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Interfaith committee points at 'gaps' in new electoral law

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC) has proposed further amendments to the new election laws, including protecting aspirants from disqualification because of administrative errors, along with enabling party agents access to polling centres.

Advocate Uzima Justine, a constitutional lawyer with the committee, and the clerical team issued the proposals when briefing journalists on the recent reforms on electoral laws, noting that they still have shortfalls raising concerns among stakeholders.

"There should be no reason to bar party agents from accessing polling centres to prevent unnecessary concerns and grievances before, during and after the voting," he said, elaborating that in Kenya and South Africa the electoral body is mandated by law to help aspirants in filling forms, to avoid administrative errors such as mistakes in birth dates recorded.

In Kenya an aspirant can fill forms online, where the electoral body provides feedback on possible mistakes in filling the forms, while those who fill manually are helped by commission officers to avoid mistakes, he asserted.

"We want to see the electoral body put in place a feedback system to help clear small administrative errors before the nomina-

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Opposition Chadema national Vice Chairman (Mainland) Tundu Lissu shows journalists and members of the party bullet holes in his car shortly after it was handed back to him at Dodoma city's Central Police Station yesterday. The former Singida East legislator survived a September 7, 2017 gun attack by assailants yet to be identified near his residence in the national capital. He was on his way back from a parliamentary session. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavilia

Bishop (55) dies in rare 'suicide' incident

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

BISHOP Joseph Bundala of the Tanzania Methodist Church (55) died, amid reports linking the event to indebtedness.

The bishop was found dead in the church's office at Meriwa Street in Dodoma city where he hanged himself with a rope

Bundala, also erstwhile vice chairman of the African synod of the church, is said to have left a long statement claiming that he ended up with that decision as he was upset owing to difficulty in repaying the debts as well as a stressing dispute on the ownership of a private school.

ACP Archelaus Mutalemwa, the regional police commander, said investigation has commenced to further dig out the inner cause of the suicide incident, underlining that despite that the bishop left the message, the police force will dig out more of the surrounding issues.

The bishop was found dead on Thursday at around seven in the evening, he said, noting that he was a resident of Ithumwa suburb in the city. The message did not show the amount of debt he faced, he further stated.

Grevas Lungunyal, the chairman of Sulungai Street, said that he received a phone from a pastor of the church informing him of the incident.

In a message found in the office, the bishop said that there are some monies which he owes and other sums he claims from other people, he said of the scene the police witnessed when taking out the body.

He qualified the matter as a big and painful incident since as a bishop many people trust him and know him "but it seems he had no one to tell on what had happened to him so that he could get advice that could have helped him."

Kedmondi Ngalya, a neighbour of the late bishop, said the bishop hanged himself in his office leaving behind a document that was taken by the police.

Omar Hussein, also a neighbour, said he met the spiritual leader three days ago and exchanged greetings, asserting that the now deceased bishop did not show any disturbing signs of stress that could conceivably culminate in taking his own life.

"I was very surprised by news that he committed suicide because he used to condemn suicidal acts saying it is a sin. And now, he has hanged himself," he said in consternation.

Steve Magawa, another neighbour, said the incident has brought sadness because the religious leader was an avid teacher of what is



Small traders at high risk as they conduct their activities just next to a high-voltage transformer at the Tandamti Street/Nyamwezi Street intersection in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone yesterday. Despite the obvious danger, the scenario is far from rare in some urban areas in Tanzania. Photo: John Badi

'Eliminate taxes on sanitary pads'

By Getrude Mbago

GIRLS' rights stakeholders have appealed for the government to exempt tax on sanitary pads as well as set aside 64bn/- annually to purchase the feminine products and supply them free of charge to girls in public schools.

Jackson Mawole, programme officer at the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC), said at a training session for journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday that the government's failure to regulate the

products' prices was becoming a punishment for poor young girls who struggle every month to access the products.

He urged the government to take action to scrap value added tax (VAT) on sanitary pads to enable girls to access them and smoothen their studies, in the training session aimed at equipping journalists with a comprehensive understanding of interconnected issues of period stigma, 'period' poverty and their impact on girls' education and development. Taxing sanitary pads raised

prices, thus becoming a major setback for girls and impairing expectations of equal participation in education, he stated, echoed by activist Furahini Michael, who appealed to the government to seriously take up the matter, as the goal is to see Tanzanian girls achieve their education dreams and contribute to the country's development.

