



PURSUUE MARITIME COURSES, GIRLS, WOMEN URGED PAGES



RICE GROWERS TO INTENSIFY SECURITY PAGES



TIRA TO REACH ALL PEOPLE WITH INSURANCE SERVICES PAGES



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Z'bar starts coral reef conservation training

"We have placed buoys so that people are careful, understanding that fishing activities are not allowed at that place"

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FISHING and tourism stakeholders have been tasked to prioritise conservation of coral reef areas to preserve the resources and mitigate impacts of climate change.

Dr Makame Omar Makame, the Blue Economy and Fisheries director of marine conservation for Zanzibar, issued this appeal at a day-long stakeholders' meeting and training under the coral conservation project here yesterday.

Emphasizing the critical role of coral reefs in the fishing sector as it attracts numerous tourists who engage in recreational activities, he said that besides tourism, coral reefs are essential for sustainable fishing, home of abundant fish production, benefiting local fishers.

In recognizing the importance of coral reefs, the government has designated 14 areas with significant coral resources, with



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured at Miyuji in Dodoma Urban District yesterday addressing the climax of this year's edition of the Council of Pentecostal Churches of Tanzania Leadership Summit. Photo: PMO

VPO: Clean cooking energy shift 'core to gender actions'

By Guardian Reporter

DEVELOPING countries are yet to integrate the Lima Work Programme and Plan on Gender (LWPG) into policies, a top coordinator has declared.

Christina Mndeme, the Vice President's Office (VPO) deputy permanent secretary for Environment, said this at a stakeholders' consultative meeting on the draft national gender and climate change action plan in Dodoma yesterday.

She said that the Lima framework covers policies, strategies and plans to facilitate data collection to enable the implementation of policies for gender equality and empowerment of women in international

The clean cooking energy plan is a significant step in promoting gender issues

negotiations while mainstreaming gender issues into national programmes.

Urging stakeholders to prioritize clean cooking energy in the envisaged draft policy covering gender and climate change action plan, she said the energy shift need is tied to the fact that women spend a lot of time searching for firewood for cooking instead of engaging in income-generating activities.

It is important to incorporate plans to involve clean energy in gender issues, she emphasised, noting that economic activities affected by climate change have implications for the daily lives of women, children and the elderly in particular.

Various factors including gender roles,

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CHRAGG finds RC in breach of the law

CHRAGG officials conducted special investigations on some 20 issues on land, environmental degradation or ruin, cases of violence and misuse of powers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ARUSHA regional commissioner Paul Makonda was in violation of human rights by ordering the detention of one resident

Arusha for up to 96 hours.

Judge Mathew Mwaimu, the chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) told a press conference here yesterday that his team

received complaints about the RC and upon investigations they concluded that the directive the RC issued to arrest and detain the resident "was not in line with the presumed offense."

After investigation CHRAGG realized that the directive had no legal basis and did not consider the kind of offense and legal procedures related to handling such offenses, he said, affirming that the said resident "was not the main culprit in the matter at hand."

Setting out a summary of complaints received and investigated by the commission for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, he stated that the RC overstepped his mandate by making a decision on a matter that was supposed to take an appropriate legal procedure and court process.

Skipping the resident's identity or

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MNH uses 1.439bn/- for transplants on 24 patients

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

UPWARDS of 1.493bn/- has been used to assist 24 patients who underwent kidney, heart and cochlear implants in the past few months, hospital administrators affirm.

Prof Mohammed Janabi (pictured), the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) executive director, said at an event yesterday to detail the use of allocated funds on the initiative of President Samia Suluhu Hassan to facilitate specialised treatments at manageable costs.

He said that so far, MNH has performed kidney transplants for 100 patients, and on average the facility receives 100 to 150 patients per day for dialysis, where each patient spends four hours in the treatment.

The government has allocated funds amounting to two billion shillings to support the patients, he said, in the meeting where the government reaffirmed its commitment to invest more in training healthcare professionals across various specialties to enhance the delivery of specialized medical services throughout the country.

Health minister Ummu Mwalimu asserted the training initiatives help to reduce overseas referrals and save costs, airing an observation that President Samia allocated 5bn/- to

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SPORTS

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Dauids confident in Simba's prospects ahead of 2024/25 season

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Manchester United make French teenager their second-most expensive defender in history



Z'bar starts coral reef conservation training

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serve them," he stated.

"We have placed buoys so that people are careful, understanding that fishing activities are not allowed at that place," he cautioned, asserting that the relationship between the sea and coral is crucial for ocean health.

"We've witnessed corals regenerating even at significant depths," he elaborated, explaining that the department is seeking to enable sea conditions to restore the reefs to their original state.

Geoffrey Ngupula, the project coordinator, stated that the overall aim is to enhance coral conservation awareness among various stakeholders, expressing concern over significant damage observed in the marked coral areas.

Conservation efforts include cultivating awareness among stakeholders to help conserve and sustainably utilize the resources for optimal benefits, he said, underlining that over 80 percent of the country's fishermen rely on coral reefs for their livelihoods.

Failure to protect the reefs would result in reduced fish production,

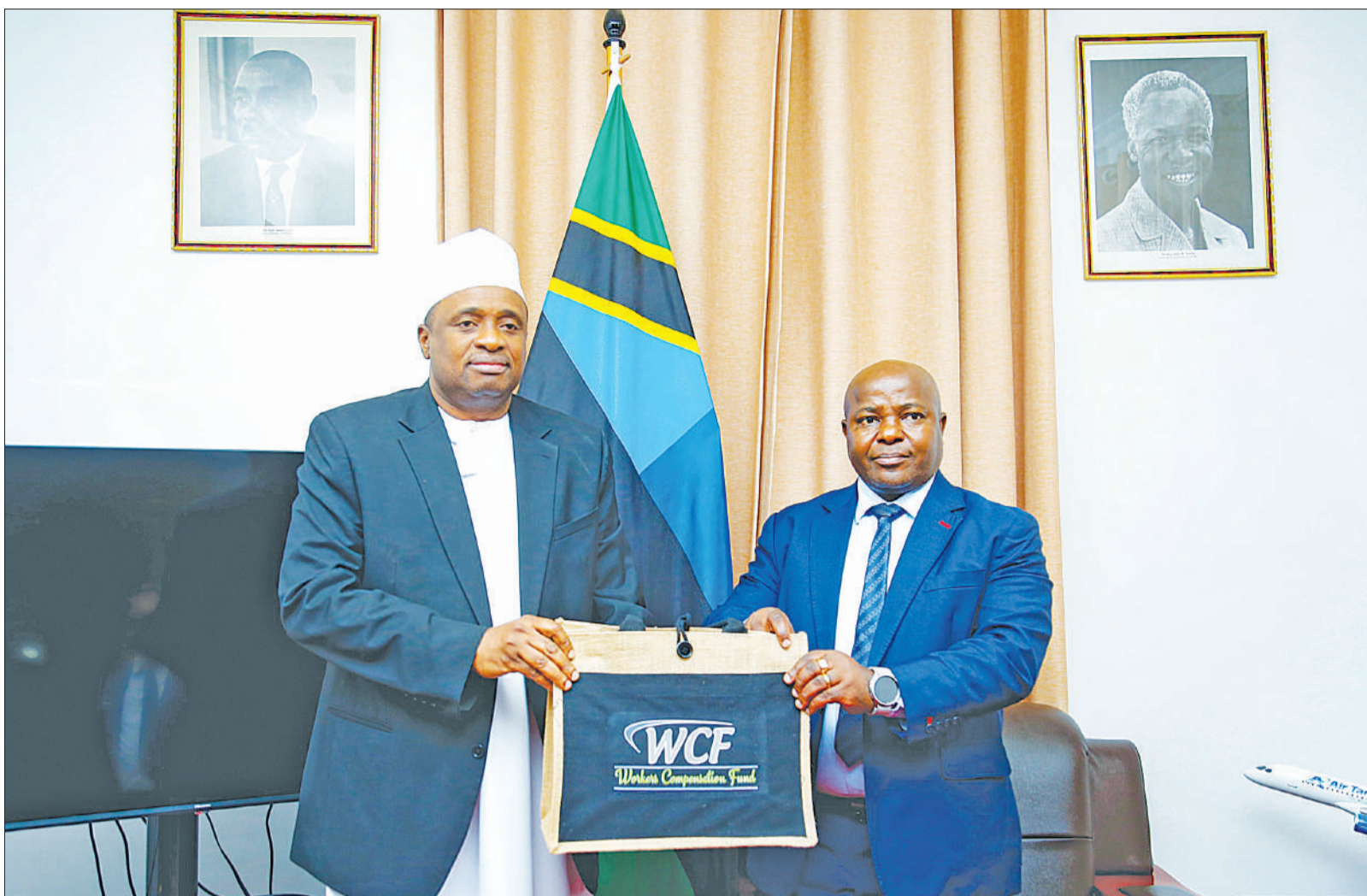
hence the need to implement various measures to control the use of illegal fishing gear to ensure the health of reefs and growth of fish stocks.

Bakari Jaha, the Africa Foundation co-ordinator for Zanzibar, pointed out that tourist traffic has a significant connection with visiting the house reef, notable for its scuba diving activities.

"Initially, the area faced significant pressure from tourism, with 200 boats carrying at least 400 guests entering an area of only 200 sq metres," he said, highlighting that to preserve the area, the government working with stakeholders like the Africa Foundation decided to limit the number of visitors to 80 per visit.

Similarly visitors were being charged \$3 but the fee was raised to \$25, which has not only enhanced environmental preservation but also increased revenues, he said.

Participants at the training session expressed intent to pursue various initiatives to ensure the preservation and enhancement of coral reef resources for current benefits and for future generations.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla (L) receives documents from Workers Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma in Zanzibar yesterday shortly after witnessing the signing of an MoU on cooperation between WCF and the Zanzibar Social Security Fund. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CHRAGG finds RC in breach of the law

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when the offence occurred, he said the matter was like other offenses, deserving a hearing in a court of law and not arrest and detention for more than four days without appearing in court.

"Even if there were elements of criminality, the best approach would have been to direct police officers to take due legal actions," he emphasised affirming that despite being asked to appear before a commission panel, the RC failed to do so and thus the conclusion was made in his absence.

Appearing before the panel for questioning would provide an opportunity for those named in such cases to be heard and explain their viewpoint on the matter but upon failure to appear before the select committee, it is proper in law to reach any conclusions.

The retired judge appealed to public officials to adhere to the law, regulations and statutory procedures when undertaking their

duties, avoiding taking the law into their own hands.

On other matters investigated, he said CHRAGG received 154 new cases, and worked on 789 cases whereas on 1st July, 2023 some 885 cases were still pending. From July 1, 2023 to May 30, 2024 a total of 135 new complaints were received, he stated.

Investigations on 784 complaints were still being pursued, he said, pointing out that out of the number, 302 complaints relate to retirement benefits, failure to remit contributions to pension funds and salary arrears.

CHRAGG officials conducted special investigations on some 20 issues on land, environmental degradation or ruin, cases of violence and misuse of powers.

Other complaints related to the police, about which the commission demands that police authorities work to ensure that their officers are put to periodic training on how to carry out their duties as stipulated in the law.

VPO: Clean cooking energy shift 'core to gender actions'

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culture, age, economy, customs and traditions contribute to the vulnerability of social groups when impacts of climate change add to difficulties of maintaining households or improving incomes.

The clean cooking energy plan is a significant step in promoting gender issues, she said, highlighting the fact that Tanzania is a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Accord calls on member countries to implement the Lima Programme on gender and climate change, she said, stressing that the purpose of the LWPG is to seek member countries of the convention to integrate gender issues

into national action plans to implement the convention and the Paris Agreement.

VPO, as the focal point office for the climate change convention locally coordinates preparations of the relevant action plan, has conducted assessments showing that the government has already integrated gender and climate change issues into the National Environmental Policy (2021), the Comprehensive Environmental Plan (2022-2032), the National Climate Change Strategy (2021-2026), and the National Contribution to Climate Change Adaptation (2021-2026).

Preparing the National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan reaffirms government efforts to address climate change for all social groups to achieve sustainable development in the country, she added.

Ruto pledges more 'broad-based' cabinet amid crisis

NAIROBI

KENYA'S president has announced a plan to form a new "broad-based government" following weeks of deadly anti-government protests sparked by an unpopular tax bill.

However, six of the 11 ministers President William Ruto proposed in Friday's address were from the cabinet he sacked just last week.

When dismissing that cabinet, Ruto had said the move came after "reflection and listening to Ken-

yans."

On Friday, he said the "crisis" Kenya was experiencing was lesser than the "opportunity" before the country.

The demonstrations, in which more than 40 people died, began as a response to the tax rises.

However, after the government withdrew these proposals, the predominantly young protesters broadened their demands.

Recently, they have been calling

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improve access to specialized medical services for underprivileged citizens.

Facilities providing such services include the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) in the capital, the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) and MNH, with JKCI serving as a wing of MNH, as is the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI).

"These funds are intended to enhance access to services such as kidney transplants, hearing aids, and heart treatments, particularly for young children," the minister stated, explaining that MNH received over 2bn/-, where more

MNH spends 1.439bn/- for transplants on 24 patients

than 50 percent of the allocated funds have already been used.

Expressing satisfaction with 24 beneficiaries having received specialist care at MNH through the funds, she elaborated that five citizens underwent kidney transplants each costing 151.3m/- (at an average of 30m/- per transplant).

Similarly, 14 children received hearing aids at a total cost of 610m/- (averaging 38m/- for sin-

gle-ear aids and 76m/- for bilateral aids), she said, pointing at assisting five cancer patients who underwent heart transplants costing 345m/- (equivalent to 69m/- per patient).

She emphasized the president's commitment to ensuring economically disadvantaged citizens access these specialized medical treatments at minimal cost, urging MNH administrators to astutely

providing the services and ensuring the use of the funds intensely included their intended beneficiaries as seen in this initial phase.

Through enhanced training, specialised medical services will be more accessible at regional and referral hospitals where there is greater demand, thereby reducing the need for patients to seek assistance at MNH for such ailments, she added.



Opposition ACT-Wazalendo national Chairperson Dorothy Semu (R) briefs visiting Malawi opposition Democratic Progressive Party vice president Dr George Chaponda (in blue) at her Dar es Salaam office on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Indonesia have agreed to collaborate in promoting investment between the two countries for the economic benefit of their people.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam upon receiving Indonesian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pahala Mansury, who is in the country to officially invite Tanzania to the Indonesia African Forum, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office for Planning and Investment, Stanslaus Nyongo, stated that the two countries have agreed to the strategic collaboration.

"The delegation from the Republic of Indonesia, led by Minister Mansury, arrived in the

Dar, Jakarta agreed on promoting investment

country to invite Tanzania to the Trade Conference scheduled to take place from September 1-3, 2024, in Indonesia. We have accepted to participate in the Conference," he said.

Nyongo also highlighted that they have discussed various issues, including Indonesia's interest in investing in sectors such as agricultural production, and clean energy production, as well as investments in various networks, industrial, and

infrastructure projects.

Deputy Minister Nyongo mentioned that one Indonesian company is ready to implement a project for producing fertilizer from gas in Tanzania, with the project costing approximately \$1.2 billion.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Pahala Mansury, mentioned that they have organized the Trade Conference with African countries to strengthen

cooperation, particularly with Tanzania, in economic matters.

Mansury stated that Indonesia continues to invest in the country, including in vital sectors such as oil and gas, mineral processing, and other food production issues.

He said the trade conference will involve discussions among ministers from various sectors, Indonesian businesspeople, and businesses from various African countries, especially Tanzania.



Public Procurement Regulatory Authority director general Eliakim Maswi briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on a public procurement forum for East African countries scheduled to take place in Arusha city from September 9 to 12. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

President Samia to grace East African Public Procurement Forum in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is in September expected to grace the host East African Public Procurement Forum in Arusha, organisers have confirmed.

Addressing journalists in Dodoma on Thursday, Eliakim Maswi, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) director said that the event will bring on board more than 1,000 participants from across the region to discuss and share best practices in public procurement.

He said: "This is the fourth time Tanzania has had the opportunity to coordinate and organize this forum, which provides a platform for various stakeholders in procurement both within and outside the country, from the public and private sectors."

Maswi mentioned that the guest of honour at the opening ceremony is expected to be President Samia who will also launch the Electronic Public Procurement System (NeST)—a web-based system that allows government agencies to procure goods and services electronically.

The forum, he said, will be attended by participants from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, representing the public sector, private sector, professional organizations, civil society, and training institutions.

The official stated that the forum will provide an opportunity to collaborate and exchange experiences in public procurement matters among East African countries to bring sustainable development to the procurement

sector and Tanzania's economy in general.

Maswi said: "This event brings together and creates interaction among various public procurement stakeholders, providing a platform for stakeholders to present their issues and efforts to improve and create a conducive public procurement environment in the East African region."

According to him, among the benefits of the forum to the country include strengthening cooperation and knowledge exchange between procurement regulatory bodies from member countries of Africa, and enhancing transparency and accountability in government operations by improving institutional systems.

He further said that the forum provides PPRA and other stakeholders with an opportunity to gain skills and information that are crucial for promoting transparency, building procurement awareness among stakeholders, and equipping forum participants with knowledge and skills.

He called on all stakeholders to participate in the forum to gain understanding and insights into various procurement issues.

"This is the fourth time Tanzania has had the opportunity to coordinate and organize this forum, which provides a platform for various stakeholders in procurement both within and outside the country, from the public and private sectors"

Eswatini's delegation in Dar to learn ways to execute social security funds

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has received accolades from the Kingdom of Eswatini following a successful visit aimed at learning from Tanzania's exemplary social security initiatives.

The delegation from Eswatini, led by Mabulala Maseko, Minister of Public Service, Members of Parliament, and professionals from the PSPF Fund, expressed admiration for the robust systems and achievements of NSSF.

Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Labor, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities, Patrobas Katambi, commended NSSF's resilience and capability to pay

benefits to its members during a meeting at the NSSF offices in Dar es Salaam.

He highlighted the significant strides made under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, particularly the digitization of operations, which has enhanced member convenience and efficiency.

"The visit by the Eswatini delegation underscores the international recognition of NSSF's achievements in social security provision. We are proud of our transformation journey from the NPF provident fund to the NSSF, our robust investment strategies, and our commitment to member services," stated Katambi.

The visiting minister Maseko

expressed satisfaction with the depth of knowledge gained from Tanzania's experience.

"We are here to learn and adopt best practices that ensure sustainable social security systems in our country. Tanzania's success in reducing poverty and promoting economic growth through NSSF is commendable and serves as a benchmark for Africa," he remarked.

NSSF Director General, Masha Mshomba, highlighted the areas of interest for the Eswatini delegation, including membership registration, contribution collection, investments, and efficient benefit disbursement. "They are impressed with our journey and the meticulous steps taken to

achieve operational excellence. This knowledge exchange will pave the way for similar successes in Eswatini," Mshomba explained.

Chairman of the PSPF Board of Swaziland, Sammy Dlamini, acknowledged the value gained from observing NSSF's operations.

"We have learned invaluable lessons from Tanzania's NSSF, and we look forward to implementing these strategies to enhance our social security framework back home," Dlamini affirmed.

The visit concluded with a commitment to continued collaboration between Tanzania and Eswatini in strengthening social security systems for the benefit of citizens and national development.

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Global IT outage upsets key sectors

LONDON

A Massive technology outage has disrupted businesses and institutions in multiple countries, throwing airports, airlines, rail companies, government services, banks, stock exchanges, supermarkets, telecoms, health systems and media outlets into chaos.

The disruption was caused by an update to a product offered by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, which had caused machines running the Microsoft Windows operating system to crash.

Reporting from London, Jonah Hull said, "CrowdStrike seems to have had some sort of mandatory update to its software that went horribly wrong."

The company had reported that the issue was related to its Falcon sensor product, engineers identifying a "content deployment problem", said Hull.

"Essentially it happens as you're sitting in front of your terminal. If your terminal is a Microsoft Windows terminal, it suddenly goes to a blank blue screen. It's called the 'blue screen of death' error. You are locked out of your operating system," Hull said.

CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz said on Friday that the company was "actively working" with customers who had been impacted by "a defect found in a single content update for Windows hosts".

"This is not a security incident or cyberattack," he said, posting on X. Microsoft said on Friday that the "underlying cause" of the global outage had been "fixed", but the "residual impact" was continuing to affect some Office 365 apps and services.

At the time of reporting, some of the malfunctioning business, companies and computer app systems were beginning to return to normal service, including Sky News in the United Kingdom, which was down for an hour in the morning.

The outages rippled far and wide, with transport systems around the world among the hardest hit.

In the United States, major airlines Delta, United and American Airlines were grounded on Friday morning due to a communication issue, according to an update by the Federal Aviation Administration.

In Australia, flight information screens at Sydney airport went blank. The airport said that flights were arriving and departing but

that travellers should expect delays. Melbourne airport said that check-in procedures for some airlines had been affected.

Airports in the United Kingdom, Germany, India, Malaysia and the Philippines also reported disruptions to services.

Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, one of Europe's busiest hubs, was also hit, with a spokesperson saying: "The outage has an impact on flights flying from and to Schiphol," adding that it was not yet clear how many flights were affected.

Hong Kong Airport Authority said airlines affected by the outage have switched to manual check-in and flight operations have not been affected.

Kenya Airways's booking system was impacted, the airline said, warning customers to expect slower service than usual.

Multiple other sectors were also affected.

Banks and other financial institutions from Australia to India and South Africa warned clients about disruptions to their services.

Australia's largest bank, Commonwealth Bank said some customers had been unable to transfer money due to the service outage.

In the UK, the London Stock Exchange (LSE) was hit by a technical glitch that affected its news service and delayed its display of opening trades.

Media companies also saw their broadcasts severely disrupted.

Australia's national broadcaster, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and Network Ten confirmed that their systems had been affected.

Sky News, one of the UK's major news broadcasters went off air, apologising for being unable to transmit live.

Government services were also hit.

In the UK, booking systems used by doctors were offline, multiple reports from medical officials on X said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates said some of its systems were impacted, including its "attestation service", in a post on X. "We advise users to refrain from conducting any transactions until this issue is resolved," it said.

In Australia, Victoria's state police said some internal systems had been hit by the outage but emergency services were operating normally.



Geoffrey Mnzava (2nd-R), leader of the ongoing 2024 edition of the cross-country Uhuru Torch Race, pictured on Thursday gracing the launch of the 422m/- Bwagamoyo Kibaya water project in Kiteo District meant to benefit 2,960 people. He is with Kiteo constituency legislator Edward ole Lekaita (L), Manyara regional Rural and Urban Water and Sanitation Authority manager Walter Kirita (2nd-L) and Kiteo district commissioner Remidius Mwema. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI) Vice Chancellor, Dr. Wilfred Kileo, has advised girls and women to seize opportunities and pursue courses in the maritime profession saying there are no barriers to advance in the career.

