most aerial battles in the league

2533 - Villarreal midfielder Dani Parejo has touched the ball more than any other player this season

Fixtures

\*Today

Real Sociedad v Girona (1200), Osasuna v Almeria (1415), Villarreal v Athletic Bilbao (1630), Real Madrid v Getafe (1900)

\*Tomorrow

Celta Vigo v Valencia (1200), Elche v Atletico Madrid (1415), Real Valladolid v Sevilla (1630), Espanyol v Barcelona (1900)

Monday

Real Betis v Rayo Vallecano (1900)

AFP

# Tatum's 4th-quarter 3s push Celtics past 76ers 95-86; force Game 7

PHILADELPHIA

JAYSON Tatum humbly believes he is one of the best basketball players in the NBA and not even a lengthy streak of missed shots in a win-or-else Game 6 could shake his faith.

Sometimes, though, a pep talk in the heat of the moment lifts even the most confident stars. Boston rookie coach Joe Mazzulla pulled the forward aside in a late timeout and didn't draw a play or tell Tatum to keep shooting and soon the buckets would fall.

His message was more simple.

"I love you," Mazzulla told Tatum. "That's a pretty powerful statement."

Tatum rewarded his coach's love with decisive 3-pointers straight through the heart of a Philadelphia comeback that pushed the Celtics past the 76ers 95-86 on Thursday night to send the Eastern Conference semifinals back to Boston for Game 7.

"I kept looking at the time," Tatum said. "I've got time, I've got time to make a difference. I believed that the whole time."

Tatum buried one 3 for the 84-83 lead and a second that made it 87-83 and put the Celtics in firm control in front of a boisterous Philly crowd. Tatum stuck it to the 76ers with one final 3-pointer for a 95-84 lead.

The defending conference champs are in familiar territory. Boston trailed 3-2 last season in the second round against Milwaukee before it won Game 6 on the road and



Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum (0) shoots against Philadelphia 76ers' Tyrese Maxey during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference semifinal, Thursday, May 11, 2023, in Philadelphia. (AP Photo)

the clincher at home.

Game 7 is Sunday. The winner of the Miami-New York semifinal awaits the Celtics or 76ers.

Tatum, who averaged 30.1 points in the regular season, kept his confidence high. He missed 14 of his first 15 shots overall from the floor -- and his first six 3s -- and his 3 1/2-quarter ineffectiveness was a key reason the Celtics squandered a 16-point lead.

He was grateful Mazzulla stuck by him.

"I told him a lot of times, 'I got your back. We're in this together,'" Tatum said. "I love the relationship that me and Joe have."

With a shot at their first conference final since 2001 at stake, the Sixers slogged through the first half before Joel Embiid flashed his MVP form and rallied the Sixers to a fourth-quarter

lead.

Tyrese Maxey hit two free throws with 5:25 left for an 83-81 edge.

And that was it for Philly in yet another postseason home crusher.

"If I have to go to war, Game 7 in Boston, I would want to go with this group," Maxey said. "I know we've got some fighters, I know we've got some resilient guys. I'm ready to get it on."

Embiid and Maxey each scored 26 points for the 76ers.

76ers coach Doc Rivers has blown three 3-1 series leads over his playoff career. While the 76ers only led 3-2, this is their second loss at home in the series.

And confronting more ominous history looms for Rivers. The 2008 NBA championship coach with Boston, Rivers has lost nine

times in a Game 7, four more than any other head coach.

The Sixers unraveled in the fourth after a rally in the third -- keyed by two pivotal 3s by Georges Niang -- and after Embiid's pull-up jumper tied it 81-all, the 76ers didn't make a bucket over the final 6:13 of the game.

The Sixers could not close in the close-out quarter and missed 15 of 20 shots and all eight 3s in the decisive fourth.

"We stopped moving the ball," Embiid said. "I don't think I touched the ball the last 4 minutes of the game. Missed a lot of good looks. I didn't touch the ball, though."

Tatum missed all 10 shots, including five 3-point attempts, in the first half half as the Celtics led by seven. Tatum has said he may need surgery on his left wrist

in the offseason in the wake of a hard fall. Whatever the cause of his shooting ails, he found the cure in the final 12 minutes and the East champs still have life.

Tatum finished with 19 points on just 5-for-21 shooting but the final stat line mattered little after he keyed the 14-3 run that turned the game in their favor.

