



National Pg 3 STAMICO: Avoid conflicts of interest



National Pg 4 Construction of Pangani river wall



National Pg 5 Clerics urged to peace and harmony



Page 13



PM: Envoys must enhance economic diplomacy push

UK issues £17m to assist EA after droughts, floods

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED Kingdom Minister for Africa at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Vicky Ford (pictured) yesterday announced a £17 million package of UK support to countries in East Africa affected by extreme drought and flooding.

Embarking on a three-country visit to East Africa, starting in Kenya yesterday, he said the package will provide vital assistance to almost a million people in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia who are facing the worst drought in decades, and in South Sudan after widespread flooding for the third year in a row.

Extreme weather events associated with climate change are worsening pre-existing drought and flood cycles and ruining harvests. Poor governance and ongoing conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia are exacerbating the impact of these events by displacing vulnerable communities, destroying livelihoods and limiting access to humanitarian assistance, donor agencies affirm.

Minister Ford said that for countries in



Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema speaks on the importance of spending school time rewardingly as she addressed children on their very first day in class at Ushirika Primary School and a kindergarten centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) has called on ambassadors representing Tanzania in various countries to give economic diplomacy a bigger push by seeking out more investors.

They should boost trade by looking for markets in countries they are stationed, he said in talks with the diplomats at his Mlimwa office here.

Those attending the meeting included Prof Adelardus Kilangi (Brazil), Said Mshana (DR-Congo), Alex Kalua (Israel), Said Shaib Mussa (Kuwait) and Frederick Kibuta (Russia).

Foreign envoys should maintain Tanzania's image in the countries they are stationed, focus on mobilising for tourists to visit Tanzania and facilitating Tanzania's traders to find market outlets in those countries, he stated.



Bring them together so that they can participate in industrial development efforts as well as boosting social services

He similarly tasked the envoys with working to reduce operational costs in their missions through cost-cutting, while boosting working relationships with other embassy officials. They should also meet with Tanzanians living in those countries and assist them strengthen bonds in those communities by ensuring there is robust leadership, he said.

"Bring them together so that they can participate in industrial development efforts as well as boosting social services," he specified, noting also that envoys should advertise Kiswahili as when such countries need language teaching services this could be a source of employment for Tanzanians living abroad, especially teachers.

Ambassador Kilangi, speaking on behalf of fellow diplomats, expressed gratitude to the premier for inviting them for an audience with them, vowing that the envoys will not let down President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the government, as they will implement all directives handed to them for the national interest.



VP hands 300 bikes to RCs for livestock extension task

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has handed over 300 motorcycles to 25 regional commissioners to be given to agricultural extension officers to improve mobility and ensure they have the capacity to carry out their work effectively.

Dr Mpango made the handing over shortly after opening a two-day livestock and fisheries advisers' conference from local government authorities here,



We will continue to address them and that is why President Samia Suluhu Hassan has approved the purchase of these motorcycles

handing over to host RC Anthony Mtaka for onward delivery to other RCs.

The livestock sub-sector is a priority area for the government, thus distributing the motorcycles to extension officers will boost government efforts to improve the sector and make it more productive, he stated.

"The government is aware of the challenges facing the sector. We will continue to address them and that is why President Samia Suluhu Hassan has approved the purchase of these motorcycles," the VP

TURN TO PAGE 2

Tanzania, Burundi sign pact for Uvinza-Gitega SGR link

By Correspondent Adela Madyane, Kigoma

THE governments of Tanzania and Burundi have signed an initial agreement for the construction of the 282 km long Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line from Uvinza in Kigoma Region to Gitega city in Burundi.

The agreement was signed here yesterday by the Minister for Finance and



Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (pictured), the Minister for Works and Transport Prof Makame Mbarawa and on the Burundian side was the Minister for Infrastructure, Works and Settlements, Dr Deogratius Nsanganyumwami and the Minister for finance, Budget and Economic Planning Dr Domitien Ndihokeywayo.

The Finance minister said after the

TURN TO PAGE 2



VP hands 300 bikes to RCs for livestock extension task

FROM PAGE 1

noted.

Efforts are on-going to further improve extension services including provision of quality animal husbandry education to cattle breeders, he affirmed, directing municipal and district executive directors to set aside funds for solving challenges facing extension officers in their specific localities.

They must make sure the motorcycles are used for intended purposes, he emphasised, while Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki said despite the great work being done to improve the livestock sector it is still facing challenges like the lack of extension officers.

He appealed to the VP to look into granting employment permits for more extension officers, citing the shortage of transport facilities as limiting the number of farmers each officer can visit.

"Despite the presence of extension technology through mobile phones; we still need extension officers to ensure farmers are assisted accordingly. The demand for the officers is high; the government should consider hiring them to help pastoralists," the minister intoned, elaborating that the motorcycles have been bought at a cost of 864m/- and will be distributed to 140 municipal councils in 25 regions.

Innocent Bashungwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) said that to ensure increased productivity in the livestock sector, districts should allocate at least 15 percent of their internal collections for improving the sub-sector.

The money will help solve various challenges facing pastoralists and extension officers, he affirmed.

Tixon Nzunda, the permanent secretary in the Livestock section of the ministry, said the workshop was meant to develop strategies to

improve the delivery of pastoralist extension services to make the livestock sector more productive.

The 2019/2020 National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) census on agriculture, livestock and fisheries showed that Tanzania has an estimated 33.9m head of cattle, where smallholder keepers own the vast majority of the cattle and plantation herders 143,183 cattle.

Tanzania continued to rank second in Africa in its cattle numbers after Ethiopia, with 60.39m cattle head on the basis of available data, he added.



Despite the presence of extension technology through mobile phones; we still need extension officers to ensure farmers are assisted accordingly. The demand for the officers is high; the government should consider hiring them to help pastoralists



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-R) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday presenting to Dodoma regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka motorcycles for official use under the oversight of various regional commissioners. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

Tanzania, Burundi sign pact for Uvinza-Gitega SGR link

FROM PAGE 1

signing that the two governments have begun looking for sources of funding for the project, expressing assurance that the two countries, working together can get funds for the project.

Tanzanians, Burundians and people in other countries that will economically benefit from the project should rest assured that the funds will be found, he declared.

Tanzania has considerable experience in sourcing for funds

for implementing strategic projects of this kind, in like manner as it did in relation to the other parts of the SGR construction, he stated, referring to the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro and then to Makutupora SGR portions.

The proper cost for the Burundi link will be set out after the completion of engineering studies, but it is estimated at around \$900m, he asserted, lauding the presidents of the two countries for moving to strengthen economic cooperation between the two states.

Implementation of the project

will unlock trade opportunities between the two countries and with other neighbouring countries, he observed.

Prof Mbarawa said project implementation will start in the near future, billed to bring into use modern fast trains travelling at 160 km/hour or thereabouts.

On the Tanzanian side, the railway portion will take up the 156 km Uvinza-Malagarasi rail section whereas the Burundi part starts from Malagarasi to Musongati and onward to Gitega, which is 126 kms long

"This project is important for our country, Burundi as well as Congo DRC that use the port of Dar es Salaam for its imports," he said, underlining that the completion of the project will simplify cargo transportation.

Burundian minister Nsanganiumwami said that presidents Samia Suluhu Hassan and Evariste Ndayishimiye had agreed on intensifying cooperation between the two countries and the project is an important step in opening up the two nations' economies.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (C) pictured moments after jetting into Abu Dhabi International Airport yesterday for a state visit to the United Arab Emirates. Left is Tanzania's Ambassador to the UAE, Mohammed Abdalla Mtonga and right is a high-ranking Abu Dhabi government official. Photo: Zanzibar State House

UN launches renewed bid to resolve conflict in Western Sahara

By Special Correspondent

THE UN envoy for the disputed Western Sahara region visited refugee camps in Algeria on Saturday in a renewed bid to find a diplomatic solution to the territory.

The former Spanish colony was annexed by Morocco in 1975.

Polisario front independence activists expressed frustration at decades of diplomatic deadlock.

"We demand to the UN envoy, our independence. We will only stop the war if we get independence, even if

we all end up as martyrs. We have nothing more to say because the UN has been lying to us for 47 years, so we want our independence", demanded local nurse Aichatou Lahbib Tayab.

Refugee camp resident Hussin Mahmoud demands the implementation of UN's resolutions.

"We ask the UN Secretary General and his special envoy to implement the resolutions signed by both sides. We are not asking for anything other than our right to independence", he

said. On Friday, the UN's Polisario Front representative said the only way forward would be to end the current conflict.

"There is a war going on between the Sahrawi Republic and the Moroccan occupying state, and this war itself represents the first challenge that Mr. Staffan de Mistura will have to face in order to initiate the peace process", said Sidi Mohamed Omar, Polisario Front Representative to the United Nations.

In 2020, the Polisario Front ended a 29-year cease-fire with Morocco after a border confrontation with the Moroccan army, a decision fuelled by impatience among younger Sahrawi who demand the long awaited referendum promised by the UN.

Morocco won a major diplomatic victory in 2020 when then-President Donald Trump recognised Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara in exchange for Morocco normalising diplomatic ties with Israel.

UK issues £17m to assist EA after droughts, floods

FROM PAGE 1

close to three million, existing data show.

More than 6.4m people are estimated to require food assistance this year in drought-affected regions of Ethiopia. In South Sudan, extreme flooding paired with ongoing violence has affected 835,000 people, pushing more than 350,000 people from their homes.

The funding is expected to support almost 500,000 people in Somalia to access clean water and afford food supplies, as well as providing 100,000 people in South Sudan and 26,000 children in Kenya with a combination of food assistance, water and hygiene supplies, she elaborated.

The UK prioritised supporting

communities affected by extreme weather events such as droughts as host of COP26 in Glasgow. As part of the historic agreement reached at the summit, wealthy nations committed to double the overall climate finance available for adaptation programmes.

The UK also announced the 'Room to Run' guarantee with the African Development Bank, expected to unlock up to \$1bn worth of new financing for projects which will help countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The UK is a long-standing supporter of Africa's adaptation to climate change, with around half of the UK's £2.7bn adaptation budget between 2016 and 2020 directed to Africa.

Police: 3 dead and 11 injured in Kongwa District road crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

THREE people have died and 11 others injured in a road crash at Pandambili area in Kongwa District, Dodoma region.

Dodoma Regional Police Commander, Onesmo Lyanga said the driver of the passenger bus-Baraka Classic with registration numbers T 967 DWW lost control of the vehicle due to over speeding thus causing the accident. He said the passenger bus was heading to Dar es Salaam from Dodoma.

"The road was not rough despite some rain. The accident was caused by overspeeding," he said, accusing the bus driver and conductor of carrying passengers beyond the capacity.

He said that two of the deceased bodies have been identified by their

relatives and that all the bodies are preserved at the Gairo district hospital in Morogoro Region.

"Those identified are Salha Mohamed, a Form Two student and her mother Joyce Nyaula, both residents of Dar es Salaam," said Lyanga, noting that ten out of the 11 injured persons have been admitted at Kongwa district hospital, while one among them have been rushed to Benjamin Mkapu hospital for further treatment.

Kongwa District Commissioner, Remidius Emmanuel called upon travelers to report reckless drivers including those over speeding.

"Drivers should be careful when driving during this rain season; citizens residing near main roads should inform the police whenever accidents occur," he said.



National Insurance Corporation executive director Dr Elirehema Doriye (C) makes remarks yesterday during a tour of Dar es Salaam's Ilala Mchikichini market, which was gutted by a fire in the small hours of Sunday. With him are other NIC officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CJ calls upon magistrates to stick to professionalism

By Guardian Reporter

CHIEF Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma has called on magistrates in primary courts to adhere to the rules and dispense justice equally without regard to receiving instructions from anyone, including himself. He made the call yesterday at the Integrated Justice Centre, in Dar es Salaam while swearing in the magistrates. He said that in the event that the Chief Justice telephoned to direct the

sentencing of a case, the Magistrate would immediately inform the Judicial Service Commission. "It is the duty of the Magistrates and us Judges to act in accordance with our rules, in case the Magistrate is called by the Chief Justice directing you to the Judgment of the case you are hearing, immediately report it to the Judicial Service Commission," said the Chief Justice. Elaborating further he said the basis of the Judges is to do justice through various levels and that if

they err they are violating the entire justice system. "You are the fruit of your parents and the treasure of our nation, for the next 25 years you will hold various positions of leadership of the Judiciary in Tanzania, you must understand the rules and procedures of justice," said the Chief Justice, Prof. Week. In addition, he said Magistrates and magistrates have the ultimate authority to grant justice which starts at the police level when a citizen goes to report, investigate,

to prosecutors in the Court of First Instance to the Court of Appeal. The Chief Justice, Mustapher Siyani, also said that it was important for the judges to act fairly in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Court as it is a reliable pillar and not to tarnish the image of corrupt practices. He said with the size and value of the work given to them by the nation they should go and work hard and with integrity and build a court for administering justice.

STAMICO board of directors urged: Avoid personal conflicts of interest

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER for Minerals Dr Doto Biteko has tasked the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) board to avoid individual interests that meddle into issues that are supposed to be handled by the state-owned mining corporation's management especially when inking deals with other international companies to four joint ventures.

The minister issued a directive at the weekend when launching the new STAMICO board. The launching of the board follows the recent appointment of the board chairman, Major General (rtd) Michael Isamuhyo by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. During the official launching of the board, Dr Biteko tasked the nine-member board to be creative in business as well as reducing bureaucracies to investors who wish to have joint venture in business with STAMICO.

"It is important to understand that this is a business entity and not a regulatory entity, so you need to facilitate business from investors rather than playing a regulatory role," insisted Dr Biteko adding, "All investors that you sign agreement with should discharge their duties with full happiness."

The Minister further advised the board to properly think and advise STAMICO management on business issues via mining in order to hike revenue so as to contribute to the country's economy.

"Think business side, get rid of unnecessary bureaucracies under the umbrella of the so called patriotism and you indeed needed to intensify your creativity," advised the minister.

Dr Biteko also praised the State Mining Corporation for the job well done especially surpassing its revenue collection targets as well as revamping several mining projects that had stalled for many years.

"Today we can feel proud that

STAMICO is competing with other countries like Australia in undertaking drilling projects via positive tenders that have an impact to our economy," he said. STAMICO has about 40 years of drilling experience in the extractive industry.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Minerals, Dr Steven Kiruswa asked the newly appointed STAMICO board to ensure that all resources in the mining sector were helping Tanzanians.

Dr Kiruswa who was sworn in as new Deputy Minister for Minerals last week by President Samia at Chamwino State House in Dodoma said he was set to launch his familiarization tour of all sectors under his ministry including STAMICO beginning this week.

Earlier, the corporation's Acting Director General Dr Venance Mwashe said the management and board of STAMICO were working closely in the course of performing their duties for the best interests of the nation.

"I want to categorically state here that we will continue working together in implementing our robust plans to make the corporation stronger to contribute to the country's development via mining economy," said Dr Mwashe.

His sentiments were echoed by the Board Chairman who also said the board was fully committed to implementing all the directives issued by Dr Biteko and his deputy.

Major General (rtd), Isamuhyo was retained by President Samia to lead the board for the second time basing on the track record of his performance. He was first appointed by the late President Magufuli to lead the STAMICO board on December 6, 2018.

"Think business side, get rid of unnecessary bureaucracies under the umbrella of the so called patriotism and you indeed needed to intensify your creativity"

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OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

INVITATION FOR SALE OF USED VEHICLE

Date: 17th January 2022
Ref: IOM/DAR/2022/011

The International Organization for Migration Invites sealed bid document from interested bidders for the sale of the following used vehicles as described in below.

LOT NO	TYPE OF VEHICLE	ENGINE NUMBER	YEAR OF MANUFACTURE
LOT 1	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER 76 HARDTOP	1HZ0781724	Year 2014
LOT 2	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER 78 HARDTOP	1HZ0819331	Year 2015
LOT 3	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER 76 HARDTOP	1HZ0850230	Year 2016
LOT 4	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER 78 HARDTOP	1HZ0847324	Year 2016

Instruction to Bidders:

- The vehicles are being sold on the condition of "as is" and without recourse or warranties of any kind.
- Bidders may bid for a single or multiple lot.
- Interested eligible bidders are allowed to inspect the vehicles daily from 10:00AM – 11:00AM from 24th January to 4th February 2022, at the following address:
IOM Sub Office Kasulu, Bogwe secondary road, Kasulu.
- Bid prices must be submitted separately for each Lot. IOM will not consider any lump sum offer. Any such bid shall be automatically disqualified.
- The enclosed Bid Form shall be filled and submitted separately for each Vehicle in a sealed envelope addressed to:
Procurement & Logistics Officer, International Organization for Migration Kasulu Sub Office P.O. Box 303 Kasulu, Tanzania

The enclosed bids form must be delivered by hand on or before the deadline of the bid submission date. The currency of the bid and figures shall be clearly indicated in order to avoid ambiguity. Bids that do not fulfill this requirement will be disqualified.

- Interested bidders may obtain the Bid Form from the following address:
IOM Sub Office Kasulu, Bogwe secondary road, P.O. Box 303, Kasulu.
Or on the IOM Website: <http://tanzania.iom.int/procurement>
- Bids must be accompanied with bid security of TZS 200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Tanzania Shilling) for each Lot. The bid security will be returned to unsuccessful bidders after completion of the bid process.
- The vehicle will be sold to the bidder with the highest offer. In case of having more than two bidders quoting the same price, IOM will open a rebid between those who provide same quoting price.
- The deadline for submission of bids is 04:30PM (Local time) on 07th February 2022. All bids must be registered upon delivery. The outer cover shall be cleared marked "PURCHASE OF USED VEHICLES LOT NO:..."
- Bids received after the closing date will not be considered.
- The successful bidder shall be notified by a letter of award and request for payment to IOM within five (5) business days. The vehicle must be removed from the premises of IOM Kasulu within three (3) business days after payment.
- If the winning bidders fail to pay the winning amount in five days, the bidder shall forfeit the entire bid security and IOM may dispose of the vehicle in any way it seems fit.
- If the winning bidder fails to remove the vehicle within the specified dates, IOM shall take appropriate action as necessary and will not be held responsible for any damage caused.
- IOM will not provide any assistance, either mechanic or manpower, for removal of the vehicle.
- The winning bidders are responsible for any statutory fees required while transferring ownership of the vehicle.
- The IOM reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel any or all bids.