Several studies have shown that a good number of school

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UK sinks in \$3.4m for clean energy as Paris summit ends

By Carlos Banda

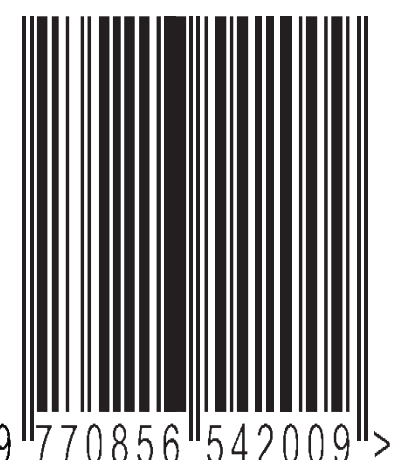
TANZANIA'S clean cooking energy strategy is pegged at a total of \$1.8bn for implementation for ten years up to 2034, while Britain has expressed commitment

to provide close to \$3.4m for the purpose during the clean cooking energy summit held in the French capital of Paris.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office,

said at a briefing yesterday on the Paris summit at midweek that the goal of the summit was achieved by 100 percent.

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'Eliminate taxes on sanitary pads'

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girls from poor families in both rural and urban areas face great challenges to access the sanitary towels thus hampering their educational pursuits.

Rose Reuben, the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) executive director, said that taxing women and girls on pads is to deprive them of the right to an enjoyable life and access to education, without fault on their part.

Tax removal will boost school performance and reduce girls' dropout rates in primary and secondary schools, thus decreasing inequalities between boys and girls, when girls fully engage in schooling, she stated. Media practitioners need to support the campaign by investing in educative programmes and articles to push for policy and regulatory changes, she further suggested, while 'Msichana Initiative' executive director Rebeca Gyumi said that taxing women and girls on pads is depriving the rights to enjoyment and access to education.

Menstruation is not a choice but a process that every woman and girl faces, she said, noting that sanitary products need to be distributed freely to women and

girls in hospitals, clinics or schools for ease of access for those in need.

'This will control the level of dropouts of girls from schools,' she said, insisting that zero tax on pads is a right for women and girls. The taxation on pads is perceived as payment to the government for being a girl or a woman, the activist intoned.

She elaborated that pads can be distributed for free in low-income area schools and to vulnerable sections of the populations under explicit supervision, or retailers cover the tax as a part of marketing activities. 'It's the duty of the government to ensure there is tax justice that does not cause a financial burden on poor women and girls,' she emphasised.

'Msichana Initiative' has conducted a study on the impact of taxing pads and how it affects accessibility of this product by marginalized girls in primary schools and in the community, targeting in and out of school girls.

'The findings from the study conducted as well as analysis of the information obtained from various sources and interviews, desk review reveals that sanitary products are not affordable to most girls both in school and out of school in rural areas as well as in urban areas,' the director intoned.



State House Presidential Communications Director Zuhura Yunus briefs the media in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the global Clean Energy Summit held in Paris earlier this week. It was organised by the International Energy Agency, which is based in the French capital. President Samia Suluhu Hassan co-chaired the event following a request by the agency's executive director, Dr Fatih Birol. She is with Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo (C) and Energy deputy minister Judith Kapinga. Photo: State House

UK sinks in \$3.4m for clean energy as Paris summit ends

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The clean cooking summit brought forth the key outcomes that various countries, development stakeholders and the private sector vowed to collect \$2.2bn to finance clean cooking energy in Sub-Saharan African, he said, noting that the African Development Bank (AfDB) pledged to issue \$2bn for clean cooking energy during the 10-year period.

To reduce the challenge of environmental destruction, the first step is to ensure that effects on the environment are reduced through implementation of various interventions such as the transition to clean

cooking solutions, he stated.

'The second requirement is for the government to ensure there is an annual plan for every district to plant a total 1.5m trees with the primary goal of planting 276m0 trees in the 184 district councils,' he elaborated.

During the 2023/24 financial year a total of 266m have been planted, with 211m trees still growing, a rate of 76.5 percent, he further stated, underlining the need to maintain the campaign for environmental conservation, while shifting to clean cooking solutions.

Judith Kapinga, the Energy deputy minister, said at the briefing that 2024 is the year

of new changes by advocating clean cooking energy, in the wake of President Samia Suluhu Hassan emerging as a champion clean cooking energy.