Marcus Smart scored 22 points and Jaylen Brown had 17 for the Celtics.

"There's no reason for us to be stressed out," Smart said.

The Celtics sure weren't from the tip. Just like Game 3 when the Sixers squandered the momentum off Embiid's MVP ceremony, they let Boston race to fast double-digit lead that sapped the energy in Philly.

The Celtics led 40-26

because -- in part because of three 3s from Malcolm Brogdon -- but an ineffective half from Embiid, James Harden and Tobias Harris. Embiid and Harris started 1 of 7 and Harden 2 of 8 and yet, the deficit could have been much worse.

The 76ers' trio never completely got their funk. Tatum did and now the series comes down to the final 48 minutes.

HE SAID IT  
"I'm ready for war." -- Mazzulla, with a stern look, on his mood ahead of Game 6.

BIG FANS  
Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin, Roots drummer Questlove, Eagles center Jason Kelce and his brother and Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce, and baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. attended the game.

AFP

## Man City eye finish line as Liverpool chase top four spot

LONDON

MANCHESTER City can take a giant stride towards a third consecutive Premier League title by beating Everton this weekend but rejuvenated Arsenal have not given up hope of springing a surprise.

Liverpool are suddenly in the conversation for a top-four finish after six straight wins cranked up the pressure on Manchester United and Newcastle.

At the bottom, Leeds and Leicester are in danger of being cut adrift, along with Southampton.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the action.

\*Think of light for Arsenal?

Leaders Manchester City are hot favourites to wrap up their fifth Premier League trophy in six seasons but face a potentially tricky trip to Everton on Sunday.

Sean Dyche's side clawed their way out of the relegation zone with a confidence-boosting 5-1 win at Brighton earlier this week.

Everton's record against City is not pretty -- their 1-1 draw in December, under former boss Frank Lampard,

came after 10 consecutive defeats in all competitions.

The Merseyside club, just two points above the drop zone with three games to play, will be fighting for their lives.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta has not given up on his title dream, saying "the prize is there, not too far" after his side's 2-0 win against Newcastle last week.

Arsenal, with three games left, can reach a maximum of 90 points if they beat Brighton, Nottingham Forest and Wolves.

City, a point ahead of the Gunners with a game in hand, need nine points to guarantee the title, though their goal difference is significantly superior.

Pep Guardiola's men have the trickier run-in, with matches against Chelsea, Brighton and Brentford to follow their trip to Goodison Park.

It is not over yet. \*Man Utd seek home comforts

Manchester United are back at Old Trafford on Saturday and in desperate need of a win against Wolves as they seek to hold off fast-charging Liverpool in the battle for a top-four finish.

Erik ten Hag's men

had one foot in next season's Champions League before costly defeats against Brighton and West Ham.

The Red Devils, who have four games left to play, have lost eight away matches in the Premier League this season, their joint-highest tally in a single campaign in the competition.

It is a different story at home, where they have won 12 and lost just once.

"We have everything in our hands," said Ten Hag, whose side are a point clear of Liverpool with a game in hand.

The Dutchman knows his first season at the helm will ultimately be judged on whether United

qualify for Europe's elite club competition despite cup success.

Third-placed Newcastle also had a wobble last week, losing to Arsenal, and are just three points ahead of Jurgen Klopp's men.

\*Last chance for Leeds and Leicester?

Southampton are all but relegated and Leeds and Leicester are the bookies' favourites to drop through the trap door along with them.

Sam Allardyce had a daunting first outing as boss of 19th-placed Leeds, losing 2-1 to title-chasing Manchester City last weekend.

The club are two points from safety and with matches to come

against Newcastle, West Ham and Tottenham, few would give them much chance of survival.

Leicester fans are struggling to comprehend their rapid fall from grace.

The 2016 Premier League champions finished fifth, fifth and eighth in the past three seasons, and won the FA Cup in 2021 under Brendan Rodgers.

England midfielder James Maddison said after this week's 5-3 defeat to Fulham that Leicester, level with Leeds on 30 points, were still battling, even though games against Liverpool, Newcastle and West Ham look tough.

"It's not down to attitude or application," he tweeted. "We will keep going until the very end."