International Organization for Migration, Tanzania 166544

RUWASA saves 1bn/- in executing 13 water projects in Songwe

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Songwe Region has saved more than 1bn/- which had to be used wrongly in the implementation of 13 water projects in all councils.

RUWASA Songwe Regional Manager, Eng Charles Pambe said they noticed the increased funds in the budget while reviewing the contracts.

He said the region has been given 12.25bn/- for the implementation of the projects and before signing contracts with the contractors who will implement the projects the engineers decided to review the cost of each project.

He said some contractors set higher costs than the actual implementation of the projects.

"We intend to use the money for other development activities, reducing it in those contracts because we know the cost of building projects in our region, we know the cost of digging canals and building tanks so we cannot be deceived," said Pambe.

Witnessing the signing of the agreements, Songwe Regional Commissioner Omary Mgumba commended regional engineers for inspecting the contracts and saving the money that would have been lost on the projects.

He urged the project managers to be careful in the management of the projects to ensure that they are implemented in accordance with the standards and the actual cost of the projects to avoid the projects being implemented below standard.

Mgumba said the misappropriation of projects often starts with the procurement of equipment and urged experts to be careful so as to protect the public funds.

"I congratulate you very much for the implementation of these projects, we would have signed these projects and started the implementation of these projects without reviewing this money would have been lost, now I

ask you to continue the process of reviewing its implementation," said Mgumba.

A representative of the contractors who received tenders to implement the projects, Fedrick Luvunga promised that they would implement the projects efficiently and with real cost in mind.

He said the agreements were obtained in accordance with the criteria set by the Region and that they will ensure that they treat the projects fairly by implementing them properly.

Ileje District Commissioner, Anna Gidalya promised to co-operate with the contractors who won the tenders so as to ensure that the projects are implemented smoothly.

She urged the contractors to adhere to their agreements and professional oaths so as to produce quality projects.



We intend to use the money for other development activities, reducing it in those contracts because we know the cost of building projects in our region, we know the cost of digging canals and building tanks so we cannot be deceived

Ministry and OUT in programme to study tourism importance

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in collaboration with the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) launched a programme to research the importance of tourism to the economy which will facilitate availability of a national database for domestic tourism.

The programme will provide the way forward after Covid-19, which hit the sector and is expected to unlock tourism potentials to increase the number of visitors.

The study will be conducted in four months from to April 30 this year and is aimed at collecting information on Tanzania's tourism which is currently dominated by international visitors.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan said recently that Tanzania received 1.4 million visitors in 2021 compared with about 600,000 in 2020.

Speaking after the official launch of the programme, over the weekend the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, said the research is part of implementation of 90.2bn/- financing to fight against Covid-19 which a substantial amount will be spent for research.

"So, this will help us even when the borders are closed...we can continue with local tourism which is why we have decided to focus on knowing the number of local tourists visiting attractions and other places," he said.

The research is also expected to come up with answers on how to promote more attractions.

According to him, for many years

the country has been focusing on foreign visitors and forgets domestic travelers who also play an important role in tourism.

He said before the outbreak of Covid-19, the contribution of tourism to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 21.5 percent.

For his part a consultant from OUT, Dr Ladislaus Batinoluho said the research will be conducted in four months countrywide to collect data that will enable the creation of a database.

"The study would involve 676 data collectors from all districts to ensure the work is completed on time and will reach 33,800 households," he said.



So, this will help us even when the borders are closed...we can continue with local tourism which is why we have decided to focus on knowing the number of local tourists visiting attractions and other places



Yvonne Bayona (R), Vodacom Tanzania's head of digital platform, addresses a recent workshop in Dar es Salaam on how digital services can support the agricultural sector. She is with Quincewood CEO Fatma Fernandes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt calls for assessment and verification for the construction of Pangani River wall

By Guardian Correspondent, Pangani

THE Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment), Selemani Jafo has given 30 days to Tanga Region's environment officer to assess and complete verification for the construction of Pangani river wall that was slowly collapsing and endangering Pangani district residents.

Jafo gave the directive on Monday

this week during his inspection visit of the area and directed for the speedy implementation of his directive after he was informed of the dangers posed to the remaining area - Bweni and Pangani Town area.

"Budget processing has just begun, it would be better for our experts to speed their assessment, starting from the drawings.

"We believe the plan we are to implement will help in simplifying the task, but also to look into how

the construction work will be undertaken through experience and within the "Force Account" procedure," he said, and added that the issue has taken a long time, I am going back to the office to seek for funds, as the area on the Bweni side is 180 metres long towards Pangani Town.

Earlier, Pangani District Environment Officer, Daud Mlahagwa said the Pangani River Wall, on the Bweni side in particular,

is extensively damaged by water.

"As you can see, the situation endangers the lives of Pangani residents and we ask your Ministry to make immediate efforts to finalise the remaining construction work," he said.

He added: "We appeal to the government to help us to rescue Pangani residents by continuing to build the wall in the 180 metres remaining on the Pangani Town side and 66 metres on the Bweni side."



Katavi regional commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko (R) receives chairs and desks worth 10m/- from NMB Bank Plc's western zone manager, Sospeter Magese. The donation was meant to go into improving teaching and learning conditions at the Mpanda College of Health and Allied Sciences. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PREVENTION and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Mbeya Region has embarked on a programme to provide anti-corruption education to the public through sports and scout groups.

PCCB Regional Chief, Denis Manumbu told journalists yesterday the institution has been using various ways to provide the important education to the public.

He said they have launched various sports competitions in collaboration with the Scout which will be held in Mbeya.

The Bureau's regional chief said they are working to educate

PCCB in Mbeya Region embarks on public awareness programme

and capacitate the groups with corruption fighting skills for them also to be able to disseminate the information to the public on the impacts of corruption.

"During the competition, participants and the public will be educated on the impacts of corruption and that they will ensure that anti-corruption education reaches the people effectively," he said.

Manumbu said citizens will be educated on how to identify corruption indicators, how to report and to avoid such actions that contribute to the loss of justice.

"Our role is to ensure that the society remains safe from corrupt practises. We are implementing several programmes to ensure that we reach people, listen to their challenges and come up with

solutions," he added.

He urged Mbeya residents to turn out in large numbers for the stadiums that will be designated for participation in the games and get corrupt education.

He further urged the public to continue cooperating with the institution by reporting corruption practises so that they can be controlled before causing harm to the community.



Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni speaks at Dodoma city's Jamhuri Stadium at the weekend during peace prayers organised by Kanisa Halisi la Mungu Baba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Preach peace, tranquility, government tells clerics

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

HOME Affairs minister Hamad Masauni has urged religious leaders in the country to spend their time preaching the public over human moral and spiritual obedience so as to combat evil events in communities.

He said spiritual teachings would help to make communities have fear of God and avoid acts that would ruin peace and tranquility.

He was speaking over the weekend at a special spiritual gathering organised by Kanisa Halisi la Mungu Baba at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma city.

Minister Masauni said it was disconcerting that at least 22 deaths have so far been reported to have occurred in different social- tragic events in a short period between January 1 and 15 this year within the country.

The event which attracted religious leaders from diverse faiths and denominations, government officials and other citizens was tailored to give a platform to thank and pray to God for national peace.

"It's very unfortunate that the deaths have happened at family levels due to some weak reasons, including love jealousy, property disputes, land feuds as well as false belief," he said.

He insisted that occurrences of such malevolent events interpret the absence of God fearing hearts among communities, the poor situation which calls for positive interventions from religious leaders.

Masauni hailed "Kanisa Halisi la Mungu Baba" for organizing the prayer, saying peace and harmony were the key pillars for the national development.

"Tanzania is making an impressive economic stride due to the presence of long-standing peace within the country, we must all stand together to ensure peace continues to prevail," he insisted.

He said the government was understanding and valued the good role played by religious institutions in supporting it to roll out key social services to the public.

Head of Kanisa Halisi la Mungu Baba, Baba Halisi, said the church will continue to stand at forefront to plead God for national peace.

"We have decided to stage this special national prayer service in order to give back thanks to God, The Father for giving Tanzania an amazing grace of remaining a pool of peace and harmony.

He expressed that the role of the church is not limited under the four walls, but it should play a round - role of connecting and serving for the entire communities, and the nation as a whole through preaching the true words of God.



Tanzania is making an impressive economic stride due to the presence of long-standing peace within the country, we must all stand together to ensure peace continues to prevail

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Government allocates 5.45 billion/- for building fifty dormitories for PWDs

PROF Joyce Ndalichako, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities) has said the government has allocated more than 5.45bn/- for the construction of 50 dormitories for people with disabilities to woo them to study in a friendly environment.

Prof. Ndalichako made the remarks here yesterday at the event to hand out wheelchairs and health insurance to people with disabilities.

The wheelchairs were donated by Arusha Urban Member of Parliament, Mrisho Gambo.

"Our government, in funds for the national development against

Covid-19 (Covid-19 funds) allocated 5.485bn/- for building dormitories for people with disabilities.

"But currently, there are parents who hide at home children with disabilities, without sending them to school. But the government has put in place an enabling environment for them, it has purchased equipment to assist them, so do not fear, send these children to school," said Prof Ndalichako.

Speaking about his office's plans to empower people with disabilities,

MP Gambo said the City of Arusha has more than 1,000 people with various disabilities, all of who have been officially identified.

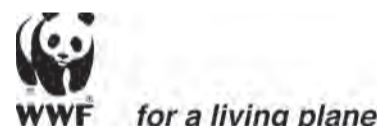
"My office, in collaboration with various stakeholders has managed to provide the wheelchairs, health insurance for all those under 18 years old as well as providing 117 artificial legs for those without legs.

Gambo further said his office, in collaboration with Nyota Tano Hotel located at Grandmeliaya Arusha, plans to construct a toilet for

children with disabilities at Kaloleni Primary school.

"I appeal to you madam Minister, if possible the government should assist people with disabilities by providing them with permanent health insurance, even if they go b18 years of age," Gambo said.

So far, the office of the MP, in collaboration with development partners, has provided 125 wheelchairs, 100 health insurance cards and 117 artificial legs to people with disabilities.



VACANCY: CONSERVATION MANAGER

WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tanzania is We are looking for a dynamic and committed Conservation Manager to support conservation efforts in WWF Tanzania Country Office to be based in Dar es Salaam.

Major Duties and Responsibilities


- Ensures that a Conservation Plan relevant to national policies, constituencies, and civil society, and aligned with the Regional Office for Africa Conservation Plan, is developed and approved by the Country Director, Regional Office for Africa, and relevant WWF committees;
- Ensures that the Conservation Plan is effectively implemented and contributing to the vision of the WWF's Global Programme Framework;
- Ensures strong delivery of the WWF Tanzania Conservation KPIs;
- In line with the Strategic Plan, develops annual Conservation Programme workplans with clear priorities for WWF Tanzania, and ensures their efficient implementation;
- In line with the requirements of a Network-wide monitoring and reporting system, ensures the establishment and implementation of a monitoring and reporting system for WWF Tanzania measuring its performance against its Conservation Plan, at the same time providing support to field projects for improvement;
- Ensures strategic / policy engagement with relevant international and national stakeholders on conservation and related issues;
- Promotes the vision and objectives of the WWF Tanzania Strategic and Conservation Plans to government, donor, civil society, corporate, and WWF stakeholders at national and international level meetings, conferences, and fora, in collaboration with the Country Director
- Perform duties as a team member for regional and global practice programmes by participating actively in the team meetings and calls; provide input to and review key documents shared to the core team (e.g. fundraising concepts and proposals, etc.)
- Monitor the implementation of WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF),
- Performs other duties as requested by the Country Director or his/her designate.
- Identifies and aligns with the core values of the WWF organization: Courage, Integrity, Respect & Collaboration

Required Qualifications, skills & competency

- Master's degree in an appropriate field (conservation / environment / natural resource management marine / forest / freshwater / terrestrial ecology). PhD in relevant conservation field would be an added advantage.
- More than Seven years of experience leading, developing, and managing programmes / large-scale projects in one or more of the above-mentioned fields. Experience with multi-disciplinary teams, as well as in the Southern Africa region (preferably Tanzania), would be a strong asset.
- Knowledge of and experience with monitoring and evaluation of programmes / projects; and
- Knowledge of the institutional and legal framework of the environment and conservation in Tanzania, as well as of relevant policy issues.
- Proven leadership skills;
- Demonstrated experience in developing, implementing, and evaluating strategic plans and policy;
- Strong skills in project planning, financing, management, implementation, and evaluation;
- Experience working with government and with donors / government aid agencies;
- Proven knowledge and experience of the not-for-profit sector, preferably of environmental non-government organisations;

Additional information, including Terms of Reference, can be obtained through web address: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: resources@wwftz.org by **Monday 31st January 2022 at 4:30 pm**. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam or via zoom video conferencing.

Female applicants are encouraged. WWF is an equal opportunity employer and committed to having a diverse workforce



REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR

INVITATION FOR LEASE, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATE AND MANAGEMENT OF SMALL ISLANDS IN ZANZIBAR

- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) intends to further promote investment by including the second phase of small islands of Zanzibar into the development of high-end economic activities. This decision is based on the positive response from both the public and investors and the need to further increase the diversification of the blue-economy policy by attracting high-end investment. Small islands surrounding Zanzibar are major assets that investors can capitalize on for a win-win potential.
- The RGoZ through Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA), hereby invites Potential Investors to submit their proposals in the second phase to develop, operate and manage small islands or plot of land in small islands under long term lease.
- The Proposal should provide information demonstrating that interested investors possess: experience and ability to develop, operate, and manage investment projects; financial capacity; skills, and ability in conserving the environment, biodiversity, cultural heritage, and community development. Also, Interested Investors should provide detailed information on the kind of high-end investment intended and state the amount to be paid as Lease Acquisition Cost (LAC) in respect of the intended island.
- The Interested Investor is also required to submit the amount of investment capital to be invested, and state when the project will be implemented.
- The Proposal has to be directed on the following small islands:

No	Small Island	Location
1	Sume	South Unguja
2	Popo	North Unguja
3	Miwi	South Unguja
4	Jombe	South Pemba
5	Kwata	South Pemba
6	Kashani	South Pemba
7	Fundo (200 hectare)	North Region
8	Njao (200 hectare)	North Pemba
9	Matumbini A (200 hectare)	South Pemba

- The interested Investor shall obtain the Application Form on the website: www.zipa.go.tz/islands
- Interested investors should deposit a non-refundable fee of \$1500 in the Bank Account below:

Bank Name: People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ)

Account Name: Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA)

Account No: 0400424000

Swift Code: PBZATZTZ

Address: Malindi, Zanzibar, 1173

Our correspondent Banks are as follows:-

Bank Name: CITIBANK N.Y
Account No: USD 36001291
Swift Code: CITIUS33

Bank Name: CITIBANK LONDON
Account No: GBP 0008923876
Swift Code: CITIGB2L
IBAN: GB08CITI18500808923876

Bank Name: CITIBANK LONDON
Account No: USD 000933996
Swift Code: CITIGB2L
IBAN: GB29CITI18500800933996

Bank Name: CITIBANK FRANKFURT
Account No: EUR 4114264038
Swift Code: CITIDFFF
IBAN: DE67502109004114264038

8. The detailed information for each islet is provided on the ZIPA website: www.zipa.go.tz/islands

9. The Investment Proposal shall be marked "PROPOSAL TO LEASE, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF (Insert Name of Island)"

10. The Investment Proposal together with the duly filled Application Form and payment receipt must be submitted at Maruhubi Complex, Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority Head Office, Malawi Road, Room Number 223 or via email: islets@zipa.go.tz or islets.zipa@gmail.com (PDF format).

11. The Deadline for submission is **16th February 2022 at 12:00 PM Eastern Africa Time**.

12. Any inquiries or further clarification shall be made through islets@zipa.go.tz or islets.zipa@gmail.com.

***** THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF INTEREST IS 16TH FEBRUARY 2022 *****

Forestry stakeholders in Dar to chart ten-year SADC planning

By Correspondent James Kandoya

FOREST stakeholders from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar are meeting in Dar es Salaam to discuss the Southern African Development Community (SADC) instruments including the SADC strategy on forestry 2020-2030.

Miza Khamis, chief forest officer from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Livestock (Agriculture & Irrigation) said the five days conference is also aimed at creating awareness to forest stakeholders on the SADC strategy on forestry.

The workshop has been organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and brought together environment stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

She said that the 2020-2030 SADC strategy on forestry intends to strengthen forest management and conservation, reduce deforestation and forest degradation to minimize the impacts of climate change and ensure sustainable development of the region, with benefits to local communities and national economies.

She said the strategy, among other things provides basis for cooperation amongst SADC member states on matters related to forestry.

According to her, the potential offered by forest resources is undermined by growing threats across the region that range from human interventions within member states and beyond.

She added that the direct threats facing forest resources identified by member states resembled largely to those spelled out in the previous forestry strategy (2010-2020) and include forest fires; expansion of unsustainable small and large-scale agriculture.

Others were unsustainable and illegal harvesting of forest resources for charcoal, timber and fuel wood; pests and diseases; and invasive alien species

In tackling the threats, Khamis said member states identified several priorities which were then benchmarked against SADC criteria for regional initiatives including focus on trans-boundary biomes, geographical balance of the countries (island states, coastal areas, inland and landlocked countries).