He was speaking to journalists and visitors at the institute's pavilion during the higher education expo in Zanzibar.

He noted that governments worldwide and international maritime organizations prioritize safeguarding women's rights and other related responsibilities.

He said careers in maritime and sea studies are just like any other,

Seize chances, pursue maritime courses, girls, women challenged

saying it is beneficial for women to seize the opportunity in the blue economy and enrol in the institute to gain maritime education for success.

He also mentioned the significant interest in maritime careers, especially among women, thus encouraging them to pursue science studies to achieve high academic standards and join this profession.

Moreover, he pointed out there is a challenge of misconceptions

among some parents who lack the confidence to allow their children, especially daughters, to pursue maritime studies due to entrenched gender biases in society.

He added that the maritime institute is the only institution producing maritime professionals who have been effectively working in various sectors, contributing to the nation's economic growth.

Established in 1978 with just 12 professionals, Dr. Kileo stated that

the institute has made great strides, producing over 5,177 professionals to date.

He emphasized that the institute produces competent mariners who work on large cargo ships and provide services on passenger vessels in the country.

Currently, the institute provides various types of higher education loans to students enabling them to study and pursue courses that will prepare them for employment.

Rice growers all out to intensify security

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RICE farmers in Mwendamtitu Irrigation Scheme in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region have intensified security and prevented livestock from getting into their farms as part of welcoming the new project, which is to commence next year.

The project is aimed at improving food systems and agricultural productivity.

Evaristo Mgiye, Mwendamtitu Irrigation Scheme chairman unveiled the plans on Wednesday when speaking during a stakeholders' forum organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The forum was meant to discuss strategies for implementing the Food Systems Integrated Programme (FSIP) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) scheduled to be implemented in 35 countries, including Tanzania.

Mgiye said they will ensure that strict legal measures are taken against anyone bringing in livestock or damaging infrastructure such as roads to maintain a conducive environment for the project's success.

He urged the government to strengthen infrastructure in the scheme, which has the potential to generate annual revenue of 1.5bn/- through a levy of 1,000/- per bag of rice, thereby contributing to national food security.

"The government should build infrastructure for us, as the channels face challenges of being filled up with sand. Besides construction, the sand issues should be addressed professionally because during the rainy season, sedimentation increases, leading to water dispersion and loss, so the construction will help to reduce water loss as well," Mgiye said.

He added that currently, the scheme yields 30-35 bags per hectare, however, persistent siltation issues in irrigation channels result in crop losses.

"If these challenges are addressed, could potentially increase production to 35 to 40 bags per hectare across their 15,000-hectare land," he added.

The scheme's chair further said that they have already spent over 100m/- on damage assessment as well as obtaining accurate maps of the scheme, as directed, and urged the government to consider further support to complete ongoing construction in the area.

Titus Osano, an Irrigation Officer from the National Irrigation Commission in Mbarali District, affirmed the Commission's commitment to educating farmers and ensuring that infrastructure and the surrounding environment meet project standards.

He noted that environmental degradation is exacerbated by human activities such as farming in the Usangu Valley, where they provide education to ensure higher harvests while conserving the environment.

Osano underscored their commitment to planting more trees around water sources and ensuring pesticide containers are properly disposed of or stored in eco-friendly conditions to minimize impacts on society and the environment.

Elaborating on the Usangu Valley, Osano said there are more than 70 irrigation schemes and some farmer associations have received permits to carry out agricultural activities.

He advised farmers to adhere to guidelines set by the government for maintaining infrastructure like irrigation channels and water sources.

The FSIP which will be implemented in the Usangu area of Mbeya Region and Zanzibar, will utilize over \$9 million (equivalent to 20bn/-), focuses on transforming global agrifood systems from farm to table so that they are sustainable, nature-positive, resilient, inclusive and pollution-free.

The programme will deliver global benefits for biodiversity, addressing land degradation and climate change, along with improved food security, nutrition, incomes, livelihood sustainability, and resilience.

Egypt: We've reserve wheat sufficient for nearly 7 months

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN Supply and Internal Trade minister Sherif Farouk said the country's reserve of wheat is enough for 6.9 months, Egypt's official news agency MENA has reported.

Farouk said that this reserve has been secured via the procurement of wheat from local farmers and the ministry's recent procurement of 770,000 tonnes of wheat from Bulgaria and Russia, the report said.

He stressed the government's keenness to continue promoting the strategic reserve of wheat allocated for producing subsidized bread for six months.

The Egyptian government has quadrupled the subsidized price for the traditional flatbread to 0.2 Egyptian pounds (about \$0.0041) nationwide since June 1, the first such move in three decades to alleviate the heavily strained public budget.

For years, nearly 70 million people, or 60 percent of Egypt's population, counted on the long-running bread subsidy scheme to fill their stomachs. Before the price hike, the government's production cost of each loaf was 1.25 pounds.

As of 2023, wheat production in Egypt amounted to approximately 8.7 million metric tonnes, representing a decrease of 6.8 percent from the preceding year.

During the last decade, Egyptian wheat production ranged between 7.2 and 9.3 million metric tonnes. An overall positive trend can be noticed throughout the period observed, with a comprehensive increase of around 20.4 percent during the 13 years.

Wheat is one of the most important crops for Egypt, and this can be recognized through Egypt being one of the largest wheat importers in the world.



A prisons officer leads Samwel Gombo (L) out of Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court on Thursday shortly after the latter was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for forgery and theft of more than 100m/-. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Adopt modern, traditional farming tech for higher yields, farmers told

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

FARMERS in Bombani Ward of Muheza District, Tanga Region have been encouraged to integrate both digital technologies and traditional agricultural knowledge to enhance agricultural productivity.

The advice follows concerns raised by the ward's residents regarding this year's low harvest during a public meeting held here to review the village's income and expenditure for the second quarter of

2024.

The meeting also served as a farewell to the villages' political leaders, concluding their tenure from 2019 to 2024 ahead of upcoming local government elections later this year.

Mary Mtunguja, Bombani Ward agriculture, and livestock officer highlighted the growing role of digital technology in agriculture, acknowledging challenges such as limited access to digital tools and connectivity issues in rural areas.

"Despite sufficient rainfall this year, its unpredictability posed challenges, particularly for smallholder farmers who lack digital weather forecasting skills. For those without access, relying on indigenous knowledge and practices is their only option," she remarked.

She emphasized the importance of sharing modern agricultural knowledge within local communities, believing collaboration between experts and farmers could significantly improve agricultural outcomes through shared

experiences and practices.

During the meeting, villagers expressed concerns about the village government's delayed distribution of rat poison, attributing it as a significant factor contributing to poor maize harvests due to rodent infestations.

"For instance, all the maize seeds I planted on my two-acre farm were consumed by rats and mice despite my repeated efforts to control them, this was compounded by delayed rains," lamented Ramadhani Isaya, a resident of Bombani.



A prisons officer leads Samwel Gombo (L) out of Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court on Thursday shortly after the latter was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for forgery and theft of more than 100m/-. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

US pledges US\$203m in the hope of averting crisis in Sudan

KHARTOUM

UNITED Nations (UN) ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the US is pledging \$203million in the hopes of averting the crisis in Sudan to spill over into the region.

Close to 9 million people have fled their homes, according to the United Nations, and more than 1 million have left the country. Thousands have been

killed in a conflict overshadowed by the ones in Gaza and Ukraine.

"We hope this new round of aid serves as a call to action for others to follow. Partners will use this funding to build new shelter for refugees or provide cash assistance so that they can pay rent, and it will help children whose lives have been upended by conflict return to school," among other things, Thomas-Greenfield told reporters in New York on

Thursday.

"Three quarters of a million people, women and children, the very old and very young, facing famine, starvation, IPC five level conditions. People are eating dirt to survive, relying on tree leaves for nutrition," she also said.

The war in Sudan began a little over a year ago causing tens of thousands to flee into neighboring Chad in search of safety.

The UN says it has asked for \$2.7 billion in funding to respond to humanitarian needs but has received \$155 million – or 6 percent.

"My call is for those who have influence on the warring parties to press them, to urge them to come to the table, because until they come to the table, the people of Sudan will continue to suffer. There is no military solution to this situation," the ambassador also said.

Institute gets on tracer studies for its graduates

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) has embarked on tracer studies of its graduates to assess the impact of the education they provide in the labour market.

Dr Petro Peshu, DIT's acting academic director unveiled this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when speaking at the seminar on the dissemination of the tracer study results.

Dr Peshu said the study has helped them to evaluate the relevance of their programs and change where necessary so that they cope with the changing world in the labour market.

He said DIT has for a long time committed to advancing its corporate strategic plans aligned with its vision and mission adding that its goal is to support the government's ambitious agenda of transforming Tanzania into an industrialized economy by 2025.

"This aspiration necessitates a robust framework of highly skilled professionals trained under the competence-based education and training CBET system, equipped not only to innovate but to lead in technological advancement and industrial research," he said.

He said DIT plays a key role in sustaining the nation's economy by supplying a highly skilled workforce to the industry adding that underscores the importance of periodic monitoring evaluation of their graduates to ensure their programs remain relevant and effective.

"In the academic year 2023/2024 DIT through the EASTRIP project conducted a tracer study of the 2022 graduates to assess the impact of our education on the labour market and evaluate the relevance of our programme," he said.

He added that the study aimed to examine three key areas, one being the relevance and quality where they have examined the perceptions of 2022 graduates and employers regarding the relevance of the curriculum and the quality of teaching.

He mentioned another area of study graduate employment where they explored the attitudes of the graduates themselves towards job quality, the relevance of their education, and the effectiveness

of their TVET training in securing employment.

Prof Peshu mentioned another area of the study of employer satisfaction where they investigated the perspective of employers regarding the quality of employees recruited from the pool of TVET graduates.

He said initially DIT targeted a survey of all 1,030 2022 ordinary diploma and bachelor graduates and after a thorough cleaning process; they achieved a qualified response rate of 40.2 percent with 400 responses.

He said the findings of the study will provide valuable insight into the current state of the DIT graduates' integration into the labour market, the effectiveness of the institute program and areas where they can make improvements.

He said that they had been doing curriculum research before starting to use it, adding that this has helped them produce qualified graduates on the job market as the studies they have done have shown.

"We attach our students to industries to get practical training that is why we meet the quality that is needed in the market and in delivering we ensure we deliver what is required in the market," he said.

Dr Ambele Mtafya, DIT Chairperson of Tracer Study Committee said the aim of the tracer study is to check the quality of their graduates if they have standards that are acceptable nationally and internationally in the labor market.

He said that many colleges have been providing training without looking for feedback from their graduates, which causes them sometimes to fail to know what the market needs.

"We are checking if there is a curriculum problem we revise it and we have done four studies so far and mostly we are looking at the rate of employment six months after they graduate because if the program they studied is hot in the market we expect within six months they will be employed or self-employed," he said.

He said that 30 percent of the graduates who were interviewed in the study said they had not found employment while the remaining percent were self-employed and some were employed while others were continuing their studies at various levels.

Kenya loses nearly \$46m due to protests

NAIROBI

THE hustle and bustle that usually characterizes Nairobi, Kenya's capital, was absent on Thursday as police patrolled the streets to prevent protestors from entering the city.

Protestors had planned to carry out the second street demonstration this week, but police on Wednesday evening banned the protests, citing security concerns.

"No demonstrations will be allowed in the Nairobi Central Business District and its surroundings until further notice," said Douglas Kanja, acting inspector general of police, in a statement.

Uhuru Park in Nairobi, the venue where protestors had said they would converge, was heavily guarded by police officers. All the entries of the public park were manned by anti-riot officers, who did not allow anyone to get in.

Along the streets, more officers patrolled, despite them being nearly empty.

While protestors kept away, some businesses were closed while others were open but with fewer activities.

"People kept off the city center for the sake of violence. But it is all peaceful today, although business is low," said Victor Wanyama, who runs a men's clothing stall in the Central Business District.

In Kitengela, some 33 kilometers on the outskirts of Nairobi, businesspersons marched in the town calling for peace and police action to protect their businesses.

However, pockets of violence were experienced in a few places,

including in Email along the Mombasa-Nairobi highway where demonstrators stoned motorists.

Kenya's government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said the country had lost approximately 6 billion shillings (around \$45.8m) due to the demonstrations.

"Overall, the country has lost approximately \$45.8m according to the Kenya Revenue Authority, as a result of the demonstrations," Mwaura said, adding that if the protests continue, the economy would have a negative impact in the new financial year.

Mwaura appealed to protestors to reconsider their plans to hold demonstrations in the coming days as their grievances have been addressed.

"The government reaffirms that the president and the whole of the government at large have heard your loud and clear voices, and we are ready to act on your concerns as demonstrated by recent developments," he said.

President William Ruto has in the past weeks taken several drastic steps to meet the protestor's demands, including dropping new tax proposals contained in the Finance Bill 2024, instituting austerity measures, and sacking his entire cabinet.

Mwaura said the president is committed to having a dialogue with the youth as demonstrated by his recent engagement with them on X, formerly Twitter.

The protests were triggered by Ruto government's bid to raise more taxes in a bid to shore up revenue by some \$2.6 billion.



Dr Petro Peshu (R), Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology's acting director (Academic), pictured yesterday opening a workshop on the dissemination of tracer study survey results. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CGK out to invest more in young people's education

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

CGK Africa has reaffirmed its commitment to continue to invest in youth education and career capacity building to foster qualified experts across various sectors crucial for economic development.

The organization's pledge aligns with government initiatives to empower young people through strategic planning, to enhance skilled workforce delivery by 2030.

The firm's CEO Naomi Nana disclosed the organization's ongoing efforts to support

development.

She said scheduled this week, another training session on 'Skills Development, underscores CGK

Africa's dedication to empowering youths aged 16 to 30, equipping them with managerial skills to boost economic empowerment.

She said the upcoming session marks the fourth in a series this year, following previous training focused on financial literacy and management, inspired by guidelines from the Bank of Tanzania aimed at higher learning institutions.

"We are committed to ensuring youth adherence to structured

training courses that provide practical skills and experiences," Nana emphasized.

She highlighted the organization's objective to foster self-employment and entrepreneurship, enabling participants to realize innovative ideas for national development.

Established with a mission to combat youth illiteracy and promote professionalism, CGK Africa Limited has already impacted around 3,500 youth.

"Our goal is to offer quality education that shapes youth mindsets, making them employable in the job market or entrepreneurial ventures," she affirmed.

An economist Alexander Chambiri underscored the significance of skills development, citing its role in combating fraud and other issues arising from inadequate education provision.

He emphasized that investing in upskilling and reskilling aligns with economic goals, fostering a skilled workforce essential for organizational success and sustainable economic growth.

Chambiri further noted the critical role of essential skills in fostering adaptability and continuous learning, crucial for both professional growth and societal development.



Singida West constituency legislator Elibariki Kingu (C, standing on top the table), addresses a rally at Ihanja village in Ikungi District yesterday on progress in the implementation of various development projects. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

S. African president vows to prioritise economic growth, poverty reduction

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has pledged that the Government of National Unity (GNU) will advance three strategic priorities over the next five years in a bid to promote economic growth and reduce poverty.

"We have decided to place inclusive economic growth at the center of the work of the GNU and at the top of the national agenda,"

Ramaphosa made the remarks Thursday night while addressing the Opening of Parliament at Cape Town City Hall.

The three strategic priorities include driving inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, and building a capable, ethical and developmental state.

The president said the new South African administration will continue to pursue programs that encourage

broad-based black economic empowerment, employment equity and support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

"We will increase funding to land reform, prioritize the transfer of state land and improve post-settlement support by strengthening the institutional capacity of responsible structures," said Ramaphosa, who also vowed to forge a new inclusive growth path by pursuing a massive investment

in infrastructure in the next five years.

To create more jobs for South Africans, the government will focus on processing minerals to export finished products rather than raw commodities, according to the president.

Ramaphosa pledged to expand investments in renewable energy for inclusive growth as the country has some of the best solar and wind resources in the world.

TIRA to reach all Tanzanians with insurance services in 6 years' time

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has lauded financial institutions for their contribution to promoting awareness and understanding of insurance among Tanzanians.

Khadija Said, TIRA Deputy Commissioner, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during the opening of a one-day training session on Bancassurance for Editors and Senior Journalists held in Dar es Salaam.

The TIRA Commissioner urged the media to bolster government initiatives, emphasizing the importance of advancing strategic agendas for the Tanzanian populace.

The session covered a wide array of topics including the fundamentals of insurance, the role of banks as insurance agents (Bancassurance), NMB's contributions in the agency sector, and media-friendly banking and insurance services, presented by NMB Bank's Head of Bancassurance, Martine Massawe.

"I extend my congratulations to NMB for its substantial role in promoting insurance literacy among the community. Their initiatives are in line with the strategic plans of both the government and TIRA, aiming for 80 percent of Tanzanians to be knowledgeable about insurance by 2030, with 50 percent of them actively using insurance services," she said.

Addressing the attendees, Khadija acknowledged NMB's pivotal role in educating senior editors and journalists. Through their respective media channels, these journalists will contribute to enhancing the community's understanding and knowledge of insurance, aligning with the government's positive goals.

Khadija outlined that the Bancassurance guidelines are provided by the Law, Sections 6(2) and II(A and B) of the Insurance Act, Cap. 314, which mandates the Authority to set insurance standards that financial institutions must adhere to when providing insurance services.

She affirmed that Bancassurance is a rapidly growing sector in the country,

involving the financial and insurance sectors. This growth is attributed not only to the collaboration between these institutions but also to the significant contributions of the media in fostering and enhancing community awareness.

"Support the government in promoting the importance and market of insurance to Tanzanians. Insurance is fundamental and crucial—it protects our assets against disasters, safeguards our health against illnesses, assists in educating children even if parents or guardians pass away, and overall increases the income of individuals and the nation," she emphasized.

Filbert Mponzi, NMB's Chief Retail Banking Officer, expressed that as a stakeholder in the development of the Tanzanian Economy, the bank recognizes its responsibility to support government efforts to advance the insurance sector in Tanzania, a key priority for their institution.

"NMB is a leader in insurance education for the public, evidenced by the number one license granted by TIRA to act as an insurance agent. This initiative has led to the introduction of NMB Umebima services," she said.

The government, through TIRA, introduced a law enabling banks to also sell insurance adding that statistically, the number of Tanzanians who use insurance or have knowledge about it is low.

He further noted that the Bancassurance Law introduced in 2019 aims to benefit the insurance sector through the extensive branch networks of financial institutions.

"This law has enabled the broad distribution of this service to the community, similar to how we have expanded our branch network. It has indeed been beneficial, as now the public no longer needs to visit insurance offices; our branches suffice," Mponzi noted.

He cited examples of events where communities with insurance services benefited through partner insurance companies, such as the Kariakoo Market fire, the Mlango Mmoja Market fire in Mwanza, tobacco farmers in Tabora, Hanang floods, and various market fires.



Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority deputy commissioner Khadija Issa Said (3rd-L) congratulates NMB Bank's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi at the opening of Bancassurance training the bank organised in Dar es Salaam on Thursday for senior journalists. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EAC to ease congestion at Busia, Malaba border posts

NAIROBI

THE East African Community (EAC) together with Kenya and Uganda are in the process of upgrading the Lwakhakha border post on the common border between the two partner States into a One-Stop Border Post (OSBP). The move is part of efforts to reduce congestion at the Busia and Malaba OSBPs.

The transformation of the Lwakhakha border into an OSBP seeks to streamline customs procedures, reduce clearance times for goods and vehicles, and enhance collaboration between border agencies from both Kenya and Uganda.

The upgrade is expected to reduce the traffic from Malaba and Busia OSBPs boost trade along the Northern Corridor and improve cross-border security.

The initiative is a testament to the commitment of the EAC in fostering and promoting cross-border cooperation between the two countries. By implementing the OSBP concept at the Lwakhakha border, the two countries are set to create a more conducive environment for trade and commerce,

ultimately benefiting businesses and communities on both sides of the border.

Speaking during a site visit to review the status of the ongoing Feasibility Study of the Multinational Kisumu-Kisian-Busia/Kakira-Malaba-Busitema-Busia Expressway, Godfrey Enzama, Principal Civil Engineer at the EAC Secretariat, said that upgrading the Lwakhakha border post into an OSBP is part of the 256km feasibility study of project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Eng. Enzama disclosed that the EAC is working closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the Lwakhakha border upgrading project.

"This collaborative effort underscores the shared vision of promoting trade facilitation, border security, and regional integration in East Africa," said Eng Enzama.

The EAC official said that elevating Lwakhakha to an OSBP and diverting some of the trucks to Lwakhakha will solve numerous issues such as congestion at both Busia and Malaba in addition to creating a shorter and alternative route along the Northern Corridor.

"Geographically, Lwakhakha is a shorter

route to Kenya compared to Busia and Malaba in terms of mileage," said Eng. Enzama.

Enzama said promoting the Lwakhakha to OSBP, will enhance value addition and promotion of high-value exports to the regional markets; and increase employment among the border community youth, amongst other stakeholders.

Malaba One Stop Border Post Officials from both Kenya and Uganda during the meeting in Malaba. The feasibility study set to upgrade the existing 25km Lwakhakha - Kimaeti road starts at Kimaeti on the Webuye - Malaba (Kenyan side) and the 45km Mbale (Bumbobi) - Lwakhakha Road (Uganda side) at least to a two-lane, two-way single carriageway status, with wide shoulders, to enhance capacity and to accommodate current and anticipated future local and cross-border traffic volumes along the corridor.

The road is expected to deepen regional integration and cross border trade between Kenya and Uganda, and will offer an alternative route apart from the Busia and Malaba border crossings. The road is also projected to open doors to tourism.

