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Blocking water losses uplifts Great Ruaha catchment zone

We were trained on sustainable water use; we only release water into our farms when necessary.

By Guardian Reporter

IMPROVING drainage systems at the Madibira irrigation scheme in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region, has checked declining water levels in the Great Ruaha River.

Godwell Meing'ataki, the Ruaha National Park chief executive, says this is no longer a problem, thanks to the Resilient Natural Resources for Growth Project (REGROW) conservation effort taking upwards of \$150m (350bn/-).

The World Bank funded project aims to improve tourism in the southern circuit, including the construction of a 2.9 kilometre primary canal and 10.6 kilometre secondary canal for a rice growers' scheme in Mbarali.

Under the project executed by the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry, farmers are trained on sustainable rice farming, with efficient usage of water to protect the ecosystem, he said.

The government's decision to improve water drainage systems for sustainable water use at the Madibira irrigation scheme is commended since the area is one of seven small rivers that flow to the Great Ruaha River, he stated.

The national park depends solely on the Great Ruaha for its great variety of wild animals, birds, fish and waterborne large animals like hippos, he said, noting that previously, the river would dry up for one to six months, putting the wildlife in peril.

The situation has now been rectified, he said, pointing at a number of interventions to save the river from extinction, like making Usangu valley part of the park. The valley forms the headwater catchment of the Great Ruaha, a river that is critically important for the country's development.

An estimated 25 percent of its water goes

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan takes a keen look at a memorial Ugandan newspaper front page poster showing the then leaders of East African countries in a souvenir photo. Ugandan President Yoweri had just presented it to her shortly after talks at Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar on Thursday also involving their Kenyan counterpart, William Ruto. Sources said the leaders discussed issues relating to East African integration, chiefly the pace of gathering people's views on the draft constitution of the envisaged East African political confederation. Photo: State House

Reflecting on history, today as we gather in Zanzibar, it is remarkable that our meeting coincides with that of March 14, 1996

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan at midweek hosted Kenyan President William Ruto and Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni in a meeting aimed to discuss East African economic and political integration.

The meeting held on Thursday evening at the Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar, saw the three leaders agreeing on the need to hasten public hearings on the structure and areas to be considered in a draft constitution for East African political federation.

The State House said in a social media post that the leaders discussed the urgent need to accelerate the collection of citizens' views on the structure and key areas of the draft constitution.

This exercise has already been conducted in Burundi, Uganda and Kenya, it said, with the

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CSOs set out inclusion quest in formulating 'Vision 2050'

By Getrude Mbago

AS the country maps out ways to transform its economy to the next level, civil society organisations (CSOs) have highlighted a number of areas which need to be incorporated in the Development Vision 2050.

Advocate Lulu Urrio, chairperson of the CSOs' task force on contributing to the draft-

ing of the vision, told a meeting convened by the Foundation for Civil Societies (FCS) in Dar es Salaam yesterday that it is important to focus on strategies that will foster stability, attract investments and ensure equitable growth.

At the meeting bringing together members of the national committee designated for coordinating the drafting of Vision 2050, she said that

if the country is to fully realise its development potential such precautions will be necessary, Presenting recommendations towards an initial draft of the vision, she said that they collected information and processed the material in order to contribute to the preparation and content of the Vision 2050.

CSOs believe that Development Vision 2025-2050 will

be geared to foster stability, attract investments and ensure equitable growth benefiting all Tanzanians, the activist noted.

One of the recommendations is ensuring better life and well-being of the various communities, with priority on strengthening food security and safety, along with better,

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Serengeti eyes 'smart city' at national park periphery

By Marc Nkwame, Mugumu

A new smart city is being proposed for Serengeti District in Mara Region, where a study has shown that a 2,300-square-kilometre area inhabited by 300,000 people was in dire need for proper land use planning.

Dr Vincent Mashinji, the district commissioner, made this observation when briefing journalists here yesterday, explaining measures to solve an acute shortage of land both for settlements and farming facing the district's residents.

He said the district council formed and registered a company to oversee the project along with an investor from the United States, putting up road and water infrastructure.

Moving to build a specially designed and implemented urban centre is among strategies aimed at changing living conditions of local residents from their hunting forays on the perimeter of the conservation area, to modernised economic activities.

Prior to formalising that arrangement the district authorities need to involve

local residents, officials and elected representatives at village and ward levels, he stated, noting that formation of the Serengeti Development Co.

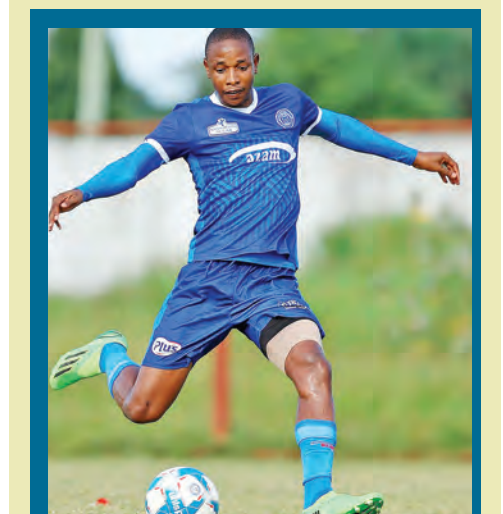
The smart city construction firm has so far raised five billion euros from different stakeholders in preliminary arrangements to execute the project, he said.

The smart city will provide new habitats for residents along with enabling alternative economic activities for local

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Azam FC confirms Simba SC's bid for wantaway striker Prince Dube

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Mexime aims to sharpen Ihefu SC's attacking line

CSOs setting out inclusion quest in formulating 'Vision 2050'

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cheaper and friendly health services, she stated.

Other recommendations relate to better, affordable and friendly energy services to the environment and society, access to better and reliable services in water, plus better housing within sustainable cities and villages.

The CSOs' expectation is for the country to build a diverse and inclusive economy, fostering economic growth and resilience, strengthening social equity along with gender equality economically, politically and socially.

It should also seek to increase employment through the priority sectors, investing in protection of justice with priorities on maintaining peace, strengthening the rule of law, protection of life and security of property among the people.

"CSOs also seek strong investment in promoting good governance and accountability, enhancing the participation of citizens in leadership and development activities, along with strengthening democracy and transparency," she said. Another expectation figures out the country having an educated and competitive workforce at the regional and international levels by investing in quality, sustainable and integrated education services, she elaborated.

The CSOs further call on the Vision to focus on building a modern nation that focuses on integrity, values, traditions and positive customs of Tanzania and Africa.

They stressed the importance of focusing on prioritized sectors and allocating appropriate resources to ensure sustainable development across the country.

"We also want protection, management and development of resources looking at one priority and the use and sustainable management of the country's resources," she specified.

In his opening remarks, the outgoing FCS executive director Francis Kiwanga said the CSOs have highlighted nine important areas which, if incorporated in the vision, will greatly stimulate inclusive development.

The views were compiled from primary and secondary sources of information where more than 120 civil society organizations gave their opinions through the internet by a digital survey tool.

Upwards of 40 civil society organizations participated in giving their views through focus group discussions and 100 organizations participated in workshops and agreed with the views of NGOs.

These reports are based on the understanding and experience of working with the community from the basic level to the national level and research in various fields, he stated.

He lauded the government's initiative in crafting a long-term vision, emphasizing the importance of continuity in national development plans.

Dr Asha Rose Migiro, member of the national committee designated to coordinate the drafting of Vision 2050 thanked the stakeholders for contributing their views to make the Vision draft rich in the focus areas it covers.

The document will serve as a roadmap that propels Tanzania into an all-inclusive semi-industrial economy, so it is vital for all social groups to set out their views.

Last December, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the process of gathering public views to be used in writing the National Development Vision 2050.



CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (R) has an audience with China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, at the party's sub-headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on various issues relating to links between CCM and the ruling Communist Party of China and between the two countries. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Serengeti eyes 'smart city' at national park periphery

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people, essentially relieving the adjacent conservation area from the pressures of ecologically destabilising human activities, trespassing or encroachment.

Poaching and invasive species are among major challenges for decades now facing

conservation efforts, even as chief government spokesman Mubhara Matinyi of late affirmed that Serengeti has attracted over 1.4m tourists during fiscal 2023/2024.

The national park is among key attractions in the northern tourism circuit, with the sector's con-

tribution to GDP falling from 10.6 percent in 2019 to 5.3per cent during the Covid-19 shutdown in 2020, climbing to 5.7percent in 2021, on the basis of an online entry.

However, given the ongoing fast recovery of the sector, the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) forecast that the share of tourism in the

country's GDP will reach 19.5per cent 2025/26, it asserts.

Some observers believe conservation can generate hefty income to Tanzania, even compared with mining or gas exploration, lacking environmental damage risks.

The district and the US investor agreed that the Serengeti Development Co. will contribute in

kind to the project to be owned jointly, while the investor puts in the cash.

DC Mashinji said the project will redefine the Serengeti nativity and create jobs for the youth. "When the youth are kept busy, they will ignore hunting, therefore conflicts pitting villages and the national park will decline or totally disappear," he added.



Kilimanjaro Machine Tools Manufacturers Company Ltd technician Anna Moshia (L) briefs members of the Parliamentary Committee on Industry, Agriculture and Livestock on the production of machines, tools and accessories when they visited at the factory in Hai District on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Moshia

Blocking water losses uplifts Great Ruaha catchment zone

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to the Mtera and Kidatu dams for power generation, while 15 percent of water entering the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) dam is sourced from Great Ruaha, he said.

Michael Mjola, a rice farmer at the Madibira irrigation scheme which has 3252 hectares in total, said water loss has been controlled as farmers use water periodically to allow continuous flow of the river,

"We were trained on sustainable water use; we only release water into our farms when necessary. This has guaranteed us availability of water throughout the farming season. Before improvement of the drainage systems, people could even fight for water to irrigate their farms. We now have an arrangement where each of us gets water periodically," he explained.

With the improvements farmers now harvest 12 to 15 tonnes per hectare, tripling the previous four tonnes minimum per hectare.

Madibira ward councillor Juma Msiminyungu attributed this improvement to efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan as having brought the project. Farmers are no longer fighting for water and can harvest more compared to past years, he stated.

Vitalis Msungwite, chairman of the Madibira Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Society, said irrigation canals have contributed to reduced farming costs from 28m/- to 2.1m/- earlier needed to dig canals.

Aenea Saanya, the project coordinator with the ministry, said the project is of great importance to the nation as apart from improving tourism in the southern circuit, it enhances food security.

"Improved rice harvests would not only benefit farmers, but the nation through exports. REGROW is also part of the various measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, he added.

EAC partner states ignite federation quest

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president saying in the X post that "apart from other things, we have also discussed measures to take to ensure that citizens in the EAC benefit from available economic opportunities."

The leaders also discussed the importance of heightening security and safety as a major pillar helping the various countries attain development goals.

President Museveni similarly affirmed that the discussion was centered on the significance of the East African Community (EAC)

attaining political federation, "which would most certainly guarantee the prosperity of our people."

On the other hand, President Ruto said that the discussion was focused on the fast tracking of the federation. "Today, as leaders among the eight EAC partner states, we reaffirm our unwavering support for further regional integration and prosperity, focusing on fast-tracking the federation," the Kenyan leader wrote on X.

The East African Community was formally re-established on July 7, 2000,

with President Museveni the only surviving Head of State who signed the treaty. He has consistently advocated for realizing the vision of the EAC's founding fathers, the full integration of the region.

The meeting came nearly two weeks after President Ruto, along with key opposition leader Raila Odinga, met with President Museveni, while the Zanzibar meeting brought Tanzania into the 2014 'coalition of the willing' which at that time brought the legislature to ask the government to withdraw from the EAC.

While the EAC Community is much broader now with the addition of South Sudan, DRC and Somalia, the three founders, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania still hold much of the political and financial weight, observers say.

It is expected that an agreement among them will catalyze momentum on any agenda they collectively endorse, with the big unknown being how the wider Tanzanian leadership will take up the views collection agenda it stopped in 2007.

President Museveni said

that the political federation will most certainly guarantee the prosperity of people through a larger market while also ensuring security more effectively.

President Ruto recalled that the meeting bringing together Presidents Daniel arap Moi, Yoweri Museveni and Benjamin Mkapa on March 14, 1996 laid the foundation for East African Cooperation.

"Reflecting on history, today as we gather in Zanzibar, it is remarkable that our meeting coincides with that of March 14, 1996," he wrote.

The vision of the meeting was to promote the unity of communities in the three member states, to harness the economic benefits of creating a larger market, and the imperative of security for stability within the expanded East African Community.

The ultimate aim of the EAC's regional integration process is political federation, in the wake of attaining the customs union, the common market and to facilitate an eventual monetary union to consolidate the federation, analysts noted



Newly elected opposition ACT-Wazalendo national Leader Dorothy Semu (L) and CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana exchange greetings shortly after a meeting by Tanzania Centre for Democracy leaders held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. With them is ACT-Wazalendo Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) Ismail Jussa. Photo: Correspondent

Govt launches 150-megawatt Kishapu solar power project

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

THE government has launched a mega solar power project worth 323bn/- in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region with capacity to generate 150 megawatts as part of its strategies to increase sources of power to boost development in the country.

Launched at Ngunga Village, the project is expected to produce 20 megawatts by January 2025, a response to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive to increase sources of electricity as the existing ones are insufficient.

Speaking during the launch event on Thursday, Dr Energy Minister Dr Doto Biteko said the implementation of the project further strengthens reliability of power supply as well as improves investment environment in the region.

He said the major objective of the government is to enable energy sector to contribute immensely to the country's economic development. "Other sources of electricity being developed include the Jotoardhi project in Songwe and Mbeya regions. By April 01, this year construction will start in Ngozi area. Another project is Wind power project in Makambako, Njombe Region which is expected to generate 100 megawatts and people have started to be compensated," he said.

He said that implementation of the project in Shinyanga, positions the region as the main source of electricity in the Lake Zone, adding that there are three power stations namely Ibadakuli, Bulyanhulu and Buzwagi which supply electricity to various centres and villages.

Dr Biteko said that Ibadakuli station is being improved to generate and supply power inside and outside the country through collaboration agreements with East African countries where a huge kV400 line will be constructed from Ibadakuli to Masaka, Uganda to connect Tanzania and Uganda via Kagera.

About the supply of electricity in villages in Shinyanga Region, he said that 127 villages out of 509 villages have no electricity.

He tasked contractors to achieve the goal of supplying electricity in the region, directing Suma JKT and Tontan to make sure they complete the task as excuses will not be tolerated.

The minister also tasked TANESCO and REA to ensure they supply electricity to the people and provide early information on any challenges to the public.

PURA, DMI agreed on offshore safety and survival training centre

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts aimed at increasing employability of more Tanzanians in the ongoing and upcoming oil and gas projects, the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) and Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI) have agreed to establish an internationally accredited offshore safety and survival training centre.

Speaking during the signing of a memorandum of understand-

ing in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Director General of PURA Charles Sangweni said this has been the authority's long term plan to enable Tanzanians to receive training locally.

According to him, lack of the centre was among the challenges that hamper participation of Tanzanians in upstream petroleum projects.

"Tanzanians who aspire to work in offshore projects are required to undergo various safety and asset

protection training abroad which is costly," he said.

He noted that the discovery of natural gas and the growth of the oil and gas sector in Tanzania present significant opportunities, especially employment for Tanzanians, but without the required skills, one cannot get a job in the sector.

Sangweni said that the establishment of the centre will increase the number of Tanzanians with appropriate training and, as a result, will boost their participation in natural

gas and oil extraction operations including the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project.

He said drilling one well takes up to 18 months and that the ships will require cooks, sanitation workers and other professionals.

"Even if someone knows how to do these works, without the permit obtained after completing safety training, they won't be eligible," he said.

He said about 57.54 trillion cubic feet of natural gas has so far been

discovered in the country. Out of this, 10.406 trillion cubic feet has been found on land and in shallow water, while the rest 47.13 trillion cubic feet is in deep waters.

Sangweni added that approximately 10.406 trillion cubic feet of natural gas has already been used and Tanzania produces almost 65 percent of its power from natural gas.

Dr Tumaini Gurumo, DMI Director, said while the institute has experts, PURA has supervisors and

specialists who would ensure Tanzanians are trained to benefit from the opportunities in the sector.

Dr Gurumo noted that currently, many courses related to maritime issues are offered abroad, but the new agreement will help address the gaps.

"Despite the opportunities for Tanzanians, no one is allowed to work on a marine vessel without undergoing safety and defence training," she said.



Muheza District Council chairman Erasto Mhina (2nd-L) pictured on Thursday presenting one of eight new motorcycles to Ubwari Health Centre Medical Officer in-charge Dr Paul Manjehi (2nd-R) for official use. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Alliance to draft nutrition guide to address confusion

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Non-communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCD) is preparing a strategy to guide people on what to eat and drink based on one's health status.

This is part of efforts aimed at controlling public confusion on nutrition information.

Happy Nchimbi, Project Manager at TANCD made the remarks at an event to commemorate 10 years anniversary of the alliance in Dar es Salaam yesterday, adding that one of the causes of confusion is the ambiguity of the dietary information given to the public.

"The significant confusion we've seen within 10 years is information confusion. We got together today (yesterday) and decided to sit down and brainstorm ideas as stakeholders to reach out to the public so that people can understand what nutrition

is," she said.

She said that a meeting will be held to develop a solid strategy to ensure accurate dietary knowledge is issued that is void of confusion.

Dr Elisha Osati, Internal Medicine Physician at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), who doubles as Deputy Secretary General of the alliance, said they convened to deliberate on strategies for combating NCDs given their grave consequences.

He said that they have met over 20 associations that deal with the diseases given the significant increase they are currently witnessing.

"It is evident that many diseases are not communicable, as we have seen with the National Insurance Fund (NHIF) dilemma over payments or prices of services. The costs are considerable, even at the family level," he said.

"We are creating a collaborative strategy that will make us decisive. The topic of nutrition is one thing that caused misunderstanding lately. It is unfortunate that there have been many people talking about nutrition and it is central to our discussion today (yesterday)," he said.

Dr. Osati said the objective was to create a uniform plan to advise Tanzanians on what they should eat based on their body weight, occupation and underlying disease.

He said that they had observed the types of food and drinks consumed that contribute to the non-communicable diseases.

Dr Bakari Salum, a Non Communicable Diseases Coordinator at the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government said that TANCD was one of the organizations which they collaborate with to combat NCDs which are currently a major concern.

Zimbabwean 'prophet' charged in court over child labour

HARARE

A MAN calling himself Prophet Ishmael was charged in a Zimbabwean court Thursday, after police raided the compound where he led a religious sect and found more than 250 children being kept away from school and used as cheap labour.

Police also discovered 16 unregistered graves, including those of seven infants, at the farm about 34 kilometres (21 miles) northwest of the capital, Harare.

Ishmael Chokurong-erwa and seven of his aides were charged with exploiting children and denying them access to education and health services. Police spokesman Paul Nyathi said investigations were still ongoing and authorities may press more charges.

The sect leaders are also

accused of breaking laws that require deaths and burials to be registered. State media reported there were around 1,000 people living on the farm before the raid.

Chokurong-erwa, 56, and his aides will remain in custody after a magistrate said at their court hearing that she would rule on their bail application next week. None of the men had

legal representation at the hearing and it was unclear where they were being held.

The men pleaded with the magistrate to release them on bail, saying they were not violent people and had children to look after who would suffer if they were sent to prison.

Some of Chokurong-erwa's followers travelled to the court hearing in the

nearby town of Norton to show support for him.

"This religion is a great religion of God and nobody will stop it," said church member Tabeth Mupfana, a 34-year-old woman who said she was born into the sect when it was at another location and had not experienced any abuse. "We are not afraid and we are unstoppable."

rikolto

CONSULTANCY

A CONSULTANT NEEDED TO ENABLE YOUTH AND WOMEN TO VENTURE INTO AGRIBUSINESS (NEW GENERATION FOOD ACCELERATOR PROGRAM) IN MBEYA, SONGWE AND RUVUMA REGION THROUGH A TRAINING, COACHING AND MENTORING APPROACH.

Rikolto is an international non-governmental network organisation with over 40 years of experience in partnering with food system stakeholders in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. We work together with a variety of actors in the food system such as governments, research institutions, financial institutions, and farmers' organizations around one central question: 'What will we eat tomorrow?'

Rikolto in East Africa together with its consortium partners (Britan and Retail) secured funding for a one-year programme in Tanzania called "Accelerated innovation delivery initiative (AID-II)", which aims to Accelerating Farmer Access to Quality Inputs and Markets in Tanzania with focusing on Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma regions. The program is aligned with Rikolto's global ambitions on food system

thinking, sustainable sourcing landscape approach, inclusive business, evidence for Impact.

Rikolto and its partners are looking for a consultant to; Enable Youth and Women to Venture in Agribusiness (New generation Food Accelerator program) in Mbeya, Songwe and Ruvuma region through a Training, Coaching and Mentoring Approach. Interested and qualified consultants are requested to submit a proposal to

recruitment.eastafrica@rikolto.org

For more information about the consultant please visit our website via the link below,

<https://eastafrica.rikolto.org/en/news/t-or-enable-youth-and-women-venture-ag-rubusiness-new-generation-food-accelerator-program-mbeya>



Global Education Link director Abdulmalik Mollé (L) and Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute executive director Dr Peter Kisenge hold talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday, chiefly on modalities of cooperation between the two institutions. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Ex-president JK cautiously happy with stunting reduction efforts

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete has hailed efforts taken by the government and stakeholders in the past five years to reduce stunting among under-five children in the country but added that more needs to be done.

According to him, when he took over back in 2005, stunting rate was 42 percent and then decreased to 34 percent in 2015 and came down to 30 percent as of 2022.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Thursday when Nutrition International handed over 22 million vitamin A capsules to the Ministry of Health.

He said that reports show that in every 100 under-five children, 30 are stunted which is a slight decrease from the 34 recorded in 2015/2016.

"We have done a lot to reduce the rate but the 30 percent is still high; we need to increase efforts to completely eliminate stunting and malnutrition," he said.

He thanked Canada through Nutrition International for providing Tanzania with the vitamin A cap-

sules to improve children's health.

Deputy Minister for Health Godwin Mollé said the donated vitamin A supplements will be provided to 11 million children in two phases in June and December, this year.

"The capsules will be supplied to children in the whole months of June and December; we really thank Nutrition International because this support will help improve children's health in the country," he said.

The deputy minister urged the public to invest in proper child feeding while also taking balanced diets during pregnancy for the country to have healthy children. "Our societies are still not aware of proper eating as many people think that eating is just to get full; that's why many do not care about what type of food to take," he said.

He said Nutrition International has been supporting the government to heighten nutrition in the country by working with respective ministries, agencies, departments and local government authorities.