"Low level awareness of the previous strategy by some member states and others stakeholders, is one of the challenges hindered its implementation," she said

Principal Forests Officer, from the Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism, Emmanuel Msoffe said the instruments from the SADC will help Tanzania to protect its forests.

He said the meeting will also help them to share experiences among member states on how to implement the 2020-2030 forestry strategy.

"From the meeting we shall come up with an action plan on how to implement the SADC strategy on forestry 2020-2030," he said.



Low level awareness of the previous strategy by some member states and others stakeholders, is one of the challenges hindered its implementation



Tanzania Tour Guides Association official Apolinary Kiwhili (L, in blue shirt and sunglasses) pictured in Arusha yesterday briefing some 200 tour guides on safety guidelines prepared by the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry in the wake of Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwolezi

Govt allocates 36bn/- to Morogoro region rural roads refurbishment

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Region has been allocated more than 36bn/- by the central government from various levies it collected in FY 2020/22 for refurbishing rural and urban roads.

This was revealed to reporters here yesterday by Morogoro Region

Administrative Secretary, Mariam Mtunguja, saying in FYs 2020/21 the region was allocated 8.074bn/- while in FY 2021/22 it was allocated 28.432bn/-, equivalent to 252 per cent.

She said so far the money received for FY 2021/22 totaled 4.79bn/-, equivalent to 16.8 per cent of the

entire amount.

She added that the money came from various sources including oil levy from 21 projects valued at 8.958bn/- and that 1.238bn/- was paid to for the purpose.

The RAS mentioned other sources as including additional funds totaling 12.407bn/- and money provided by

the Region 176.466m/- in regard to 10 development projects.

For his part, Morogoro District Commissioner, Albert Msando thanked CCM government for the funds including the leadership in the implementation of the development projects promising to complete all projects in time.



Works and Transport deputy minister Geoffrey Kasekenya (seated, C), Chinese Embassy representative Xu Chen (seated, 3rd-R), Works and Transport ministry deputy permanent secretary Dr Ally Possi (seated, 2nd-R), ICAO's Eastern and Southern African Office regional director, Barry Kashambo (seated, 2nd-L), Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Hamza Johari (seated, 3rd-L) and TCAA board members pose for a photo in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after the inauguration of an oversight system for the enhancement of the safety of civil aviation in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

CHUNYA Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTCU) has embarked on plans to establish projects as an alternative to combat climate change which is affecting tobacco harvests.

The union plans to establish two small industries to process and package flour and sunflower oil as sources of revenue to its members in case tobacco harvests are completely affected by climate change.

The acting manager for the union Juma Nshishi issued the information over the weekend during the union's ordinary annual meeting where he said the process to set up the industries has been completed.

Chutcu new strategy to combat climate change affecting tobacco

He said the union is expecting to take a loan amounting to 367.6m/- for implementing the projects and what was remaining was the approval by members.

He said a business plan for the projects has been finalized and that it has set aside internal revenues to return the loan where 12percent has been allocated monthly.

He said the amount will be increasing yearly depending on the revenue they collect adding that the loan will be returned in four years.

"The aim of the investment is to add value to farmers, we have prepared a business plan and we know where to buy and sell the products," he said.

The deputy chairman for the union, Eliezer Fijabo said they decided to establish the projects to expand their economic capability instead of depending on tobacco alone.

He said other plans in the plan include sensitizing farmers to practice intercropping which will

ensure them bumper harvests in case tobacco does not pay off.

"We are also encouraging farmers to grow other crops such as maize, sunflower instead of depending on tobacco alone because climate change is posing a risk to its survival," he said.

For his part, the regional registrar for cooperative union in Mbeya region Richard Zengo called upon cooperative union leaders in the region to understand investment laws to avoid conflicts.

Kagera farmers to grow beans with high iron and zinc content

By Guardian Correspondent, Missenyi

KAGERA Region farmers have been called to cultivate nutritious beans that have been researched on and found to have high iron and zinc contents that apart from earning them income, but will also improve theirs and their children health thereby reducing malnutrition levels among them.

Speaking at Kenyana Village, Kilimilile Ward, Missenyi District during the Farmers day coordinated by the Maruku Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Maruku), the centre's Acting Manager Innocent Ndyetabura said they conducted research in various districts of Kagera Region including Karagwe, Muleba, Bukoba and Missenyi and found out that 14 per cent of children under five years suffer from malnutrition challenges.

Ndyetabura said that if farmers increase their efforts in the cultivation of nutritious beans and feed them to their children; it would greatly help to reduce the problem of malnutrition.

He said Kagera Region is among the poorest regions and the average per capita income was 4,000/-, a very small figure compared to other regions, despite the region having arable land and good climate that is fit for seasonal crops including beans and maize to be planted twice a year.

"Via the advanced technology in beans growing, a farmer can earn more than 540,000/- from one acre, this can assist in enhancing families' incomes, as well as the region and the nation in general," he said.

For his part, Julius Mbiu, agriculture researcher from TARI-Maruku said regions that lead in beans cultivation in the country include Kagera and Kigoma, but still, he added the cultivation has not been of great benefit to the farmers because they do not adhere to better farming practices, including planting in lines and use of quality seeds.

However some farmers who were educated to improve their farming practices, including Mulokozi Salvatory from Kenyana village said the biggest challenge they face was the lack of reliable markets for their beans and appealed to the government and other stakeholders to assist them in accessing the markets.

Nutritious beans that were researched on by TARI and found to have high zinc and iron contents include JESCA, TARIBEAN 2, TARIBEAN 4, TARIBEAN 5 and TARIBEAN 6, which if farmers grow by adhering proper farming practices can increase the yield from between two and three 100-kg bags of maize from one acre to between eight and 10 bags.



Via the advanced technology in beans growing, a farmer can earn more than 540,000/- from one acre, this can assist in enhancing families' incomes, as well as the region and the nation in general

Lushoto to offer Morogoro DC two million trees for fighting climate change

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Lushoto

LUSHOTO District Council in Tanga Region has pledged to provide two million trees to the Morogoro District Council to help strengthen environment preservation initiatives and curb climate change.

This follows a four-day study tour of officials from Morogoro which started on January 14 to 17 with an aim of sharing ways on environmental preservation and protection.

A tour organized by Morogoro Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MOROWASSA), consisted of over 40 municipal representatives including councilors from Mlimani, Luhungu, Bigwa and Kauzeni wards.

Others were religious leaders, traditional chiefs, MOROWASSA staff and political leaders from Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

Lushoto District Commissioner, Kalist Lazaro said the council will provide over two million trees that are friendly to the human environment through environmental stakeholders namely Friends of Usambara Society.

“We appreciate this visit, this helps to create sustainable cooperation. During the tour we will together learn on best ways to conserve our environment, we will also share with you a paper on how to battle environmental degradation caused by cutting down trees and bush firing,” he disclosed.

CCM district chairman and environmental expert, Rashidi Shekarata said Morogoro needs to set out strict by-laws to strengthen environmental protection.

“District inherits Germany’s forest law, no. 387 of 1957 that prohibited a person to cross at forest or pick up a leaf, that created conflict between Germany regime and natives hence we decided to involve communities as among stakeholders that he explained.

He urged them to engage local communities if they want to succeed in protecting the environment.

“We have used the same approach of working closely with local communities and this has helped to protect 42,000 hectares of natural forest and over 5,000 hectares of artificial forest”

Shekarata said that the leaders can also initiate youth development projects including creating and growing tree nurseries and butterfly keeping, saying that this will keep them busy and thus barring them from conducting activities that can harm the environment.

“Young people can be educated in groups on various entrepreneurship works such as vegetable farming or tree nurseries growing so as to sell them to generate income, we

need to make our youth to be more environmental friendly,” he added.

Morogoro District Commissioner Albert Msando said they have set a special environmental preservation team made up of soldiers, a reserved militia force and National Environment Management Council (NEMC) whose duties are to make sure communities are aware of the environment as well as tree planting.

“We thank Lushoto for providing us with the trees; we will make sure that we educate the public on the importance of protecting the environment. I’m sure under my special team all trees will be planted in all open spaces, slopes of Uluguru Mountains and public areas,” he said.

Msando named the Mlimani, Bigwa, Luhungu and Kauzeni wards as among areas which will be given first priority in planting the trees.

MOROWASSA’s chief executive officer Eng Tamimu Katakweba said planting trees is a long-term plan which also supports the preservation of water sources and help address water shortages in communities.

He said the council is implementing an immediate water project worth 12bn/- which is now in good progress and is expected to produce 17 million litres per day.

“The 17 million litres per day are supplementary to the current production of 35 million litres as daily consumption. However we have a long term project worth 185bn/- which will produce over 50 million litres of water by the end of 2025,” he explained.

Msando said the water table in Morogoro region has salt and iron minerals contamination which is harmful to human health, a situation which forced MOROWASSA to assign a Germany water expert who has spent over 5 months looking for clean and safe water.

MOROWASSA chairman, Prof Romanus Ishengoma said the tree planting exercise will be accompanied by three crucial things namely, knowledge, skills and attitude so as to make it more friendly.

Bigwa ward’s councillor, Melikiol Mwamnyanyi said feedback on the tour will help change his residents’ negative perception on environment and water sources protection.

“The 17 million litres per day are supplementary to the current production of 35 million litres as daily consumption”

Year-end holidays stall Jumaza case against ZLB, AG for the second time

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Imams Association (Jumaza) case against the Zanzibar Liquor Board and the Attorney General (AG) has stalled for the second time in a row as the judge hearing Abdulhakim Amiri Issa is the year-end holidays.

Speaking to reporters, Jumaza’s lawyer, Ruhaiya Kassim Mgeni, said Judge Abdulhakim had scheduled February 17, this year to rule on the objections filed by the lawyer from the State Attorney General’s office, but it has adjourned due the pending verdict.

The objections filed by the office of AG claim that the case has been opened illegally without giving a 60-day notice before filing charges against the government.

In the primary case against Jumaza they claim that the AG and the Zanzibar liquor board have issued licences to more than nine liquor import companies instead of three contrary to section 33 (1) of the Alcohol Act No. 9 of 2020. Another

claim by the Zanzibar Liquor Control Board (ZLB) has failed to enforce bar conditions being 1,000 metres away from community service areas such as schools, houses of worship, hospitals and residences in contravention of section 28 (k) of the Act.

In addition Jumaza wants the liquor board law to be enforced as passed by the House of Representatives before it comes into force on May 11, 2020 after being signed by the retired President of Zanzibar Dr Ali Muhamed Shein.

Leaders of the imam community have been closely following the case in court led by the secretary of the ethics committee and Islamic institutions Sheikh Abdallah Abbas Mnumbi since it opened in 2021.

The case has sparked a heated debate in the community due to the proliferation of bars near social services and became a nuisance after many residential houses were turned into bars and music played at night and sparked complaints from the public.



Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (L), Zanzibar’s Health, Community Development, Elderly, Gender and Children minister, pictured yesterday receiving medical equipment and supplies worth over US\$114,521 jointly donated by US-based institution Helping Hand for Relief and Development and Zanzibar’s Muzdalifa foundation. Presenting the items is Muzdalifa assistant consultant Irfan Khurshid. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

RC to provide 3m/-to support modern house building for TASAF beneficiary

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA Regional Commissioner Sophia Mjema, has promised to provide 3m/-, to support the construction of a modern house, for the beneficiary of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) Mwashhi Masanja a resident of Itilima in Kishapu district.

Mjema made the pledge over the weekend, during a visit to Kishapu and Kahama districts to inspect the construction of road infrastructure, bridges, as well as visited the TASAF beneficiaries.

She said the house owned by the TASAF beneficiary is not the most stable because it is muddy, thus

promising to provide 3m/- to build a small modern house that will help him and his two grandchildren.

“The house where this TASAF beneficiary lives is not very stable despite the tin roofing, so I will give 3m/- to build another small block brick house, which he will live with his grandchildren in a safe house,” said Mjema.

In addition, she urged all TASAF beneficiaries in Shinyanga Region, to use the grant money for the intended purposes, and not to use it for luxury items, to lift them out of poverty including investing in livestock and agriculture.

The TASAF beneficiaries, who were promised support by the

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, including Mwashhi Masanja, who has been promised a modern house, said the house would help him live safely with his two grandchildren.

He said the mud house in which he now lives was built with the money from TASAF and thanked the DC for promising to build him another modern house.

TASAF Shinyanga Regional Coordinator Dotto Maligisa, said in the implementation of the second phase of the TASAF III Poor Household Relief Program in the region, for the period from (2020-2023), a total of 14,785 households met the criteria and were included in the deal, in which 7,155 households

lacked qualifications and were evicted. He also urged TASAF Council Coordinators, that before providing them with grant funds, they should first provide them with education on proper use, including investing in productive projects that will lift them out of poverty.

He cited the successes they have achieved through the implementation of the TASAF program, from 2015 to 2021, that 24,600 households have joined the CHF improved health insurance, 22,411 households have started economic projects, 4,119 households have improved their housing and built tin houses, and more eat three meals a day.



Dr Jim Yonazi (R), Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry permanent secretary, pictured yesterday inspecting national fibre-optic infrastructure for Manyoni in Singida Region to Kambikatoto in Mbeya Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN grants \$150 million in aid for 13 underfunded crises

By Lisa Schlein, Geneva

THE United Nations is allocating \$150 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund to support seriously underfunded humanitarian operations in 13 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

Topping the list of underfunded crises are Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan.

These countries will receive between \$20- and \$25 million each to help them implement life-saving humanitarian operations.

International support for Syria has all but dissipated after more than a decade of conflict. Some 13 million refugees and internally displaced Syrians are living in a state of destitution, with little recourse to basic relief.

The DRC is one of the longest and

most complex humanitarian crises. Millions of people are suffering from conflict, displacement, epidemics, and acute hunger.

The United Nations warns the humanitarian crisis in Sudan is deepening, as political instability grows and the country contends with flooding, rising food prices and disease outbreaks. Jens Laerke, the spokesman for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs, says the distribution of funds made by Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths is the largest ever. He says it beats last year’s \$135 million by \$15 million. “This announcement of funding will help the prioritization of life-saving projects to respond to for example food security, nutrition, health, and protection needs. More detailed strategies are expected from these countries later this month,” he said.

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Taking A New Look
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Train accident a reminder that we aren't out of the woods yet

ANGUISH was registered again as the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) takes steps to restart regular journeys on the major railway lines, Dar to Arusha in particular, with an accident in Pangani district. A TRC statement said that five wagons overturned and four were derailed, in what could be said to be a freak accident where one child died and several people were taken for treatment. It suggests that there are dysfunctional features on the track, or in the manner in which the wagons are being operated.

At the same time the time schedule of that journey, leaving Arusha at 2.30 in the afternoon and at dawn the next day the train is lumbering near Pangani in Tanga Region is not 21st century travel but simply a relic of the past. Those of us who don't know enough of mechanics can't quite figure out if the problem is the use of outdated engines or a rail track soft belly where speed can't be increased; by some bad luck the weight impresses upon the track to slope. It may instantly cause a derailling or overturning the wagons, and if the train is on high speed, the scale of destruction would be vastly higher than the lumbering train.

That stated, it all the same raises an issue as to how far we have the ability to restore TRC services to proper reliability, not having to investigate such incidents whether it is along the central railway line or the northern route. While we do not have appreciable answers for

that conundrum, we are now in the process of building a standard gauge railway on which we expect to use speed trains, not the usual steam or diesel trains but electric engines that don't have low speed safeguards for safety. There is a lingering issue of how far are we prepared, and whether we opt for systematic precautions or muddling through.

It will be remembered that for over a decade the railway service was hardly functioning, until early in the last decade that then Transportation minister Dr Harrison Mwakymbe battled to introduce a commuter rail service especially towards Pugu, on the fringes of the city of Dar es Salaam. Plans then started to rehabilitate the northern track (Dar to Arusha, Tanga to Arusha) before the fifth phase embarked on the speed train project, as neighbouring countries were modernizing rail tracks already. But unlike the case here, their ability to run rail services was fairly satisfactory over the decades, while trains fizzled here.

All the same it is unlikely that there is steam in the bureaucracy for precautionary measures, to form a joint venture arrangement (as consultancy is overly expensive) with a company that has rail stock to spare especially of the traditional kind as its investment. It would also have the technical ability to inspect rail track engineering and conditions to ensure that slippages don't easily occur, and provide vital oversight as we move into speed trains. As they say, a stitch in time saves nine.

World Religions Day: Unending strain over faith-based harmony and disasters

ACTIVISTS around the world were on Sunday marking the World Religions Day, the third Sunday of January, each year. It is intended to foster understanding, sympathy and harmony between the major religions, a continuation of involving religious leaders in many countries to seek peace where there is strife, creating an opportunity for dialogue where politics is blocked if various parties follow hard lines. Yet it isn't true that religion comes in merely as an answer to social or political tensions; it is part of the background scenario.

There is an expression in philosophy that is taken from the Middle East, that to understand a society or any country for that matter, a trilogy is vital to observe, which in Arabic (resonating with Swahili) it is formulated as 'din, dunya, dawla.' When one understands a country's religion, it opens up avenues of understanding that society, and on that basis, the politics or state outlook in such a society. Put differently, religion is at once a source of inspirations that lead to conflict, and an unavoidable avenue for resolution.

The way in which religion features around the world is a complicated set of issues, as to how far it contributes to world peace or to conflict, and on the other hand, what potential there is for harmony and understanding between religions.

It often leads to an egg and hen question, as to whether it is because of harmony in politics that there is harmony among religions, or the opposite, that harmony among

religions facilitates harmony in politics. It isn't easy to unravel the issues and put out clear answers to the matter.

World Religions Day helps to figure out how countries are helped - or hindered - to become peaceful by the agency of religion. One facet about religion and conflict is that natural groups formed by language and clans are also encompassed by a denomination within one or other religion, and at times form national communities that make all dialogue difficult to undertake. Such alliances only show their outward marks, for instance one tries to hold a dialogue with a political party which fails, because the politics is merely an instrument for community choices which are expressed in a religious manner, and they aren't tabled there.