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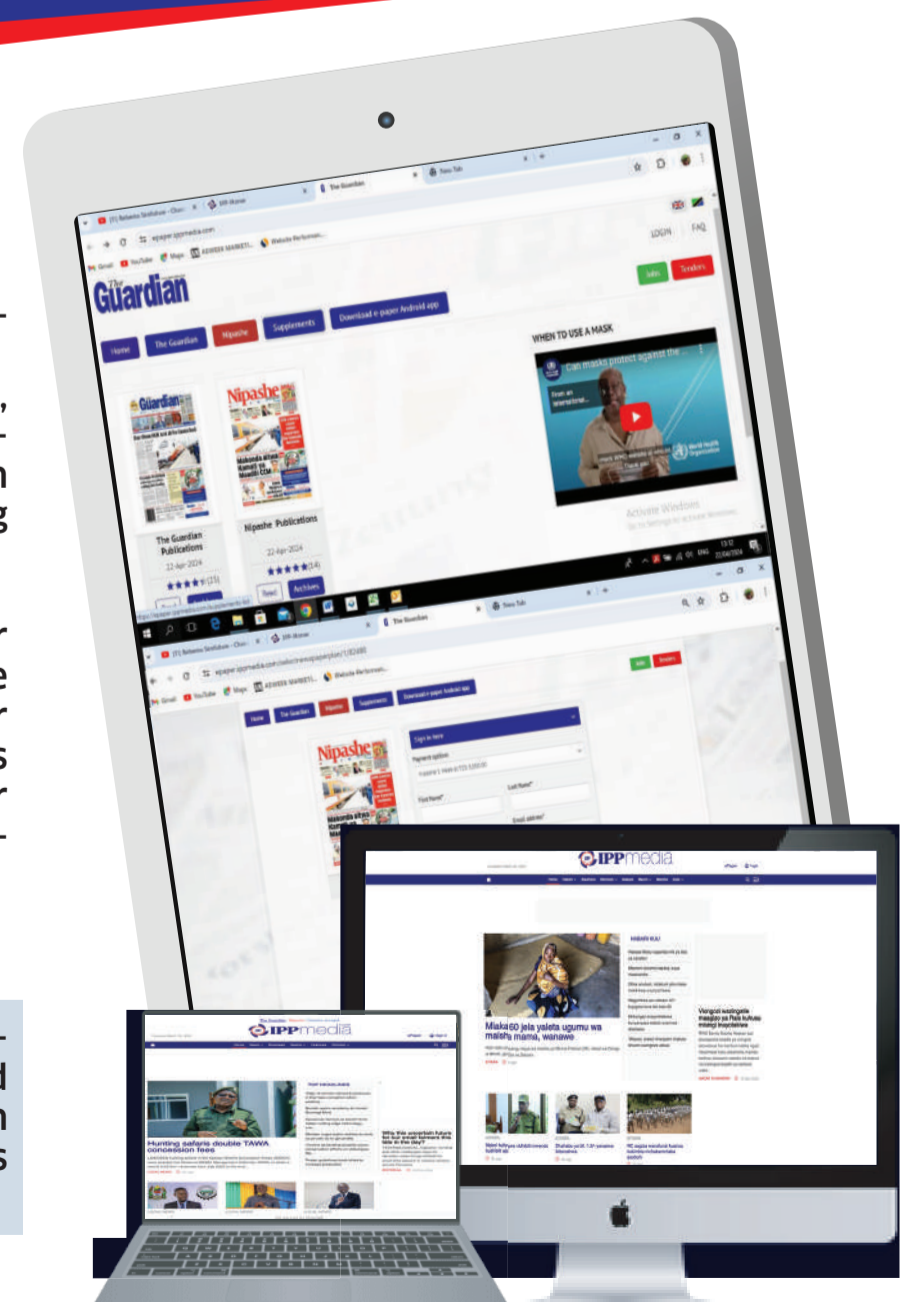
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Kenya to open market for duty-free EU imports after business deal takes effect

NAIROBI

KENYA and the European Union have enforced a trade deal after a decade of negotiations, opening up the domestic market for tax-free goods from the 27-country bloc after 25 years.

EU-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which preserves unrestricted access of Kenyan goods to the European bloc except for arms, came into force recently, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Trade and Industry Rebecca Miano announced.

"The EU-Kenya EPA is one of the most ambitious agreements negotiated between the European Union and an African country in terms of promoting economic sustainability. It can serve as a template for other African countries, particularly those in Eastern Africa to adapt," Ms Miano said in a statement.

"The agreement includes trade, economic and development cooperation and a chapter on trade and sustainable development which covers provisions on labour issues, gender equality, forestry and environment and the fight against climate change."

The pact, the first trade agreement between the EU bloc and a developing country, ensures Kenya's largely agricultural produce such as vegetables, cut flowers, fruits, tea and coffee continue to enter the bloc duty-and quota-free.

Nairobi, on the other hand, has committed to gradually lower duty on imports from Europe within 25 years after which trade will be liberalised.

This means no duty will apply for goods from Europe such as machinery as well as mineral and chemical products, while investments from the EU will also be incentivised.

The EPA deal, however, has a protectionist clause that bars the EU from applying blanket subsidies to agricultural exports to Kenya in the absence of a deepened policy dialogue with Nairobi. This clause is aimed at safeguarding agriculture and food security in Kenya against unfair competition from the EU.

Trade between the two parties favours the EU, which sold goods

worth Sh223.12 billion to Kenya, while importing Sh150.08 billion.

The enforcement of the EU-Kenya EPA comes after approval from the European Parliament on February 29, paving the way for heads of State and government to complete the ratification process.

Kenyan lawmakers also approved the document for it to become enforceable.

The document is largely a modification of the text in the stalled EU-East African Community pact, which was first agreed in October 2014 subject to approval by respective parliaments. The major change is the inclusion of clauses around climate change.

The implementation of the EU-EAC treaty, which Kenya endorsed in 2016, had stalled after the other EAC countries rejected it.

Rwanda signed but did not ratify, while Tanzania and Uganda refused to approve the pact for various economic and political interests, including the fear of European goods flooding the market.

Unlike Kenya, which is a lower middle-income country, the other EAC countries are shielded from higher tariffs on exports under the "everything but arms" trade arrangement for least-developed countries.

This is provided for under the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Special and Differential Treatment (S&D) because they are the least-developed countries (LDCs).

The refusal to cooperate by EAC peers prompted Nairobi to enter into a temporary special arrangement with the EU, which has allowed Kenya's exports to continue accessing the EU markets duty- and quota-free.

The EAC Heads of State Summit in February 2021, however, allowed partner members to sign bilateral trade deals on the condition that they leave room for other EAC countries to join in the future.

Kenya and the EU have utilised this window to re-engage on the pact, leaving the door open for other EAC member States to join when they choose to.

This culminated in the signing of the new document last December subject to ratification by respective parliaments.



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation manager Sandra Oswald briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam during earlier this week's launch of the Building Brains Tour it has organised in collaboration with Ubongo Kids and which is set to cover Arusha and Mara regions. She is with Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister Hamis Mwinjuma (C) and the Ubongo Creative director Michael Baruti. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB approves \$1bn loan to SA's state-owned rail, ports company

CAPE TOWN

THE African Development Bank has said it had approved a \$1 billion loan to South Africa's state-owned rail and ports company, Transnet.

The 25-year loan was wholly guaranteed by the South African government and will help finance the first phase of a \$8.1 billion investment plan for Transnet to

improve the country's ailing rail and port infrastructure, the bank said.

South Africa has the most industrialized economy in Africa, but its deteriorating rail and ports are seen as significant barriers to foreign business investment and have strangled the efficiency of its export market. Transnet is also one of several state-owned

companies to previously come under scrutiny for corruption and mismanagement.

In a statement released by the bank, Transnet Group chief executive Michelle Phillips said the loan would make "a significant contribution to Transnet's capital investment plan to stabilize and improve the rail network and to contribute to the broader South

African economy."

Boosting South Africa's stagnant economy and reducing sky-high unemployment levels has been a top priority for President Cyril Ramaphosa, whose African National Congress party was punished by voters in an election in May when it lost its 30-year majority and was forced to share power in a new coalition government.

Observers now praise Rwanda for peaceful, diligent electoral process

KIGALI

INTERNATIONAL election observers have praised Rwanda for maintaining a "peaceful electoral environment" and meticulous management during the recently concluded general elections.

In a joint statement read during a press conference in the Rwandan capital of Kigali, the observers, representing organizations such as the East African Community (EAC), the African Union (AU), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Economic Community of Central African States, commended the electoral process.

Having interacted with key stakeholders and observed the campaigning, voting, counting, and tallying, the observers noted that "the electoral, political and security environment in the Republic of Rwanda before, during and immediately after the elections has been calm and peaceful."

They also acknowledged the diligent work of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Rwanda and other institutions responsible for managing the electoral process in accordance with the electoral calendar, said the statement.

"The electoral process was conducted in a calm and peaceful environment that enabled the candidates to campaign freely," said David Maraga, Kenya's former chief justice and head of the EAC Election Observation Mission, at the press conference.

Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca,

former president of Cape Verde and head of the joint AU-COMESA Election Observation Mission to Rwanda, commended Rwanda for self-financing its elections, using cost-effective equipment, and establishing polling stations in places such as hospitals.

Fonseca also observed that priority was given to persons with disabilities, the elderly, and expectant and nursing mothers during the voting process.

"All the polling stations visited had sufficient security personnel whose conduct was professional and non-obstructive," he added.

Fonseca hailed the Rwandan culture of celebrating elections and voting as "a patriotic duty through associating the process with national colours, culture, and music to promote tolerance and cohesion."

The NEC on Tuesday announced partial results of the presidential elections in which Rwandan incumbent President Paul Kagame of the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front led Monday's presidential election with 99.15 percent of the vote against Frank Habineza of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and independent candidate Philippe Mpayimana, who received 0.53 percent and 0.32 percent, respectively.

According to the NEC, partial results were based on 79.84 percent of the votes tallied, with provisional and final results expected by July 20 and 27, respectively. Voter turnout was reported at 98 percent, with more than 9 million Rwandans participating in the elections.



Construction of overhead bridge at a Kimara Mwisho suburb intersection of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road in progress, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Zimbabwe to hold first Chinese investment expo

HARARE

ZIMBABWE plans to hold its inaugural Chinese investment expo later this year to showcase Chinese investments in various sectors and their contribution to the southern African country's economy, an official said Thursday.

Some Chinese companies have confirmed participation at the upcoming annual Zimbabwe Agricultural Show, scheduled for Aug. 26-31 in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare, and the Chinese

investment expo will serve as a follow-up and dedicated platform to amplify Chinese investments into Zimbabwe over the years, said Maxwell Mutema, chairman of the agriculture development committee in the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society (ZAS), a private organization that seeks to promote agriculture and its supporting activities and to facilitate agricultural development in the country.

"China is a major investment partner of Zimbabwe, and we will

hold this expo to recognize the important role they are playing in the economy, especially in the mining and infrastructure sectors," Mutema told Xinhua on the sidelines of a press conference.

Mutema said the Zimbabwean government will coordinate with the Chinese embassy and the ZAS to convene the event, which will be held at the ZAS premises in downtown Harare.

"China is a friendly country to Zimbabwe. The Chinese expo will cover not just agriculture but a

cross-section of all the different investments that China is doing here in Zimbabwe. The expo will be bigger and especially dedicated to showcasing Chinese investments in Zimbabwe," Mutema said.

He added that existing and prospective government-to-government and private-sector investments will be showcased during the expo.

Mutema also expressed the hope that the Chinese investment expo will grow into "a bigger, annual event."

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Breaking down patriarchal society key to ending GBV

THERE was high-profile 'dialogue' at midweek on gender-based violence, most of it at the domestic level, over conjugal violence and pernicious violence tied to tribal rituals.

A researcher fronted the need to integrate traditional rituals into the country's primary and secondary education system to raise the right sort of outlook among girls and boys.

The long-serving academic believes that this would change perceptions and enable children, while growing up, to sever loyalty to harmful practices to human rights.

The senior research fellow with Tanzanian think-tank REPOA aired this view at the launch of a book compiled from various research endeavours, entitled 'Women on Violence in Tanzania: Current realities and Future Directions'.

The issue is whether the basic observation there is valid - that arming girls and boys with such knowledge in the issues early on will help them recognise their roles in a positive way.

The issue is whether they would refuse to perpetuate gender stereotypes by enabling them to choose to be part of the solution, including by rejecting the practices.

What was salutary in the researcher's observations, while definitely not a unique finding, is that women are usually the victims but meanwhile also perpetrators of harmful practices.

The reason is that these practices are tied to the sense of belonging in patriarchal clan set-ups and associated beliefs, and thus there is need to effectively combat female genital mutilation and other similarly objectionable practices.

The researcher was a bit simplistic about the off-repeated need to challenge patriarchal

power and gender stereotypes as well as the dominant idea of social relationships based on the 'construction of femininity' as a mode of living and cultural obligations.

This has been the theme for activists and campaigners since the gender sort of activism started in the United States in 1973, was spread around the world in tandem with environmental concerns.

The idea that incorporating lessons on gender and harmful traditional practices as topics in schools would make a difference flies in the face of the facts, as experience shows that people have new ideas only when they live differently.

With 80 per cent of Tanzanians still eking a living from farms, little change can be expected in the attitudes of those growing up there - and this irrespective of what is taught in schools.

Patriarchal tenets are inexplicably tied with the language and the soil and only by changing occupations, living in a mixed society with newcomers, can attitudes be changed.

When applied in a sufficiently wide context, the 4Rs (Reconciliation, Resilience, Reform and Rebuild) philosophy set out by President Samia Suluhu Hassan offers greater promise of altering societal modes of outlook and gender stereotypes than educating children on the ills of these issues in some classroom component or setting.

Ideas generated in a learning environment need to be backed up by an explicitly positive reality outside so that espousing them does not just put their bearers to shame.

There is a pervasive belief that a rebellious young person risks a curse or some form of excommunication from village life, even if the researcher may not have cited there.

Kenyans need to agree on the right policies, not just ending corruption

THE situation in Nairobi, in the sense of the political jigsaw in the Kenyan capital, is taxing the minds of local and international observers alike and it is hard to see how it will end.

Yet Kenya has its time-honoured traditions in that regard and it looks that unavoidably it is in this direction that solutions will have to be found.

Trouble is that things are so sharp that a government handshake with leaders of the opposition is inadequate to sort out the growing gap in political loyalties or needs, while a handshake with the hardy Generation Z is just unthinkable.

That is what is being noticed as days go by, as President William Ruto recently moved from refusing to sign the Finance Bill and returning it to the legislature to dissolving the cabinet so that it can be reconstituted presumably on a broader spectrum.

That would include an aspect of addressing some of the more acute issues raised though it was fairly clear at midweek that progress in that direction would be limited.

The president issued a new draft Budget ceiling ostensibly reducing US\$1 billion from more than the US\$30 billion in the approved Budget.

That however went nowhere near meeting the protestors' demands, this despite showing greater concern for the demands on the streets and much unlike the viewpoint of most of the legislature.

After the situation calmed down somewhat with the contentious Bill withdrawn, legislators met and issued a resolution effectively raising wages for a section of

elected officials in counties, etc.

That only served to bring out frustrated and disillusioned youths to the streets once again, feeling that the MPs and elders were cynically insensitive to their demands.

There is a feeling among some Kenya watchers that President Ruto might be shielding his trump card until it is the right time to take it out when it decisively becomes the solution.

That is how he is reported to have strongly suggested sometime earlier - in fact, when the Budget was tabled in the National Assembly.

He had proposed the privatisation of a series of debt-laden state-owned companies, which meant the dissolution of a large part of the foreign debt servicing burden.

That ostensibly meant freeing up large sums of money which, even without the same level debt-tax distress as in Kenya, remained formidable.

The situation in Kenya is clearly reflected in the troubles and tribulations many other countries in Africa - and further beyond - are facing.

For instance, midweek found Bangladesh in riots again, with students protesting against job quotas in the public sector.

Each country has its way of registering the effects of nearly generalised breakdown of expectations characterised by widespread unemployment and glaring inequalities.

In most of these countries, leftist economics looks for answers outside privatisation and rapid growth, opting to curb corruption - but with genuine success not always guaranteed.



Six tips for media leaders on implementing AI

By Esther Kezia Thorpe

WHETHER you see artificial intelligence (AI) as friend or foe to the media industry, there are numerous ways automation, machine learning and artificial intelligence tools can be used by publishers to improve the business.

From suggesting headlines to generating reports and streamlining processes, the applications - many of which have been around for some years - are endless.

The tools and technology may not be new, but the expectation is now that businesses not exploring AI will be left behind.

But there are many pitfalls, from fear of job losses to staff using AI beneath the radar. Whatever approach publishers take, leadership needs to be clear and decisive on the boundaries.

I spoke to Media Consultant Ian Betteridge about the role media leaders can play in bringing AI into their organisations.

Betteridge has been editor of tech magazine MacUser and launched Alphr.com while at Dennis Publishing.

Most recently he has been at Bauer Media Group leading an internal business transformation project focused on delivering new tech platforms, structures and processes to Bauer's content teams.

Heinrich Bauer Publishing, trading as Bauer Media Group, is a German multimedia conglomerate headquartered in Hamburg.

It operates worldwide and owns more than 600 magazines, over 400 digital products and 50 radio and TV stations as well as print shops, postal, distribution and marketing services.

Here is Betteridge's advice for executives looking at the potential for AI in their businesses, and how they can get other leaders and staff on board with initiatives.

One: Start at the top

Even though senior leaders may not be at home with the technical details of AI technologies, any introduction in a business needs to come from the top.

"The first question you are thinking about as a CEO would be: Do my executive team know enough about this to actually work on this, to direct their team, to lead whatever change they are going to have to go through?" Betteridge said.

He added: "We are always really reluctant to look at executive teams and say, actually, we need to start with you guys first."

Betteridge was emphatic that leaders need to understand these technologies, and particularly how they impact on ways of working.



"Quite often, when it gets to a certain level, everyone just assumes that everyone else knows, or everybody else can just find it all out themselves," he pointed out.

Two: Bring in full-time focus

For publishers who are serious about having AI make a difference to their companies, there should be someone on the senior leadership team championing it.

Betteridge advised that this is a full-time role with responsibility for an AI strategy, "because if it is a little bit of his job and a little slice of her job, nobody is going to end up properly driving it, and you need to move fast".

That doesn't have to necessarily end up being focused on tactics and details like training courses, but more about the strategy of rolling it out across the business.

Betteridge sees these people as visionaries in the sense that they need to be able to understand the requirements and the technology but also how it can be applied to different parts of the business.

"We talk a lot about journalism and how AI is applied to that," he noted, elaborating: "But actually, there are really clear, strong benefits to be gained everywhere - like querying data, spotting trends, creating reports, summarising traffic, and more."

Three: Get people on board

The qualities these people, or any others in leadership roles implementing AI, ought to have include the ability to bring everyone into the conversation.

"As well as that understanding of the tech and the understanding of the broader parts of the business, you also need to know how you are actually going to win people over. That is one of the qualities that is often left behind," Betteridge said. One framework which Betteridge

and experimentation - and AI champions boards of people from different disciplines across the business.

Five: Have clear guidance

Transparency is crucial with AI initiatives; not just with audiences, but with staff as well. Immediate Media and many other publishers have released statements or manifestos for how they will - and will not - use AI.

"The first thing we wanted to do was to be really clear in the business what our stance was for using it; what we would and wouldn't do," Roxanne Fisher, Immediate's Director of Digital Content Strategy told Digital Content Next.

"We really want to stay up to date and understand it, and understand how it's going to change everything, but we also want to really maintain the trust of the brands," added Fisher.

Betteridge meanwhile echoed this in his advice to media leaders, emphasizing: "You have got to put guidelines in place from the off. You have got to stop people thinking that this is always going to be a threat to their jobs."

He elaborated: "Because it is a threat to the boring bits of your job, it is not a threat to the creative bits of your job. In fact, creativity and expertise and all the things that traditional journalism values are going to be the most important thing to see us through the next five years or so."

Six: Use 'freed-up time' wisely

The final question I posed to Betteridge was what approach senior leaders should take in the best-case scenario, where successful implementation of AI tools frees up staff time through efficiencies. The natural inclination might be to make staffing and various other cuts, which will not enthruse or motivate anyone to continue experimenting.

"If AI allows efficiencies of 20 to 30 per cent, you want to focus on development," he explained, adding: "Development is something that teams habitually don't spend enough time doing...and when you are in a position like this where we are going through a big technology, cultural and business change, you need to give people time to go and find out more, and work out how it impacts on them."

"We have now got the opportunity to do more to develop our teams than we've ever had before," Betteridge noted.

He added: "It futureproofs you. If you have got teams that are actually learning more about technology, and learning about different ways of doing things... then you are going to be better prepared for whatever the future throws at us."

• Media Voices

By Telesphor Magobe

Rule of law as foundation for communities truly prizing justice, opportunity and peace

TODAY, I invite you to briefly look at the concept and practice of the rule of law in Tanzania, which essentially implies the 'rule of justice'. John Alder in his book "Constitutional and Administrative Law (5th Edition, 2005)" says: "The rule of law is not a 'law' in itself, but a moral and political aspiration that influences our attitude to the law. Thus, it is not necessarily a contradiction to say that an Act of Parliament, although itself a law, might violate the rule of law."

Let us first look at the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2023 report to have an idea of how Tanzania fares in the global rule of law outlook. In relation to this, we will briefly cite examples of a disregard for the rule of law from Legal and Human Rights (LHRC, 2020 & 2023) reports.

The WJP 2023 report suggests that while the rule of law is internationally recognised as a foundational element in guaranteeing peace, justice, human rights, effective democracy, and sustainable development it continues weakening as "over 6 billion people now live in countries where the rule of law is declining. Amid widespread institutional stagnation, a majority of countries continue to experience rule of law backsliding characterised by executive overreach, diminished human rights, and justice systems that are failing to meet people's needs."

Furthermore, the WJP 2023 report says effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices. "It is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights...everyday issues of safety, rights, justice, and governance affect us all; everyone is a stakeholder in the rule of law."

The WJP 2023 ranked Tanzania 98th (with the overall score of 0.47) out of the 142 surveyed countries and jurisdictions. Surveyed countries and jurisdictions



In this case, the applicants (LHRC and THRDC) challenged section 148(5) of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA, Chapter 20), saying it violates Article 2 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights in subsections 148(5)(b) and (c), which the court said violated Article 7(1) and 7(1)(b) of the Charter by virtue of subsection 148(5)(b) and (c) of the CPA and violation of Article 1 by virtue of subsections 148(5)(b), (c) and (e) of the CPA.

The court said those provisions of the Act violate the right to be heard, the right to a fair hearing, the right to presumption of innocence and do not afford accused persons the enjoyment of fundamental rights and the right to equal protection under the laws of Tanzania as guaranteed under the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966).

WJP Chief Research Officer, Dr Alejandro Ponce, says the WJP Index 2023 factor scores reflect the perspectives and experiences of more than 149,000 everyday people and 3,400 legal experts across the world backed by a rigorous process of validation and analysis. "It reaffirms commitment to collaboration with governments, policy makers, political actors, the private sector, civil society organisations, the media, donors, and academia to support reform efforts aimed at advancing the rule of law."