Commonwealth ministers pledge enhanced access to justice

By Special Correspondent

COMMONWEALTH law ministers have committed to addressing the legal needs of their citizens by removing barriers that hinder access to justice.

With some 2.5 billion Commonwealth citizens standing to benefit, law ministers concluded their meeting in Zanzibar last week with a series of new measures and pledges.

The four-day deliberations, which included input from various stakeholders such as people with disabilities, civil society representatives, and legal innovators, resulted in a series of new measures and pledges.

Key provisions include improved

access to justice for people with disabilities, a model law on virtual assets, a new action plan to combat online violence against women, and a proposal to eliminate gender-discriminatory legislation.

Additionally, ministers welcomed new Commonwealth legal resources, including a mediation guide, a small claims court app for dispute resolution, and a criminal co-operation database.

The adoption of Commonwealth guidelines on the treatment of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings was also highlighted.

To facilitate implementation, ministers called on the Commonwealth Law Ministers Action Group to report progress at the next meeting, summarising the

outcome statement issued by ministers representing one-third of humanity which concluded last month.

Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, stressed the critical nature of these measures, noting that two-thirds of the world's population currently lack meaningful access to justice.

She highlighted the central role of closing the justice gap in realising the values and aspirations of the Commonwealth Charter, pinning technology as a vital tool in this endeavour.

"Our discussions have been purposeful, our decisions have been meaningful, and our powerful new consensus allows us to take the next giant steps forward towards

equal access to justice, in modernised legal systems, across our wonderful Commonwealth.

"We leave Zanzibar with a powerful mandate which will allow us to take the next decisive steps to ensure justice for all is the lived experience of every one of the 2.5 billion people living in our Commonwealth," she said.

The Secretary General urged member countries to harness, understand and master the benefits of technology and innovation in breaking down barriers of cost and complexity, and delivering legal systems which can meet the justice needs of all.

In their statement, ministers recognised the Commonwealth Secretariat's tech-driven justice so-

lutions and work on artificial intelligence as crucial interventions in improving access to legal information.

Hosted by Tanzania, the meeting was chaired by Dr Pindi Chana, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, who received commendation for its substantive outcomes.

President of Zanzibar, Dr Hussein Mwinyi, acknowledged the achievements and encouraged efforts toward digitisation for improved access to justice.

In their statement of outcomes for the meeting, law ministers participated in a working session on mapping a people-centred justice approach to access to justice, emphasising evidence-based, data-

driven solutions.

Ministers received a paper on online violence against women and girls, leading to the recommendation for the development of a Commonwealth Action Plan to Address Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls.

The plan recognises the urgent need for members to prioritise efforts in addressing this serious problem impacting women, girls, and other vulnerable groups across the Commonwealth.

"Law ministers were guided through a discussion which highlighted the approach through a practical example of a member country's development of a 10-year strategy on people-centred access to justice," reads the document.

Hope of less HIV infection as thousands of men undergo cut

By Correspondent Allan Ntana, Shinyanga

HIV infection in Shinyanga Region is expected to decrease significantly, thanks to efforts made by Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) through its Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) programme.

This was said here yesterday by Shinyanga Regional Medical Officer Dr Yudas Ndungile when he spoke with journalists on the importance of the VMMC programme.

He commended THPS, a non-governmental organization which implements the programme in collaboration with Afya Plus and the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) for supporting provision of VMMC services in all six district councils in the region.

He explained that the project which is funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) has benefited more than 73,000 males aged 15 years and above with VMMC services between January 2022 and December 2023.

Dr Ndungile added that the project was implemented in Kigoma and Shinyanga regions from November 2021 to 2026 aimed to reduce HIV infections among adults including men in the two regions through preventive circumcision services. "We are proud that in

the first quarter of the third year (2023/2024) the project has reached a total of 26,752 males aged 15 years and above, which is 29 percent of the annual target of reaching 91,022 males," he said.

He emphasized that the project has a good response from male to get circumcision services, urging more men to come in large numbers so as to benefit from the programme at all 35 VMMC health centres linked to control HIV infection.

Dr Amos Scott, Regional Project Manager, commended THPS for supporting VMMC services as one of the interventions to prevent HIV infection in the two regions.

He added that the project expanded the services to all district councils in Shinyanga Region hence sustaining a comprehensive package of quality and safe circumcision services to adolescents and men aged 15 years.

Dr Peter Mlacha, Regional Coordinator for control of Aids, sexually transmitted diseases and hepatitis, commended the good job done by the government in collaboration with health partners for reducing HIV infections for men.

Studies show that male circumcision can reduce a male's chances of acquiring HIV by 50 percent to 60 percent during heterosexual contact with female partners with HIV.



Health expert Dr Mariam Yondu (with microphone) speaks at the wrapping-up of the PharmAccess-facilitated MomCare project at Katesh township in Hanang District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Medical officers asked to ensure quality maternal health

By Carlos Banda

MEDICAL officers in charge of health facilities have been urged to ensure quality health services for pregnant women to reduce maternal mortality.

Mark Melubo, acting Manyara Regional Medical Officer made the call on Thursday in the region at an event to mark

the end of MomCare project implemented by PharmAccess, a programme intended to improve expectant mothers' access to quality healthcare.

Melubo said that Manyara Region witnessed a decline in mortality rate for pregnant mothers due to increased knowledge and awareness building efforts to improve public health care

services catalyzed by the project.

Dr Mohamed Kodi, Hanang District Medical Officer, said during the start of the project in 2019, the number of deaths of pregnant women giving birth stood at eight per year but it has since declined to two deaths per year.

He said that along with the

decrease in mortality rate, the project has played a significant role in building understanding and spreading awareness on the importance of going to the hospital to give birth instead of doing so at home.

"Through the project we were able to make follow-ups on women who were about to give birth and advise them to go

to hospital," he said. Pandael Gwatu, a beneficiary of the project said that it helped her and other women gain awareness and stop the practice of expectant mothers giving birth at home instead of health facilities.

"This project equipped me with the delivery kit I needed before giving birth and the

necessary knowledge and understanding to guide expectant mothers before and after giving birth," she said.

Zamaradi Mbega, Director of Health Innovations at PharmAccess said the project brought positive results in Hanang and Babati districts since its inception five-years ago, urging the district coun-

cils to continue the positive outcomes of the project so that they can be sustainable and benefit more people in the area.

Francis Namahungu, Hanang District Executive Director asked all medical doctors and nurses to ensure quality of maternal health so that no woman should die while giving a life.

'Economic empowerment of women key to ending GBV'

By Enock Charles

WOMEN leaders in gender-based knowledge centres have said that for gender-based violence against women to be eliminated, women should be empowered to lead a financially independent life.

The centres that operate under the custodian of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) are mandated with the sensitisation role for women groups on financial matters, social freedom and rights.

The women leaders expressed their opinions on Wednesday during a special visit by TGNP officials to witness the progress of various economic projects implemented by women-led groups at Majohe suburb of Ilala District in Dar es Salaam.

The women who are engaged in horticulture, waste recycling and tailoring were of the view that if the issue of economic dependence is not fully addressed, its side impacts are mostly gender-based violence, especially sexual harassment.

Majohe Knowledge Centre chairperson, Tabu Ally, said that TGNP and its stakeholders have been playing a major role towards realisation of women's financial independence.

According to her, the centre has benefited from a waste recycling project funded by the US-based NGO Elico Foundation at a tune of 3.5m/- that has been a core source of income for her and her fellow members.

"We are grateful that TGNP linked us with the Elico Foundation which extended to us a grant whose fruits we enjoy not only today but hopefully in the future too," she said.

Rehema Mwatema, a member of the knowledge centre thanked development partners who are eager to see women are financially independent by supporting their small-scale projects in horticulture, waste recycling and tailoring.

"In my opinion, the funded projects are the unique motivational activities in the eyes of women who have given up the struggle towards becoming financially independent," she said.

She said the project has a multiplier effect on women as it also guarantees environment protection and conservation of nature in the wake of climate change threats.

Kivule Mtaa Chairperson Ally Mzava said that local government leaders have been on the forefront in supporting women-led income generation activities through seminars and training programmes.

According to Mzava, women-led economic groups have been sensitized on business plan models, marketing and packaging of their products so that they can get more customers in the competitive market.

TGNP through women-led groups has been motivating and empowering women to be economically independent by running income generating projects in



CVM director Magesa Nathanael pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday conducting three-day training for 30 domestic workers. The thrust is on the basic workers' rights, work ethics, responsibilities, life skills and workplace quality and safety. Since its establishment in 2003, the CSO has been implementing various programmes aimed at promoting human rights and social inclusion for vulnerable groups. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

groups by accessing funds from various non-governmental organizations and development stakeholders.

Minister now orders government institutions to stop steel imports

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendopole

THE Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), Prof Kitila Mkumbo, has directed government institutions to stop importing steel as the product is sufficiently available in the country.

He made the directive yesterday in Mkuranga District, Coast Region, when he visited Lodhia Industries to see production and listen to challenges facing investors.

Lodhia factory has invested \$120 million in the production of steel, roofing materials and plastic products and produces 18,000 tonnes of steel per month and the expectation is to produce 1,000,000 tonnes of steel per year.

"We are satisfied with steel production here not only quantity but international quality. So, let's buy our own and stop relying on imports," he said.

"And I would like to direct the institutions that get tenders for construction of various government projects to start using products produced in the country because we have witnessed the quality."

He said that one of the major goals of the government is to ensure that it reduces the importation of goods to protect the foreign exchange reserves. He said Lodhia steel industries has been expanded and started making raw materials for producing nails, a step which he said is commendable as it will reduce the dependence on importing raw materials.

"For a long time, we have been importing raw materials for making nails and galvanized steel, but our colleagues have started making these raw materials, this is a very big step to be proud of for industrial development," he said.

He said one of the challenges he identified during his visit was the importation of steel despite the fact that the factory and others produce sufficient and quality products, so he promised to take action.

"We have taken this challenge and

we are going to look at the tax issues to make sure we protect our industries by making sure that products that are not necessary to enter our market are not imported and if we do this we will be protecting our fellow Tanzanians who are employed in these factories," he said.

Mkuranga District Commissioner Khadija Nasri said the investment made by the factory has been of great benefit to the residents of the district economically since many youth have been employed there.

She said it started with one factory to produce steel but it has continued to expand and increased production of plastic products and now it is building a factory to produce galvanized steel which is expected to start production in May this year.

"When the new factory starts working, 600 of our youth will get employment here. So, we appreciate the good investment environment that our government continues to create and attract investors," she said.

Afreximbank makes US \$6 million first disbursement

CAIRO

THE African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has announced to have successfully executed its first facility disbursement from its recently-established Caribbean Office in Bridgetown, Barbados.

The disbursement is a \$6 million education rehabilitation climate-linked sovereign term loan facility to the government of St. Lucia through its ministry of finance, economic development and youth economy.

The facility is a pilot by Afreximbank for its financing in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region following the approval granted by the bank's board of directors for a \$1.5 billion limit for member states of the CARICOM.

The facility will help in the infrastructure rehabilitation of St. Lucia, including 25 schools damaged during tropical storm Bret which affected the country in June 2023.

Commenting on the facility disbursement during a visit by the Afreximbank delegation led by Okechukwu Ihejirika, acting Chief Operating Officer in charge of the Caribbean Office, Prime Minister Philip J Pierre of St. Lucia said that the facility would enable the country ensure continued education and capacity building for its youth.

Storm Bret caused extensive damage to some schools' infrastructure forcing many children to study under hazardous conditions. The team also toured Bishop Charles Gachet R.C. Primary School, which is scheduled to benefit from the disbursed facility.

Speaking on the significance of the disbursement, Prof Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, said that the facility highlighted the Bank's unwavering commitment to supporting member states during times of crises, ensuring financial stability.

"The facility underscores our proactive approach to addressing economic challenges and our commitment to joint efforts to close funding gaps, as well as promote trade and investments between Africa and the Caribbean," he said.

Storm Filipo causes four deaths, power outages in Mozambique

MAPUTO

FOUR people have died and one person injured as Storm Filipo hit southern Mozambique's Inhambane province, according to the country's state-owned broadcaster.

The nation braces for Storm Filipo, with the southern and central provinces on alert for severe thunderstorms. Roofs have been ripped off schools and residential homes. In the tourist areas of Tofo and Barra, the waves have destroyed several boats. In some areas the roads are inaccessible.

Local authorities said the storm has disrupted electricity supply and communication lines. Storm Filipo continues to batter the province, with intermittent rain and gusty winds.

Tropical Storm Filipo made landfall in Mozambique on Tuesday, killing at least three people, injuring 13 and adversely impacting more than 14,000, according to preliminary assessments from the authorities.

The severe tropical storm struck the district of Inhassoro in Inhambane Province before heading southwest toward the province of Maputo, with wind gusts of up to 120 kilometres per hour. A spokesman for the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction said that emergency operation centres and provincial aid teams have been activated.

Reports indicate more than 1,000 houses have been partially destroyed and at least 117 completely destroyed, impacting 4,220 students, 23 schools and 15 healthcare facilities across the provinces of Inhambane, Maputo and Gaza in the south, and some in the central province of Sofala. Many power poles are down and state-owned provider EDM says that nearly 100,000 people have lost electricity.

Authorities estimate that 525,000 are at additional risk from food insecurity, compromised access to markets and healthcare, and degraded water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in the wake of the storm.

DODOMA CHRISTIAN MEDICAL CENTER TRUST



JOB VACANCY

The mission of DCMC Trust to deliver sustainable community-based, specialized, and super-specialized healthcare for all through accessible and compassionate healthcare, guided by the love of Jesus Christ.

DCMC Hospital is a Christian Health Ministry owned by the Registered Trustees of Dodoma Christian Medical Center Trust (DCMCT) located at Imagi Hill, Ntyuka Dodoma. Since its establishment it has served thousands of patients as a multispecialty hospital offering quality health care for the people of central Tanzania and beyond and in collaboration with other stake holders and in line with the Government policies.

DCMC Trust is an equal opportunity employer offering stable and professional working environment with competitive remuneration and benefits.

DCMC Hospital invites qualified persons to fill in the position of Executive Director.

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Job Summary

The Executive Director holds a pivotal position as the Chief Executive Officer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the hospital and directs the implementation of the growth and development plans in line with the Strategic Plan of DCMC. The incumbent serves as the Accounting Officer and is directly accountable to the Board of Trustees. The primary responsibilities of the Executive Director include planning, controlling, coordinating, and implementing objectives, functions, and activities within the hospital. These actions are crucial for ensuring effective and efficient management in alignment with the hospital's strategic plan. The Executive Director serves as the official spokesperson for the hospital.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Holder of Master of Medicine Degree (MMed) plus Master degree in Business/General Management from recognized institutions.
- Must have a minimum of eight (8) years working experience in a busy reputable hospital or health institution in similar or equivalent role.
- Must be registered by the Tanganyika Medical Council as a Medical Doctor or satisfy the registration requirements of the Tanganyika Medical Council.

Personal Attributes and Skills Required:

- Leadership:** Strong leadership skills are essential to effectively guide and motivate staff towards achieving organizational goals.
- Financial Acumen:** A solid understanding of financial management principles is crucial for overseeing budgeting and financial operations.
- Communication Skills:** Effective communication, both oral and written, and interpersonal skills are necessary for serving as the official spokesperson of the hospital and interacting with various stakeholders.
- Organizational Management:** Proficiency in planning, organizing, and coordinating activities to ensure smooth operations within the hospital.
- Experience:** Proven experience in organizational management in healthcare/Medical administration or a related field is typically required for this role.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE POST

- Applicants must attach an up-to-date current Curriculum Vitae (CV) having reliable contact postal address, email address, and reachable telephone numbers.
- Applicants should apply on the strengths of the information given in this advertisement.
- The title of the position applied for should be written in the subject of the application letter/e-mail and marked on the envelope
- Applicants must attach their detailed relevant certified copies of Academic certificates/ transcripts as follows:
 - Postgraduate Degree, First Degree/Advanced Diploma, Diploma/Certificates.
 - Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates.
 - Computer Certificates where applicable.
 - Professional Certificates/Licenses from respective boards where applicable.
 - One recent passport size picture and copy of birth certificate.
 - Form IV and Form VI result slips are strictly not accepted. Presentation of forged academic certificates and other information in the CV will necessitate to legal action.
 - Applicants should indicate three reputable work-related referees with their reliable contacts (Telephone numbers and e-mail address).

Only shortlisted candidates will be informed the date of the interview

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Application letters should be POSTED or HAND DELIVERED to the following address on or before 04.00 p.m. on **30 March 2024** (i.e., Deadline for receiving applications)

Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Dodoma Christian Medical Center Trust
Imagi Hill, Ntyuka P O Box 658
Dodoma

Those using e-mail should submit their applications to jobs@dcmt.or.tz



Children's Dignity Forum executive director Koshuma Mtengeti pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking on the need for adolescence girls and young women to take HIV tests and heed expert advice. It was at the launch of a project on 'Adolescence with Dignity'. He is with Kinondoni Municipal/District Medical Officer Dr Ezra Ngereza. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Internet outage now hits West Africa as undersea cables fail

ABUJA

A DOZEN countries across Africa suffered a major internet outage on Thursday as multiple undersea telecommunication cables reported failures, network operators and internet watch groups said.

The MTN Group, one of Africa's largest network providers, said the ongoing disruptions were a result of failures in multiple major undersea cables.

"Our operations are actively working to reroute traffic through alternative network paths," the South African company said in a statement.

Network disruptions caused by cable damage have occurred in Africa in recent years. However, "today's disruption points to something larger (and) this is amongst the most severe," said Isik Mater, director of research at NetBlocks, a group that documents internet disruptions around the world.

NetBlocks said data transmission and measurement shows a major disruption to international transits, "likely at or near the subsea network cable landing points."

The cause of the failure was not immediately clear.

There were fears of disruption of essen-

tial services in worst-hit countries like Ivory Coast where the disruption was severe. Africa leads mobile device web traffic in the world, with many of the continent's businesses relying on the internet to deliver services to their customers.

The West Africa Cable System (WACS), the Africa Coast to Europe (ACE), SAT-3 and MainOne were among the system cables that observers said were affected in the outage.

Internet analysis firm Cloudflare reported a pattern in the timing of the disruptions that heavily impacted at least 10 countries in West Africa, including Ivory Coast, Liberia, Benin, Ghana, and Burkina Faso.

Vodacom, South Africa's mobile operator, also reported "intermittent connectivity issues due to multiple undersea cable failures." Namibia and Lesotho were also affected.

The impact from such cable failures worsens as networks attempt to route around the damage, potentially reducing the capacity available to other countries, said Mater with NetBlocks.

"The initial disruption may be a physical cut, but subsequent issues could be of a technical nature," said Mater.

Tanzania prepares to host EA petroleum conference 2025

By Guardian Reporter

THE stage is set for the 11th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2025 (EAPCE'25), scheduled to take place from March 5th to 7th next year in Tanzania expected to attract over 1,000 participants.

Organized by the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat and the EAC partner states, the event will be held under the theme: "Unlocking Investment in Future Ener-

gy: The Role of Petroleum Resources in the Energy Mix for Sustainable Development in East Africa".

According to a statement availed to the media yesterday, the Regional Steering Committee for EAPCE'25, comprised of experts from the EAC partner states, convened in Zanzibar for a pivotal meeting marking the official commencement of preparations.

Chairperson of the Regional Steering Committee, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Dr

James Mataragio emphasized the conference's significance, noting its evolution into the region's premier petroleum event.

He said the 2025 edition aims to highlight the region's petroleum potential and investment opportunities.

"The United Republic of Tanzania is not only ready but excited to host the Petroleum Conference in 2025, and we call upon all Partner States to join hands with Tanzania in the planning to ensure we have a suc-

cessful Conference," he said.

Acknowledging the success of the previous conference hosted by Uganda in 2023, Jean Baptiste Havugimana, EAC Director of Productive Sectors, extended gratitude to Uganda and all partner states for their commitment. He noted that the success of such a regional event, reaffirms the region's dedication to regional integration.

"Over the past two decades, the Petroleum Conferences have served as crucial platforms for dialogue

among governments and industry players worldwide. Aligned with the EAC's Vision 2050 for economic, social, and political integration, the 2025 edition aims to bolster the region's competitiveness through increased production, trade, integration, and investment in the oil and gas sector," he said.

Looking ahead to 2050, the EAC envisions a sustainable, affordable, and secure energy mix to meet regional needs. With a focus on access, capacity, efficiency, and sustainabil-

ity, the region aims to transform its energy landscape, ensuring efficient distribution of petroleum products and strategic reserves.

Since its inception in 2003, the East African Petroleum Conferences have fostered awareness of the region's petroleum potential and technological advancements. Delegates can anticipate high-quality technical presentations, exhibitions and field excursions showcasing the region's geological diversity and tourist attractions.

Uganda government allots \$800m for Kiswahili teaching

By Special Correspondent, Kampala

UGANDAN government has allocated \$800m (£625m) to promote and teach Kiswahili in the country, as part of efforts to foster regional integration.

Civil servants including doctors, nurses and border workers will be given priority in the yet to be unveiled Kiswahili training programme, Uganda's Minister for East African Affairs Rebecca Kadaga said.

The minister did not give further details on when and how the training programme will be unveiled.

As part of the efforts to popularise the language in the country, Kadaga said all senior government officials, including cabinet ministers and judges, were taking compulsory weekly lessons.

In July 2022, Uganda government approved the adoption of Kiswahili as an official language and directed that it be made a compulsory subject in primary and secondary schools.

But the language is currently taught in a few secondary schools in the country.

About 200 million people speak Kiswahili in the world and in 2021, the language received its biggest boost when the UN designated 7 July as World Kiswahili Language Day.

It is also the official language of the East African regional bloc, the EAC.

In 2019, Kiswahili became the only African language to be recognised by the Southern African Development Community (SADC). There are also efforts to introduce it in classrooms across South Africa and Botswana.



BRAC-Kagera Region staff present an assortment of home use and items earlier this week to Bukoba's Mugeza Mseto Primary School pupils with disabilities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Republic of Congo reports its first mpox virus cases

BRAZZAVILLE,

THE Republic of Congo has recorded its first cases of mpox in several regions, the health ministry said, an indication of how the disease may be spreading across Africa since sexual transmission was first confirmed on the continent last year.

Mpox is a virus that originates in wild animals and occasionally jumps to people, who can spread it to others. The virus was

previously known as monkeypox, because it was first seen in research monkeys.

The World Health Organization said in November it had confirmed sexual transmission of mpox in neighboring Congo for the first time. African scientists warned this could make the disease difficult to contain.

The Republic of Congo's health ministry published its report on Wednesday. The report said some 43 cases had been report-

ed to the ministry, including in nine out of the country's 12 departments. The government has not issued any further comment on the publication, which was not officially distributed to the media and appears to have been intended for internal use.