'It has been easily adopted as a goal to be achieved due to the president's leadership capacity, readiness for action and diplomatic influence in the global community of leaders,' she stated.

She said that the president's efforts had enabled modern houses being built to accommodate an ex-Ngorongoro section of the Maasai community in Msomera village, Handeni District in Tanga Region, where 1,291 houses accommo-

date them, with current plans to be connected with clean energy stoves.

'We have also placed an agent for Taifa Gas to ensure when their cylinders run out of gas, they are able to refill their cylinders within the vicinity.'

'This is not only for the new residents but also for those living there earlier, as the goal is to ensure that upwards of 80 percent of Tanzanians use clean cooking energy by 2034,' she stated.

Zuhra Yunus, the director of presidential communications, said that at the summit, a number of countries, organisations and a total of 130 companies approved the declaration

on the prioritisation of clean cooking energy.

The declaration showed their desire for a joint collaboration to ensure the availability of clean cooking energy, she said, highlighting that President Samia also met host President Emmanuel Macron on the summit sidelines exploring ways of improving Franco-Tanzanian cooperation.

The key areas of discussion were cooperating in the area of clean cooking energy, women empowerment, water supply, agricultural modernisation, bilateral trade and private investments, infrastructure development and regional peace efforts, she said

South Sudan govt, rebel groups sign 'commitment' for peace

JUBA

THE government of South Sudan and rebel opposition groups on Thursday signed a "commitment declaration" for peace during high-level mediation talks in Kenya.

The agreement is a key step in efforts to end the conflict in South Sudan that has long crippled its economy.

The content of the agreement was not made public during the signing ceremony, attended by diplomats and civil society groups.

The rebel opposition groups were not part of the 2018 agreement that ended South Sudan's five-year civil war that left 400,000 people dead and millions displaced.

Kenya's foreign office said the agreement was a "first milestone" in the ongoing talks in which warring sides pledged their commitment to end the violence and hostilities.

At the start of the high-level mediation talks launched a week ago, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir thanked his Kenyan counterpart, William Ruto, for hosting the negotiations.

The talks were dubbed Tumaini, Kiswahili for hope and were led by former Kenyan army commander Lazarus Sumbeiywo.

South Sudan is due to hold elections in December but remains politically fragile, in part because the 2018 peace agreement is yet to be fully implemented and because conflict and violence continue in different parts of the country over ethnic and political differences.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (Dawasa) workers move to unclog a sewage system at a section of the city's Morogoro Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Ministry sets priority areas in 67.9bn/- budget estimate

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups has outlined priorities areas in the next financial year, including women economic empowerment, provision of loans for small scale traders and alleviation of gender-based violence.

Presenting the budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year in the National Assembly yesterday, minister in charge of

the portfolio Dr Dorothy Gwajima said the ministry plans to spend 67.9bn/- to execute its priorities in order to improve social welfare.

Dr Gwajima said that part of the budget is for Generation Equality Forum (GEF) for which 3.2bn/- has been set aside and to address violence against women and children for which 3.15bn/- has been set aside.

She said in the area of recognition and coordination of economic activities for special

groups especially small scale business people like bodaboda, street food vendors, petty traders, and other special groups with legally registered businesses, 10.5bn/- has been set aside to provide soft loans to boost capital and improve their economic activities.

Dr Gwajima said in the area of social welfare services and children, 1.2bn/- was set aside to enable provision of behavioural change services for children who are in conflict with the law.

She said in the area of welfare for the elderly, 1.06bn/- has been set aside to enable provision of services for 13 elderly people in the care homes.

In the area of education, a total of 2bn/- has been allocated and is expected to be used for the construction and renovation of buildings and infrastructures at Tengeru Community Development Institute and three community development colleges, she said.

Interfaith committee points at 'gaps' in new electoral law

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tions are completed," he said, recalling that in civic polls 2019 and 2020 general election aspirants were disqualified for presumed errors in filling their birth dates while others were told they were late to hand in the forms.

He said that these were issues that can be solved by the law, along with the issue of denying party agents from accessing polling centres, in which case current reforms need to be deepened, as they seek to recognize the National Electoral Commission (NEC) as an independent entity.

This is not yet reflected in the real needs of the people since its set up either in its budget or administration does not reflect an independent entity, he said, citing the South African electoral commission where the chairman of the vetting committee is recruited on merit through interviews.

