




**National Pg 3**  
Dawasa increases water production capacity



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Chinese varsity for stronger ties with Z'bar



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Small banks record growth of profitability, assets in H1



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# Samia orders expansion of Mkulazi sugar factory

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has ordered the start of the construction of the new Mkulazi II factory in Ngerengere District, Morogoro Region so that the nation has enough sugar throughout the year.

Inaugurating the Mkulazi I factory costing 340bn/-, jointly owned by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Prisons Service in the region, she said that on completion of Mkulazi I factory will produce 50,000 tonnes per year, curbing current supply difficulties.

The president asked the factory owners to manage the firm in line with procedures and regulations to ensure sustainability, explaining that heavy rains from January to April impeded sugar production.

In some areas the price of sugar increased to 8,000/- per kilo, which the average Tanzanian could not afford, she said, underlining that as a public institutions facility the government will find the money for it to increase capacity from 50,000 tonnes to 75,000 tonnes per year.

Samia said that the construction of the Mkulazi II factory has already cost a total of 2.6bn/-, asking investors to cooperate with



**The factory has been built with advanced technology, and the company has plans to expand the scope of products from sugarcane**

the government to invest, hailing the two public institutions for deciding to invest in this sugar factory project.

She emphasised on the need to make that investment sustainable as public sector projects get inadequate attention, such that many state industries collapsed three decades ago.

Dr Hildelitha Msita, the Mkulazi Holding Co. Ltd (MHCL) board chairman, had earlier asked the president to increase the financial strength of the project so that its production reaches 75,000 tonnes per year.

The factory has been built with advanced technology, and the company has plans to expand the scope of products from sugarcane. To begin with, the firm is producing ethanol which can be used as raw material for making medicines.

Ridhiwani Kikwete, the Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the construction of the factory has gone a long way to curb unemployment for young people, with 2,176 direct jobs and more than 7,000 occasional job openings.

Up to 92 percent of those taking up the jobs are younger people under the age of 45, while Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe promised sugarcane farmers with money held up by the company and those with loans

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Dr Namala Mkopi, a Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) paediatric intensivist specialist, plays with Maliki Hashim (6) before he was discharged yesterday. The child, living with his parents at Goba in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam, was admitted at the hospital after suffering throat injury on July 15. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

## How MNH saved child (6) with cut throat, neck

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has saved the life of a six-year-old child, Maliki Hashimu, who was injured by a sharp object in a domestic fiasco where his throat was cut.

Dr Juma Mfinanga, head of department for emergency medicine and trauma at the medical facility, said that MNH surgeons used five steps, with the child being admitted at the intensive care unit (ICU) for 13 days.

Hashimu Kitumbi, Maliki's father expressed gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for covering his son's medical



**We worked with nutritionists to ensure he got a proper diet and physiotherapists to help him strengthen his neck, and walk, and now he can eat, talk, and walk**

expenses, appealing to stakeholders and community members to assist his family to sustain life and help his son manage to overcome the traumatic incident.

The child was admitted to the hospital on July 15th in a critical condition, the surgeon noted, affirming that an entire team of doctors and nurses at the Emergency Medical Department (EMD) had to rush at nine in the night.

The child was brought by colleagues from a private hospital in Goba, accompanied by his mother and in a critical condition, with severe neck injuries caused by a sharp object that completely severed

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## CCM tasks three ministries to study Nyakanazi land scarcity

By Henry Mwangonde, Biharamulo

LANDS, Local Governments and Natural Resources ministries need to assemble a team of experts to address land scarcity in Nyakanazi area in Biharamulo District, Kagera Region.

Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (pictured), the party secretary general, issued this appeal at a rally in the area, where his more elaborate remarks were directed at project delays in the area and elsewhere.

He said that there is need for studies to ensure fair treatment of residents while balancing environmental and national development concerns in order to make land access easier for local residents.

He told the rally that action has to be taken against officials awarding tenders to incompetent construction companies thus causing delays in project completion, asserting that there are elements of corruption in such tenders.

This is what leads officials to award contracts to unqualified firms, he declared, asserting that "we are seeing situations where individuals with no experience in construction are assigned major projects

"For example, someone who has never laid a brick is given the job of building a laboratory. This is like expecting someone who sells ice cream to successfully sell peanuts."

He emphasized that the performance of senior public servants should be evaluated



**The delayed water project undermines the significant work done by the legislator for the area and weakens the ruling party's commitment to defending the vulnerable**

in relation to the competence of the contractors they appoint.

"Everyone should be assigned work according to their capability," he said, recalling the time he served as legislator for Songea. A road construction project, initially set to be completed in one year, took five years, he said, affirming that corruption becomes evident when the losses from project delays are not transparent.

"The small amount of money a senior official is given may not seem significant, but it comes at the expense of the nation," he stressed, pointing at the Biharamulo-Nyakanazi water project.

He instructed the Water minister Jumaa Aweso to expedite the project, actually asking the minister to oversee the matter and ensure the construction is completed quickly to alleviate water scarcity for the people of Biharamulo and Nyakanazi.

The delayed water project undermines the significant work done by the legislator for the area and weakens the ruling party's commitment to defending the vulnerable, the party executive intoned.

## Zanzibar launches 173 acres industrial zone

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR is determined to ensure that areas designated for industries are equipped with the necessary infra-

structure to attract domestic and foreign investors.

President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi issued this position here yesterday, laying the foundation stone for a strategi-

cally planned industrial investment area in Dunga Zuze, Unguja South Region.

Facilitating investments in earmarked zones will stimulate economic activity

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## Samia orders expansion of Mkulazi sugar factory

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from Azania Bank that the issues are being handled by the government.

Salome Mbilinyi, chairperson of the Mbigiri Sugarcane Out growers

Union appreciated government efforts in the project, appealing that the challenges they face be resolved as promised in pronouncements of various cabinet ministers.

## Zanzibar launches 173 acres industrial zone

FROM PAGE 1

in those areas, as developing the industrial areas is part of efforts to eliminate poverty and increase incomes by creating jobs, he said.

Putting up the foundation is a step in implementing the 2025 development vision, the CCM manifesto for 2020/2025 and the Zanzibar development plan. The latter is pegged at increasing industrial sector contribution to the economy, he stated.

Industrial investments will provide various benefits including employment opportunities for young people, purchasing of farmers' produce and increasing revenue through various taxes, he said.

The highway network will be strengthened to connect production areas and markets, reduce transportation costs and ensure that industrial areas' products reach customers without additional costs, he stated.

He assured investors that the government will be providing the necessary support to speed up investments as expected, while Omar Said Shaaban, the Trade and Industrial Development minister, said that effort will be directed to producing products showing competitive in domestic and foreign markets.

The government faced difficulties

## Sudan's El Fasher 'worst place to live on earth', says doctors union

KHARTOUM

EL FASHER, the capital city of North Darfur State in western Sudan has become "the most dangerous and worst place to live on earth" due to the deadly civil war, according to a non-governmental doctors' union.

"All residents of El Fasher may become dead, either from hunger, thirst, bullets, lack of health and medical services, or other repercussions of the ongoing conflict," the Preliminary Committee of the Sudanese Doctors Union said in its report released at the weekend.

The report on El Fasher said mass displacement has occurred as civilians flee to safer areas, while the use of heavy weapons inside residential neighbourhoods has transformed the entire city into an operational zone.

The report accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and its allies of carrying out systematic, deliberate and continued bombardment of civilian neighbourhoods and health facilities.

It is worth noting that both warring sides, RSF and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have been accused of war crimes by human

rights organizations, including deliberately targeting civilians and blocking humanitarian aid.

The committee called for an immediate and unconditional cessation of fighting in El Fasher, opening safe corridors to allow entry of humanitarian and medical aid to the city and stopping targeting civilians and civilian buildings.

The Director General of the Ministry of Health in North Darfur State, Ibrahim Khatir, described the report as "logical and objective."

"We agree with the content of the report. Definitely, the residents of El Fasher are dying from bullets, hunger, thirst and lack of treatment," Khatir told Xinhua.

Since May 10, fierce clashes have been raging in El Fasher, the last stronghold of the SAF in the western Darfur region.

Sudan has been witnessing a deadly conflict between the SAF and the RSF since April 15, 2023, resulting in the loss of at least 16,650 lives. An estimated 10.7 million people are now internally displaced in Sudan, with approximately 2.2 million others seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, according to most recent UN data.

## Namibia VP calls for stronger legislations to guarantee citizens ownership of resources

WINDHOEK

NAMIBIA'S Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah yesterday said that the country's natural resources rightfully belong to its citizens and called for the implementation of more robust laws to safeguard this ownership.

The vice president made the remarks during the opening ceremony of the 11th edition of the Mining Expo and Conference in Windhoek, Namibia. The two-day event, themed 'Green Shoots for Namibia's Mining Industry: A Season of Opportunity and Growth to Drive Economic Expansion' features 199 companies across 317 booths.

"Naturally and constitutionally, it is our resources. What we need is a clear law that will protect that ownership," she said while emphasizing the importance of strong le-

gal frameworks to protect resource ownership and attract investment in the mining sector.

She highlighted Namibia's growth prospects in the uranium and gold sub-sectors. "In alignment with the clean energy transition, many countries have recognized nuclear power as a sustainable and carbon-neutral base-load source of power and have begun to develop or expand their nuclear power capabilities."

She also pointed out the significant potential in Namibia's oil and gas sector, stressing the need for local content policies to ensure Namibians benefit fully from these industries.

The opening of the expo also saw the launch of the National Database of Mining Goods and Services, aimed at helping local businesses access opportunities in the mining sector.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (3rd R) and Trade and Industrial Development minister for Zanzibar, Omar Said Shaban (R), looking at industrial construction drawings in the Dunga Zuze industrial area of the Unguja Central District yesterday. Others are Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwinyi (2nd R) and Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud, the Unguja South regional commissioner. Photo: State House

## How MNH saved child (6) with cut throat, neck

FROM PAGE 1

his airway.

"He had been cut in the front and back of the neck, losing a lot of blood," the medic explained, noting that the initial step taken by the team was to make sure he could breathe. They found the severed piece of the airway and connected it with a tube that reached his lungs, he stated.

The medics inserted a tube and connected it to a machine, and upon seeing that he was breathing, the next step was to restore the lost blood level. "Then we saw his heartbeat returning, he was breathing

with the help of the machine, and we called in ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat) specialists," he elaborated.

Dr Aslam Nkya, an ear, nose and throat surgeon, said the child underwent throat reconstruction especially in the area injured by the sharp object. "The sharp object completely separated the throat," he said, underlining that it was a delicate task to restore the throat and the back area to sit properly.

"In collaboration with throat doctors, anaesthetists and nurses, we took him to the operating room and found a device and another way to breathe, which he is now using, called 'tracheostomy,'" he stated.

The team had to perform surgery to repair and reconnect the throat to return to normal and treat the back neck wound that had reached the backbone, he further noted, hinting that for two weeks, the child would breathe using that device until it is removed and then breathe normally, and being able to speak.

MNH paediatric intensive care supervisor Dr Namala Mkopi said that Maliki has been hospitalized for about 24 days, where 13 were spent at the ICU.

"We started seeing Maliki when he was at EMD, and after that, he was brought to us. We first waited for him to stabilize, be safe and

overcome the risk of losing his life to proceed with another surgery," he stated.

"We worked with nutritionists to ensure he got a proper diet and physiotherapists to help him strengthen his neck, and walk, and now he can eat, talk, and walk," the specialist noted.

After the incident, Maliki was taken to a private clinic then to MNH Mloganzila branch before being shifted to the main facility at Upanga, as the injury put his life on a thread.

He was scarcely breathing, not audible after extensive loss of blood and writhing in pain, medics noted.



Dr Festo Dugange (R), the Health deputy minister in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), speaks with officials of the Vice President's Office when he visited at their booth at the Tanzania International Agricultural Exhibition at Nzuguni grounds in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on is Halima Dendego, the Singida regional commissioner. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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## Sudan's El Fasher 'worst place to live on earth', says doctors union



## High blood pressure, infertility emerge top health issues affecting Tanzanians

By Guardian Reporter

HIGH blood pressure, infertility, digestive system disorders, respiratory issues, paediatric heart challenges and prostate problems have emerged as the top health concerns identified by specialised medical experts during a recent nationwide health screening.

Minister for Health Umy Mwalimu unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when presenting findings of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's Specialist Doctors Programme, which ran from May 6 to June 8 this year, offering treatment at 184 district hospitals across the country.

She said that the specialists performed critical surgeries, including correcting congenital penile abnormalities in 20 male children, removing kidney stones (one weighing 1.200kg) and conducting thyroid surgeries.

The programme was designed to enhance access to specialized medical services, strengthen healthcare infrastructure and establish special wards for newborns and low birth weight infants.

Approximately 70,000 patients received care from specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, anaesthesiology, internal medicine, surgery and urology, she said.

Among the 22,057 internal medicine patients, high blood pressure was the most prevalent issue, affecting 7,529 patients (34 percent). This was followed by digestive system disorders, which affected 4,158 patients (19 percent).

In obstetrics and gynecology, infertility was the leading concern among 18,044 patients, impacting 3,810 patients (21 percent). This was followed by childbirth complications (2,529 patients or 14 percent) and abnormal vaginal bleeding (2,108 patients or 12 percent).

For the 14,466 paediatric patients, respiratory and heart issues were the major concerns. Respiratory challenges affected 2,352 patients (16 percent) while infections were noted in 2,091 patients (15 percent). Sickle cell anaemia affected 1,287 patients (9 percent) and pneumonia was diagnosed in 1,030 patients (7 percent).

Among 10,578 surgical patients, prostate issues were the most common, affecting 1,568 patients (15 percent). Digestive system disorders followed, impacting 1,392 patients (13 percent), while tumours affected 1,167 patients (11 percent) and accidents and fractures were noted in 1,154 patients (11 percent).

The ministry partnered with several professional associations, including the Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Tanzania (AGOTA), the Paediatric Association of Tanzania (PAT), Society of Anaesthesiologists of Tanzania (SATA) and Emergency Medicine Association of Tanzania (EMAT), investing 1.4bn/- to support the programme.

The minister highlighted the regions with the highest patient numbers as Tanga (4,410), Mara (3,671), Tabora (3,652), Mtwara (3,540), Mwanza (3,256), Ruvuma (3,253), Mbeya (3,126), Kagera (3,122), Coast (2,966) and Manyara (2,964).

Additionally, specialist doctors trained 4,796 healthcare providers, including 2,187 nurses (46 percent), 1,502 doctors (31 percent) and other cadres such as laboratory technicians and pharmacists.

"Overall, the programme has been highly successful; citizens have received essential services, costs have been reduced and healthcare providers have received valuable on-the-job training. We have also established eight special wards for newborns and low birth weight infants," she said.

She also noted that surgical theatres in newly established hospitals were now operational, new medical equipment in use and hospitals lacking sufficient surgical resources have been supported to transfer patients to regional hospitals for surgery.

In addition, the minister announced that efforts were underway to commence provision of In-vitro Fertilization (IVF) services at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in September, this year to bring smiles on faces of families that struggle to get children due to infertility.

## Seven Ugandan schools shut in western region as floods set in

KAMPALA

UGANDAN authorities have said at least seven primary and secondary schools have been closed in the western district of Ntoroko due to floods caused by heavy rainfall.

Edward Bashungura, resident district commissioner for Ntoroko, said that the heavy rains had caused a nearby river and lake to overflow their banks, resulting in flooding.

"About 20 villages have been affected (by) flowing flooding of River Semliki and Lake Albert. This has left many schools submerged," he said.

"We were left with no choice but to close the schools for the safety of the children. More schools are being assessed today and are due for closure."

The officer said in the villages alone, 20,000 people had been affected by floods.

"What we need now is restoration of washed away bridges, tents for schools, shelter for affected villagers, food and water purifiers," he said, adding that some of the affected villagers were living in shelters and camps for internally displaced people.

Last week, the government weatherman announced that the country would experience heavy rains, with lightning strikes in early August.

Since May 2023, Kasese has lost 54 people to floods and hundreds are still displaced from more than 5251 households.

Kasese District leaders are in need of Ushs20 billion to rehabilitate its road network, which has been rendered impassable since the May 2024 floods. The disaster left 13 people dead and properties destroyed. Since May, most bridges remain non-functional.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of an international Holy Qur'an competition for girls set for August 31 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) has said that water production capacity has increased from 520,000,000 litres per day to 534,600,000 litres equal to an increase of 14,600,000 litres.

Mkama Bwire, DAWASA's acting chief executive officer, unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to journalists.

Bwire said apart from that, the capacity to save water loss has increased from 153,649,000 litres to 183,649,000 litres, equivalent to an increase of 30,000,000 litres while water transportation and distribution network has increased from 4,690.7 kilometres to 7,087 kilometres, equivalent to an increase of 2,396.3 kilometres.

## Dawasa announces increase of water production capacity

"The sewerage network has increased from 450 km to 517.12 km, equal to an increase of 67.12 km, and the number of connections of sanitary customers has increased from 343,019 to 438,177, equal to an increase of 95,158 customers," he said.

However, DAWASA is owed about 40bn/- of water bills by various customers.

The official added that DAWASA depends on the Ruvu River as the main source of water where they get 87 percent of water they produce.

Deep wells contribute seven percent, Kizinga River two percent and four percent from Wami River.

He said that efforts were ongoing to ensure that the 7,087 km network served by the authority in the Dar es Salaam and Coast regions is highly effective and brings positive results to the citizens and authorities in general.

According to Bwire, despite providing services in two regions, DAWASA also provides services in some areas of Tanga and Morogoro regions.

He also said that there are areas

that get water all the time, some with rationing while other areas are in the process of being connected to water service.

"If you go to Kigamboni, there is enough water there; what is required is to expand the distribution network in the same way we did in Mkuranga and elsewhere," he said.

Bwire said that due to the existing water sources appearing to be overwhelmed, they were in the process of finding other water sources, including Rufiji River and Kidunda Dam.



Dr Fred Msemwa, the Watumishi Housing Investments (WHI) chief executive officer, addresses journalists on the upcoming 1st Faida Fund annual general meeting scheduled for August 10 in the city. Left is Paskali Massawe, the director of investments at WHI and right is Mary Mponda, a CRDB Bank official, the custodian bank.

## SA to implement NHI law despite strong opposition

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has vowed to move ahead with implementation of the National Health Insurance law despite strong opposition from within and outside the government.

He signed the controversial bill into law just before his African National Congress party lost its parliamentary

majority in the May elections.

The NHI aims to provide universal healthcare coverage for all through a major overhaul of the country's two-tier system.

It will gradually limit the role of private healthcare insurance which fewer than 16 per cent of South Africans have.

Supporters see the law as a positive change which will reverse inequalities

dating back to the apartheid era.

However, political parties and other stakeholders opposed to the NHI argue the proposed funding model will not work.

There have also been concerns that its implementation will be undermined by widespread corruption, and budget restraints which already see the country struggling to fund other basic services.

Speaking on the final day of the ANC

policy meeting on Tuesday, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said that sections of the law will be implemented "immediately."

This includes setting up advisory committees and amending other health-related laws to be in line with the NHI.

But he added that it would be implemented in phases over years and acknowledged that legal challenges could delay its roll-out.



## Maasai women go for fish farming to avert impacts of climate change

By Special Correspondent

LIKE many other Maasai women, fish farmer Charity Oltinki was previously engaged in beadwork, but found the profession to be unprofitable. Her husband, the primary breadwinner, was responsible for managing their cattle. But the severe drought that struck the Horn of Africa from 2020 to 2023 killed almost 100 of their cows, and only 50 sheep of their 300-strong flock survived.

"When drought came for four consecutive years, we were severely affected. Our cows died, our sheep died. We were left with nothing. The lands were left bare, with nothing for the cows to graze on. So, I decided to set aside a piece of land to rear fish and monitor how they would perform because I realised it's a good source of food. I can also take it to the market, sell, and educate my children with the proceeds," she said.

Kenya's National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) said 2.6 million cattle have died due to drought between 2020 and March 2023.

In 2023, Oltinki began fish farming as an alternative source of income to support her household.

With training from the government, she allocated a portion of their land to create a fishpond. The government further assisted by supplying pond liners, Nile tilapia fish and feed.

After six months, the first batch of fish was harvested, with the largest fish selling for up to 300 Kenyan shillings each (\$2.30). Using her savings, Oltinki secured a loan and went on to drill a borehole.

Philipa Leiyani is another Maasai fish farmer who is benefiting from moving into farmed fishing.

She said: "We are still livestock keepers, however, due to climate change, most of the time, we experience drought, forcing us to relocate to other areas and our cattle still die. So, when the county government introduced us to this fish

farming project, we gladly received it because we considered it as an alternative source of livelihood."

In Kajiado, like many arid and semi-arid regions, water scarcity is a significant challenge here. To Kajiado government's initiative aims to help families diversify their income and provide a buffer against the impacts of climate change.

"The program has seen some importance to have fish farming in the rural setups," said Benson Siangot, director of fisheries in Kajiado County.

"At least they have alternative livelihoods and have a diversification of food systems in order to address issues of food insecurity and malnutrition within their households."

The project is in partnership with the Aquaculture Business Development Programme, and is aimed at encouraging fish consumption in the Maasai community.

Fish farming, however, is cash intensive because of expensive feed.

It also requires substantial amounts of water, which is often scarce in arid regions.

Nyang'ori Ohenjo, team leader at the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), says when fostering climate resilience, integrating activities that align with traditional livelihoods is important.

"When talking about resilience to climate change, one thing that we always have to put in mind is how we can employ indigenous knowledge and indigenous technologies in assisting communities to be resilient. So, for me, one of the things that we probably want to do is to make sure that we safeguard indigenous knowledge and indigenous technologies. How generally were pastoralists organized in terms of dealing with these seasonal drought systems. So, the knowledge that was used today can be designed and developed in such a way that it can still assist within the current kind of challenges," he said.



Albert Chalamila, the Dar es Salaam regional commissioner, (seated C) in a photo with social welfare stakeholders at a work plan meeting focused on media outlets, to regularly update the public on social welfare initiatives and achievements in the region yesterday.

## Mwinyi showers praises on opposition member minister

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has expressed satisfaction with the performance of Trade and Industrial Development Minister Omar Said Shabani, a member of the opposition-ACT Wazalendo.

He made the statement yesterday here at the handover of land for the

construction of a pharmaceutical factory and a vehicle assembly plant at Dunga Zuze in Unguja South Region.

He noted that the minister's performance has been impressive despite Shabani's affiliation with the opposition.

"You are doing a very good and commendable job. I always

advise appointees to not leave their positions without making a remarkable impact on people's lives and Zanzibar in general," he said.

Dr Mwinyi also said that the government, guided by the CCM election manifesto, has exceeded its industrial development goals.

He expressed commitment to continue making strides in

industrial development if he secures a second term in the 2025 general election.

This is not the first time Dr Mwinyi has publicly praised ministers from the ACT-Wazalendo. He has previously commended both Shabani and Health Minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui for their outstanding performance.