For Tanzania, marking World Religions Day in the current situation is an assuring occasion, as tensions that cropped up in the past were nipped in the bud, but law enforcers don't sleep on their laurels. There are insidious pressures underlying faith communities that at times ignore obvious dangers ahead in case the programmes or courses of action they espouse are taken up or become the norm.

Tanzania isn't alone in such fears as each country has to keep at bay its demons of disorder and potential disaster, behind which there is an 'indivisible' demand that 'we are this or that type of community, and certain things are not acceptable.' History is a sequence of disasters where nations painfully overcome indivisible prejudice.



Shame of rich countries sending expired vaccines to Africa

By Adhere Covince

THERE is growing apprehension in many African countries regarding Covid-19 vaccines donated by rich countries. Millions of doses shipped to the continent have short shelf-life leading to expiry before deployment; a fact that is now compounding Africa's inoculations bid against the global health crisis.

Nigeria is reported to have destroyed one million doses of expired Covid-19 vaccines in December 2021. The problem appears to spring from rushed political decisions by rich countries to donate previously hoarded vaccines to developing countries.

Instead of receiving outdated vaccines, poor countries are now turning down the commodities. The United Nations Children's Fund has revealed that developing countries turned down over 100 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines that were about to expire by end of last year. Some 15 million doses of vaccines donated by European Union were also turned down by poor countries in October and November 2021.

For a region like Africa that has since vaccinated just 8% of the eligible population, turning down vaccines is

a painful experience. Away from the regional average, Burundi has only managed to vaccinate a paltry 0.07% its population, the lowest inoculation record in Africa. Collectively, 85% of Africa's population or about a billion people are yet to receive a single dose of Covid-19 vaccine, according to WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Donating near-expired vaccines to Africa has presented three main challenges. First is the false hope that beneficiary countries would increase their vaccination numbers. Many African countries have no capacity to fast distribute and administer vaccines with short lifespans. Secondly, affected African countries are now forced to invest in vaccine waste treatment plants instead of putting their meager resources into additional vaccine purchases. Thirdly, expired vaccines are driving a new form of vaccine apathy in the continent with many people fearing that they could get expired vaccines.

This unfortunate scenario has forced the African Union to issue strong advisory to countries that intend to donate COVID vaccines to the continent. Donors are now encouraged to declare in advance their intention to donate including requisite numbers to be donated. Equally, donations should have

a shelf life of not less than three months. These measures are aimed giving African countries enough headroom to distribute and administer the vaccines.

Sending expired vaccines to Africa runs counter to the rhetoric by donor countries of showing solidarity with developing countries in the pandemic fight. When it became clear that a vaccine against the pandemic was in the pipeline, there was palpable hope across the world, and more so in developing countries. With weak health systems and doused economic vitality as a result of the pandemic, low resourced economies looked at a Covid-19 vaccine as a rational and sustainable way out of the pandemic.

Hardly surprising though, it soon emerged that rich economies had pre-ordered billions of doses of the Covid-19 vaccines, leaving little to be purchased by poor countries most of which are located in Africa. Pleas by the affected governments, WHO and other regional organizations such as the African Union for equitable distribution of the commodities were unheeded. Meanwhile the pandemic was increasing in intensity with new waves fueled by more transmissible and deadly variants such as the Delta and Omicron.

The only sustainable way to ensure

Africa has access to the vaccines it needs to protect its population is to encourage local production of the commodities in the continent. Instead of backing the WTO led process to grant temporary waiver of intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, and medical devices, the advanced economies would rather send out of date health supplies to poor countries.

An alternative route for Africa is to consider proposals by countries like China that are already implementing joint vaccines production hubs in the continent. The FOCAC 2021 commitments by China to donate 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines with 400 million doses produced in the continent will not only enhance access to the commodities in Africa but also foster the industrial capacity and health systems strengthening in the continent.

Rapid, equitable and sustainable vaccination is the ultimate antidote against the pandemic. As the Omicron variant spread has proven, only administered vaccines count. Advanced economies should read from the same script with the rest of the world and jointly work to stem the tide of global health crisis. Expired vaccines have no role to play in this endeavour.

'Prosperity gospel': Excusing poverty and its true causes in Africa

By Andile Zulu

THE prosperity gospel succeeds by exploiting desperation caused by economic dysfunction and social instability.

The prosperity gospel promises power to those who feel helpless and submerged in the storms of socio-economic crisis. But it is ultimately a hollow call because it masks the true nature of poverty, and so leads societies away from tackling it. Instead of questioning the inefficient or self-serving economic policies of politicians, prosperity preachers shame congregants for lacking the faith to banish poverty from their lives.

You can't tackle issues like poverty until you understand their root causes. Pastors who focus on self-enrichment through misleading their congregations misdiagnose these causes. That's dangerous.

In a continent abundant with resources, why does the lavish wealth of a few exist alongside the poverty of millions? Pastor Chris Oyikhalome, leader of Christ Embassy, could answer by telling us that poverty is an affliction of those lacking faith. Prophet Shepherd Bushiri, of the Enlightened Christian Gathering, might beg us to remember that poverty is a demonic force that

can only be wrestled into submission through spiritual warfare.

These self-proclaimed men of God sever poverty from the economic systems and political orders which produce it. Instead, like many of the first European missionaries who brought the Bible to Africa, they skillfully manipulate religion in the pursuit and service of oppressive power.

Their followers acclimatise to the inequities cultivated by capitalism, as the multi-millionaire preachers nefariously chase self-enrichment.

Their tool is the prosperity gospel, a branch of Protestant christianity that conceives the salvation of humanity as a contractual agreement with God. Belief and surrender to Christ delivers not only atonement for one's sins but also exceptional health and extraordinary wealth. Through potent prayer, positive confessions and generous church offerings, one can access God's ancient promise of prosperity.

An outsider to the theology may view it as irrational but ultimately harmless dogma. This would be a naive mistake. Our ability to solve social plagues such as poverty or inequality partly depends on how we define these problems. In understanding the fundamental causes of poverty, we move closer to effective solutions to them. By

relegating poverty to the realm of the supernatural, prosperity preachers disguise the true and tangible conditions which cause their congregants' suffering and pacify their political consciousness.

The prosperity gospel succeeds by exploiting desperation caused by economic dysfunction and social instability.

The prosperity gospel elevates the myth that individuals with endless supplies of will-power can rise from destitution - the religious way of condescendingly telling the poor to lift themselves up by their bootstraps. At best, it is a sedative respite from reality, lulling followers into slumber, while we all continue to be ruled by elites who prioritise profits and power over people.

In South Africa, where pastors like Chris Oyikhalome attract large crowds in stadiums, 44 per cent of the working age population is unemployed, more than half of citizens live in poverty and the country stands as the most unequal society in the world. There is a pervasive sense of despair, desperation and disempowerment amongst ordinary people. Disempowerment drives citizens to disengage from political action which could alleviate their suffering.

All these converge to render many vulnerable to abuse by prosperity

preachers.

Attuned to the desperation of their followers and by framing themselves as authentic prophets in a deeply religious continent, such pastors amass reverence which allows them to exploit their congregants.

Pastor Tim Oluseun Omosoto, of Jesus Dominion International, currently sits in a SA prison on trial for 63 charges of rape, human trafficking and racketeering. Prophet Bushiri, estimated to be worth \$100 million, faces charges of theft, fraud and money laundering.

The prosperity gospel promises power to those who feel helpless and submerged in the storms of socio-economic crisis. But it is ultimately a hollow call because it masks the true nature of poverty, and so leads societies away from tackling it. Instead of questioning the inefficient or self-serving economic policies of politicians, prosperity preachers shame congregants for lacking the faith to banish poverty from their lives. Rather than critiquing the monopolies multinational corporations have over resources, sermons encourage people to seek individual financial upliftment through offerings, even though the greatest victories against poverty were gained through collective political action and the redesigning of economic structures.

China register big strides in foreign trade in goods

By Luo Shanshan

EARLY in the morning of Jan. 1, 2022, a China-Europe freight train loaded with 100 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers set off from an international freight logistics base in Guangzhou city, capital of south China's Guangdong province.

The train left China via the land port of Manzhouli on the China-Russia border for Vorsino Station in Moscow, Russia. It will arrive at its destination, which is more than 10,000 kilometers away, 16 days after its departure.

The China-Europe freight trains have so far made a cumulative total of over 40,000 trips, carrying various kinds of goods to 174 cities in 23 European countries through 73 freight routes. With a logistics distribution network covering the entire Eurasian continent, these freight trains have effectively guaranteed the stability of international trade.

Since the launch of reform and opening up in 1978, China has continuously promoted institutional reform and innovation in foreign trade. As a result, the country's goods trade enjoyed leapfrog development, with its structure continuously improving and overseas market constantly expanding, making important contributions to the country's social and economic development.

By establishing platforms for international economic and trade cooperation, such as the Canton Fair, the China International Import Expo, and the China International Fair for Trade in Services, China has actively participated in global economic and trade cooperation, boosted trade liberalization and facilitation, continuously setting new records in trade volume.

From 1980 to 2020, China's total goods imports and exports soared from 57 billion yuan (about \$8.95 billion) to more than 32 trillion yuan.

Riding on the wave of the Canton Fair, Galanz, a leading home appliance maker in China, has gained an increasing share in overseas market over the past more than 20 years. Its products are now in great demand in more than 200 countries and regions.

At first, the company's exhibits at the Canton Fair were only several microwave ovens and rice cookers, and it needed to scramble for foreign orders on site. Today, people can see smart home appliances for the whole house exhibited by Galanz, and the company is attracting more and more foreign customers through various channels both online and offline.

In 2020, when the external environment for foreign trade was complex and grim, China's trade in goods scored a total value of 32.16 trillion yuan, making the country the only major economy in the world to realize positive growth in foreign trade in goods, which has further consolidated the country's position as the world's largest trader in goods.

In the first 11 months of 2021, China's foreign trade in goods totaled 35.39 trillion yuan, up 22 percent year on year. During the same period, the country's imports and exports with main trading partners such as the ASEAN, the EU and the U.S. all enjoyed double-digit growth.

The joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), while creating new space for global economic growth, has opened up new horizons for the development of China's foreign trade. Driven by the initiative, various regions have vigorously optimized their foreign trade structures, effectively promoting the orderly and free flow of both international and domestic factors of production, efficient allocation of resources, and in-depth integration of markets.



Photo taken on Jan. 4, 2022 shows a large number of commercial vehicles to be shipped overseas at Yantai Port, east China's Shandong province. File photo

During the first three quarters of 2021, China's foreign trade with countries along the routes of the BRI surged 23.4 percent from the same period of the previous year.

China's exports of high-tech and high value-added products have witnessed particularly rapid expansion. The export volume of China's mechanical and electrical products jumped 21.2 percent in the first 11 months of 2021, with its proportion in China's total foreign trade rising to 59 percent. Specifically, the country's exports of automatic data processing equipment and its parts, household appliances, and automobiles (including chassis) climbed 12.3 percent, 16.3 percent and 108.4 percent, respectively.

At the final assembly workshop of eGT New Energy Automotive Co., Ltd., a new-energy vehicle (NEV) manufacturer headquartered in Shiyuan city of central China's Hubei province, 240 NEVs roll off the production line every day, 80 percent of which are sold to overseas customers. In 2021, the company exported more than 10,000 NEVs to overseas markets.

The smooth functioning of industrial and supply chains

has facilitated the import of production equipment and parts and export of finished vehicles, helping the company control costs and improve global competitiveness, said Zhao Weidong, general manager of eGT New Energy Automotive Co., Ltd.

Newegg Trading (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., a trading company based in east China's Shanghai, recently exported a batch of goods smoothly to the U.S. by sea after completing customs clearance via the bonded warehouse mode (customs supervision code I210) for bonded cross-border e-commerce trade at the Yangshan Special Comprehensive Bonded Zone in Shanghai.

Under the "I210" mode, e-commerce platforms can temporarily store goods at comprehensive bonded zones in advance, and sort and package them at their own warehouses in the zone, said Shi Zhibin, overseas operations director of the company.

The mode features advantages including low cost, fast tax refund and high efficiency, according to Shi, who disclosed that the company set up its overseas warehouse for cross-

border e-commerce at the Yangshan Special Comprehensive Bonded Zone because of its special geographical location and favorable policies.

China attaches great importance to the development of new business forms and models of foreign trade, said Ren Hongbin, China's vice minister of commerce.

The country's Ministry of Commerce has worked together with various localities and departments across the country to continuously improve relevant policy systems and optimize business environment.

As a result, a growth of nearly 10 times in the trade volume of cross-border e-commerce was realized in five years, export volume through market procurement trade methods rose five times in six years, and the country's number of overseas warehouses exceeded 2,000, according to Ren. **People's Daily**

STOCKHOLM

COVID-19 upsets status quo in Europe, hope and challenges ahead

IN 2021, COVID-19 has continued to ravage Europe, causing fear, stress and even despair across the board.

A brief recovery in the summer turned out to be more fragile than it looked, while the emergence of the more transmissible Omicron variant has made people realize that the pandemic may be far from over. Despite rising infections and inequity in vaccine access, however, people across the continent hope that more stringent measures, new drugs and vaccines would eventually rein in the raging pandemic, which has threatened to stifle an early economic recovery.

PANDEMIC ROLLER COASTER

Following a surge in coronavirus cases and deaths in spring 2021, Europe enjoyed a summertime lull,

which made people wonder if they were indeed seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Longing for a "return to normalcy," people welcomed the easing of social distancing and travel restrictions.

And then the pandemic was back with a vengeance. In the first week of November alone, Europe reported almost 2 million new infections, the largest weekly case count in the region since the start of the pandemic. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, the week also saw nearly 27,000 COVID-19-related fatalities, more than half of all deaths reported globally. "Europe is back at the epicenter of the pandemic, where we were one year ago," said Hans Kluge, the WHO Regional Director for Europe.

In preparation for the fast-ap-

proaching year-end holidays and determined to curb virus cases, the authorities across the continent have been scrambling to re-impose restrictions.

The government of the Netherlands, for instance, was the first in Europe to impose – or re-impose rather – a partial lockdown on Nov. 12, and Austria followed suit with a nationwide lockdown implemented on Nov. 22. Most of these plans and measures predated the identification in southern Africa of Omicron, the coronavirus variant that is more transmissible than the previously dreaded Delta strain.

Omicron is also understood to reduce vaccine efficacy but cause less severe symptoms, according to early data. "World leaders, by continuing to ignore the warnings and focusing

only on their national populations, are playing with fire and putting our hard-won progress at risk," Jeremy Farrar, director of the charitable foundation Wellcome Trust, wrote in an opinion article in *The Guardian*. "We are not yet in control of this pandemic – Omicron or an even worse variant could arise at any time," said Farrar, also a former member of the British government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies.

HARD BALANCE

The pandemic has so far caused over 5.3 million deaths globally. Its recurring waves and the emerging virus variants have placed an enormous burden on healthcare systems and put unprecedented pressure on governments to resort to restrictions. However, these in turn stifled the

economies, all but wiped out several industries and increased unemployment. Pre-pandemic levels of European travel will not be achieved until 2024, the Brussels-based European Travel Commission has estimated. Despite a strong summer rebound, it said international tourist arrivals to Europe are forecast to be 60 percent below 2019 by the end of 2021. Across the European Union (EU), the unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in October 2021, down from 7.5 percent in October 2020. The jobless rate was the highest in Spain at 14.5 percent, followed by Greece at 12.9 percent.

The EU economy had rebounded from the pandemic recession faster than expected. As vaccination campaigns progressed and restrictions started to be lifted, growth resumed

in spring and continued unabated through summer, underpinned by the re-opening of the economy.

But the emergence of the Omicron variant and rapid infections it has driven may have dashed hope of a quick economic recovery. Paolo Gentiloni, European Commissioner for Economy, pointed out in November three key threats to the current expansion of the European economy: "a marked increase in COVID cases, most acute in areas where vaccinations are relatively low; rising inflation, driven largely by a spike in energy prices; and supply-chain disruptions that are weighing on numerous sectors."

Meanwhile, adding insult to injury have been the mushrooming demonstrations in many European countries against COVID-19 rules and lockdowns, some of which even intensified into riots.

RADIO

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 MATUKIYA 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



CURRENT NEWS
Katavi RC salutes bank after 10m/- furniture donation to Mpanda Medical College
Page 14



TOP VIEW
Emirates SkyCargo ships 600 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines worldwide
Page 14



VIEW FROM THE TOP
North Mara's business development bridge for communities to benefit from mining value chain
Page 15

Experts question dwindling of the education sector's budget

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

EDUCATION experts have questioned budget allocation to the sensitive sector on which the country's development depends on warning that the trend risks backpedalling progress made decades ago.

The experts and other stakeholders said during the first International Conference on Education organized by Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) in collaboration with Tanzania Education Network (TEN / MET) held in Iringa last week that budget allocations to two key ministries: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), has fallen sharply.

Speaking during the conference, ActionAid Tanzania's Tax Advisor, Dr Balozi Morwa said the budget for the education sector remains inadequate as it falls way below the minimum international standards.

"The Education 2030 Framework for Action proposed two benchmarks as crucial reference points: allocate at least 4-6 percent of GDP to education, and/or allocate at least 15 to 20 percent of public expenditure to education," Dr Morwa said.

He explained that, the international benchmark for education budget allocation is 20 percent of the annual government budget. Dr Morwa who made a presentation on education budget analysis for Tanzania Mainland, pointed out that the national budget does not provide sufficient resources to the education sector.

The ActionAid Tanzania Tax Advisor warned that much of the budget goes to finance infrastructure instead of developing capacity of teachers and their welfare, buy teaching and learning materials which are technically known as soft infrastructure.