Today's principle: "Law is order, and good law is good order." - Aristotle.

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were ranked against eight factors that encompass the concept of the rule of law, namely constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

In this ranking, Tanzania had climbed two positions from the previous year's ranking - that is the ranking of 2022 in which it was also ranked 98th (with the overall score of 0.46) after it had also climbed two positions from the previous year's ranking (2021). Scores range from 0-1, with 1 indicating the strongest adherence to the rule of law. Thus, Tanzania's score in both rankings is below average (0.5), indicating that it falls short of the rule of law, according to the WJP 2023 criteria.

The WJP defines the rule of law as "a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers four universal principles: accountability, just law, open government and accessible and impartial justice." Thus, the four universal principles embody the rule of law.

In relation to the four universal principles of the rule of law, accountability, according to the WJP, means that the government as well as private actors are accountable under the law - that is the

law imposes limits on the exercise of power by the state and its agents, as well as individuals and private entities.

Just law implies that the law is clear, publicised, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human rights as well as property, contract, and procedural rights. Open government implies processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient. Accessible and impartial justice implies that justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

Given allegations of delays in the administration of justice, extrajudicial killings, mismanagement of public resources, violence against children, women and persons with albinism, abductions and disappearances and other violations of human rights, the WJP 2023 report has considerable bearing on Tanzania. Moreover, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in its judgment on Application No 039 of 2020 in relation to Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) v United Republic of Tanzania noted some violations.

The Law and You



Empowering women and restoring wetlands go hand in hand

By Alexis Munier and Sharon Oseku-Frainier

WHAT if the world were a greener and more equitable place to live? Cécile Ndjebet is not just posing the question; she's actively working to realize the answer.

"Women are driving conservation efforts on the ground; they are restoring degraded ecosystems that bring back biodiversity. Unfortunately, this recognition is not followed by rewarding actions," decries Ndjebet.

As the founder of the national NGO Cameroon Ecology and the co-founder of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), Ndjebet has dedicated over three decades to environmental conservation, with a special focus on empowering women and restoring degraded ecosystems.

A life rooted in nature

Ndjebet's journey began in the forests of Cameroon, where her early experiences with her mother and sister instilled a deep reverence for nature.

"At the age of five, I could navigate the forest alone, collecting mushrooms, leaves, and firewood," recalls. "Everything I am today comes from what I experienced growing up. The forests gave us everything, and I wanted to ensure they remained for future generations."

This intimate connection with the forest not only taught her about the bounty nature offers but also the sustainable practices that protect it. Her love for the environment came with a fierce desire to support and defend the women in her village who faced many day-to-day challenges.

Inspired by a global icon

It was after she met the late Professor Wangari Maathai, a Nobel Laureate and environmental activist, in 2009, that Ndjebet's professional path took a turn. Their encounter had a profound impact, reinforcing her commitment to environmental stewardship and women's empowerment.

"Professor Maathai believed deeply in the power of women to restore Africa's landscapes," says Ndjebet, who trained as an agronomist and social forester, and holds a master's degree in social forestry from Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands. "She believed only women could help to recover the greenery of African landscapes, destroyed by the unsustainable and irresponsible practices of humans."

Heeding Maathai's words, Ndjebet has since mobilized countless African women to plant trees, restore ecosystems, and fight for their land rights.

Her advocacy of wetland ecosystems includes spear-



heading efforts to restore mangrove forests and other wetland areas. These initiatives are part of broader campaigns, aligned with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which emphasizes the importance of wetlands to global ecology and local livelihoods.

This promotion of Convention on Wetlands ideals led Ndjebet to be selected as part of the inaugural 2024 cohort of the Women Changemakers in the World of Wetlands campaign. Led by the Convention on Wetlands, the campaign highlights the fundamental roles and contributions of women worldwide in preserving, managing, and safeguarding wetlands.

"Conservation needs to have a human face, one that includes women, men, and youth," Ndjebet states. "Local communi-

ties 'own' their actions more easily and get engaged when their interests and concerns are taken into consideration, and when they are part of the decision-making and benefit-sharing."

Overcoming challenges

Despite the progress made so far, Ndjebet says challenges remain. Convincing communities to adopt sustainable practices requires constant education and engagement to change long-established behaviours but remains undeterred.

"It is through perseverance that we've managed to restore hundreds of hectares of degraded mangrove ecosystems," she asserts. "The major challenge is to convince people to change their behaviour and practices... conservation still needs a

lot of information, awareness, and education." Her initiatives emphasize trust and collaborative decision-making, ensuring that conservation efforts are not only effective but also equitable.

"Local communities are more likely to embrace conservation when their needs and voices are central to the process," says Ndjebet, noting that this inclusive approach ensures that local communities are not just participants but leaders in conservation efforts.

A legacy of empowerment and conservation

Through her leadership in REFACOF and various global platforms, Ndjebet has not only influenced policy but also empowered women to lead. Her work has garnered international recognition,

earning her several prestigious awards, including the Wangari Maathai Prize and the United Nations Champion of the Earth award.

As Ndjebet continues her PhD research on gender relations and land access in rural Cameroon, her work is proof that integrating gender equality into environmental conservation strategies is possible.

"Empowering women is key to achieving sustainable development and robust environmental stewardship," she says.

Ndjebet's vision for a greener, more equitable planet is one that resonates broadly, but needs the acknowledgment and support of all women—and men—to turn these ideals into tangible actions and lasting change.

By Faisal Mahmud

'We sought our rights': Bangladesh on edge after quota protest turns violent

MALIHA Namlah was scared for her life. She and hundreds of other students had been protesting outside the residence of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) vice chancellor on the outskirts of the country's capital. The campus was on the boil. Earlier in the day, members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the governing Awami League party, had attacked students.

Then, as Monday evening set in, Namlah and the other protesters heard that BCL members were approaching the vice chancellor's home again, along with armed outsiders, and the prospect of another clash loomed. So Namlah and her friends rushed into the residence, finding shelter and safety there.

The incident was one of many similar tense altercations that have played out across Bangladesh's universities in recent days as students have protested against a recent High Court decision to reinstate a controversial quota system in government jobs.

This quota system was abolished in 2018 following widespread protests and its reinstatement has fuelled widespread anger and frustration among many young Bangladeshis seeking government jobs, who believe their chances have been hurt by the quotas.

The protests escalated dramatically late on Sunday night, with thousands of students across the country leaving their dormitories to demand the immediate elimination of quotas. On Monday, university campuses turned into battlegrounds, with heavily armed BCL activists clashing with students protesting the quota system. Hundreds of students were injured.

Namlah narrowly escaped harm during the afternoon, but later that night, she found herself trapped in a small room with a dozen others inside the vice chancellor's residence compound. The students allege that BCL activists hurled bricks and even petrol bombs at them.

"We thought we wouldn't make it out alive," Namlah recounted. "Neither the police nor university administration came to help us. Eventually, our fellow protesters gathered in large numbers and rescued us, but several of us were seriously injured," she said.

Why did the protests escalate?

In the capital's Dhaka University (DU), the ground zero of quota reform protests, the situation was bleaker on Monday than on previous days.

Wearing helmets and wielding sticks and iron rods, hundreds of BCL members, many reportedly from outside DU, assaulted protesters throughout the campus. Students were left bruised and bloodied. "We were peacefully marching in the DU campus, but all of a sudden the Chhatra League activists attacked us with sticks and even machetes," one female DU student told Al Jazeera, requesting anonymity.

A group of Awami League supporters even stormed the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the evening, where injured students were taking treatment. The attack caused widespread panic among doctors, nurses, patients and visitors, and disrupted medical services at the country's leading medical facility.

However, BCL president Saddam Hossain insisted that the student body had been provoked.

"Those who openly identify as 'Razakar' must face consequences. Such individuals have no place in this country, and we have decided to politically confront the students protesting quota reforms," Hossain stated during a media briefing on Monday.

Hossain was referring to a late-night protest on Sunday where students were chanting slogans in Bengali, meaning "Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar!" and "We sought rights, but we've been labelled as Razakars".

Earlier that Sunday afternoon, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had also referenced Razakars – collaborators with the Pakistani Army in 1971, when up to three million people were killed and millions more were displaced, including to India, during the



Students carry a wounded woman at the Dhaka University campus.

creation of Bangladesh.

"If the grandchildren of freedom fighters don't receive quota benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars?" Hasina said.

Hasina's remark offended protesting students and job seekers who have been demonstrating against the 30 percent quota reserved for family members of freedom fighters from the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. They believe this quota unfairly limits their opportunities and are suspicious of the accuracy of the beneficiary list.

Explaining the students' reaction, Nahid Islam, a spokesperson for the protesters, clarified that they were being sarcastic when they chanted the Razakar slogan, in a direct response to the PM's comment.

But the Bangladesh government has questioned that explanation. Mohammad A Arafat, state minister for information, told Al Jazeera that until Monday, neither the Awami League nor the BCL had tried to counter the student protesters.

"Students self-identifying as Razakar" is what provoked them, he said, adding that BCL members had also been injured in the campus clashes.

Yes quota, no quota, yes quota

Yet Asif Nazrul, a law professor at Dhaka University, told Al Jazeera that the message the students intended to convey through their slogans was clear. "I doubt any student at Dhaka University would identify themselves as Razakar," he remarked.

Nazrul also criticised the government's response, suggesting they were eager to suppress the ongoing protests and had found a convenient pretext to do so.

Quota systems in government jobs were originally introduced to ensure representation and inclusion. Established in 1972 for freedom fighters, the quota system was discontinued but reinstated in 1996.

Currently, 56 percent of government jobs are reserved for specific groups, including the largest share of 30 percent for freedom fighters' descend-

ants, women, minorities and people from districts lagging on socio-economic indices.

This system has long been criticised for excluding other qualified candidates and leaving positions unfilled if designated candidates fail recruitment tests.

In 2018, amid an earlier bout of quota reform protests, Prime Minister Hasina abruptly abolished quotas in public service recruitment to quell unrest.

However, this decision was met with criticism for neglecting historical injustices and marginalising certain groups. Recently, the High Court ruled in favour of freedom fighters' dependents, arguing that the quota removal violated their rights established in a previous court verdict.

Saiyed Abdullah, a law graduate and activist, told Al Jazeera there was a misconception about the students' demands. "The students protesting are not pushing for the complete abolition of quotas; rather, they are advocating for a reasonable percentage of quotas" for traditionally disadvantaged communities, he said.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Drought threatens millions of children in southern Africa

By Special Correspondent

IT'S Tuesday morning, and 5-year-old Talent should be in school. Instead, he's foraging for the fruit that his family is counting on for food now that crops have withered in the heat.

Blame the El Nino phenomenon that altered weather worldwide for over a year, or the larger problem of climate change that's bearing down on the African continent, the region most vulnerable to it. The boy's grandmother, Winnie Chihota, knows she's watching part of a generation slip away.

For many in Zimbabwe's rural northeastern Mudzi district, crops mean survival. When they fail, the future can, too. No income means no way to pay the \$25 for school fees or for school uniforms. Two of Chihota's own children are at risk of leaving school. Little Talent never had a chance to start.

No crops also mean nothing for the children to eat for lunch even if they do make it to class.

"One child fainted recently at the school due to hunger," Chihota said, as she sorted through the fruit that Talent and other children brought home. The fruit will be dried for future meals. Many families now only eat one solid meal of corn or sorghum a day.

Children are the most at risk after El Nino, a naturally occurring climatic phenomenon, caused some of the hottest days in decades in parts of southern and eastern Africa. It also

caused some of the worst flooding in memory.

It destroyed many of the tiny farm plots that keep families going. More than 60 percent of Zimbabwe's population of around 15 million reside in rural areas where agriculture is the major source of food and income.

The immediate concern is hunger. In Zimbabwe, 580,000 children are at risk of malnutrition, according to the United Nations children's agency, as the effects of El Nino worsen a humanitarian crisis of economic hardship and outbreaks of diseases such as cholera.

The larger problem is the children's education. School has become a luxury. Children drop out to work. Teenage girls are forced to skip class because there is not enough water to wash during their periods, or because they must stay home to babysit their siblings as parents go out in search of work. Some girls are forced to marry to ease financial burdens, according to the U.N. humanitarian agency.

The crisis is overshadowed by others in places like Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan, humanitarian organizations say, meaning that funding from donors can be hard to come by.

"There should be a sense of urgency," said Yves Willemot, UNICEF spokesman for Zimbabwe.

The drought puts the education of close to 2 million children at risk in Zimbabwe, with some dropping out of school for good and others forced to miss class, the U.N. humanitarian agency has said. More than 45,000 children dropped out of school dur-



UNICEF said that drought and conflict were driving up water insecurity leading to high levels of water vulnerability. Image: Brian Inganga/AP Photo/picture alliance

ing the previous El Nino in the 2015-2016 farming season, 3,000 more than the annual average, it said. The government is still collating figures for this latest El Nino.

Regional countries also devastated by weather extremes face similar challenges. In Malawi, hit by a vicious cycle of floods and drought in the past three years, fewer children are attending class. At some schools, half the pupils are usually absent, according to a report in May by local and international humanitarian organi-

zations including the Malawi-based Youth Net and Counselling.

"Families must choose between feeding or sending children to school," the report said. Volunteer teachers are no longer reporting at some schools "further deteriorating the quality of education."

Neighboring Zambia is using a school feeding program targeting over 2 million children to boost school attendance.

Zimbabwe recently launched a similar program amid concerns

about increased absenteeism and dropout rates caused by the drought, said Taungana Ndoro, the director of communications and advocacy in the education ministry.

"The assurance of at least one decent hot meal per day has been a strong incentive for families to prioritize sending their children to school," he said.

It might be too late for many who drop out, especially girls, said Nyaradzo Mashayamombe, an activist and founder of Tag a Life, an organization

whose #everychildinschool campaign is pushing to end school fees for children from poor families.

"When drought hits like this, the immediate defence is marriage. The mere offer of a way out, an escape, can be very luring to a girl or even the parents," she said, adding that many end up trapped with older, abusive husbands.

"There is no way out," she said. "It takes away their potential, their dreams are cut short, and the poverty cycle continues."

Leaving Syria's civil war to be a mercenary in Africa

FOR more than 10 years, Abu Mohammad has been living in a tent with his family in northern Syria, displaced by the long-running civil war. Unable to earn enough to support them, he, like hundreds of others, has decided to travel via Turkey to Niger to work as a mercenary.

Abu Mohammad (not his real name), who is 33, and his wife have four young children - they have no running water or toilet and rely on a small solar panel to charge his phone. Their tent is sweltering in summer and freezing in winter, and leaks when it rains.

"Finding work has become extremely difficult," he says. He is a member of Turkish-backed opposition forces that have been fighting President Bashar al-Assad for more than a decade.

The faction he works for pays him less than \$50 (£40) a month, so when Turkish recruiters appeared offering \$1,500 a month to work in Niger, he decided it was the best way to earn more money.

He says Syrian faction leaders help facilitate the process and after "faction taxes and agents" he would still be left with at least two-thirds of the money. "And if I die in battle [in Niger], my family will receive compensation of \$50,000," he adds.

Violence in West Africa's Sahel region has worsened in recent years as a result of conflict with jihadist groups. Niger and its neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso have all been affected - and all three countries have experienced military coups in the past few years, partly as a result of the instability.

Abu Mohammad is not alone in wanting to go to Niger.

Ali (not his real name), who lives in a tent in rural Idlib, joined Syria's opposition forces 10 years ago when he was 15. He says he is paid less than \$50 a month too, which lasts him five days. He has had to borrow to support his family and sees Niger as the only way to pay off his debts. "I want to leave the military profession entirely and start my own business," he says.

And for Raed (not his real name), another 22-year-old opposition fighter, going to Niger feels like the only way to build up enough money to "achieve my dream of marriage and starting a family".

Since December 2023, more than 1,000 Syrian fighters have travelled to Niger via Turkey, according to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), which monitors the conflict in Syria through a network of sources on the ground. They tend to sign up for six months, but some have now extended the contract to a year.

The Turkish connection

Before they go, the official line is that the men will be protecting Turkish projects and commercial interests in Niger.

Turkey has extended both its political influence and business operations in the region, selling equipment such as drones to Niger to help it combat militant jihadist groups. It is also involved in mining the country's natural resources, which include gold, uranium and iron ore.

But the recruits know that despite what they are told, when they arrive in Niger, the reality can be very different.



Abu Mohammad plans to leave his family in Syria while he works as a mercenary in Niger

The SOHR and friends of mercenaries who have already worked in Niger told the BBC that Syrians had ended up under Russian command fighting militant jihadist groups in the border triangle between Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.

Niger's democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum was overthrown a year ago, and since then the junta has cut Western ties.

"Niger started looking for new allies and found a suitable alternative in Russia," explains Nathaniel Powell, a researcher on the Sahel at Oxford Analytica. "Russian weapons are cheaper than Western ones. Russia also offers military resources and training and shows a willingness to adapt to local requirements without imposing strict conditions, unlike its Western counterparts."

The prospect of fighting under Russian command poses a dilemma for Syrian fighters who are opposed to the Syrian regime because Russia has been a staunch supporter of President Assad.

"We are mercenaries here and mercenaries there,"

says Abu Mohammad, "but I am on a Turkish mission, I will not accept orders from the Russians."

But he may not have a choice, as Raed acknowledges. "I hate these forces but I have to go for economic reasons," he says.

They are all still waiting to sign their contacts which they will do "just before or during travel", says Raed. He explains that the process is secretive and he knows one man who was imprisoned by a Syrian opposition faction "for leaking some details of the operation in Africa and the registration mechanism".

The recruits we spoke to said their faction leaders had told them that a Turkish company called SADAT would look after them once the contracts were signed and would be involved in arranging their travel and logistics.

About five years ago, Abu Mohammad went to Libya where he worked as a mercenary for six months and says that was also arranged by SADAT.

The SOHR also claims that, based on information from other mercenaries who have already been to Niger, SA-

DAT is involved in the process.

We have not been able to independently verify these claims. We contacted SADAT, which vehemently denied recruiting or deploying Syrian fighters to Niger, saying the claims "had no connection with the truth... we do not carry out any activities in Niger". It also said it had no activities in Libya apart from a "military sport" project more than a decade ago which it had had to withdraw from because of the crisis there.

The company added that it did "not provide services to non-state actors" but rather provided "consultancy, training and logistics services to armed forces and security forces in the field of defence and security according to the Turkish Commercial Code".

But private companies are used by the government in Ankara to recruit and send Syrian mercenaries to Niger, according to the SOHR. The organisation's director, Rami Abdul Rahman, accuses the Turkish state of exploiting Syrians with no money and dire economic prospects.

The BBC put these allegations to the Turkish ministry of foreign affairs, but we have not received a response.

This is not the first time the Turkish government has been accused of sending Syrian fighters abroad. Several reports, including one by the US Department of Defence, have documented Turkish-backed Syrian fighters in Libya - Turkey previously acknowledged that Syrian fighters were present there but did not admit recruiting them. It has also denied that it recruited and deployed Syrian mercenaries to the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in the Caucasus.

Life in Niger

Conditions in Niger mean that staying in touch with families in Syria can be very difficult. When the recruits arrive their phones are confiscated, according to Abdul Rahman of the SOHR. And Abu Mohammad says that his friends in Africa "can contact their families once every two weeks, sometimes less".

He adds that they can't speak to their wives or parents themselves, and communication has to go through their superiors in Niger "who reassure the fighters' families that they are fine".

Ali adds that some of his friends who travelled to Niger told him they spent most of their time "inside military bases, waiting for orders to fight".

And not all of them make it home. According to the SOHR, nine have been killed in Niger since December 2023. The bodies of four of them have been returned to Idlib but have not yet been identified.

Raed and Ali say their families do not want them to go, so they may end up lying and pretending that they are going to Turkey to train for a few months.

Abu Mohammad's family is not keen on the idea either. "If I had the means to live a decent life, I wouldn't do this kind of job if you offered me a million dollars," he says, but adds: "If my son asked me for a bike, I could never afford it - it's these things that are pushing me to go."

The names of Abu Mohammad, Ali and Raed have been changed for security reasons.

By Ryan Truscott

Proof of 'extinct' trees in Tanzania sparks hope for ecosystem recovery

IN July 2023, botanist Andrea Bianchi was driving in the Nguru Mountains of eastern Tanzania when the broad pods on a tree growing in a maize field near the road caught his eye. He pulled over and found not one but two *Millettia saculeuxii* trees, a species scientists had feared was extinct. Thousands of their seeds have since been collected and germinated so that they can be planted as part of a reforestation project.

M. saculeuxii is so rare the tree doesn't have a common name in English. The local Kichehe language has only a generic name for it and other closely related forest *Millettia* species found in this region: muhafu.

Scientists previously knew the rare species from just three forest reserves in the Nguru and Usambara mountains. But two of the reserves were cleared decades ago and replaced with exotic timber and sugar plantations. The remaining reserve, near the town of Turiani, has been reduced to around 49 hectares (121 acres) surrounded by encroaching fields of rice and sugar.

"I was really worried about this species and fearing it may have gone extinct," said Bianchi, the tropical forest restoration expert who spotted the surviving trees near the Mvaji River, not far from Turiani. Somehow they had survived being cut down for poles or firewood, or to make way for crops like most of the forest that once surrounded them.

One was shaded by a large fig, the other, 50 meters (160 feet) away, was crowded around by shrubs and exotic teak, meaning neither had been able to grow to its full size. But the very broad pods on both trees presented him with a unique opportunity to cultivate more.

Hundreds of pods on each tree exploded at the end of the dry season in October, scattering thousands of seeds. Seven thousand seeds were collected and taken to a tree nursery run by Bianchi and conservation group the PAMS Foundation, on the northwestern slopes of Nguru. The Nguru massif is one of a dozen mountain blocks forming a chain known as the Eastern Arc Mountains, and at the nursery near the village of Pemba, the botanist, with help from nursery workers drawn from the local community, sowed the seeds; 5,500 of them germinated into healthy seedlings.

The PAMS Foundation is spearheading a project to regrow parts of Nguru's rainforest cut down for agriculture in recent decades. Hundreds of thousands of seedlings comprising around 40 different species of rainforest trees have so far been raised and planted out.

Under the project, farmers from two local villages can rent out small portions of their farms to the conservation group to grow trees on, and the foundation is working on getting the project registered on the voluntary carbon market.

The *Millettia* trees whose seedlings were planted in April will be "a very special element of the reforestation project," says PAMS Foundation co-director Michele Menegon.