## Chinese varsity for stronger cooperation with Zanzibar on human health research

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FUDAN University in Shanghai, China, has pledged to collaborate with Zanzibar Health Research Institute (ZAHRI) on research initiatives to help bring major reforms in human health.

Prof Zhenghong Yuan, Fudan University Vice Chancellor, made the commitment yesterday during a meeting with ZAHRI Director General Dr Mayasa Salum Ali at the institute's headquarters in Binguni, Central, and Unguja District.

Prof Zhenghong highlighted Fudan

University's extensive experience in health research, supported by its 14 hospitals that provide comprehensive medical services.

He reaffirmed the university's commitment to the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed last year in China, focusing on professional exchanges and higher education opportunities.

"We are dedicated to implementing and managing our cooperation agreement for the mutual benefit of both parties in critical research on various human health issues," he said.

Dr Ali said that the visit aimed to develop bilateral cooperation in research work involving various areas, including human health.

She emphasized the need for ZAHRI staff to pursue higher education to enhance their expertise and effectiveness in specialized fields.

Prof. Yiayan Huang, relations coordinator at Fudan University, said that the visit was intended to understand Zanzibar's needs and offer support.

He appreciated the insights gained on fostering research collaboration.

The delegation also visited Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital and met with Chinese medical experts working in Zanzibar. It also visited Lumumba Regional Hospital in the Urban West Region.



High Commission of India  
Dar es Salaam

Date: 07.08.2024

**Subject: Tender Inviting Bids For Engagement Of Security Services at the High Commission Of India, 213/51, Shaaban Robert Street, Dar es Salaam and India House At 13, Tumbawe Street, Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam**

High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced and financially sound Companies registered under relevant Tanzanian Companies Law for engagement Of Security Services at the High Commission Of India, 213/51, Shaaban Robert Street, Dar es Salaam and India House At 13, Tumbawe Street, Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam. The Tender document inviting bids for this work can be downloaded from the Mission's website <https://hcindiatz.gov.in> in the What's New Section under the heading "Tender Inviting Bids For Engagement Of Security Services at the High Commission Of India, 213/51, Shaaban Robert Street, Dar es Salaam and India House At 13, Tumbawe Street, Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam"

**“We are dedicated to implementing and managing our cooperation agreement for the mutual benefit of both parties in critical research on various human health issues**



Plot 4B, Nyerere Road, P. O. Box 911, Dar es Salaam  
Telephone: +255 22 2860047/9, E - mail: info@tol-gases.co.tz

### NOTICE

#### 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 29th Meeting of the Shareholders of TOL Gases PLC will be held on a hybrid of physical attendance at the Mlimani City Conference Hall and via ZOOM video conferencing on 29th August 2024 at 9.00a.m to transact the following business: -

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 28th Annual General Meeting held on 25th August, 2023.
3. Matters arising from minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting.
4. Statement of the Board Chairperson.
5. To receive the Directors' Report, Auditors' Report, and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023.
6. Dividend payment.
7. To approve Directors' Fees.
8. To appoint Auditors for the financial year 2024.
9. Election of Directors.
10. To set the place, date, and venue of the next meeting.
11. Any other business (Duly notified at least seven days before the meeting)

Registration for participating in the ZOOM Video Conferencing should be done through phone no 0685750201/0685750203.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is also entitled to appoint a proxy (whether a member of the Company or not) to attend and vote in his/her stead.

All proxy forms or letters appointing a proxy must be lodged at the office of the Company Secretary at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting or via email to [mjuliana@tol-gases.co.tz](mailto:mjuliana@tol-gases.co.tz)/[nlulu@tol-gases.co.tz](mailto:nlulu@tol-gases.co.tz)

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

CORNELIUS KASIYA KARIWA  
COMPANY SECRETARY

Directors: H. Kitilya – Chairperson (Tanzanian), T. Kinabo - (Tanzanian), J. Massawe – (Tanzanian), L. Kitoka (Tanzanian) S. Selestine – TR - URT (Tanzanian), Prof. A. Temu – (Tanzanian), Eng. J. Machange – (Tanzanian)



# Tarura engages contractors to construct, repair roads at 5.2bn/-

By Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson, Manyara

TANZANIA Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) in Manyara Region has announced plans to commence construction and rehabilitation of road infrastructure across the region covering 176.9km.

Salim Bwaya, Manyara Regional Manager for Tarura, revealed the plans during a contract-signing event yesterday where 17 contracts, totalling 5.2bn/-, were awarded for road construction, including nine major bridges and 53 minor ones.

Bwaya said that 8.3km of the roads will be paved to tarmac level. The comprehensive project aims to improve road infrastructure and stimulate local economic growth.

The works will include repairing 142km of existing roads and upgrading 26.6km of dirt roads to gravel.

He also highlighted that earlier this year, seven contracts worth 2.3bn/- were signed for road construction and repairs.

Four of such contracts have been completed while the remaining three were at various stages of progress and expected to be completed within the first quarter of this financial year.

Manyara Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga emphasized the importance of accountability, noting that the funds for the projects come from taxpayers and must be properly managed.

She urged contractors to be present at work sites during

inspections and not rely solely on their workers.

"I do not expect to hear complaints from casual labourers or food vendors about unpaid wages. District and ward managers must keep the public informed about these projects as they are for their benefit," she said.

Anna Sanga, speaking on behalf of the contractors, committed to working diligently to meet deadlines and adhere to agreed standards.

She requested prompt payments from the government, citing limited resources of local contractors.

Babati District Commissioner Lazaro Twange expressed gratitude to the government on behalf of the citizens, noting that the funding for the road construction projects will bring essential services closer to the people.

He assured that the district's leadership will provide strong support to ensure the contractors complete their work without obstacles.

**“The works will include repairing 142km of existing roads and upgrading 26.6km of dirt roads to gravel”**



Jesca Nyaki (2nd R), the community development officer from the Kilimanjaro regional secretariat, handing over a certificate of completion for special training in entrepreneurship and digital systems to Sylvia Chama (in a wheelchair). The training was provided to youth from special groups by the Digital Opportunity Trust-Tanzania (DOT-Tanzania), a non-governmental organization, in collaboration with the Songambe Initiative in Moshi yesterday. Witnessing the event on the right is Denish Otieno, the DOT-Tanzania representative and other stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

# Govt asked to prudently manage council loans to special groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE government has been requested to manage the availability of funds and the provision of council loans for women, youth, and special groups to ensure that they reach the beneficiaries as intended.

Diana Venant, chairman of Tunaweza Group in Liwale District, Lindi Region, made the appeal here yesterday when speaking shortly after a financial literacy seminar provided by the Ministry of Finance through its Financial Sector Development Unit.

"If the government properly supervises the exercise of providing loans to the intended groups, it will help reduce the problem of bad loans because many people rush to bad loans because the loans are available quickly without many

conditions," she said.

She added that many people do not meet the criteria to borrow from official financial institutions because they are required to have guarantees, including a title deed and a vehicle logbook.

Obadia Anania, Liwale District Community Development Officer and Coordinator of Small Financial Services Groups commended the government for seeing the importance of providing financial education to citizens in various groups in the country.

"This education is good as it helps change lives of the people because it touches various areas such as the discipline of spending money, saving, investing and credit education. I believe that through this education the people will change their lifestyle", he said.

Salim Kimaro from the Ministry

of Finance said that the ministry continues with the exercise of providing financial education to ensure that all citizens develop a broad understanding of financial matters, including having the habit of saving, having disciplined spending as well as spending according to one's budget.

"In the implementation of the financial education programme, the government projects that by the year 2025, approximately 80 percent of the citizens will have access to this education and have an understanding of financial issues," he said.

He said so far 10 regions have been reached by the Ministry of Finance's team and given financial education. They are Kagera, Manyara, Singida, Kigoma, Rukwa, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Tabora, Mtwara and Lindi.

# WFP, stakeholders in initiative to engage more youth in agriculture

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE World Food Programme (WFP) is working with the government and other agriculture stakeholders to implement a project to increase youth engagement in agriculture sector, with emphasis on young women.

Dubbed 'Youth in Agribusiness' the initiative which commenced since 2008 has already impacted over 200,000 farmers in Arusha, Dodoma, Manyara, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Singida and Tabora regions.

Willbroad Karugaba, WFP's Programme Associate, said yesterday at the ongoing 31st Agriculture Expo that the initiative was meant to assist farmers engaged in three strategic crops which are sunflower, sorghum and beans.

Among others, the focus is to empower growers of the crops to overcome diverse challenges they face in order to improve productivity.

"The project's main strategy is based on development of skills and knowledge, reducing post-harvest losses, promoting value addition, improving access to inclusive financing and engaging the private sector," he said.

"As WFP our role remains a general task of sensitizing farmers to form special production groups and through the platforms, we capacitate them with knowledge on financial issues, including to develop business plans to enable them acquire loans," he said.

From the government side, Karugaba said the project works with the private sector, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) and local government authority (LGA).

On market linkage, he said the project helps to sensitize farmers to unite into special groups, making it easy for the purchasers to procure crops in bulk.

"Pertaining to post harvest loss, we train farmers on how to

professionally manage each stage in the involved processes, from harvesting, drying and storage with the vision being to assist them qualify for the set international crop market standards and quantity" he said.

He added that in crop storage, the project works to assist farmers to refrain from excessive use of agrochemicals.

Through cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Karugaba said WFP has developed a special handbook to help guide farmers on proper farming practices.

"The practices include stages in preparation of farms, use of agro inputs as well as agricultural technologies," he said.

In the rolling out of the project, he said the project disseminates technologies and better farming practices to extension officers and leader farmers.

"After being trained, the groups namely extension officers and leader farmers impart the knowledge to intended farmers," he said.

The picked leader farmers are also trained on how to develop quality declared seeds (QDS), and marketing to other farmers within their areas at affordable prices.

**“The project's main strategy is based on development of skills and knowledge, reducing post-harvest losses, promoting value addition, improving access to inclusive financing and engaging the private sector”**



Dr Fred Tairo, (L), the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Mikocheni Centre manager in Dar es Salaam, displays Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) and some other products that the centre assists the farmers to process from coconut fruits, at the ongoing 31st Tanzania Agricultural International Expo in Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

# Farmers in Moro fall in love with Chinese soymilk technology

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

SOYMILK, a traditional Chinese drink known for its rich flavour and nutritional benefits, is gaining popularity among Tanzanians in several villages of Morogoro Region.

The production technology for soymilk, introduced by experts from China Agricultural University (CAU) in 2022, has been implemented as a pilot project in the villages of Peapea, Kitete, Makuyu and Mtego wa Simba.

Under the initiative, Chinese experts in collaboration with Morogoro regional authorities have distributed modern soybean seeds to farmers in the villages.

They also provided on-site guidance on planting and management techniques, enabling successful processing of soymilk.

The growing popularity of this protein-rich drink is a result of a bilateral cooperation project between China and Tanzania, spearheaded by Chinese agriculture scientist Prof Li Xiaoyun.

Prof Li and his team launched the 'Small Bean and Big Nutrition' project, which has recently seen its second harvest season, leaving farmers with smiles.

To improve nutritional structures through inter-cropping soybeans, the Chinese experts have conducted training sessions in over a thousand households across a dozen villages. The efforts aim to enhance family welfare and support children's nutrition and education.

At a recent ceremony to honour the best soybean farmers in Mikese Ward, Prof. Li expressed his appreciation for the project's success.

The event took place at a learning centre for poverty eradication at Mtego wa Simba Village, about 30 kilometers from Morogoro Municipality.

The centre, built by CAU serves as a hub for research and demonstrates the impact of China-Africa agriculture development and poverty reduction efforts.

Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary Dr Mussa Ally Mussa who was the Chief guest, commended CAU for introducing soymilk in the region, saying the soymilk project will benefit as many people as possible, especially children and women.

Alphonse Mkude, a 62-year-old farmer at Mtego wa Simba Village said: "Soymilk tastes good, and I believe it is good for our health."

Nasoro Athumani who was named Peapea Village's best soybean farmer for 2024, said that he grew soybeans on a one-acre plot, yielding approximately 400 kilograms.

"Next year, I plan to expand to two acres and I have high expectations for the yields," he said.



## Initiative launched to revive coconut farming in Tanzania

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has embarked on a project to expand production of coconut in the country to assist farmers attain the needed value addition for the cash crop.

Implemented through the Dar es Salaam-based TARI Mikocheni Centre, the initiative targets to improve coconut production to at least 10 percent by 2030.

Through the project which has been designed to commence in Lindi and Mtwara regions, the vision is to disseminate to farmers improved coconut seedlings, together with the key technologies for the value addition.

Speaking yesterday at the ongoing 31st Agriculture Expo in Dodoma, Dr Fred Tairo, the centre's manager, said the centre was working to finalize some pending issues to start rolling out improved coconut seedlings to farmers in the regions in question, the set target being to reach out to over 10,000 farmers.

He added that the centre has so far researched and developed at least four improved coconut varieties that are resistant to diseases.

"The East African Tall (EAT) varieties which are more productive include Vuo, LBS, Madonga and Buza," he said, noting that the centre was working to produce a total of 250,000 seedlings to be distributed to farmers in the two regions.

"In the programme, we have directed the farmers to uproot the old coconut plants and replace them with new improved seedlings. We are also planning to establish new plantations," he said.

Dr Tairo also said in uprooting the

## Young Kenyan artists intensify efforts for wildlife conservation

NAIROBI

TO thunderous applause from the audience, Meshack Lasio and his band members gyrated to the beat as they performed a traditional song from his native western Kenya, extolling the virtues of wildlife conservation.

The lead soloist livened up the auditorium at the National Museum of Kenya, where a live concert was held last week to raise awareness on the plight of wildlife.

Lasio and his Isukuti vocalists and dancers were the star attraction at the New Era Conservationist Live Concert in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, which served as a rallying call for the artistic community to advocate for increased protection of iconic wildlife species facing multiple threats.

The concert that culminated in the screening of a movie brought together musicians, poets, instrumentalists, and dancers, whose thrilling performances highlighted the urgency of resetting wildlife protection models in Kenya and beyond.

Among the conveners of the concert were the World Animal Protection (WAP), an international animal welfare lobby, and GreenTalk Art, a Nairobi-based organization that leverages art and culture to raise awareness on animal welfare issues.

"Through our songs, we hope to rally everyone toward this noble cause of protecting our wild animals in their natural habitat.

"These animals are part of our heritage, and we should not allow them to disappear," Lasio said.

Filled to capacity, the National Museum of Kenya's auditorium was in a frenzied mood as a diverse cast of Kenya's rising stars in performing arts showcased their prowess in conveying messages that exhort nature or wildlife conservation.

A 20-year-old rap artist going by the stage name of Adrian Honcho was lyrical in his delivery of a tune that condemned poaching as a vice while encouraging the audience to be part of a new movement dedicated to conserving iconic wildlife species.

Honcho said his passion for wildlife was nurtured at a tender age, while music has provided him

old plants, the centre was mentoring farmers on how to produce wood from the old coconut plants instead of burning them as they formerly used to do.

"Coconut trees produce very expensive woods which can later be processed into high-end furniture which attract lucrative prices in the market," he said.

As part of empowering farmers to attain a value-addition chain for the crop, he said experts at the state-owned agricultural research centre were disseminating to farmers cheap technologies to process virgin coconut oil (VCO).

"The target is to ensure that by 2030, all coconut produced by farmers in the country will be processed into different products instead of being marketed raw," he said.

For instance, he said as per the current coconut market prices, one raw coconut fruit is sold at 1,500/-, but when processed into virgin coconut oil, one litre fetches at least 50,000/-.

"One litre of coconut virgin oil is produced by 20 raw coconut fruits, which means through processing, the farmers stand an economic change to generate a profit of around 30,000/-," he said.

He added that during the 2023/24 financial year, the government set aside a total of 1480m/- to help boost the performance of the economic sub-sector, the amount which is being used to facilitate a series of strategies, including disseminating to farmers friendly coconut processing technologies.

Dr Tairo said coconut flourishes well in several regions across the country, but currently most production is based in Tanga, Coast, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara, and Ruvuma regions.

with a platform to advocate for better policies and legislation aimed at strengthening the protection of charismatic species like giant land mammals.

Dozens of upcoming artists defied frigid weather to stage electrifying performances during the live concert, which aimed to kick-start a national conversation on innovative ways to advocate for better wildlife conservation measures.

With his stage presence and baritone voice stealing the thunder, Ramadhan Tsuma, a spoken word artist from the coast region, proved his prowess in Kiswahili poetry to draw attention to the plight of wildlife countrywide.

In his presentation of a Kiswahili poem, Tsuma decried predatory behaviour by mankind that has decimated wildlife habitats, leading to the loss of tourism revenue and livelihoods to indigenous communities.

For the second year running, Kenya has hosted a live concert showcasing the power of music, dance, and poetry in rallying policymakers, donors, researchers, and local communities to enhance the protection of charismatic wildlife species in the country and across Africa.

Tennyson Williams, regional director for Africa at the WAP, said the new generation of artists has the energy and vigour to reignite a national conversation on reshaping wildlife conservation policies and legislation.

Going by the stage name Lucy Empress, a young female poet, Lucy Wanjiru, was sentimental while appealing to the attentive audience to sacrifice their time, resources, and expertise to protect wildlife.

According to Wanjiru, all forms of art can be effective in rallying communities toward abandoning practices that harm wildlife including illegal hunting and encroachment on habitats.



**These animals are part of our heritage, and we should not allow them to disappear**



A caterpillar removes soil to harden the base during construction of a portion of the city Bus Rapid Transit routes at Ilala Bungoni yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Court adjourns case facing Dar couple 'for the last time'

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court on Tuesday agreed to postpone the criminal case facing a Dar es Salaam couple Bharat Nathwan (57) and Sangita Bharat (54) for the last time and ordered the defence lawyer to complete the cross-examination of witnesses when the case for mention next week.

The order was given by Chief Resident Magistrate Aaron Lyamuya after defence Lawyer Edward Chuwa asked for an adjournment of the case, saying

that his health condition was not good and he would not be able to continue with the cross-examination of witnesses.

However, state attorney Grace Mwanga opposed the request, arguing that advocate Chuwa was using a delaying tactic to drag the case for longer than necessary.

Mwanga claimed that they could not accept the adjournment because the lawyer was supposed to say that earlier before the case started to be heard in the court.

"Even the last time we postponed the case he said he was going to the High Court but we saw him outside speaking to the media and he didn't say what case he was going

to attend that day," she said.

"I am going to see a doctor this afternoon and on the next mention, I will bring evidence here. I am 60 years old, I cannot continue because I don't feel well. I have asked for an adjournment due to illness," said Chuwa.

Magistrate Lyamuya said that he was not in a position to say whether the defence lawyer was really sick or not because he is not a medical doctor.

"Because you have insisted on your age of 60, the court adjourns this case to grant you the last chance to do cross-examination which is your right," said Lyamuya. Also, Lyamuya asked the parties

to use respectful language when asking questions because many people follow the case, including law students who learn everything from them.

Lyamuya made that point after Chuwa accused Mwanga of guiding the witness after objecting to his witness being asked a question that he had already answered.

The case was adjourned until next Thursday for the defence to continue doing cross-examination of witnesses.

Natwan and his wife Bharat, residents of Mrima Street in Kisumu area face four charges, including an assault that they allegedly committed on July 21, 2023.



Augustino Senga, the Songwe regional police commander, inspects police post construction within gold mining area yesterday, to assess the security situation in the area. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Yassin

## US pledges \$414m in aid to DR Congo

WASHINGTON DC

THE US has said it would provide nearly \$414 million in humanitarian assistance for the Democratic Republic of Congo, where more than 25 million people need such aid, nearly a quarter of the country's population.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, Jeffrey Prescott, said that a significant amount of that money would go to United Nations agencies and aid groups providing urgent food assistance, healthcare

and nutrition support, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene.

"This funding also includes direct support (of) agricultural commodities from American farmers," said Prescott, who formally announced the aid in Kinshasa yesterday with US Ambassador to the DRC Lucy Tamlyn.

It takes total US funding for DRC since October to \$838 million, said Prescott.

Congo's army has been battling M23 insurgents since 2022, and renewed fighting in the country's

east has driven more than 1.7 million people from their homes, taking the total number of Congolese displaced by multiple conflicts to a record 7.2 million, according to UN estimates.

A UN aid appeal for \$2.6 billion for DRC this year is only one-third funded, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned last month that more than one million children are at risk of acute malnutrition in Congo.

Prescott said he hoped the US funding would encourage other countries to also "step up as well"

and help DRC.

The US will also provide \$10 million for health assistance and donate 50,000 mpox vaccines, Prescott said.

Mpox, a viral infection that can spread through close contact, is usually mild but can sometimes lead to death. It causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions on the body.

The current mpox outbreak in Congo has already seen around 27,000 cases, and claimed more than 1,100 lives, most of them children, since the beginning of 2023.



## EAC, UNESCO renew pledge to enhance links

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) have reaffirmed their commitment to partnering in areas of mutual interest to both organisations, including education, health, culture, sports, music, and the arts.

Consequently, both the EAC and UNESCO have committed to negotiate and sign a new Memorandum of Understanding to replace the one that was signed by both organisations in 2006.

Speaking when he paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General, Veronica Nduva, in Arusha yesterday, UNESCO Head of Office and Representative to Tanzania and the EAC, Michel Toto, said that the two organisations share similar priorities including promoting education, culture, and the Kiswahili language as a lingua franca, in East Africa and globally.

Toto said that the MoU to be signed by the two organisations should be in line with the EAC and UNESCO's priorities. He also called for expediting the negotiations, which he said were long overdue.

Toto further emphasised the role of education in promoting peace all over the world, adding that UNESCO would work with EAC to promote the usage of Kiswahili in East Africa and beyond.

Toto said that UNESCO was committed to strengthening its cooperation with EAC which has been the case with the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), partnerships that he said had yielded lots of mutual benefits to all parties.

Nduva said that the EAC relies a lot on inputs from its development

partners in planning and executing its key programmes and projects.

She acknowledged UNESCO's role in diverse sectors including gender, culture, education, and health, and pointed out that EAC could benefit immensely through cooperation with UNESCO in these and other sectors.

The SG informed the UNESCO official of EAC's determination to promote Kiswahili as the lingua of the region, adding that Kiswahili is now one of the official languages of the Community alongside French and English.

She added that 7th July is now celebrated as the World Kiswahili Language Day with the most recent celebrations having been held in Mombasa, Kenya.

Nduva disclosed that the Community places a high priority on education with the bloc now a Common Higher Education Area and several specialised institutions established to, among other things, offer opportunities for professionals in the region to interact and share knowledge, experience, and best practices in their respective fields.

She stated that the bloc had come up with various activities to promote and safeguard the region's rich cultural heritage highlighting events such as the annual Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Forum (popularly known as Jua Kali Nguvu Kazi), EAC Games and JAMAFEST - a biennial festival that seeks to showcase culture as a primary driver of regional integration in East Africa.

Nduva underscored the importance of revisiting the MoU between the EAC and UNESCO saying that the revitalised MoU would, among other things, encourage mobility in the arts, music, and sports in addition to supporting MSMEs.