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

\*Today

Leeds v Newcastle (1130), Aston Villa v Spurs, Chelsea v Nottingham Forest, Crystal Palace v Bournemouth, Manchester United v Wolves, Southampton v Fulham

\*Tomorrow

Brentford v West Ham, Everton v Manchester City (both 1300), Arsenal v Brighton (1530)

\*Monday  
Leicester v Liverpool (1900)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Tatum's 4th-quarter 3s push Celtics past 76ers 95-86; force Game 7**

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Tanzanian Paralympic discus athlete, Sikujua Mbembwe, is pictured taking part in drills at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue in Dar es Salaam on Friday as she seeks selection for the national Paralympic team. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## All set for 2023 Youth Athletics Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of Youth Athletics Championships gets underway at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha today, with 300 athletes expected to battle it out in the showdown.

The two-day championships have been organized by the Tanzania Youth Athletics Championships (TAYAC).

Juliana Mwamsuva, one of the organization directors, revealed all is ready for the event, adding winners in various categories will be awarded medals and trophies.

The director said the championships have been divided into three age groups 6-8, 9-11, and 12-14.

"All is set for the Youth Athletics Championships which get underway at Sheikh Amri Abeid Karume Stadium today, they are expected to be more competitive and entertaining," she said.

The organizer said Arusha Mayor, Maxmillan Iranghe, is expected to grace the opening of the championships.

The director stated that the junior championships are aimed at promoting athletics in the country.

The top three competitors in each category, she disclosed, will be awarded medals and there will be a special award of a trophy to the top winner in each group.

She also disclosed that the best-performing athletes will be selected for a special training program which will be conducted by Arusha District's athletics coaches and prominent coaches Patrick Mgoyo and Suleiman Nyambui.

"This year's edition of Youth Athletics Championships will be held this weekend, we expect more than 300 junior athletes to compete, this year we have athletes from Rukwa, Moshi, Manyara, and many more others from Arusha schools registering to compete," the director revealed.

The TAYAC boss noted: "The top three winners in each age category will be awarded gold, silver, and bronze medal."

"The top winner in each group will moreover be awarded a trophy, we will also select 15 to 20 best athletes for our six-month training program, which will be conducted every Saturday and Sunday," she said.

The director said the championships are sponsored by her organization (TAYAC) and others who have sponsored in kind and financially.

Recently, athletics legend Suleiman Nyambui had, in a separate interview, stressed the need for the country to have more junior athletics events, if it wishes to realize its dream of having many top athletes.

Nyambui, also former Athletics Tanzania (AT) Secretary-General and Brunei's national athletics team's head coach said all countries now doing well in athletics are investing in junior events.

"The best way for the country to produce top athletes who can compete in both local and international events and bring home medals is to start from the grassroots," Nyambui pointed out.

"We must organize many tournaments for the youths, the tournaments will help the juniors gain experience and exposure," he said.

TAYAC deals with organizing sports competitions in track and field at both local and regional levels.

In the past three years, the organization has been organizing athletics events for juniors between six years and 14 years.

# Pamba FC out to seal PL promotion as Championship League climaxes



Pamba FC players are pictured before featuring in a previous season's Championship League clash that took place in Mwanza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF PAMBA FOOTBALL CLUB

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's Championship League culminates today with six matches taking part in various regions. Army-owned JKT Tanzania, the Championship League winner, has already secured promotion to next season's Premier League while other challengers Kitayosce FC and Pamba FC are waiting to know their fate.

The Championship League featured 16 teams but the journey seemed difficult for two clubs leading to withdrawal for various reasons, including financial difficulties and conflict between the soccer authorities in the country.

Mwanza's Gwambina FC resorted to staying out of action after the tension between the club's leadership and football authorities regarding the field to be used for the outfit's matches.

Gwambina FC, which participated in the 2020/21 Premier League and later suffered relegation, was using its ground in Misungwi before

the facility was banned by Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) and had to use Mwanza's Nyamagana Stadium.

The situation brought confusion and the club's leadership decided to demand that its matches must be played on its home turf before deciding to refuse battling it out in the league.

Another club that has joined Gwambina FC is Ndanda FC of Mtwara which had also sidelined itself in the last minutes with three matches left to end the season due to financial issues.

The team that had for several seasons played in the Premier League did not have good results in the Championship League because before reaching such a decision it was sitting 15th with 15 points.