M. saculeuxii was first described for science 120 years



Only two *Millettia saculeuxii* are known to survive, but the PAMS Foundation has produced thousands of seedlings that are being planted in a wildlife corridor in Tanzania's Nguru Mountains. Image courtesy Andrea Bianchi.

ago, named in honor of French missionary and botanist Charles Sacleux, but the trees were only ever known from a handful of live specimens. Given the virtual disappearance of the forest reserves that once harbored them, the discovery of two survivors outside any reserve, and the cultivation of thousands of their seedlings, means the species has been rescued from the threat of extinction.

The only other person to record the trees this century was veteran Tanzanian botanist Moses Mwangoka. That was back in 2004 in Dunduma, the tiny fragment of a forest reserve now surrounded by ever-encroaching rice and cane fields near Turiani.

He told said there's a "50-50" chance there are any *Millettia* left there. "Many people were cutting it and when I got there, there were very few trees," he recalled. "I hope, maybe, it is still there," he added, but noted that *Millettia* wood is durable and attractive to those who require good timber.

Mwangoka said he plans to return to Dunduma soon to find out if any *Millettia* have survived.

Bianchi, who made a very brief visit to Dunduma recently, didn't find any *Millettia*, but he did find the forest reserve under immense pressure from people searching for firewood and timber.

"It is just a drop of forest in a sea of cultivation," he said. "I really hope *M. saculeuxii* is there so we can collect more seeds, or if not seeds, collect pollen."

The pollen will be important. Around 1% of the *Millettia* seedlings Bianchi and colleagues grew in the nursery at Pemba lacked chlorophyll, the pigment in plants that gives leaves their green color and helps them to absorb sunlight, create nutrients and grow.

The lack of chlorophyll, known as plant albinism, is usually a sign of inbreeding caused by lack of genetic diversity due to a small, isolated breeding population.

"Even though we may have saved the species," Bianchi said, "the genetics are always a worry."

Significantly, the site where Bianchi found his two *Millettia* is near where the PAMS Foundation plans to soon begin restoring forest within a "wildlife corridor" around 0.5 kilometers (0.3 miles) wide. The corridor will connect the Nguru Mountains with Kanga, a reserve protecting around 7,000 hectares (17,300 acres) of intact forest on a separate massif around 5-10 kilometers (3-6 mi) to the north-east.

When we visited the site of the planned corridor last year, towering trees with strikingly white bark known as tall *sterculias* (*Sterculia appendiculata*), or *mfune* in Swahili, stood as reminders of what equally mighty trees had once stood beside them. The *sterculias* had

only survived in this area of cultivated land and degraded forest because their soft wood is good for neither firewood nor timber.

The new corridor will include riparian, or riverine, forest that could entice species such as marsh mongooses (*Atilax paludinosus*) and near-threatened African clawless otters (*Aonyx capensis*) back to the riverbanks, Menegon said.

Other animals the conservation group is keen to see make a comeback include Abbott's duiker (*Cephalophus spadix*), a small, endangered, forest-dwelling antelope unique to Tanzania that hasn't been seen in this area for years.

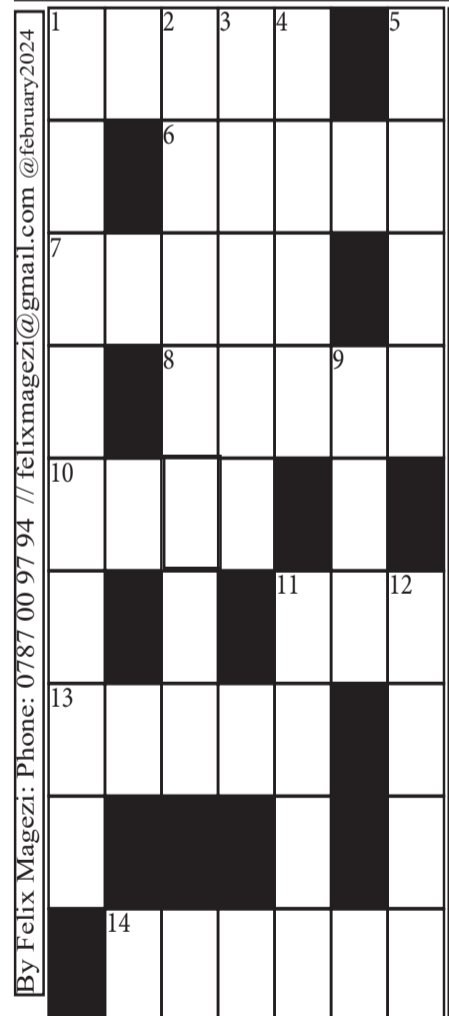
The forest corridor could even encourage savanna elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) back from wildlife-rich regions to the north and west of Kanga, decades after they disappeared from Nguru.

"Kanga has a healthier population of larger mammals [while] Nguru has been really hammered in terms of poaching," Menegon said. "The idea is that Kanga could serve as a source for Nguru."

Helping them achieve these goals will be habitat restoration using seedlings raised in the group's nurseries. Menegon said he hopes that in addition to the newly found *Millettia*, other species may one day include those yet to be described.

"The Nguru massif is still so poorly known that we also think that sooner or later we will be having in the nursery trees undescribed or new to science along with the *Millettias*, so that's quite exciting," he said.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 131



Across:

1 wild ass

6 to love

7 mother of Shaka Zulu

8 eyrie

10 pubs

11 was a Yoruba empire in West Africa

13 the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property

14 slamic canonical law based on the teachings of the Koran and the traditions of the Prophet

Down:

1 Stone town

2 long curved fruits

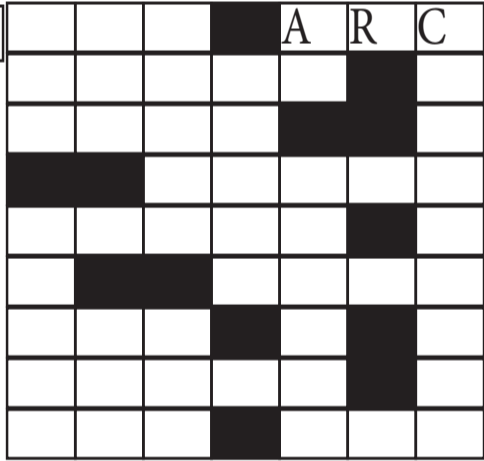
3 sit on and control the movement of a horse

4 emir

9 not under the control of another

11 something denoted by the number one.

12 another term for killer whale



In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

GOD: LOA
 ARC: OCA
 OCEAN
 TAIL
 CLAIM

CLEAN
 HAIR
 ILL: GOT
 COAST
 KAN: OAS

DE-ICE
 CLAMOROUS
 ALLAH
 ANNATO
 CHICK
 LAN: AN

Yesterday's solution

S P E A R U
 E A R A B S
 R I S E R E
 V I T A E L S
 I D E S O
 C R U D A N
 E N N U I E
 S C I A I I M S

G O D E T U L A
 O N E R V
 T E A S E E
 T I N E A N
 A D E T A G
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RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:15 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:45 AM MATANGAZO 09:00 AM BRAND TALK 09:20 AM NEWS BRIEF 09:30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:00 AM VALIYOMU YAMO 10:10 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:30 HRS DJ SHOW 10:40 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 11:15 HRS HOJA YA LEO 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 11:40 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 12:10 HRS NEWS BRIEF 12:25 HRS DAKIKA 45 12:35 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 12:50 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:00 HRS AFRO TIZI 13:15 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13:30 HRS AFRO TIZI 13:45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 14:00 HRS MCHANGANIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZO WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM 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BUSINESS

Govt pledges smooth sailing for Disunyara industrial park

By Correspondent Julieth Mkireri

THE government has confidently assured prospective investors that there will be no obstacles to the implementation of the expansive 1,077-acre modern industrial park project in the Disunyara area of the Coast region, which is set to promote economic growth.

The park is expected to house at least 202 factories and is projected to cost 3.5trn/- upon completion, with 122.4bn/- allocated to enhance the infrastructure of business-supporting institutions in the region.

Speaking after touring the area, Minister of Industry and Trade Dr. Seleman Jafo assured investors that he would personally work hard to ensure there are no hindrances to the project's implementation.

"I will ensure that all obstacles related to the implementation of the project are removed in collaboration with the relevant authorities, allowing investors to continue their production activities," he affirmed.

He added, "As a member of parliament representing this constituency, and with the Ministry of Industry and Trade entrusted to me by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, I will fight to ensure that investors face no obstacles."

The minister committed to prioritizing key issues, vowing that govern-

ment enabling institutions will facilitate rather than obstruct the project's implementation, ensuring a smooth and efficient process for all stakeholders involved.

Dr. Jafo stated that he does not expect anyone to take things lightly in his ministry; instead, each individual should work diligently and fulfill their duties to achieve the goals they have set for themselves.

According to him, the project being implemented by the Dar es Salaam-based Kamaka Company is expected to establish at least 202 factories, including nine large factories, 119 small ones, and 74 specialized factories.

Earlier, Yussuf Manzi, the owner, informed the minister that some infrastructure has already been established, including a police station and an administrative building, while other facilities are still under construction.

According to him, nine investors have already begun the initial stages of construction, which involve obtaining environmental permits and preparing construction drawings. These projects include a generator factory, a sulfur cashew factory, a lubricants factory for cars and machinery, as well as food factories, such as one for biscuits and another for furniture.

In addition, he noted that 150 investors have already visited the region and



expressed interest in investing from countries including India, Turkey, China, South Sudan, South Africa, Rwanda, Somalia, Pakistan, Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Canada, Zambia, the Arab Kingdoms, Egypt, Syria, and Yemen.

Similarly, it was stated that the project is expected to create a total of 200,000 jobs, with 30,000 of those being direct jobs. Additionally, park will serve as a center for research and discovery for educational institutions, as well as a hub for practical training.

Manzi also brought to the minister's attention the challenges facing the project, including the

lack of a large power station capable of meeting industrial demands, which currently stand at 240 MVA (190 MW).

He added, "In the future, the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) plans to increase this capacity to 500 MVA (400 MW), which will accommodate the estimated demand for coal across all industries."

Additionally, the project requires a large water pipeline from the Ruvu network to fill a 1,400,000-liter tank that will supply water throughout the park and serve as storage for the fire department.

Furthermore, the seven-kilometer road needs to be upgraded to concrete standards to facilitate better transportation.

According to media reports, the area is divided into 210 plots, of which 202 will be designated for industrial use. This development will also include a dry port, three community service facilities, two commercial districts, two power plants, and a network of roadways.

Jafo commits to overcoming trade challenges to promote industrial and regional prosperity

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DR. Selemani Jafo, the Minister for Industry and Trade, has pledged to tackle all trade challenges in border areas, aiming to stimulate rapid industry and business growth while enhancing economic development and regional prosperity.

He made this promise yesterday during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to Tunduma in the Songwe Region, where she stopped to greet locals after returning from

her Rukwa trip, amplifying community engagement.

Dr. Jafo stated that the Ministry would implement the directives issued by President Samia during her meeting with Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema during her official visit to Zambia from October 23 to 25 last year, particularly regarding the resolution of business challenges at the Tunduma border.

Additionally, Jafo highlighted that of the 15 challenges identified at the border, four have already been successfully addressed, with ongoing efforts focused on resolving the remaining issues to enhance trade and economic ac-

tivity in the region.

Elaborating further, Dr. Jafo explained that the truck queue issue at the Tunduma border, caused by the scanner, has been resolved after President Samia provided one scanner for the Zambian side.

Minister Jafo also thanked Songwe Regional Commissioner Daniel Chongolo for allocating over 1,500 acres, with 1,000 acres designated for a dry port and 500 acres for industrial development. "I assure you, Madam President, that we will do everything possible to build these factories. Let me assure you that we, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in collabora-

tion with TRA and Customs, will eliminate all non-tax barriers to ensure that Tanzania benefits from business growth," said Dr. Jafo.

Media reports indicate that the Tunduma-Nakonde border post is one of the crossings identified as crucial for enhancing border management efficiency.

The border crossing has faced challenges due to deficiencies and capacity issues in the existing regulatory, management, and administrative environments, as well as the condition of the physical facilities at the border.

Tunduma-Nakonde serves as the border between the United Republic of Tanzania and

Zambia, facilitating traffic from Dar es Salaam to Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and vice versa.

One of the main benefits of a one-stop border post is the enhancement of operational efficiency, which leads to faster transit times and reduced waiting periods at the border, ultimately lowering trading costs.

The governments of Tanzania and Zambia are committed to implementing a comprehensive program to develop the necessary legal, operational, and institutional arrangements for the efficient operation of the one-stop border crossing at Nakonde/Tunduma.

Global computer outage linked to security firm CrowdStrike grounds flights, hits banks, media

PARIS

A global technology outage grounded flights, knocked banks and hospital systems offline and media outlets off air on Friday in a massive disruption that affected companies and services around the world and highlighted dependence on software from a handful of providers.

Cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike said that the issue believed to be behind the outage was not a security incident or cyberattack – and that a fix was on the way. The company said the problem occurred when it deployed a faulty update to computers running Microsoft Windows.

But hours after the problem was first detected, the disarray continued – and escalated.

Long lines formed at airports in the U.S., Europe and Asia as airlines lost access to check-in and booking services at a time when many travelers are heading away on summer vacations. News outlets in Australia – where telecommunications were severely affected – were pushed off air for hours. Hospitals and doctor's offices had problems with their appointment systems, while banks in South Africa and New Zealand reported outages to their payment system or websites and apps.

Some athletes and spectators descending on Paris ahead of the Olympics were delayed, but Games organizers said disruptions were limited and didn't affect ticketing or the torch relay.

DownDectector, which tracks user-reported disruptions to internet services, recorded that airlines, payment platforms and online shopping websites across the world were affected – although the disruption appeared piecemeal and was apparently related to whether the companies used Microsoft cloud-based services.

Cyber expert James Bore said real harm would be caused by the outage because systems we've come to rely on at critical times are not going to be available. Hospitals, for example, will struggle to sort out appointments and those who need care may not get it.

"There are going to be deaths because of this. It's inevitable," Bore said. "We've got so many systems tied up with this."

Microsoft 365 posted on social media platform X that the company was "working on rerouting the impacted traffic to alternate systems to alleviate impact" and that they were "observing a positive trend in service availability." The company did not respond to a request for comment. CrowdStrike said in an emailed statement that the company "is actively working with customers impacted by a defect found in a single content update for Windows hosts."

It said: "This is not a security incident or cyberattack. The issue has been identified, isolated and a fix has been deployed."

The Austin, Texas-based company's Nasdaq-traded shares were down nearly 15% in premarket trading early Friday. A recording playing on its customer service line said, "CrowdStrike is aware of the reports of crashes on Microsoft ports related to the Falcon sensor," referring to one of its products used to block online attacks.

Meanwhile, governments, officials and companies across the world scrambled to respond.

New Zealand's acting prime minister, David Seymour, said on X that officials in the country were "moving at pace to understand the potential impacts," adding that he had no information indicating it was a cybersecurity threat. The issue was causing "inconvenience" for the public and businesses, he added.

On Friday morning, major delays reported at airports grew, with most attributing the problems in booking systems of individual airlines.

In the U.S., the FAA said the airlines United, American, Delta and Allegiant had all been grounded.

Airlines and railways in the U.K. were also affected, with longer than usual waiting times.

With athletes and spectators arriving from around the world for the Paris Olympics, the city's airport authority said its computer systems were not affected by the outage, but that disruptions to airline operations were causing delays at two major Paris airports. The Paris Olympics organizers said the outage affected their computer systems and the arrival of some delegations and their uniforms and accreditations had been delayed.

AfDB grants \$260 million loan to boost agricultural sector, value chains in DRC

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has approved a loan of \$260.4 million to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to help finance the Project to Support the Development of Value Chains as part of its backing for the Agriculture Transformation Programme (PADCV-PTA).

The project, totalling \$311.6 million, is being funded by a \$250.4 million loan from the African Development Fund, the Bank Group's concessional window, and another \$10 million loan from the Transition Support Facility, a Bank Group mechanism for countries undergoing periods of transition. The DRC government and beneficiaries will provide counterpart funding of \$51.2 million.

The project will contribute towards the country's food self-sufficiency by boosting production of the main staple food crops of rice, cassava, maize and soya. This will significantly reduce large-scale food imports – which amounted to \$3 billion in 2023 – 19 per cent of the national budget – and its vulnerability to external shocks, including climate change and armed conflict.

More specifically, the project aims to rebuild the seed capital of the rice, cassava, maize and soya value chains, to improve yields in a sustainable manner and to structure and facilitate the access of stakeholders in these value chains to markets and suitable financing.

Consequently, 295,000 hectares of maize, soya, cassava and rice will be sown, using improved seeds that are resistant to climate change. Some 1,600 farmer field schools and demonstration plots will be set up and run by supervisors for extension activities, including climate-smart farming techniques. The development of irrigated rice-growing areas will enable intensive production levels to be attained, with at least two cycles per year.

The project will make inputs available to producers on credit at the start of the cropping season, repayable at harvest time, to build up working capital to facilitate long-term access to said inputs and equipment for the pre-processing of agricultural produce (threshers, winnowing machines, tarpaulins/drying areas) for the cooperatives of rice-growing area operators.

Some 600 km of rural tracks will be upgraded to open up production basins and facilitate access to consumption areas.

The project also aims to organise the value chain stakeholders into cooperative companies so that they can benefit from economies of scale through grouped orders and sales. It will bolster the bargaining power and capacity of small-scale producers to enter into 'win-win'



partnerships. To facilitate access to funding, the project provides for a shared-cost financing mechanism.

In addition, it will also build the capacity of national agricultural research and seed system stakeholders in order to reestablish the national seed capital.

The project will be implemented in six provinces, namely Kongo Central, Kwango, Mai-Ndombe, Kasai Oriental, Lomami and South Kivu – areas that are part of the direct supply basins of major cities and that can also supply neighbouring countries. All told, the area covered by the project is home to 24 per cent of the Congolese population, and some 900,000 farming households, including internally displaced people, will benefit directly from the project.

Ultimately, the project should increase yields of the targeted crops by 80 per cent, and boost agricultural production by 1.68 million tonnes per year and private agricultural processing by 4.1 million tonnes over five years, while reducing the DRC's food imports by \$500 million a year.

Rwanda's banking industry grew five-fold in 10 years - new report

KIGALI

RWANDA'S banking industry has seen consistent growth in profits over the past decade. This mirrors the positive trend in the country's overall economic performance, according to a recent report by the Rwanda Bankers' Association (RBA).

Rwanda's banking industry has seen its net profit soar, rising from Rwf71 billion in 2014 to over Rwf250 billion by September 2023. The strong growth is attributed to both stable net interest margins and a consistent increase in loans issued (advances).

Net interest margins, which measures the difference between interest income generated and the interest expense paid out by banks, have been stable in the 8-10 per cent range in the period under review.

However, yields on advances - interest charged on loans - have over the past decade been on a declining trend from 17.3 per cent in March 2014 to 11.4 per cent in September 2023.

"Banks have managed to sustain their net interest income through effective risk management and a strategic shift towards less risky assets,"

Tony Francis Ntore, RBA's CEO, told a local outlet.

Apart from a cautious approach that banks have had towards lending and effective risk management, Ntore also attributed the positive trend in banking to operational efficiency and sound regulatory support, which has supported Rwanda's overall economic performance.

As a result, the banking industry has seen other key metrics perform better.

The average return on equity, which measures how much profit a company generates from each dollar of shareholder equity, has been stable in the range of 10-15 per cent during the period 2014-2020. It spiked at 21.5 per cent by September 2023.

For the past decade, Rwandan banks earned a steady 1.7 per cent to 2.3 per cent profit on average from their assets. This profitability jumped significantly to 4.7 per cent by September 2023.

Kevin Karobia, Senior Research Investment Analyst at BK Capital, observed that the positive outlook over the past decade could be explained by the industry's ability to manage its various costs.

"Banks have managed to



A bank teller counts money as he serves a customer at Bank of Kigali main branch. File Photo.

rein in their costs and bring down their cost-to-income ratio, and thus driving bottom line growth," he said, referring to the industry's capacity to reduce expenses and increase profit.

Banking industry players partly attributed the profitability to growing payments and remittance flows into the country.

"Apart from lending, which is the core business of banks, payments and remittances have contributed to the industry's profitability," said Carine Umutoni, Managing Director at Ecobank Rwanda.

Umutoni highlighted the fact that remittance flows surpassed foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into the country last year, goes along to show the role that banks play in facilitating the remittance flows.

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 dealt a blow to the banking sector in Rwanda, significantly impacting their sustainability and profitability. Though banks have since remarkably recovered, risks still remain.

The question is, are banks prepared for any sudden shocks?

"Rwandan banks have beefed up their capital reserves, which ensures that they can keep going in case of shocks. The banks also have strong capital adequacy ratios at 21% far above the industry's 15% regulatory limit and acting as a safeguard in times of shocks," Karobia noted.

Despite the pandemic shocks and trade disruptions, the asset quality of the banks has remained strong, showing the sector's resilience.

The assets of the banking industry in Rwanda as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) are ahead of those of Uganda, Tanzania and Nigeria but are less than those of Kenya and South Africa.

Rwanda's banking industry assets as a share of GDP stood at over 36 per cent by the end of 2023 from 20.9 per cent in 2014.

"Banks are also strongly liquid and well capitalised, which are the two metrics by which we measure strength," Umotoni noted.

Ntore expressed optimism about the industry's future prospects, saying that he

anticipates steady growth in lending, increased adoption of digital banking services, and a continued emphasis on financial stability and inclusion.

"The positive prospects of the industry have made it attractive to external players who are either seeking to make an entry into the market or intermediate through existing players," he said.

This, he added, will continue to shape market competition dynamics that are core for innovation and that the overall benefits to the economy are anticipated to continue increasing.

The banking sector in Rwanda registered Rwf96.9 billion in the first half of 2023, an increase from Rwf74.7 billion in 2022, according to the National Bank of Rwanda (NBR).

In the same period of 2021, the sector recorded Rwf55.9 billion profit.

This is highlighted in the annual report of the central bank of 2022-2023, released on October 30, which details the financial and macroeconomic performance of the country.

The banking sector composed of 15 institutions of commercial banks, microfinance banks, development banks, and cooperative banks, had total assets of Rwf6,485 billion in June 2023, representing 18.1 growth from Rwf5,492 billion in June 2022. According to the NBR, this was propelled by retained earnings and deposit growth.

On the other hand, banks maintained a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 21.1 percent, exceeding the regulatory minimum of 15 percent. This is a comparison of the available capital that a bank has on hand to its

risk-weighted assets.