## Forty Nigerians arrested for waving Russian flag

ABUJA

AT LEAST 40 people have been arrested in northern Nigeria for waving Russia's national flag during protests against the high cost of living and what they feel is "bad governance".

Amid this crackdown, army chief Christopher Musa warned that it was a "reasonable offence" to fly the flags of foreign countries.

Nigeria has seen six days of nationwide protests, in which at least seven people have died and more than 700 have been arrested.

Demonstrators have been chanting slogans such as "we are hungry", while a minority have been pictured waving Russia's flag and voicing support for Russian President Vladimir Putin.

According to local media, some of these protesters have called on Moscow to "rescue" them.

The subsequent arrests are seen as an attempt to stifle any fledgling support for Russia in Nigeria, a leading oil producer and a key ally of Western powers.

Several countries in the wider region of West Africa - including Nigeria's neighbour, Niger - have pivoted away from the West and towards Russia after recent military coups.

Civilian governments backed by the likes of France and the US had rapidly lost popularity - critics accused them of failing to tackle insecurity, corruption and economic problems.

Nigeria's president Bola Tinubu came to power in May 2023 after winning fiercely contested elections.

Satisfaction with his leadership has plummeted, with many blaming his policies for the sharp increase in the cost of living.

He scrapped a long-standing state subsidy on fuel in his inauguration speech, causing pump prices to rise. The move also had a knock-on effect on the cost of food and other basic commodities.

Tinubu has urged frustrated Nigerians to be patient, insisting his policies would bear fruit.

He has appealed for an end to the protests and held a meeting with

security chiefs on Monday to assess their scale.

Afterwards, army Chief Christopher Musa said: "We are warning in clear terms that we will not accept anybody, any individual flying any foreign flag in Nigeria. That is a treasonable offence, and it will be viewed and treated as such."

The Russian embassy in Nigeria has distanced itself from the demonstrations, saying that the flags were the "personal choices" of protesters.

"As always, we emphasise that Russia does not interfere in the domestic affairs of foreign states, including Nigeria," it added.

Frustrated Nigerians vow 'days of rage' as hardships mount

Why Nigeria's economy is in such a mess

People turn to 'throw-away' rice for food

On Monday, the north-western states of Kaduna and Zamfara saw a massive turnout of demonstrators.

Kaduna police spokesman Mansir Hassan said 39 people were arrested there, including a tailor who was "sewing the foreign flags for the group".

Close to 40 Russian flags were confiscated, as well as a Chinese one, he added.

A curfew has now been imposed in Kaduna - the sixth state to take such action since last week, forcing millions of people to stay at home.

In a statement, Nigeria's secret service said tailors have also been arrested in Kano state for "making Russian flags".

"Some of their sponsors have also been picked. Investigation is ongoing," it said.

Rights group Amnesty International says 13 people have been killed since protests began last week and accused security forces of using excessive force against demonstrators.

Mr Tinubu addressed the nation on Sunday and said his government was committed to addressing the concerns of protesters.

He added that the protests had been hijacked by looters in some areas, and ending the unrest would create room for dialogue.



Aboubakar Kunenge (R), the Coast regional commissioner, visits the TiGo booth at the Nane Nane grounds in Morogoro yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

## Meeting in Mwanza to curb climate change-related fears

AMID global concerns such as climate change and its devastating impacts, Jehovah's Witnesses are out to share positive news and preventive measures.

This will be conducted through a three-day 'Declare the Good News' convention, to be held here from tomorrow to Sunday with a focus on peace promotion in light of ongoing conflicts around the world.

Speaking here yesterday, Zadok Mwaipwisi, spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses in Tanzania said: "In a world saturated with negative news, including climate-

induced floods that claim lives and disrupt ecosystems, this three-day event will offer uplifting messages aimed at helping attendees manage fears and concerns caused by such reports."

The convention will also be held in Kagera and Kigoma regions from August 16 to 18, expecting to attract over 6,000 participants across the three regions.

Besides spiritual and social

teachings, the event is anticipated to benefit local economies by drawing participants to local stores, hotels and restaurants, Mwaipwisi said.

"This year, we are excited about a series of enriching conventions over the next two months, featuring videos, a two-part film and uplifting music," he added.

A major highlight of the convention will be the baptism

of new witnesses from local communities, along with a two-part dramatic presentation titled "The Good News" scheduled for tomorrow and Saturday.

Before each convention, he added, local congregations will engage in a campaign to invite community members. Last year, nearly 13 million people attended more than 6,000 three-day conventions worldwide.



Zainab Abdallah, the Muheza district commissioner, Tanga Region, speaks to journalists yesterday on preparations of a large camp for eye treatment by doctors from the Mo Dewji Foundation Institute, a three day event slated for August 16 to 18 at the Samia Hospital in the district. Photo: Correspondent Steve William

## CBK cuts benchmark rate to 12.75pc amid falling inflation

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has reduced its benchmark lending rate to 12.75 percent from 13 percent amid declining inflation.

Kamau Thugge, CBK governor who chaired the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting yesterday, noted that its previous measures have lowered overall

inflation to the mid-point of the target range, stabilized the exchange rate, and anchored inflationary expectations.

"Kenya's overall inflation declined to 4.3 percent in July 2024 from 4.6 percent in June, thereby remaining below the mid-point of the target range," he said.

According to Thugge, the MPC met against a backdrop of an improved global outlook

for growth, easing inflation in advanced economies, and persistent geopolitical tensions.

Thugge observed that non-food-fuel inflation has moderated, while central banks in some major economies have lowered interest rates in response to the easing inflationary pressures, with indications that other central banks will soon embark on a similar trajectory.

The apex bank said that there was scope for a gradual easing of the monetary policy stance while ensuring continued exchange rate stability.

The MPC added that it will closely monitor the impact of the policy measures as well as developments in the global and domestic economy and stands ready to take further action as necessary in line with its mandate.



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## Organic farming a result, not the premise, of improved agriculture

CHANGES are taking place each passing day in all sectors of economy and agriculture is not being left behind, while there is a feeling that what is vital in modernizing each sector is really the magic formula the country needs to end poverty.

When it comes to agriculture, the range of benefits isn't just nutrition but health, as experts agree that inappropriate diets more than external disturbances cause much of the world's non-communicable diseases. In that case nothing appears to be more urgent than improving agriculture to obtain the right results.

Much of this was lately being emphasized by former premier Mizengo Pinda at a high-level traditional food gala in the capital early in the week, appealing to public officials at all levels to help communities embrace organic farming. He affirmed that a range of health problems facing Tanzanians can be solved just by taking properly grown food, at a gathering inspired by Islands of Peace, abbreviated IDP from its French original Iles de Paix. It is an NGO specialized in supporting local development, and it believes organic farming is easy to do.

The former premier pointed out that while there are many stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on ecological agriculture, their efforts are not pooled together as they do not know one another, where they operate and what they do. Making this observation would appear to suggest an organizational drawback but as a matter of fact it just indicates that the market dimension is still low, otherwise they would know one another by operating in one market. They could compare notes, pool resources.

It can be somewhat enlightening

to look at the theme of the gala, namely improving nature through local and traditional food, along with the fact that it brought together participants from government agencies, the private sector, organic farming associations and others. It was plausible enough to suggest that leaders, implying public officials, have a great role to play in ensuring the promotion of organic farming, improved food production and food security in the country. These themes were taken together but it is observable that the issues can't be put up with such ease, as households don't suffice for organic farming anchorage.

As it is the case in horticulture and a range of new products, it takes a certain amount of investment in a gardening or actual farming project to get all those preliminaries right. When someone makes that effort the basic idea is to sell an improved product that could find its way not just to stalls but supermarkets, meanwhile as those living at the bottom of the ladder are unlikely to look for organic vegetables but low priced vegetables. As a matter of act, Europe has standardized farm produce and imports to organic just in the past 20 years.

In that case, while the techniques used in organic farming are available virtually to anyone who wants to farm, allocating extra resources to farm by organic methods is strictly speaking a middle class preoccupation. It is a method of specialization, standing apart from the crowd, in like manner as to look for organic only food stores as it is less a habit arising less from the need to eat but to eat well. In that case both organic farming and eating organic will become widespread when the streets have higher incomes and organic minded habits, or in other words, when we have a predominantly middle class urban population.

## With a wider investment structure, electricity prices could fall as well

THERE is plenty of happiness for decision makers in the energy sector as for once they appear to have everything that was in the past just something to be imagined, as for instance the deputy minister was hinting on another operational uplift.

The new development is that the government has approved a major initiative where 75 new substations will be built, to be implemented in phases at a cost of 4.4trn/-. Given the significance of that kind of money to the Budget, it is clear a lending format with PPP arrangements would speed up the work.

The substations are intended to enhance infrastructure for receiving, cooling and distributing electricity across the country, where definitely the demand is that this sort of equipment arrives tomorrow for factories to be assured of power.

There are numerous new buildings coming up in most urban areas and roadside townships, and low intensity power flow has its toll in damages that people keep complaining, and are often asked to take out 'insurance policy' on the same, as in the case of a wider fire outbreak it is rather painful coexistence with poorly structured power flow, but there is little anyone can do there.

To get a map of what is being done, the deputy minister set out the background, of the government having approved an additional 75 substations, noting that early 2021 the power company had 61 substations, for receiving and cooling electricity. Since this decision was made eight substations have already been completed and

are operational, with priority being in areas with markedly growing agricultural and mining areas. These include parts of Morogoro Region that the president has been touring, and officials make project updates.

Just as an example, the deputy minister highlighted the significance of the Ifakara substation, affirming that it has not only improved electricity reliability for local residents but also facilitated connection of 54 new factories to the power grid.

That is plentiful, and even of other districts don't have more than 50 new factories to show of, there is plenty that is coming up - and indeed, investors waiting in the wings to get the power scenario right.

And in addition there is an aspect in the clean energy drive that needs electricity to be affordable as there are a range of foodstuffs where gas is inconvenient, it is hard to use it minutely, or say as low as the one cooking would like it; the cylinder peg just shoots up.

The whole issue of lowering power consumption charges, allowing private investors to use backward cesspits or major dumps for biogas generation that would meet the needs of a large section of the population is being held at bay by monopoly arrangements. The idea that one thousand or perhaps 10,000 people in any part of the city may tomorrow or next month disconnect from TANESCO supplies is unacceptable or perhaps simply unthinkable. Reason: for 50 years we think of state monopolies not as firms but as the face of the nation as such.



## Why Kenya is considered a high climate risk for development banks

By Joyce Chimbi

KENYA contributes less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions every year, yet development banks have flagged the East African nation as a high climate risk. This is due to extreme weather changes that are increasingly threatening the country's development agenda, widening socio-economic inequalities, and deepening rural poverty and hunger.

Climate change is a long-term shift in temperatures and weather patterns. Climate risk is the potential harm caused by climate change, such as financial, social, and environmental destruction and loss of life. Country-specific climate risk profiles are a summary of an analysis of climate trends over a long period of time, revealing how variability in weather patterns affects life and livelihoods.

Countries are advised to use these profiles to inform their development agenda, as failure to do so can significantly derail achievement of set development goals. For instance, unpredictability in weather patterns has a negative impact on certain sectors of Kenya's economy.

This includes agriculture, tourism, horticulture, livestock and pastoralism, and forest products. Nearly 98 percent of agriculture is rain fed. Using climate risk projections, the country can invest in irrigation to reduce the impact of climate change on the sector, as approximately 75 percent of Kenyans draw their livelihood from agriculture.

Kenya's most recent climate risk profile provides a climatic trend summary spanning two decades from 1991 to 2020, revealing that an estimated 68 percent of natural disasters in Kenya are caused by extreme climatic events, mostly floods and droughts. The remaining 32 percent represents disease epidemic.

## High Temperatures Causing Frequent, Intense Droughts

Overall, 16 drought events are on record from 1991 to 2020, affecting millions of people and causing an overall estimated damage of USD 1.5 billion. Despite floods being a more recent phenomenon in Kenya they are becoming increasingly frequent, resulting in 45 flood events within the same period. While a pattern of droughts began to emerge as far back as 1975, a pattern of floods has only begun to emerge from 2012 to 2020.



People queue outside a bank where they access diaspora remittances in Bulawayo. Credit: Ignatius Banda/IPS

A repeating pattern of droughts and floods costs the country approximately 3 to 5 percent of its annual Gross Domestic Product. Over the past two decades, Kenya's mean annual temperature was 24.2 degree Celsius—with a high of 30.3 degree Celsius and a low of 18.3 degree Celsius.

To give a perspective of average temperatures in Kenya, 2023 was the hottest year on record and 2024 is following the trend. According to the Gilbert Ouma Associate Professor, Meteorology, University of Nairobi writing in The Conversation the capital Nairobi average temperatures fare normally moderate, between 24°C and 25°C on the higher side and 17°C-18°C on the lower side.

"These are generally very comfortable temperatures. However, in the December-January-February period, maximum temperatures are normally high, ranging between 26°C and 27°C."

"This year, temperatures in February went up to between 29°C and 30°C, even hitting 31°C. This is about 6°C higher than normal Nairobi temperatures. That is a big difference and our bodies are bound to feel the difference. If such an increase is sustained for a long time, it can lead to a heat wave."

Droughts have been a most pressing and persistent problem in Kenya. As far back as 1975, drought cycles used to occur every 10 years. But as climate change escalates in both frequency and intensity, the drought cycle reduced from every 10 years to every five years, to every two to three years.

Each year there is an annual dry spell and a food shortage and the regularity of extremely dry periods makes it difficult for the country to recover from one drought to the next.

## A History of Drought Cycles in Kenya From 1991 to 2020

Drought is a regular occurrence in Kenya. In 1991-1992, more than 1.5 million people were affected by drought. This was followed by another cycle of widespread

drought in 1995-1996 that affected at least 1.4 million people.

In January 1997, the government declared drought a national disaster, affecting more than two million people, and the famine continued into 1998. Shortly after, in 1999-2000, an estimated 4.4 million people were in dire need of food aid due to a severe famine. As far as natural disasters go, this was declared the worst in the preceding 37 years.

The 1998-2000 drought cost the country an estimated USD 2.8 billion, and this was largely due to crops and livestock loss, forest fires, damage to fisheries, reduced hydropower generation, reduced industrial production and reduced water supplies.

In 2004, failure of the March to June long rains led to a severe drought that left more than three million Kenyans in need of urgent food aid. In December 2005, the government declared drought a national catastrophe, affecting at least 2.5 million people in northern Kenya alone.

The drought in 2008 affected 1.4 million people and an overall 10 million people were at risk of hunger after an unsuccessful harvest due to drought in late 2009 and into early 2010. The severe and prolonged drought caused the country USD 12.1 billion in damages and losses, and cost over USD 1.7 billion in recovery.

There are 47 counties in Kenya. As only 20 percent of Kenya receives high and regular rainfall, Kenya's arid and semi-arid (ASAL) areas comprise 18 to 20 of the poorest counties, which are particularly at risk from increased aridity and periods of drought.

ASAL regions have endured three significantly severe droughts from 2010 to 2020. The 2010-2011 period was severe and prolonged, affecting at least 3.7 million people, causing USD 12.1 billion in damages and losses, and costing over USD 1.7 billion in recovery and reconstruction needs.

That cycle was followed by the 2016-2017 drought. The 2020-

2022 famine, which was the most severe, longest and widespread as more than 4.2 million people, or 24 percent of the ASAL population were facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

## Overview of Natural Disaster Events in Kenya, 1991-2020

Kenya is increasingly enduring periods of intense, heavy rainfall. During this period, there were a total of 45 flood events, directly affecting more than 2.5 million people and causing an estimated damage of USD 137 million. These events took place in 1997, 1998, 2002, 2012 and 2020, as they were short, frequent and intense.

Unlike drought and famine, Kenya's history with floods is much shorter. There were many consecutive drought seasons from 1991 to 1997. From 1997, a pattern of floods begun to emerge in this East African country.

It all started with the historic severe and deadly El Nino floods in 1997-1998 that were widespread and affected 1.5 million people. This was followed by the 2002 floods, that affected 150,000 people. Kenya has experienced flooding almost every year from 2010 to 2020.

## Projected Risk Moving Forward

"From 2020 to 2050, projections show that ASAL regions will continue to receive decreasing rainfall. Temperatures in the country will continue to rise by 1.7 degree Celsius by 2050 and even higher by approximately 3.5 degree Celsius before the end of this century. The escalation in climate change will increase our climate risk," Mildred Nthiga, a climate change independent researcher in East Africa, tells IPS.

"We will have even more frequent and damaging floods, and this will be followed by longer periods of drought. We have already started to experience some worrisome landslides and mudslides and, this will become an even bigger concern, especially in the highlands."

Stressing that additional soil erosion and water logging of crops will significantly affect agricultural productivity, reducing yields and increasing food security. There will also be significant economic losses, severe damage to farmlands and infrastructure.

Worse still, as already witnessed in the recent 2024 deadly floods—human casualties. This will deepen rural poverty and hunger, and derail Kenya's progress towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

IPS



# Graduation ceremonies create opportunities for learners to showcase their talents, abilities

**G**RADUATION day is a special occasion in schools, marking the completion of a period of study. Success is often measured by reaching this milestone and the graduation ceremony celebrates this achievement.

Learners embark on their educational journey with the goal of reaching this endpoint to gain new experiences. For some, it means advancing to higher levels of education, while for others, it signifies entering the job market.

The society has instilled the significance of graduation ceremonies, seeing it as a success with the completion of studies. This perception adds value to the event, making the planning and execution of the ceremony a complex and significant task. Schools may spend weeks or even months preparing for the ceremony to only make it retains its importance.

Graduation ceremonies offer numerous opportunities for learners. It is a time to showcase their achievements to a broader community. The value of education must impact the society, and graduation is a key moment to demonstrate this.

This is why graduation ceremonies attract not only invited guests but also other individuals, drawn by the promise of entertainment and celebration.

A school, as a social institution, cannot isolate itself from the community. Graduation ceremonies provide a unique opportunity for people to experience school life, motivating them to support education. Even those without direct ties to the school find reasons to attend graduation ceremonies, drawn by the festivities.

Without these ceremonies, schools would deprive the community of entertainment and motivation, both of which are crucial for fostering a supportive environment for education.

People who surround the school are expected to be its ambassadors. For this to be effective, they need to know what takes place within the school. The graduation ceremony plays a crucial role in revealing the school's treasures.

This makes the graduation ceremony a special event. Learners come from different places and their union at school forms a unique society. People are interested in seeing what learners achieve. By observing the abilities and talents of learners, community members can pre-



dict future trends.

The graduation ceremony, held once a year, is of great importance to both the school and surrounding community for several reasons:

Promotion of the school:

The saying 'to see is to believe' is true. When individuals witness what takes place at a school, they are more likely to be convinced of its value if what they see meets their expectations. People are not interested in mere words but in actions.

When learners demonstrate their knowledge and skills to an audience, it serves as proof of the school's quality. Graduation ceremonies are the best advertisement opportunities for the school. People need to see the quality of the education provided by the school or any other learning institution.

Talent Development: A graduation ceremony provides a platform for learners to showcase talents that are not recognized by the syllabus. Some learners may not excel in traditional assessments, but they possess unique talents that deserve recognition. Recognition is a fundamental human need. When individuals are not recognized for a long time, they lose interest in their activities. Therefore, a graduation ceremony offers an opportunity to renew the interests of some learners. When learners are excited, the school becomes a better place. Many individuals have excelled in life not due to academic excellence but due to their talents.

Graduation ceremony is a pivotal event that promotes the school and fosters talent development, benefiting both the institution and surrounding communities.

Relaxation: The graduation ceremony provides an opportunity for learners to relax. This relaxation starts from the preparation phase and continues up to the day of graduation. The stress of continuous learning can cause nervous tension. Activities associated with the graduation ceremony allow learners to unwind and gain new energy to

continue pursuing their academic objectives.

The human mind cannot work continuously without rest; it needs downtime to stay strong. This reality highlights the importance of schools recognizing the value of graduation ceremonies.

A school is a social organization that must stimulate social development in various aspects of life. Not all learners will succeed academically; some will excel in sports and arts. Schools must make efforts to provide a platform for learners to showcase their talents and abilities outside the academic arena.

Success is often achieved when individuals can utilize many of their abilities. Graduation ceremonies are among the platforms that enable learners to demonstrate their capabilities. Unlike other school competitions held within the school's boundaries, graduation exposes learners to a wider audience, creating opportunities for them to excel in life due to broader exposure. Teaching is about enabling learners to showcase their talents and abilities.

**CLASSROOM MATTERS**  
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## Grooming children for academic achievement, lifelong success

By Telesphor Magobe

**E**ARLY childhood education, including pre-primary education, is globally considered as the foundation for life-long learning, child development and high standards of excellence. Various studies link what a child learns and achieves in early childhood to academic achievement and lifelong success.

Todd Twogood (1999), whose study focused on early childhood brain development, says "early care has a decisive, long lasting impact on how people develop, their ability to learn, and their capacity to regulate their own emotions."

The author says the child care environment provides an incredible opportunity to positively impact child development. Their view is supported by Craig Ferla (2021), Country Director, Children in Crossfire Tanzania.

"There is compelling evidence to invest in early childhood development (ECD), particularly given education is one of the smartest investments a country can make because it gives back almost 13 per cent annually in economic productivity and human capital."

That is why researchers in early childhood education recommend children's early exposure to quality education, including inculcating in them knowledge society skills such as critical and innovative thinking, complex problem-solving, collaboration, socio-emotional skills as well as digital skills.

Daphina Libent-Mabagala (Open University of Tanzania) and Richard Shukia (University of Dar es Salaam), who engaged in their study 19 rural pre-primary teachers working in six wards in Mwanza and Morogoro regions in 2019, lay emphasis on quality early childhood education.

They suggest that "quality early stimulation and education experiences at this particular stage of life lays a strong foundation and creates lasting impacts not only immediately for the child and its parents, but also over time in terms of the child's ability to contribute to the community."

Moreover, they suggest, "opportunities forgone at this stage can rarely be made up at later stages of the child's growth." In line with their view, they cited studies conducted by Hyde (2006), Shonkoff (2009) and UNICEF (2013).

Some countries have started investing in quality early childhood education and have made it free and compulsory to all children so that no child is left behind. In other countries, including Tanzania (where pre-primary education is still free and compulsory), early childhood education is still inadequately funded and developed and hardly achieves intended outcomes.

Laurent Ndiyuje and Ignasia Mligo (University of Dodoma) and Maresesi Machumu (Dar es Salaam University College of Education) in their article "Early childhood education in Tanzania: Views and beliefs of stakeholders on its status and development" published in 2020 acknowledge the importance of early childhood educa-



tion, but they underline "it is not given the importance it deserves."

Citing Garcia et al. (2008), Nsamenang (2008) and Young & Mustard (2008), they say "Tanzania is among the countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in which the quality of early childhood education (ECE) is very low due to under-resourcing and inadequate infrastructure."