All the other members of the electoral body are recruited publicly, while in Tanzania all the members are appointed by the president, he said, affirming that the new electoral law has the setup of the South African electoral body but lacks the format which makes it independent.

Gloria Mafole, legal adviser for the committee, said that despite being pronounced independent, NEC was not independent given its budgetary, administrative and structural setup.

"The law gives the president the powers and also gives more powers to the body itself but has not given the powers to aspirants to challenge its decision in court," she stated.

Fr Chrisantus Ndaga, a committee member, asserted that elections are a pillar of democratic society as the exercise promotes unity and national cohesion. Despite the challenges there is hope as the government has offered room for discussion, the cleric added.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima tables the ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

ICT ministry to build two data centres in fiscal year 2024/25

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTRY of Information, Communication and Information Technology is in the 2024/25 financial year set to construct data centres in Dodoma and Zanzibar together with a national information security centre.

Minister of the portfolio Nape Nnauye said this in the National Assembly in Dodoma on Thursday when tabling the ministry's budget estimates for 2024/25 financial year, saying this was among the priorities of the coming financial year. "The government is also set to connect the national communication fibre with security entities such as the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF), the Judiciary, Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service (TISS) Prison Service and others," he said.

He said during the period, the ministry will also complete installation of 616 transmitters in 713 wards to reach 758 together with other new 636 to reach out to areas which are left out in communication.

The minister said the ministry will also empower 135 transmitters with 3G technology from 2G in 70 destinations in strategic areas such as borders.

Nnauye said other areas are to strengthen systems to measure communication tools to increase efficiency and improve service delivery.

He said the government will continue to coordinate and establish a media accreditation board, an independent media council and a media fund to help in training and capacity building.

"The government has already started to put in place strategies to facilitate proper use of the internet, including formulation of the Privation Information Security Act, 2020," he said. He said the main reason for enacting the law was to ensure that all information collectors observe ethics and national values.

Nnauye said the government established the Cyber Security Unit under Tanzania Police Force with the aim of controlling theft online.

Drug busters to focus on Dar after increase of use, dealing

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to put a special drug control focus in Dar es Salaam Region after it emerged top among destinations with highest cases of use and seizures.

Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary affairs) has said the government has

noted that there is a huge presence of drugs in clubs, beaches and other places within the commercial city.

Speaking on Thursday in Dodoma when issuing a report on the state of drugs in the country, the minister said Dar es Salaam has emerged top among all other regions.

"By December last year, there were 903,062 addicts in various hospitals, which is a good step in addressing

challenges posed by drugs such as spread of diseases like tuberculosis, HIV/Aids and hepatitis," she said.

Mhagama said during the period, it was noted that most of the drug users are youth at 78 percent, a situation which affects the country's workforce. The minister said during the period, the Drug Enforcement and Control Authority (DCEA) in collaboration with other agen-

cies seized 1,965.52 kilogrammes of various drugs and nabbed 10,522 suspects. The seized drugs include heroin 1,314.28 kilogrammes, cocaine 3.04, methamphetamine kilogramme 2,410.82, marijuana 1,758,453.58 kilogramme, khat 202,737.51 and other assorted drugs.

She said the drugs seized are almost three times the drugs seized from 2012 to 2022 which were

660,465.4 kilogrammes.

Mhagama said the government has formulated the National Drug Control Policy, 2024 which is aimed at strengthening control drugs produced locally such as Marijuana and others. "The policy offers direction on research for areas which are notorious for producing drugs by ensuring that the general public is informed on production of alterna-

tive crops instead of marijuana," she said. The policy also creates a platform for capacity building to various stakeholders so that they take part in the war against illicit drugs.

Director General DCEA Aretas Lyimo said more than 7000 cases have been taken to court and the government won by 83 percent and the remaining 17 percent were lost due to insufficient evidence.

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Exim Bank's head of marketing and communications, Stanley Kafu (R), briefs Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (4th-R) at an exhibition held recently in Dodoma city as part of the commemoration World Red Cross Day. Through one of its social programmes, the bank supports healthcare, environmental conservation, education, innovation and financial literacy projects. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Chad confirms Mahamat Idriss Déby as president

N'DJAMENA

THE Constitutional Council of Chad yesterday confirmed Mahamat Idriss Déby as the country's president with 61 percent of the vote, far ahead of his rivals Succès Masra and Albert Pahimi Padacké.