After JKT Tanzania got promoted to the Premier

League, the two teams from the Lake Zone, Kitayosce FC (Tabora) and Mwanza's Pamba FC, are in the hunt for second place which guarantees straight promotion.

Kitayosce FC is positioned second with 57 points, while Pamba FC, battling it out in the Championship League for more than 20 years, is sitting third with 56 points and the teams will be at their respective home venues to complete the schedule.

Tabora-based Kitayosce FC will be at its backyard, Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium, to host African Sports, while Pamba FC, nicknamed 'TP Lindanda', will host Fountain Gate FC at Nyamagana Stadium.

JKT Tanzania striker, Edward Songo, is the league's leading goal scorer with 18 goals, four goals ahead of his closest rival, Fabrice Ngoy of Kitayosce FC with

14, Adam Uledi (Ken Gold FC) with 10, while Daniel William of Kitayosce FC scored nine.

With those statistics, it will take a miracle for Songo's challengers to score more than five goals and get the better of JKT Tanzania's marksman in the race for the league's top goal-scorer prize.

Songo becomes a player with a unique record in his club and the league, continuing to be the top scorer for two consecutive seasons and keeping the honour of propelling JKT Tanzania back to the top flight.

The star has surpassed the number of goals scored by the previous season's best goal scorer (15) but has not managed to surpass Hassan Mwaterema, who scored 16 for the squad in the 2017/18 season, as was the case with Reliants Lusajo in 2018/19 when turning out for Namungo FC.

Kitayosce FC's head coach, Henry Mkanwa, pointed out the last game is either do or die for his club due to its quest to play in the Premier League next season, adding they have planned to ensure they win.

He noted that they know what entails in garnering promotion, a situation which boosts their morale to achieve their goals.

The tactician insisted they will not underrate their opponents because if they fail, their dream will end.

"That's the only thing we need to go to the Premier League, we know 90 minutes can have any kind of results but we are determined to win to go directly to the Premier League," Mkanwa noted.

Ken Gold FC's head coach, Ngawina Ngawina, stated the game is very important for them to win three points, fight for the top-four finish, and seek a ticket to the Premier League next season via promotion/relegation playoffs.

He added that their calculations were to get promotion without playing the playoffs but the plans did not go well and now they are focusing on the promotion/relegation playoffs to ensure they reach their goals.

"My players are fit and in good spirits, we need to make history by playing in the Premier League next season, we are technically prepared to garner three points and then wait for the results posted by our opponents after 90 minutes," Ngawina pointed out.

## Tanzania braces for 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup opening weekend

By Guardian Reporter

THE much-awaited annual cricket tournament, dubbed Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup, gets underway today with the opening tie taking place at Leaders Club grounds in Dar es Salaam.

Remax Strikers will lock horns with Ateeme SKLPSC in the first T20 match of Group B at 14:45.

Three more matches are scheduled to be held at the same grounds tomorrow with holders and hosts, Alliance Caravans, confronting All Season Lions at 08:00 am.

This will be the first match bringing together teams put in Group B and Alliance Caravans are expected to begin their title defense on a stiff challenge from All Season Lions.

An explosive Flashnet Pak Stars team will then lock horns with the consistent Aurobindo Aga Khan Sports Club (AKSC).

A high-scoring game is on the cards with Aurobindo Aga Khan Sports Club trying



Representatives of companies sponsoring this season's Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament pictured along with the winner's trophy at the showdown official opening ceremony in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

to outmatch the skills of the Flashnet Pak Stars' hard-hitting batsmen.

The weekend ties will end with the last match of the day, which will see Azania Bank Upanga Club confront Jiuzhou Gymkhana, with the encounter expected to commence at 14:30 hrs.

All three matches of the day promise to be an entertainer and are set to bring out the best among all participating teams.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans

T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, Ras Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum,

Honeywell, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, Samaki Samaki, and Tanzindia Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy

following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

The showdown's eventual winners had earlier made it to the final in style, garnering a comprehensive 100-run drubbing of DTB Gymkhana in the semi-final, known as the second qualifier.

In the first semi-final, termed the first qualifier, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC hammered Alliance Caravans by 28 runs to book a place in the final.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

I CAN'T FIND MY KEY!



IT'S IN YOUR JEANS DEAR

DON'T DRAG MY FAMILY INTO THIS