Mpox became a focus of worldwide concern during an international outbreak in 2022 that saw the disease spread to over 100 countries, mainly by sex among gay or bisexual men. It has been endemic in parts

of central and West Africa for decades, but most cases involved infection from rodents, limiting the spread of the disease.

The WHO declared the outbreak a global emergency and there have been over 90,000 cases to date. In Congo, where sexual transmission was first confirmed, it has tracked more than 12,500 cases and 580 deaths, its largest ever outbreak.

The WHO previously warned that sexual transmission could mean the disease is

spreading in other parts of the continent.

In Africa, the figures are likely an underestimate, experts say, because testing facilities are limited and victims may avoid stepping forward because of prejudice and draconian laws targeting LGBTQ+ communities.

While the outbreak of mpox prompted mass vaccination campaigns in Europe and North America, in Africa there are no such plans.

Liberians remember Ebola outbreak's devastation toll

MONROVIA

LIBERIANS gathered this week to mark a decade since the country was hit by a devastating Ebola outbreak that killed more than 10,000 people in West Africa, adding to the region's economic and political troubles.

The second Wednesday of March in Liberia, National Decoration Day, is always one of remembrance and people gathered this year at a memorial site where many victims of the virus were buried outside the capital, Monrovia, to pay their respects to family and friends. It was a grim milestone for those who lost loved ones to the virus, even though cultural stigma leads many to insist they died of other causes.

The Ebola outbreak killed some 11,000 people mainly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, according to the United Nations. Liberia was declared free of the virus in 2016, after almost 5,000 deaths.

Many Liberians who lost loved ones during the outbreak deny

the virus was to blame. Stigma and fear of the disease remain widespread in the population that survived.

Yasa Johnson told The Associated Press she has looked after her younger siblings since Ebola killed their mother.

"I have come to honour my mother," she said at the Disco Hill Safe Burial Site in Margibi County, where many victims were buried on the outskirts of the capital.

Some 4,500 people are buried or cremated at the site, the National Public Health Institute of Liberia said. Relatives stood in groups carrying flowers and singing religious songs.

Elizabeth Brown and her husband, who operate an orphanage for children who lost their parents to the virus, also came to pay their respects.

"It saddens me, because their lives were cut off too soon," she said. "We just want to help them."

Since the outbreak, Liberia has been marked by ongoing economic struggles. Its newly elected president, Joseph Boakai, 79, came to office in January on a pledge to fix the economy, improve security and fight corruption.



Confederation of Tanzania Industries executive director Leodegar Tenga (gesturing) makes remarks during talks with Lodia Industries Ltd officials when a CTI delegation toured the firm at Kisemvule in Mkuranga District yesterday. He is with former CTI vice chairman Dr Samuel Nyantahe (2nd-R) and Lodia CEO Manoj Gopi (R). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

OPEC to discuss Africa's role in global energy security

CAPE TOWN

AFRICA'S burgeoning oil market, accounting for more than 10 percent of the global oil output, plays a vital role in meeting global energy demand, shaping energy security, and stabilizing the global economy.

As the continent expands its oil activities for energy security and economic growth, with a 25 percent increase in reserves in the past 20 years, cooperation with reliable and well-established partners such as the Oil Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is crucial to advancing investments and ensuring market stability.

In this regard, OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais will highlight African oil market investment opportunities and discuss Africa's role in

global energy security at the African Energy Week (AEW) 2024, Africa's leading energy sector event, taking place in Cape Town from November 4th to 8th.

AEW: Invest in African Energy is the platform of choice for project operators, financiers, technology providers and government, and has emerged as the official place to sign deals in African energy. Visit www.AECWeek.com for more information about this exciting event.

Boasting the membership of Africa's largest oil producers and exporters, including Libya, Equatorial Guinea, Algeria, Gabon, the Republic of Congo and Nigeria, OPEC has played a crucial role in the growth of Africa's entire oil value chain.

OPEC provides technical expertise, drives local content development and provides funding to support oil exploration, production, and monetization across the continent. Through the OPEC-Africa Energy Dialogue, for instance, OPEC enables African countries to navigate underinvestment, climate change and energy transition related challenges while ensuring energy security and GDP growth on the back of optimal exploitation of oil resources. OPEC's production quotas influence the stability and resilience of African oil markets amidst shifts in global market dynamics.

As demand for energy in Africa is projected to increase by 30 percent by 2030, OPEC's cooperation continues to drive market transformation. Recent oil discoveries within OPEC

member countries underscore the region's potential for substantial oil production in the decades ahead, highlighting the cartel's role in optimizing Africa's impact on the global energy landscape. Significant discoveries include Eni's findings in Block CI-205 in the Ivory Coast and Kosmos Energy's oil discovery in S-5 well in the Rio Muni in Equatorial Guinea in 2023.

As oil activities intensify across the African market - with large-scale project launches across the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors - lucrative opportunities for global investors continue to expand. Notable oil market developments promising high return on investments for global investors within Africa include the development of the vast oil deposits

made by Algerian National Oil Company (NOC) Sonatrach since 2020. The NOC announced over 35 oil and gas discoveries between 2020 and 2023 including in the Berkinne and Oued Mya basins.

In Libya, efforts by the country to increase production to 2 billion barrels per day by the end of 2024 and various exploration campaigns by Eni, bp, Equinor, Oil India and Repsol represents significant investment opportunities in the OPEC member country.

In Congo, Perenco announced the start of production at the Boatou field in July 2023 and is expanding exploration campaigns in-country, enhancing investment prospects across the country's oil value chain. Vaalco is also advancing the development

of resources in Block P in Equatorial Guinea, further opening up the market for new investments.

Furthermore, OPEC's investment arm, OPEC Fund for International Development, has been instrumental in diversifying Africa's energy mix towards renewables, directing a significant portion of its financing towards the continent in 2023. AEW: Invest in African Energy will explore how OPEC's collaboration with Africa promotes market stability and contributes to an inclusive energy transition.

"OPEC has enabled unity among African countries and their global counterparts to advance oil production and monetization for energy security. OPEC's commitment to the growth of Africa's oil market will be crucial in advancing the continent's



Shinyanga Urban legislator Patrobas Katambi (L), who is also Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), pictured on Thursday addressing a meeting in the constituency's Kitangili ward at which ways to resolve challenges commonly experienced there were discussed. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Children rescued as Zimbabwe police see sect graves in village

HARARE

POLICE in Zimbabwe say they have arrested the suspected leader of a religious sect in a village in northern Mashonaland West province and rescued dozens of women and children.

Ishmael Chokurongerwa, 56, who leads the Gore Jena Penyeranyika sect was arrested alongside seven other senior members of the cult on Tuesday, police spokesperson Paul Nyathi said in a statement.

Police said most of the 251 children found in Chokurongerwa's farm in Nyabira, about 34km (21 miles) north-west of the capital, Harare, had no birth certificates and were not allowed to attend school. Police also discovered a gravesite at the farm where 16 people have been secretly interred, including seven infants whose burials were not registered with authorities.

The rescued children "were being used to perform various physical activities for the benefit of the sect's leadership", the police statement said.

"Police also established that all children were subjected to abuse such as cheap labour, doing manual work in the name of being taught life skills," it added. Chokurongerwa, who calls himself "Prophet Ishmael", told local reporters that he was "not aware of women's and children's rights."

One of the cult members told reporters that formal education in schools was not wanted "because what children are taught there is against the teachings of God."

Energy regulators meet to discuss access to electricity in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

ENERGY regulators from across Africa have begun a two-day meeting in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss ways of accessing electricity in the region.

The African Development

Bank (AfDB) electricity workshop brought together electricity regulators from 21 African countries in northern, eastern and southern Africa to discuss ways to reduce the percentage of the population without access to electricity.

Mohamedain Seif ElNasr, chief executive officer of the

Regional Association of Energy Regulators of Eastern and Southern Africa, said on Wednesday that more than 300 million people in the region are not connected to the national electricity grid.

"We need to tap the abundant geothermal, solar and wind resources in order to

enable households and businesses to benefit from renewable electricity," he said.

He noted that harmonized electricity laws and regulations will allow the trade of electricity between countries with surplus production to those with deficits and result in increased access to reliable

electricity across Africa.

Solomon Sarpong, senior energy economist at the AfDB, said that countries in Africa should cooperate in the development of their electricity generation capacity, given that some of the green energy sources are transboundary. He suggested that countries

should endeavour to attract private investment in the energy sector to augment public resources in the exploitation of renewable energy sources.

Lee Okombe, senior research and policy analyst at Kenya's Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, said that Africa lags behind

the rest of the world in access to electricity despite its abundant energy sources.

He added that one avenue to reduce the gap of the population without access to electricity is the harmonization of electricity tariffs across Africa, which will promote competition in the energy trade.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

International standards aspect no cause to stifle competition

RATHER familiar calls have been heard of late, chiefly emphasizing an aspect of economic policy that was once a pillar of economic policy but gradually faded as our country moved into a competitive market economy.

There is an expression that the Stone Age did not come to an end owing to a shortage of stones, in which case policy changes do not occur merely because the other camp has run short of arguments.

The point is that economic policy is a governing contract where anyone interested in a chunk of economic activity can join the fray, and the only way they can live in optimal harmony is through fair competition regulated by the law.

To be fair, the calls neither put to question this fundamental policy format nor expressed a lack of confidence in competition as such.

Rather, they expressed reservations on the penchant for seeking imported goods while quality alternatives, certified as having acknowledged international standards, are easily available in the country. They were calls to the conscience of government or rather of public institutions in conducting procurement activities to have favourable consideration for local firms producing quality goods rather than stick to indulgence in imported alternatives.

Within the matrix of a competitive economy, that aspect is taken care of, first because importers also contribute to the country's economic growth and prospects, if only by constantly placing local producers on their toes both about quality and about pricing.

There was a gap in remarks by the senior executives from both the steel industry and the industrial sector umbrella body in that, while making perfectly valid assurances about quality, they were remarkably silent about prices.

In that case, they were appealing for priority in procurement but with less than cardinal consideration of pricing - which would clearly do the public interest little good.

Suggesting that having products manufactured by some steel industries in the country and meeting all international standards should be reason enough for the barring of the importation of similar products would hardly be wholly for the country's good.

There is an expression in Kiswahili to the effect that showering a brewer with praise might make the particular brewer "so drunk with praise" as to begin diluting the brewer and, by extension, begin losing customers.

The moral here is that healthy competition usually serves to guard against foul practices such as "adulteration" or the hiking of prices of goods.

It would therefore be understandable if one were to appeal to those buying the protectionist argument that it is contrary to human nature to be protected and remain vigilant with quality products and fair prices.

For if the argument had stood, protected economies all over the world would not have failed and moved into reform, as unforgiving supporters of monopoly constantly cried for reassertion of protectionism.

Obviously, where both the quality and prices are really competitive, local projects will not need overly massive support from crusaders or advocates to survive - even thrive. There is hence no real need for an ambitious strategy to protect local industries, presumably in like manner as some neighbouring countries are doing, including by purchasing large quantities of products from local factories for major projects.

Uganda's Kiswahili promotion drive: Promises for Uganda, lessons for EAC

NATIONAL language specialists or experts must have toasted upon learning that the Ugandan authorities are allocating a staggering US\$800 million (or 204 trillion/-) specifically for the teaching and promotion of Kiswahili as part of a drive meant to foster regional integration.

By all accounts, this points to a major language shift or adaptation drive the authorities in that country have decided to embark upon.

The issue here is whether this audacious and costly policy initiative will have any sustainable lessons worth learning both in Uganda and elsewhere. Were that question to be posed by a classical Kiswahili proponent with either Kiswahili academic researchers or the respective decision-making national council, the most likely answer would be in the direction of demonstrating the measure as a new height for the language.

It would hence be seen as additional evidence that other countries are steadily accepting Kiswahili and there is no reason for us not to solidify the formal use of "our national language", including in our international interactions.

Yet this perspective is one-sided, as it doesn't focus on what sort of problem Uganda is seeking to solve and how that squares up with other countries' interests or aspirations.

That the move has been decided by Uganda is not altogether surprising as, by substantial parameters, that country is relatively unversed in Kiswahili. It is not like in Kenya, where the language is much more broadly spoken even in the legislature. Uganda's situation is in a sense similar to ours even as, by a certain line of interpretation, the problem

they are seeking to solve may be less intractable than obtains in our own country.

One reason Uganda may be seeking to popularise the language is to travel and trade with enhanced ease in the East African Community (EAC) zone and even tone down the lingering ethnicity tied up with the use of local languages there.

What that means for Tanzania is not seeing greater use of Kiswahili bring in money from doing translation work. Part of the challenge in the eastern African integration project may have to do with the sort of cadre the Ugandan authorities are targeting, namely, civil servants like doctors, nurses and teachers.

It could relate to worry about free movement of labour owing to wobbling confidence to compete if the market for jobs is liberalised.

Many investments that have to do with a rather skilled labour force will likely skip particular EAC simply because exposure to "treacherous" English even among graduates is skimpy. While there is a lot of effort at empowering the youth via internet connectivity and stepped-up effectiveness of use, inability to roam in a technically competent manner in relation to what one wants remains a problem.

Taking up Uganda's example would really suggest massive funding to enable fast-tracked adaptation to English in schools and colleges, as well as raising civil service competences in the language.

Doing so would facilitate - even expedite - use of opportunities arising from globalisation and the internet. But how realistic would expecting full-throttle efforts in that direction be? Time should tell.

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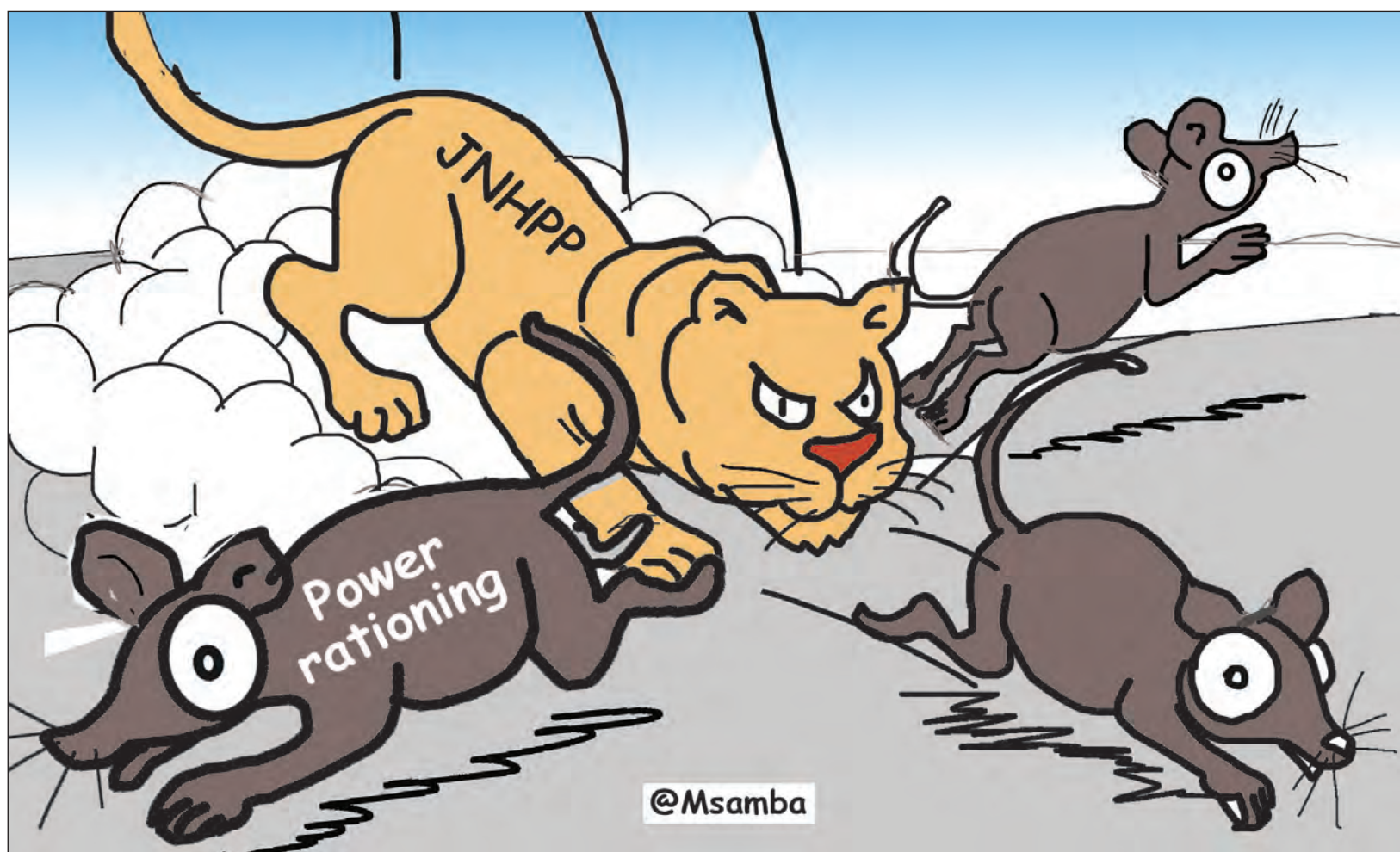
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You may not be managing enough...

By Judd Antin

EVERYONE knows that one of a people manager's most important jobs is to help their direct reports grow. To give them the space, encouragement and stretch projects that build skills and capacity.

And to do all that without committing the worst possible sin: micro-management. Pretty much everyone I have ever met has suffered under a micro-manager - someone who hovers over, nit-picks and smothers their direct reports. It is usually because of insecurity, lack of trust and/or sheer incompetence.

In a recent survey of tech workers, 39 per cent of respondents said micro-management is the worst possible trait in a boss. That is far more than any other single trait. Not only that, but in a different survey almost 75 per cent of respondents said micro-management is the #1 sign of a toxic workplace. Shocking!

Given how horrible it is to be micro-managed, I understand why management narratives have been so focused on doing the opposite.

Support, trust, freedom, space. Fly! Be free! It's beautiful. But I think maybe we've over-corrected. Recently my family took up indoor rock climbing, so bear with me as I go hard on this analogy.

One common form of indoor climbing is called "top roping". We step up to the wall, which already has a rope looped up through a secure point at the top and back down again. We tie into either end of the rope - one of us to climb, the other to belay (keep the climber safe).

If you're climbing, it's a long way down. Better have an active belayer all along the way!

The climbers have the hard job. They have got to make their way up through small moves and big ones. They try, fall and work each problem until they can move past it and keep climbing. It's active as hell.

But the job of good belayers is pretty active too. They are vigilant, taking up the slack, hands always on the rope. Their job isn't just to catch the fall, but to provide the sense of safety that lets climbers take a risk.

They don't just do that job on the ground. Most of it - the most important parts by far - happens all along the way, from start to finish.

Of course, an over-active belayer is terrible too. Pull too hard on the rope and you are taking their weight, upsetting their balance, and robbing them of valuable experience.

But it can get worse. Information about how to climb a particular route is called beta. (Fun fact - the name comes from the days when outdoor climbers used to record their routes on Betamax tapes.)

When someone is over-sharing information about what to do next, calling out left-hand, right-foot like we are playing Twister, it is called spraying the beta.

Climbers hate it when people spray the beta the same way people hate micro-management, and for most of the same reasons. Bad belayers spray the beta.

But a good belayer is also a model for a good manager - maybe a better one than a lot of the current management advice provides.

As managers, we can be so afraid of micro-management that we risk moving into passive territory. We are made to believe that our main job is putting people in position to grow, and then going hands off to give them the space to do it.

But that's like encouraging climbers to take on harder routes, cheering them as they start while you check out TikTok instead of holding fast to the rope.

To do their best, that climbers would need an active belayer from start to finish.

It is easy to try again when the rope caught you and you only fell a few feet. These are the most educational failures - it is those big ones that you want to avoid.

After all, it's not the fall that gets you; rather, it is the sudden stop at the bottom.

Active but not over-active

If this over-wrought climbing analogy teaches us anything, I hope it is that pro-active managing and micro-managing are far from the same thing. A good manager does far more than setting people on the path and encouraging them to do their best.

If that is all you are doing, then you are not managing enough. You have got to be more active, but in the right ways.

Here are three ways good managers support their people in learning and growing, but without micro-managing.

Climbing, just like managing, is a consistent team sport. Make a plan, provide clarity, give access, and keep that going from start to finish!

One: Provide clarity. Setting someone loose on an ambiguous task, with little information about expectations, roles and outcomes is a recipe for disaster.

A good manager is an active guide

around the what and the why. Clear goals, motivations, and expectations, with lots of context. All without prescribing the how.

This is not a conversation that happens once - at the start. One thing about climbing - when you are up there struggling, it can be hard to see what is around you. Sometimes the view from below is just what you need.

In work, too, clarity usually needs to be re-established at regular intervals. The reality of making progress smudges and smears all the crispness you started with.

Two: Give Access, Context. The practice of work is often less glamorous than it seems from the outside. We have a tendency to dramatise and over-complicate activities we are not familiar with.

You might find my description of rock climbing terrifying and impossible. But I bet that if you head down to your local gym and find someone to show you the ropes, it will not be for long.

So, the good manager move is to provide access that reveals the context of the project. If I am asking you to present to the CEO next week, I might also get you invited to the meeting this week, and share recent presentations with you.

We will talk through the complexities and the social dynamics of the people involved. It is not fair to expect you to figure that out yourself - it would be like inviting you to climb without teaching you about safety, etiquette or gym culture.

The expectation is not that you do it like I do. It is just that demystifying the whole thing is an active, consistent management process that sets you up for success.

Make a plan

We are standing on the ground together, looking up at the climb. You could just go for it, knowing that I have got your back. But the smart move is probably to take a second and make a plan.

How are you going to tackle this? What are the phases and milestones? What seems like the toughest part?

This is totally different than

spraying the beta. I am not trying to guide you every move, whether you asked me or not. The how is up to you. Instead, I am working with you to create a template for getting to your own solution. After all, no two people climb the same way!

Once again, this is not a "one time" move. It is common for the climbers to stop along the way, resting and regrouping while the belayers take their weight.

In the same way, a good, active manager move is to check in on a regular basis to see how things are going, how things are mapping to expectations (or not), and how we should adapt the plan.

Do more (often)

Other than the egregious climbing metaphor, you might have noticed one thing I keep coming back to: it is not enough for a manager to set someone off on the right track.

The reality of work will constantly knock you around and change your plan, smudging and smearing all the crispness you started with. So you have got to keep the conversation going.

Many managers are so afraid of micro-managing that they just don't manage enough. They confuse disengagement with productive space.

But a good people manager stays engaged throughout, without hovering, second guessing or taking over.