The authors, citing also Mtahabwa (2010), Zuze & Reddy (2016), Mligo (2015) and Mtahabwa (2007), say that the government and other educational stakeholders have not adequately prioritised ECE physical infrastructure, teaching and learning materials. Accordingly, they recommend doing something about it so that it achieves intended outcomes.

Associate Prof Michael Nagel (University of the Sunshine Coast) in a study he published in 2013 suggests what can help healthy brain development in children. He says this includes regular routines and consistency, opportunities to consolidate learning through repetition, hands-on interactions and activities, novel ways to learn through exploration and experimentation, exposure to rich, interactive language and, most importantly, positive, reliable and supportive relationships. Prof Nagel spoke of this from a 25-year experience in various forms of education on three continents. He researched and taught in some areas, especially human development and learning psychology.

What hinders quality pre-primary

education is lack of qualified teachers in pre-primary education. Teachers may be trained in teaching, but not necessarily in pre-primary teaching and this is a big difference. Teachers trained in pre-primary education handle children differently from those trained in general teaching.

They integrate playful learning into their teaching practice. Paes and Eberhart (2019) in their paper titled "Developing life skills through play" suggest that "play contributes to the development of children's academic outcomes as well as essential skills including collaboration, communication, confidence, content, creative innovation and creative thinking." Creative thinking allows children to see situations from different perspectives,

"thinking of alternate strategies to resolve a problem, and practicing thinking in different ways."

Complaints about moral decadence are partly a result of poor education and upbringing children go through in their early childhood. If children are not trained to think intelligently and decide issues on the basis of the weight of evidence, obviously their scale of preferences will be limited and they will most probably choose things unintelligently. Children are supposed to be offered quality education and guided in life so that they broaden their horizons of their world view in terms of seeing things objectively and not merely subjectively due to poor education and upbringing.



By Lukas Engelmann

# Britain's 'broken' safe water system: A history of death, denial and diarrhoea

In the spring of 2024, residents of the south Devon harbour town of Brixham kept falling ill. Their symptoms - including "awful stomach complaints, bad diarrhoea and severe headaches" - went on for weeks. A retired GP who ventured to the pub after finally recovering from the illness recalled that, when someone asked those present to "raise their hand if they hadn't had the bug", not a single hand went up.

Given the controversies about raw sewage discharges that were swirling at the time, the drinking water seemed an obvious suspect. Many local residents contacted their water provider, but by late April, South West Water was still insisting the water was safe to drink, and that all tests for contaminating bacteria had returned negative.

Then suddenly, the company issued an urgent "boil it" note to thousands of households in Brixham and nearby villages and towns in the Torbay region. A tiny parasite that causes the intestinal disease cryptosporidiosis had been discovered in the water supply.

The contamination was eventually pinpointed to a defective valve under a stretch of farmland which had allowed cow faeces to enter three holding tanks of drinking water - downstream from the main water works, and from where the water's quality was routinely tested.

According to South West Water, the outbreak ultimately affected 17,000 households. While the official record shows 77 confirmed cases of "crypto", as it is commonly known, the UK Health Security Agency only began surveying residents in the second week of July - long after the outbreak began.

The contamination of an entire region's water supply, with thousands of households forced to rely on bottled water or boiling their tap water for months, is shocking. But as experts in the history of waterborne disease outbreaks and public health, what concerns us most is how quickly the story has moved on - as if nothing could be done and it was "just another infection".

Given Britain was once known for its revolutionary sanitation projects, we want to understand what systemic issues - from inadequate infrastructure to corporate cover-ups to lax legislation - lie at the heart of this inability to keep the water clean and people free from waterborne infection. This has now led to the issuing of a record £168m fine to Thames, Yorkshire and Northumbrian Water by the water regulator for England and Wales, Ofwat, for a "catalogue of failure" regarding illegal sewage discharges - with more fines expected to follow.

## In short, why can't Britain get its shit together?

The residents of Torbay have a particular right to ask this question. In the summer of 1995, the same Devon holiday region (known as the "English riviera") experienced the UK's first major outbreak of waterborne disease - also cryptosporidiosis - since the water industry was privatised by Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government in 1989. More than 250,000 residents were sent a "boil it" notice. By the end of the summer, there had officially been 575 cases and 25 hospitalisations.

A year later, the environment secretary John Gummer took South West Water to court under section 70 of the 1991 Water Industry Act. This was the first time a British water company had been taken to court for providing water unfit for human consumption - but the case was thrown out after evidence provided by the Drinking Water Inspectorate was ruled inadmissible.

The ruling fuelled public fears that water companies, like other newly privatised state enterprises, could not be held properly accountable for their mismanagement. These concerns have grown over the subsequent three decades, as South West Water - and England and Wales's other nine private water and sewage companies - have regularly been accused of prioritising healthy shareholder dividends over the public's health.

Many of the world's modern systems of public health surveillance have their origins in innovations Britain introduced in the mid-19th century, including continuous water supply, sewage filtration and routine governmental investigation of disease outbreaks.

And yet Britain has never managed to eradicate systemic failures when it comes to providing safe, clean and accessible drinking water to its citizens. To understand why not, we need to start by revisiting Britain's major cholera and ty-

phoid outbreaks of the 19th- and early 20th-century, which at their peaks killed hundreds of people every day.

"The power of life and death"

The colossal power of life and death wielded by a water company supplying half a million customers is something for which, till recently, there has been no precedent in the history of the world. Such a power ought most sedulously to be guarded against abuse.

These prophetic words were written by the British government's first ever chief medical officer, John Simon, in 1867. He was responding to one of the country's worst water-related scandals: the 1866 cholera epidemic that killed 5,596 people in the East End of London.

Printed document titled 'Cholera and water' reading 'The inhabitants of the district within which cholera is prevailing are earnestly advised not to drink any water which has not previously been boiled.'

Within weeks, the epidemic was killing hundreds of Londoners every day. Holborn's medical officer of health, Septimus Gibbon, reported the deaths of two children on the same day at the home of a cigar maker in Cannon Street, observing:

The house where these children resided is in clean and fair sanitary condition, but there is an old and partly disused sewer running close at the back of it, in the rear of Great James Street, which the sanitary authority is unable to destroy, because three houses in Green Street claim a right to drain into it.

At the height of this cholera outbreak, the East London Water Company denied all accusations from government epidemiologists that it was responsible for the deaths. In August 1866, the company's chief engineer, Charles Greaves, wrote a letter to The Times declaring that, for several years, "not a drop of unfiltered water has been supplied by the company for any purpose". But his statement was quickly contradicted by two local residents, who told the East-End News they had discovered eels in their water pipes.

In the end, pioneering epidemiologists discovered that the East London Water Company - wrestling with both a blocked water filter and unusually high demand in early June 1866 - had opened the sluice at its uncovered Old Ford reservoir, drawing in unfiltered water and unleashing diarrhoeal horrors on the residents of east London.

Yet despite being in clear violation of the 1852 act, the company argued other factors were to blame for the cholera outbreak - even including the suspect morals of East End residents. In his evidence to a parliamentary select committee, engineer Nathaniel Beardmore pointed to the dangers of an overcrowded East End "populated by dock labourers, sailors, mechanics in the new factories, and great numbers of laundresses".

Ultimately, while the East London Water Company received lots of bad press, it was given no official sanctions. A pattern of denial and obfuscation had been established that water companies have regularly employed ever since, when accused of being responsible for life-threatening water infections.

## 'Dead bodies are being washed ashore'

In the wake of the 1866 cholera outbreak, Simon, the pioneering chief medical officer, argued that the way to eradicate deadly health outbreaks was a combination of more surveillance of water companies and more preventive public health measures based on epidemiological investigations. This would mean carefully monitoring sickness data from around the country, and sending in epidemiological experts at the first sign of crisis - not waiting until after an outbreak had exploded.

But despite Simon's urgings, it would take another shocking water-related scandal for the British government to get serious about the dangers of untreated sewage.

One late-summer evening in September 1878, the Princess Alice, a paddle steamer with more than 800 people on board, was struck by the coal ship Bywell Castle in the middle of the River Thames. The Alice was virtually sliced in two, and sank within minutes in sight of North Woolwich



Bottled water is handed to Torbay residents living under a 'boil it' notice from South West Water, June 2024.

pier.

Two hours earlier, 75,000 gallons of raw sewage from the outflows of Joseph Bazalgette's much-heralded underground sewerage system - constructed to rid London of its "great stink" and only just completed - had been discharged into the same stretch of river, forming a noxious cloud of air and hideously contaminated water. A survivor of the disaster would later recall:

Both the taste and smell were something dreadful ... Having been down to the bottom and having rose again with my mouth full of it, I could give a very good picture of it - it was the most horrid water I ever tasted and the smell was also equally bad.

This was Britain's worst inland waterway tragedy, claiming around 650 lives. A report in The Times described dead bodies "continually being washed ashore along the whole course of the river from Limehouse to Erith ... It will be some days before this rendering up of the dead will be at an end."

While the victims died by drowning or asphyxiation due to being trapped inside the sinking boat, the descriptions of the state of the river water and air caused outrage among the public. In response, the government rushed in a new law that all sewage must be treated before being discharged into rivers. Extensive new treatment facilities were commissioned, beginning in east London, and a Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal was established in 1898 - the first to set official standards for the treatment of wastewater.

This new vision of municipal responsibility was encapsulated by the pioneering mayor of Bir-

mingham, Joseph Chamberlain, who spearheaded a massive public ownership programme for provision of gas, schools, libraries and city parks. In 1876, he established the Birmingham Corporation Water Department after buying the private Birmingham Waterworks Company for £1,350,000 (over £195 million at today's prices).

Progressives argued that removing private industry from the provision of water and other key services would ensure the standards of health and hygiene that modern towns and cities required - and that this was more important than company profits. Or as Chamberlain put it:

We have not the slightest intention of making profit ... We shall get our profit indirectly in the comfort of the town and in the health of its inhabitants.

## The march of municipalisation

Maidstone's deadly typhoid outbreak would see the town go down in history as the world's first municipality to attempt widespread water sterilisation, when its reservoir and mains water supply were disinfected with a solution of chloride of lime in 1897 (it proved "a difficult procedure that required several attempts"). In time, this initiative would lead to global water chlorination programmes that are estimated to have saved millions of lives by preventing the spread of dangerous bacteria including Salmonella typhi, the cause of typhoid fever.

Shortly afterwards, in 1902, London joined the march of municipalisation, when the Metropolitan Water Act created the largest public water system in Britain with the purchase of the city's private com-

panies. The East London Water Company alone was purchased for nearly £4 million - over £600 million today.

## Thatcher's radical strategy

By the early 1970s, England and Wales still possessed a motley crew of public and private systems for dealing with sewage and water. In all, there were 160 different water companies (some public, some private), 130 sewerage authorities, and 29 river authorities. Where operational risks were usually shouldered by the private sector, the public sector typically carried all the (enormous) financial risks associated with the building of water treatment infrastructure.

In 1973, Edward Heath's Conservative government sought to end this confusing array of localised water and sewerage provision. Its latest version of the Water Act established ten new regional water authorities - based not on the political might of cities but the dominant regional river systems in England and Wales. It was an ambitious but largely sensible attempt to secure the long-term health of Britain's water supply. In early February 1973, Geoffrey Rippon, secretary of state for the environment, told his House of Commons colleagues:

This is a radical reconstruction. I suggest it is none the worse for that. It takes its place alongside the reorganisation of local government and of the health services in this government's overhaul of the administration of the country, to keep pace with the problems with which we shall have to deal through the remaining decades of this century and into the next.

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Young female in Njombe finds niche in growing Irish potatoes

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

**S**IA Abraham Kabelege is a young lady from Lunguya Village, Mtwango Ward, Njombe District, and Njombe Region. She is a Form IV leaver and a farmer of Irish potatoes of the variety of Sigitta from the Netherlands but produced in Tanzania.

Sagitta variety matures in a short time and within 90 days it is already on the market. Sigitta seeds may stay for a long time even a month after harvesting.

It is resistant to diseases. It is Sagitta variety is very productive, unlike natural seeds. A potato farmer can harvest 40 sacks per acre, but if he or she plants Sagitta seed, the farmer is sure to harvest up to 200 sacks of Sagitta potatoes per acre. Irish potatoes are a staple crop for many families.

Sia says that what made her engage in the cultivation of round potatoes, especially the Sagitta variety is that she joined a small group that would get lessons from a SAGCOT demonstration farm of 25 acres. "I joined this group. We managed to cultivate Irish potatoes and got plenty of produce. I thought of starting my own farm, a half-acre," says Sia.

In her explanation, she says she bought up to 450 kilos of seeds, and when she planted, she was able to harvest 86 sacks of round potatoes. After that, she decided to get involved in farming Sagitta potatoes. "I have achieved many things through agriculture, such as owning land. At first, I did not own any land, I was renting from other people. But today I own 8 acres, which I bought myself. I am educating my children and I have been

able to build a house," he says.

Sia explains that at first, she used to borrow from the group to cultivate. This year she has cultivated 15 acres, and among them, 10 acres she borrowed money from their group, but for 5 acres she paid in cash.

She says the secret of his success as a young lady in farming is her dedication and not giving up due to the challenges of pests and diseases that attack round potatoes.

He says he joined the group, which lent her capital, seeds, fertilisers, and insecticides so he could manage her own farm.

"SAGCOT took us from small groups to a cooperative association called Isuelu AMCOS, which lends money to the youth and women. I have also received education at SAGCOT demonstration farm and after SAGCOT left we continued to get lessons from Stawisha and after Stawisha we continued to receive training from Craft."

She says the projects have given them training and attracted young people to engage in farming and today many young people have succeeded through these projects. Despite the successes she has achieved, Sia says there are various challenges she has encountered such as lack of capital because the cultivation of round potatoes requires more capital than maize, whose capital for one acre can be 800,000/- but for round potatoes its capital reaches 3, 800,000/- per acre.

"It is a challenge, but small groups help us address this challenge. I advise the youth, let's not give up because this round potato crop uses a lot of money, but in harvesting you can get 7m/- to 8m/- per acre."



Sia Abraham Kabelege works on her farm in Lunguya Village, Njombe District.

She says another challenge is seeds because the seed producer they depend on is only one. However, she says the government has started TARI Uyole, although its production is not much.

She mentions another challenge is climate change because rain is unpredictable and in the circumstances

producing seeds becomes problematic.

She calls on young people to love agriculture, and if they love it, agriculture will love them and they will no longer desire employment.

"My call to the government is to help put in place an enabling policy that will be able to help young people,

especially in the agricultural sector, and reduce high-interest conditions on loans to empower young people to engage in agriculture. All young people don't need to engage in farming, some can start small industries for packaging. Once you have an idea, you can go to a bank and apply for a loan, or in your group, instead of taking

fertilisers, you may take money for a packaging project," says Sia.

She explains that another opportunity for young people is to transport potatoes from upcountry regions and send them to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. She says in this season other transporters have been able to transport their goods to Nairobi.

## Over 60,000 cotton farmers drilled on ecological farming technologies

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

**O**VER 60,000 cotton farmers in Simiyu and Singida regions have benefited from training on ecological farming technologies.

They have trained through Kijani Hai project under the support from the Indian-based Laudes Foundation of India and executed by GIZ and Helvetas Tanzania.

Andrew Mphuru, project manager unveiled this here when speaking to journalists at the ongoing Farmers' Exhibitions.

Mphuru said the project, which focuses on organic cotton farming, began in 2017 and has reached over 60,000 farmers and the idea is to reach 100,000 farmers by 2028.

He stated that the project aimed at encouraging farmers to abandon chemical use and embrace sustainable farming.

"Our goal is to reach 100,000 farmers and have 150,000 hectares of organic cotton cultivated through ecological farming methods by 2028," he said, adding that by 2028, they aim to restore biodiversity on 150,000 hectares in the two regions.

He also noted that the introduction of the project promoting organic cotton farming has enabled Tanzania to rank first in Africa and fifth globally for quality cotton.

Mphuru stated that Kijani Hai, in collaboration with other stakeholders, will ensure that this farming method is adopted by every farmer.

Another official, Leonard Mtama said the project has connected cotton farmers in the country with both local and international markets.

Mtama stated that the production of organically grown cotton has increased due to education provided to farmers through their extension officers and those of the government.

"Through the Kijani Hai project, we ensure that farmers receive training and methods to control pests and proper use of agricultural inputs. Additionally, these organic cotton buyers offer a premium price above the government-set price," he said.

He mentioned that statistics show a 30 percent increase in cotton seed production since 2017, with fraudulent practices like adding water and sand to cotton significantly reduced.

"The practice of adding water, sand, and other substances to cotton has decreased, thanks to the monitoring by



company and government extension officers from the fields to the market," he said.

Tawanda Mutonhori from Bio Sustain Ltd (T) in Singida said organic farming has improved the quality of cotton in the regions where they purchase.

"We buy organically grown cotton from over 24,000 farmers in the Singida, Simiyu, and Shinyanga regions. Their cotton is of high quality and accepted in the market," he said.

Mutonhori stated that their company buys 26,000 to 36,000 tonnes of organically grown cotton annually, aiming to purchase 50,000 tonnes.

He mentioned plans to start processing cotton at a new factory in the Meatu district, Simiyu region, to serve farmers in the Lake Zone regions.

Masalu Samweli from Alliance Ginners in Simiyu said they have enabled over 22,000 farmers to grow organic cotton in the past three years.

Alliance Ginners began educating about the health, environmental, and soil conservation benefits of or-

ganic farming, which has been well received.

"In my three years of experience providing education on organic farming, the production of chemical-free crops has increased, allowing farmers to see benefits such as reduced production costs, better health, and improved soil conservation," he said.

Masalu noted that Alliance Ginners has also increased the price (Premium) for organic cotton, attracting farmers from various regions like Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Mara.

The officer mentioned that the company has provided farmers with molasses to set traps for harmful pests and plant crops that deter pests from attacking cotton. They also supply natural pesticides like neem and other alternatives.

"When we started cotton farming, farmers were getting 200 kilograms per hectare, but organic farming has increased yields to one ton per hectare for some farmers," he said.

Solo Lameck, a cotton farmer in Ikungi district,

Singida Region, said he has benefited from organic farming methods and urged the community to adopt them.

"This farming method reduces costs for farmers, especially for inputs like wood chips and cotton itself, which are used to make plant charcoal that helps improve soil fertility. We also adhere to planting measurements," he said.

Lameck noted that for cotton grown organically, they use a spacing of 30/30 centimetres between plants and 60/60 centimetres between rows, yielding better results.

He said the education on organic farming in Singida has increased cotton producers who have economically and health wise transformed.

Conservation and Biodiversity Officer Emmanuel Lufilisha said the Kijani Hai project also focuses on environmental conservation through various programs that start with community training and implementa-

tion supervision.

Lufilisha said these programs involve stakeholders at regional, district, ward, and village levels, noting that in collaboration with village council committees, the project has formed village environmental committees to oversee conservation activities.

"The project has also succeeded in forming a network of youth environmental ambassadors trained to mobilize communities on environmental conservation and climate change adaptation. The project has been at the forefront of restoring vegetation in degraded areas through tree planting and protecting live stumps, in collaboration with religious, health, and educational institutions," he said.









Thursday 8 August 2024

## Small banks record growth of profitability, assets in H1

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE small banks are also reaping the benefits of the country's strong economic growth and improved business environment, after unaudited financial statements showed the strong growth of their profitability, credits issuances and total assets.

Unaudited financial statements for the second quarter of this year among selected smaller banks, with total assets of less than 500bn/- published at the end of last month, painted expanded lending, growth of profitability, increase of customer deposits, which consolidated the quality of their assets and capital base.

Bankers expect continued improvement of banking industry's earnings during the second half of this year, due to the increasing economic activities, which will expand the growth of core banks businesses specifically lending and deposits mobilization.

The statements show that some small banks, managed to jump out of loss making pool, by recording profits during the first half of this year, driven by strong growth of other incomes, funded and non-funded incomes as well as assets recovery.

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed DCB Commercial bank managed to jump out of loss making pool, after recording a net profit of 357m/- during the first six months of this year, compared to a loss of 1.7bn/- recorded during the first half of this year.

On quarterly basis, unaudited financial statements show the bank recorded a profit of 755m/- during the second quarter ended in June, compared to a loss of 2.1bn/- re-

corded during the second quarter of last year.

The improvement of the income enabled the bank to record earnings per share amounting to 30/- in H1, 2024, compared to a loss of 45/- during similar period of last year. The bank's deposits from other banks and financial institutions nearly doubled to 60bn/- during the second quarter, from 31bn/- recorded during the first quarter of this year, while customer deposits declined to 135bn/- from 154bn/- respectively.

Total assets grew to 258bn/- at the end of June, from 237bn/- at the end of March, 2024, while total shareholders' fund went up to 24.3bn/- compared to 23.9bn/- respectively.

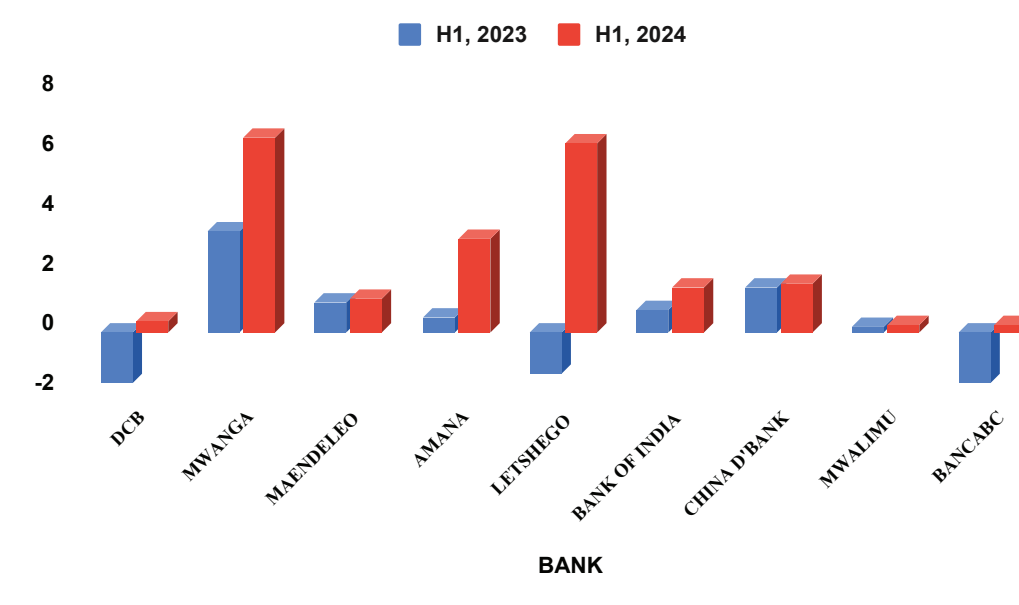
Mwanga Hakika Bank profitability nearly doubled to 6.5bn/- during the first half of this year, compared to 3.4bn/- recorded during the first quarter of last year, which pushed earnings per share to 1,905/- from 629/-.

On quarterly basis, the bank's unaudited financial statements show a net profit of 3.3bn/- was recorded during the second quarter, compared to 2.1bn/- recorded in Q2, 2023, driven by both funded and non-funded incomes.