Déby was declared the winner on Thursday after the council reviewed and reaffirmed vote counts, despite minor adjustments.

He won with 61.03 percent, followed by his Prime Minister with 18.54 percent, and Padacké with 16.93 percent. Voter turnout was 75.78 percent.

Following the announcement, Succès Masra took to social media, accepting the decision and urging calm and patience among his supporters, emphasizing political solutions over further legal action.

Padacké's campaign, represented by his director, also accepted the Council's decision, calling for unity and urging the new president to address the country's challenges.

Mahamat Idriss Déby's camp expressed satisfaction, celebrating the election as a fulfilled promise of the transitional period.

Unlike the unrest following the provisional results announcement, which led to at least 10 deaths, Ndjama remained calm and largely deserted after the final results. Authorities had banned celebratory gunfire, contributing to the quiet atmosphere in the capital.

JK challenges leadership graduates to be ambitious

By Correspondent James Kandoya

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete has urged graduates of various leadership courses to put their skills and knowledge to good use by ensuring that they work hard and bring improvement in their organisations and the nation.

Kikwete made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the 7th graduation ceremony of Uongozi

Institute where he conferred post graduate diplomas and certificates to 198 graduates in leadership.

He said that leaders must have ambitious plans for their institutions and country so that they leave a mark and thus be remembered.

"Embrace opportunities available, deepen your understanding and broaden your perspective,"

he said

Kikwete said that while performing their duties, they should be sources of ideas and agents of change.

"Wherever you are, ensure that you perform well so that when you are reassigned or retire, you leave a legacy," he said.

He said leaders must always be ready to find solutions for developing challenges such as climate

change, ignorance and the food insecurity crisis to mention but a few.

Kikwete warned the public on the emerging behaviours of neglecting boys and investing more in girls, saying that parents and development partners must create a balance.

According to him, both boys and girls must be raised equally in education and given opportunities

for personal growth.

He commended Uongozi Institute for its continued contribution of shaping and equipping skills leaders.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) George Simbachawene emphasized on integrity, responsibility and accountability for leaders.

He reminded leaders to be good

ambassadors of the institute and ensure they are committed to serve the public.

Uongozi Institute CEO Kadari Singo said the programmes yielded a total of 198 graduates who completed their executive programmes; post graduate diploma in leadership, certificates in leadership and women's leadership programme.

He said the programmes aim to

Voter registers update set to start in Kigoma next month

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) is set to start voter register update on July 1st this year in Kigoma Region.

Speaking in Zanzibar on Wednesday, INEC Chairman Judge Jacobs Mwambegele said the exercise scheduled to be launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa will thereafter proceed to other regions namely Katavi, Rukwa, Tabora and others.

He said in order to have effectiveness in the exercise, the commission decided to have it carried out in 13 rounds for seven days at designated centres.

He said those who will be involved in the exercise are those who have attained 18 years, voters who have shifted from one place to another so that they shift their details from their former centres.

Mwambegele said the exercise will give room to voters to change their information from one card to the

other as well as those who lost their cards and those who lost their voter status due to death and other issues. He said the new voter register is expected to have 34,746,638 from 29,754,699 in 2020 which is an increase of 5, 586,433 voters, equivalent to 18.7 percent.

The chairman said 4,369,531 are expected to update their information while 594,494 are expected to be removed from the register.

He added that the commission conducted a verification of various centres in 2023 to establish whether the centres still hold the status of remaining to be elections centres.

"Before verification there were 37,814 centres which were used to register voters in 2019/2020 and after the verification there were 40,126 which will be used in the 2024/25 update exercise and 39,709 are Tanzania Mainland and 417 in Zanzibar.

Director of Elections Kailima Ramadhan said the exercise will cost 418bn/-.



A section of Kalenga Street Road in Dar es Salaam's Upanga West suburb undergoes rehabilitation in the wake of massive damage mainly due to the recent heavy rains. Photo: John Badi

Stakeholders want guidelines for usage of AI in education

By Guardian Reporter

EDUCATION stakeholders from various universities in the country have urged the government to formulate guidelines to help coordinate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and enable the country to benefit from such vital technology.

The stakeholders who involve lecturers, students from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), University of Dodoma (UDOM), Mzumbe University, Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) spoke during a panel discussion dubbed

'Unlocking the potential of artificial intelligence in higher learning' conducted recently both virtually and physically at SUA in Morogoro.