"We have hard infrastructure in the education sector like buildings and we have also soft infrastructure which actually is responsible to develop



Some of the stakeholders who attended the first International Conference on Education organized by Mkwawa University College of Education in collaboration with Tanzania Education Network held in Iringa last week. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya.

students' minds and brains," he added while warning that investing heavily in hard infrastructure alone is counterproductive. According to their research

findings for the past five years in collaboration with various stakeholders, they discovered that the national budget is blind-funding the education sector,

because there is no evidence of funds allocated towards various levels of education.

Dr Morwa stated that the national budget analysis for Tan-

zania Mainland for the past five years showed that the budget allocation for the education sector has not gone beyond 15 percent of the annual national budget.

"So, up to now Tanzania has not reached the compiled target of the international benchmark of allocating 20 percent towards the education sector or six percent from gross domestic product respectively," he explained. He maintained that the purpose of education is to develop competent minds with skills to provide human capital and not just provide academic qualifications.

Contributing to the debate, Muce's Senior Lecturer, Dr Gerevas Kahonga from Department of Languages and Literature, said that there must be a language policy in place arguing that it contribute to the growth of the field by publishing high-quality studies that help build a sound theoretical understanding of the subject matter.

Dr Kahonga pointed out that there is a problem with the understanding of English as a language of instruction in the country's education sector hence advised the government to emphasize that Kiswahili should be used as the official language of instruction. "In order to understand better, students should be taught in a language that they can master easily," Dr Kahonga argued. Chief guest at the conference, Iringa Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga agreed with experts that there is a need to use Kiswahili as a language of instruction at all levels of education.

Sendiga said that in order to improve on the quality of the education sector, there is need to use friendly language as teaching tool. "With Kiswahili language, people communicate well and understand each other well," she noted.

Tanzania Education Network/Mtandao wa Elimu Tanzania (TEN/MET) is a national network of 140 civil society organizations established 22 years ago to advocate for equitable access to quality education for all in the country.

Karume market traders protest two-week probe time for inferno

By Francis Kajubi

HUNDREDS of traders at Karume Market in Dar es Salaam who make-shift shops were razed down by an inferno during daybreak on Sunday have requested Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Paul Makala to allow them continue with their business while a probe team he has appointed continues with its work.

Speaking to Smart Money in a random survey, the traders who largely constitute of second hand clothing retailers said the two week probe team period is very long for them to survive without doing any business.

"We should not be taken as opposing the Regional Commissioner's directive but rather the government should understand that our daily lives depend on doing businesses at this market," said Samira Minja, who sells female second hand clothes.

She said the two weeks probe team period which RC Makalla has ordered denies them any access to the market hence renders them idle hence without an income. "We are ready to clean up the place and continue with business activities while investigations are ongoing," she argued.

Minja who revealed that she lost

property worth millions of shillings through the Sunday dawn fire, argued that most of them including herself have loans to service hence two weeks without working will be disastrous.

Minja's arguments were backed by another petty trader, Mohammed Kemo who said the loss that he suffered worth millions of shillings means that he needs to get down to work immediately to raise money need to repay a loan.

"I'm supposed to pay 80,000/- every week to my Saccos which gave me the loan. With this loss, I plead with the government to help us by finding



Ilala district commissioner Ng'wilabuzu Ludigija. a way to speak to our lenders so that they give us grace period," Kemo said.

He pointed out that the Savings and Credit Cooperative Society needs the debt to be serviced regularly as per contract agreement saying staying idle while waiting for the probe team's report will be counterproductive.

"We are also demanding a permanent solution from the government on these fire incidents which keep happening in Dar es Salaam in recent days because they are holding us back in realizing economic developments," Kemo lamented.

Responding to the traders' requests after visited the razed market area this week, Ilala District Commissioner, Ng'wilabuzu Ludigija said during the 14 days period of investigations to establish cause of the fire, anyone with who has a loan to service, should visit his office for consultation.

Ludigija who did not directly address the time period concern raised by the traders, simply assured them that his office will intervene and talk to creditors about issuing a grace period and possible rescheduling.

"Traders who have outstanding loans and find it hard to service them are welcomed to my office so that we can find a way to talk to their lenders," he promised saying the government will give them all the support needed to recover from the losses.

State rejects once again plea to make SGR contract public

NAIROBI

THE government has once again rejected a plea to make public the standard gauge railway contracts. Transport Principal Secretary Dr Joseph Njoroge says in court documents that agreements entered between the government and Chinese contractors over the construction of Sh450 billion SGR have non-disclosure clauses.

Through an affidavit, Dr Njoroge further says that it would be in breach of contractual terms of the agreements if two activists are supplied with them. "Upon receipt of the request for information from the petitioners (Ms Wanjiru Gikonyo and Khelef Khalifa) Kenya Railways Corporation responded and explained that the contracts of the projects to which information is being requested are between the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Kenya," says Dr Njoroge.

Dr Njoroge says that if the orders sought are granted, it would endan-

ger national security and injure foreign relations between the states that the country has entered into bilateral agreements with and would stifle the successful implementation of the National Transport Policy. The PS further says that the petitioners have failed to articulate the necessity of the documents and beneficial actions in the interest of the public they are to undertake upon receiving the documents.

The PS says that the respondents' discretion not to disclose the documents sought is constitutional and protected by under Section 6(10) and (20) of Access to Information Act since the disclosure is likely to undermine national security. Dr Njoroge further states that terms in the contract touch on foreign government information with implications on national security and foreign relations.

The PS also says that the disclosure is also likely to cause substantial harm to the ability of the government to manage the economy of the country in the event of breach terms of agree-



Transport ministry principal secretary Dr Joseph Njoroge.

ments with foreign nations or corporations.

The petitioners want all contracts, agreements and studies related to the construction and operations of the SGR made public, arguing that keeping the documents confidential violates the law and discourages transparency in governance.

They argue that documents related to the project and its financing have never been made public despite it being the most expensive project done by the government.

"SGR is the largest capital-intensive infrastructure project ever constructed in the country, but despite this extraordinary expenditure of public funds, the project has been undertaken with controversy and secrecy from its inception," argue the petitioners. The case will be mentioned on March 31.

Katavi RC salutes bank after 10m/- furniture donation to Katavi's Mpanda Medical College



Katavi regional commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko.

By Smart Money Reporter

A donation of 100 chairs and tables donated by NMB Bank Plc to Mpanda College of Health and Allied Sciences will go a long way in improving the learning environment at the public institution hence lead to quality health graduates.

Katavi regional commissioner, Mwanamvua Mrindoko said this week after receiving the donation that NMB's management has been in the forefront in supporting community projects aimed at improving delivery of health and education services.

"I personally thank the bank for being a trusted partner in the development of our region and request you to stay the course because the community has more health and educational needs which government alone cannot deliver," Mrindoko said.

She pointed out that her region is still facing shortages in education and health infrastructure hence needs well wishers such as NMB to work with to complement government budget allocations. "My only request is that please don't feel tired in assisting us because we are still in need," the Katavi RC noted.

Mpanda College of Health and Allied Sciences' Principal, Lightness Michael seconded RC Mrindoko's request to NMB by saying that even her college is facing serious shortages of lecture and classrooms which if addressed enrolment will be increased.

"We have failed to increase enrolment of students because of lack of classroom and lecture halls," Michael said while commending NMB for being a reliable partner to

the public medical training institution.

NMB's Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magese said the bank allocates a percent of its profits annually to invest in community services including education and health sectors. "For the past seven years, we have been allocating resources to support community projects in education, health and relief aid in case of disasters," Magese said.

He pointed out that NMB understand the importance of a health and educated community saying the country's most profitable bank derives its success from the public which supports its business activities that generate profits.

Magese urged residents of Katavi region to continue making use of NMB's services and products saying the bank has enough capital to support needs of all productive sectors through loan disbursements.

Emirates SkyCargo ships 600 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines worldwide



Loading Covid-19 vaccines at Emirates' pharma infrastructure cargo hub in Dubai.

By Smart Money Reporter

A record 600 million doses of vaccines against the coronavirus have been shipped to various parts of the world by Emirates SkyCargo since October 2020.

In a statement on Friday, Emirates SkyCargo said that it has crossed a major milestone in the global distribution of Covid-19 vaccines by transporting the doses from 35 origins to over 80 destinations globally.

"Emirates SkyCargo remains committed to the rapid distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable communities around the world. We formulated our Covid-19 distribution strategy in 2020 through our Dubai hub to developing countries. I'm happy to announce that nearly two thirds of the total vaccines we transported were headed to destinations in

Africa, Asia and the Middle East," said Nabil Sultan, Emirates Divisional Senior Vice President for Cargo.

He said with the increasing roll-out of vaccination and booster campaigns across global markets, Emirates SkyCargo has witnessed a steady increase in the demand for transportation of Covid-19 vaccines in the second half of 2021. In October and November 2021 alone, Emirates SkyCargo moved more than 200 million doses, almost one third of the total Covid-19 vaccines transported by the carrier since the start of the pandemic.

"With our extensive reach across six continents, our wide-body capacity and expertise in cold chain logistics, Emirates SkyCargo will continue to be a reliable partner for the distribution of Covid-19 vaccines in the months to come," Sultan added.

So far, the Dubai based airline said in its statement, Asia received 185 million doses, Africa 150 million and the Middle

East 70 million Covid-19 doses and they all continue to be priority markets for vaccine delivery. North America and Europe are the main origin regions for the vaccines.

Emirates SkyCargo's certified pharma terminal in Chicago has handled more than 160 million doses which were flown from the US to different countries around the world. The air cargo carrier offers sophisticated cold chain solutions for pharmaceutical cargo with Emirates Pharma - a specialised three-tiered air transportation product designed for temperature sensitive pharmaceuticals and backed by Emirates' state of the art certified pharma infrastructure at its cargo hub in Dubai.

In June 2021, Emirates SkyCargo expanded its pharma cold chain infrastructure at Dubai International Airport, allowing it to store an additional estimated 60-90 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

Incentives for manufacturing attract \$1.2bn in investments

KIGALI

AN incentive programme rolled out by the government in 2021 aimed at driving economic recovery has generated investments worth an estimated \$1.2bn and attracted 78 investor applications, Statistics from the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) show.

The incentive programme dubbed 'Manufacture and Build to Recover' programme was approved by cabinet in December 2020 and rolled out in 2021. It was introduced to help the economy recover from the effects of Covid-19. The programme extended tax breaks and tax credits to businesses with an aim to reduce cost of investment for new manufacturers as well as those seeking to expand existing operations.

While the initiative had a target of leading to about \$1 billion worth of investments, data from RDB shows that when complete, they will have surpassed the target by about \$200m and is expected to create 27,394 direct and indirect jobs.

The programme was tailored to boost economic recovery efforts with specific incentives for the manufacturing, construction and real estate development sectors. These sectors were selected given their high potential for increasing private investments, generating export revenues and creating productive jobs.

Firms and investments benefiting from the programme are expected to purchase all incentivized materials by December 2022 with implementation of projects expected to be complete by December 2023.

According to Louise Kanyonga, Chief Strategy and Compliance Officer at RDB, they received 78 applications from different companies in the agro-processing, construction and manufacturing sectors and a total of 64 projects approved. Of the selected firms, 17 were in agro-processing, 24 in construction and 23 in manufacturing. Some of the investments have already kicked off such as Norrskan Rwanda Ltd, East African Bamboo and Landmark (Kozza) with others getting ready for

rollout.

Kanyonga said that they have constituted a dedicated committee, composed of key government institutions coordinated by RDB and Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning tasked with closely following up on the program.

"The committee meets bi-weekly (every two weeks) to review new projects, assess performance of existing beneficiaries and unblock constraints that could prevent firms from implementing their projects on time," she said. The selection of priority sectors considered agro-processing which includes adding value to agriculture produce, and construction materials.

Light manufacturing includes light consumer goods such as soaps, toiletries among others. Construction officials say it was selected for its role in acting as a driver of jobs and other sectors. The sectors were said to have multiplier effects.

"We are looking at it from the perspective of catalyzing other sectors of the economy as well as stabilizing trade balance because there are so many products that we are importing that could be produced locally," RDB officials had said at the launch of the programme.

This was geared at reducing the need for traders to seek dollars for them to import products that could be produced locally, consequently reducing the pressure and demand on the dollar and consequently curbing depreciation.

For construction either for affordable housing, high-end or commercial complex, projects were required to be valued at a minimum of \$10 million, and if a firm was setting up a new manufacturing industry/plant, the threshold is to invest at least \$1 million and at least \$100,000 in the agro-processing.

There was also a component of already existing and registered companies seeking to expand operations, the programme had a threshold of at least 20 per cent of your total investment or at least \$1 million.



Louise Kanyonga, Chief Strategy and Compliance Officer at Rwanda Development Board.

Mozambique-Dubai trade reaches US\$600 million

MAPUTO

THE volume of trade between Mozambique and Dubai reached US\$600 million in 2020, a figure that represents a growth of 140% over the last five years.

This growth was, in part, driven by the entry into operation of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce offices in Mozambique, which helped boost trade from an average US\$250 million to the current US\$600 million.

Imports represent 75% of the global value and exports the remainder, a fact influenced by the transport and logistics capacity of the United Arab Emirates, as well as its geostrategic location, serving as a gateway to the Asian continent for people and goods.

Mozambique, in turn, has the advantage of its strategic position as an entry point for the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a market of around 300 million inhabitants, through its ports in Maputo, Beira and Nacala, which offer easy connection to other markets in the region.

Mozambique is also favoured by its privileged position in the export of raw materials from countries of the region to Asia, including agricultural products, as well as the contribution of its tourism industry.

"Of the US\$600 million, more than US\$400 million represent exports from Dubai to Mozambique, with the remainder being exports from Mozambique to Dubai," said representative of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce in Mozambique and in the region, Abdula Momade, in an interview with AIM last Friday. "Mozambique exports more minerals, as is the case with coal."

Momade expects a greater increase in volume in the near future, taking into account Mozambique's potential in the energy and agricultural sector. He particularly pointed to agricultural mechanization and the exploitation of natural gas as key themes for the next stage of Mozambique-Dubai economic cooperation.

However, Momade made a less favourable assessment of 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to the imposition of many restrictions on trade and other sectors of the economy, the result of which was a deceleration in the upward trajectory of trade indicators.

North Mara's business development bridge for communities to benefit from mining value chain



Ibrahim Mshindo, director of business development at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, briefs participants from North Mara Local Business Development Programme on investment opportunities available at the bourse. This was at a meeting held in Mwanza city last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Carlos Banda

THE country's mining sector has evolved over the years owing to the government's continued efforts to attract investors and improve the doing business environment. This has led to an influx of foreign investors interested in the country's mining sector.

The development of Tanzania's vast mineral resources is crucial to the socio-economic development of the country with increased generation of revenue paid to Treasury. Robust investments in mining exploration has resulted in the growth of exports of gemstones such as coal and gypsum but also gold.

According to the latest National Bureau of Statistics' report, the extractive sector experienced a 12.2 percent increase in the third quarter of 2021 compared to 4.9 percent growth in the same period in 2020. In general, mining sector's contribution to gross domestic product has almost doubled from 3.2 percent in 2015 to over 6.1 percent in 2021.

In order to ensure that Tanzanians benefit most from their mineral resources, the government has developed a local content policy

which clearly stipulates some of the areas which no foreign can participate.

The policy and subsequent regulations aim to foster economic diversification and business linkages within the national economy, enhance job creation through the adoption of local expertise and skills in providing goods and services to the mining sector.

The local content policy and regulations, have forced foreign mining companies work with local communities and business people in the provision of goods and services consumed by mines and their personnel.

Before the coming into force of the policy, some mining companies hired guards from abroad, imported almost all food items consumed at the mines while paying for such goods and services in foreign currency.

Most foreign mining investors have since come up with their own projects to align with the government's local content policy. For example, North Mara Gold Mine in Tarime district of Mara region has come up

with North Mara Local Business Development program.

In partnership with Kengo Consulting and College of Business Education (CBE), North Mara is implementing a unique program that works to develop the capacity of enterprises in order to enable them exploit opportunities provided in the mining value chain.

The transformational four-phased program also helps small local companies with strategies for business improvement and sustainability across sectors but with focus on the mining sector. North Mara's management has dedicated about 73 percent of its total expenditure to companies where 44 percent is comprised of local businesses.

The arrangement indicates North Mara's commitment to create sustainable economic opportunities for the surrounding communities in Tarime but also contribution to the broader national economy. Implementation of such programs by the mine demonstrates the importance of more mining firms investing in

local business development and ensuring that Tanzania's Development Vision 2025 is attained.

It is therefore a task for both the government and mining investors to continue working hand in hand to foster an enabling environment for local businesses to sustainably grow and graduate into small and medium size enterprises.

North Mara's example should be used as a national yardstick for all mining companies to follow so that more local businesses be given priority to benefit from the mining sector while also building their capacity to eventually graduate into proper companies. Such a holistic approach will not only ensure that mines guarantee prosperity for the country but also exist peacefully with surrounding communities which for many years have had confrontational relations.

Ghanaian fintech raise \$17 million funding to help African businesses

ACCRA

FLOAT, an African startup in Ghana, just received a major amount in funding. With a \$17 million in investment, the fintech startup that supplies SMEs with credit facilities wants to expand its services and geographic reach.

\$7 million in equity and \$10 million in debt were used for the seed round's financing. In addition to Cauris providing debt financing, Tiger Global and JAM Fund, the investment firm founded by Tinder co-founder Justin Mateen, co-led the equity portion of the transaction. Kinfolk, Soma Capital, Ingressive Capital, and Magic Fund are among the venture capital companies that participated in the equity round.

Also present were CEOs of Y Combinator and Horizon Partners as well as Ramp founders Karim Atiyeh and Eric Glyman, mPharma founder Gregory Rockson, and founders of Dutchie LLCs Zach Lipson and Ross Lipson.