Standing on the ground looking up at climbers who you want to see succeed can feel disempowering. They are up there, you are down here - you could not jump in for them if you wanted to.

But that is exactly what it should feel like. It turns out that there is a lot you can do but, no matter what, it is them up there on that wall.

Stay engaged, stay encouraging, and let them do their thing, all the while preparing that spicy fist bump for when they make it down safe again.

**A medium.com dispatch. Judd Antin is a consultant, advisor, writer and teacher on leadership, management, design, research, social psychology.*



As managers, we can be so afraid of micro-management that we risk moving into passive territory. We are made to believe that our main job is putting people in position to grow, and then going hands off to give them the space to do it

By Telesphor Magobe

Parental duty to maintain one's own child in comfort

LAST week we briefly looked at gender equality in Tanzania in relation to the occasion of International Women's Day marked each year on March 8. We said generally women are regarded and treated as inferior to men and some women believe it absolutely, which aggravates their situation as they become almost always subjugated to the wishes of men.

For instance, in some communities a woman may kneel before a man as a sign of respect, but hardly can a man kneel before a woman as a sign of respect. In rare cases, a man may also kneel before a woman.

Although the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides for equality of all persons and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and although there are global and national efforts to ensure women are treated as equal to men, there are still circumstances in which women are discriminated against on the basis of sex and are regarded as inferior to men. This is clearly seen in patriarchal societies.

There are also other gestures to show that men are in control of everything. For instance, in some families girls are instructed to show respect to boys and hardly can boys be instructed to show respect to girls. In a situation like this, girls grow up believing that they have to respect boys all the time and boys too grow up believing that they have to be respected by girls all the time and this continues even during their adulthood. This mind-set creates gender inequality and sexual stereotyping.

Article 12 of the Constitution provided for equality of human beings. Sub-Article 1 states that "All human beings are



In his presentation he acknowledged that "not enough is being done to address the problem and...the problem of street children remains an ignored tragedy that is set to have a devastating impact on the development of African countries." Dem-lavali (2021), who conducted his study in Sierra Leone, suggests that the causes of street children are the quest for autonomy and perceived attractiveness of streetism and an ecological factor such as poverty, parental mortality due to HIV/Aids, neglect, abuse, urbanisation and parental alcoholism and a combination of personal and ecological factors.

He cites Mahlangu (2002), who argues that the street child phenomenon cannot be related to a single causal factor as most researchers agree that the leading causes of streetism are extreme poverty, unemployment, family breakdown (divorce), child abuse and neglect, behavioural disorders and [other social factors].

From these authors we can say that street children are forced by circumstances to run away from home and live on the streets where they experience untold suffering and live miserably. The Law of the Child Act states that a child is entitled to live with his or her parents and that it shall be the duty of a parent, guardian or any other person having custody of a child to maintain the child in particular the duty to ensure the child has the right to food, shelter, clothing, medical care, including immunisation, education and guidance, liberty and play and leisure.

While section 9(1) provides that every child shall have a right to life, dignity, respect, leisure, liberty, health, education and shelter from his [or her] parents, section 10 provides that a person shall not deprive a child of reasonable enjoyment out of the estate of his or her parent.

All these are needed for the child's full development and wellbeing. It suffices to say that there is a need for exemplary moral rectitude and child upbringing so that children enjoy their youth with their parents or guardians and become responsible and law-abiding adults.

Today's proverb: "Spill salt is never all gathered."

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The Law and You



born free, and are all equal." Article 13 provides for equality before the law and prohibits discrimination of persons on the basis of sex. It suffices to say that men and women as well as boys and girls in Tanzania must be treated equally and are entitled to equal rights and opportunities.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at sections 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019). Section 7 provides for the right of the child to grow up with parents or guardians. Section 8 provides for the duty to maintain one's own child. Section 9 provides for parental duty and responsibility and section 10 provides for the child's right to parental property.

Yet, in life these sections are not fully complied with. Sometimes we meet children with single parents, mostly with their mothers. The reasons for single parenthood could be a result of separation or divorce, rape, incest or just of loose and dissolute life. One or all of these situations may cause some children to decide to live on the

streets and beg for food, clothing or money from passers-by, some of who can trick and abuse them.

Although there are efforts to remove beggars from the streets, not many people are interested in knowing the root causes of their begging for food, clothing or money and hardly can the problem of street children be solved based on the root causes. Endris & Sitota (2019), who conducted their study in Ethiopia, suggest that the root causes of street children range from escaping abusive parental punishment, poverty, hate of step parents to parental alcoholic behaviour.

Kopoka (2000) from the University of Dar es Salaam, who presented his paper entitled "The Problem of Street Children in Africa: An Ignored Tragedy" during an International Conference on Street Children and Street Children's Health in East Africa gave the causes of street children as poverty, abuse, torture, rape, abandonment or being orphaned by HIV/Aids.

Timon Msangi: First CEO of TCC who spent years dealing with changing business environment and development

By Daniel Mshana

TIMON Manase Msangi (85) is no longer with us. He died at the CCRBT hospital in Dar es Salaam on Friday March 8 after battling with cancer for several months.

Timon Msangi was a distinguished alumnus of the Arthur D. Little Institute of Management Education, Massachusetts in USA. He graduated with excellence, obtaining a Master's degree in Management and was in the list of top students in his 1979/80 class.

Born in July 24, 1939 Msangi was the first Tanzanian to become the General Manager of the Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC) in 1982.

Msangi was appointed to become the first TCC CEO because his entire working career, spanning over thirty years, he was groomed in the hands of various multinational corporations which enabled him to remain positioned dealing with changing business environment, growth and development.

Timon Msangi was perhaps the longest served member of Management in the tobacco industry in East and Central Africa by the turn of the 20th century.

Starting humbly as a Marketing Representative for East African Tobacco (EAT), Msangi worked in various parts of East Africa. In 1964, he worked as a Marketing Representative for West Uganda based in Kampala. However, this appointment did not last for a long period because in 1965 EAT opted to decentralise hence the birth of British American Tobacco (BAT) Tanzania, BAT Kenya and BAT Uganda.

Against this background, Msangi became the Advertising Manager, later on the Marketing Manager and in 1975 he was promoted to the position of the Marketing Director, the post he held up to 1981.

Some people still recall that Timon at one time was nicknamed "Tiny Rowland" after the renowned billionaire in Zimbabwe who was famous as a "Take-over Specialist" in the business world.

The nickname took cognizance that the TCC he was leading was one of the few public enterprises that remained a net lender to the National Treasury during the 1980's. This was at a time many other entities were operating below 40 percent of their rated capacity and remained too dependent to the Treasury.

In the area of training, Msangi attended basic Management and later Senior Management Programmes at the BAT Business College in London.

He also attended another course on Forecasting and Statistics in the Institute of Marketing, Richbell Place in UK.

His socio-political fabric stretches back in the 1950's when he was student at Old Moshi Secondary School and later Tanga Secondary School. He was an active member of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) youth



wing. In fact Msangi's engagement in the social fabric was more pronounced after his retirement from TCC in 1994.

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (KKKT) recall his active roles he played in fostering the Evangelical missions in Pare and later Mwanga dioceses. His family has played an active role in a number of projects initiated by the Azania Front Lutheran Church. That is why when he was critically ill Bishop Dr Alex Gehaz Malasua, Bishop Charles Mjema and Bishop Chediell Sendoro jointly visited him at the CCRBT hospital and prayed for him to receive quick recovery.

Timon was also the author of the "Marketing Management: A practical Approach" and "Marketing of Branded Goods" books.

Msangi has been active in promoting education, rural development, poverty alleviation and environmental issues.

He was well known and appreciated by his humorous and jovial. Character which made many people admire him as he never ever showed frowning expressions.

Msangi married Theudas Reuben Msuya way back in 1968. They are blessed with four children- Erica, Anita, Bernard and Brenda. They are also blessed with six grandchildren.

May the Almighty God receive the soul of Timon Msangi in eternal peace.

Daniel Mshana is a media, public relations & investment consultant.



Environmental conservation education to pupils is very important; we will continue to provide cooperation and support to this and any other initiative with the same objectives

CLIMATE CHANGE

Four ways geopolitical tensions are increasing carbon emissions

By Laia Barbará

IN today's complex global landscape, geopolitical tensions have far-reaching implications across a variety of sectors. The ripple effects of these tensions are felt across politics, economics, society and the environment. These interconnected challenges don't just impact governance structures but also affect the delicate equilibrium of our ecosystems in unexpected ways.

Supply chains are perceived as robust and reliable systems upon which the global economy has relied for decades. But ongoing geopolitical conflicts threaten the balance of trade between producers and consumers.

Turmoil in the Red Sea has sent shockwaves through commercial shipping industries as strategic maritime routes are compromised. The impact on not only the shipping industry but also the global economy is clear, influencing everything from delivery schedules to the availability of goods. Russia's war against Ukraine has inflicted major disruptions, particularly through the re-routing of both commercial passenger and cargo flights.

These ongoing disruptions could expedite the trend towards nearshoring driven by a dual strategy to achieve greater control over supply chain management and to reduce emissions and the carbon-associated impact of global air, land and sea trade.

In navigating this polarized world, effective responses must be collaborative and transcend traditional silos for a sustainable and harmonious future. By acknowledging the interconnectedness of global challenges, a systems approach becomes imperative.

Global leaders must move away from the practices of the globalization era to address frequent and unpredictable disruptions. A meaningful and positive outcome from building more resilient supply chains is that sustainability is inherently addressed. As the world moves towards regional management of resources, the impact on emissions will be positively reduced.

Here are four geopolitical issues set to impact carbon emissions in 2024:

Red Sea conflict

The maritime industry, responsible for transporting more than 80% of international trade volume, faces a daunting challenge in its quest to decarbonize the global fleet. With shipping already contributing about 3% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, the industry operates an aging fleet predominantly fuelled by fossil resources.

Despite ongoing investments in alternative fuels such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), methanol, biofuel, electric and hydrogen, their application is currently constrained by distance and route limitations.

Ongoing geopolitical conflicts and threats to commercial shipping are compromising this strategic maritime route, crucial for the swift movement of goods between Asia, Europe and the Americas. The prolonged Red Sea conflict and the resulting avoidance of the Suez Canal necessitate rerouting via the Cape of Good Hope - a detour that adds 7 to 10 days to shipments between Asia and select Western markets.

Increased rerouting amplifies the carbon footprint of the industry, while the recent inclusion of maritime emissions in the EU's Emissions Trading System with a carbon tax based on distance is expected to further escalate costs, with potential consequences of a 3-5% hike passed on to consumers.

As the sector grapples with these challenges, finding sustainable solutions becomes even more crucial for both economic and environmental reasons. The impact on not only the shipping industry but also the global economy is clear, influencing everything from delivery schedules to the availability of goods.

Ukraine and Russia's closed airspace

The closed airspace over Ukraine and Russia forces aircraft to detour, circumventing the restricted airspace, which significantly elongates their travel paths. These extended routes not only result in increased fuel consumption but also escalate carbon emissions, intensifying the environmental impact of air travel - one of the hardest to abate sectors.



Ships avoiding the Red Sea and Suez Canal for geopolitical reasons face increased transit times, costs and emissions.

To make the situation worse, maritime challenges have shifted preferences for transporting high-margin goods. As the maritime route becomes more costly and less predictable, air freight is a more viable alternative, offering reliability and speed. A shift towards air freight could be particularly pronounced for products where the value and time sensitivity justify the higher transportation costs.

However, closing main airways such as over the Ukraine-Russian airspace poses significant disruption to this possible surge in demand. We anticipate that this trend will likely be limited to high-margin goods where the higher cost of air transport doesn't significantly impact profitability.

The aviation industry, already under scrutiny for its carbon footprint, faces heightened challenges owing to geopolitical conflicts affecting airspace accessibility. Airlines are compelled to operate less fuel-efficient routes, leading to higher overall emissions per journey. This not only poses a concern for the environment but also underscores the intricate relationship between geopolitical events and the broader environmental impact of human activities.

Efforts to address climate change in the aviation sector are further hindered by such airspace restrictions, necessitating a comprehensive approach that considers both geopolitical stability and environmental sustainability to mitigate the cumulative effects on carbon emissions.

Critical mineral concentration

The concentration of critical minerals poses a threat to global economies, people and national security and has profound implications for carbon emissions. Examining crucial battery materials, for example, such as lithium, cobalt and graphite, it is alarming that, according to a Kearney analysis, a single country controls at least 60% of one or more stages of global production for each of these elements. Australia, Chile and China emerge as the top three players. This level of control not only puts economic stability at risk but also raises concerns about environmental sustainability.

The US Department of Defence (DOD) has identified 37 critical minerals where more than half of global production relies on a single country, intensifying the challenges of securing stable and sustainable access to these resources. Such concentration not only threatens the resilience of supply chains to disruption but also exacerbates carbon emissions by limiting the ability to diversify and adopt more sustainable practices in the extraction and production of these vital materials.

Addressing these vulnerabilities is not only a matter of economic

prudence but a crucial step towards mitigating the environmental impact associated with the current state of supply chain concentration.

Supply chain interdependencies

The need to enhance both resilience and sustainability within supply chains presents a compelling opportunity that necessitates the involvement of governments and international cooperation. Market forces alone are insufficient; a new framework for supply chain resilience requires collaborative efforts among like-minded countries.

Geopolitical conflicts, despite their challenges, offer a unique space in which to advance these international cooperation frameworks. A strategic approach involves the expansion of global value chains, particularly in critical manufacturing sectors, through the establishment of alternative suppliers outside the region for the production of semiconductors, electronics, automobiles, batteries and electric vehicles. To mitigate disruptions, it is crucial to adjust the level of buffer inventory, stockpile critical components and enhance air cargo capacity.

A robust supply chain risk analysis framework involves a thorough assessment of the entire supply chain to identify and evaluate potential risks at every stage. This analysis typically assesses risks from geopolitical tensions, economic volatility and environmental concerns. By creating a comprehensive risk profile for the supply chain, companies accomplish a dual mission - one that prioritizes risks based on geopolitical tensions as well as addressing sustainability priorities.

At the same time, the concept of the blue economy emerges as a crucial strategy, emphasizing the sustainable use of marine resources within our oceans. This holistic approach focuses on three pivotal elements: greenhouse gas emissions, trade and economic development. By fostering such international collaboration and adopting comprehensive strategies, there's a transformative opportunity to fortify supply chains against disruptions while simultaneously advancing sustainability goals on a global scale.

Switching from chaos to harmony

In the current global landscape, with escalating conflicts in a world polarized on multiple fronts, we see how geographical tensions have unexpected effects across all development angles. Geopolitical rivalries and conflicts have inadvertently become drivers of environmental degradation as nations prioritize their strategic interests over collective efforts to combat climate change.

These geopolitical conflicts are more than a disruption, they pose a strategic challenge for global trade, impacting sustainability goals and exposing new vulnerabilities. The Red Sea disruption and Russia's war against Ukraine have revealed the fragility of the global supply chain, particularly at critical choke points, all leading to higher costs, greater operational challenges and negative impacts for the climate.

Short-term policies such as price management and re-routing address the immediate impacts but they leave gaps in addressing sustainability and supply chain resiliency. Future shifts involve moving to regional supply chain management, such as near shoring and balancing multi-modal transportation based on the type of goods and services. To manage these disruptions, businesses must focus on real-time supply chain monitoring, supply chain resiliency and a comprehensive sustainability strategy.

A silver lining is that this crisis presents a unique opportunity for leaders to swiftly adapt and reconfigure global trade and climate strategies in the face of escalating regional uncertainties. The intersection of geopolitical dynamics and environmental concerns is just another example of the need for the global community to prioritize multilateral cooperation and sustainable practices to address the pressing effects of climate change in an interconnected world.

Sustainability can be a vector of change that not only promotes an inclusive economic development but also underpins peace and stability.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

African cocoa plants run out of beans with global chocolate crisis deepening

LONDON/ACCRA

MAJOR African cocoa plants in Ivory Coast and Ghana have stopped or cut processing because they cannot afford to buy beans, four trading sources said, meaning chocolate prices around the world are likely to soar.

Chocolate-makers have already increased prices to consumers, after three years of poor cocoa harvests, with a fourth expected, in the two countries that produce nearly 60% of the world's cocoa.

Cocoa prices have more than doubled over the last year, scaling numerous all-time highs.

"We need massive demand destruction to catch up with the supply destruction," Tropical Research Services' Steve Wateridge, a world expert on cocoa, said.

Chocolate-makers cannot produce chocolate using raw cocoa and rely on processors to turn beans into butter and liquor that can be made into chocolate.

But the processors say they cannot afford to buy the beans.

State-controlled Ivorian bean processor Transcao, one of the country's nine major plants, said it had stopped buying beans because of their price.

It said it was still processing from stock, but did not say what capacity it was running at. Two industry sources said the plant was almost idle.

They asked not to be named because they were not authorised to speak publicly on the issue.

One of the two sources said more major state run plants could shut soon in top grower Ivory Coast, which produces nearly half the world's cocoa.

The same two sources said even global trader Cargill struggled to source beans for its major processing plant in Ivory Coast, halting operations for

about a week last month. Cargill did not respond to a request for comment.

In No. 2 cocoa grower Ghana, most of its eight plants, including state-owned Cocoa Processing Company (CPC), have repeatedly suspended work for weeks since the season started in October, two separate industry sources said.

CPC said it is operating at about 20 percent of capacity because of the shortage of beans.

The price rally has derailed a long-established mechanism for global cocoa trade, through which farmers sell beans to local dealers who sell them on to processing plants or global traders.

Those traders then sell beans or cocoa products - butter, powder and cocoa liquor - to global chocolate giants such as Nestle (NES.NS).

In normal times, the market is heavily regulated - traders and processors purchase beans from local dealers up to a year in advance at pre-agreed prices. Local regulators then set lower farmgate prices that farmers can charge for beans.

However, in times of shortage like this year, the system breaks down - local dealers often pay farmers a premium to the farmgate price to secure beans. The dealers then sell the beans on the spot market at higher prices instead of delivering them at pre-agreed prices.

As global traders rush to purchase those beans at any price to meet their obligations with the chocolate firms, local processors are often left short of beans.

Ivorian and Ghanaian authorities normally try to protect local plants by issuing them with cheap loans or by limiting volumes of beans that global traders can purchase.

This year, however, plants are not getting the cocoa they pre-ordered and cannot afford to buy at higher spot prices.



Cocoa farmer in Ghana

Already, chocolate-makers have raised prices. U.S. retail stores charged 11.6 percent more for chocolate products last year compared with 2022, data from market research firm Circana shows.

The International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) expects global cocoa production will fall by 10.9% to 4.45 million metric tons this season.

Grindings - a measure of demand

- will fall by 4.8% to 4.78 million as processors struggle to buy beans, and supply less butter at a higher price to chocolate-makers, which in turn raise prices. The supply-demand mismatch will leave the market with a deficit of 374,000 tons this season, up from 74,000 tons last season, according to the ICCO.

This means processors and chocolate firms will have to draw on cocoa

stocks to fully cover their needs. The ICCO expects global cocoa stocks to fall to their lowest in 45 years by the season end.

Wateridge of Tropical Research said the cocoa market could post another deficit next season based on the severity of bean disease in West Africa.

The market has not seen four successive years of deficit since the late 1960s, ICCO data shows.

LPG: Useful 'transitional' fuel for UN's clean cooking effort

By Philippe Benoit

ONE of the key efforts under the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals is to provide poor households with access to clean cooking technologies to replace, in particular, the burning of solid biomass (e.g., fuelwood and charcoal) in traditional open stoves that kills millions of women and children.

To date, one of the preferred options has involved the substitution of solid biomass with bottled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). This approach, however, can be seen to run afoul of the climate change-driven opposition to fossil fuel use generally. However, LPG for clean cooking can and should be permitted as a transitional fuel to save lives in the short-term until we can provide universal access to alternative low-emissions clean cooking systems.

Africa is disproportionately burdened by a lack of access to clean cooking technologies, with over 60 percent of its population relying on biomass. That increases to over 85 percent in rural Africa. In Asia, over 45 percent of the rural population relies on biomass for cooking.

The poorest 50 percent of the world's population (which includes those households currently relying on biomass) are responsible for a mere 8 percent of greenhouse emissions, a figure that would be marginally affected by the adoption of LPG.

Enabling women to transition quickly from traditional cookstoves to cleaner technologies would save millions of lives, especially in poorer rural areas where biomass use is concentrated.

As report after report has documented, several million women and children die each year from the adverse impact of the localized air pollution created by burning fuelwood and other solid biomass on open cookstoves (often used indoors without adequate ventilation).

Shifting away from unsustainable harvesting and use of biomass would, in addition to avoiding these negative health impacts, generate important greenhouse gas mitigation and other environmental benefits.

There are a variety of clean cooking technologies that would address this issue. One solution is replacing biomass use with stoves fueled by LPG. Other alternatives



Enabling women to transition quickly from traditional cookstoves to cleaner technologies would save millions of lives, especially in poorer rural areas where biomass use is concentrated.

include electric stoves and stoves that burn the biomass more efficiently.

Notably, electric stoves, when powered with renewable electricity, are near-zero emitting solutions. In contrast, even though LPG stoves potentially result in fewer greenhouse gas emissions than the traditional use of biomass, its promotion can be criticized as running counter to the climate change-related campaigns to eliminate all fossil fuel combustion and related emissions.

Efforts to phase out fossil fuels have gained momentum in the climate change discussions, as reflected in the discussion at COP 28 that targeted all forms of fossil fuels (i.e., coal, oil and gas), as compared to, for example, COP 26 which was focused on coal.

However, this broader and strengthened effort is occurring after many developing countries have already launched substantial clean cooking programmes premised on the use of LPG. For instance, India introduced a programme in 2013 to achieve universal access to LPG. Cameroon is executing a Masterplan to increase the share of LPG for cooking from less than 20 percent to 58 percent by 2035.

Many of these programmes attempt to target one of the problems with LPG, namely its affordability for poorer households. For example, Indonesia's Zero Kero Programme (a programme initially targeting kerosene but then extended to solid biomass users) provides a free stove and first cylinder and subsidized LPG thereafter.

India's flagship cooking ener-

gy programme, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, launched in 2016 provides a subsidy and loan for the upfront cost of adopting an LPG connection and has resulted in an uptake by over 80 million households. Many ongoing LPG programmes enjoy degrees of institutional momentum that would be difficult to replicate quickly if replaced by new efforts premised on a different choice of cooking technology.

Climate sustainability forces generally align with anti-poverty efforts such as the UN goal to achieve universal access to clean cooking, but the use of LPG presents tensions.

While shifting to LPG for cooking can generate the above-referenced health and other benefits for poor households currently relying on bi-

omass, these same households are also amongst the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change induced by fossil fuel emissions.