The ratio determines whether a bank has enough funds to cover losses and remain solvent under difficult financial circumstances.

Governor John Rwangombwa of NBR said financial institutions consistently maintained robust capital positions that exceeded regulatory requirements.

"This not only underscores their stability but also illustrates their capacity to withstand economic and financial shocks. The sector also maintained ample liquidity, with banks and microfinance institutions maintaining substantial buffers," he said.

When the central bank increased the key repo rate to curb inflation throughout the year until the current 7.5 percent, it also resulted in the increase of inter-bank rate, however, bankers reported to have incurred the cost and it hadn't affected the clients yet.

The stock of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) in banks reduced to Rwf163.8 billion in June 2023 from Rwf166.1 billion in June 2022 mainly due to the continuous economic performance, and write-offs of some nonperforming loans that were long overdue, the report stated.

As a result, the NPLs ratio dropped to 3.6 percent in June 2023 from 4.3 percent in the same period of 2022.

This decline in the NPLs ratio is reflected across different sectors, except the manufacturing sector which recorded an increase in the NPLs ratio from 3.1 percent to 7.8 percent due to credit risks within a few large companies.

Vehicle manufacturer embraces smarter technology, global edge

CHANGCHUN

A white Jiefang J7 flagship high-end heavy truck slowly rolled off the assembly line at FAW Jiefang Automotive Co in Changchun, Jilin province, on Tuesday, marking the official launch of the 9 millionth self-developed FAW truck in China, and also signifying a milestone for China's leading automaker FAW Group as its total production now tops 60 million vehicles.

Data from the company show that in the past six months, FAW Jiefang's total vehicle production reached 143,300 units, a year-on-year increase of 4.11 percent, and its total vehicle sales reached 151,800 units, a year-on-year increase of 15.4 percent.

Qiu Xiandong, chairman of FAW Group, said the company will continue to nurture and strengthen new quality productive forces, master key core technologies, establish national automotive brands and build a mobile travel technology company that continuously creates value through innovative products and services.



A white Jiefang J7 flagship high-end heavy truck at a facility in Changchun, Jilin province.

Since its establishment in 1953, FAW has become a leader in industrial revitalization and made an impor-

tant contribution to regional economic growth.

China's first domestically made vehicle, the Jiefang

CA10 4-metric-ton loading truck, rolled off the FAW assembly line on July 13, 1956, marking the first real

step taken by the indigenous automobile industry, and ending the country's lack of manufacturing capability.

"From zero to 60 million, the milestone not only represents a significant leap in production and sales figures, but also exemplifies China FAW Group's commitment to industrial patriotism and the mission of building a strong industrial nation," said Qiu. "It also reflects the remarkable progress of the Chinese automotive industry as it continues to gain prominence on the global stage."

China FAW Group is committed to leading in international technology, focusing on areas such as clean power, intelligent connectivity, smart chassis manufacturing and advanced materials.

The company has successfully broken through 454 key core technologies and filed 11,397 patent applications, with invention patents accounting for 86 percent.

They have been deeply involved in the revision of 57 international, national and industry standards and have undertaken 34 major national and provincial technological research projects.

At the celebration ceremony, FAW Jiefang also unveiled the J7 Leading Technology Platform that it has been developing for three years.

This platform is tailored for efficient long-haul logistics transportation scenarios and is specifically designed for the upcoming release of the FAW J7 flagship heavy truck, which has broken through with 16 core technologies, comes with a standard L2-level intelligent driving system, and has undergone real-world validation totaling 20 million kilometers on the road, the company said.

The platform is an excellent example of the deep integration of independent innovation and practical application.

Universal insurance projects over N20bn income in 2024

LAGOS

UNIVERSAL Insurance Plc has projected a premium income of N20 billion for the 2024 financial year.

Managing Director of Universal Insurance, Mr. Ben Ujoatuonu who made the assertion at the 2023/2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nigerian Association of Insurance and Pension Editors (NAIPE) in Lagos said that all the company indices are showing positive signs and will continue to sustain the tempo, adding that the Company has grown its Asset from N11 billion in 2022 to 17 billion in 2023.

He said: "All that we set out to achieve for the end of the year 2023, we achieved 98% of them. The branches we intended to open, were opened and we expected to end the year with a premium income of about N10 billion. However, we ended the year with a premium income of N9.3 billion with profit of over N530 million."

"This year 2024, we started out with very high expectations. We are also looking forward to opening more branches in 2024. In 2024, we are projecting to end the year with a premium income of about N20 billion. As at today, we are doing about N9.3 billion in premium income. We are very optimistic that we are going to achieve it before the end of 2024."

"Our asset will also increase from N11 billion to about N17.5 bil-



lion and our shareholders fund will increase from about N9 billion to N12 billion. So all the indices for us are showing positive signs and we will continue to sustain it. At the end of the day, we are meeting our claims obligations and stakeholders are happy."

Despite the harsh operating business environment in the economy, insurance companies were able to grow their total assets by 36.9 per cent year-on-year, YoY, to N3.3 trillion in Q1'24 from N2.4 trillion in the corresponding period of Q1'23.

The National Insurance Commission, NAI-COM, disclosed this yesterday, in its first quarter Q1'24 report of the insurance sector.

How my Husband died during our fight over another woman he impregnated - Beatrice, ex-According to the report, total assets of non-life

business stood at N1.9 trillion while total assets of life business stood at N1.4 trillion.

According to NAICOM, the insurance industry sustained positive performance and market deepening capacity indicating its ability to adapt and grow despite the prevailing macroeconomic challenges. Further analysis of the report show that industry gross premium income increased by 51 per cent to N470.7 billion in Q1'24 from N311.5 billion recorded in Q1'23.

According to NAICOM, the impressive increase is attributable to the regulatory measures and market dynamics.

Further analysis of the report show that the non-life segment led the market as it generated premium income of N326.9 billion indicating 69.5 per cent contribution of the total premium pool while the life segment generated N144.9 billion representing 30.5 per cent of the total premium during the period. On claims payment, claims paid increased by 71.8 per cent to N149.1 billion in Q1'24 from N86.8 billion recorded in Q1'23.

According to NAICOM, the growth in claims payment is a reflection of increased public enlightenment and growing confidence of stakeholders concerning claims settlement.

"This is a win-win situation for insurers, policyholders and society at large as stakeholder confidence remains a major determinant of market deepening and sustainability in the long run."

Taxpayers reaping benefits of voluntary disclosure incentives

KIGALI

TAXPAYERS who have voluntarily disclosed their unpaid taxes praise the voluntary disclosure programme, which offers incentives to pay the principal tax, free of penalties and interest for late payment.

The incentives were first announced on March 22, effective for a period of three months. They were recently extended until October 23, 2024, to allow taxpayers to have enough time to complete the ongoing audits and board approvals.

Ronald Niwenshuti, Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) Commissioner General, said this scheme happens once in a long time, and in Rwanda to be specific, this was the first time.

Since it started, more than 2,000 taxpayers have registered and have filed over 11,800 declarations worth Rwf 14.3 billion. Of that amount, they have already paid Rwf 8.4 billion.

GARAGE ATECAR Ltd is one of the companies that participated in the voluntary disclosure scheme and paid taxes that had not been previously reported.

Mutesi Janvier, a finance staff, says that the incentives were very necessary because when penalties are applied, it could disrupt the company's operations.

"Considering the situation, if we had to pay the principal tax with penalties, the amount could have reached Rwf 40 million or Rwf 50 million. That is a lot of money. However, almost Rwf 20 million that would have been penalties and interest were not imposed," she added.

Mutesi encouraged everyone concerned to declare unpaid taxes to avoid consequences they may face after audits, which could result in the imposition of taxes along with penalties.

Jean Claude Muhire is another taxpayer who voluntarily came forward to declare previously undisclosed immovable property taxes for the years 2012 to 2022.

For each year, he was supposed to pay a tax of Rwf 52,800, which, with penalties and late payment interest, increased to Rwf 71,400, for over ten years.

"I felt that I couldn't manage to pay that amount, but now that only the tax remains without the penalties, I see that I can handle it," he said.

"I appreciate the good leadership that removed these



Rwanda Revenue Authority head offices in Kicukiro District in Kigali. File Photo.

penalties, and I encourage every concerned taxpayer to participate in these initiatives because they are beneficial. Everyone should come forward willingly, as I did, and have their penalties removed," he added.

The voluntary disclosure incentives are available to anyone who has engaged in taxable activities, whether registered or unregistered with the tax administration, and has undeclared taxes prior to 2023 tax period.

A dedicated system has been established for disclosing these taxes to avoid penalties, differently from the e-tax system used for regular tax reporting. Voluntary disclosure applies to all domestic taxes, excluding customs duties.

The application for voluntary disclosure incentives indicates the relevant tax type and period; and the tax due with related supporting documents.

Commissioner General Niwenshuti urged taxpayers to do their business health check, to determine the due taxes not disclosed for the periods before 2022.

"This programme continues, because the Minister of finance and Economic Planning extended it until the end of October. So I really want all Rwandans to come onboard because we don't want to penalise them," Niwenshuti recently told a news conference.

"We want taxpayers to disclose and pay under these incentives.

But at the end of this programme, should there be anyone who has not paid, obviously the arm of the law will be applied," he added.

The law stipulates that a taxpayer who fails to declare and pay tax within the time limit provided by law pays such a tax and is liable to an administrative fine of 20 percent of due tax, if the time limit for payment extends for a period of time not exceeding 30 days.

It gets 40 percent of due tax, if the taxpayer paid within a period ranging from the 31 day to 60th day from the final date of payment; and 60 percent of due tax, if the taxpayer exceeds the time limit for payment by more than 60 days.

Global HR platform acquires device supply firm

CAPE TOWN

DEEL, an HR platform for global teams, is acquiring Hofy, saying it's bringing the "best IT services and device lifecycle management in-house".

Alex Bouazziz, CEO and founder of Deel, revealed the move in a statement, citing the rising complexity of administering a global HR function in recent years.

Deel is available in over 150 countries, including Africa.

"HR leaders are expected to keep up with ever-changing local hiring and payroll laws, create global performance management programs, and coordinate the challenging onboarding and hardware logistics with their global IT partners," says Bouazziz.

He continues: "We're here to help HR and IT leaders consolidate their tools and worry about one less thing. That's why we're acquiring Hofy to provide our global customers best-in-class IT services and device lifecycle management, alongside our suite of EOR (Employer of Record), global payroll, contractor management, immigration and people management tools. It's another step in our goal to become the most comprehensive HR and payroll platform worldwide."

According to Bouazziz, the company understands the pain points between global HR and IT, adding that Deel has more than 4,000 team members dispersed across 20+ time zones, so it sought out the best partner to meet its unique needs.

He says: "Over the past 2.5 years Deel has run its fully remote, global team on Hofy - they are the best of the best. We've shipped an estimated 5,000 devices to 98 countries. In our experience as both a customer and partner of Hofy, we were so impressed with their global scale, expertise, and customer service that we decided to join forces officially."

"Soon, we will fully integrate Hofy into Deel and launch Deel IT, our end-to-end global IT services platform"

Hofy is a global device supply and management firm with coverage and infrastructure to support 127+ countries in less than ten working days, 99% on-time delivery, and 24/7 industry-leading customer service.

Bouazziz says: "The company offers full end-to-end IT lifecycle management - everything from device delivery, collection, repair and replacement, to managing the employee on and offboarding process, device security, pre-configuration, and data erasure. Today, Hofy counts Forbes, Fujitsu, GoDaddy, HelloFresh, and Canva as customers."

He believes that they would soon fully integrate Hofy into Deel and unveil Deel IT, their end-to-end global IT services platform.

IXAfrica, Schneider Electric launch Kenya's first hyperscale data centre

NAIROBI

SCHNEIDER Electric has teamed up with Nairobi-based IXAfrica Data Centres to establish East Africa's first and largest hyper cloud data centre.

According to a statement released today, the power train for the new Tier 3+ facility is based around Schneider Electric MV and LV switchgear to offer stable and reliable cloud services renewably powered Kenya's grid.

Schneider Electric said the new development, known as 'NBOX1', is now open and operational as a carrier-neutral, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-ready data centre - "the largest and most technologically advanced digital habitat for cloud, colocation, and connectivity in East Africa".

The company said the facility is intended to attract hyperscale and internet customers to "the region's largest data centre, providing a customer and user experience equal to facilities in North America and Western Europe".

According to the statement, the launch of NBOX1 is supported by Schneider Electric's EcoStruxure for Data Centres architecture and solutions, which provides the new data centre with resilience, uptime and cost efficiency, enhanced security, and the ability to meet IXAfrica's sustainability objectives.

IXAfrica's new data centre, backed by a \$50 million capital investment from investment firm Helios, is positioned in Africa's growing technology epicentre, the so-called 'Digital Savannah', which serves a population of over 300 million and supports an innovation ecosystem that includes a skilled workforce, cloud and content providers, as well as colocation and connectivity services.

"Kenya," said Snehar Shah, CEO of IXAfrica, "is a hypercloud-ready region with advanced cloud adoption propensities, a digitally savvy environment, access to diverse internet fiber connectivity, high availability, and low-carbon power sources. All of this takes place in a country with a stable regulatory and political climate, as well as a strong economy expected to grow by 5.2% in 2024."

According to Ifeanyi Odoh, Schneider Electric country president in East Africa, "The solutions provided by Schneider Electric are engineered to support N+1 redundancy with four independent power trains, meeting IXAfrica's immediate and long-term objectives, including design 1.25 PUE across the campus, as well as a 99.999% uptime guarantee".

Mouna Essa Egh, secure power vice president for Middle East & Africa also highlighted Schneider Electric's commitment to pioneering sustainable solutions for data centres, saying: "We believe that sustainable practices are essential for the future of data centres, and we are proud to partner with organizations like IXAfrica to create environmentally conscious and innovative digital habitats for the evolving technological landscape."

Shah added: "We have a very strategic relationship with Schneider Electric - in fact, our new Nairobi campus site is built on land formerly part of Schneider's complex, and the power engineering for the site was designed by Schneider's local partners."

NBOX1 is sustainable by design, and our goal is to 'Keep it Africa' - our switchgear and panelware were all manufactured by Schneider Electric on our own doorstep."



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
SATURDAY 20 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI	6:00 KumeKucha HABARI	6:40 Al Jazeera
7:00 Watoto wetu	8:00 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
14:40 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 HABARI
21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Michezo Supa Min Jackpot	21:45 Art and Lifestyle	22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
SUNDAY 21 July	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI	6:00 KumeKucha HABARI	6:40 Al Jazeera
7:00 Watoto wetu	8:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
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23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	
TUESDAY 23 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI	6:00 KumeKucha HABARI
6:40 Al Jazeera	7:00 Watoto wetu	8:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu
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22:15 ITV Top 10	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 24 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI	6:00 KumeKucha HABARI
6:40 Al Jazeera	7:00 Watoto wetu	8:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu
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22:15 ITV Top 10	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
THURSDAY 25 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI	6:00 KumeKucha HABARI
6:40 Al Jazeera	7:00 Watoto wetu	8:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu
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CAPITAL

Sat 20 July	
08:00	Al Jazeera
08:00	Rev rpt
08:30	Jagina rpt

10:00	Culinary delight rpt	20:00	Innovation Rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt	20:45	The Monday Agenda
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt	21:30	Capital Prime News
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt	22:00	Kipindi Joto
12:30	Our Earth rpt	00:00	Al Jazeera
13:00	Business edition rpt		
13:30	Al Jazeera	Tues 23 July	
14:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon RPT	06:00	Al Jazeera
17:15	EcoAfrica	09:00	KumeKucha Michezo rpt
17:45	Bundesliga kick off	10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
18:15	Capchat rpt	11:30	Monday agenda rpt
19:15	Mizengwe	12:15	Spots gazette
19:30	The Decor	12:45	Filler doc
19:30	The Decor	13:00	Telenovela rpt: I Plead Guilty Rpt
20:00	Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism	14:00	Business Edition Rpt
20:30	Tomorrow Today	14:30	Ingood Shape
21:00	Out n' About	15:00	Shamba Lulu
21:30	Capchat Rpt	15:30	Bundesliga Kick off
23:00	Al Jazeera	16:00	Culinary Delights Rpt
01:00	Al Jazeera	16:30	Capchat rpt
		17:30	Meza Huru
		19:00	Sports Gazette
		19:00	Innovation
		19:30	Our Earth
		20:00	Decor Rpt
		20:45	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon
		21:30	Capital Prime News
		22:00	Jagina rpt
		22:30	EcoAfrica
		23:00	Al Jazeera
		Wed 24 July	
		06:00	Al Jazeera
		09:00	KumeKucha Michezo rpt
		10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
		11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
		12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
		12:30	Our Earth
		13:00	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt
		14:00	Capchat
		15:00	Out&About rpt
		15:30	Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism rpt
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		17:00	Innovation rpt
		17:30	Meza Huru
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		19:30	Chetu ni chetu
		20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
		20:45	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon
		21:30	Capital Prime News
		22:00	Dakika 45:
		22:45	The Decor
		23:15	Al Jazeera
		Thurs 25 July	
		06:00	Al Jazeera
		09:00	KumeKucha Michezo rpt
		10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
		11:30	Spots gazette
		12:00	Innovation
		12:30	Culinary
		13:00	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon rpt
		14:00	Our Earth rpt
		14:30	DW news Africa rpt

WORLD

Trump accepts Republican presidential nomination

MILWAUKEE/WASHINGTON

FORMER US president Donald Trump formally accepted the GOP presidential nomination Thursday night at the Republican National Convention being held in Milwaukee, the US state of Wisconsin.

At the convention, Trump described how he narrowly survived an attempt on his life, telling a rapt audience in his first speech since the attack that he was only there "by the grace of Almighty God".

"I heard a loud whizzing sound and felt something hit me really, really hard on my right ear," he said during a 14-minute account, a thick bandage still covering his ear. "I said to myself, 'Wow, what was that? It can only be a bullet.'"

When he told the Milwaukee crowd that he was "not supposed to be here," the delegates chanted back, "Yes you are!"

The former president struck an unusually conciliatory tone during the speech's opening moments.

"I am running to be president for all of America, not half of America, because there is no victory in winning for

half of America," he said, in a marked shift in tenor for the typically bellicose former president.

But he swiftly pivoted to well-worn attacks on the Biden administration, which he said was "destroying" the country. He claimed without evidence that his criminal indictments were part of a Democratic conspiracy, predicted President Joe Biden, his Democratic rival, would usher in "World War III", and described what he called an "invasion" of migrants over the southern border.

In the meandering remarks that followed - at 90-plus minutes the longest convention speech in history - Trump abandoned the message of unity he had promised to embrace in favor of his usual mixture of bombast and grievance, repeating his false claim that Democrats stole the 2020 election.

Trump asserted, as he has throughout his political career, that only he was capable of saving the country from certain doom.

"I could stop wars with a telephone call," he said.

The speech capped a four-day event



Republican presidential candidate and former US president, Donald Trump, speaks during the final day of the Republican National Convention on Thursday, in Milwaukee, United States. AP

during which he was greeted with adulation by a party now almost entirely in his thrall.

Trump devoted much of his speech to attacking migrants, a theme that has always animated his presidential campaigns.

"They're coming from prisons, they're coming from jails, they're coming from mental institutions and insane asylums," he said, before citing by name several Americans who were murdered by suspects in the country illegally.

There is no evidence foreign governments are intentionally sending such people to the US Academic studies show that immigrants do not commit crime at a higher rate than native-born Americans. The speech broke Trump's own 2016 record for the longest delivered by a nominee, according to the American Presidency Project at the University of California in Santa Barbara. His 2020 convention address, delivered at the White House, was the third longest

ever.

After Trump concluded, his family and that of his running mate, Senator JD Vance, walked onto the stage as balloons dropped from the ceiling. His wife Melania Trump, who is rarely seen on the campaign trail, joined him on Thursday for the first time this week.

Vance, at 39 half Trump's age, is widely seen as the ideological heir to Trump's Make America Great Movement.

"JD, you're gonna be doing this for a long time," Trump said. "Enjoy the ride."

In a statement, Biden campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon said Trump had presented only problems, not solutions.

"It was Donald Trump who destroyed our economy, ripped away rights, and failed middle class families," she said. "Now he pursues the presidency with an even more extreme vision for where he wants to take this country." **Agencies**

China slams Japan's defence white paper

BEIJING

CHINA'S Ministry of National Defense criticised Japan's recently released defense white paper on Thursday evening, accusing it of using China as a pretext to deceive the Japanese public and mislead the international community, thereby justifying Japan's military expansion.

The Chinese side expressed strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to the white paper, and has lodged solemn representations with Japan, according to a statement by ministry spokesman Zhang Xiaogang (pictured).

The annual white paper Defense of Japan 2024, approved by the Japanese Cabinet on July 12, labeled China as Japan's "greatest strategic challenge".

It claimed that China's military activities are extending from the "first island chain" to the "second" and that tensions in the Taiwan Strait could escalate, noting China-Russia joint patrols as a major concern.

Zhang refuted the white paper's remarks on China, saying that China's legitimate sea and air activities are conducted in accordance with international and domestic laws.

He reiterated that the Diaoyu Islands and their affiliated islands have always been Chinese territory, and Taiwan is an inseparable part of China, with no room for external interference.

"The biggest threat to peace in the Taiwan Strait comes from 'Taiwan independence' separatist activities and the external forces supporting them," said Zhang.

"Japan's colonial rule over Taiwan for 50 years has left it with a deep-seated need for self-reflection and caution in its actions."

He emphasized that China-Russia defense cooperation is based on non-alliance, non-confrontation, and non-targeting of third parties, contributing to regional and international peace and justice.

The spokesman also clarified China's defense policy, stressing that China has always been, and will continue to be, a force for world peace, stability, and progress.

He noted that China does not seek confrontation but will not shy away from challenges, and its military development is aimed solely at safeguarding national sovereignty, security, and development interests, as well as maintaining world and regional peace and stability.

Zhang criticized Japan's militaristic history, significant defense budget growth, rapid development of offensive weapons, relaxation of arms export restrictions, and engagement in bloc confrontation.

He posed two rhetorical questions: "How such actions could not raise concerns about Japan's potential return to its path of aggression and expansion? How many innocent people in the Asia-Pacific region were killed by the saber of Japanese militarism during World War II?"

The defense official warned that Japan's intentions to strengthen and expand its military are evident, urging the international community to remain vigilant.

"We urge the Japanese side to deeply learn from history, stop smearing and blaming China, cease interfering in China's internal affairs, and act cautiously in the military and security fields to gain the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community," Zhang said.