Float was started by CEO Jesse Ghansah in 2020, with help from Barima Effah. It changed its name to Float in June 2021, and the company went live with its product in June of that year. The "YC-backed" Ghanaian fintech was born during Ghansah's stint at OMG Digital, a media firm that also received funding from YC in 2016.

According to a study, over 51% of 44 million formal SMBs in Sub-Saharan Africa need more capital than they can obtain to build their firms. Float gives money to some businesses that can't get it from traditional banks.

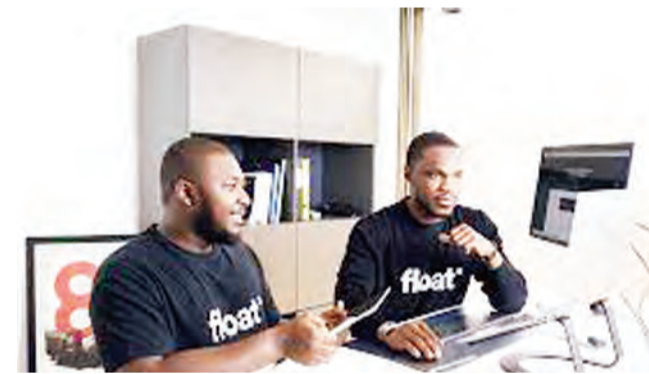
Float also has software tools that businesses can use to manage their accounts and wallets in one place, as well as automate bills, vendor or supplier payments, and invoice collections. This way, businesses can keep track of their cash flow and avoid cash flow gaps. Small and medium-sized businesses in Africa will be helped by this company.

On the platform, there are other things you can do, like get an invoice advance and open a business account. You can also manage budgets and spend cards on the platform. A lot of new things have been added to the company recently, like revenue advances and instant payouts. It wants small businesses to use its platform instead of gateways, which take a long time to get money from small businesses. Its invoice factoring helps businesses that haven't paid their bills get cash loans.

These features, according to Ghansah, provide credit to a wide range of African sectors and verticals. More than a hundred companies from various sectors, including retail and manufacturing, finance, e-commerce, media, and health care, have engaged Float since its start seven months ago. Credit and cash advances to enterprises have also surpassed the \$10 million mark. There has been a 26-fold increase in the volume of invoices and vendor payments that the company claims.

Ghanaian fintech, Float, isn't the only startup aiming to be the "operating system" for small and medium enterprises in the region. Companies like Brass, Prospa, and Sparkle help businesses with their finances and cash flow as well as with software.

Because they believe the market is big enough, none of the parties regards the others as competition. A sense of superiority pervades their products, yet they're reluctant to admit it publicly.



Float founder and CEO Jesse Ghansah (L) and his assistant, Barima Effah.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Europe fears economic hit if Russia is sanctioned heavily

BRUSSELS

CONCERN among some big European nations about economic fallout raises the risk of a split with the US on how strongly to hit Russia with fresh sanctions if it invades Ukraine, according to people familiar with the matter.

Western allies are united in their desire to prevent a war as they hold high-stakes talks this week aimed at defusing tensions with Russia, warning it faces massive penalties for any incursion. Actions that have been discussed include export controls, curbing Russia's access to technology, and even cutting it out of the global system for financial payments.

But while the major Western European members of the European Union remain committed in principle to a significant response, some have aired worries with the US about the potential for damage to their own economies, the people said. The group is still working through economic and legal assessments of the potential sanctions, they said.

European nations also fret that Russia would likely retaliate, possibly even cutting crucial gas supplies to a continent already grappling with record high energy prices. The bulk of any EU-wide response would also have to be unanimously agreed by all 27 member states, a group with differing views on Russia in general.

The US has been consulting with European nations, including what is known as the Quint grouping in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which involves France, Germany, the UK and Italy. It has also held talks with Eastern European states.

The EU is Russia's biggest trade partner, accounting for about 37% of the country's total

trade with the world in early 2020, according to the European Commission. Russia was also the origin of about 25% of the bloc's oil imports.

Translating well-coordinated words into a joint agreement on some of the specific measures being explored could prove tricky, the people said. The differences underline the challenge the US and its allies face as they try to pressure President Vladimir Putin into reversing his troop buildup near the Ukraine border.

The countries have discussed options including cutting Russia out of Swift, the international payments system, limiting Russian banks' ability to convert currencies and imposing export controls on advanced technologies used in aviation, semiconductors and other components, as well as computers and other consumer goods in more extreme scenarios.

The curbs could hit everything from aircraft avionics and machine tools to smartphones, games consoles, tablets and televisions, another person familiar with the discussions said. Under some actions, Russia could face export controls as stringent as those for Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria, which have been largely cut off from global trade and financing, according to the person.

Officials from Russia and the US held talks Monday in Geneva, with a Russia-NATO council meeting also on the slate for this week, plus talks in Vienna under the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Putin has said he does not currently plan to invade Ukraine, but is also demanding NATO provide him security guarantees.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels on Monday that allies



German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

were ready to listen to Russia's concerns. "At the same time, we need to be prepared for that Russia once again chooses to use armed force, chooses confrontation instead of cooperation," he said. One former official with ties to the current US administration said a point of concern is how much Germany, which has just completed the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia, would be on board in terms of potential reprisals on Russia.

The recent departure of Angela Merkel as German chancellor after 16 years has also left a gap in terms of a European leader who can both navigate the EU into an agreement and engage directly with Putin, the person said. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline has not started pumping gas and is still awaiting regulatory approvals from Berlin and Brussels.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock

on Monday repeated her view that Nord Stream 2 has a geo-strategic dimension. "If energy is being used as a weapon this also has consequences for all the energy infrastructure projects, which obviously Nord Stream 2 belongs to," she said at an Istituto Affari Internazionali event in Rome. Baerbock, from the German Greens, has long opposed the pipeline project.

US officials have pinned their hopes for common ground with Russia on issues such as arms control and greater communication between their militaries, according to people familiar with the plans, given the NATO guarantees that Putin seeks are a non-starter. They're willing to explore reciprocal restrictions on strategic bombers and ground-based military exercises, a senior

administration official said.

Still, the US will hold off on making firm commitments, and plans discussions with allies before any agreements, the official added. It won't negotiate scaling back troop deployments in Eastern Europe, they said, denying an NBC News report.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told ABC News on Sunday he didn't expect a breakthrough this week. National Security Council spokeswoman Saloni Sharma said there was broad consensus between Washington and allies in Europe "on the need for a high impact, quick action response" that would "inflict significant costs on the Russian economy and financial system" if Putin invaded Ukraine.

Intelligence assessments and satellite images show there are now more than 100 000 Russian troops in the vicinity of Ukraine. Russia has also developed capabilities to deploy more units in a short period of time, from one to two weeks, according to a military assessment seen by Bloomberg. Russia has shown no sign of de-escalating, officials have said, and is ramping up efforts to target Ukraine with disinformation.

One of the people said a separate military assessment pointed to the possibility Russia moves into the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine before the northern hemisphere spring, rather than a large-scale invasion from multiple locations.

Rwandan youth turn to bamboo business with Chinese mentorship

KIGALI

A growing number of Rwandan youth have turned to bamboo furniture making and weaving business after skills training by Chinese bamboo experts in a bid to tackle youth unemployment challenges in Rwanda, a landlocked country in east-central Africa.

The bamboo processing (furniture making and weaving) training center is located in Masaka Incubation Business Center, in Masaka sector, Kicukiro district of Kigali, the Rwandan capital, where the young people have witnessed the processing of bamboo products.

Chinese experts of the China-Aid Rwanda Bamboo Team have been undertaking training projects about bamboo cultivation, processing and utilization in Rwanda since 2009. "The Chinese experts introduced bamboo cultivation and processing in our country.

They supported us with bamboo processing equipment and trained us on how to cultivate bamboo, harvest it and process it into final products for home use such as furniture, baskets, lamp holders, decorations, toothpicks and among others," Irene Gumyushime, one of the students at the center, told Xinhua an exclusive interview.

He said that bamboo processing has enabled him and his colleagues to acquire the necessary skills and expertise to be self-employed which is a key factor in reducing youth unemployment in the country.

"The Chinese experts taught us bamboo processing skills and I am now an expert in furniture making.

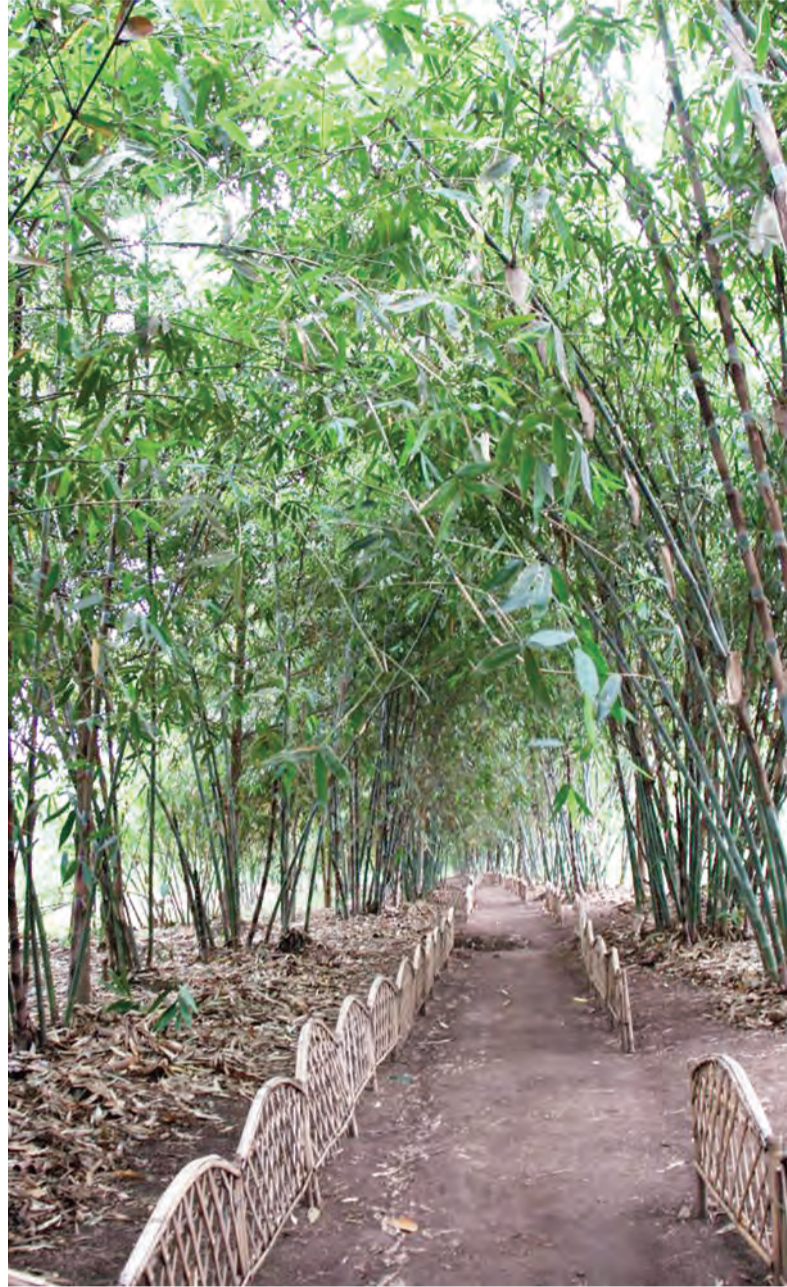
I am also a trainer at the center. I thank the Chinese experts for their efforts in making our lives better through this training," said Gumyushime. He pointed out that they are now facing a challenge of getting new equipment for bamboo processing, because the existing equipment is old and worn-out, saying that the China-Aid Rwanda which has been supporting them has since phased out.

Gumyushime said that there are 20 students at the center engaged in bamboo processing and among those, nine are women. According to him, students at the center are capable of producing various types of furniture for home and office, or other areas and there is already a market for bamboo products in Rwanda.

"From bamboo processing, I am able to earn income to sustain my livelihood and at the same time I am saving the environment," said Gumyushime.

Jean de Dieu Niyonkuru, another student at the center, told Xinhua that he specializes in bamboo furniture making after learning from Chinese bamboo processing experts.

"I joined this center in 2015 where I was trained by the Chinese experts in bamboo processing for a period of six months. I also spent another three months on hands-on training while receiving mentorship support from the Chinese," said Niyonkuru. "The Chinese also offered me an opportunity to go to China to get further training on bamboo processing. I am now doing very well. There is good busi-



This photo taken on Sept. 18, 2017, shows a bamboo plantation during the World Bamboo Day celebration in Kigali, Rwanda. Xinhua

ness in bamboo products."

Niyonkuru attributes all his success in bamboo furniture making to great expertise training by the Chinese experts.

"All my home furniture, arts and crafts are made in bamboo because I have a great passion for bamboo products.

My livelihood depends on bamboo processing. I thank the Chinese for supporting me and my colleagues to improve our livelihoods through bamboo processing," said Niyonkuru.

Speaking to Xinhua, Yu Qinrong, a Chinese expert at the center, said that he has trained Rwandan students at the center on how to make quality products from bamboo to attract more customers.

"Rwanda is suitable for developing the bamboo industry. They have bamboo raw materials and a large population of young people and Rwandans like the bamboo products," said Yu.

Yu reckoned that Rwanda's dry climate is favorable for bamboo furniture, which keeps the mold away from the bamboo furniture.

"I have been here for over a decade. I have deep feelings for Rwandans. From the beginning, there was not a single bamboo, our country spent a lot on training, and I have the obligation to consolidate the aid results," said Yu.

"I am happy to see the fruit of China-aid work that the bamboo production and weaving develop into an industry which allows more young people to earn money."

Xinhua

Somalia condemns suicide bomb attack on government spokesman in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU

SOMALI Prime Minister Mohamed Roble on Sunday condemned a suicide bomb attack targeting government spokesman Mohamed Ibrahim Moalimuu in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, earlier in the day.

Roble said Moalimuu, a former journalist who sustained wounds during the midday attack at Dabka intersection in Mogadishu, is in stable condition.

"The prime minister wishes Moalimuu quick recovery," Roble's office said in a statement after Moalimuu, a government spokesman based at the office of the prime minister, survived the attack after a suicide bomber detonated explosives behind Moalimuu's vehicle.

Abdifitah Aden, the police spokesman, told journalists the government official who was alone during the incident, escaped with slight injuries and is recuperating at a hospital in Mogadishu.

Aden said there are no other casualties in the latest incident for which the al-Shabab militant group has claimed responsibility.

"The suicide bomber blew himself up behind the government spokesman's vehicle which was extensively damaged. Nobody else was injured apart from Moalimuu," Aden said.

It is the fourth attempt on Moalimuu's life after he survived three other such attacks in the past in the country while working as a journalist.

China sees continuous improvement in wetland ecology



Oriental storks, a species under first-class national protection in China, forage on the Huangpo Lake wetland in Lujiang county, Hefei, east China's Anhui province, Jan. 3, 2022. File photo

THIS year marks the 30th anniversary of China joining the Ramsar Convention, or the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats.

Over the past three decades, the country has witnessed continuous improvement in its wetland ecology thanks to the strenuous efforts it has made to conserve and restore wetlands.

China's wetlands account for only four percent of the world's total wetland coverage, but they have well played their role in providing production and living resources, optimizing ecological environment, and offering cultural sites for 1/5 of the total population on Earth.

The country has gone through three major stages in its wetland conservation. It learned about the general conditions of its wetlands

between 1992 and 2003, which helped it lay a solid foundation for future conservation, and has established 602 wetland in the following 12 years. In the period between 2016 and 2021, the country carried out comprehensive protection over these wetlands.

As a wetland protection law is coming into force this year in the country, China's wetland conservation will embrace higher-quality development in a new era.

The wetland protection law was passed at the end of the last year, and it was followed by relevant local regulations issued in 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. It will come into effect on June 1 this year.

China currently has 64 sites designated as wetlands of international importance, and has established 602 wetland nature reserves, over 1,600 wetland parks and a number of community conserved areas for wetlands, putting 52.65 percent of its wetlands under protection.

In 2003, the State Council approved and released a national engineering plan on wetland protection for the period between 2002 and 2030, under which China has invested a total of 19.8 billion yuan (\$3.11 billion) and implemented over 4,100 engineering projects to help local efforts in wetland conservation and restoration.

China is the first country in the world to have completed

three nationwide investigations on wetland resources. The third national land resource survey of the country officially placed wetlands in the top-level category of China's land classification system.

As a member of the Standing Committee and chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, China is contributing its wisdom and schemes to global ecological governance.

So far, China has established 899 national wetland parks since it initiated a pilot program in 2005. These parks, as a part of the national nature reserve system, have effectively put 2.4 million hectares of wetlands under protection, bringing about 50 billion yuan of economic benefits. About 90 percent of the national wetland parks are open to the public free of charge.

People's Daily

Concerns mounting over tsunami-hit Tonga as countries pledge aid

SUVA

THE massive eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano in Tonga has lately sent tsunami sweeping across the shore of the South Pacific island country, and multiple countries nearby have reported rising water levels or issued tsunami warnings.

The eruption and its ensuing tsunami are believed to have displaced people, severed communications and suspended flights, though there has been no immediate report so far of injuries or damage due to Tonga's current disrupted internet access to the outside.

As eruptions may continue, countries have voiced concern over disaster-hit Tonga and a potential climate fallout, while pledging aid for the country.

ERUPTION MAY CONTINUE

According to Tonga's news website Matangi Tonga Online, Friday's volcanic eruption continued for over 12 hours and the volcano also erupted for eight minutes on Saturday, sending plumes of ash into the sky.

The Royal Palace grounds, the waterfront and main street were flooded in the capital city of Nuku'alofa, but information about the extent of damage in the island country is unavailable because its communication with the outside world has been cut off since Saturday evening as a result of the volcanic eruptions. Taaniela Kula, head of Tonga's

Geological Services, said the eruption was about seven times more powerful than the last one on Dec. 20, 2021.