And in the context of the climate change campaigns to reduce emissions, it is arguably strategic to adopt straightforward and clear goals and communications, such as "phasing down/out fossil fuels", rather than a nuanced message that targets "most but not all fossil fuels."

Given this context - one in which the poor are adversely affected by biomass use but also by emissions-induced climate change - how should LPG cooking programmes be treated?

In deciding which and whose emissions to prioritize in the effort to advance global climate goals,

and specifically how to address emissions from LPG-based cooking, it is useful to place the discussion and choices in the broader emissions inequality context.

As pointed out by a recent Oxfam report on the topic, the poorest 50 percent of the world's population (which includes those households currently relying on biomass) are responsible for a mere 8 percent of greenhouse emissions, a figure that would be marginally affected by the adoption of LPG. In contrast, the wealthiest 10 percent is responsible for 50 percent, and the top 50 percent for 92 percent.

Moreover, the use of fossil fuels for cooking is something that manifests itself at all income levels. For example, the US government has just issued regulations that tighten efficiency requirements for gas stoves, thereby also, implicitly, legitimizing their continued use for years to come.

The consumers targeted by the US regulations fall within the top 10 percent richest of the world's population, while the women using unhealthy traditional cookstoves fall within the world's poorest segment.

Given the lives of poor women and children that can be saved today by LPG-based cooking, coupled with the minute per capita emissions of these consumers, LPG-based efforts should continue and potentially even be expanded under a 'transitional regime, with the focus of emissions-reduction activities in the near-term targeted at the activities of the world's richest top 10 percent responsible for 50 percent of global emissions.

Importantly, this transitional regime would include a sunset provision on the use of LPG with a clear second transition to renewables-based electric and other non-emitting cooking solutions. The primary objective is to save lives that would otherwise be lost to cooking-related pollution in the short to medium term, while also supporting net-zero emissions over the longer run.

LPG has a productive role to play in poverty-alleviation efforts and specifically the UN's goal of achieving universal access to clean cooking. However, the use of LPG for cooking is a strategy which, given its attendant carbon dioxide emissions, should be structured as transitional pending the fuller deployment of low-emissions clean cooking alternatives.

Future Horizon: Promising trajectory of the global industrial hemp market

By A Special Correspondent

THE latest Persistence Market Research report entitled Industrial Hemp Market: Global Industry Analysis 2013-2017 and Forecast 2018-2027 offers key insights on the global industrial hemp market in terms of value and volume. The global industrial hemp market is expected to grow at a healthy CAGR of 18.3 percent in terms of value over the forecast period.

On the basis of product type, the seeds segment is expected to hold a substantial revenue share of 66.7 percent for year 2017 in the global industrial hemp market with a CAGR of 17.7 percent. On the basis of application, the hemp CBD segment is expected to grow at a robust CAGR of 18.6 percent by volume with growing demand from the health and wellness sector.

The global industrial hemp market has been witnessing healthy growth, owing to the use of the product in more than 25,000 products across about nine sectors, including food and beverage, textile, paper, construction, personal care, furniture and automobile. Industrial hemp is an annual plant and almost every part of the plant, such as seed, stalk and flower, is useful in a large number of applications.

Industrial hemp is used in the processing and manufacturing of a number of products, which include insulation and construction material, paper, textile, fiberglass, nutraceutical, personal care products, bio-plastics and bio-fuel. It is largely grown for food & beverage as well as non-food based products without the use of toxic chemicals, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.

Production of industrial hemp is legal in more 30 countries around the globe. China, France and Canada are the key producers of industrial hemp whereas the U.S. is a key importer. Industrial hemp is often confused with marijuana plant and hence, is legally banned for cultivation in many countries, including most of the U.S. However, with rising awareness and increasing demand for industrial hemp from applications across various sectors, many countries are legalizing industrial hemp.

As we stand at the threshold of a new era in agriculture and industry, the industrial hemp market emerges as a beacon of promise and potential. With its versatile applications, sustainable cultivation practices, and expanding legal landscape, industrial hemp is poised to revolutionize various sectors, from textiles and construction to healthcare and environmental remediation. In this blog post, we'll explore the factors driving the promising trajectory of the industrial hemp market and the transformative impact it's set to make in the future.

Legislative developments and regulatory support

One of the primary drivers behind the growth of the industrial hemp market is the evolving legislative landscape and increasing regulatory support. In recent years, many countries have recognized the economic and environmental benefits of hemp cultivation, leading to the legalization of industrial hemp farming for commercial purposes. This shift in policy has unlocked new opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs, and investors, paving the way



for the widespread adoption of hemp-derived products across industries. Industrial hemp is a remarkably versatile crop with applications spanning a wide range of industries. In textiles, hemp fibers are prized for their strength, durability, and sustainability, making them an ideal alternative to conventional materials like cotton and polyester. In construction, hempcrete—a mixture of hemp fibers, lime, and water—offers a sustainable and energy-efficient building material with excellent thermal insulation properties. Additionally, hemp-derived products such as CBD oil and hemp-based plastics are gaining popularity in the healthcare and packaging sectors, respectively, further diversifying the market's offerings.

Diverse applications across industries

Environmental sustainability and carbon sequestration Sustainability is a driving force in today's market landscape, and industrial hemp is emerging as a key player in the quest for eco-friendly solutions. Hemp cultivation requires minimal water and pesticides compared to traditional crops, making it a more sustainable option for farmers. Moreover, hemp plants have a remarkable ability to sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As environmental concerns continue to mount, the sustainability credentials of industrial hemp are expected to drive demand and market growth.

Research and Innovation Fueling Product Development: Research and innovation are driving advancements in hemp cultivation techniques, product development, and manufacturing processes. Scientists and entrepreneurs are exploring new varieties of hemp with enhanced properties, such as higher fiber content

or increased cannabinoid concentrations. Additionally, technological innovations are improving extraction methods and refining processes, leading to higher-quality hemp-derived products with improved efficacy and consistency. These advancements in research and innovation are fueling the expansion of the industrial hemp market and unlocking new opportunities for growth and innovation.

Consumer awareness and demand for natural products

As consumers become more conscious of their health and environmental impact, there is a growing demand for natural, sustainable products derived from renewable sources like industrial hemp. From organic textiles and eco-friendly building materials to plant-based supplements and biodegradable plastics, hemp-derived products resonate with environmentally conscious consumers seeking ethical and sustainable alternatives. This increasing consumer awareness and demand are driving market growth and encouraging businesses to invest in hemp-based solutions.

Conclusion

As we look to the future, the industrial hemp market holds immense promise for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation. With supportive legislation, diverse applications across industries, environmental benefits, ongoing research and innovation, and increasing consumer demand, industrial hemp is poised to play a transformative role in shaping the future of agriculture, industry, and sustainability. By embracing the potential of industrial hemp and capitalizing on emerging opportunities, stakeholders can contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 82 -

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: 17. member of Somali people living in the Republic of Djibouti, 18. religious worship day by Christians, 21. Indian spinach, 22. In Islam it means 'snow, and gift to Allah', 25. guns, 26. a narrow band worn round the head to hold the hair in position, 27. not valid, 28. archaic term for until.

Word search puzzle grid with words hidden. Words include: LIABLE, PORCINE, STILL, CRATE, ONER, JUU, REPOLUTE, NEPALI, AEA, ONEROUS, EROTICA, ICT, PONE, OLEATE.

- ACROSS: 1. The Pearl of Africa, 7. consumes from a limited supply, 11. native of Kenya, 12. starts to form as soon as a skin is injured, 13. delay in progress, 14. organs for hearing, 15. ridges made of sands and gravels.

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words filled in: TABORA, MOAT, KILOS, K, M, ABODE, TONGA, I, L, LOT, NEEDLE, REAP, GLOBAL, A, I, NOISE, N, A, TABLELAND, DIVE, SOT, WILE, ELSE, LECH, H, SHALLOW, UTE, E, DUO, E, PEN, A, L, D, ANSWER, LASS, TRY, DENY.

RADIO One advertisement for JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Features the Radio One logo and a detailed program schedule for Monday through Sunday, listing various news bulletins, shows, and music programs at different times of the day.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

BoT actively promoting tourist hotel currency exchange option

By Carlos Banda

IN a bid to curb unauthorized currency exchanges in the country, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) is actively encouraging owners and operators of tourist-related hotels to offer foreign currency exchange services, promoting transparency and compliance.

BoT governor Emmanuel Tutubasaid this in Dar es Salaam on Thursday at a meeting between the central bank and owners & operators of 27 tourist hotels saying that amendments to the Foreign Exchange (Bureau de Change) Regulations of 2023 provides room for hotels to obtain licenses to provide foreign currency exchange services to their clients.

"You will recall that in October 2023, we amended the Foreign Exchange (Bureau de Change) Regulations to establish an official window allowing 3 to 5-star hotels to begin offering foreign exchange services," he said.

Governor Tutuba said that the decision to amend the regulations was based on research findings, which revealed that formalization of bureaus de change did not extend to hotels, thus exacerbating the black market of foreign currencies.

"The amendments to those regulations were based on re-



Bank of Tanzania governor Emmanuel Tutuba addresses hotel owners on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

search we conducted, which found that the operations of foreign exchange bureaus had not yet reached hotels. However, we discovered that many hotels were receiving clients who paid in foreign currencies, but some of those currencies were being exchanged indiscriminately," he said.

The Governor said that the initiative would enable the central bank to obtain crucial data and information relevant for stability of the fi-

ancial sector.

"As regulators of the financial sector, this step will be an opportunity for us to directly access data because hotels will be responsible through a reporting system to provide us with information about their transactions and assist us in improving the business environment in the country," he said.

Gosberth Kamugisha, the Finance and Administration Manager of Onomo Hotel, said that the

changes in the foreign currency exchange regulations presented an opportunity for increased revenue for hotels receiving tourists and bolster the country's economy.

It is well noted that the demand for foreign currency exchange services in Tanzania has witnessed a steady increase in recent years, fueled by the ongoing globalization of the economy and the expanding scope of international trade.

This trend has created a growing necessity for efficient and reliable foreign currency exchange services to cater to the needs of businesses and individuals engaging in cross-border transactions within the country.

One of significant driving forces behind the growth of foreign currency exchange services is said to be the surging number of tourists flocking to the country each year.

Renowned for its rich natural beauty and abundant wildlife, Tanzania has become a sought-after destination for travelers from all corners of the globe.

Such influx of tourists has resulted in a heightened demand for exchanging foreign currencies into Tanzanian shillings to accommodate the diverse needs of visitors exploring the country's attractions and engaging in various economic activities.

Furthermore, the rising trend of Tanzanian businesses and individuals participating in international trade has further bolstered the demand for foreign currency exchange services to facilitate seamless transactions and financial operations across borders.



US Fed chair Jerome Powell, addresses the media in Washington DC on January 31, 2024. Photo: Julia Nikhinson, AFP/Getty Images

Altering investment tactics moving beyond Fed hope on US's Wall Street scene

New York

WALL Street's anticipation of the Fed's actions has ceased, prompting investors to follow suit. It is recommended that investors shift their attention from the Federal Reserve's movements, as they are no longer driving market trends.

In the months spent waiting for an inflation comedown, and then for the central bank to take the last step cementing a soft landing with a rate cut the market has pressed on.

Thursday's latest evidence of stubborn price pressures reinforced the view that the first-rate cut won't arrive until the summer.

What investors considered March's all-but-promised interest rate cut became June's. And now, at least according to traders putting their money where their mouths are, a cut in July is almost as likely.

So far this year, economic data has vacillated between hot and cold from release to release, rendering a coherent narrative about the direction of inflation, consumer health, and GDP all but impossible. There is little to do but wait and see. And then wait and see again.

While officials are busy parsing new reams of data – often contradictory and on a lag – market players are forced to divine what comes next and to fill the information void with their own narratives.

For the central bank's critics, who are often just hungry for the market adrenaline of lower rates, a cautious approach to policy setting looks like paralysis, even though the officials are fulfilling their mandates. But an array of developments amid the rate cut wobbling highlights the limits of the Fed's influence and the market-moving power of other economic factors.

Earnings expectations have lifted tech companies skyward, even as a new paradigm of less forgiving, higher rates reshuffled the landscape.

The market clamor isn't just the wind-up sound of the AI hype machine. Another tech story that's unfolded is the move towards efficiency and a focus on profits over prospects for growth, shedding some of the market's fanciful excesses. Discipline, which may even have been learned through higher rates.

A surge beyond the "Magnificent Seven" (which is really the Magnificent Four) shows the strength of a broadening rally – with the Materials (XLB) and Financials (XLF) sectors joining the party of record highs usually reserved for the trillion-dollar elites. The recent success stories of Costco (COST) and Eli Lilly (LLY) can't be ignored either.

Of course, the recent market frenzy could be seen as a reaction to an eventual rate cut, forever priced in no matter how delayed it may be. Like the United captain saying that, sorry, there's another 30-minute delay before takeoff, waiting for just one more Fed meeting feels bearable – and keeps the hope of a cut at the top of the market's collective mind.

But other themes showcase the Fed's inability to penetrate economic problems, no matter how long a tightening cycle lasts. Mortgage rates are expected to climb down, but the lack of housing presents a long-term issue, as Fed Chair Powell told Congress last week. Waiting for the Fed may yield better rates, but they probably need to build more for better prices.

Almost no one expects a rate change on Wednesday, at the end of the Fed's policy meeting. More parsing and hedging will be on display, along with another invitation to wait. The release of new interest rate forecasts will unleash a fresh wave of speculation and a point of contrast for how much more dovish or hawkish officials have become.

But staring at dots can only reveal so much.

Agencies

RC cracks down on price gouging sugar traders



Mara RC Said Mtanda addresses the regional business council meeting in Musoma municipality, Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Sabato Kasika

MARA regional commissioner, Said Mtanda, issued a stern warning to unscrupulous traders who have been allowed to distribute sugar in the region but are engaging in price gouging by selling it above the government's recommended price.

At a crucial regional business council meeting in Musoma, Mtanda stressed the government's unwavering stance against traders who hike sugar prices or engage in hoarding tactics.

"The government will take legal action against dishonest traders who have been granted per-

mits to distribute sugar but are selling it above the government's recommended price or hoarding it," warned Mtanda.

Mtanda urged all traders authorized to distribute subsidized sugar in the region to adhere to the agreed rules and procedures set by the government, warning that those who fail to comply will face legal consequences.

"The businesses in the region should sell sugar at the government's indicative price. Furthermore, District Commissioners should continue accepting applications for permits from businesses seeking to import sugar into the region," he clarified.

Moreover, he cautioned businessmen against hiking prices of food crops during the periods when Christians and Muslims are fasting in accordance with their beliefs. He also encouraged business officers to diligently track price trends and promptly convey relevant information to leaders for timely intervention.

Gambaless Timotheo, the region's Acting Assistant Administrative Secretary for Trade and Industry, reported that the region had recently received 457 tonnes of sugar through various distribution agencies, which was then sent to Bunda and Musoma districts.

He stated that the average current price of sugar ranges between 3,600 and 4,500 shillings per kilogram, which contrasts with the government's directive to sell one kilogram for 2,800 to 3,000 shillings.

He highlighted that the regions most affected by the issue of sugar shortage and high prices include Serengeti, Musoma, and Bunda districts, while Bunda Town Council and Musoma Municipality have not experienced similar challenges.

"Some suppliers who have received subsidized sugar from the government have failed to distribute it in Mara region; their

warehouses have reported no sales of sugar since receiving the subsidized stock," he explained.

Timotheo alleged that certain prominent businessmen are engaging in fraudulent practices by selling sugar at inflated prices, contrary to what is indicated on the payment receipt. This unscrupulous behavior is forcing small businessmen to purchase the commodity at exorbitant rates.

Furthermore, a task force was formed during the meeting with the objective of reviewing and improving the regional investment guide to ensure its efficacy before embarking on a campaign to attract investments from both local and foreign investors. Moreover, the meeting delved into a variety of subjects, such as the current state of industry and commerce in the region, tactics to address counterfeit currency issues, and protocols for securely managing funds from the Central Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

Additional information shared during the meeting included updates from the National Insurance Corporation (NIC), details on warehouse receipts, and regional insights from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

Stocks steady as US inflation sinks hopes for Fed rate cuts

Washington DC

STOCKS are ending the week on a more serene note after the latest US inflation data weakened the case for imminent Federal Reserve rate cuts.

Futures on the Nasdaq 100 and S&P 500 added 0.2 percent while Treasuries steadied following a sharp selloff on Thursday's overshoot on producer price index data.

Doubts about whether policymakers can take their foot off the mon-

etary brake are creeping into otherwise bullish markets that have taken stock indexes to fresh highs. European stocks are on track for their eighth consecutive week of gains the longest winning streak since 2018 lifted by conviction that euro-area interest rates will start to fall in the coming months.

Markets are now especially vulnerable to any setback, either in optimistic economic outlooks or bets on monetary easing, according to Guy

Miller, chief market strategist at Zurich Insurance Company Ltd.

"I think we're getting to a more challenging period in markets because we've had all of the good news," Miller said. "There isn't much risk premium priced into risk assets and therefore if any of the following happen, namely if we don't have a soft landing or no landing or if we don't have a rate cut this year, that's going to become a problem for the market."

Japan's yen weakened. A rate hike has been largely priced in by markets, but a slow pace of tightening after that would reduce the yen's yield advantage over the dollar as the Fed remains cautious about lowering borrowing costs.

"The yen is struggling to trade higher, showing how a US Treasury selloff can still overcome the impact of positive monetary policy developments," according to currency strategists at ING Bank NV including

Francesco Pesole.

The Fed is expected to keep rates unchanged at the March 19-20 meeting for the fifth straight gathering, where the focus will be on the central bank's new "dot plot." The median forecast of policymakers in December showed three quarter-point rate reductions for 2024.

Copper, typically seen as a bellwether of the global economy, surged to \$9,000 a ton, as bets that a pick-up in global manufacturing

activity will push up demand for industrial commodities.

Also in commodities, oil held near a four-month high after the IEA forecast a supply deficit through 2024, changing its earlier projection of a surplus, on the premise OPEC+ maintains production cuts. Bitcoin fell Friday, retreating from its all-time peak of almost \$73,798 a day earlier.

Bloomberg

Community awareness vital for 80 clean cooking by 2030

By Correspondent James Kanoya

IMPROVING community awareness is crucial for the government to achieve its goal of reaching 80 percent clean fuels and technologies for cooking by 2030, thereby paving the way for a cleaner and healthier future and a more sustainable environment for generations to come.

This was said in Dar es Salaam, yesterday by Winfrida Robert, a clean cooking energy specialist from the Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO), who emphasized the need to increase access to clean cooking technologies.

She pointed out that more than 80 percent of women in the country use cooking energy that is neither safe nor clean, resulting in respiratory diseases or even death.

According to the Tanzania Mainland Household Budget Survey (2017/18), only 17.1 percent of the urban population and 2 percent of the rural population have access to clean fuels and cooking technologies. This underscores the urgent need to extend the availability of clean cooking solutions.

"With the support from the European Union, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has established energy efficiency laboratories at TIRDO to conduct energy auditing and efficiency aimed at ensuring the public use clean and efficiency cooking en-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan engages with clean energy stakeholders at an exhibition held in Dar es Salaam last year. File photo.

ergy," she said.

She said so far TIRDO has conducted community awareness to small entrepreneurs producing charcoal pellets in 12 regions and to local manufacturers of energy serving cookers in five regions to local.

Robert Washija, National Energy Efficiency Analyst at UNDP, said the organization has actively supported the Ministry of Energy in implementing Tanzania's 1st Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP).

He said the visionary endeavor seeks to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustain-

able, and modern energy across Tanzania.

Washija said key actions included the introduction of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for priority appliances, further enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of energy usage in the country. "Through these collaborative efforts, we aim to transform the cooking energy landscape in Tanzania, ensuring access to clean and efficient cooking solutions for all," he said.

In October last year, the government, UNDP and the EU inaugurated a new modern en-

ergy efficiency laboratory worth \$400,000 at TIRDO.

According to the Director of Human Resource, Administration and Management at the Ministry of Energy, Bahati Mtono, the laboratory would be used for practical teaching and providing energy auditing services in industries, commercial buildings, and households.

She said that the project seeks to strengthen legal, regulatory, institutional, and administrative frameworks and aid large energy consumers, general users, and skills development, particularly for women and youth.

Mtono said the laboratory will also be used for practical teaching and providing energy auditing services in industries, commercial buildings, and households.

She said the Action Plan is being implemented by the Ministry and the UNDP with support from the EU.

"The laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art energy efficiency technologies, including energy monitoring and analysis systems, energy modelling software, and energy efficiency testing equipment," she said.

US Chamber hosts Atlanta event for Africa's progress

Atlanta, Georgia

THE US Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement, will Monday next week, convene a special edition of "Advance with Africa," a national US Chamber roadshow, in Atlanta.

The Chamber's US-Africa Business Center and the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement are partnering to present this event as part of the Council's meeting to provide invaluable guidance to reinforce economic ties between the United States and Africa.

Since launching in Atlanta in September 2022, the Advance with Africa roadshow has engaged thousands of owners of small- and medium-sized businesses, particularly Black and African Diaspora-owned businesses, and increased their understanding of commercial opportunities in Africa, set to be home to 1 in 4 of the world's citizens by 2050.

Through engagements with government and business leaders, this special installment of "Advance with Africa" not only returns to where the roadshow began, but also partners with members of the President's Diaspora Advisory Council.

It was noted that the members are leaders of industry and boast decades of private sector experience investing in and doing business on the continent of Africa.



Through engagements with government and business leaders, this special installment of "Advance with Africa"

Empowering women for a safer, fairer tomorrow

By Enoch Charles

UNLOCKING the potential of women to attain financial independence is not just essential for their individual well-being, but it also serves as a catalyst for creating a more secure and fair society for everyone.

During a recent visit, officials from the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) met with a dynamic women-

led group in Majohe, Dar es Salaam, where passionate female leaders underscored the significance of empowering women financially as a powerful tool in addressing gender-based violence.

These influential leaders reiterated the critical role of women's financial empowerment in combating gender-based violence and crimes against women in the country, emphasizing that financial autonomy



is key to building a society that is free from such violence and upholding women's rights.

Encouraging the wom-

en to continue championing the cause of financial empowerment, social liberties, and equal rights, the TGNP officials high-

lighted the transformative impact of their advocacy on creating a more inclusive and just society for all.

The women involved in

diverse economic activities such as horticulture, waste recycling, and tailoring shared a common belief that failure to ad-

dress economic dependency can exacerbate issues like gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

Tabu Ally, Chairperson of the Majohe Knowledge Centre, praised TGNP and its partners for their vital role in advancing women's financial independence. She credited a horticulture project funded by the Elico Foundation for providing a steady income stream to her and fellow members.