Xinhua

After Nancy Pelosi, Barack Obama says Biden's path to victory 'diminished', says report

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Barack Obama has now joined a bandwagon of those who have voiced their concerns about Joe Biden's campaign to return as the American President.

Obama told allies that in recent days, US President Biden's path to victory has greatly diminished, and he thinks the leader needs to seriously consider the viability of his candidacy, the Washington Post reported on Thursday. The report also quotes sources who said that Obama has mentioned in some of his conversations that he is concerned that the polls are

moving away from Biden, expanding a wider path of victory for Republican candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 election.

This follows a string of Democratic Party leaders estimated to be around 20 calling for Biden, 81, to quit his campaign.

CNN reported that former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told Biden in a private conversation that she was pessimistic about his chances of defeating Trump.

White House spokesperson Andrew Bates was cited in the same CNN report as saying that "President Biden is the nominee of the party." **ANI**

British public were failed by flawed planning for COVID pandemic, inquiry finds

LONDON

BRITAIN let down its citizens by leaving the nation ill-prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic because of significantly flawed planning and failures by ministers and scientific experts, a public inquiry concluded in a scathing report on Thursday.

Britain recorded more than 230,000 deaths by December 2023, a similar death rate to the United States and Italy but higher than elsewhere in western Europe, while the nation's finances are still suffering.

Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered an inquiry in May 2021, and its first report was damning, saying had preparation been better, the financial and human cost might have been less.

"I have no hesitation in concluding that the processes, planning and policy of the civil contingency structures across the UK failed the citizens of all four nations," said the inquiry chair, former judge Heather Hallett.

"There were serious errors on the part of the state and serious flaws in our civil emergency systems. This cannot be allowed to happen again."

She said Britain had been "dangerously mistaken" in believing, as others across the world had also thought, that it was one of the best prepared countries globally.

Her report found there had been a "lack of adequate leadership" with "groupthink" clouding expert advice. Ministers had not been given a broad enough range of opinions, and then had failed to sufficiently challenge what they did receive.

A flawed 2011 strategy, which had underpinned the nation's preparations for such an emergency, had prepared for only one type of pandemic - influenza.



A man reads the hearts on the Covid Memorial Wall in London, as the BMA, TUC and Covid-19 Families for Justice, respond to the publication of the first report from the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, on Thursday. AP

It was outdated, had focused on dealing with the impact of an outbreak rather than trying to prevent its spread, and had not taken into account the economic and social impact, the report said. That strategy was virtually abandoned on its first encounter with COVID.

"The Secretaries of State for Health ... who adhered to the strategy, the experts and officials who advised them to do so, and the governments of the devolved nations that adopted it, all bear responsibility for failing to have these flaws examined and rectified," the report said.

Radical reform
Hallett made 10 recommendations, saying preparation for a civil emergency should be treated the same way as a threat from a hostile state.

"There must be radical reform. Never again can a disease be allowed to lead to so many deaths and so much suffering," she said in her introduction to the report.

Her inquiry's first module has only examined Britain's preparedness, and later reports will provide assessments of the more politically charged issues of decision-making during the pandemic against a backdrop of widespread accusations of government incompetence.

Johnson himself was forced from office in July 2022, with revelations of parties during COVID lockdowns among the many scandals that ended his premiership.

Rishi Sunak, the finance minister during the pandemic who later became prime minister, was also fined for break-

ing lockdown rules at the time.

New Prime Minister Keir Starmer, whose Labour Party this month replaced the Conservatives in power after 14 years, said the report confirmed what many people had believed.

"This government is committed to learning the lessons from the Inquiry and putting better measures in place to protect and prepare us from the impact of any future pandemic," he said.

The campaign group COVID-19 Bereaved Families for Justice UK welcomed Hallett's recommendations but said she had not gone far enough in addressing the issue of health inequalities that had made the UK more vulnerable.

"Preparedness is our best defense, failure to prepare is indefensible," a spokesperson said. **Agencies**

JD Vance calls himself 'working-class boy', says Trump's policies would include voters who have been left behind

WASHINGTON

FORMER President Donald Trump's running mate, JD Vance, after accepting his vice presidential nomination, called himself a "working-class boy" and said that Donald Trump's policies will take along the voters, who have been left behind.

Sen JD Vance (R-Ohio) officially accepted his vice presidential nomination on Wednesday.

The 39 year old lawmaker, during his acceptance speech, called on Americans to send

Trump back to the White House and introduced himself to voters across the country.

Talking about his journey from "poverty to the vice presidential nomination," he described himself as a "working-class boy," and said that Donald Trump's policies will have left behind voters.

"I pledge to every American, no matter your party, that I will give everything I have to serve you and to make this country a place where every dream you have for yourself, your family and your country will be possible," Vance said.

Vance's speech portrayed "Trump as America's last best hope-to restore what is lost-which, if lost, may never be found, again."

"From Iraq to Afghanistan, from the financial crisis to the Great Recession, from open borders to strengthening wages, the people who govern this country have failed and failed again," Vance said.

Usha Vance, JD's wife, also the daughter of Indian immigrants, introduced her husband ahead of his wife's presidential nominee acceptance speech and said she was ini-

tially at a "loss of words."

Acknowledging their different backgrounds, for the first time many Americans had a glimpse of the woman who could potentially become the Second Lady of the United States of America.

"Although he's a meat and potatoes kind of guy, he accepted my vegetarian diet and learned to cook food for my mother, Indian food!," she said.

Emphasizing this Vance will make a great Vice President of the United States, US said, "It's hard to imagine a more powerful example of the Ameri-

can dream, a boy from Middletown, Ohio, raised by his grandmother through tough times, chosen to help lead our country through some of its greatest challenges."

She further called him the most interesting guy and said that he was a working class guy who had overcome childhood traumas.

"He was then, as now, the most interesting person I knew -- a working-class guy who had overcome childhood traumas that I could barely fathom to end up at Yale Law School, a tough marine who had served

in Iraq, but whose idea of a good time was playing with puppies...," she said.

I was at a loss. It occurred to me that there was only one thing to do: to explain, from the heart, why I love and admire J.D., why I stand here beside him today, and why he will make a great Vice President of the United States," she added.

During the third day of the ongoing Republican National Convention, Republicans spent Wednesday telling voters about their vision for America on the world stage.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump

Jr called his father 'Trump Tough' in the wake of the attempted assassination of the former president on Saturday morning.

"I have never been prouder of my father than I was in that moment," the former president's oldest son said, describing the moment his father stood up and said "fight" when a bullet grazed his ear.

"That's when the world found out that there is rough and then there's Trump tough and the good news is that America is Trump tough," junior Trump said. **ANI**

Reform resolution 'most important outcome' of latest CPC plenum

BEIJING

THE adoption of a reform resolution is the most important outcome of the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, a senior official said yesterday.

Tang Fangyu, deputy head of the CPC Central Committee Policy Research Office, made the remarks at a press conference on the guiding principles from the just-concluded plenum.

Promoting Chinese modernization faces many complex issues, necessitating further deepening reform comprehensively to better adapt the relations of production to the productive forces, the superstructure to the economic base, and national governance to social development, Tang said.

The resolution, with economic structural reform as the spearhead, comprehensively plans reforms in various fields and aspects, Tang said, adding that the resolution puts forward more than 300 important reform measures, all of which involve reforms on the levels of systems, mechanisms, and institutions.

Urban-rural development

The resolution has highlighted the importance of improving the mechanism for integrated urban-rural development, said Han Wenxiu, executive deputy director of the Office of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs.

China will accelerate efforts to build a high-standard market system, which is a major reform task for the country, Han said.

Efforts will be made to build a unified national market, including the development of a unified urban-rural construction land market, a nationwide integrated technology and data market, and a unified national electricity market.

The country will improve the market system and rules for production factors such as labor, capital, land, knowledge, technology, management, and data, Han told the press.

The systems underpinning the market economy will be refined, including optimizing the systems for property rights protection, information disclosure, market access, bankruptcy exit and credit supervision.

To strengthen its macroeconomic governance, China looks to improve the fiscal relations between central and local governments, and research will be conducted to make China's tax system compatible with new business models, Han added.

China will also enhance policy support for childbirth to foster a fertility-friendly society, as part of its efforts to ensure and improve the people's well-being, according to Han.

He said the country will make institutional improvements to facilitate high-quality and full employment, and enhance the development of old-age care industry. In promoting high-level opening up, China will expand unilateral opening up to the least-developed countries, and open to the rest of the world its goods, service, capital and labor markets in an orderly way, Han said.

Improvements will also be made on relevant systems to make it more convenient for people from overseas to live,



The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China holds a news conference on the guiding principles from the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee on yesterday. (PHOTO / CHINA.COM.CN)

seek medical services and make payments in China.

Legislation in sync with modernization drive

China will advance its path to modernization by deepening reforms in legislation, with greater efforts in formulating and revising some major legislative items, Shen Chunyao, an official from the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said yesterday.

A new resolution has put forward new requirements for legislation, such as formulating laws to promote private economy, financial development, ethnic

unity and fight against cross-border corruption, Shen, head of the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission, told media at the news conference.

According to the resolution, revising the Supervision Law and compiling a code on environment and ecology are also major legislative tasks in the coming period, he added.

"We'll formulate laws in a timely manner to meet the needs of deepening reforms, and amend, improve or abolish legislative items that are incompatible with the reforms and development," Shen said. The NPC Standing Committee will also make authorized decisions

on some reforms that need to be tested or piloted first due to lack of practical experience, he added.

Recalling legislative achievements made after the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, he said the country has been committed to promoting reforms and advancing the building of rule of law at the same time.

Comparing the rule of law and reforms to the two wings of a bird, he added that China will continue deepening reforms and promoting the Chinese modernization along the path of the rule of law.

Data released by him showed that China has had 303 effective laws, of which 78 were enacted after the third plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, such as the Civil Code, a milestone legislative item and also a fundamental law for regulating civil activities.

Talent cultivation

China will focus on strengthening targeted talent cultivation and scientific and technological innovation in higher education to provide strong support for establishing a major global center for talent and innovation, Education Minister Huai Jipeng said on Friday.

In recent years, universities have played a significant role in the national innovation system, Huai said at the news conference.

"Major original breakthroughs have been achieved in the sciences regarding quantum, life, material, and space," he said.

China will promote categorized reforms in universities, guiding various types of institutions to leverage their strengths in different fields. "We will accelerate the construction of world-class universities and disciplines with Chinese characteristics," he said.

To enhance innovation capacity, the country will further cultivate top talent in fundamental disciplines and advance the construction of subjects involving new engineering, new medical sciences, new agricultural sciences, and new liberal arts, Huai said.

"We will strengthen the coordinated development of S&T and humanities education, improving students' innovative thinking in S&T by enhancing their humanistic qualities," he said.

Xinhua

First woman to lead Canada's armed forces takes command

OTTAWA

GENERAL Jennie Carignan took over as Canada's chief of the defense staff on Thursday in a ceremony that made her the first woman to command the country's armed forces.

Trained as a military engineer, Carignan has commanded troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and Syria during her 35 years in the Canadian Army.

"I feel ready, poised and supported to take on this manifold challenge," Carignan said at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

"Conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East, heightened tensions elsewhere around the world, climate change, increased demands on our personnel at home and abroad, and threats to our democratic values and institutions are but a few of the complex challenges we need to adapt to and counter," Carignan said.

Carignan takes over



Jennie Carignan speaks after becoming Chief of the Defence Staff at a change of command ceremony at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, Ontario, on Thursday. AP

from General Wayne Eyre, who served as the top military commander since 2021, at a time when Canada is aiming to increase defense spending and modernize its armed forces.

Last week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his government's intention to reach NATO's defense-spending target of 2 percent of GDP by 2032. Canada's defense spending is expected to be 1.39 percent of GDP in the 2024-25 fiscal year, according to government projections.

The armed forces are struggling to meet recruitment goals and have been slow to replace outdated equipment.

Last November, the head of the navy said the service was in "a critical state" and might not be able to carry out its basic duties in 2024.

"We're facing many internal challenges such as recruitment and retention," Carignan said. "We know the challenges we face and what we need to do to address them."

Trudeau, who called Carignan "a role

model for all Canadians and for the world", has pursued policies designed to boost gender equality since taking office in 2015.

In 2018, he appointed Brenda Lucki as the first female head of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The last two governors general, Canada's official representative of the British monarchy, have been women. Trudeau named them both.

Agencies

Russia may deploy nuclear missiles in response to US missile deployment in Germany, says MFA

MOSCOW

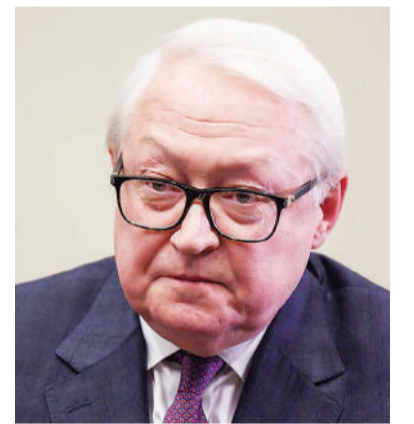
MOSCOW does not rule out deploying nuclear missiles in response to the deployment of long-range US missiles in Germany, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told reporters.

"I don't rule anything out," he said, when asked if Russia could deploy nuclear missiles in response to the US missile deployment in Germany.

"If officials from the German federal government believe it reasonable to carry out inflammatory activities, citing what we have in the region (Russia's westernmost Kaliningrad region - TASS), then we will respond with retaliatory measures we deem appropriate," the senior diplomat stressed.

According to Ryabkov (pictured), given the combined capacities of NATO countries, Russia needs to calibrate its response, without feeling any "internal constraint" in terms of what to deploy, where and when. "That said, there is a wide range of options. It's not about threatening anyone, it's a way to find the most effective method to respond to the changing challenges, particularly in terms of costs," he added.

"Nothing is predetermined, and there is no predetermination for



further tensions," Ryabkov went on to say. "Unfortunately, at this point, the West is going the way of escalation, searching for far-fetched pretexts to accuse us of allegedly infringing on its security. This is deplorable, but it won't stop us from working to ensure security along the entire Russian border, definitely including the special military operation area," he emphasized.

Washington and Berlin said in a joint statement on July 10 that the US would begin deployments of long-range fires capabilities in Germany in 2026, "which have significantly longer range than current land-based fires in Europe." Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov pointed out that such plans increased the likelihood of a missile race and could lead to uncontrolled escalation.

Agencies

Experts brainstorm role of new technology in cultural heritage protection

BEIJING

INSIDE a futuristic exhibition center in Beijing, a two-armed robot is busy making sugar paintings. Its smooth and delicate movements attract a crowd of visitors.

The robot is acting as a "craftsperson" of this traditional folk art of Beijing, which is an intangible cultural heritage of China.

But the machine also serves as both a witness to and reference point for the growing convergence of fields of knowledge with vastly different origins, a convergence that challenges the limitations of time and geography.

At the seventh International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Conservation by Digitization held at the center, hundreds of experts and practitioners from home and abroad are considering the relationship between cultural heritage and new technologies.

BOOSTING CULTURAL INHERITANCE

For many, the promotion of traditional culture is one of the areas in which technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) can play a significant role. "AI is a booster of cultural inheritance," said Guo Chunchao, leader of Tencent Hunyuan Text to 3D, an AI model developed by Chinese tech giant Tencent.

The AI large language model technology has significantly improved the efficiency of information retrieval

and modeling, accelerating the digitization of cultural heritage, he said. His point was echoed by Yu Minjing, associate professor at the College of Intelligence and Computing of Tianjin University, who led her team to utilize VR technology to perform a molten-iron fireworks show and produce the traditional Hanfu.

With AI, the inheritance of traditional culture can overcome the limitations of space and geography, which enables a wider and more high-quality spread of traditional crafts that could only be passed on orally in the past, she said.

The integration of AI technology with VR, 3D and other technologies has helped create cloud roaming experiences, attracting young people to traditional culture, Guo said, adding that the lower creative threshold brought by AI has also brought about abundant multimedia materials related to traditional culture, which has further driven the global spread of Chinese civilization.

Konstantinos Konstantinidis, CEO of Greek digital heritage company PostScriptum, said at the symposium that he was impressed by China's efforts at revitalizing cultural heritage using both hardware and software, and he believes that for European countries, China's ideas are worth extracting.

HUMAN-ORIENTED CONSERVATION

However, some experts warned that while technology is important for preservation, it's even more

important to think about the people in the process. Renata Sansone, COO of Italy's Civita Mostre e Musei S.p.A, noted that some archaeological sites are very difficult for everybody to understand, but the use of technologies like reaction reconstruction may make a difference in engaging the public. Her view was shared by several Chinese experts.

For Yu Minjing, the process of cultural heritage preservation and inheritance requires adhering to a people-oriented approach, and the level of acceptance by users is a deciding factor for the effectiveness of cultural heritage protection.

How to optimize the feedback methods in the interaction process and enhance user experience is an ongoing and crucial issue for the development of cultural heritage preservation, she said. For some other practitioners, enhancing the public's participation in preservation has proved effective.

Zhang Jianshuo, a member of the ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites) China Scientific Committee of Cultural Landscapes, has led his team in utilizing digital technology to develop a cloud database to explore a collaborative inspection model for professionals and the public to participate in the protection of the Grand Canal cultural heritage.

From October 2022 to October 2023, nearly 5,000 images were uploaded and over 50 issues were reported to the database by 29 volunteers and four professional engineers. The work of volunteers not only

alleviates the workload of cultural heritage inspection, but also enhances public awareness of heritage preservation, Zhang said.

On another note, "technologies sometimes cannot solve everything, and we also need policies and legislation, as well as inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional coordination," said Ona Vileikis, secretary general of CIPA Heritage Documentation, one of the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS and a co-organizer of the symposium.

Tencent's Guo Chunchao holds a similar view, calling for closer cooperation among academia, industry and the cultural sector, with their respective strengths leveraged to jointly promote the digitization of cultural heritage preservation.

Xinhua



With AI, the inheritance of traditional culture can overcome the limitations of space and geography, which enables a wider and more high-quality spread of traditional crafts that could only be passed on orally in the past

SPORT

Dabo eyes Community Shield semi-final as key preparation for CAF Champions League

By Guardian Correspondent

AZAM FC head coach Youssouph Dabo views their upcoming Community Shield semi-final against Coastal Union on August 8 at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar as a crucial step in their preparation for the CAF Champions League preliminary round.

Azam secured their Champions League spot with a second-place finish in the Premier League last season. The Community Shield semi-final against Coastal Union is a mandated fixture by competition regulations.

The Chamazi-based team returns to Zanzibar for a rematch on familiar ground. Last season, Azam fell short to Young Africans in the Federation Cup final at this venue, losing on penalties after a scoreless draw.

Dabo sees the upcoming match as a vital opportunity for his team to gain momentum ahead of their CAF Champions League challenge.

"The Community Shield semi-final against Coastal Union is valuable preparation for the CAF Champions League. Their strong defense will provide a good test, which is exactly what we need before facing APR.

"I emphasize to my players that no opponent deserves underestimation. Every game offers valuable insights into what we need to achieve. We must maintain focus to build a strong team capable of competing at the continental level," said Dabo.

The Community Shield mini-tournament

offers two competitive games before Azam face APR on August 16 at Azam Complex, followed by the return leg on August 23 at Amahoro Stadium, in Kigali.

Dabo has stressed the importance of player commitment, highlighting it as key to creating a strong team both on the bench and on the field. Azam aims to reach the group stages of an African football championship for the first time, a goal that the Senegalese coach is determined to achieve.

The club's preparations are focused on building a cohesive unit capable of competing at the highest level both domestically and in continental competitions. The addition of new talent is expected to enhance the squad's depth and provide fresh options for the coaching staff.

Azam face APR in a two-legged tie to determine who progresses to the next round. Should they prevail, they would face either JKU of Zanzibar or Egyptian giants Pyramids FC.

APR had a disappointing Champions League campaign during the 2023/24 season, bowing out in the second round following a 6-1 defeat to Pyramids FC.

After winning the 2023/24 league, APR has made significant recruitments this transfer window, aiming to return to the African biggest club competition much stronger with ambitions of reaching at least the group stages.

Azam are currently in Benslimane, Morocco, for pre-season preparations. They are expected to play various friendly matches before facing Coastal Union on August 8 in Zanzibar.

Clippers trade Russell Westbrook to Jazz. He's expected to join the Nuggets after a buyout

LOS ANGELES

THE Los Angeles Clippers sent Russell Westbrook to the Utah Jazz on Thursday in a sign-and-trade deal for point guard Kris Dunn.

The Jazz are expected to buy out the former NBA MVP's contract so Westbrook can sign with the Denver Nuggets, according to ESPN.

Utah also got the right to swap second-round draft picks in 2030, the draft rights to center Balsa Koprivica and cash.

Westbrook, a nine-time All-Star and the 2017 MVP for Oklahoma City, was traded for the fifth time in his career. He has now been traded to Utah by both franchises in his native Los Angeles in the past 18 months.

The 35-year-old Westbrook has reportedly opted into the final year of his contract with the Clippers, who were to pay him just over \$4 million. The point guard averaged a career-low 11.1 points per game while mostly coming off the bench last season for the Clippers, who were bounced by Dallas in the first round of the playoffs while Kawhi Leonard was injured.

"Russ is an all-time great, and we were fortunate to have him here," Clippers president of basketball operations Lawrence Frank said in a statement. "He lifted the energy and intensity of the group. We look forward to seeing him continue his decorated career."

If Westbrook clears waivers, ESPN says he plans to join the Nuggets, who are in need of guard depth after parting with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Reggie Jackson earlier this month.



FILE - Los Angeles Clippers guard Russell Westbrook moves up the court during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, April 7, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

SPORTS

Coach Micho warns Simba's new boss Davids of intense pressure

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MILUTIN Sredojevic, widely known as Micho, has issued a cautionary message to Fadlu Davids, the newly appointed head coach of Simba SC, about the immense pressure that comes with managing one of Tanzania's premier football clubs.

Davids, who recently signed a two-year contract with Simba, aims to restore the club's dominance in Tanzanian football.

Drawing from his own experience, Micho, who led Young Africans to the Premier League title during his one-year tenure in 2007, emphasized the weight of expectations at a club like Simba.

Micho career in African football began in 2002 with Ugandan club SC Villa, and he has since coached various clubs and national teams. He is currently the coach of the Libyan national team.

"Simba carries so much weight that even their actions have a ripple effect across East Africa, not just Tanzania," Micho highlighted, stressing the high-stakes nature of the job Davids is stepping into.