Shane Cronin, a professor of Earth Sciences at University of Auckland, New Zealand, said the eruption was one of the biggest in Tonga in the past three decades. "The most remarkable thing about it is how rapidly and violently it is spread."

"The shock waves caused the changes in atmospheric pressure, traveling all the way to Japan, creating waves that move up and down in short periods," Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun quoted Fumihiko Imamura, a tsunami engineering expert at Tohoku University, as saying.

Experts said that it is not clear whether the eruption has reached its peak, warning of the possibility of further eruptions and their potential impact on the climate with the release of carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide which may encumber humanity's efforts towards a greener future.

ADVISORIES ISSUED

The eruption of the undersea volcano has wreaked havoc in Tonga and adjacent waters, triggering abnormal seawater activities along the coastline of other countries. So far, tsunami warnings have also been issued in Japan, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Australia and Chile.

Tonga issued on Saturday afternoon another nationwide tsunami warning following a national tsunami marine warning early on Fri-

day, warning Tongans to stay away from coastal areas, after swirling abnormal tides drew crowds to the Nuku'alofa waterfront.

All domestic flights in Tonga were cancelled on Saturday in consequence. New Zealand's National Emergency Management Agency issued on Saturday a tsunami warning, saying in a statement that areas on the north and east coast of the North Island and the Chatham Islands are expected to experience "strong and unusual currents and unpredictable surges at the shore."

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology issued a marine threat warning for parts of New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria as a result of the eruption in Tonga.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami warning for Japan's Pacific coast and urged residents to evacuate from seaside areas. The United States National Tsunami Warning Center has said in a bulletin that California, Oregon, and Washington state, as well as parts of Hawaii, south Alaska and the Aleutian islands were all expected to be affected by the huge eruption in Tonga.

Though the agency later canceled warnings for American Samoa and Hawaii, it deemed the tsunami a threat for parts of the Pacific near the volcano, warning residents living near beaches, harbors, marinas and other coastal areas to move away from the shore and make their way inland or uphill.

Xinhua

BRUSSELS

THE recent talks between Russia and the West to defuse their tensions have ended without any breakthrough, auguring potential tension escalations, while the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) even warned of the risk of a new military conflict in Europe.

The latest Russia-West engagements started with a Russia-U.S. meeting in Geneva on Monday, followed by negotiations between Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna on Wednesday, and then a NATO-Russia Council meeting in Brussels on Thursday. Pessimistic sentiments pre-

Sharp divide remains as Russia-West talks end without breakthrough

vail after the three rounds of fruitless talks, as gaps on fundamental issues remain "unbridgeable."

EXPANSION VS "AGGRESSION"

Efforts have failed, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said after the talks ended. The NATO chief has, on several occasions in a week, warned Russia about the "high political and economic price" of any possible new aggression against Ukraine.

Russia has repeatedly accused the West of threatening its security by expanding NATO eastwards and deploying weapons systems near its borders. "Negotiations were initiated

in order to get specific answers to specific fundamental questions raised.

It is on these fundamental issues that disagreements have been recorded, the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying.

Analysts believe that Russia is willing to establish a longer-term security cooperation framework with Western countries led by the United States, while America has failed to respond to Russia's security concerns.

After the talks, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, who headed the Russian delegation in talks with the United States in Geneva

on Monday, said that the main questions were "still up in the air, and we don't see an understanding from the American side of the necessity of a decision in a way that satisfies us." "We do not trust the other side," he noted. "We need ironclad, waterproof, bulletproof, legally binding guarantees -- not assurances, not safeguards."

Ryabkov stressed that Russia has no plans to attack Ukraine, and there was no reason to fear an escalation of tensions with Ukraine. "Certain threats or warnings were put forward, we explained to our colleagues that we have no plans to attack Ukraine," Ryabkov said.

"There is no basis for fearing any escalated scenario in this regard." Russia's military build-up against Ukraine features "tens of thousands of combat-ready troops, tanks, artillery, armored units, drones, a lot of electronic warfare systems," said NATO.

Russia is seeking guarantees of NATO's non-expansion, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, but NATO is not happy to see Russia's interference with NATO's expansion plans. "No one else has the right to try to veto or interfere in that process.

And this is about fundamental principles for European security. It's about the right for every nation to

choose their own path," Stoltenberg said at a press conference with Estonian President Alar Karis this week.

In a recent interview with German radio Deutschlandfunk, Stefan Meister, an expert on Russia at the German Council on Foreign Relations, said that he had low expectations of the efforts underway to defuse the situation because Russia put forward a maximum requirement as the basis for negotiations, which cannot be met by either the United States or NATO. "I would say it is rather their process, which has started and that is perhaps the chance that NATO and Russia start the process again to talk about European security, arms control and all these issues," said Meister.

SPORT



Simba SC's left fullback, Mohamed Hussein (R), seeks to get the better of Azam FC winger, Tepsi Evans, when the clubs met in the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament's final on January 13. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Simba SC hold sway in 2022 Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

DESPITE the mighty exertions of Azam FC, Simba SC was still able to overpower the 'ice cream makers' 1-0 as the two sides crossed swords in the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup final last Saturday.

The results can be most fittingly described as the perfect tonic for Simba SC, who have ominously started this year with all guns blazing.

Significantly too, the title triumph marks the first trophy captured by Simba SC under the tutelage of their Spanish coach Pablo Franco.

As Simba SC devotees revel in this glorious moment of sheer bliss, many of them will be hoping that the club can keep their bandwagon of success rolling merrily along all season long.

Naturally, though, the likes of Azam FC and Yanga will try their damndest to stymie Simba's lofty ambitions of achieving outright domination on the home football patch, which should leave us all salivating with excitement.

Moving on, as the 2021 AFCON finals continue to unfold, two West African titans have taken center-stage with their glittering and stellar displays.

First on this admittedly brief list are the hosts Cameroon, who have caught the eye with some brilliant attacking football.

Indeed, in their high-stakes opening encounter against Burkina Faso, Cameroon, unfortunately, went a goal behind in the first half.

However, despite trailing Burkina Faso 1-0, the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon delivered the perfect riposte as the opening half approached its dying

minutes.

Indeed, thanks to their skipper Vincent Abubakar, the Lions were not only able to level the match but they were also able to notch up another goal to go 2-1 in front, all before half-time.

And, since the Burkinabes proved unable to draw level in the second half, the Indomitable Lions were able to claim a morale-boosting 2-1 triumph in their tourney opener.

If this victory was enough to leave Cameroonian fans overjoyed though, the Indomitable Lions' triumph against Ethiopia in their second group match must have put the teeming home fans in seventh heaven.

With the home fans roaring them on, the Indomitable Lions rolled back the years to an era in which they ruled the roost in African football by playing relentless attacking football to claim a 4-1 victory against Ethiopia, which sealed their berth in the Round of 16.

Another West African powerhouse that has been producing the goods at this year's AFCON finals is the Super Eagles of Nigeria.

Indeed, after claiming an exhilarating, slim 1-0 win over Egypt in their opening group match, the Super Eagles maintained winning ways by outplaying Sudan 3-1 to qualify for the Round of 16.

Further afield, though, it should be noted that the likes of Morocco and Egypt also have earned praise apart from those two West African juggernauts of Nigeria and Cameroon.

Nevertheless, the most important takeaway from the championship thus far is that some teams seem to be in the ascendancy while others are faltering on continental football's most exalted stage.

Whichever way the cookie crumbles, one gets the distinct suspicion that we are in for a truly riveting and spellbinding tournament.

SPORTS

Tanzanian fans tinged as 'minnows' stun viewers in 2022 AFCON finals



Taifa Stars' players celebrate a goal netted by skipper, John Bocca, when the squad faced Malawi in an international friendly duel played in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent John Kimbute

STATIC or durable ideas on who is who in African soccer is taking a hit as the African Cup of Nations finals continue in Cameroon, with several countries hitherto unknown on the African soccer map - or at least unknown to local fans - entertain viewers with admirable displays.

It has not exactly been a year for 'minnows' but several countries are demonstrating how the old map of soccer is littered with holes.

We have retained that map to seek a push further up by assuming that other countries remain static.

That is precisely what is not happening, and slowly the fans are beginning to realize that it is Tanzania that is static and other countries are pushing their way up, though admittedly we also tried to attain such a mark by featuring in the 2019 finals with ex-Nigerian international, Emmanuel Amunike, at the helm.

All our efforts to come back to the top are anchored in this persistent picture that African soccer remains the same where a few countries are traditionally dominant, several others are in the middle, and scores are at the bottom.

We believe they will stay there but we have a chance to reach higher, just by shouting.

There is no time that the wish to make it higher in African soccer wasn't being expressed, and way back in 1980 we indeed featured in the finals, going back there again after nearly 30 years.

There was a line drawn in the mind that we are now making it to the top, but looking at that impression somewhat closely, one finds that it was tied up with the view that most African countries will steadily remain in their places, and this way we scale up.

Picturing steady movement everywhere is a bit confusing here.

Expecting that the country can make it higher on the African soccer map just by shouting, or clever moves like organizing nationwide youth competitions to find talent for Taifa Stars has been the usual attitude.

Tied to this mistaken view about talent and success is an inward-looking mentality both in the league or club format as well in national team football, which unavoidably corresponds with our other reflexes on society as a whole.

We feel comfortable and assured when we do things on our own, with few foreigners.

The debate about how many foreign players the Premier League clubs can hire only died down in the past year, implying that it has intermittently continued for nearly two decades when cross-border hiring of players started becoming fashionable.

Not so long ago the responsible minister was saying a cap of three players from outside was the best, the reason is to ensure there is greater equality among Premier League sides, as higher caps ad-

vantage richer clubs.

But individual stakeholders prefer to put the issue differently, insisting that local players need a greater chance to play at first teams of the city rivals.

It has taken a while for such stakeholders to admit that the presence of many foreign professionals uplifts the local game as defenders in lower-ranking clubs are pushed to do better each time they meet with the more endowed clubs like Simba SC, Yanga, and even Azam FC, but there is a scatter of foreign players - and coaches - in other clubs as well.

This hierarchical structure of the Premier League still mentally troubles some stakeholders - and not just 'minnows' - but the fact of the clear advantage of perennial champions, Simba SC.

Stakeholders begin to hatch plots against it to cut it down to size, forcing game losses, draws.

This outlook is not different from the painstaking combat against foreign players that dominated TFF and ministerial sentiments earlier and only pushed to change when Simba SC registered successes that lifted the sentiments of most local fans.

So the issue was to imitate the local champions rather than fighting them, a view that rampaging rivals, Yanga, might start chewing after their humiliating exit from the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup run at the semi-final stage.

The target was not just the final but winning the cup. Concerning the Africa Cup of Nations, local fans and officials faintly started dreaming of doing big things once Taifa Stars embark on the capping tournament, but soon reality dawned on the local soccer fraternity.

The side did not win a single game in the three they played but drew once, which was fairly logical given the level of play generally, implying that on the whole, they did their best, but the federation parted ways with Amunike evidently for failing to realize their targets for the finals.

If wishes were horses indeed, and seeing countries like Comoro, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and others hold on their own against the big sides - with occasional steep losses - they wish we were there.

But it is time to take up their methods - stadium ownership by the private sector to enhance sponsorships, along with dual citizenship to get talents scattered around the world to play for Taifa Stars. But that is not a federation decision.

Djokovic out, but vaccine debate stays in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia

TO some, it seemed a cloud had been lifted from the Australian Open. To others, Novak Djokovic still was almost palpably present, the name on everyone's lips on the opening day of the first major tennis tournament of the year.

Djokovic left Australia late Sunday when he failed in his legal challenge to overturn the cancellation of his visa due to his lack of a COVID-19 vaccination. His flight from Melbourne was touching down in Dubai early Monday just as the first matches of the tournament began.

As the No. 1 ranked male player and the three-time defending champion, Djokovic would have been the marquee attraction of the tournament. In absentia, he still exercised an outsized influence on opening day.

When his Serbian Davis Cup teammate Dusan Lajovic beat Marton Fucsovics of Hungary in a tight five-setter, a Serbian fan immediately tweeted "Dusan Lajovic has avenged his Serbian brother by eliminating Martin Fucsovics."

Fucsovics had angered Djokovic's supporters before the tournament when he was quoted in the media criticizing Djokovic's unvaccinated status and decision to travel to Australia.

Djokovic received an exemption from to vaccination rules to play in the Australian Open, based on a coronavirus infection in mid-December. But upon arrival, border officials said the exemption was not valid and moved to deport him - sparking an 11-day legal battle and an ongoing political drama.

After his win at Melbourne Park, Lajovic displayed a Serbian flag emblazoned with Djokovic's image and the words "like it or not, The Greatest of All Time."

Lajovic said denying Djokovic the opportunity to defend his Australian Open title would only make him more determined to become the best ever tennis player.

"I think the way they treated him was terribly wrong. I think the decision itself was terribly wrong, and also the reason why they did it is also for me terribly wrong," Lajovic said. "I hope that in the future he will be the best tennis player in history, and that this will be only looked at as a setback on his path."

Coach and analyst Darren Cahill told Australian television "the players are relieved" that Djokovic's departure focused attention on tennis.

The former coach of world No. 18 Andre Agassi, Lleyton Hewitt and Simona Halep told the Nine Network "there has been a cloud hanging over the players."

"I hated the exemption that he had because I think that exemption is really for people who want to get vaccinated and can't get vaccinated because they have contracted COVID in the last three or six months, and Novak never wanted to get vaccinated." Australian federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg rejected the assertion of Serbia President Alexander Vucic that Djokovic was mentally and physically mistreated in Australia.

"I make no apologies for the application of the rules here in Australia around our border protection policies that have helped keep us safe," Frydenberg said. "It doesn't matter whether you're the No. 1 tennis player in the world or Betty from Utah, if you're unvaccinated, the same rules apply."

Around 50 people gathered for a peaceful rally outside the Melbourne Park complex late Monday in the shadows of Rod Laver Arena, protesting Djokovic's deportation.

One of the pro-choice activists held a hand-painted banner saying that Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison should be ashamed of the decision. Another proudly displayed another banner that read: Deport the Australian (government) for inciting international scorn and ridicule on this nation.

Opinion remained divided worldwide on whether Djokovic should have been allowed to compete in the Australian Open despite not being vaccinated against COVID-19.

Djokovic has overwhelming support from his home country of Serbia, whose president said Australia embarrassed itself. He has also been held up as a hero by some in the anti-vaccine movement.

Others were quick to criticize. One of Italy's greatest tennis players, Adriano Panatta, called Djokovic's expulsion from Australia "the most natural epilogue of this affair."

French tennis player Alize Cornet, meanwhile, expressed sympathy while reserving judgment.

"I know too little to judge the situation," she posted on Twitter. "What I know is that Novak is always the first one to stand up for the players. But none of us stood for him. Be strong."

It's not clear where Djokovic will play next, and he is the defending champion at the next scheduled major, the French Open in May-June.

Liverpool relying on abnormal season to catch Man City

LONDON

WIPING out Manchester City's 11-point lead at the top of the Premier League looks an onerous task. Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp is at least gaining hope from a season with so many sudden variables.

Squads are being stretched by coronavirus cases, African Cup of Nations absences, injuries and postponements that can overload schedules.

Liverpool did manage to end a three-match winless run in the league by beating Brentford 3-0 on Sunday, even with its attacking options depleted by Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane being on international duty in Cameroon.

Midfielder Fabinho headed in a corner just before halftime, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain scored his first league goal at Anfield since July 2020 and Takumi Minamoto completed the win after coming off the bench.

Having surrendered the trophy to City last season, Liverpool does at least have a game in hand on the leaders which could cut the deficit to eight points for Klopp's side.

"We don't have to convince anyone outside to believe," Klopp said. "If you are with us, you will enjoy the ride and we will go for everything. We are ready to go as much as we can."

"In a normal world nothing happens anymore (with the title) but what is normal nowadays? We try to do our part, there is nothing else to do."

A blow for Klopp was Oxlade-Chamberlain going off injured with Liverpool going to Arsenal in the semifinals of the League Cup after a goalless first leg.

"We don't know yet but he rolled his ankle and now we hope it is nothing serious," Klopp said.

WEST HAM SETBACK

West Ham twice came back against Leeds through Jarrod Bowen and Pablo Fornals but Jack Harrison's third goal sealed a 3-2 win for the visitors in east London. West Ham remains in fourth place

but only by two points and having played more games than the teams below them chasing the final Champions League spot.

Arsenal in fifth place has two games in hand after getting Sunday's match at Tottenham postponed due to lack of players caused by coronavirus cases, injuries and the African Cup. Tottenham has now played four games fewer than West Ham and has only four points to eradicate.

Playing three games in a week has taken its toll on West Ham, including a 2-0 win over Norwich on Wednesday.

"I think it was a huge factor today," West Ham manager David Moyes said. "The people who are putting in the games in place do not understand the importance of recovery."

"Today was really tough for us to get back out. We didn't feel the Norwich game should have been put in, we let them know that but they refused our request. They wanted it played but it's had an effect on today's game. Maybe we're not being tough enough, maybe we should have fought harder for it. Maybe I'm going to do that in the future." Leeds traveled to West Ham without nine first-team players – and two others went off injured before halftime – and had seven teenagers, including 15-year-old Archie Gray, on the bench.

But unlike Arsenal, which got Sunday's game at Tottenham postponed due to a player shortage, Leeds manager Marcelo Bielsa didn't seek a postponement. "There's rules to ask for that type of thing and we didn't meet the criteria to ask for a suspension of the game," Bielsa said. "I think it was a triumph for the players. Each of them did things which indicated a very big desire to win."