The bank's total assets also increased to 258bn/- at the end of June this year, compared to 232bn/- at the end of March, while its capital increased to 41bn/- from 33bn/- respectively.

Another DSE listed Maendeleo Bank, posted a net profit of 1.1bn/- during the first half of this year, compared to 889m/- recorded during the first half of last year, which pushed he earnings per share to 45/- compared to 34/-.

Profits trends of selected small banks in billion shillings



During the reported period, the bank managed to increase its number of branches to 5 from four, which resulted into increase of number of employees to 127 from 114.

Customer deposits increased to 89bn/- in Q2, 2024 from 86bn/- in Q1, 2024, while the bank's capital expanded to 20bn/- from 19bn/- respectively, driven by increase of the profit account.

Ecobank's total assets slightly declined to 372bn/- from 415/- in the first quarter due to decrease of loans, advances and overdraft, which close the second quarter at 126bn/- from 157bn/- recorded at the end of March this year.

The bank's total deposits amounted to 205bn/- at the end of June from 228bn/- at the end of March,

while total shareholders' fund increased to 34bn/- from 31.5bn/- respectively.

Amana bank net income after income tax grew considerably to 3.1bn/- during the first half of this year, from 501mn/- recorded in H1, 2023.

Financing income grew to 12.8bn/- compared to 8.9bn/- respectively, while its total assets closed at 298bn/- at the end of June, from 279bn/- at the end of March this year.

Letshego bank net profit after income tax grew to 6.3bn/- during the first six months of this year from a loss of 1.4bn/- during similar period of last year driven by sharp increase of interest income.

A net profit of 5.6bn/- was realized during the second quarter of this year.

Net interest income increased to 15.9bn/- during the first half of this year, from 1.36bn/- recorded during similar period of last year.

Bank of India net profit grew to 1.5bn/- at the end of June this year, from 726m/- recorded during the first half of last year, pushing the earnings per share to 142/- from 68/- respectively.

Total assets closed the second quarter of this year at 191bn/- from 194bn/- recorded during the first quarter, while loans increased to 118bn/- from 112bn/-.

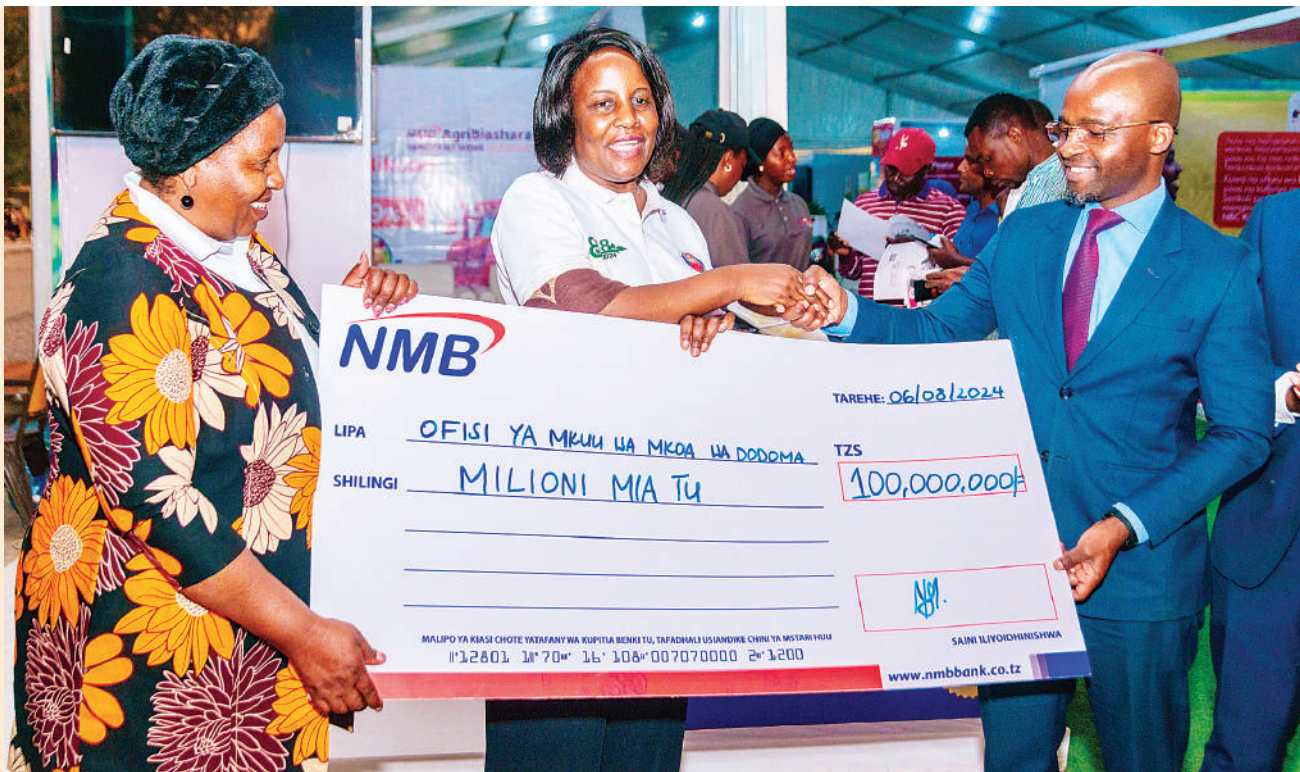
Mwalimu Commercial Bank also saw an increase of its half-year profit, as it closed the period with a net profit of 223m/- compared to 172m/- recorded in Q1, 2023.

The increase also improved the earnings per share to 5/- compared to 3/- . Total assets slightly declined to 80bn/- from 81bn/- at the end of March this year.

China Dasheng Bank net profit slightly increased to 1.6bn/- from 1.5bn/-.

The bank's deposits amounted to 14.9bn/- during the second quarter from 9.6bn/- during the first quarter, while total assets expanded to 132bn/- from 126bn/- respectively.

BancABC, which was recently acquired by Nigerian Access Bank Plc managed to clear losses after attaining a profit of 219m/- compared to a loss of 1.7bn/- driven by increase of the operating income.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule (C) receives a dummy cheque worth 100m/- from NMB's Chief of Wholesale Banking Alfred Shao (R), as the bank's sponsorship of the ongoing 31st Agricultural Exhibition at Nzuguni grounds in the capital city yesterday. Left is the regional Assistant Administrative Secretary, Eng. Happpines Mgalula. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

## RC advises banks to enhance supports on agriculture sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule has called on the country's banking sector to support the growth of the agriculture sector, which employs millions of Tanzanians.

RC Senyamule made the call yesterday here when speaking at the function whereby NMB Bank handed over a dummy cheque worth 100m/- as the bank's sponsorship to the ongoing 31st Nanenane Expo at Nzuguni Grounds, under the theme, "Embrace Visionary Leadership for Agricultural Transformation." The dummy cheque was handed over to RC Senyamule.

She said that the banking industry has a big share in making the farming sector in Tanzania prosper and provide meaningful incomes to farmers and all people in the agriculture value chain.

"That's why I encourage the industry to support the farming sector more," she said, commending the bank for its continued commitment to supporting this year's farmer's exhibitions.

Senyamule said the bank's sponsorship has been increasing year-on-year ever since her region began hosting the event and urged the bank to continue supporting the government's development efforts in the region.

"The bank's sponsorship has enabled the Nanenane exhibitions to have an international look and feel. I take this opportunity to thank the bank for this support and I believe this year's exhibition will be bigger and better," she said.

Alfred Shayo, the bank's chief of wholesale banking said that the lender has the past six-year disbursed 361m/- to finance the agricultural International Expo 2024, with the bank earmarking 20bn/- to support the youths and women taking part in the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) project spearheaded by the Government.

Shayo said the sponsorship aligns with the bank's long-term strategy to support the growth of the agriculture sector value chain right at grass roots level reiterating the lender's commitment to continue partnering with

various stakeholders in the agriculture sector to improve the contribution of the sector to the national economy.

He expressed optimism that support from the bank for the 31st NaneNane exhibitions will greatly help to create a memorable experience for participants this year and complement development efforts spearheaded by the sixth phase Government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"We have opened over one million accounts for farmers in the past three years and these accounts in Dodoma have been opened by farmers in the grapes, sunflower, groundnuts, maize, and sorghum subsectors among others. We intended to reach more agri-subsectors," he said.

He said the bank through its Foundation, the bank has been instrumental in providing financial literacy to farmers Cooperatives that have benefited over 1450 Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) countrywide where 500,000 farmers have been reached

## Banker upbeat about SGR stimulating businesses

By Guardian Reporter

THE start of operations of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is expected to stimulate various economic activities, creating business opportunity for banks and non-banking sector, top banker has said.

Obedi Laiser, the managing director of Absa Bank Tanzania made the observations yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a press briefing to explain various factors that led to the bank's successes during the first half of this year.

Laiser said the start of the operations of the SGR from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, via Morogoro that the bank participated in financing its construction project through partners, will not only increase the mobility, but also stimulate growth of businesses.

"The start of the SGR is expected to open up Mogogoro region and we as banker, see this as an opportunity," he said.

He said the stimulation of business activities and investments will also enhance the growing demands for financial services, the core business of banking industry.

Laiser explained that the growth of the bank's profitability during the first half of this year resulted into various factors including economic stability, increased demands for credit facilities, introduction of innovative banking solutions,

improved business environment and friendly laws and regulation governing the banking sector.

"We adeptly navigated these headwinds, leveraging our strategies to exploit available opportunities and delivering significant value and solutions to all our clients and stakeholders," said Laiser.

Laiser noted, "These results reflect our unwavering commitment to providing tailored solutions to uniquely local challenges and consistently creating value for our stakeholders through our purpose of 'Empowering Africa's tomorrow, together...one story at a time.'"

He explained that during the first half of the year, the bank's continued to implement the post-pandemic strategic plan, which resulted into 65 percent of half year profit growth, 25 percent of revenue growth and reduction of cost to income ratio from 53 percent to 46 percent, lower than the regulatory requirement of 55 percent.

The bank's also managed to maintain its credit quality, which resulted into slowdown of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) to 4.4 percent, lower than regulatory benchmark of five percent, from previously 5.1 percent.

He noted that during the first half of 2024, Absa unveiled its repositioned brand, signalling a shift towards a more customer-centric business model, encap-

sulated in the new brand promise: 'Your story matters.' "We are committed to ensuring that Absa's entire suite of services and offerings aligns with this crucial pivot towards a more human-centred and empathetic banking service ethos."

"As we enter the second half of the financial year, we remain confident and dedicated to driving shareholder value. We will continue to play an integral role in the economic lives of individuals, businesses, and nations. We are committed to creating, growing, and protecting wealth through partnerships in economic development while contributing to Tanzania's growth and sustainability," said Laiser.

He said ongoing improvement of business environment and tourism recovery are expected to drive baking performance during the second half of the year.

Speaking on the financial performance highlights, the bank's Chief Finance Officer Bernard Tesha said for the six-month period ending June 30, 2024, the bank recorded total revenue of 105bn/-, a 25 percent increase from the previous year's 83.8bn/-.

Profit before tax surged by 65 percent, from 32.7bn/- in 2023 to 54.0bn/- in 2024.

Additionally, total assets and customer deposits grew by 22 percent and 21 percent, respectively, while the quality of customer loans continued to improve with a growth of 21.9 percent, from 698bn/- in 2023 to 851bn/- billion.

The Return on Equity (ROE) stood at an impressive 38.2percent, up from 31.5 percent in 2023, placing us among the best in the industry."

Tesha said, "Our continued focus on implementing our digital strategy has yielded sustainable gains, with our cost-to-income ratio improving from 53.5 percent in 2023 to 46.0 percent for the period ending June 30, 2024"

He said the bank has expanded through digital channels and increased its footprint significantly since the introduction of agency banking in the last quarter of 2023, enhancing customer convenience across the country.

In line with our Environmental Social Governance (ESG) framework, we launched the special account to support women in business across the country by offering free banking services and scaled up our SME offerings, both on the financing side and financial management solutions," to over 32 million customers.



Obedi Laiser, the managing director of Absa Bank Tanzania (R) gestures when speaking to journalist on how improved business environment has enhanced banking businesses. Left is the bank's Chief Finance Officer Bernard Tesha. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## SPECIAL REPORT

# Cooperative unions continue to remain cheapest lenders in financial sector - 9

By Francis Kajubi

**A**N estimated 82 percent of the total 7,522 cooperative unions registered as of June this year by the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) countrywide, have lowered interest rates to less than 10 percent, to borrowers coming from poor economic backgrounds.

The unions which are basically the Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) and the Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) have turned into a haven for borrowers by issuing low-interest loans over the past five years according to reports released by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

Although the cooperative unions have largely relied on funds from deposits to lend their members for years, they have brought relief to borrowers against commercial banks, many of whose loans charge an interest rate of more than 15 percent, accompanied by collateral conditions that low-income borrowers cannot afford.

SACCOS and AMCOS are part of the cooperative financial institutions (CFIs) categorized as Tier 3 by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) mandated with the role of extending credits to members at affordable interest rates as stipulated by Section 5 (1) of the Microfinance Act 2018 and the Microfinance (Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies) Regulations 2019.

CFIs have played a critical role in reducing economic and social disparities by providing equal opportunities to its members. CFIs have further contributed to reducing the income gap between the poor and the rich.

For example, the SACCOS and cooperatives extend loans to their members without discrimination based on wealth or income generation status, thus contributing to the agenda of realizing an inclusive economy.

However, through the low interest rate disbursed loans, members have been able to engage into self-employment by establishing small and medium businesses and creating employment opportunities for others in the community.

According to TCDC, between April 2023 and May this year, a total of loans worth 1.277trn/- have been disbursed by financial institutions to members of the cooperative societies.

CP Faustine Shilogile, Vice Chairperson of the URA SACCOS Limited board of directors, whose members are employees of the Police Force with 48,000 active members, said it was established with the target of providing financial services at low interest rates.

Shilogile said that since the establishment of the SACCOS in 2006, it has extended loans worth 517bn/- to its members at an interest rate of less than ten percent.

He said the SACCOS own assets worth 136bn/- with a working capital valued at 28.9bn/- serving its members scattered all over the country.

Ernest Nyambo, Chairperson of the Bandari SACCOS Limited board of directors which serves the employees of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has invested in football matches ticketing, while extending loans of low interest rates and issuing dividends to its members every year.

"This year we have extended a dividend of 154/- for the investment of one share to our members. The total dividend issued was pegged at 556mn/- distributed among 1,658 members. SACCOS has a working capital of 22bn/-," said Nyambo.

Pilly Marwa, Chairperson of the TRA SACCOS Limited board of directors said that the SACCOS was established in 2006 with 1,900 members which currently has assets valued at 193bn/-.

She said since its inception it has extended loans worth 90bn/- to its members. She asserted that the SACCOS own savings worth 84bn/- and investment shares worth 3bn/-.

"The interest rate on loans issued by the SACCOS stands at eight percent on reducing balance," said Marwa.



According to the Monthly Economic Review for June 2024 by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), interest rates charged by commercial banks on loans decreased, while those offered on deposits increased, leading to narrowing interest spread.

The BoT review shows that overall and negotiated lending rates eased to an average of 15.23 percent and 12.68 percent in May 2024 from 15.42 percent and 13.95 percent in April, respectively.

"As a result, the spread between one-year lending and deposit interest rates narrowed to 6.83 percentage points from 7.72 percentage points recorded in April 2024. This indicates an easing in the cost of borrowing," reads part of the central bank's review.

The review further shows that credit extended to agricultural activities sustained the highest growth, followed by manufacturing, and building and construction (Table 2.2.2).

Meanwhile, personal loans, primarily utilized by micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), continued to account for the largest share of total credit extended to the private sector at 37.9 percent, followed by trade (12.9 percent) and agriculture (11.8 percent).

This journalist has learned that two largest commercial banks in the local market have also opted to extend low interest loans to members of cooperative unions, especially those in the agriculture,

livestock and fisheries sectors.

Jumanne Wagana, the Manager of CRDB Bank Plc Western Zone said that in the agricultural sector value chain in the financial year 2023/24 that ended in June this year, the bank had issued loans valued at 1.8trn/- on interest rate which is less than 10 percent depending on the kind of loan.

Nsolo Mlozi, Head of the Agriculture Division at NMB Bank Plc said that the bank as at the end of the financial year 2023/24 issued low interest loans valued at 1.6trn/- of which more than 60 percent were allocated for cooperative unions at an interest rate of nine percent per year.

Frank Nyabundege, Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) Managing Director told this journalist that the bank has been issuing loans to borrowers in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors in collaboration with other 19 financial institutions at an interest rate of nine percent.

He said the loans are issued through the Smallholders Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS) established in 2017 and placed under TADB's custodian with a capital worth 54bn/-.

He said another 36bn/- was added up on the capital a year ago making 90bn/- . Another 18bn/- will be added up on the capital in the current financial year.

Nyabundege said the scheme has already issued loans to 23, 659 beneficiaries worth 317bn/- as of June 2024 in collaboration

with the 19 financial institutions licensed by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

The investment has led to a drop in the interest rate on loans extended to the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors from 20 percent three years ago to an average of nine percent.

"475 Co-operative unions have benefited from loans provided by SCGS since 2017. The Co-operatives have 7,72,104 members. These loans were also disbursed to 23,659 individual beneficiaries. Of all the beneficiaries, 22.4 percent are women. An estimated 151,000 young people have also benefited from the loans in the agriculture, livestock and fishing sectors," said Nyabundege.

The Bank of Tanzania Annual Report 2022/23 released June 2023 states that during the financial year under review, Tier 3 Microfinance Service Providers (MSPs) which are basically the Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) were licensed by Tanzania Co-operative Development Commission (TCDC), with the number increasing from 692 to 810 SACCOS.

However, the BoT's annual report states that the Tier 4 MSPs which are community microfinance groups, registered by local government authorities (LGAs), increased to 42,257 from 29,964 the preceding financial year.

According to the current budget speech

of the Ministry of Agriculture 2024/25, as of April 2024, registered cooperatives have increased to 7,522 compared to 7,300 in April 2023.

Of these, 78 are Secondary Cooperative Societies, 4,391 are Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS), 2,074 are Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS), one is the Federation of Cooperative Societies, 978 are Co-operative Societies engaged in irrigation, vegetables, breeding, fishing, industry and mining value chains.

With the intention of containing possible fraud in the sale and purchase of cash and food crops through cooperative unions, in the financial year 2023/24 TCDC managed the acquisition of 1,178 digital weigh measurements worth 3.534bn/- through the Kagera Cooperatives Union (KCU) Ltd, Kagera District Cooperative Union (KDCU) Ltd, Kahama Cooperative Union (KACU) Ltd and Korosho Joint Venture Cooperative (KCJE) Ltd.

Tabling the 2024/25 financial year budget in parliament in April this year, Minister of Agriculture Hussein Bashe said that the weighing machines have been distributed to the AMCOS that deal with coffee, cashew, sesame, soy, peas, cocoa and tobacco cash crops in Kagera, Lindi, Mbeya, Tabora, Mtwara, Ruvuma and Coast regions.

To be continued.

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

**L**AST week we saw that even though consumers prefer to use online and mobile banking products because of the affordability, speed, and convenience, face-to-face personal interaction between consumers and banking officers remains essential in establishing trust for the longer term and more rewarding relationships.

While there is no doubt that digitization is disrupting the industry, there is no concrete evidence yet that digitization will kill the branches. From the beginning, the main reason why bank branches exist is because of the face-to-face interaction the customers are receiving.

But recently customer visits and transactions in branches have been declining due to an increased use of other channels.

Nevertheless, it is important for the branches to not replicate what can be done in other channels (online banking and mobile banking) rather they should offer the connections that customers can't get online. They must evolve consistently with other channels to continue delivering unique value to customers. Though banks may prefer moving customers to automated channels as it is a more cost-effective way of meeting their needs, eliminating branches is a risky decision that can backfire especially with existing infrastructure problems.

It is worth noting that many researches show that consumers who use a combination of branches, online and mobile banking have a higher Net Advocacy Rating and are more likely to stick with the bank for the long term, so branches must adapt to remain relevant.



In last week's article, we saw that a bank branch needs to shift from a primary focus on making sales to offering quality financial advice and to do this, the banks need to re-evaluate the roles of branch banking. Last week, I shared two new roles for future branch banking: offering self-service, and staff re-alignment inside the branch. This week, I will share another two roles of the future branch banking.

Redesigned Branches - Branches should be designed differently and must reflect the new purpose; smaller in size with few teller windows and

## THE ROLE OF BRANCH BANKING IS SEEN CHANGING - PART TWO

sales centers. Fewer transactions mean fewer tellers are needed, so banks should prioritize sales centers that provide expert support and customer advisory functions.

Branches should be designed more like sales centers than transaction centers and implement tighter cross-channel integration with hubs and call centers for customer advisory functions. In addition, branches should have video conferencing and similar technologies in them to offer excellent customer experience.

Robust Front-Line Employees - Branches should have more robust front-line staff and advanced relationship management technology to enable their employees to deliver excellent customer service and make more sales. Also, branch managers should be trained to improve their market management skills in order to have stronger profitable cross-selling and achieve a greater share of wallets.

To sum it up, branches are here to stay but they are not in demand like they once

were thanks to technology so, the banks that don't adapt fast to new roles of branches are going to suffer as customers are increasingly choosing digital banking products and services.

Banks should be transforming their branches from transaction places to centers where customers can go for financial education and get help for their complex banking issues. The evolution of bank branches is necessary for banks to remain relevant and make the most of new opportunities ensuing from new consumer behavior.

It's clear from emerging trends that brick-and-mortar locations will continue to have a critical role to play in the Omnichannel offering of financial services for the foreseeable future. Your customers are still the key to your branch strategy so by delivering the right services in the right locations, banks can offer the best customer service possible whilst operating a sustainable branch network for the future.

Remember, your customer is the key to your branch strategy; When you truly understand your customer, you can build a branch that is perfectly tailored to fit their needs. Times have changed and banks must too.

**Kelvin Mkwawa MBA (pictured) is the Seasoned Banker. He can be reached through. Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com**



**Banks should be transforming their branches from transaction places to centers where customers can go for financial education and get help for their complex banking issues. The evolution of bank branches is necessary for banks to remain**



# DAWASA invites private players into sewage treatment

By Francis Kajubi

THE Dar es Salaam Clean Water and Environment Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has invited the private sector with reasonable investments to take part in sewage treatment as the authority has limited capacity to treat sewage that can be fed into the utility system for its customers while inviting.

Engineer Mkama Bwire, DAWASA Acting Chief Executive Officer told editors yesterday in Dar es Salaam that sewage treatment requires large and sustainable investments.

He said the network of sewage pipelines managed by DAWASA has increased to 915.4 kilometers; the authority has 12 sewage vehicles while the private sector has 101 vehicles.

There are 13 sewage collection stations from community service residences alongside four small sewage treatment plants.

"DAWASA's capacity to treat sewage stands at 43 percent as of now. Small and large projects are being implemented to increase the capacity," said Bwire.