Expressing gratitude for the partnership with the Elico Foundation, Ally emphasized how income-generating projects offer practical solutions to combat gender-based violence and break stereotypes linked to women relying on men for financial support.

Member of the Knowledge Centre, Rehema Mwateba, recognized the invaluable support of development partners in uplifting women through small-scale projects in various sectors, fostering

financial independence among women.

Emphasizing the positive ripple effects of these projects, including environmental conservation and resilience against climate change impacts, Mwateba highlighted the transformative power of economic empowerment for women.

Ally Mzava, Chairperson of Kivule street, pointed out the crucial role of local government leaders in empowering women through entrepreneurship training and capacity-building programs, equipping women-led economic groups with essential skills for success in competitive markets.

Through collaborative efforts with women-led groups and funding from diverse non-governmental organizations and development stakeholders, TGNP is instrumental in motivating and empowering women to realize their economic independence through impactful income-generating projects.

Bitcoin decline continues amid 'bubble' concerns

New York

BITCOIN extended a retreat from its latest record high amid an intensifying debate about whether the bull run in cryptocurrencies is evidence of speculative froth in global markets.

The largest digital asset dropped as much as 7.2 percent on Friday before paring some of the slide to change hands at \$67,725 as of 7:57 a.m. in New York. The token set a fresh all-time peak of almost \$73,798 a day earlier.

Both this year's advance in Bitcoin and a gauge of the top 100 tokens – comprising the likes of Ether, BNB and Solana – moderated to less than 60 percent.

Bets on looser Federal Reserve monetary policy helped

to power rallies in global stocks, bonds and crypto in the past few months, but investors are reassessing such wagers following evidence of persistent inflationary pressure in the US.

Trouble Ahead?

In a Bloomberg Television interview, Bank of America Corp. Chief Investment Strategist Michael Hartnett said markets are showing the characteristics of a bubble in the record-setting surge by the technology sector's so-called Magnificent Seven stocks and the all-time highs in crypto.

The comments feed into a live debate on Wall Street about whether many markets are vulnerable to a pullback. For Bitcoin, supporters point to about



\$12 billion of net inflows into dedicated US exchange-traded funds since their debut on Jan. 11 as a fundamental support, as well as an upcoming reduction in the token's supply growth.

Sylvia To, head of token part-

nerships and research at crypto exchange Bullish, flagged a cooling in the net ETF inflows to approximately \$133 million on Thursday. "Buyer exhaustion in the market could be a catalyst" for the Bitcoin selloff,

she said.

A report showing a jump in US producer prices stoked worries that the Fed's campaign to get inflation under control is far from over.

Bitcoin 'Undercut'

Bitcoin was "undercut by the rise in US yields and the US dollar that followed the hot producer-price inflation data," Tony Sycamore, a market analyst at IG Australia Pty, wrote in a note.

The token's stumble came alongside indications of increased circumspection in the derivatives market, which of late has been a lightning rod for bullish fervor.

Coinglass data show \$668 million worth of bullish crypto wagers were liquidated in the past 24 hours – the most in about two weeks. The funding rate or cost for positions in Bitcoin perpetual futures – which are popular with speculators as they have no set expiry – slumped, according to Crypto-

Quant figures.

"We had a wave of long liquidations which has contributed to exacerbating the selloff," said Dessimla Aubert, analyst at Kaiko. "Looking at the BTC cumulative volume delta over the past 24 hours, the selling pressure began to accumulate towards the end of Asian trading hours on Binance and Bybit before spreading to other markets."

"We would still qualify this market activity as 'consolidating in the range of all-time highs,'" said Stephane Ouellette, chief executive of FRNT Financial. "It's not unusual in crypto to see such volatility around major pivot points."

Bloomberg

New York

RICH Dad Poor Dad author Robert Kiyosaki recently sounded the alarm about a looming crisis for baby boomers' retirement savings.

In a social media post, he warned that the "biggest bubble in history will wipe out baby boomers" because they are "the first generation with flimsy 401(k)s." Kiyosaki advised his followers to "buy real assets: gold, silver, Bitcoin before the biggest bubble in history goes bust."

Kiyosaki's dire predictions about the potential collapse of the U.S. dollar and the stock market may seem extreme, but new research suggests that he is not entirely off base when it comes to the precarious state of baby boomers' retirement savings.

A recent study from the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College found that many younger baby boomers and subsequent generations who rely solely on 401(k) savings accounts risk outliving their funds. The economists compared the drawdown speeds between those with traditional pensions and those with only 401(k) accounts, which have become the norm in recent decades.

The economists compared the depletion rates of 401(k) accounts against traditional



Is Kiyosaki's prediction of a foremost bubble burst for baby boomers true?

pensions.

According to senior research economist Gal Wettstein, retirees with pensions historically have maintained or grown their nest eggs after retiring. However, this "sanguine idea from the past" doesn't apply to the 401(k) reality most face now.

The analysis revealed that 401(k) balances drain significantly faster than pensions. By ages 70 and 75, retirees with just a 401(k) had far less savings compared to their pension counterparts. As Wettstein told CNBC, "People spend a large share of what they have when they have a 401(k)."

Trending: Can you guess how many Americans successfully retire with

\$1,000,000 saved? The percentage may shock you.

This accelerated spend-down means many 401(k) investors could fully deplete their funds by age 85, despite around half likely living longer. Lacking a pension's guaranteed income, retirees must rely heavily on withdrawing from dwindling 401(k) balances to cover expenses.

Wettstein noted the key advantage of pensions was guiding sustainable spending rates by ensuring a steady payment. "A 401(k) doesn't give you that," he said. While Kiyosaki's call to abandon traditional retirement accounts and invest in alternative assets like precious metals and cryptocur-

rencies may be extreme, the study highlights the very real challenges facing baby boomers in ensuring their retirement savings last. As the first generation to rely primarily on 401(k) plans, many may find themselves in a precarious financial situation in their later years.

To avoid running out of money in retirement, it is crucial for all generations to regularly review their savings and make adjustments as needed. Consulting a qualified financial adviser can help determine whether your nest egg is enough to support your desired lifestyle throughout retirement. An adviser can provide personalized guidance on prudent withdrawal rates, investment allocations and strategies to make your savings last, such as incorporating an annuity or reverse mortgage.

Proper retirement planning is essential to avoid the grim scenario Kiyosaki warns about. With life expectancies increasing, baby boomers must ensure their 401(k)s and other savings can go the distance. While his calls to invest in nontraditional assets may be controversial, Kiyosaki's core message highlights the importance of taking your retirement security seriously.

Agencies

'Cost of living hinders youth from saving for retirement'

New York

A new report from Fidelity Investments finds that over half of Millennials and Gen Z believe they will have a harder time saving for retirement due to the higher cost of living.

Fidelity's 2024 State of Retirement Planning study found that 57 percent of Millennials and 56 percent of Gen Z believe they will have a harder time saving for retirement than their parents did due to the higher cost of living - figures that are markedly higher than the 38 percent of Gen X and 16 percent of Boomers who expressed those concerns.

Respondents across generations cited higher costs from inflation, consumer debt and the need to build emergency savings as the main barriers to reaching their retirement savings goals.

However, younger generations cited additional challenges such as dealing with student loan debt, saving for a home and a wedding, as well as childcare costs.

In light of those challenges, Americans of all generations said they wished they had started planning for retirement earlier.

The study found that on average, Gen Z respondents said they started planning for retirement at age 20 when they wished they had started at 17, while Millennials started at 27 and wished they had at 22.

Retirement savers noted that recent legislative changes have made it easier for them to save, such as the enactment of the SECURE 2.0 Act.

The law gave employers the ability to make contributions to workers' retirement accounts while they pay down student loan debt, and it also established emergency savings accounts of up to \$2,500 for non-highly compensated employees that they and their employer can contribute to until the cap is reached.

One-third of Gen Z respondents said they believe their employer could leverage the new law to help them save more by making a matching retirement contribution when they make their student loan payments.

Additionally, one-third of Gen Z and Millennials said it will help them to save more for retirement while also building up their emergency savings.

An overwhelming majority of respondents - 85 percent across all four generations included in the study - said they want to retire while they are still healthy enough to be active, targeting an average retirement age of 61-62.

However, motivating factors for retirement varied between generations, with Gen Z and Millennials saying becoming debt-free or reaching career goals are top factors, whereas Boomers said they will retire when they emotionally "feel" ready to do so.

One-in-10 Gen X respondents have not determined when they plan to retire, although they are continuing to save at Fidelity's recommended savings rate of 15 percent of their income, a figure which includes employer and employee contributions.

Fox



Generation X, caught between financial struggles of millennials and stability of baby boomers. Photo: File

Gen X is facing debt crisis: More credit card debt than savings

New York

GENERATION X, often referred to as the "Lost Generation," finds itself in a precarious financial situation, wedged between the money struggles of millennials and Gen Z on one side and the relative stability of baby boomers on the other. According to a recent Bankrate survey, 47 percent of Gen Xers (ages 44-59) have more credit card debt than emergency savings.

This statistic paints a picture of Gen X falling behind all generations, with millennials (ages 28-43) faring only slightly better at 46 percent having more debt than savings, and Gen Z (ages 18-27) at 32 percent. On the other end of the spectrum, baby boomers (ages 60-78) appear to be in a more comfortable position, with 68 percent having higher emergency savings than credit card debt - the highest percentage among all generations surveyed.

The survey data highlights the financial tightrope that Gen X is walking, sandwiched between the debt burdens of millennials and Gen Z, often referred to as the "broke" generations, and the comparatively well-prepared boomers. This Lost Generation moniker takes on new significance as Gen Xers struggle to build a financial safety net amid competing demands of supporting their children and aging parents.

Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate, points out the strain many households are facing, stating, "Financing purchases at 20 percent interest rates is a sign of the financial strain millions of households are feeling."

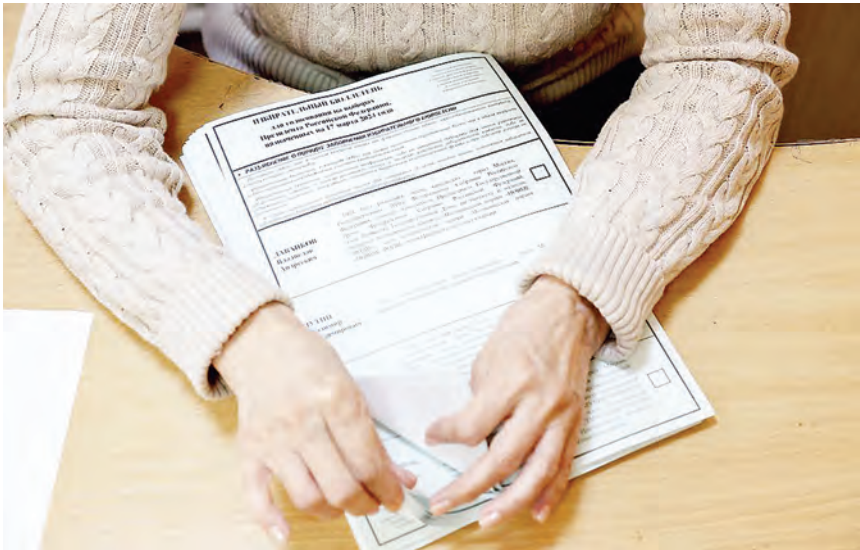
The survey also revealed that Gen Xers were the most likely generation to report having less emergency savings than they did a year ago, with 34 percent admitting to a decline in their financial cushion.

Pew Research Center's examination of Generation X highlights their significant role as a bridge between the notably different baby boomers and millennials. Despite their critical economic and social position, Gen Xers have often been overlooked in discussions about demographic, social and political changes. Their financial outlook is notably more pessimistic compared to other generations, partly because of the economic stresses associated with middle age.

Agencies



| ITV PGM SCHEDULE | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| SATURDAY 9 March | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 |
| 10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt | 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt | 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 12:50 Shamba lulu |
| 13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love | 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe | 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen | 17:00 Shambaham za Pwani |
| 18:00 Hapa na Pale | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:00 Jajina | 19:30 Habari |
| 20:00 Habari | 20:15 Igizo: Slay Queen | 21:05 Igizo: Art and Lifestyle | 22:10 ITV Top 10 |
| 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | |
| SUNDAY 10 March | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 10:05 Shika Bamba |
| 13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love | 14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe | 15:45 Igizo: Slay Queen | 16:10 Igizo: Art and Lifestyle |
| 17:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:00 Jajina | 19:30 Habari |
| 20:00 Habari | 20:15 Igizo: Slay Queen | 21:05 Igizo: Art and Lifestyle | 22:10 ITV Top 10 |
| 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | |
| TUESDAY 12 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| MONDAY 11 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| WEDNESDAY 13 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| THURSDAY 14 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| FRIDAY 15 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| SATURDAY 16 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| SUNDAY 17 March | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 10:05 Shika Bamba |
| 13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love | 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe | 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen | 17:00 Shambaham za Pwani |
| 18:00 Hapa na Pale | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:00 Jajina | 19:30 Habari |
| 20:00 Habari | 20:15 Igizo: Slay Queen | 21:05 Igizo: Art and Lifestyle | 22:10 ITV Top 10 |
| 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | |
| MONDAY 18 March | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 10:05 Shika Bamba |
| 13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love | 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe | 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen | 17:00 Shambaham za Pwani |
| 18:00 Hapa na Pale | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:00 Jajina | 19:30 Habari |
| 20:00 Habari | 20:15 Igizo: Slay Queen | 21:05 Igizo: Art and Lifestyle | 22:10 ITV Top 10 |
| 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | |
| TUESDAY 19 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| WEDNESDAY 20 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| THURSDAY 21 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| FRIDAY 22 March | 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 7:30 HABARI | 8:00 Kumekucha Michozo | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo | 9:30 Soap: Laws of love | 9:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi | 13:30 Usafi wako | 14:00 Tamasha la Mchozo |
| 15:30 Mwanga | 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo | 18:00 Hapa na Pale |
| 18:15 Mpagishi | 18:30 Malukio ya waki | 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen | 20:00 Habari |
| 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe | 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jajipoti | 21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi |
| 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | |
| SATURDAY 23 March | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 10:05 Shika Bamba |
| 13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love | 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe | 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen | 17:00 Shambaham za Pwani |
| 18:00 Hapa na Pale | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:00 Jajina | 19:30 Habari |
| 20:00 Habari | 20:15 Igizo: Slay Queen | 21:05 Igizo: Art and Lifestyle | 22:10 ITV Top 10 |
| 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | |
| SUNDAY 24 March | 5:30 Uwajia wa Mazoezi | 6:00 HABARI | 6:40 Kumekucha |
| 7:00 Habari | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 Watoto wetu | 10:05 Shika Bamba |
| 13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love | 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe | 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen | 17:00 Shambaham za Pwani |
| 18:00 Hapa na Pale | 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe | 19:00 Jajina | 19:30 Habari |
| 20:00 Habari | 20:15 Igizo: Slay Queen | 21:05 Igizo: Art and Lifestyle | 22:10 ITV Top 10 |
| 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo | 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt | 00:30 Al Jazeera | |



Presidential election begins in Russia

MOSCOW

A presidential vote has begun in Russia: over the next three days, Russians will elect their president for the next six years.

It will be the first presidential vote to employ the latest technologies, tested during earlier lower-level polls: a three-day voting period and a remote vote. For the first time, residents of Donbass and Novorossia will take part.

Polling stations have already opened their doors in Russia's Far Eastern regions, specifically in the easternmost Kamchatka and Chukotka. Vladimir Solodov, the governor of Kamchatka, became the first regional head to cast his ballot.

For candidates will compete for the top state post in the 2024 election, the eighth overall in the history of modern Russia.

They are Vladislav Davankov (nominated by the New People party), incumbent President Vladimir Putin (self-designated candidate), Leonid Slutsky of the LDPR party and Nikolay Kharitonov (the Communist Party of Russia).

At the very start of the presidential race, a total of 33 people, including nine contenders from parties and 24 independent contenders, planned to run for Russian presidency.

Only 15 of them eventually submitted the documents required to be registered as candidates. When the deadline for filing documents expired on January 1, only 11 candi-

dates remained in the race, but only four were eventually registered.

Scope of the vote

For the first time ever, the presidential election in Russia will continue for three days. According to Russian Central Election Commission Chair Ella Pamfilova, Russians liked this format, because it gives them more opportunity to vote.

Overall, more than 94,000 polling stations will be open in Russia from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time. With the exception of several locations abroad, the vote will be formally over at 9:00 p.m. on March 17, when polling stations in Russia's westernmost region of Kaliningrad will close their doors.

A total of 295 polling stations will open in 144 foreign countries and on the territory of the Baikonur space center, which Russia leases from Kazakhstan. The exact timeframe of the vote abroad will vary from country to country. Thailand will be the first country where polling stations will open on the territory of the Russian Consulate General in Phuket.

The upcoming presidential election will also be the first time that voters will have the option of casting their ballots electronically, with online voting available in 29 regions, including Moscow, comprising one-third of the country's constituent regions. Voters were able to submit applications to cast their ballots online from January 29 through March 11.

Overall, more than 4.7 million people applied to vote online. The results of the online vote will be known between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Moscow time on March 17.

Agencies

History of DMK, Congress is full of scams - PM Modi

KANNIYAKUMARI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said the DMK-Congress' INDIA bloc can never make Tamil Nadu a developed state as it has a "history of scams and corruption."

Addressing a rally in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari, the Prime Minister said that today the wave that has emerged from India's southern shore, in Kanyakumari, will reach far-off places.

"In 1991, I began 'Ekta Yatra' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. This time, I travelled from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected the people who want to divide India. I am certain that

the people of Tamil Nadu will also do the same," PM Modi said.

PM Modi further asserted that Congress and DMK only know how to misbehave with women and slammed DMK for "doing politics in the name of women".

"Everyone remembers what the DMK leaders did to Jayalalithaa ji. Their attitude towards women has still remained the same. Crimes against women have increased in Tamil Nadu. When we brought the reservation bill for women in Parliament, neither Congress nor DMK supported it. DMK and Congress are both anti-women," he said.

ANI

Abbas tasks Mohammad Mustafa to form new Palestinian govt

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday tasked Mohammad Mustafa to form the 19th government, the official news agency Wafa reported.

Mustafa is the head of the Palestine Investment Fund and a senior economic advisor to Abbas, according to the report.

His appointment comes after the Palestinian government, led by former Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayeh, resigned



more than two weeks ago in light of challenging circumstances amid the developments in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

Also, it coincided with mounting pressure on Abbas to reform the Palestinian Authority and initiate the establishment of a political framework capable of governing a future Palestinian state in the aftermath of the Gaza conflict.

A Palestinian source, who preferred not to mention his name, said Mustafa would work to form a technocratic government of experts, with one of its tasks being the reconstruction of post-conflict Gaza.

Xinhua

Hamas presents detailed ceasefire proposal to mediators

DUBAI

HAMAS has presented a Gaza ceasefire proposal to mediators and the US that includes the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for freedom for Palestinian prisoners, 100 of whom are serving life sentences, according to a proposal seen by Reuters.

Hamas said the initial release of Israelis would include women, children, elderly and ill hostages in return for the release of 700-1,000 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, according to the proposal. The release of Israeli "female recruits" is included.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Thursday a new Gaza truce proposal presented by Hamas to mediators was still based on "unrealistic demands".

His office said an update on the issue would be handed to the war cabinet and extended security cabinet on Friday.

Egypt and Qatar have been trying to narrow differences between Israel and Hamas over what a ceasefire should look like as a deepening humanitarian crisis has one quarter of the population in the battered Gaza Strip facing famine.

Qatari officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Egypt is seeking to reach a ceasefire in Gaza, ramp up aid deliveries to the Strip and allow for displaced Palestinians in the south and center of the enclave to move to the north, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said on Friday.

"We are talking about reaching a ceasefire in Gaza, meaning a truce, providing the biggest quantity of aid," he told Egypt's police academy.

Sisi also warned against the dangers of an Israeli incursion into Rafah, on the border with Egypt.

Possible assault on Rafah

Five months into the



A displaced Palestinian man along with his belongings sits on a donkey cart amid the rubble of houses destroyed by Israeli bombardment in Hamad area, west of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday. AFP

war, Netanyahu's office said in February it had ordered the military to develop a plan to evacuate Rafah and destroy four Hamas battalions it says are deployed there.

A possible assault on Rafah, where most of the displaced have sought shelter, prompted international concern for its dire consequences.

Hamas said ceasefire negotiations had faltered over the past few weeks due to Netanyahu's rejection of its demands, which include a permanent ceasefire, Israeli withdrawal from the Strip, the return of the displaced in the south of the enclave to the center and the north, and stepping up aid without restrictions.

In February, Hamas received a draft proposal from Gaza truce talks in Paris that included a 40-day pause in all military operations and the exchange of Palestinian prisoners for Israeli hostages at a ratio of 10 to one - a similar ratio to the new ceasefire proposal.

Release of all detainees

Israel had rejected in February a draft proposal for a truce from Hamas, citing its long-held goal of not ending the war until it has destroyed the Islamist group that has run Gaza since 2006. Hamas insists an agreement should end the war.

According to the latest proposal, Hamas said a date for a permanent ceasefire would be agreed upon after the initial exchange of hostages and prisoners, as well as a deadline for an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

The group said all detainees

from both sides would be released in a second stage of the plan.

The war was triggered by a Hamas-led attack on southern Israeli towns on Oct 7 in which 1,200 people were killed and 253 taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then, Israel's air, sea and ground assault on Gaza has killed more than 31,000 people and wounded over 71,500, according to Gaza health authorities.

The conflict has spread to other parts of the already volatile Middle East. Lebanon's Hezbollah has frequently exchanged fire with Israel along the border.

Armed groups in Iraq have attacked US forces in the country and Yemen's Houthis have attacked ships in and around the Red Sea to show their solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza war.

Late on Thursday, Hamas said it presented to mediators a comprehensive vision of a truce based on stopping what it calls Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, providing relief and aid, the return of displaced Gazans to their homes and the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

With the war now in its sixth month, the UN has warned that at least 576,000 people in Gaza are on the brink of famine and global pressure has been growing on Israel to allow more access for aid.



Russia supports UN role, rejects US rules on world platforms, says senior diplomat

VIENNA

RUSSIA pays great attention to activities on international platforms provided the UN retains its central role, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin told Russian media on the sidelines of the 67th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

"At this meeting of the commission at the high-level segment of the 67th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs we are represented by an inter-ministerial delegation.

This confirms that we are seriously minded about activities on this track. We are adamant that it is necessary and possible to work on international platforms, provided that the UN retains the central role with its principles, which are enshrined in the UN Charter and which, of course, have nothing to do with the 'rules' that the Western countries, primarily the United States and their satellites, are trying to impose on us, that is, by the rules that they themselves establish and that they themselves change arbitrarily," Vershinin said.