"I clearly observed this was a game for each of the players, there was a determination in the search for the victory that was very visible today. I think the biggest factor in the game is when a footballer puts so much effort into what they do the virtues they possess come out."

AP

Japanese club plans crowdfunded Iniesta statue

TOKYO

JAPAN's richest football club Vissel Kobe want to build a bronze statue of World Cup-winning star player Andres Iniesta – and are launching a crowdfunding project to pay for it.

Former Barcelona maestro Iniesta joined Kobe in 2018 in a deal worth a reported \$30 million a year, and signed a two-year contract extension last spring.

The club is owned by tech billionaire Hiroshi Mikitani, one of Japan's richest men.

Now Kobe are looking to raise 15 million yen (\$130,000) to pay tribute to the 37-year-old midfielder with a statue outside their stadium.

The club has asked fans to each chip in between 1,100 and 1.1 million yen for the statue, saying it will help turn their stadium into the "sacred ground" of Japanese football.

"To say that it's a miracle to be

Lopetegui: We did not exaggerate fan attack

MADRID

SEVILLA manager Julen Lopetegui has hit out at claims that his team exaggerated the condition of midfielder Joan Jordan – who was hit by a pole during their Copa del Rey derby with Real Betis on Saturday – to try to get the game suspended.

The round-of-16 tie was halted in the on 39 minutes, moments after midfielder Nabil Fekir had scored for Betis to level the game at 1-1, when Jordan was struck by an object thrown from the stands.

After a long delay, the Spanish football federation (RFEF) announced the game's had been abandoned.

It was eventually completed a day later on Sunday behind closed doors – with Jordan absent on medical advice – as Betis won 2-1 thanks to a second-half goal from midfielder Sergio Cana-

les to advance to the quarterfinals.

Betis players Victor Camarasa, Cristian Tello and Juan Miranda all claimed on Saturday that Sevilla had wanted to increase the likelihood of the game being suspended, with Camarasa tweeting "we all heard their coach [Lopetegui] encouraging him to 'feel dizzy and throw yourself onto the floor.'"

Lopetegui slammed the Betis players' claims, calling for focus to be on Jordan's health.

"Putting the focus where it shouldn't be seems absolutely deplorable to me," Lopetegui said in a post-match news conference.

"The focus needs to be on Joan Jordan, who is at home, who couldn't play today. He arrived at the hospital [on Saturday night] with high blood pressure. He had a head injury, and he felt dizzy." (Agencies)

Holders Algeria shocked at Cup of Nations after gaffe costs Ivory Coast

YAOUNDE

EQUATORIAL Guinea inflicted a first defeat in 36 games on Algeria on Sunday to leave the reigning champions in serious danger of a group-stage exit from the Africa Cup of Nations after an astonishing goalkeeping blunder cost the Ivory Coast victory against Sierra Leone.

Esteban Obiang, one of a host of Equatorial Guinea players who were born in Spain, scored the 70th-minute goal that gave his side a 1-0 win in Douala as Algeria lost for the first time since October 2018.

That unbeaten run ends just two matches shy of Italy's recently established record of 37 without defeat and Algeria now need to beat the Ivory Coast in their final Group E outing on Thursday if they are to make the last 16.

Djamel Belmadi's side could only draw 0-0 with Sierra Leone in their opening game in Cameroon and if they do not succeed against the Ivorians it will be the fifth time in six Cups of Nations that the holders have failed to go beyond the group stage of the finals.

The only exception in that time came in 2019, when reigning champions Cameroon lost in the last 16.

"Everyone was talking about our unbeaten run but now we need to focus on something else, go out and secure qualification," said Belmadi.

An Equatorial Guinea side ranked 114th in the world and 28th in Africa are now well placed to reach the knockout stage for the third time.

The two previous occasions came when they were hosting the tournament, in 2012 and in 2015, but this time many of the fans in the crowd of almost 12,000 in Douala were supporting the 'National Thunder'.

Equatoguinean capital Malabo, on



Alhaji Kamara (3rd L) scored a stoppage-time equaliser for Sierra Leone against Ivory Coast after a goalkeeping error (AFP)

the island of Bioko, is a short hop over the Gulf of Guinea from Cameroon's economic capital.

"We feel very proud to beat the best team in Africa," said their coach, Juan Micha.

It was a dramatic day at the Japoma Stadium, where Badra Ali Sangare's incredible injury-time error gifted Sierra Leone a point in a 2-2 draw with the Ivory Coast.

With the Elephants leading 2-1, Sangare went to catch a ball headed back to him by a teammate in the third added minute in an attempt to prevent a corner, only to drop it into the path of Steven Caulker who squared for substitute Alhaji Kamara to score.

That remarkable moment prevented the Ivory Coast from wrapping up qualification for the last 16.

- Tunisia cruise -

Sangare, who has taken over the gloves at this tournament because first-choice Sylvain Gbohouo was handed a doping ban, then went off injured, leaving right-back Serge Aurier to see out the match between the posts.

Before the late drama the 2015 champions appeared to have a second win in as many games sewn up thanks to Nicolas Pepe's second-half strike.

"Honestly I can't explain that goal. You could have Jurgen Klopp or Pep Guardiola in charge and they wouldn't be able to prepare for that," said Ivory Coast coach Patrice Beaumelle.

Franck Kessie had an early penalty for the Elephants saved but Ajax star Sebastien Haller put them ahead and Musa Kamara made it 1-1 before Pepe struck.

Elsewhere, Wahbi Khazri scored

twice as Tunisia recovered from a controversial loss to Mali by hammering Mauritania 4-0 in the coastal town of Limbe to register their first points in Group F.

Saint-Etienne forward Khazri's early opener. Khazri then created the final goal of the afternoon for Seifeddine Jaziri, while Youssef Msakni missed a late penalty for Tunisia.

Mali and tournament debutants Gambia both sit a point above Tunisia on four points after they drew 1-1 at the same venue, Musa Barrow converting a 90th-minute penalty for Gambia to cancel out Ibrahima Kone's 79th-minute spot-kick at the other end.

The final round of group games begins on Monday when hosts Cameroon play Cape Verde and Burkina Faso face Ethiopia in Group A.

Mahrez-led Algeria must defeat bogey side Ivory Coast to survive

YAOUNDE

MANCHESTER City winger Riyad Mahrez must lift struggling Algeria to victory over bogey team Ivory Coast this week or the Africa Cup of Nations holders will make a sensational exit after the first round.

Algeria are bottom of Group E and in deep trouble after a stunning 1-0 matchday 2 loss on Sunday to Equatorial Guinea, a nation 85 places lower in the world rankings.

Ivory Coast have met Algeria eight times in the flagship African championship from 1968 and won three, drew three and lost two.

Instead of an expected cruise into the round of 16, the defending champions have just one point from two matches and trail Ivory Coast (four), Equatorial Guinea (three) and Sierra Leone (two).

While Algeria are fighting for survival in Douala on Thursday, Equatorial Guinea and Sierra Leone square off in nearby Limbe knowing maximum points for either side will secure a second-round place.

The third series of group matches run from Monday through Thursday and AFP Sport looks at what lies ahead with 19 nations chasing 13 second-round places.

Group A

Leaders Cameroon need one point against Cape Verde, one of the teams hardest hit by coronavirus with coach 'Bubista' among those forced to stay at home, to finish first and meet a third-placed team next.

The indomitable Lions will start as favourites thanks to home advantage and the form of forwards Vincent Aboubakar and Karl Toko Ekambi, but they only drew at home and lost away to the islanders in qualifying.

Burkina Faso, who sorely missed Covid-hit Aston Villa forward Bertrand Traore in a narrow win over Cape Verde, are expected to remain second by defeating defensively brittle Ethiopia.

Group B

Draws for Senegal and Guinea would assure them of last-16 slots with first place settled by which of them achieves the bigger winning margin as they are level on points and goal difference.

Sadio Mane-inspired Senegal have



Algeria captain Riyad Mahrez (L) is pursued by Equatorial Guinea defender Saul Coco during an Africa Cup of Nations Group E match in Douala on Sunday (AFP)

scored only once in 180 minutes –

from a penalty – and appear to have the tougher opponents in Malawi, who have been boosted by a come-from-behind victory over Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe were the first country to be eliminated and much could hinge on their attitude when they face Guinea, who exceeded expectations by holding Senegal.

Group C

Four-time champions Ghana, captained by veteran Andre Ayew, lie third and must defeat debutants Comoros to avoid a shock exit after falling to Morocco and conceding a late equaliser against Gabon.

Comoros also have all to play for as a win would give them a slight chance of being among the best four third-

placed teams.

Already qualified leaders Morocco tackle Gabon in a top-of-the-table showdown and, whatever the outcome, both should advance to the knockout stage.

Group D

Impressive Nigeria are guaranteed to finish first, which offers caretaker coach Augustine Eguavoen the option of using some fringe players against Guinea-Bissau.

The Guinea-Bissau Djurtus (wild dogs) drew with Sudan and were unlucky losers to Egypt with a brilliant Mama Balde equaliser controversially ruled out after a VAR review.

Sudan appear the weakest of the teams in this section, which is good news for Mohamed Salah-captained

Egypt as they seek maximum points and second place.

Group E

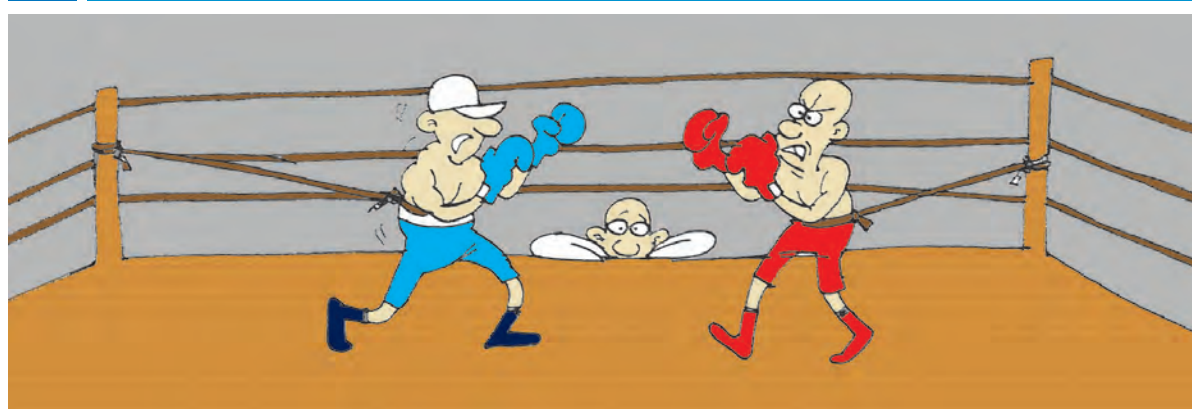
This has been a section full of shocks with Sierra Leone holding Algeria to a 0-0 draw in the opener before Ivory Coast luckily scraped a victory over Equatorial Guinea.

Even greater drama followed in matchday 2 with a blunder by Ivory Coast goalkeeper Badra Ali Sangare gifting Sierra Leonean Alhaji Kamara an added-time equaliser.

Then came one of greatest shocks in Cup of Nations history with Esteban Obiang from Spanish fourth tier club Antequera scoring the goal that sank star-stacked Algeria.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Tanzanian fans tinged as 'minnows' stun viewers in 2022 AFCON finals



Mukoko Tonombe

Midfielder Mukoko Tonombe opens up on failed transfer

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's Congolese midfielder, Mukoko Tonombe, has opened up on his reported transfer to Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) soccer giant, TP Mazembe, noting he hardly knows his fate in the deal.

The midfielder recently was rumored to be closing in on moving to TP Mazembe, with Yanga having roped in the DRC club's attacker, Chico Ushindi.

Mukoko was reportedly supposed to be heading to TP Mazembe on loan the day before this season's mini registration window was closed on January 15.

Ushindi, aged 26, trained at TP Mazembe academy, moved to Don Bosco before joining TP Mazembe in 2017.

The attacker was officially unveiled by his new club shortly before the outfit locked horns with Coastal Union in an NBC Premier League duel held in Tanga last weekend.

Ushindi has, this season, so far played four matches for TP Mazembe and has neither netted a goal nor executed an assist.

He has moved to a new Premier League and a new outfit, which has compatriots, Yannick Bangala, Ducapel Moloko, Fiston Mayele, and Djuma Shabani.

With TP Mazembe, Ushindi won a CAF Confederation Cup and three national championship titles.

According to reports, Tonombe's deal to join TP Mazembe expired at the last minute, as the plan was not made public by Yanga officials to Tonombe's supervisors.

Tonombe is therefore still recognized as Yanga's legitimate player.

The midfielder pointed out that apart from all formalities including the cancellation of a flight ticket to Lubumbashi he was unable to travel due to a lack of understanding of his fate.

According to the midfielder, he did not know his deal was either a loan or a direct transfer.

"The official has told me I should not go anywhere, I will stay here at Yanga until the end of the season and after that, there will be more talks between us on either leaving on a free transfer or extending my contract," he said.

He noted: "I have been told that I will be given a flight ticket to join the team tomorrow in preparation for the NBC Premier League match against Polisi Tanzania."

The midfielder joined Yanga at the start of the 2020/21 season from DRC's AS Vita.

Tonombe has experienced a difficult time earning a place in the first team under head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, this season.

The arrival of compatriot, Bangala, and Ugandan, Khalid Aucho, has seen Tonombe failing to assure himself of regular playing time.

However, it has been suggested that the midfielder will not sign a new contract with the club and will leave at the end of the season, with Yanga's rivals, Simba SC, said to be seeking to sign him.

Rejuvenated SL eye series win vs Zim

PALLEKELE

ZIMBABWE will reflect on what could have been. They didn't close their innings as well as they could have in the first ODI, but on Sri Lanka tracks, 296 for 9 is usually a winning total.

And beyond a couple of missed chances, they were generally not disciplined in the second innings, either.

Zimbabwe was simply outplayed by Sri Lanka's young batting talents - Pathum Nissanka and Charith Asalanka - and Dinesh Chandimal.

There is perhaps a case for Zimbabwe beefing up their spin attack, however, because while it was the seamers that claimed the majority of wickets on Sunday, it was the spinners who were better at controlling the run rate in the first 40 overs, when only seven wickets fell across both innings.

Without Dushmantha Chameera and Wanindu Hasaranga - Sri Lanka's main wicket-taking threats - the hosts themselves lacked menace.

If another flat surface is on offer on Tuesday, another high-scoring match (by Sri Lankan standards at least) could eventuate.

Over the past four years, Sean Williams has been superbly consistent with the bat, averaging 49.91 since the start of 2018, with a strike rate of 86.

Although he's played ODIs since 2005, four of his five hundreds have come in this period, including the century that formed the backbone of Zimbabwe's innings on Sunday.

His sweeping against the spinners, and his targeting of the legside against the quicks, was a particular highlight of that knock.

Pathum Nissanka came into the international scene for his performances in the longest format, but lately, he's been finding his feet in limited-overs cricket too.

In the T20 World Cup last year, he had scores of 61, 72, and 51. On Sunday, he struck the first ODI half-century of his career.

Sri Lanka seems to want to develop him into an all-format opener, and so far, he's responding.

The weather is not forecast to interrupt. Quicks generally do well in Pallekele, especially under lights, even if that was not necessarily the case in the first match.

AGENCIES

Premier League outfits to face modest opponents in Federation Cup round of 32



Yanga midfielder, Farid Mussa (C), negotiates his way past Ihefu SC's defenders when the outfits locked horns in the 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) round of 64 stage's tie that took place in Dar es Salaam in December last year.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) defending champions, Simba SC, is scheduled to play against First League side, Dar City FC, in one of the showpiece's round of 32 stage's matches scheduled for January 28-30.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), along with ASFC's main sponsors, Azam Media, yesterday oversaw the scheduling of the round of 32 stage fixtures in Dar es Salaam.

The draw featured former players, Abeid Mziba 'Tekelo', and Maalim Saleh 'Romario', as well as TFF officer, Baraka Kizuguto.

Simba SC is seeking to defend the showpiece's silverware it won in the 2020/21 season after beating age-old rivals Yanga 1-0.

The club sailed through to the round of 32 after posting a 1-0 victory over JKT Tanzania in the round of 64's stage.

Dar City FC is not a well-known club but it has an opportunity to come out with shocking results against Simba SC, given the tournament has at times produced surprising outcomes.

In the 2018/19 tournament, Simba SC was knocked out of the round of 16 by little-known Kigoma's Mashujaa FC.

A star-studded Simba SC went down 3-2 to spirited Mashujaa FC in the round of 16's match that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The results substantiated the wonders of the showdown, implying that any team can be eliminated from the showpiece regardless of the outfit's prominence and history.

Yanga will face Mbao FC of Mwanza, which was relegated to the second tier in the 2018/19 season.

Mbao FC, owned by former Tanzania's national squad 'Tafa Stars' tactician, Ammy Ninje,

is still in the Championship battling to return to the top tier.

The 2019 ASFC winners, Azam FC, will also be at home at Azam Complex, Chamazi, playing Transit Camp FC.

The NBC Premier League participant, Namungo FC, has also had the opportunity to play the round of 32's match at home in Lindi, where the club will host Lindi City FC.

Another round of 32 games will include Polisi Tanzania vs Ndanda FC, Biashara United vs Mbeya Kwanza FC, African Lyon vs Kagera Sugar.

KMC FC vs Ruvu Shooting, Geita Gold FC vs Tunduru Korosho FC, Biashara Vs Mbeya City FC, African Lyon vs Kagera Sugar, Pamba FC vs Stand FC.

Baga Friends vs Catamine FC, Tanzania Prisons vs Rhino Rangers, Coastal Union vs Top Boys, Mbuni FC vs Lipuli FC.

EATV **TONIGHT @ 9:00**

NIRVANA

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko



The official has told me I should not go anywhere, I will stay here at Yanga until the end of the season and after that, there will be more talks between us on either leaving on a free transfer or extending my contract