Bwire (pictured) explained that among the big projects is Mbezi Beach which is being implemented to treat 16 million sewage liters per day. It will involve a sewage pipe covering 141 kilometers implemented with funds from the World Bank approximately 132bn/- whose implementation has reached 55.4 percent.

He said the project is expected to be completed by January 2025 in terms of laying the pipe network, but the sewage treatment plant may take more time to complete.

He said the Kariakoo sewage network is in the process of being revised and by October the contractor will be hired.

Customers have increased from 343,000 a year and a half ago to 450,000 in July this year. He said 56 percent of complaints from customers are received at the call center, 28 percent come to the office to submit the complaint, eight percent on social media networks, and the remaining percent is through the authority's website.

He said the 136bn/- Kidunda dam project is progressing with 21.7 percent of its implementation.

The project will have the capacity to store 190 billion liters of water and facilitate the production of 20 megawatts that will be fed into the national grid.

"There is a plan to provide water from the Rufiji River and the consultant has already been given a contract to carry out a feasibility study of the project that will bring water to the city of Dar es Salaam where the first phase will involve the production of 750 million liters per day," he said.

He said that the consultant is expected to complete the task by the end of next month.

Regarding major projects to increase the production of water, he said the third phase of the Chalinze water project costing 93bn/- has been completed, which has contributed to an increase in water production with a network of 124 kilometers of pipes and 19 tanks with a capacity of 50 million liters and benefiting the residents of the Coast and Dar es Salaam regions.

He said there is a project of tanks to store six million liters of water in the Makabe area worth 4.8 billion/- have been completed benefiting 180,000 of Mafia and Dar es Salaam.

He said there is another water project in



the south of Dar es Salaam to provide water from lower Ruvu for a nine million liter tank in Bangulo street, Ulongoni ward in Ilala district in Dar es Salaam to serve Ulongoni, Kinyerezi, Kifuru, Malambamawili and Gongo la Mboto residents worth 34.5bn/- where the implementation of the project has reached 60 percent and is expected to be completed in December this year.

Elaborating on the sources of water, he said the Ruvu river is the source of DAWASA's water for 87 percent being used for the plants of lower Ruvu and upper Ruvu, Kizinga River, Wami River and well water are seven percent and account for the remaining 13 percent.

The plants have the capacity to produce 534.6 million liters a day until December 2023 when the demand is 544 million liters. Lower

Ruvu has the capacity to produce 270 million liters while upper Ruvu production is 196 million liters, Kizinga River produces nine million liters and Wami River produces 21.6 million liters per day. The wells produce 38 million liters per day.

Water needs in the areas served by DAWASA are expected to rise to 1.3 billion liters in the next five years.

He said the network of water pipes had reached 7,087 kilometers by June this year. Of those 1,600 pipes are 72 inches wide and the rest are 48 inches wide.

There are 138 water storage tanks with a volume of 183.65 million liters, which is over 30 percent of production per day.

"The CCM's election manifesto requires DAWASA to ensure that by 2025 it has reached 95 percent of the network of clean and safe water supply, where it is now 93 percent," he said.

The Water and Environmental Act No. 5 2019 gives DAWASA two responsibilities of supplying clean and safe water and managing environmental sanitation.

Areas served by DAWASA have increased such as Ngerengere Morogoro and Manga Tanga. It provides services in 18 constituencies. It has divided those areas into 25 service regions.

## Butiama's cycling tour to offer 100,000 free medical check-ups

By Guardian Reporter

HUNDREDS of thousands of people from different regions of Tanzania are expected to benefit from free medical check-ups during the forthcoming Twende Butiama cycling tour, which will be held from the end of September to mid-October.

Covering a route of 1,840 kilometers through 12 regions and more than 20 districts, the event also aims to plant 6,000 trees and donate over 400 desks to primary schools, including those serving children with disabilities.

As outlined in his political program, the Arusha Declaration, Julius Nyerere was committed to creating an egalitarian socialist society based on cooperative agriculture in Tanzania. He collectivized village farmlands, carried out mass literacy campaigns, and instituted free and universal education.

The cycling event, which will involve over 1,500 cyclists, will also focus on equipping 3,500 people across the country with digital skills. This is part of the celebrations marking 25 years since the passing of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Tanzania's first President.

Running from September 28 to October 14, the tour celebrates Nyerere's legacy through a unique blend of cycling, community engagement, and philanthropy. Established in 2019 by a passionate community of cyclists, the Twende Butiama Cycling Tour honors Nyerere's love for cycling and his vision for progress in education, healthcare, and environmental conservation, aiming to empower Tanzanians both socially and economically.

"We are thrilled to open registrations for the 2024 Vodacom's Twende Butiama Cycling Tour. This



Gertrude Mongella

year's event not only celebrates our founding father's legacy but also aims to create a lasting positive impact. Participants will engage in climate action campaigns, improve learning environments, and support inclusive healthcare through community medical camps," said Gabriel Landa, Founder of the Twende Butiama Cycling initiative.

Landa emphasized that Vodacom Tanzania, the main sponsor for the second consecutive year, is committed to the tour's mission. Last year's partnership with Twende Butiama led to the planting of over 6,000 trees, providing medical care to more than 3,200 people in three districts in Mwanza and Mara regions, and donating 610 desks to 13 primary schools. These efforts align with Vodacom's mission to empower people and protect the planet.

"This year, we are proud to continue our support for this noble cause. The 2024 tour will expand its reach, offering digital skills training and medical camps, including non-communicable disease screening and awareness, across 12 regions. We encourage both short- and long-distance cyclists to register and join us in making a difference, as well as partners invested in supporting the mission," said Zuweina Farah, Director of External Affairs and the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation.

Reflecting on Nyerere's enduring impact, Gertrude Mongella, who was also a teacher in her illustrious career, shared her admiration for his leadership and vision.

"Mwalimu was a patriot and highly disciplined in matters of the nation. His commitment to health, education and social equality remains a guiding light for our country."

This tour not only honors his memory but also keeps his dreams alive by continuing his mission of fighting ignorance, poverty, and disease," said Mongella.

Twende Butiama mobilizes cyclists from around the country to cycle from Dar es Salaam to Mwitongo Village, Butiama (Nyerere's birthplace and burial site), with the main objective of commemorating and honoring the legacy of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, who died on October 14, 1999.

Others were balance checks and mini statements to effortless fund transfers, utility bill payments and live customers chat/support from the banks services agents.

"Our bank remains dedicated to innovating for a sustainable future and supporting Tanzania's digital transformation," he said. "Upgraded services "Rafiki

## BANKING & FINANCE

## Investors urged to exploit livestock, fisheries sectors

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Export and Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) has encouraged local investors to seize the vast untapped potential in the livestock and fisheries sectors for value addition, thereby enhancing their contribution to the economy.

At the Nanenane International Agricultural Exhibition in Dodoma yesterday, the EPZA's acting investment promotion manager, Nakadongo Fares highlighted the benefits of the EPZ programme, which supports processing goods for exports to boost foreign exchange earnings.

"Establishing livestock and fisheries processing industries through the EPZ programme guarantee jobs creation and the sectors' significant growth potential and contribution to GDP," she said.

Fares said local investors can establish processing industries the EPZ programme offers for value addition to livestock and fisheries products for exports.

Other investment opportunities in fisheries include deep sea fishing, fisheries infrastructure and related activities, trade of seafood and non-edible seafood products and aquaculture.

She said EPZA provides reliable and relevant information to investors to assist them in establishing their investments through SEZs and EPZs.

For example, the EPZA's One Stop Service Center provides services such as provision of guidance and comprehensive information about the establishment of SEZ investments in Tanzania, facilitates investors in obtaining factory space or serviced land in or out-

side the existing industrial/commercial parks.

She said the establishing of processing industries in livestock and fisheries sectors will help create more jobs to the youth and enhance its contribution to the economy.

For example statistics show that revenue in the meat market amounts to 5,443.00 million US dollars in 2024. The market is expected to grow annually by 9.37 per cent (2024-2029).

This provides huge investment potential for the local investors to continue investing in the livestock value chain through the EPZ programme that will guarantee them high return to investment.

In the fisheries sector, more than 200,000 people (0.35 per cent) are full-time small-scale fishers and approximately 4.5 million (6.89 per cent) Tanzanians are indirectly employed in the fisheries sector.

The scale of fisheries operations ranges from small-scale (artisanal) fishing to industrial fishing, with small-scale fishing contributing more than 95 per cent of the country's total catches.

The fisheries sector has high potential and its contribution to the GDP is approximately 1.7 per cent per annum. The sector has been growing at an average rate of 1.5 per cent per annum.

The Economic Survey Report of 2020, indicates that the livestock sector accounts for 27 per cent of the Agricultural Sector contribution to GDP, of which 40 per cent arises from beef production, 30 per cent from the dairy industry, and the remaining 30 per cent is contributed by other livestock products such as eggs, hides and skin.

**Establishing livestock and fisheries processing industries through the EPZ programme guarantee jobs creation and the sectors' significant growth potential and contribution to GDP**



## Local bank introduces digital communication tool

By Correspondent James Kandoya

I&M Bank has introduced a new innovative communication service to support the government's efforts of enhancing financial inclusion in the country.

Zahid Mustafa, the Bank CEO said in Dar es Salaam yesterday

at the launch that the bank has upgraded services that are applicable through WhatsApp.

He said the upgraded services include new features that align with commitment to sustainability and paperless banking, contributing to the Tanzanian government's vision of a robust digital economy.

He said that statistics show

that 33 percent of the global population use WhatsApp for daily interaction, adding that the bank's decision to provide services via whatsapp was very important to expand the customer's volume.

Mustafa said that Rafiki Chat Banking offers a wide range of banking services, from account opening and self-registration.

Others were balance checks and mini statements to effortless fund transfers, utility bill payments and live customers chat/support from the banks services agents.

"Our bank remains dedicated to innovating for a sustainable future and supporting Tanzania's digital transformation," he said. "Upgraded services "Rafiki

Chat banking" is a testament to bank commitment to deliver convenient, eco-friendly banking solutions that align with the nation's vision of a digital economy," he added.

Mustafa commended government efforts in creating friendly environment that enabled financial sector to propel The Bank Head of Retail

and Digital Simon Gachahi said that the improvement ensures a seamless and user-friendly experience, empowering customers to manage their finances effortlessly and conveniently.

"The whatsapp channel is one of the channels that has the fastest adoption rates amongst I&M Tanzania customers and

we intend to continue investing in building more functionalities and features working with our technology partner," he said.

According to the Fin-Scope Survey 2023 results, the level of access and use of formal financial services increased to 89 percent and 76 percent in 2023 from 86 percent and 65 percent in 2017, respectively.



## WORLD

## Harris and Walz hold first rally together as new Democratic ticket

WASHINGTON

TIM Walz touted his rural roots and said Donald Trump would take the US "backwards" as he appeared for the first time as Kamala Harris's running mate at a raucous Democratic Party rally.

At the event in Philadelphia on Tuesday night, the party's new nominee for vice-president said their Republican rivals in November's election were "weird as hell".

The Minnesota governor spoke in front of thousands of supporters just hours after he was announced as Ms Harris's pick for the role.

The Trump campaign, meanwhile, was quick to attack Mr Walz as a "dangerously liberal extremist".

The 60-year-old is billed as someone who could win back rural and working-class voters who have gravitated to Donald Trump in crucial midwestern states.

At the rally in the key swing state of Pennsylvania, Ms Harris, currently the US vice-president, said she and Mr Walz were the "underdogs" in what is expected to be a close election but had the momentum.

She introduced her running mate as "a fighter for the middle class, a patriot".

Mr Walz then recounted his small-town roots in Nebraska and his career as a national guardsman and teacher, before attempting to draw a contrast with Trump.

"He doesn't know the first thing about service - because he's too busy serving himself," said the former army sergeant and football coach.

He got some of the loudest cheers of the night when he took aim at the former president's criminal record, with chants of "lock him up" from those in the arena.

He also sparked applause when he invoked a viral attack line that caught the eye of the Harris campaign as she considered who would be her running mate.

"These guys are creepy and, yes, just weird as hell," Mr Walz said of their Republican challengers.

The pair mostly pitched themselves as defenders of individual freedoms, including on abortion rights and safety from gun violence.

Mr Walz showed the plain-spoken, folksy style that has won praise from



Kamala Harris and Tim Walz hold first rally together as new Democratic ticket

Democrats, as he took a jab at Republicans on the issue of abortion access.

"Mind your own damn business!" he said, drawing an ovation from the crowd of more than 10,000 at Temple University.

Ms Harris and Mr Walz have just launched a five-day tour of key battleground states.

They will also speak at the Democratic National Convention, which runs from 19 to 22 August in Chicago.

As the current two-term governor of Minnesota, Mr Walz has overseen one of the most productive legislative periods in state history, implementing a sweeping left-wing agenda.

Democrats have used control of the state legislature to guarantee abortion rights, pass gun control measures and institute paid family leave.

A source close to the Harris VP selection process told CBS News that his list of accomplishments for working families matched what Harris wants to do nationally.

But Republicans have criticised Mr Walz for Minnesota's mask mandate and a shutdown of businesses and

schools during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as his delay in deploying the National Guard to deal with rioting after George Floyd's murder in 2020.

Also in Philadelphia earlier on Tuesday was Mr Vance, Trump's running mate, who assailed the new Democratic White House ticket.

The Ohio senator told reporters that Ms Harris's choice of Mr Walz shows that "when given the opportunity she will bend the knee to the most radical elements of her party".

Trump's campaign said in a statement: "Just like Kamala Harris, Tim Walz is a dangerously liberal extremist, and the Harris-Walz California dream is every American's nightmare."

President Joe Biden, who suspended his own election campaign last month and endorsed Ms Harris, said in a statement that the Democratic ticket "will be the strongest defenders of our personal freedoms and our democracy".

Another of the finalists to be Ms Harris's running mate, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, was also at

## India can use its influence to convince Israel to stop genocide in Gaza: Iran's envoy

NEW DELHI

TERMING India as a "big power" and "important country" Iran's Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi on Tuesday said that there is an expectation that New Delhi can and should play a more active role in the current crisis in West Asia.

Speaking to ANI, Elahi (pictured) stated that India has good ties with Israel and can use its influence to stop the genocide in this region and Gaza and keep the peace in Palestine.

On being asked about India's role amid the ongoing crisis in West Asia, the Iranian envoy said, "Since the beginning of the tragic events and crimes of Israel in Gaza, I repeatedly mentioned that India is an important country, is a big power and influential country in the international community. Beside this, it has good relations with Israel and Iran and also India, as a non-aligned movement founder had supported Palestine case in the history of the region."

"So, there is an expectation that India can and should play more active role in the current crisis in the region and tensions in the region. You know, the government of India has very good relation with the ruling party in Israel and the government of Israel. So, it can use its influence to convince them to stop this genocide in the region and in Gaza and stop crimes and keep the peace in Palestine. From the Iranian side, we are in collaboration with India in many cases and we hope that, you know, we are trying to convince India to keep peace in the re-



gion," he said.

Over 2000 Hamas terrorists breached Israeli borders on October 7, killing 1200 Israelis and taking around 250 as hostages, out of whom around 120 are still in Hamas captivity, with many of them feared dead.

Following this, Israel launched a strong counteroffensive, carrying out military operations against Hamas in the Gaza Strip with the aim of "completely eliminating" the group.

The tensions in West Asia have further escalated after Hamas' political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Iran's capital, Tehran on July 31.

On July 31, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that Ismail

Haniyeh had been killed in an attack in Tehran. A projectile hit a residence allocated to war veterans in Tehran at 2 am (local time), according to a Press TV report.

Haniyeh, who was based in Qatar, travelled to Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Iranian President-elect, Masoud Pezeshkian, according to a Press TV report.

On August 1, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Thursday announced that Hamas military wing commander Mohammed Deif had been killed in an airstrike in the southern Gaza Strip on July 13.

In a post on X, IDF stated, "We can now confirm: Mohammed Deif was

eliminated." The Israeli military said that it obtained intelligence confirming his death in the past few hours. Deif was targeted in a strike at Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade commander Rafa'a Salameh's compound in Khan Younis area on July 13, The Times of Israel reported.

A day later, the IDF confirmed the death of Salameh. However, it did not have final information on Deif. The IDF believed that its intelligence indicated that Deif visiting the compound belonging to Salameh was highly accurate and the two Hamas military officials were together in the building that was hit with several heavy munitions, according to The Times of Israel report.

Meanwhile, the IDF said that top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur was killed in the Israeli strike in southern Lebanon on Tuesday (local time). The IDF said Shukur was "responsible for the majority of Hezbollah's most advanced weaponry, including precise-guided missiles, cruise missiles, anti-ship missiles, long-range rockets, and UAVs" and for the terror group's "force build-up, planning, and execution of terror attacks against the State of Israel." The Times of Israel reported.

On July 30, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that his nation has delivered "crushing blows" to enemies in the last few days, CNN reported. He made the remarks hours after the deaths of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and senior Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur.

ANI

## Kenya says upcoming FOCAC summit to deepen bilateral ties with China

NAIROBI

THE 2024 summit for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), scheduled for September in Beijing, will inject vitality into bilateral relationships between China and Kenya that have spanned over six decades, according to Musalia Mudavadi, Kenya's prime cabinet secretary.

Mudavadi, also the cabinet secretary for foreign and diaspora affairs, made the remarks Tuesday at a meeting with representatives from Chinese communities in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Mudavadi expressed the country's anticipation for a new chapter in its diplomatic ties with China at the upcoming forum. "Kenya's participation in FOCAC affirms our commitment and unwavering support as a strategic partner for China to host a successful summit," he said.

Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi, Kenya Overseas Chinese Association, Kenya Chinese Tourism Association, Kenya Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and Chinese enterprises in Kenya, attended the meeting to discuss strategic areas of collaboration to foster mutual benefits.

Mudavadi highlighted that engagement with the Chinese diplomatic community, private sector, and media is crucial for building a community with a shared future, as envisioned by leaders from both nations. He noted that Kenya is aligned with the core objectives of FOCAC, including win-win political and economic cooperation, sustainable development, and promoting peace and stability in Africa.

He also expressed optimism that the FOCAC summit will forge a new beginning for practical cooperation with China across various sectors, including trade and investment, affordable housing, green financing, peace and security, and people-to-people exchanges.

Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Zhou Pingjian said that the bilateral ties between the two countries have thrived against a backdrop of mutual trust and shared aspirations. "In China, we often say, 'build the nest to attract phoenixes.' To the Chinese phoenixes present here today, Kenya is a welcoming and ideal nest which keeps improving, truly a home away from home," he said.

Zhou acknowledged the crucial role of the Chinese communities in Kenya, including investors and entrepreneurs, in strengthening the bonds of friendship. "The Chinese Embassy will continue to exert its utmost efforts to consolidate and further the longstanding friendly ties between our countries and enhance friendship between our peoples," the ambassador said. *Xinhua*

## Unprecedented: Team of differently abled mountaineers of HMI to scale Mt K'njaro, unfurl biggest national flag on August 15

KOLKATA

A team of differently-abled mountaineers from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute on Friday began an expedition from Kanchenjunga National Park to Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in the African continent, a statement issued by the institute said. The expedition will be completed on August 20.

To commemorate the 78th Independence Day, a 7,800-square foot national flag, crafted by HMI, will be displayed during the expedition showcasing India's pride and unity. Led by Group Captain Jai Kishan, Principal of HMI (52), it aims to unfurl the flag atop Kilimanjaro before August 15.

As per the HMI, this is the first divyangjan expedition to hoist the largest Indian flag atop Mt Kilimanjaro.

The expedition, under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence, was flagged off by Dipti Mohil Chawia, Additional Secretary, MoD in New Delhi on Tuesday and team includes Uday Kumar, a divyangjan with 91 per cent above-knee amputee, Air Warrior and Principal, HMI Gp Capt Jai Kishan, Captain Shruti S. Chanaveragoudra, Sub Mahendra Kumar Yadav, Pawel Sharma and Sulachana Tamang.



The team from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Express

## Israeli jets break Beirut sound barrier as Hezbollah vows revenge

BEIRUT/OSLO/RAMALLAH

ISRAELI warplanes broke Tuesday afternoon the sound barrier twice over Beirut, the Lebanese capital, and its suburbs, causing loud booms a few minutes ahead of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's speech.

The sonic booms shattered glasses in Dahieh, Beirut's southern suburbs, and created fear and anxiety among local residents. Some even started packing to seek shelter in mountainous areas.

Nasrallah was set to begin an address at around 5 pm local time (1400 GMT) to mark the one week since the killing of the Lebanese armed group's senior military com-

mander, Fouad Shokor, in an Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Nasrallah said that the Israeli warplanes might deliberately break the sound barrier during the mourning ceremony to intimidate the people at the memorial.

Israeli warplanes have recently intensified their violations of the sound barrier in the airspace of most Lebanese regions, sometimes even resulting in building damage and collapses, Lebanese military sources previously told Xinhua.

The sources reported that the sonic booms, caused by warplanes flying faster than sound, occur two or three times a day and are especially

terrifying when the planes are flying at a low altitude.

In his speech, Nasrallah vowed a strong and impactful retaliation to Israel, al-Manar local TV channel reported.

"Our retaliation to the assassination of our commander is inevitably coming, and it will be impactful and strong. We may choose to retaliate in cooperation with other resistance powers in Iran and Yemen or separately," Nasrallah said.

Nasrallah added: "This is a big war, and the blood of our people is too expensive and dear. The assassinations will not pass without retaliation."

Nasrallah also threatened to attack factories in northern Israel, each according to

Nasrallah, worth billions of US dollars.

"All of these are located in northern Israel; it took 34 years to build all these factories, but it takes half an hour to destroy them all," he said.

Nasrallah said Israel constitutes a big danger in the region. "This danger cannot be faced with fear and hesitation; all Muslims must assume their responsibilities," he said.

Caution prevails in Lebanon and Israel following the latter's attack that killed Shokor and seven civilians. Nasrallah has repeatedly threatened a definite and painful response to the Israeli attack.

Tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border escalated on Oct 8, 2023, following a bar-

rage of rockets launched by the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah toward Israel in solidarity with Hamas' attack on Israel the day before. Israel then retaliated by firing heavy artillery toward southeastern Lebanon.

**European countries advise citizens to leave Lebanon**

Some European countries have advised their citizens to leave Lebanon and avoid traveling to the country amid rising regional tensions.

"In a highly volatile security context, we once again draw the attention of French nationals, particularly those passing through, to the fact that direct commercial

flights with stopovers to France are still available, and we invite them to make their arrangements now to leave Lebanon as soon as possible," the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs said on Sunday.

Air France and Transavia France have decided to extend the suspension of their flights to Beirut until at least Thursday.

A spokesman for the German Foreign Office repeated an urgent call at the end of last month for all Germans to leave Lebanon. Since then, 500 people have registered on a crisis preparedness list, with a total of 1,800 Germans now listed.

In the Netherlands, the For-

eign Ministry has issued a red travel alert for Lebanon, advising Dutch nationals to avoid travel to the country.