He remarked that the current high-level segment "does not contain breakthrough solutions," but it is very important to properly consolidate the understanding of the international community's actions in the fight against drugs.

"This is a viable and important platform, and we seek to create a common front and harmonize efforts. This platform is not simple for us, but it is crucial.

I draw attention to the fact that the number of like-minded countries, that is, countries that think, want and move roughly in the same direction that we want to move in, is increasing. Today, there are over 40 countries that share our views.

This is good, we will continue to work on it, persuading everyone of the need to work in this way," Vershinin said.

He also stated that a "group of like-minded associates" is preparing a final document in the form of a statement by several dozen countries "on cardinal issues related to the fight against drugs."



This is a viable and important platform, and we seek to create a common front and harmonize efforts

Chinese 'internet-famous cities' find key to development

THIS past winter, Harbin in northeast China's Heilongjiang province just went viral, gaining huge fame on the internet as a tourism hot spot.

According to statistics released by a big data research institute under Chinese technology company Sina, information about Harbin's tourism began surging in late December last year. The total online information exceeded 10 million pieces, a quadruple increase year-on-year.

Videos showcasing Harbin's features spammed social media pages. They showed Oregon people walking on the street, leading their reindeer and wearing traditional hats made of Siberian roe deer fur, plump arctic foxes curling docilely in the arms of tourists, with their eyes squinted to slits, as well as exquisite frozen pear slices and an artificial moon hanging above the

St. Sophia Cathedral...

Driven by the social media buzz, Harbin's offline tourism was equally prospering. According to big data analysis by Harbin's culture and tourism bureau, during the three-day New Year holiday, the city welcomed a total of over 3 million visits, generating 5.9 billion yuan (\$821.11 million) in tourism revenue, 4.4 times and 7.9 times the figures from the same period last year, respectively. During the Spring Festival period, Harbin received more than 10 million visits, with tourism revenue reaching 16.42 billion yuan, both all-time highs for the city.

Harbin's popularity reminds people of other Chinese cities that have previously captured internet stardom: Chongqing, Changsha in Hunan, Zibo in

Shandong, Litang in Sichuan...

Despite their distinct characteristics and varied styles, these cities have all drawn massive crowds of tourists with their diverse urban landscapes.

According to Wang Xin, associate dean of the National Institute of Advertising at the Communication University of China, cities can develop their iconic cultural concepts by uncovering and amplifying distinctive spatial and cultural activities based on existing perceptions of urban culture held by residents and visitors. These cultural concepts then spread widely through social media, attracting attention from people who are not present and giving first-hand experiences to those on site.

For instance, those who are

not in Harbin can watch the city's attractions online, and tourists to the city can share their first-hand experiences by posting photos on social media and more. This process exponentially attracts more tourists to spontaneously participate in the promotion of "internet-famous cities."

How do "internet-famous cities" attract even more tourists? They have mastered the art.

Quanzhou in southeast China's Fujian province, the starting point of the ancient Maritime Silk Road, has leveraged its rich resources of intangible cultural heritage to launch an experiential activity that encourages visitors to not only appreciate the local marionette show but also try manipulating the marionettes

themselves.

Additionally, the city has opened night markets and increased evening performances by local troupes, expanding nighttime tourism options for visitors.

Dali in southwest China's Yunnan province, a renowned tourism destination now gaining fame on the internet, is currently cultivating an urban culture centered around coffee. Nowadays, visitors to Dali can not only admire the scenic Cangshan Mountain and Erhai Lake, but also savor different varieties of coffee to feel the charm of the "City of Coffee."

For those cities that rose to internet fame through TV dramas and films, relevant governments have adopted creative approaches, blending the features of the cities with

filming locations.

For instance, the web series "The Bad Kids" was filmed in the Chikan Old Street in Zhanjiang, Guangdong province. After the hit went sensational, the local government invited history and culture experts to train a volunteer service team, so that the team could share the rich history and cultural heritage of the old street with visitors.

Regardless of what propelled a city to internet stardom, it's evident that "internet-famous cities" are all attempting to integrate culture and tourism. This allows tourists to take away more than just "buzzwords" and "catchphrases," leaving them with deeper, more lasting memories.

How to convert online data

traffic into long-term popularity and sustained development is a question every "internet-famous city" grapples with. Experts suggest that upholding a visitor-centric philosophy is paramount for a city to thrive in tourism. Providing comprehensive and thoughtful public services is crucial for retaining visitors.

"Service awareness is cultivated over the long term," said Liu Simin, vice president of the tourism branch of the China Society for Futures Studies. While making short-term, intensive efforts to improve services for visitors can provide temporary relief during peak tourist seasons, an "internet-famous city" can only sustain long-term popularity by establishing an overall visitor-friendly environment and continually enhancing supporting amenities and public services. *People's Daily*

China advocates world without gender discrimination at UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE lead delegate of the Chinese delegation attending the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) has called for efforts to create a world free from discrimination against women.

"China, along with the international community, will push forward the Global Development Initiative to be more in-depth and practical, building a world free of discrimination against women and creating a new era of global development," Huang Xiaowei, Minister and Deputy Head of the National Working Committee on Children and Women of the State Council, told the CSW68, which kicked off on Monday.

In her speeches delivered at the huge gathering over the past few days, Huang said that China incorporates gender equality as a basic state policy into "the governing program of the Party," committed to promoting the synchronized development of women with the economy and society, empowering women to have confidence and independence.

Huang stated that China insists on putting gender at the center, winning the largest-scale battle against poverty in human history, contributing over



Huang Xiaowei (front, second from right), minister and deputy head of the National Working Committee on Children and Women of the State Council, speaks at a security council meeting on Wednesday under the theme of "promoting conflict prevention - empowering all actors including women and youth" at the United Nations in New York on Wednesday. (MINLU ZHANG / CHINA DAILY)

70 percent to global poverty reduction, with more than 44 million rural women lifted out of absolute poverty.

"China is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other countries, increase investment in women in the field of sustainable development, continue to promote women's poverty reduction, encourage women's participation in green transformation, and further implement gender equality and women's empowerment," Huang said.

She stressed that China has supported ca-

capacity building for women in over 100 developing countries and will continue to work with countries worldwide to actively develop health education, digital education, and science education for women, helping them grow and develop better in enjoying equal quality education.

At the China-EU side event on "Financial Inclusion for Gender Equality," which was held on Wednesday, Huang shared the significant opportunities brought to women's development by China's inclusive finance

strategy.

Through stories of "small changes" in women's lives, such as "the first time having the priority to get a loan," "the first time having their own seal and bank card," and "the first time buying lipstick with their own earned money," she showcased the "big revolution" in realizing women's economic empowerment and equal participation of men and women.

During the CSW68, the delegation also spoke on topics such as supporting economic empowerment and capacity building for women and youth in developing countries, including conflict areas, and held several bilateral meetings with the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Executive Director of UN Women Sima Sami Bahous and senior officials from various countries.

Over the past days, the delegation participated in various multilateral activities, including a general debate, a ministerial roundtable, the high-level public debate of the Security Council, and thematic side events.

CSW68, the UN's largest annual event dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, takes place from March 11 to 22, at the UN headquarters in New York, under the theme "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective."



Medvedev slams 'brain-dead' Zelensky formula, proposes abolishing Ukraine

MOSCOW

DEPUTY Chairman of Russia's Security Council Dmitry Medvedev sees Kiev's much-hyped "peace formula" as unviable, proposing a drastically different way out. He uploaded his seven-point counter-plan to his Telegram channel.

Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's "peace formula" calls for moving Russian troops back to the 1991 borders of what used to be the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Also, Moscow would be obliged to pay reparations to Kiev. While Western countries have furnished wholesale support for this initiative, Medvedev argues that the conflict in Ukraine can be brought to a halt only "on the basis of recognizing realities." Therefore, he argues that Kiev's "peace formula" is "brain-dead."

"The only way out is to construct our own, Russian formula - a peaceful and quite realistic one. One that is humane for all," he remarked.

Russia's demands, according to Medvedev, might include the "complete and unconditional surrender of the former 'Ukraine' as represented by the neo-Nazi clique in Kiev," "recognition by a provisional parliament of the former 'Ukraine' that its entire territory is the territory of Russia," as well as "the UN recognizing that Ukraine has lost its 'international legal authority'."

In conclusion, Medvedev suggested forming temporary governing bodies that would decide "on the payment of all due compensation to Russia," and then recognize that the entire territory of Ukraine is "a territory of the Russian Federation." Next, Medvedev says, there will follow the adoption of a legal act "on the reunification of the territories of 'Ukraine' with Russia" recognized by the UN.

"That's Russia's soft peace formula," Medvedev said. "I reckon that a benevolent consensus based on this type of arrangement can be sought, counting on the mutual understanding of our close friends - our Western partners."

Schumer calls for fresh elections in Israel while delivering criticism of Netanyahu

WASHINGTON

US Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer has called for new elections in Israel while delivering sharp criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government during a speech on the Senate floor regarding the Israel-Hamas war, CNN reported.

Schumer, the highest-ranking Jewish elected official in America, expressed his perspective, stating, "As a lifelong supporter of Israel, it has become evident to me: The Netanyahu coalition no longer aligns with Israel's needs post-October 7. The global landscape has drastically changed since then, and the Israeli populace is currently hindered by a governing vision that remains entrenched in the past."

Responding to Schumer's remarks, Netanyahu's Likud party issued a statement, asserting that Schumer should "respect Israel's elected government and refrain from undermining it."

The statement underscored Israel's status as an independent democracy and underscored the public's support for a decisive victory over Hamas while opposing the return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza.

In his speech on the Senate floor, US Senate majority leader emphasized the necessity for re-evaluation.

"Five months into this conflict, it is apparent that Israelis must reassess their trajectory and question if a change in direction is imperative.

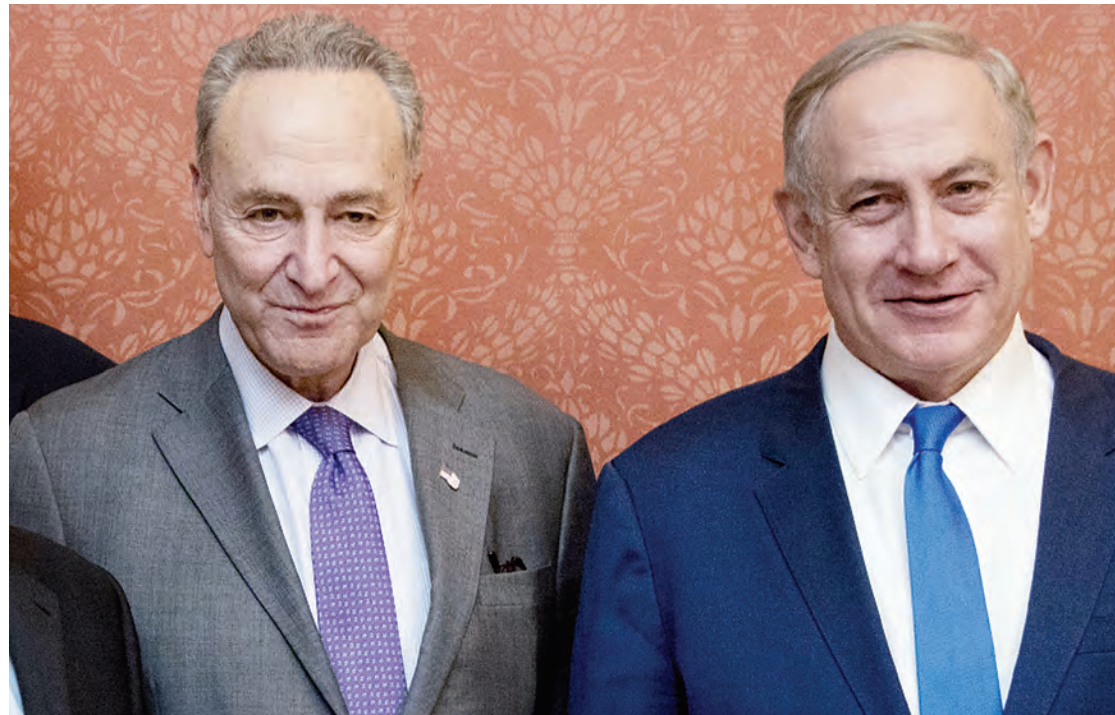
At this pivotal moment, I advocate for new elections as the sole means to facilitate a robust and transparent decision-making process regarding Israel's future, especially given the widespread disillusionment among Israelis regarding the government's vision and direction," CNN cited Schumer as saying.

The dire humanitarian situation affecting Palestinian civilians in Gaza due to the ongoing conflict with Hamas has intensified pressure on Democratic officials, including President Joe Biden, to adopt a tougher stance on Israel.

Congressional aid to Israel has faced delays following the Senate's passage of a package including aid for Israel and Ukraine, which has yet to be considered in the House.

Schumer, highlighting his role as the first Jewish Senate majority leader, condemned the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7 and affirmed his commitment to supporting the Biden administration's efforts in negotiating the release of hostages, according to CNN.

Expressing anguish over civilian casualties in Gaza, Schumer stated, "My heart also breaks at the loss of so many civilian lives in Gaza. I am



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R), poses for a picture with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Feb. 15, 2017. File photo

anguished by the Israeli military campaign resulting in the deaths of numerous innocent Palestinians. I know my fellow Jewish Americans share this anguish when witnessing the images of deceased and starving children and devastated homes."

Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell responded critically to Schumer's speech, arguing on the Senate floor, "Israel is not beholden

to America; its leaders are elected by its citizens alone. It is unacceptable for Americans to call for the removal of a democratically elected leader of Israel, particularly given our concerns about foreign interference in our own democracy."

House Speaker Mike Johnson deemed Schumer's call for new Israeli elections "highly inappropriate" and asserted the importance of standing with Israel during its

existential battle. Johnson also mentioned the House Republican leadership's consideration of a standalone Israel bill following Schumer's remarks.

Schumer concluded his speech expressing confidence in the Israeli public's recognition of the need for change and advocating for new elections once the conflict subsides to allow Israelis to shape their post-war future, CNN reported. **ANI**

CIA operations show US harmful interference in China's internal affairs 'plainly evident' - scholar

WASHINGTON

RENOWNED U.S. economist Jeffrey Sachs told Xinhua Thursday that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been trying to undermine China's stability for years.

He made the remarks commenting on the latest report that the

CIA had launched a clandestine campaign on Chinese social media aimed at turning public opinion in China against its government.

During the Trump administration, the CIA created a small team of operatives who used bogus Internet identities to spread negative narratives about the Chinese government and slammed the Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI), which provides financing for infrastructure projects in the developing world, as corrupt and wasteful, Reuters quoted former U.S. officials with direct knowledge of the highly classified operation as saying.

"The fact that the CIA was spreading negative propaganda

about the BRI is notable for me, because I have been saying for years that the U.S. badmouthing of the BRI is simply propaganda, not reality.

Now we see that point explicitly acknowledged," said Sachs, an economics professor and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University.

"The fact that the CIA was trying to undermine China's stability is not really news, as American harmful interference in China's internal affairs is plainly evident," he said.

Sachs, also a senior United Nations advisor, noted that at the core of the UN Charter is the doctrine of non-interference, which requires that UN member states are not to

interfere in the internal affairs of other UN member states.

"Unfortunately, the U.S. government interferes pervasively in the internal affairs of other states, in part through covert CIA operations such as those described in today's new story. Such illegal actions should stop," Sachs said.

Xinhua

Thriving logistics reflect China's economic vitality

If there were no fast logistics or delivery couriers, consumption in mountainous areas would be quite different.

Li Xingying's home is located deep in the Gaoligong Mountains in southwest China's Yunnan province.

Many years ago, she went to high school in another place in Nujiang Lisu autonomous prefecture. When her parents wanted to send her some local specialties from home, they had to ride a motorcycle for 20 kilometers on a mountain road to the post office, which took at least an hour. It would take at least two days, even if they were in the same prefecture, before Li could receive the specialties.

Now, every village in Yunnan has access to postal services, and villagers can enjoy courier services at their doorsteps. Recently, Li bought Spring Festival's goods for her family, and it took less than four days for these packages to reach her hometown after traveling over 2,000 kilometers from east China's

Zhejiang province.

"It's so convenient now. We can just order whatever we want on our phones and pick up the items with just a few steps outside," said Li's mother.

According to data released by the State Post Bureau, express courier firms nationwide handled 132.07 billion parcels in 2023, up 19.4 percent compared to the previous year. This figure has ranked first in the world for 10 consecutive years.

These parcels, connecting thousands of households and various industries, vividly depicted the vibrancy of China.

Smooth logistics is driving development and improving living standards while meeting the needs of the people for a better life. Today, it takes as short as 48 hours for imported Boston lobster to be put on the Chinese table from the moment when they are caught, and "next-day" delivery is so quick that customers



A woman works on an intelligent sorting line in a logistics park in Lanshan county, Yongzhou, central China's Hunan province. (People's Daily Online/Peng Hua)

don't even have time to change their delivery address.

With the introduction of cold-chain logistics, various fruits, vegetables, and seafood can be kept fresh throughout the entire transportation process.

The logistics industry, con-

necting production and consumption, vitalizes the commodity market and fosters innovation. Embracing the dual opportunities of consumption and industrial upgrades, a secure and efficient logistics network that connects domestic

and international markets is rapidly taking shape.

Efficiency in circulation and production are equally crucial for improving the overall operational efficiency of the national economy.

Over a decade ago, "logistics

overload" was a buzzword on the internet, as cross-border parcels were difficult to deliver on time. Slow speed and high costs became bottlenecks for the development of the industry.

Problems give rise to changes. The introduction of electronic waybills initiated automated sorting, thus establishing intelligent logistics systems. The continuous improvement of urban and rural transportation infrastructure, with roads reaching every village, has made logistics smoother. China's internet penetration continues to increase, leading to a more complete and diverse logistics ecosystem.

Thanks to economic development and social progress, the logistics industry has benefited from the dividends of informatization and digitization. It has made a qualitative leap in terms of hardware facilities, software technology, and operational methods, demonstrating re-

markable "Chinese speed" and impressive "Chinese efficiency."

The modern circulation system is a strong support for building a new development pattern. Every change in transportation tools and increase in business volume in the logistics industry, from manual handling to intelligent sorting, and from bulk freight to the opening of dedicated lines and air transportation, has greatly promoted the reshaping of the economic landscape.

Today, China's logistics industry has achieved a remarkable leap from handling 10 billion parcels each year to 10 billion parcels each month.

The super-large market of China provides vast space and opportunities for the development of the logistics industry. The thriving and active logistics industry also plays a crucial role in enhancing the reliability of domestic circulation, while elevating the quality and level of international circulation.

People's Daily

CECAFA reveal dates for Senior Challenge Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) has revealed the actual dates for the return of the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup, which will officially take place in Zanzibar from June 29 to July 14.

The tournament's return was announced during the CECAFA General Assembly in Mombasa, Kenya on February 23, was last held four years ago - in 2019, when hosts Uganda beat Eritrea to clinch the top honour.

Speaking about the dates, CECAFA Executive Director Auka Gecheo said: "After consultations with our sponsors Azam TV, we have decided that June 29 to July 14 will be the best time to have the CECAFA Senior Chal-



CECAFA president, Wallace Karia.

lenge Cup."

Gecheo moreover made it clear that CECAFA was thinking of inviting guest teams from other zones to spice up the competition, which will also help national teams prepare for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2024 CHAN qual-

ifiers. He also called upon all Member Associations that will send teams to each contribute US\$20,000 (Ksh. 2,749,600) that would be used by the hosts to cater for the tournament.

Speaking about the return of the competi-

tion - initially proposed in a February 22 meeting - CECAFA vice president Isayas Jira revealed the development in the General Assembly last month.

"We brought back the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup because of marketing issues and appointed six members to make changes for our tournaments," the leader said.

Zanzibar, apart from hosting the June event, will hold the Africa School Football Championships Zonal Qualifiers from December 4-7 2024.

Full list of CECAFA tournaments in the 2024 calendar:

CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup (Zanzibar), June 29 to July 14

CAF Women's Champions League Zonal Qualifiers (Ethiopia), August 17 to Sept 1

AFCON U-20 Boys Zonal qualifiers (Tanzania), October 5-19

Africa Schools Football Championship Zonal qualifiers (Zanzibar), December 4-7

CECAFA U-20 Women's Championship (Ethiopia), November

AFCON U-17 Boys Zonal qualifiers (Uganda), December 14-19

In another development, CECAFA president Wallace Karia has said he would not seek re-election in the 2027 CECAFA election as this term is his last as he will serve an eight-year run.

Karia was elected in 2019 for the first term and is now on his second term as he was elected unopposed at the CECAFA annual congress in Kampala, replacing Sudanese Mutassim Gafar.

Mexime aims to sharpen Ihefu SC's attacking line

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER experiencing back-to-back defeats in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League, Ihefu SC head coach Meck Mexime has asserted work needs to be done in sharpening his team's attacking line ahead of the remaining domestic fixtures.

Ihefu SC lost 1-0 to Coastal Union on Thursday night - two days after conceding five goals against Yanga in the domestic top-flight fixture which took place early this week.

The squad, lately relocated to Singida, has posted one win in the previous five games before losing back-to-back games without scoring a goal.

With Ihefu SC's next league match slated after the FIFA international break, Mexime noted he aims to sharpen his attacking players to ensure they start picking good results.

The tactician revealed: "We were not lucky in our two previous games, but it all comes with our finishing in front of the goal, we created several chances, Coastal Union had few chances and the clear one was the penalty incident, we played well. I congratulate my players on this."

"We had three tough games - including two away fixtures - after the international break we will take on Simba SC, which is a very tough match for our side, once we return after the international break we will have a good account of ourselves," Mexime said.

Ihefu SC has failed to have consistency in their league games, a setback Mexime addressed.

They currently positioned 10th in the league log with 23 points after 21 games, cruising to victory in six, drawing five, and conceding 10 losses.

Coastal Union head coach David Ouma made massive remarks on his outfit's attacking line after applying



Ihefu SC head coach Mecky Mexime.

pressure throughout the game, especially in the first half, to counter Ihefu SC's threat.

The Kenyan tactician noted: "We knew they were coming from a five-game losing streak, they were eager to make amends but we aimed at pressuring and pressing in their box to score a goal first and have control of the game, something that we succeeded."

"We have nine games left, Ihefu SC game is done, we are fourth in the league and all games have to be like a final to us," Ouma said.

The gaffer revealed: "We need to make sure we have a strong structure that will suit us for the remainder of the league to secure a top-four finish."

Coastal Union is currently positioned fourth in the league log with 30 points from 20 ties, winning eight, drawing six, and losing seven.

Coast Region to host U-15 Baseball 5 Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE maiden U-15 Baseball 5 Championships will be held in Kibaha, Coast Region at the end of this month.