Davids, transitioning from an assistant coach to the head coach of a passionately followed club like Simba, has a clear understanding of the expectations that will define his tenure. The South African coach is expected to excel in both domestic and international competitions with Simba.

Simba fans are eager to reclaim the Tanzania Mainland Premier League title after losing it to rivals Young Africans for the past three years. Additionally, in the CAF Confederations Cup, Simba aim to match or surpass the success of Young Africans, who reached the finals in 2023 but lost on a 2-2 aggregate to USM Algiers.

Micho underscored the need for Davids to manage the pressure and expectations effectively.

"He (Davids) is going to a different environment with kind people where



Coach Milutin Sredojevic 'Micho'. Agencies

he will be received in the best possible way," Micho said. "However, the honeymoon will finish very soon, and he will enter the pressure of the rivalry with Young Africans, plus competing on the continent and trying to match the standard that the team has had in recent years."

Simba are not competing in the CAF Champions League this year but will play in the Confederations Cup. Micho noted that if a team from Libya progresses, Davids will have a challenge to get past them to get into the group stages.

Micho advised that Simba fans have high expectations for African club competitions, always aiming for top-level achievements. He also pointed out that Tanzania's culture, habits, traditions, and style of play differ significantly from those in Morocco, necessitating quick adaptation.

"Fadlu is a great coach and just needs to adjust and acclimatize. It is now a good platform to take as a head coach, especially at Simba along with assistant coach Darian

Wilken, who worked with me at Orlando Pirates," said Micho.

Currently in Egypt for pre-season training, Simba have made significant changes to their squad in preparation for the upcoming season.

The club has a busy schedule ahead, with Simba Day slated for August 3, the Community Shield against Young Africans on August 8 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, and the CAF Confederations Cup last group stage qualifications round.

Davids will need to quickly find his footing and lead Simba through these high-pressure matches, with the hopes and expectations of their fervent supporters firmly on his shoulders.

Simba striker Steven Mukwala calls for patience ahead of new season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC striker Steven Mukwala has urged fans to be patient as the team prepares for the upcoming season.

Mukwala (pictured), who joined Simba last month from Ghanaian side Asante Kotoko, emphasized that the players understand the challenge of reclaiming the Mainland Premier League title, which the club has missed out on for the past three seasons.

Mukwala, who signed a three-year deal with Simba, made a significant impact during his time at Asante Kotoko, netting over 25 goals in 65 league appearances. Before his stint in Ghana, Mukwala played for Ugandan side URA FC.

In his first season with Asante Kotoko, he scored 11 goals, followed by an impressive 14-goal tally in the recently concluded season, including a memorable brace against Hearts of Oak in the Super Clash.

The Uganda Cranes attacker is currently in Ismailia, Egypt, where Simba is holding their pre-season training camp under the guidance of new head coach Fadlu Davids, who joined from Raja Casablanca, where he served as an assistant coach.

The 24-year-old striker expressed the team's collective desire to win major trophies, highlighting the shared goal from the club's leadership, technical bench, and players.

"Before joining Simba, I spoke with the leadership and even past players like Emmanuel Okwi. They impressed upon me the significance of playing for Simba and the fans' burning desire to see the club lift a major trophy.

"The club has undergone several changes, and winning trophies is a shared goal. I urge the fans to be patient with us as we build momentum under coach Davids. He's one of the best coaches in Africa, and I believe together we can achieve our dream as a club," Mukwala said.

Mukwala's move to Simba marks a new chapter in his career, capitalizing on his reputation as a prolific scorer. The Ugandan international's signing is a significant boost to Simba's attacking lineup, and fans can expect exciting performances from the talented striker.

"Joining a giant club like Simba, one of



the biggest clubs in CECAFA and Africa, requires constant effort to maintain their success and deliver for the club," Mukwala said. "Having played for Asante Kotoko in Ghana, I know how to handle pressure. While the culture here is different, I will adapt and use both internal and external pressure as motivation to excel."

With his impressive goal-scoring record and experience in the Ghana Premier League, Mukwala is poised to make a significant impact in Tanzanian football.

The attacker, who has donned the national team jersey 15 times and scored one goal, will vie for the starting position at the club with Freddy Kouablan, who joined Simba in January and scored 11 goals in all competitions last season, along with Valentino Mashaka who joined from Geita Gold.

As Simba gear up for a busy season, Mukwala's presence is expected to strengthen their attacking prowess and help the club achieve its ambitious goals.

From milking cows to Man City - the story of Savinho

By Marcus Alves

GIRONA manager Michel is not one to get carried away too easily.

He couldn't resist the temptation, however, after watching Savinho train for the first time during pre-season last year, immediately calling sporting director Quique Carcel aside.

"We're going to finish in the top eight," he told Carcel, who tried, in vain, to bring him back down to earth. "Are you crazy or what?" As it would turn out, Michel could not have got it more right.

Such was Savinho's impact at the Montilivi stadium that Michel's prediction wasn't bold enough - as Girona fought for the La Liga title until the very end. They finished in third place - behind only Real Madrid and Barcelona - and qualified for the Champions League. It was the best campaign in the club's 93-year history.

Much of the credit for this was given to their electrifying winger.

In the space of a year, Savinho went from a player struggling in PSV Eindhoven reserves to a breakout star in Spain, making his Brazil debut against England at Wembley.

"I know this is a big statement, but I hadn't seen anyone so effective in one-on-one situations since Vinicius Jr emerged," Michel said.

"He was perhaps the most surprising talent in La Liga if you consider that [Jude] Bellingham was already known by everybody."

It's no wonder Manchester City have made Savinho their first signing of the summer, snapping him up from sister team Troyes, who had loaned him to Girona.

The 20-year-old has become the first player to climb all the way to the top of the City Football Group pyramid.

Having ended last season with 11 goals and 10 assists for Girona, he will be determined to prove that he's here to stay. It should not be an issue for someone who, despite his age, has always stood out for his strong character and self-esteem.

"I was born with the gift of playing football," he has said on multiple occasions.

City manager Pep Guardiola will now be hoping to make the most of it.

"This kid will be a footballer" Savinho is not your typical footballer.

Having grown up in his grandparents' home in the rural area of Sao Mateus, in the south-east of Brazil, he learned early in his life to ride horses, milk cows and plant vegetables such as lettuce, okra and tomatoes. It remains his favourite holiday destination.

"If you ask him whether he

wants to spend it in Cancun, Mexico or with his grandparents, he will definitely choose the latter. That's his passion," his mother Dona Nilma said.

As much as Savinho enjoyed the daily routine on the farm, however, he was meant for football.

It didn't take long for Nilma to find it out either - he was only five when she heard a prophecy from one of his first coaches.

"This kid will be a footballer," he predicted.

Savinho started playing on the beach, and after switching to the pitch, was soon on the radar of big teams.

Ultimately, the left-footer signed for Atletico Mineiro after impressing in a match against their under-17s side. He was 11.

Precocious, he went on to become, at 16, the youngest player to play for Atletico in the Brazilian league and, at 18, the youngest to score for them in a Libertadores Cup game.

His meteoric rise convinced City Football Group to move quickly and it beat competition from Arsenal to secure his services in 2022.

"A 10-goal and 20-assist player" Strong on the ball and able to change direction in a second fraction, Savinho was originally registered at third-division club Troyes, but never featured for the French side. Instead, he was sent on loan to PSV.

An early injury, however, stalled his progression and, combined with reduced minutes after that, made it impossible for him to shine in the Eredivisie.

Girona had watched him in the 2023 Under-20 World Cup and decided he was worth the bet, although it was not easy to convince Michel at first as he had asked for an experienced winger.

"Savinho didn't have much senior football under his belt; he had been sidelined at PSV, played for the reserves, but not as starter, so that was a difficult sell," said Carcel.

He had to hit the ground running and so he did, imposing himself from the first moment he arrived in Catalonia. He wasn't allowed to switch off for a minute. He simply couldn't.

"You have the potential to finish this season with 10 goals and 20 assists, so do it," Michel told him during half-time in a match in which he had already scored and assisted once.

It certainly won't get any easier for Savinho under Guardiola.

He doesn't mind. He's living his dream.

BBC

How do England solve their Jude Bellingham problem?

By Miguel Delaney

ONE question for Gareth Southgate's eventual successor is how they would respond to a conspicuous moment that happened in the Euro 2024 final. That was when England's biggest star, Jude Bellingham, appeared to roar at the bench. Some observers sitting close by claim he questioned the movement of his fellow attackers, who he insisted were too slow. Southgate tried not to react.

Reporting this isn't to raise another discussion that seeks to doubt or do down England's great hope, in the way many people will instantly presume is the old build-em-up-to-knock-em-down culture. But it is to point out how one of the next manager's great challenges will be to ensure that a talent like Bellingham is properly maximised; that he isn't wasted - that he actually wins something.

It's also to recognise that English football is dealing with a different sort of personality than its national team has ever had, perhaps more akin to American sport. Some find this refreshing, and required. They point to how Bellingham has done something no English player ever has at a tournament, and actually scored a late knockout equaliser to keep them in it. The spectacular manner of that bicycle kick against Slovakia only added to the audacity of it all. How else?

The days since England's defeat have still seen increasing murmurs about his impact off the pitch. There, talk grows that it isn't quite as appreciated as his talents on the pitch. That cry of "who else?" after the Slovakia goal seemed to sum up a mood. From the very start, there were comments that the publicity campaign around Bellingham as a potential saviour went against Southgate's team ethos. Others felt he was promoted to the "leadership group" too early, especially since he was unwilling to perform some of the more unpopular responsibilities, like speaking to the media. At least one long-serving squad member was aggrieved at being asked to talk again when Bellingham was apparently exempt. The Real Madrid forward then ostentatiously spoke to Spanish media in the mixed zone after the final, having persistently made a point of not doing English press.



Bellingham's outrageous overhead kick equaliser kept England in the competition (PA)

Many might well quip that articles such as this are precisely why, but there is more to it.

Like with his clubs, some England teammates have been struck by how the much-younger Bellingham can speak to them as if he is the senior pro. The 21-year-old very visibly went around to address most of his teammates after the final, and it hasn't escaped attention that a number of screen grabs and clips of the cold responses have done the rounds on social media, subject to the typical hyperactive scrutiny.

Numerous figures close to the camp insist this is all overblown. The captain, Harry Kane, is one who greatly admires Bellingham. The midfielder has also developed a strong friendship with Trent Alexander-Arnold, to the point that many around the squad are now talking as if it could swing the Liverpool wing-back going to Real Madrid when his contract runs out next year.

The real pity over Bellingham was a much more common complaint about stars at Euro 2024. It was that the overbearing rigours of the club season prevented an international tournament from seeing the absolute best of him. There just wasn't enough of a break between a landmark Champions League win and then the Euro 2024 start. Bellingham himself raised this in his interview with Spanish media after the final. With his physical condition impacted, he couldn't really be more than the "moments" player he became for Madrid in the last few months of the season. Had it been another mid-season

competition, as with Qatar, the Euros might have seen the real Bellingham.

Those moments still showed so much of his true quality, as well as the range of it. Alongside the bicycle kick, which is a goal that will rank up there in English football history with David Platt's hooked finish against Belgium, there was the explosive manner of his other goal. The header against Serbia has become a Bellingham speciality. The clever touch back to assist Cole Palmer's equaliser in the final was meanwhile one of England's few moments of deftness so sorely needed against Spain. It displayed this extra-sensory awareness.

Beyond those, some of the most electric moments in the run to Berlin were Bellingham's sudden bursts. There were at least three occasions where he would perform a move like the Zinedine Zidane roulette and then accelerate away. One spin and surge led to a shot in the final that whistled just wide. Another, admittedly, saw him just run across the pitch against Switzerland. He occasionally looked too desperate to make something happen, a bit like Steven Gerrard.

It didn't help that Southgate's tactics ensured all of Bellingham, Kane and Phil Foden ended up occupying the same space. That is something else any new manager has to address.

The tactics compounded the effects of the long club season. There's also an argument that there wasn't enough Bellingham full-stop.

If one thing can now be definitively said about Southgate's England, it's that they never had it in them to

get over the line. Some believe there was a residual softness that reflected the manager's lack of trophies. There certainly aren't really goading images to match Leonardo Bonucci's cry of "it's coming to Rome" or Dani Carvajal's crying gesture on Sunday.

Bellingham, however, looks like a different kind of player. He is certainly a very different sort of personality. Euro 2024 saw constant talk that Bellingham is increasingly modelling himself on the image of Michael Jordan in 'The Last Dance'. That's an athlete who demands the best and isn't shy about it. He uses everything else as "fuel" - no matter how innocuous - to ensure he gradually makes it there. It can be abrasive, but the argument is that everyone benefits by going to higher levels.

Some camp insiders talk of how this is an "American sports" personality that isn't really seen in football, and it does involve backing yourself, to say the least. Except, you don't really have to go as far as America.

There is so much of it at Real Madrid. It is partly why Bellingham has so perfectly fit club football's greatest stage. He displays those classic traits of "Madridismo" in utter self-assurance alongside ostentatious shows of respect.

Bellingham himself has illustrated why that works in Madrid, with late winners in El Clasico and two major trophies.

The next England manager will have to work out how to maximise it, as much as work with it.

THE INDEPENDENT

Man United make French teenager their second-most expensive defender in history

By Richard Jolly

MANCHESTER United have made Leny Yoro the second most expensive defender in their history after signing the French teenager for a fee that could rise to £58.9m.

United have paid Lille an initial €62m for the 18-year-old, with a possible €8m in add-ons, after seeing off interest from Real Madrid to land their top defensive target.

The centre-back, who was named in the Ligue Un team of the season last year, replaces his fellow Frenchman Raphael Varane as United try to make their squad younger in a summer overhaul.

United believe Yoro, who has signed a five-year deal with the club possessing an option to extend it until 2030, has all the ingredients required to become a high-class centre-back and feel he is one of the most exciting young defenders in the world.

They began their pursuit of him before the end of last season and held multiple meetings with the defender to try and persuade him to come to Old Trafford.

Manager Erik ten Hag and the club's new hierarchy - with Dan Ashworth appointed sporting director and Jason Wilcox technical director - were all strongly in favour of buying Yoro.

United have also submitted two bids for Jarrad Branthwaite without coming close to meeting Everton's £70m valuation and are interested in Bayern Munich's Matthijs de Ligt. They could yet bring in a second centre-back this summer but Yoro was the priority.

Yoro said: "Signing for a club with the stature and ambition of Manchester United so early in my career is an incredible honour. Since my first conversations with the club, they set out a clear plan for how I can develop in Manchester as part of this exciting



Manchester United have signed French teenager Leny Yoro. (Manchester United)

project, and showed a lot of care for me and my family.

"I know about the history of young players at Manchester United and feel it can be the perfect place to reach my potential and achieve my ambitions, together with my new teammates. I cannot wait to get started."

Ashworth added: "Leny is one of the most exciting young defenders in world football; he possesses every attribute needed to develop into a top-class centre-back. Having had such

an excellent start to his career we are excited to support him in reaching his immense potential here at Manchester United.

"This club has a fantastic record of developing young players, whether homegrown or brought in from elsewhere, and giving them the required guidance, time and patience to grow and flourish. Under Erik ten Hag and our excellent staff we will ensure that Leny has the perfect platform to achieve the success that everyone

across the club is aiming for."

Yoro, a France Under-21 international who is yet to win his first senior cap, is not involved in his country's Olympics squad and can link with United immediately to join in their pre-season programme.

United have only previously paid a higher fee for one defender, with Harry Maguire an £80m signing in 2019, and so far Yoro becomes the most expensive arrival since Sir Jim Ratcliffe became a co-owner.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Savinho

SPORT

How do England solve their Jude Bellingham problem?

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Vijana basketball team coach Hadija Karambo (R) is shown demonstrating the technique of shooting with one hand to her player Gladness Komba during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

FIFA bans remain in place for four Tanzanian clubs

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE transfer bans imposed on four Tanzanian clubs have remained in place just under four weeks before the transfer window shuts.

Preparations for the 2024/25 season are already underway with the transfer window officially opening on June 15 and closing on August 15.

Most clubs have begun their pre-season training across the country and outside the borders while finalizing their transfer businesses.

As it stands and based on the latest FIFA transfer bans updated every week, two Mainland Premier League clubs and one in the Championship are still locked out.

The three clubs will settle the debt to be able to make signings.

Tabora United, formerly Kitayosce FC, have four transfer ban cases after failing to pay former employees their dues.

This comes after the club failed to pay four foreign players according to FIFA rulings.

Earlier on, Tabora United had settled its dues with their former coach Ahmed El Faramawy Yousef Mostafa Soliman but failed to address the players' plight, something that has put them in FIFA's wrong books once again.

Tabora United earned their first-ever promotion to the Premier League on the last match day of the 2022/23 Championship season.

They finished second ahead of Pamba to take the remaining automatic promotion ticket.

They avoided relegation back to the championship after winning their playoffs double-legged tie against Biashara United at the end of last season.

Also in trouble is Biashara United from the Championship. Their three-window ban came into effect on January 16 and relates to Ugandan striker Mathew Odong Tayo.

Odong's case was taken to FIFA after money-related issues at Biashara United who signed him from Kenyan club Zoo Kericho FC last year.

Fountain Gate have to settle cases with six players in order to register new ones for the 2024/25 campaign which kicks off on August 15.

Singida Big Stars is the other club with bans, though their status remains unclear following multiple name changes and rebranding.

Earlier this month, Young Africans had their multiple transfer bans lifted, following the successful resolution of their two cases relating to dues owed to former striker Lazarous Kambole and breaching Article 3 of the transfer of players.

Fadlu Davids confident in Simba's prospects ahead of 2024/25 season

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club's head coach, Fadlu Davids, has expressed high hopes for his team as they gear up for the 2024/2025 season.

Having taken the helm of Simba's training sessions for about a week since his arrival in Egypt, Davids shared his positive outlook and satisfaction with the team's current state.

Through the club's website, Davids conveyed his contentment with the recent signings and praised the overall performance, speed, and strength of his players.

Reflecting on his first week with the team, Davids emphasized three key aspects that have impressed him since his transition from Raja Casablanca.

"After a week of training, I am very satisfied with the team," Davids said. "The primary reason is the optimal age range of our players, which is between 19 and 25 years. This age bracket is ideal for high-level football, and we have an abundance of such players."

Davids highlighted the advantages of having a young and dynamic squad.

"The speed and strength of my players are remarkable, which I attribute to their age. This allows them to play an attractive and energetic style of football, adaptable to various environments. It gives me a broad tactical scope to approach each match uniquely, depending on our opponents," he said.

Another aspect that has pleased Davids is the players' receptiveness to coaching, saying: "Their ability to quickly grasp instructions is impressive. They are easily teachable, which has made my job much easier and more enjoyable."

Davids' first major challenge will be the Community Shield game against long-time-rivals Young Africans, scheduled for August 8 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. After suffering two consecutive defeats against Young Africans, Simba supporters are eagerly anticipating a victory to defend their Community Shield title.

In the midst of pre-season preparations, notable arrivals in the camp include winger Willy Essomba Onana and newly signed midfielder



Simba head coach Fadlu Davids (R) is pictured recently giving instructions to his newly-signed striker Steven Mukwala during a training session at their pre-season camp in Ismailia, Egypt. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

Awesu Awesu. Both players joined the team in Ismailia, further strengthening Simba's squad for the upcoming season.

However, not all players have made it to Egypt for the pre-season. Attacking midfielder Kibu Denis and goalkeeper Aishi Manula are notably absent, raising questions among fans. The club's management has not issued an official statement regarding their absence, but sources close to the team have provided some insights.

"Kibu finished last season with an injury and is still undergoing medical procedures. He will join the team once he is fully fit," said an anonymous informant. This statement sheds light on Kibu's situation and reassures fans of his eventual return. Similarly, Manula's absence is also due to injuries sustained while playing for the national team at the end of the last season.

Despite these absences, the overall mood in the Simba camp remains positive. The team is focused on rigorous training sessions to ensure they are in peak condition

for the forthcoming season. The new signings and the return of key players are expected to bolster the team's performance.

Davids' optimism and strategic approach have instilled a sense of confidence among players and supporters alike. His emphasis on youth, speed, strength, and tactical flexibility is seen as a promising formula for success.

As Simba continue their pre-season preparations in Egypt, the anticipation for the upcoming season builds, with fans eagerly waiting to see their team in action.

The Community Shield clash against Young Africans will be a crucial test for Davids and his squad. A victory in this high-stakes match could set a positive tone for the season and affirm Davids' confidence in his team's potential.

Davids will also lead Simba in the CAF Confederation Cup. The club has already learned its opponent for the competition; they will face the winners between Zanzibar's Uhamiaji FC and Libya 1.

Yanga face German Bundesliga side FC Augsburg in preseason opener

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans' preparations for the 2024/25 campaign will officially begin this afternoon, with the club's first friendly of the coming season against German Bundesliga side FC Augsburg.

The match is part of Mpumalanga Premier's International Cup tournament and is scheduled for a 4 PM kick-off at the Mbombela Stadium - one of the host stadiums of the 2010 FIFA World Cup held in South Africa.

Following a successful season where they defended both their Mainland Premier League and Federation Cup titles, Miguel Gamondi's troops are looking to use their time in South Africa to fine-tune for what promises to be another demanding season.

The upcoming season presents an opportunity to further cement their status as Tanzania's soccer kings, while also looking for an improved showing in the CAF Champions League where they crashed out at the quarter-final stage.

Wananchi returned to pre-season training on July 3, and they will take part in three friendlies in South Africa, tackling TS Galaxy after this contest, before heading to Johannesburg for another glamour friendly against Kaizer Chiefs in the inaugural Toyota Cup tournament.

The 30-time Tanzanian champions will then head back to Dar to finalise their preparation before facing arch-rivals Simba in the Community Shield on August 8.

The 2024/25 Mainland Premier League season kicks off on August 15.

Young Africans have been busy this transfer window in terms of both incomings and outgoing, with their biggest arrivals being Clatous Chama from Simba and Prince Dube from Azam.

Also new to the Young Africans squad are goalkeeper Aboubakar Khomeini from Singida Black Stars, formerly Ihefu SC, left-back Chadrack Issaka Boka (24) from St Eloi Lupopo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), midfielder Aziz Andabwile and striker Jean Baleke.

There have also been some notable departures in the Young Africans camp during the off-season, with the likes of Zawadi Mauya, Augustine Okrah and Mahlatse Makudubela among those not part of the travelling party after leaving the club.

The FC Augsburg match represents an early chance for Gamondi and his coaching staff to get minutes into the players and will take it as an important test in setting the tone ahead of their return to competitive action.

5 EATV FRIDAY

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

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FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

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17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)
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