In his presentation, Dr Alcardo Marakabitze, a lecturer at SUA, said AI is becoming more attainable in every sector and higher education is no exception. This opens up the possibility for higher education services to become scalable at an unprecedented rate, both inside and outside the classroom.

"AI-powered systems are streamlining administrative tasks such as admissions, student support services and resource allocation; Chatbots and virtual assistants are being

used to provide 24/7 support to students and staff, reducing the workload on administrative staff but also can assist in ensuring the quality of education by analysing students' performance and identifying areas where improvement is needed," he said.

Dr Marakabitze stressed the urgency stating: "In all these contexts where AI is used, it is imperative for our country to have guidelines, strategies and policies. Currently, we are without a national policy, strategy, or guidelines and our universities also lack these crucial documents. Without them, we cannot have a unified direction or understanding as a nation on AI usage. This is a

pressing issue that needs to be addressed promptly."

Speaking on behalf of SUA Vice Chancellor Prof. Raphael Chubunda, Principal of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences Dr Geoffrey Karugila said the panel discussion topic promises to offer enlightening insights, stimulating discussions and actionable strategies that will shape the future of learning.

Dr Karugila underscored the responsibility, stating: "AI is revolutionizing education, but we must remember that with great power comes great responsibility. As we integrate AI into higher education, it's crucial to do so responsibly and ethically, ensuring fair-

ness, transparency and accountability. We must be vigilant in ensuring that AI is used for the benefit of all, without compromising on ethical standards."

He added: "By gaining profound knowledge of AI's effects and opportunities, we can identify actionable steps to integrate AI for educational excellence, and this includes exploring responsible AI use in personalised learning and formulating policies and regulations to guide its implementation, so through critical thinking, practical insights, and collaboration, we can empower stakeholders to navigate the complexities of the digital age and drive posi-

and Technology."

Dr Jabhera Matogolo, Lecturer and AI expert at UDOM said the varsity in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Institution of Science and Technology in Arusha, has designed a new academic programme.

He said the collaboration will soon witness the launch of a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning as well as Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Engineering at the University of Dodoma.

Also, Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Engineering will be launched at Nelson Mandela Institution of Science

and Technology.

"AI is no longer fiction. We are trying to address the challenges coming up on the ground by ensuring that we build the capacity of Tanzanians who will work and use this technology to help our country in different sectors that will need AI experts. As the previous speaker explained, the demand is high as this technology grows," Dr Matogolo said.

Speaking on behalf of the students, panellist Leonard Fuime, Minister of Education at Mzumbe University, expressed his concerns that students' use of ChatGPT, Qbolt and other programmes could result in incompetent graduates flooding the labour market.

RC irked by mushrooming of liquor stores, groceries in residential areas

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ARUSHA regional commissioner Paul Makonda has expressed concern over what he termed as increase of informal shops selling alcohol and other items in residential areas.

According to him, on each and every street, there are myriads of cubicles within residential buildings, commercial properties or even standalone blocks being rented out to traders who convert them into shops, hair maintaining salons, groceries, liquor stores and tailor marts.

Even some religious institutions make use of their outer spaces of their buildings to erect stalls for hire.

"Arusha is a tourist city and not some cheap town where people come to buy candy," he said yesterday.

According to Makonda, Arusha is in dire need of quality hotel rooms to accommodate local and international visitors coming to the city, adding that the last thing visitors need to see in the city is lack of planning.

He was addressing Arusha

residents during the event to receive 20 new motorcycles donated to regional police by CRDB Group which is conducting its annual general meeting of shareholders here.

Makonda said that he was posted to Arusha to address the issue of inadequate accommodation facilities in the city which serves as the country's diplomatic and tourism hub.

The RC tasked Arusha Regional Police Commander, Justine Masejo to ensure that crime is brought down in the city and that is why many institutions contribute to the efforts of equipping the police force with facilities such as motorcycles.

Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Mwinyi graced CRDB members' seminar and used the occasion to appeal to the institution's management to start conducting the annual events in the isles as well.

"Zanzibar has opened its doors for investors and we therefore need training sessions like this for residents of Zanzibar and also where possible your annual meeting for 2025 should be held in Unguja," he said.