The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also advised Polish citizens against such traveling. Last Friday, Poland's flag carrier LOT announced it had canceled eight flights from Warsaw to Lebanon and Israel, as well as return flights.

The Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs on Monday called on Croatian citizens in Lebanon to leave, according to a statement on the social media platform X.

The Slovenian Foreign Ministry advised citizens in Lebanon to leave the country, too.

Xinhua



# Could Harris' VP pick appeal to multiple voting blocs in presidential race

WASHINGTON

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, who has won enough delegate votes to secure Democratic presidential nomination, on Tuesday chose a running mate who could appeal to myriad voting blocs, experts said.

Harris, 59, on Tuesday named Minnesota Governor and former Congressman Tim Walz as her running mate.

"One of the things that stood out to me about Tim is how his convictions on fighting for middle class families run deep. It's personal. As a governor, a coach, a teacher, and a veteran, he's delivered for working families like his own," Harris said in a statement.

Walz, 60, previously served as a U.S. House representative. He was elected governor of Minnesota in 2018 and re-elected in 2022.

"Walz is broadly acceptable to the various groups that make up the Democratic party and doesn't provoke any schisms or dissension within the ranks," Christopher Galdieri, a political science professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua.

"Walz appeals to different groups for different reasons. Progressives and liberals like his record as governor," the scholar said.

"Walz also has a cultural appeal. As a Democrat from a rural area who served in the military and coached high school football before running for Congress, he can appeal to voters in the Rust Belt states that will be crucial in this election," Galdieri said.

Democrats hope that having Walz on the ticket will help shore up support in key battleground states such as Wisconsin,

Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Those are strongholds of the Democratic party, although Harris' opponent and former President Donald Trump flipped them when he clinched the White House in 2016. Biden flipped them back to the Democrats with his 2020 victory. This time around, the three states are crucial to winning the election.

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West said Walz helps Democrats in the Midwest.

"He comes from that part of the country, knows how to talk to ordinary Midwesterners, and talks about ways to boost economic opportunities for the middle class," West told Xinhua.

"He has a wide range of political experience, having been a legislator and an executive and should help Harris draw the contrasts with Trump," West said, noting that Harris has come up "quite a bit" in the polls and the race now is very competitive between Trump and Harris.

According to polling data compiled by the U.S. election information website Real Clear Politics, as of Tuesday, Harris leads Trump by an average of 0.5 percentage points in national polls, but Trump still leads in several key swing states.

The possibility that Walz will be the No. 2 leader in the United States is growing by the day. Prior to Harris' nomination, President Joe Biden was getting crushed in the polls by Trump.

Trump was leading by leaps and bounds in key battleground states such as Georgia and Pennsylvania, according to Real Clear Politics' average of polls.

While Trump retains the lead in most key swing states, Harris is closing the gap. Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris (C) attends an event on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C., the United States, on July 22, 2024. Xinhua

for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that Walz has effectively attacked the Republican nominee for vice president, J.D. Vance.

"If there is a debate, it will be widely watched. The value of vice-presidential candidates in winning an election is greatly exaggerated, but Walz is a very skilled

campaigner," Ramsay said.

Walz ran for the House of Representatives as a Democrat in a usually Republican district, and won it many times before running successfully for governor, Ramsay added.

Meanwhile, critics blast Harris as simply an extension of the Biden administration, whose time in office has seen food

inflation skyrocket.

Critics also blast Harris for, they claim, allowing millions of migrants to illegally pour over the U.S. southern border during Biden's tenure.

In reaction to the selection of Walz, Trump said on his social media platform Truth Social that "this is the most Radical Left duo in American history. There has never been anything like it."

Xinhua

## Nobel laureate Yunus to head interim govt in Bangladesh

DHAKA / NEW DELHI

NOBEL laureate Muhammad Yunus will serve as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, Dhaka's local media reported early yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of President Mohammed Shahabuddin with chiefs of the three services and the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement to finalize the outline of the interim government on Tuesday night, Bangladesh's state-run news agency BSS reported.

The head of state gave consent to the proposal of the meeting, the president's Press Secretary Md. Joynal Abedin told the news agency.

Shahabuddin said other members of the interim government would be finalized in consultation with other political parties of the country.

According to the report, Shahabuddin said during the meeting that as Bangladesh is passing through a deep crisis and in order to resolve the problem, an interim gov-



Nobel peace laureate Muhammad Yunus (center) speaks to the media after filing an appeal for the extension of his bail at the Labour Appellate Tribunal, in Dhaka on May 23, 2024. AFP

ernment must be formed as soon as possible. He urged everyone to work together to resolve the crisis. Earlier Tuesday, Shahabuddin dissolved the parliament, paving the way for the formation of an interim government following the fall of the government led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladesh is facing uncertainty after the resignation and fleeing of Hasina on Monday.

**India recalls non-essential staff**

Indian authorities have recalled non-essential staff and their families from its high commission and consulates in neighboring Bangladesh, Indian media reports quoting government sources said yesterday.

"All non-essential staff and their families from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka have been evacuated. The High Commission is currently operating with a skeletal staff," a local television news channel NDTV quoting sources said.

Officials said all Indian diplomats re-

main in Bangladesh and the missions are functional. India has a huge presence in Bangladesh.

Apart from its high commission in Dhaka, India has consulates spread across the country in cities like Chattogram, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Khulna.

The Indian staff evacuation occurred as Sheikh Hasina resigned Monday from her post as Bangladesh's prime minister amid protests.

## Top Russian security official says no response yet from Kiev on Moscow's peace initiative

BAKU

UKRAINE has not yet responded to the peace proposals Russian President Vladimir Putin put forward last month, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu told reporters on Tuesday.

"Almost two months on, there is still no response," Shoigu said. According to him, discussing the Geneva conference on Ukraine, the so-called Zelensky formula or other formats therefore makes no sense.

"For holding negotiations without a key negotiator looks a bit weird," the senior Russian security official added.

In June, Putin proposed new terms for resolving the Ukraine conflict.

These included recognizing Crimea and the four new Russian regions as Russian lands, enshrining Ukraine's non-aligned and non-nuclear status, its demilitarization and denazification as well as lifting all sanctions on Russia. Ukraine has turned down the initiative.

The Russian leader also noted that Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's legitimacy cannot be reinstated now that his powers have expired.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has explained that Putin has not rejected potential talks with Ukraine as there are other legitimate executive bodies in the country.

Agencies

## Russian, Jordanian diplomats call for restraint in Middle East

MOSCOW

FOREIGN Ministers Sergey Lavrov of Russia and Ayman Safadi of Jordan have stressed the need for a ceasefire in the zone of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and called on all parties involved in it to show restraint to prevent catastrophic consequences for the entire region, the Russian foreign ministry said after their phone call.

"The ministers exchanged views of the development of the military and political situation in the Middle East with a focus on the need for a ceasefire in the zone of the

Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the soonest de-escalation in the region. They stressed that both Moscow and Amman call on all parties concerned to show restraint in order to prevent catastrophic consequences for the entire Middle East," it said.

The two top diplomats also agreed to maintain regular contacts on current issues on the bilateral and international agenda, the ministry added.

Agencies

# Sensational Quan retains diving title, multiple new records created

PARIS

CHINA'S diving sensation Quan Hongchan led from start to win her second consecutive Olympic gold medal in the women's 10m platform at Paris 2024 here on Tuesday, while multiple new records in athletics, cycling, and sport climbing illustrated the Olympic motto of "Faster."

Quan, 17, scored a total of 425.60 points and ranked first for four out of the five dives, with only her third-round dive ranking second among the 12 finalists. She earned a full mark of 90 points for her first dive.

"I'm extremely happy for the victory," said Quan, who shed tears while hugging her coach, former Olympic champion Chen Ruolin, after her final dive. "The past three years were really tough for me, and

I could hardly describe how hard it was here in just a few minutes."

Her Chinese teammate Chen Yuxi took silver in a repeat of the podium finish from Tokyo 2020 on 420.70 points. Kim Mi Rae of DPR Korea took the bronze medal in 372.10.

This is Quan's second gold in Paris, after she had paired up with Chen to win the synchronized 10m platform event last Wednesday. China's diving team has taken all five golds at the Games so far, with three more to go.

Elsewhere in Tahiti, the Olympic surfing competition reached its final day of action after a three-day pause due to a lack of wave conditions. French surfer and Tahiti native Kauli Vaast surfed to victory in the men's final, while Caroline Marks improved

from her fourth place in the Tokyo 2020 to continue the U.S. monopoly on the women's Olympic title.

"Faster" has been a key word of the day in several events, as defending champions the Netherlands set their second world record on Tuesday night to win gold in cycling men's sprint team event, beating Britain in the final.

The Netherlands' Roy van den Berg, Harrie Lavreysen and Jeffrey Hoogland completed the three circuits of the 250-meter track in 40.949 seconds - the first time anyone has ever broken 41 seconds.

Australia also set a new world record of three minutes, 40.73 seconds in the cycling track men's team pursuit qualifying round, racing off against Britain in Wednesday's final at the Saint-Quen-

tin-en-Yvelines Velodrome.

Meanwhile, New Zealand's quartet produced a surprise when they qualified with the fastest time in the women's cycling team pursuit on Tuesday with a new national record of 4:04.679.

In sport climbing, Sam Watson of the United States initially clocked 4.91 seconds in his seeding phase, improving his world record from 4.79 seconds to a new high of 4.75 during the elimination heat. This achievement marks the third time this year that the 18-year-old American has broken the men's speed world record. He previously set two records at a World Cup meet in China in April.

"I want to push times and get under 4.5 seconds. I want to be the best athlete and keep pushing the limits. That's always the person I've

been and always the person I'll be in this sport," Watson said after the qualifying round.

China's Wu Peng also earned a place in Tuesday's final round of the speed event with a time of 5.00 seconds in the elimination stage.

The Stade de France saw two new Olympic records on Tuesday night, with the U.S.'s Cole Hocker producing a barnstorming finish to clinch the men's 1,500m title in three minutes, 27.65 seconds, beating the previous Olympic record of 3:28.32 set by Norway's Jakob Ingebrigsten at the Tokyo Games three years ago. Bahrain's Winfred Yavi seized gold in the women's 3,000m steeplechase in eight minutes, 52.76 seconds, eclipsing the previous Games record of 8:58.81 set by Russia's Gulnara Samitova-Galkina

at the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

As the canoe sprint events began on Tuesday, China's Xu Shixiao and Sun Mengya, who took the women's canoe double 500m title at the Tokyo Olympics, cruised into the event's semifinal at Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium. In the men's canoe double 500m, China's Liu Hao and Ji Bowen finished in an Olympic best of 1:37.40 to sail into the semifinals.

Defending champions China swept past India 3-0 to advance to the table tennis men's team quarterfinals, with five-time Olympic gold medalist Ma Long making his fourth Olympic appearance, while Japan's men's team outclassed Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals.

In volleyball, Turkey beat China in a five-set thriller as

Melissa Teresa Vargas scored 42 points to lead her side to a hard-fought 23-25, 25-21, 26-24, 21-25, 15-12 victory. Defending champions the United States swept past Poland 3-0 later to join Türkiye, Italy and Brazil in the women's volleyball semifinals.

Cuba's Mijain Lopez Nunez made history with his gold medal in the men's Greco-Roman wrestling 130kg final after defeating Chile's Yasmani Acosta Fernandez by a score of 6-0, becoming the first person to take five Olympic gold medals in the same event.

After Day 11 of competition in Paris, the United States top the medal tally with 24 golds, 31 silvers and 31 bronzes, followed by China on 22-21-16 and Australia on 14-12-9.

Xinhua



# SPORT



Boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria. Agencies

## Boxer Imane Khelif advances to gold-medal bout with another victory amid gender misconceptions

PARIS

BOXER Imane Khelif of Algeria advanced to the gold-medal bout in the women's welterweight division at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday night, moving one win away from what she calls the best response to the worldwide scrutiny she has faced over misconceptions about her gender.

With one more victory, Khelif would win Algeria's second boxing gold medal and its first in women's boxing.

Khelif defeated Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand 5:0 in the semifinals at Roland Garros, where the crowd roared for her and chanted her name repeatedly during her three-round fight. Khelif has won three consecutive bouts in Paris, and she will win either a gold or a silver medal when she completes the tournament on Friday against Yang Liu of China.

Khelif has thrived inside the ring in Paris amid criticism and stigmatization outside of it. The trouble has stemmed from the Olympic-banished International Boxing Association's decision to disqualify her and fellow Paris medalist Lin Yu-ting of China Taipei from the world championships last year for allegedly failing an eligibility test.

The controversy has become one of the biggest stories of the Paris Olympics, but it isn't causing any negative effects on her performances in the ring.

"I don't care about that," Khelif said through an interpreter. "I wish to be ready and show a good standard, show my talent, because I want to entertain everyone."

Khelif had already clinched Algeria's first medal in women's boxing before she stepped into the ring to rousing roars at Court Philippe Chatrier. She then controlled her bout with Suwannapheng, who took a standing 8-count late in the third after absorbing a series of punches.

"I had heard about the news regarding her, but I wasn't following it closely," Suwannapheng said. "She is a woman, but she is very strong."

Khelif has won every round on every judge's card in her two fights that have gone the distance in Paris. She has made the most important tournament run of her international career while under the most pressure she has ever faced.

"I am very happy," Khelif said. "I've worked eight years for these Olympics, and I'm very proud of this moment. I would like to thank the support from people back home."

The ending of Khelif's first bout in Paris propelled her into the center of a worldwide divide over gender identity and safety regulations in sports. Her first opponent, Angela Carini of Italy, tearfully quit after just 46 seconds, saying she was in too much pain from Khelif's punches.

Carini's abandonment of the fight led to comments from the likes of former U.S. President Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" writer J.K. Rowling and others falsely claiming Khelif was a man or transgender. Carini later apologized for her decision.

In an interview Sunday with SNTV, a sports video partner of The Associated Press, Khelif said the wave of hateful scrutiny she is facing "harms human dignity" and called for an end to bullying athletes.

Khelif also said she felt the "best response" to the uproar around her would be to win a gold medal – and now she's one win away.

After sharing a hug with Suwannapheng and

holding open the ropes for her opponent in a traditional boxing gesture of sportsmanship, Khelif celebrated by running furiously in place while pumping her fists as the crowd roared for her again. The celebration was more joyous than her cathartic finish to her quarterfinal victory over Hungary's Anna Luca Hamori, when she slammed her palm on the canvas as she teared up.

Khelif received her post-fight medical check and was headed out of the Roland Garros arena when she was mobbed by fans near the exit. They hugged Khelif, demanded selfies and waved Algerian flags while she made her way backstage.

Khelif received cheers that echoed through the famed tennis arena from the moment she entered to face Suwannapheng. Roland Garros welcomed a prominent turnout from Algerian fans voicing their national pride in a boxer whose negative spotlight has been taken quite personally in her country.

Both fighters came out aggressively, trading punches from distance. Khelif was more accurate while winning the first round on all five cards, and she repeated the performance in the second.

The fight got more physical in the third, with Suwannapheng pushing forward to make a comeback. The bout was stopped for a standing 8-count late in the third when Suwannapheng absorbed a few head punches in succession, although Suwannapheng appeared to shrug as if it wasn't necessary – as is often the case in Olympic boxing, where referees can stop a bout for relatively minor reasons.

"I tried to use my speed, but my opponent was just too strong," Suwannapheng said.

The 25-year-old Khelif is on the best run of her amateur career at the Olympics. She has performed solidly at the international level and even won some regional tournaments, but Khelif has never been a dominant fighter on the world stage until her two strong performances – and 46 seconds of easy work against a third – to reach the final in Paris.

The IOC and its president, Thomas Bach, have repeatedly defended the Olympic eligibility of Khelif and Lin while condemning the IBA as incompetent and biased.

Khelif and Lin were disqualified by the IBA in the middle of last year's world championships over what it claimed were failed eligibility tests for the women's competition. The IBA has been banished from the Olympics since before the Tokyo Games, and the body struggled to articulate the reasoning for its decisions on Khelif and Lin at a news conference Monday.

Lin also has clinched a medal and advanced to the Olympic semifinals. She fights Esra Yildiz Kahraman of Turkey on Wednesday night.

Algeria's Olympic team has reacted forcefully to the criticism and negative attention around Khelif, and the fan turnout in Roland Garros reflected the seriousness with which the accusations have been received in her home country and in its French diaspora.

Chinese Taipei has reacted with equal condemnation of the IBA's claims and the worldwide swirl of scrutiny. Sports officials on Tuesday said they are considering legal action against the IBA after sending a letter protesting "the International Boxing Association's continued publication of false information, obscuring the facts, and attempting to interfere with the normal conduct of the event regardless of the rights and interests of athletes."

AP

## SPORTS

# Simba SC and Aishi Manula: A deteriorating relationship

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

(PICHA: AISHI)

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE relationship between Simba Sports Club and former first-choice goalkeeper Aishi Manula is reportedly deteriorating.

The recent exclusion of Manula from the team's player introductions during the 2024/2025 Simba Day celebrations has fueled speculation about the future of the four-time Tanzanian Premier League champion with the club.

Manula's once-impregnable position as Simba's first-choice goalkeeper has significantly eroded over the past season in favor of Ayoub Lakred. The veteran shot-stopper made only four league appearances, two of which resulted in humiliating defeats, including the infamous 5-1 loss to arch-rivals Young Africans.

His last appearance for the club came midway through the season in a shock 2-1 home defeat to Tanzania Prisons. Notably absent from the team for the remaining 15 league matches and overlooked for cup competitions, it's evident that Simba have moved on.

Manula, a cornerstone of Simba's recent successes, including four consecutive league titles and four quarter-final appearances in continental competitions, was conspicuous by his absence during the high-profile event of Simba Day. Although his name was eventually added to the list following intervention from his management, the initial snub has raised eyebrows and fueled rumors of a deteriorating relationship with the club.

Simba's media manager, Ahmed Ally, has attempted to quell the growing speculation by insisting that Manula remains a Simba player for another year. However, the club's decision to exclude him from the Simba Day event suggests that the situation is more complex than a simple contractual dispute.

Manula is in an awkward situation. He has a year left to run on his contract and could join a club of his choice on a free transfer next year, although he clearly prefers to move this off-season. Despite reassurances from club spokesperson Ally that the matter will be resolved, the recent signing of five goalkeepers, including three high-profile players, suggests otherwise.

The exclusion of Manula, Tanzania's number one goalkeeper, from the



Simba SC shot-stopper Aishi Manula. Agencies

Simba Day event was a public humiliation that has further eroded the trust between the player and the club. The subsequent failure to acknowledge or rectify this mistake left a lot of questions to the fans, regarding Manula's contributions to the club.

This incident comes on the heels of John Bocco's controversial departure, highlighting a pattern of snubs towards club legends. Bocco's forced transition from player to coach has left a bitter taste among fans and raised questions about the club's priorities.

Even if Manula remains at Simba, the damage to his relationship with the club is irreparable. The shadow of this incident will undoubtedly affect his morale and performance, casting a long shadow over his future at the club.

It's understandable that Simba would need to move on from even long-serving ballers like Manula. However, the way this transition has been handled, particularly in Manula's case, has raised questions and concerns.

Ally, the club official, has been evasive about the reasons behind Manula's exclusion from the pre-season trip to Egypt and his absence from the Simba Day preparations. While there may be justifiable explanations, the lack of transparency has created unnecessary speculation and potential damage to the player's reputation.

A player of Manula's stature, who has earned the title of "Tanzania One," deserves open and respectful communication. Such ambiguous treatment can leave lasting emotional scars.

Manula is represented by professional

management who handles his contractual affairs. In ideal situations, a club and a long-serving player like Manula would engage in open dialogue about their future, including potential loan moves to rejuvenate their careers before retirement. This approach fosters a sense of mutual respect and ensures a smooth transition when the player eventually leaves.

If managed well, these departures can be amicable, with the player maintaining a positive relationship with the club. This is exemplified by the warm reception fans often give to former players, even when they compete against their old team.

Following the recent treatment of Manula during a Simba match versus APR, there have been widespread calls for the club to rectify the situation. Manula, a revered figure in Tanzanian football and a cornerstone of Simba's success, deserves to be treated with the utmost respect. His contributions to the club are undeniable, and the incident on Saturday has caused significant upset among fans.

To mitigate the damage and preserve Manula's legacy, Simba should issue a public statement and reaffirm their appreciation for his services. This will help to restore harmony between the club and its supporters.

Meanwhile, the signing of Mousa Camara from Horoya AC signals a potential shift in the goalkeeping hierarchy at Simba. Long-term injuries to Lakred, whose contract expires next year and he may be on his way out during January, have forced a reshuffle of the squad.

New signing Camara is set to establish himself as the number one goalkeeper, while Ally Salim and Abel Hussein will battle it out for the backup role. This shift in the goalkeeping hierarchy further suggests that 28-year-old goalkeeper Manula's time at the club could be coming to an end.

## Mukwala seems to cement first-choice attacker role at Simba

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a commanding 2-0 victory over APR FC during a friendly match over the weekend, Simba showcased their strength and readiness for the upcoming season.

Striker Steven Mukwala, who has joined from Asante Kotoko of Ghana, has clearly cemented his position as the first-choice attacker under coach Fadlu Davids, setting the stage for a promising season.

During the much-anticipated Simba Day match against APR, Mukwala (pictured) was granted significant playtime, overshadowing fellow attackers Valentino Mashaka and Freddy Michael Kouablan.

Despite missing a penalty, the Ugandan international's performance was pivotal, continuously pressuring APR's defense and demonstrating his capability to lead Simba's attack.

Valentino, despite coming on as a substitute for Mukwala, seems to be ahead of Kouablan in the pecking order. Mukwala's replacement, Valentino, was later substituted in the 80th minute, allowing Freddy to play for the remaining ten minutes of the match. This sequence of substitutions underscores the intense competition among Simba's strikers this season.

Rumors from Simba's pre-season training camp in Egypt suggested that Davids had recommended the acquisition of an additional forward, potentially to replace Kouablan. Nevertheless, the Ivorian international remains a part of Simba's squad, being listed for the CAF Champions League. His playing style may offer a strategic advantage, even though his goal-scoring record last season was impressive, netting 12 goals across all competitions, with six in the major league.

Kouablan's previous stint in the Zambian Premier League saw him emerge as the league's top scorer, boasting 14 goals in just half a season. This remarkable feat underscores his



potential impact if given more playtime.

Simba's pre-season preparations have also focused on getting striker Kibu Denis up to speed. Kibu, who missed the pre-season training in Egypt due to a break in the United States and an unsuccessful trial in Norway, appeared unfit during his brief appearance in the second half against APR FC.

Davids has since implemented a special training regimen to help Kibu regain his fitness and match readiness. His return is seen as a significant boost for Simba, providing additional options on the wings and upfront.

Kibu's comeback is particularly timely given the stalled transfer plans for Elie Mpanzu and the sale of Willy Onana. With Joshua Mutale and Kibu in the lineup, Simba's attack is expected to pose substantial challenges for opposing defenses, enhancing their tactical versatility.

Following the thrilling Simba Day performance, Simba resumed training to fine-tune their strategies ahead of the Community Shield clash against

arch-rivals Young Africans. This match, slated for today at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, will kick off at 7:00 pm.