Abubakary Nachiwa, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Tanzania National Baseball League (TNBL), said the championships will be held at Maili Moja in the district from March 28-29, bringing together six

teams.

He said the six teams come from all six zones of the country, namely Zanzibar, Lake Zone, Southern Highland Zone, Coast Zone, Central Zone, and Southern Zone.

The CEO thanked sponsors of the championships, the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), and the World Baseball and Softball Confederation (WBSC).

"This is the first time that the country is host-

ing the Under 15 Baseball 5 Championships, the aim is to have many young players playing baseball," Nachiwa said.

"We are happy that the response has been good and we will have teams from all parts of the country, we also thank our sponsors TOC and WBSC for their generous support which will take the game of baseball to greater heights in the country," he revealed.

Meanwhile, the CEO

said Tanzania finished fourth in the African WBC Baseball 5 World Cup Qualifiers that took place in Cape Verde early this year.

According to the leader, the country has applied for the wild card to battle it out in the coming World Cup slated for October in China.

He expressed his confidence that the country's application will be accepted.

Tanzania was placed in

Group A of the qualifiers alongside Tunisia, South Africa, and the host Cape Verde.

Players making Tanzania's side are Sindani Katanga, Ali Mohammed Ali, Abdulmouminimin Ally, Brown Manyama, Enerster Petro, Frida Msaki, Mwajuma Uledi, and Neema Elias.

They were led by coach Annuar Saidi and team manager Alpherio Nchimbi.



The 2022 Miss Tanzania, Halima Kopwe, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam mid this week about the Miss World pageant which took place in India recently. Halima finished in the top 40 in the pageant. She has been flanked by (R) Director of Arts Promotion and Development, Edward Busanga, and Acting Chairperson of the Miss Tanzania committee, Halima Rajab. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Switzerland celebrates French Language Day

By Guardian Correspondent

SWITZERLAND'S Ambassador to Tanzania Didier Chassot has stated it is good for people in Africa, America, and Europe to respect native languages to show the diversity of the continents' cultures as well as what they have in common.

The ambassador issued the statement when he graced the celebration of the French Language Day at his residence in Dar es Salaam recently.

The ceremony was attended by envoys from Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, France, Maroc, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles and Vietnam embassies.

"More than 321 million people speak French worldwide, which makes it

the fifth most spoken language in the world and the only language spoken on five continents," Chassot disclosed.

"It is important to consider that almost 60% of those who speak French are in the African continent, by 2060, more than 700 million people will be living in French-speaking countries, of which 75% will come from the African continent," the Ambassador said.

He said that French is used as a mother tongue in Switzerland, adding that a quarter of the country's inhabitants use the language.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Gerson Msigwa praised France's Embassy in Tanzania for respecting the French language, pointing out that his country will help to develop it.

Mokwena's deep dive into Yanga's tactics for CAF CL quarterfinals

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

MAMELODI Sundowns' head coach, Rhulani Mokwena, is leaving no stone unturned in his squad's preparation for the CAF Champions League quarterfinal stage, particularly in analyzing their opponents, Young Africans SC.

Ahead of the international break, Mokwena is set to intensify his scrutiny of the playing style and tactics used by the Tanzanian side, also known as Yanga.

With the upcoming friendly matches and international competitions, which typically result in a pause in domestic leagues worldwide, Mokwena sees this as a prime opportunity to delve deeper into understanding Yan-

ga's strengths and weaknesses.

Despite having previously monitored potential adversaries, Mokwena acknowledges the importance of a more focused analysis, especially considering the high stakes of the CAF Champions League quarterfinals.

Mokwena emphasized his respect for Yanga, citing their unity and effective leadership under head coach Miguel Gamondi.

Gamondi's impressive coaching pedigree, highlighted by six consecutive titles in the South African Premier League, adds another layer of significance to Mokwena's scouting efforts.

The Argentine gaffer said: "I plan to dedicate more time to observing Yanga. While I've kept tabs on their matches in the past,

I aim to see their gameplay more closely this time around."

"Fortunately, the forthcoming FIFA international calendar break will afford me the necessary time and space to do so," Mokwena stated.

Mokwena's meticulous approach underscores the competitive nature of African football and the importance of thorough preparation at the highest level of competition.

For Mamelodi Sundowns, a club with aspirations of continental glory, every detail matters in their quest for success.

Beyond the immediate focus on the CAF Champions League, Mamelodi Sundowns' recent triumph in the African Football League serves as a testament to their cali-

ber as a top-tier African club.

The victory over Wydad Casablanca in the final earlier this year showcased their resilience and determination on the continental stage.

As Mokwena and his coaching staff gear up for the upcoming quarterfinal challenges, they are acutely aware of the significance of scouting and strategic planning in navigating the complexities of knockout football.

In a tournament as prestigious as the CAF Champions League, where the margin for error is slim, thorough preparation can make all the difference.

In this 2023/24 CAF Champions League season, Yanga clinched second place in Group D, securing their spot in the quarterfinals

after amassing a total of eight points. The group standings were led by Al Ahly, followed by Yanga, with CR Belouizdad sitting third and Medeama SC ending fourth.

Throughout the Group Stage, Yanga competed in six matches, winning two, drawing two, and losing two, showcasing their resilience and competitive spirit on the continental stage.

Mamelodi Sundowns concluded the Group Stage of this season's CAF Champions League as the top team in Group A, securing 13 points from six matches. They clinched victory in four games, drew once, and suffered a single defeat.

Finishing atop Group A, Mamelodi Sundowns outperformed TP Mazembe FC, who secured the

second position with 10 points.

Following them was FC Nouadhibou in third place, while Pyramids FC ended their campaign at the bottom of the group standings.

The other fixtures for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals include matchups between Simba SC vs Al Ahly SC, TP Mazembe vs Petro Atletico, as well as Esperance vs ASEC Mimosas.

These eagerly awaited first-leg encounters are set to take place between March 29-31, promising thrilling displays of skill and determination on the field.

Subsequently, the second leg games are scheduled for April 5-6, adding to the excitement of the knockout stage of the competition.

Brazil's Vinicius uses football to stimulate young Brazilian minds

RIO DE JANEIRO

AT a primary school in football-mad Brazil, pupils are spurred to academic greatness in classrooms resembling soccer pitches -- with a virtual avatar inspired by star forward Vinicius Junior cheering on every correct answer.

Perched on football-patterned cushions on classroom floors of artificial grass, they learn on tablets and smartphones using an app created by the Vini Jr Institute, started by the Real Madrid athlete to improve public education in disadvantaged communities.

"I learn better when I use the app, it's easier, it looks like a game," 11-year-old Ana Clara da Silva told AFP in Sao Goncalo, Vinicius's birthplace on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro.

Da Silva attends the Visconde de Sepetiba municipal school, one of ten in four Brazilian states to have received educational aid from the institute.

Some 4,500 students and 500 teachers have benefited from the project, launched in 2021. By the end of this year, it hopes to have reached 30 schools.

With no intention to replace human teachers, the app was designed as an aid.

Each pupil has a personal account, where their progress is logged as they answer questions presented in a playful, football-inspired way on subjects including mathematics, Portuguese or science.

In typical gaming format, each school year is presented as a "season" and each subject as a "match," while the avatar "Vinizinho Jr" celebrates each correct answer as if it were a goal.

- "The power of football" -

"We use the power of football, its playful character" to inspire the kids to learn, the Vini Jr Institute's executive manager Victor Oliveira told AFP. "Everything we learn, we put into practice on the app. It helps us learn because we are connected to our phones, but not disconnected from our studies," said 11-year-old Yuri Rodrigues.

The institute, initially funded exclusively by Vinicius but now counting other sponsors, also aims to tackle the scourge of racism in a country where more than half the population is black or of mixed race.

It has launched an anti-racism training manual and has provided instruction on the subject to about 80 teachers in the past year.

It is a subject dear to the Brazilian attacker, who has himself suffered several incidents of discrimination in Spain.

"He is very important to all of us," said 11-year-old Ana Clara.

"I'm glad he never gives up. And because his voice reaches a wide audience, he can fight for us," she said.

In October, Vinicius received the Socrates Prize for charitable work at the Ballon d'Or annual football awards.

And last month, the 23-year-old was appointed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, only the second Brazilian footballer to receive the honor after Pele.

AFP

Barcelona resurgence set for test against revitalised Atletico

MADRID

BARCELONA make the trip to Atletico Madrid tomorrow attempting to keep their slim La Liga title hopes alive in a meeting of two Champions League quarter-finalists.

Five-time European champions Barca returned to the last eight of the competition on Tuesday for the first time since 2020 with a 4-2 aggregate win over Napoli, extending their unbeaten run to nine games since Xavi Hernandez's announcement that he would be stepping down as coach at the end of the season.

They were joined in the quarter-finals a day later by Atletico, who defeated last season's runners-up Inter Milan on penalties after coming back from two goals down in the tie on a memorable night in front of a record 69,196 crowd at the Estadio Metropolitano.

"The only thing I can say to the fans is thank you. The team rose to the occasion because we have all these people behind us who give us energy," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone.

"The players didn't think about whether to run or not, they ran and it's because this stadium is incredible. The team won when no one believed they could and it's because they gave their all."

Last weekend's 2-0 loss at lowly Cadiz left Atletico with just two wins in six in the league and in danger of being overtaken by Athletic Bilbao in the race for fourth place and the final Champions League qualifying spot.

"Maybe in the last month we've not been in great shape but we showed we can do much more," said Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak, who saved two penalties in the shootout against Inter.

AFP

Liverpool's quadruple chase faces Man United test, Newcastle seek FA Cup shock at Man City

LONDON

MANCHESTER United are aiming to derail Liverpool's bid for a quadruple and salvage a difficult second season for Erik ten Hag in tomorrow's FA Cup quarter-final.

Newcastle will need to pull off a major shock to maintain their bid for a first major trophy in 55 years when they travel to holders Manchester City.

AFP Sport highlights what to look for from this weekend's quarter-final ties.

*Wolves v Coventry (Today 12:15 GMT)

A home draw against Championship side Coventry gives Wolves a huge chance to cap a fine season with a trip to Wembley.

Gary O'Neil has taken Wanderers from an expected fight for top-flight survival into challenging for Europe via both league and cup.

Wolves sit ninth in the Premier League, ahead of the likes of Newcastle and Chelsea.

However, their quest for a first FA Cup win in 64 years could be dented by injuries to a number of key players.

All of O'Neil's preferred front three of Matheus Nunes, Hwang Hee-chan and Pedro Neto are set to miss the week-



Jürgen Klopp - Liverpool manager since October 2015 - and Erik ten Hag, Manchester United manager since April 2022. Agencies

end.

Coventry sit eighth in the Championship and are dreaming of Wembley once more after missing out on the Premier League in last season's playoff final.

*Manchester City v Newcastle (Today 17:30GMT)

Magpies boss Eddie Howe conceded he nearly swerved off the road when he heard his side had been handed a trip to the Etihad.

Newcastle beat City at St. James' Park in the League Cup earlier this season, but Pep Guardiola's men are a different beast at home.

City are unbeaten in 38 games at the Etihad stretching back to December 2022 and have had the rare luxury of a midweek off to prepare.

Kevin De Bruyne is expected to miss out with a groin injury and City goalkeeper Ederson is sidelined with a thigh problem.

However, the English champions are strong favourites to remain on course for a second consecutive treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

*Chelsea v Leicester (Tomorrow 12:45GMT)

Chelsea's League Cup final

defeat to a depleted Liverpool has piled the pressure on Mauricio Pochettino.

The Argentine has ensured a difficult first season and at times faced open revolt from the Chelsea fanbase.

However, after a slow start to the campaign at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea have lost just once in their last 13 home games.

Leicester are on course for an immediate return to the Premier League as they sit top of the Championship.

But the Foxes have hit a sticky spell at the wrong time of the season as Enzo Mares-

ca's men have won just two of their last six games in all competitions.

*Manchester United v Liverpool (Tomorrow 15:30GMT)

Ten Hag also badly needs a trophy to make a strong case not to be dismissed from the Old Trafford dugout come the end of the season.

United are languishing in sixth in the Premier League, 17 points behind their opponents this weekend.

Liverpool are involved in a thrilling three-way title race and are also into the last eight of the Europa League, having already lifted the League Cup last month.

"We won already one and we have three more left. I said it before, me personally, I want to win all four," said Reds' midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai.

However, Liverpool's brutal schedule leaves Jurgen Klopp with some tough decisions to make this weekend.

Mohamed Salah made his first club start since January 1 as a strong side finished the job over Sparta Prague in the Europa League on Thursday.

United could be boosted by the return of striker Rasmus Hojlund, who had scored seven goals in six games prior to a muscle injury.

AFP

The strange case of Ben White - the Arsenal stalwart who will not play for England

By Sam Wallace

WHO is Benjamin White? Thus began a video released on Arsenal's social media channels on Tuesday morning to herald a contract extension signed by the club's right-back, albeit with a motive that felt like it went well beyond the usual announcements of new deals.

Instead this felt like a preemptive shot in an intriguing public relations struggle between Arsenal and the Football Association over the decision by White to end, unilaterally, his international career - for the time being anyway. A few hours later at Wembley, Gareth Southgate would disclose that development when he was asked why he had not selected the 26-year-old in his England squad to face Brazil and Belgium in two critical pre-Euro 2024 friendlies.

It seemed like the England manager was waiting to be asked - and he responded by saying that Arsenal's sporting director Edu had rung his FA counterpart John McDermott this month to say on White's behalf he did not wish to be selected. Southgate had not spoken to White since a conversation in the aftermath of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, a tournament from which White asked to be sent home. The England manager said he did not know why the player had chosen to make the decision.

Meanwhile, Arsenal were bolstering their man online. His teammates lined up for the purposes of that video to testify to White's unflinching will to win. At the same time, the England manager was explaining



Gareth Southgate says he does not know why Ben White does not want to play for England. Agencies

that other players in the past had done the same as White and as manager he had chosen to keep those decisions secret. This time he had felt he had no option but to reveal the true nature of the situation. As for the reasons behind it, he had no idea.

"I spoke to him post-Qatar because I was keen to pick him and there was clearly reticence on his side," Southgate said. "I don't know fully why that is, but I have to respect that."

Sources at Arsenal have indicated the club's position is that the announcement on White's contract was long planned for this Thursday morning and was not intended to soften the blow of what was to come later. Also that, as a man of few words, it was decided that White's team-mates would be better placed to speak about him than the man himself.

It is, of course, White's prerogative to withdraw his services from England and there are plenty of players who have done the same either permanently or temporarily over recent years and further back. What makes this situation unusual is the lack of any explanation, and the collision of the

to play for England.

A strange situation. Arsenal offered no further comment on the matter and neither did the FA. There will be those who take White's decision as the ultimate betrayal of his obligations as a footballer, and that would certainly have been the response in Southgate's era as a player. One suspects that a greater understanding of mental health issues might give some pause to thought - although social media will be a law unto itself.

Southgate was keen to close down the one avenue that has been opened up in this debate thus far, the allegation that in Doha, White fell out with the England manager's loyal assistant and confidante, Steve Holland. Certainly, that explanation gathered pace in the aftermath of Qatar with a suggestion that some gentle teasing had gone down badly and White had viewed the relationship as irretrievable.

Holland is an unlikely agent provocateur in this scenario. Rather than being of contrasting temperament to Southgate's modern

managerial approach of persuasion, consensus and paternal oversight, Holland is cut from the same cloth. His specialism is coaching and the fine tuning of tactical approach and he is also a relatively shy figure who has been happy to stay in the background.

Might it be the case that White simply does not want to be one of an England squad's many understudies? He faces competition at right-back, traditionally one of the strongest positions in Southgate's squad - although his status as a regular in an Arsenal team at the top of the Premier League would suggest he is more than capable of handling that. Trent Alexander-Arnold, Reece James and Kieran Trippier are all currently injured.

White is, those at Arsenal say, more likely to keep any injury a secret rather than face losing his place in the team. Team-mates have been keen to make the point that White does love football, contrary to suggestions he is one of those who sees the game as a living rather than a passion. Yet that case is

harder to make when Brazil and Belgium, two of the world's greatest football nations, await at Wembley.

White may be no fan of Southgate, or Holland, but then if every England squad over the decades had to comprise of players who loved the manager it would be a much smaller pool of players to draw upon. International football is a strange beast - good players can reach the end of their careers with fewer caps than expected because of a rival in their position. Mediocre players can find themselves as regulars with a similar stroke of luck. That is what makes it interesting.

Many keep turning up for international squads hoping that their luck might change, and for some it never does. Yet after a day in which he got a new contract and was revealed to have declined the offer of an England place, we are none the wiser as to why Arsenal's right-back has adopted the position he has. The question as to who Benjamin White is, remains.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SIMBA AL-AHLY



YANGA MAMELODI SUNDOWN

NO WAY AM I INVOLVING MYSELF IN SIBLINGS' RIVALRY

SPORT

Liverpool's quadruple chase faces Man United test, Newcastle seek FA Cup shock at Man City

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Miguel Gamondi sheds light on Yanga's burnout concerns



Yanga's right-back, Kouassi Attahoula (L), attempts to get the better of Geita Gold FC's right fullback, Mwaïta Gereza, when the clubs locked horns in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League fixture played in Dar es Salaam on Thursday and ended in 1-0 win for Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi has said the squad's players are struggling with physical and mental fatigue because they are playing a game every three days.

The side, alias Yanga, stretched their unbeaten run in the NBC Premier League to 15 matches with a hard-fought 1-0 home victory over Geita Gold FC in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening.

Speaking after the game, Gamondi revealed that physical and mental toll affected them in the encounter against Geita Gold FC.

He felt fatigue - and not Geita Gold FC's determined performance - caught up with his side as they looked uncharacteristically sloppy and blunt in front of goal.

The Argentine noted: "We

try to do what we can do with this crazy program we need to play. Don't forget we played on March 1st, after that we traveled and played three more games and we have one more game to play."

The gaffer pointed out: "I think we dominated, we had control of the game. We missed some chances but I think it is due to tiredness. We lost precision but it was a quiet game. I expected to win the game with three points and more than that."

"We play every two days, it is dif-

ficult. Very difficult. Players are not robots, they are humans. I made rotations but players like Pacome Zouzou, and Stephane Aziz Ki have unbelievable accuracy but today they weren't," the gaffer revealed.

The Argentine said: "In this situation, we are tired physically and mentally. We must understand the players are human beings. I am happy with the results, maybe the people expected more but we can't score three, four, or five goals every game."

Next up for Yanga in the league is

Sunday's 'Dar Derby' against Azam FC, which could be a real test of the formers' ability to keep their unbeaten run going.

Ihefu SC was the last team to beat the Jangwani Street squad in the NBC Premier League in October.

The defending champions, who are aiming to win the league title for a third time in a row, have opened up an eight-point gap on second-placed Azam FC, with third-placed Simba SC 10 points behind in the title race.



Yanga's midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Stephane Aziz Ki retakes lead in Golden Boot race

By Guardian Correspondent

A first-half strike by Stephane Aziz Ki against Geita Gold FC ensured his outfit, Young Africans SC, took home a seventh consecutive league win while

The goal has moreover allowed the Burkinabe midfielder to maintain his statistics too on Thursday evening at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In 16 matches, the attacking midfielder has already found the back of the net on 13 occasions in the NBC Premier League.

It is unsurprising therefore that the Burkinabe now sits at the top of the goals scored rankings, overtaking Feisal Salum Abdallah 'Fei Toto' of Azam FC and his 12 goals.

On Monday, Aziz was directly involved in four of Young Africans SC's five goals in the 5-0 thrashing of Ihefu SC at Azam Complex Stadium.

He scored one and assisted three times to inspire Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, to a sixth league win in a row as they tightened their grip on the top spot.

As the NBC Premier League campaign enters the homestretch, Aziz Ki is in a two-horse battle with his former Young Africans SC teammate 'Fei Toto'.

Aziz Ki and Feisal will come face-to-face when Azam FC and Young Africans clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Sunday, each seeking to increase their goal tally for the season.

The Golden Boot is handed out to the Premier League player who scores the most goals over the 30-game regular season.

Players finishing on the same amount of goals at the end of the campaign is nothing new, with Simon Msuva and Abdulrahman Mussa netting 14 goals apiece in 2015/16.

Young Africans SC's Fiston Mayele and Simba SC's Saidi Ntibanzokiza jointly won the award last term, netting 17 goals apiece.

Whenever this instance happens, the trophy is simply shared between the players.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's attacker Waziri Junior sits third with 11 strikes.

In what turned out to be a perfect match day for the former Azam FC and Young Africans SC striker, he scored an 18-minute hat-trick for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC against Tabora United to make up ground in the race to be crowned top scorer.

Maxi Nzengele's nine goals for Young Africans puts him fourth on the list. Samson Mbangula of Tanzania Prisons, Marouf Tchakei of Ihefu SC, and Mudathir Yahya of Young Africans share the fifth spot each with eight goals to his name.

Azam FC confirms Simba SC's bid for wantaway striker Prince Dube

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC have confirmed they have received a bid from Simba SC for their wantaway striker Prince Dube.

Last week, Dube officially decided to part ways with Azam FC. This development happened after Dube wrote a message thanking the outfit for the 'love and support' they have shown him throughout four seasons with the club.

Dube took to his Instagram account to say goodbye to Azam FC a few days after informing the club about his intention to terminate his contract.

Azam FC confirmed that Dube wants to leave the club, terminating his contract that is due to expire in 2026.

The club's Head of Information and Communication, Thabit Zakaria 'Zaka za kazi', revealed the development in an official video post.

Zakaria revealed Dube's release clause is set at \$300,000 giving the players the option to pay the agreed figure in full should no club express interest in meeting that demand.

While reasons why the Zimbabwe international wants to leave the club have not

been revealed, he has publicly accused Azam FC of lacking ambition amidst multiple reports linking him with Young Africans SC.

However, on Thursday evening Azam FC came out to confirm in a statement that so far they had received offers from Simba SC and Sudan's Al Hilal SC.

"Azam FC confirms that it has received offers from two different clubs for our Zimbabwean player, Prince Dube." The statement reads.

"The offers have come from Simba SC of Tanzania and Al Hilal SC of Sudan. The management is evaluating the offers to see which one is suitable."

"In addition, Azam FC welcomes other clubs to bring their offers as the doors are still open."

The 27-year-old joined Azam FC in 2020. He was signed by the Tanzanian side from Zimbabwe's Highlanders and hit the ground running before injuries slowed him down.

He has scored 32 league goals for Azam FC in a spell blighted by injuries.

This season he has already missed eight league games including the last three due to the ongoing contractual standoff.

He has scored seven goals and assisted a further two in 12 league appearances for Azam FC.



Zimbabwean forward Prince Dube. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Flexibles by David Chikoko