Mwanza Regional Police Commander Willbroad Mutafungwa exchanges greetings in Mwanza city earlier this week with officials of the region's chapter of the federation of associations of people with albinism. It was shortly before the opening of a meeting also involving police and social welfare officers aimed at stepping up the fight against threats targeting people with albinism. Photo: Vitus Audax

Scientists rise new theory about construction of Egypt's pyramids

By Special Correspondent

SCIENTISTS believe they have solved the mystery of how 31 pyramids, including the world-famous Giza complex, were built in Egypt more than 4,000 years ago.

A research team from the University of North Carolina Wilmington has discovered that the pyramids are likely to have been built along a long-lost, ancient branch of River Nile - which is now hidden under desert and farmland.

For many years, archaeologists have thought that ancient Egyptians must have used a nearby waterway to transport materials such as the stone blocks needed to build the pyramids on the river.

But up until now, "nobody was certain of the location, the shape, the size or proximity of this mega waterway to the actual pyramids site", said one of the study's authors, Prof Eman Ghoneim.

In a cross-continental effort, the group of researchers used radar

satellite imagery, historical maps, geophysical surveys, and sediment coring (a technique used by archaeologists to recover evidence from samples) to map the river branch - which they believe was buried by a major drought and sandstorms thousands of years ago.

The team was able to "penetrate the sand surface and produce images of hidden features" by using the radar technology, the study, published in the journal Nature, said.

Among those features were "bur-

ied rivers and ancient structures" running at the foothills of where the "vast majority of the ancient Egyptian pyramids lie," Prof Ghoneim said.

One of the study's co-authors, Dr Suzanne Onstine, said "locating the actual river branch and having the data that shows there was a waterway that could be used for the transportation of heavy blocks, equipment, people, everything, really helps us explain pyramid construction."

The team found that the river branch - named the Ahramat branch - with "ahramat" meaning pyramids in Arabic - was roughly 64km (39 miles) long and between 200-700m (656-2,296 ft) wide.

And it bordered 31 pyramids, which were built between 4,700 and 3,700 years ago.

The discovery of this extinct river branch helps explain the high pyramid density between Giza and Lisht (the site of Middle Kingdom burials), in what is now an inhospitable area

of the Saharan desert.

The river branch's proximity to the pyramid complexes suggests that it was "active and operational during the construction phase of these pyramids", the paper said.

Dr Onstine explained that ancient Egyptians could "use the river's energy to carry these heavy blocks, rather than human labour," adding, "it's just a lot less effort."

River Nile was the lifeline of Ancient Egypt - and remains so to this day.

Reconstruction of key road in Morogoro to cost 97bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government is set to spend 97.18bn/- for reconstruction of 62.5-kilometre Ifakara-Mbingu road in Morogoro Region.

Alinanuswe Kyamba, Manager of Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) regional manager said this recently after inspection of the road's construction progress following destruction caused by heavy rains.

Kyamba said the project is managed by the TANROADS Engineering Consulting Unit (TECU) and that the contractor has started to repair the road that is currently in use so that it can be fully passable.

He said the road is important for the public in transportation of various agricultural goods from various areas including between Morogoro and Njombe regions through Ifakara, Mlimba, Kihansi up to Makambako.

He said construction for Ifakara-Mbingu section is expected to end in 2026.

Ntwale Lukas, Bridges Inspector at Tanroads in Morogoro said trucks have started to collect piles of sand to repair all destroyed areas in efforts to restore the road.

Some residents of Lufufu village in Igima ward thanked the government for the reconstruction of the road as it would fasten social and economic development because of reliable transportation of rice and bananas.

They said the reconstruction of the road is expected to reduce the cost of transportation of the crops to urban markets and increase their income.



Jenista Mhagama (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), has a word with her counterpart overseeing the Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities docket, Deogratus Ndejemi, in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Zanzibar to invest more in blue economy as fisheries growth up

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government of Zanzibar has expressed commitment to continue investing heavily in the blue economy to expand its growth as fish production increases.

Second Vice President for Zanzibar Hemed Suleiman Abdullah said

this yesterday while tabling his office's budget estimates for 2024/25 in the House of Representatives.

He said that in 2023 fish production increased to 80,085 tonnes worth 569.07bn/- up from 61,794 tonnes worth 391.37bn/- in 2022.

"This is an increase of 29.5 percent. Likewise, production of sea-

weed has increased from 12,594 tonnes in 2022 to 16,653 tonnes in 2023, equivalent to an increase of 32.2 percent," he said.

He said that the government has continued to make efforts to set up institutional systems to make the sector support the economy of the people and the country as a whole.