As the defending champions, Simba aim to retain their title, having clinched it last season after a draw against Young Africans in the final at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

Davids and his team have enjoyed a productive pre-season, setting high expectations for the new campaign. Simba's ambition to dominate every competition they enter is clear, and their performance on Simba Day offered just a glimpse of the entertainment and prowess fans can look forward to this season.

The upcoming game against Young Africans today will serve as a critical indicator of the team's form and potential, offering fans a preview of what lies ahead. With a well-organized squad and strategic depth, Simba are poised to make a significant impact, building on the strong foundation laid during the pre-season.



## Caballos and Diaz score as Real Madrid beat Chelsea

By Nizaar Kinsella

CHELSEA manager Enzo Maresca says he "trying to solve" his side's "habit" of conceding too many goals after a 2-1 defeat by a young Real Madrid side in Charlotte, in the final match of their United States tour.

First-half goals from Dani Ceballos and Brahim Diaz were enough for Madrid despite Noni Madueke's header as the Blues again looked vulnerable at the back.

They have conceded 12 goals across five pre-season games in America, going 4-0 down in two of those matches and winning just one.

Maresca said he addressed the "very high" defensive line with his players in one of his first meetings, which he said is a habit "from last season".

Ceballos followed in a deflected Lucas Vazquez shot to finish in the 19th minute.

And in the 27th minute Diaz rounded new goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen to score from a tight angle past the Dane, who made his first start at the Bank of America Stadium.

Chelsea pulled one back as Madueke headed in Enzo Fernandez's cross at the far post in the 39th minute.

Maresca made no substitutes at half-time but his tweaked team looked more solid as they played out a drab goalless second half where the best opportunity was a spurned one-on-one chance for Christopher Nkunku.

Carlo Ancelotti's side were still without a host of star players, but wide attacker Vinicius Jr excelled in the absence of Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe, who are expected to train as early as tomorrow as both sides flew back to Europe immediately after the match.

Chelsea next face Inter Milan in their final friendly at Stamford Bridge on Sunday before their Premier League opener at home against champions Manchester City on 18 August. Madrid next face Atalanta in the Uefa Super Cup in Warsaw on Wednesday 14 August, which pits the Champions League winners against the Europa League winners, as a curtain-raiser for European competitions.

\*Maresca concerned about leaky backline Chelsea conceded 63 goals under Mauricio Pochettino in the league last season, an unwanted club record during the Premier League era. That tendency not to press with intensity and allow quality players - like those at Celtic, Manchester City and Madrid on this tour - time on the ball to pick them off has continued.

Maresca said: "One of my first meetings with the squad was about the amount of goals we conceded last year with the defensive line very high. "We are not working on defensive lines so high. It's a habit from last year, or years ago, I don't know."

"We are trying to drop the defensive line a little bit, usually about four or five metres, just to have some ad-

vantage.

"Last year, we already conceded many goals with this problem. Hopefully we can solve it very soon."

The former Leicester manager continued by explaining it is not an issue with his defence, which featured Reece James, Levi Colwill, Benoit Badiashile and Malo Gusto, but the team as a whole.

The Italian has also been attempting to implement his new system and style which has seen several individual mistakes leading directly to goals conceded in the United States.

Maresca has previously admitted to using his matches as "training sessions", without time to do tactical work in between all the travel and the five matches in 14 days in the high heat of the United States.

That instability must be resolved, he says, before Chelsea face Manchester City in their Premier League opener. "Vinicius Jr shows importance before Mbappe arrival

Brazilian superstar Vinicius Jr reminded the 55,000 crowd of mainly Madrid supporters of his class before Mbappe's imminent arrival.

This was Vinicius' first start in pre-season after his involvement in the Copa America and he put on a show for those in attendance, creating several chances alongside his typical work rate in pressing and making runs behind to test that high Chelsea defensive line.

He curled his first effort just wide, then forced a mistake in the box which led to a huge missed Diaz chance. His through ball assist gave another opportunity for the 25-year-old Morocco midfielder, which he dispatched.

Mbappe may soon become the focus, with England's star midfielder Bellingham also in the squad, but Vinicius remains one of the most exciting attackers in the world and a contender for this year's Ballon d'Or.

\*Huge squad, but limited striker options Hardworking striker Marc Guiu, 18, who was signed from Barcelona for £5m, has started all but one of Chelsea's pre-season matches.

Guiu showed promising signs in other matches, but was quiet against the highest level of opposition in European champions Madrid.

Alternative option Nicolas Jackson only did his first training session yesterday and Chelsea look short of options despite boasting a huge squad of 45 players.

Romelu Lukaku and Armando Broja, who was left out of the match-day squad despite being fit, look set to leave. It leaves Nkunku, who finished the match up front, as the most likely option to start against Manchester City.

But the Frenchman has looked good in a midfield role in parts of Maresca's pre-season.

It's clear why Chelsea are looking to add to their options amid active talks to sign Atletico Madrid's Samu Omorodion, with interest alive in Napoli's Victor Osimhen.

BBC

## 'The de-identification of Chelsea continues'

By Nat Hayward

It's not what Conor Gallagher is, it's what he represents.

In a past era of Chelsea, accepting a £33m offer for him from Atletico Madrid would elicit far less of a reaction than it has now.

Gallagher is a committed, passionate and solid performer. But he is not remarkable. His homegrown status elevates his standing among supporters beyond where he would rank on ability alone. Understandably so.

But this is not a Chelsea that boasts a midfield containing a Frank Lampard, Michael Ballack, Michael Essien, Claude Makelele, N'Golo Kante or Cesc Fabregas. This is a Chelsea that is without a trophy for three years and has seldom felt further from silverware in its modern history.

Since the American consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital took over the club in May 2022, the list of Cobham-developed players who have departed permanently stands at Billy Gilmour, Ruben Loftus-Cheek, Callum Hudson-Odoi, Ian Maatsen, Lewis Hall and Mason Mount. The club have reportedly been sounding out potential bids for Gallagher for the past year, desperate to avoid a scenario where his contract expires and he can leave on a free. Trevoh Chalobah looks certain to follow after being left out of Chelsea's squad for the pre-season tour of the United States.

Listing even a selection of the arrivals in this same period would obliterate my word count. Most are international youngsters with high potential but precious little senior experience, many of the moves only made possible by the pure profit from selling homegrown players.

The league finishes have been 12th and sixth. Ticket prices have risen, the public-facing vision remains non-existent and fan favourites are being hastily ushered out of the backdoor.

When teams are going through challenging periods on the pitch, fans cling to the connection they feel to academy products. Last season, Gallagher's exuberance was a shining light - especially during the difficult early months. In May, fans unveiled a banner of his face with the words 'Chelsea since birth' emblazoned above it ahead of a match against Tottenham. AP

# Brazil sets up Olympic final against the US with a 4-2 win over Spain

MARSEILLE, France

BRAZIL will meet the United States in the final of the Olympic women's soccer tournament after beating world champion Spain 4-2 on Tuesday.

Gabi Portillo, Adriana and Kerolin struck in a thrilling semifinal at Stade de Marseille after an own-goal from Irene Paredes had put the two-time silver medalist in front.

"It's a dream, and dreams come true," said Kerolin, whose goal in the first of more than 15 minutes of stoppage time helped to hold off a late Spain fightback. "I'm so excited, so excited, so excited and I'm really, really, really impressed by my teammates."

Victory means Brazil great Marta has the chance to end her glittering international career by competing for the quarterfinals and semifinals.

The 38-year-old Marta has said her sixth Olympics will be her last major tournament with the national team.

"We just knew what we came to do today, and it was a final for us today," said Angelina, who was leading the Brazil team. "So, we were just very determined and we just came for the win."

Angelina said the Brazil squad needed to "celebrate a little bit" but quickly focus on the final.

"It was a big win. Again, Spain is an amazing team and we knew that," she said. "So now we need to rest and we need to study a lot, and see what we can do against the U.S." Spain won't get the chance in Paris to further cement its place at the top of women's soccer by adding Olympic gold to the World Cup it won last year. But there's plenty still to play for at the Paris Games.

"We keep fighting for something super nice and it will continue to be the Olympics until the end,"



Spain's Salma Paralluelo, right, and Brazil's Tarciane jump for a header during a women's semifinal soccer match between Brazil and Spain at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, at Marseille Stadium in Marseille, France. (AP Photo)

Spain forward Jennifer Hermoso said. "A bronze medal is also very difficult to get."

Paredes' sixth-minute own goal put Brazil in control and Portillo doubled the advantage in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time. Adriana's header in the 71st underlined Brazil's dominance. But with the win seemingly assured, there was far more drama to come. Salma Paralluelo pulled a goal back for Spain with a header in the 85th and almost immediately Alexia Putellas struck the bar with a shot from outside the area. Kerolin made it 4-1 - shooting through Spain goalkeeper Cata Coll's legs.

Paralluelo got her second in the 12th minute of stoppage time, but by then it was too late for Spain to mount a comeback.

Brazil will play the four-time champion U.S. women's national team in Saturday's final at Parc des

Princes in Paris. Spain plays Germany in Lyon for bronze.

Brazil has been twice beaten in an Olympic final by the U.S. - at Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008. It secured a place in the final for the third time after making amends for a 2-0 loss to Spain in the group phase of the tournament.

That was a game that also saw Marta red-carded, and Brazil received confirmation just hours before kickoff in the semifinals that its appeal against her ban had been rejected.

In the end, Brazil didn't need its greatest player on this occasion and took a big step toward the final early on after a calamitous mix up in Spain's defense when Coll - under pressure from Priscilla - attempted a clearance that came back off Paredes and into her own net. Brazil dominated the chances - repeatedly getting through on goal

- and made its superiority count just before halftime through Portillo, who slotted into the bottom corner from Yasmim's cross.

Adriana made it 3-0 after seeing her initial effort hit the bar from six yards and then heading in from Portillo's nod back across goal.

Spain, which had fought back from 2-0 down to beat Colombia in the quarterfinals, gave its fans hope through Paralluelo's header. But when Kerolin put Brazil 4-1 ahead, a second for Paralluelo proved to be nothing more than a consolation.

"We showed the world that we have a young team and a team that has a very good tactical understanding, that competes, that will always be like this - competitive," Brazil coach Arthur Elias said. "Brazil in women's football is a source of great pride."

AP

## The transfer market has changed - and football will never be the same again

By Miguel Delaney

WHEN Manchester United's new hierarchy sat together after Sir Jim Ratcliffe's purchase of a minority stake, one of the first and easiest decisions was over recruitment. The late August purchase of a 30-year-old like Casemiro was cited as the type of deal they'd never do again, and the way that was discussed is known to have aggravated the Brazilian. There was much more to the stance, however, than just Casemiro's profile or performances. United were also seeking to follow "best practice". They were going to copy the transfer philosophies of the two leading clubs in the game right now - Manchester City and Real Madrid.

It is now very rare that either of those two, who were also the last two Champions League winners, spend significant money on players over the age of 23. Most of their recent high-profile signings for fees have been exactly along these lines, be that a 21-year-old Josko Gvardiol, a 19-year-old Jude Bellingham, a 21-year-old Erling Haaland or an 18-year-old Eduardo Camavinga. These are for reasons of tactics as well as long-term strategies. Younger players are more suited to the intense pressing that dominates the modern game and also means clubs are investing in the next best talent.

That points to something more in this, that will have far greater consequences than how the biggest teams look. Liverpool have also operated with this approach for years, while Chelsea are now taking it to extremes, having been influenced by Brighton. The latter were themselves greatly shaped by Dan Ashworth, who was also responsible for the prior "model club" policy at Brighton, and will imminently dictate ideology at Old Trafford.

That shows this is much more than United finally doing what the best-performing clubs do. It is also an inevitable follow-on of City and Madrid themselves doing what the most overachieving clubs did.

If the approach sounds familiar, it is of course because this is what all of Borussia Dortmund, Sevilla, Lyon, Porto and Southampton specialised in for years. The wealthiest clubs have eventually appropriated that approach but naturally been aided by even better analytics.

Except, it is no longer "buy low, sell high". It is now "pay a high fee for a low age profile, with low wages to match, in the hope of high development - and trophies".

Its significance has almost gone under the radar but it is arguably the most consequential transfer development for decades because it upends the entire market. The old rules from even 10 years ago, let alone Real Madrid's signing of a 29-year-old Zinedine Zidane 23 years ago, have been totally overturned.

The effects of this in the international game were already explored on these pages during Euro 2024, where they have resulted in the dominant players at tournaments now being in their early twenties. Many of the reasons for that are naturally the same, since it's partly about the dominance of pressing and the need for energetic players who have internalised the psychological demands through their academy coaching.

The consequences are likely far greater, though. It's not just that the strongest teams become younger. It's that swathes of clubs have had their philosophy, and even their unique selling point, taken from under their feet.

The Champions League runners-up offer a telling example. Dortmund's great virtue used to be that they could guarantee the most talented young players a lot of game-time, offering a clear pathway to the highest level. It was why Haaland and Bellingham both went there, rejecting Manchester United among a number of other clubs. Now, many wealthier clubs are willing to offer the same minutes. Real Madrid are one of them, offering young talents an even quicker pathway.

By the same token, what good is buying low to try and sell high if wealthier clubs just try and undercut you? Who can you even sell to?

Porto illustrate a different side of the issue to Dortmund. For over two decades, they have been a gateway club to Europe for South American players. Many of the best got valuable minutes in Portugal's Super Liga and the Champions League before making the leap. Now, they miss out on players to City, who have specifically targeted Argentina as a source of talent. Julian Alvarez is a typical example, where he would previously have gone to Portugal first in the exact same way that Angel Di Maria did.

Now, all of these clubs have to adapt around wealthier rivals encroaching onto their space. A clever model that previously defined the market has now been totally outmanoeuvred. This isn't to say that these clubs like Porto and Dortmund should have had a monopoly on that, of course. They

were just applying the same capitalist forces to poorer clubs further down the chain but that's kind of the point. It all goes much further. Football figures in countries like Brazil complain about how they're losing players even younger than before. It is where multi-club models, that allow crossing of borders to stay within national laws on movement of talent, becomes an even greater issue.

This feeds into far bigger debates regarding concentration of talent and disparity of resources in the game, since it now feels like there is even less space for those outside the super clubs to move. That's nevertheless where some of this could be interesting and lead to some unexpected developments.

The trend doesn't just upend the market, after all. It also upends the previous norms of a playing career. It used to be the case that players would gradually build until they could expect their highest wage in their late twenties. That was one reason why clubs like Dortmund and Lyon went younger in the first place.

Now, it could be that only the top bands of players continue to earn at an escalating level right through their careers. A whole strand will instead be dispensable, and likely replaced by younger and cheaper "pressing drones" - as coaches now describe them - that academies are currently churning out.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Brazil sets up Olympic final against the US with a 4-2 win over Spain**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Dauids confident despite challenges ahead of Community Shield derby

By Correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapoli



SIMBA head coach Fadlu Dauids doesn't feel his side is in the best form but insists they will play to win the Community Shield semi-final match against arch-rivals Young Africans.

Simba face Young Africans this evening at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in their final match before the Premier League season gets underway.

Speaking in his pre-match news conference, the South African (pictured) said: "I think Simba Day has given us an indication of where we are at. We have now completed our fourth week of pre-season and we face Young Africans in the Community Shield that will give us the true test as to where we are in terms of Tanzanian football and how our season is going to go.

"This game won't decide how we do in the league but it will put us at a stage in knowing exactly where we are in this pre-season in this project of building a new team.

"We know that Young Africans are already three years or the new coach is already one year into their project and we are four weeks into our project so we have got to zoom out and get the bigger picture as to where we are and what we are building.

"The Simba Day match gave us a good indication of our new players and how they are gelling with the old players. It is not always easy to integrate 14 new players and a lot of talents. These are the steps we are taking and we take this game like we approach any other game.

"A match that we want to win without taking into consideration where we are at in terms of our pre-season. We will play to win. We are Simba Sports Club," he said.

The Community Shield will be the first piece of silverware of the new season involving the top four teams in the 2023/24 Premier League campaign.

While not considered a major trophy, the Community Shield provides a competitive yet friendly encounter, often seen as a barometer for the teams' upcoming season performance.

The game typically draws significant attention, symbolizing the close of the pre-season and the start of competitive football in Tanzania.

The main prize for the winners of the Community Shield is the trophy. There is no cash prize, but it also gives teams a bit of momentum heading into the new season.

The two sides met in the Community Shield final last year. Simba overcame Singida Fountain Gate via a penalty shootout while Young Africans beat Azam 2-0 in the other semi-final.

A penalty shootout victory saw Simba triumph against their arch-rivals after the two sides could not be separated in 90 minutes at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

Simba suffered a 2-1 defeat to Young Africans in the 2023/24 Premier League the last time the sides met and will be out for revenge.

First-half goals from Stephane Azizi Ki and Joseph Guede gave Miguel Gamondi's side the advantage at the break before Freddy Koublan halved the deficit in the 74th minute.

However, Simba have been busy during the off-season and Dauids acknowledged that many of his new signings are young and still integrating into the team, contrasting with their opponents, who have had more stability. Despite this, the coach remains unfazed and confident in his team's potential.

"Our squad includes a diverse range of players tailored to face different opponents," Dauids explained. "We are well-prepared to take on Young Africans. The fact that our rivals have been together for a longer period does not intimidate us."

Simba's preparation included a three-week training camp in Ismailia, Egypt, where they played four friendly matches, securing victories against Al-Adalah (2-1), Telecom FC (2-1), El Qanah FC (3-0), and a match against APR on Simba Day, which they won 2-1.

Throughout these games, Dauids experimented with various line-ups and strategies to identify his strongest formation.

In these friendly matches, Simba displayed a potent attacking prowess, scoring a total of nine goals. Jean Charles Ahoua led the charge with two goals, while Augustine Okejele, Valentino Mashaka, Ladack Chasambi, Steven Mukwala, Joshua Mutale, Edwin Balua, and Debora Fernandez Mavambo each contributed one goal.

The team's offensive versatility, particularly in the forward and midfield positions, is expected to pose a significant challenge to Young Africans' defense, which has been bolstered by the signing of left-back Chadrack Boka.

## Coach Dabo sees Coastal Union as major Community Shield hurdle

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC head coach Youssouph Dabo has urged his players to disregard their past performance against Coastal Union as they prepare for their Community Shield semi-final showdown today at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

Dabo (pictured) has labeled Coastal Union as a significant threat to their hopes of reaching the Community Shield final.

The two teams will face off in the first semi-final game of the competition before the second semi-final match between Young Africans and Simba at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on the same day.

The Chamazi-based side finished second in the league last season to qualify for the CAF Champions League while Coastal Union return to the continental tournaments after finishing in fourth place.

Dabo has warned his players to be prepared for a tough match against Coastal Union. He emphasized the need for increased effort and a change in mindset to overcome their past winning record against the opponent.

Coastal Union are acclimated to Zanzibar as they had various weeks of training and pre-season friendly matches in Unguja and Pemba where they won all their games.

"We played against Coastal Union three times last season and despite getting good results, they have always been a very difficult team tactically. The players need to show how much they want to win this game so that we can get the best result," he said.

"When you play at this stage, everyone wants the championship, and even us, as Azam FC, that is our desire and passion because we have good players who can fight for the team. We are taking one game at a time, so our thoughts and minds are now on the game against Coastal Union."

Azam are gearing up for a tough match against Coastal Union as they look to win the Community Shield. The team is coming off a high after winning the Choplife Cup 2024, defeating Rayon Sports 1-0 in Kigali.

Dabo lauded his side for their impressive football display, recognizing his charges as a competitive team capable of performing well in the upcoming CAF Champions League stage.

Domestically, Azam have only won the Community Shield once since its inception in 2001, defeating Young Africans on penalties in 2016 after a 2-2 draw.

The team is determined to add another trophy to their cabinet.

Azam have a strong historical advantage over Coastal Union. Since 2011, the two teams have faced off in 23 matches, with Azam emerging victorious in 13 games.

Coastal Union has managed just four wins, while the remaining six matches ended in draws.

One notable victory for Azam came in the semi-finals of last season's Federation Cup, where they convincingly defeated Coastal Union 3-0 at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.



## Gamondi downplays favourites tag as Yanga prepare for derby clash with Simba

By Correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi has dismissed his team's favourites tag in the Dar Derby as they lock horns with arch-rivals Simba in the Community Shield at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium this evening.

The Premier League defending champions boast a strong win record in recent derby games, having beaten their rivals in all of their last two meetings.

Gamondi's side will once again start as favourites, but they will face a tricky challenge from their rivals, who look like a different unit under head coach Fadlu Dauids.

Gamondi (pictured), who attended the pre-match press conference alongside third-choice goalkeeper Abubakar Khomein, said he would treat the derby like any other game. The Argentine coach also spoke about his side's chances in the derby, playing in front of fans, and more.

"I won't speculate what happened last season. This is a new season, even Simba have a new technical bench and new players. It is totally different, and we need to see what will happen tomorrow, but we arrived in good condition, physically and tactically well.

"We are happy to start a new season, and there is nothing better than starting with a derby. For us, it is very good, especially to play in front of a big crowd. For sure, tomorrow will be a full house, and for us, it will be extra motivation as well.

"I respect all the opponents. Simba is a derby match; both teams will never be underdogs because it is a special day. Simba have a new coach and new players, and they need to show up with motivation like us.

"At the beginning, it is always 50/50, and we will approach the game like that. Sometimes we say winning is not the best thing for you, but you must keep your feet on the ground and stay humble. This is our mindset," he said.

Gamondi also acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding Simba's approach due to their revamped squad and the lack of broadcasted friendly matches.

"We are not sure how Simba will approach the match as they have changed their squad. Our friendly matches in South Africa were broadcasted, but Simba's were not.



Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi

Regardless, we prepare our squad diligently because there are no secrets in football. Our goal is to minimize mistakes and perform our best," he added.

He emphasized the role of his players in delivering a strong performance. "As a coach and technical bench, we plan and prepare, but in the 90 minutes, it is up to the players to show what they have learned in training. We will play our style of football, and Simba will play theirs. It will be a tough match because every game is different."

The Community Shield tournament heralds the beginning of the 2024/25 Premier League season, set to commence on August 16. This season promises to be a dynamic and inclusive competition, offering an exciting new chapter for Tanzanian football.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has appointed referee Elly Sasi to oversee

the semi-final match between Simba and Young Africans. He will be assisted by Mohammed Mkono and Kassim Mpanga, with Amina Kyando serving as the reserve referee.

In addition to this high-stakes derby, the other semi-final will see Coastal Union face Azam FC at the New Amaan Complex Stadium in Zanzibar at 4:00 PM. The winners of these semi-finals will compete in the final match, scheduled to take place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on August 11.

As both teams gear up for this crucial encounter, fans are eagerly anticipating a match that promises to be filled with passion, skill, and intense rivalry. The Community Shield semi-final between Young Africans and Simba is more than just a game; it is a celebration of Tanzanian football and its rich history of fierce competition.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