Abdullah said that among the efforts is to have policies and laws that support development of blue economy activities, including the Fisheries and Marine Natural Resources Act and establishment of a research institute which has already been signed by President Dr. Hussein Mwinyi.

He said that the government has officially launched the blue economy policy along with its implementation strategy and fishing policy along with its implementation strategy. "The government has continued to conduct research related to this sector to bring more reforms and development," he said.

The second VP said in the financial year 2023/2024, the government planned to buy 4,380 tonnes of dry cloves at a cost of 60.4bn/- where as of March, 2024 a total of 3,298.8 tonnes of dry cloves were purchased from farmers at a cost of 47.5bn/- which is equal to 75 percent of the nine-month estimate.



Walter Kirita, Manyara regional manager of the Rural Water and Sanitation Authority, presents a performance report at the agency's working session held in Babati on Thursday. Centre is Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Summit calls for conference for peace in the Middle East

MANAMA

ISRAEL'S continuing military offensive in the Gaza Strip dominated agenda at the Arab League summit in Bahrain's capital, Manama.

Leaders of the 22-member group called for an international conference for peace in the Middle East and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

"The destruction that Gaza is witnessing today will leave grave consequences in its wake for the generations that have witnessed death and injustice, and Gaza will need years to recover," said King Abdullah II of Jordan.

"What Gaza went through will not bring stability to the region or the world, but more violence and conflict. This war must stop, and the world must shoulder its moral and humanitarian responsibility to end a conflict that has been ongoing for over seven decades," he said.

The war in Gaza broke out after Hamas' attack on southern Israel which resulted in the deaths of about 1,200 people, mostly civilians.

An estimated 35,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Israel's military retaliation, and its siege of the enclave has created a dire humanitarian situation.

In his address to the summit, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres repeated his longstanding call for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages held in the enclave, and unimpeded access for aid delivery.

Egypt's president, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, whose country has mediated in the conflict, told the summit that Israel continues to evade efforts to reach a ceasefire in its war with Hamas.

"Those who think that security and military solutions are able to secure interests or achieve security [are] delusional," he said.

Africa's forgotten foods research wins prestigious Cozzarelli Prize

By Special Correspondent

AN international research team has won the 2023 Cozzarelli Prize for a paper on the potential of 'forgotten' food crops in sub-Saharan Africa to provide healthy diets in a changing climate.

Led by the World Vegetable Centre (WorldVeg) and including scientists from the Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the research was one of six papers selected by the editorial board of the Proceedings of the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences (PNAS) - a prestigious scientific journal based in Washington, DC in the US.

According to a statement availed to the media yesterday, papers were chosen from more than 3,000 open-access research articles that appeared in the journal last year and represent the six broadly defined classes under which the National Academy of Sciences is organised.

The study, selected in the Applied Biological, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences category of the Cozzarelli Prize, involved

multidisciplinary scientists from the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin), the National Taiwan University, and Scotland's Rural College in Edinburgh.

The study used climate modelling to assess the potential of 138 traditional food plants that could diversify or replace staple crops.

It identified 58 that are micronutrient-rich and are suitable for integration into cropping systems under current and projected climatic conditions.

The authors concluded that diversifying food production in

Africa with these neglected 'opportunity crops' improves both the dietary health and climate resilience of food systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Our study shows that in most locations where major staples are currently grown in sub-Saharan Africa, one or more forgotten food crops from different food groups will be suitable for cultivation under 2070 climate conditions - and can diversify major staples to support more nutrient-rich diets," said Maarten van Zonneveld, head of genetic resources at WorldVeg

in Taiwan.

The research was part of various initiatives that the study's collaborating partners are involved in.

WorldVeg is the only organisation with a global mandate for vegetable research and development - including traditional crops - and works closely with the paper's co-authors in Benin and Taiwan.

CIFOR-ICRAF scientists were involved in the modelling and data analysis, and built on their rich experience with tree and shrub foods.

"Our results suggest that diver-

sifying sub-Saharan African food production with forgotten food crops could improve climate resilience and dietary health," said Stepha McMullin, a development specialist at CIFOR-ICRAF in Kenya. "But to successfully mainstream these foods, it is crucial that we work closely with both local producers and consumers.

"At CIFOR-ICRAF, we already work with rural communities in East and Southern Africa to do this, by designing and implementing locally tailored food tree portfolios."

Ex-Mauritanian president ruled out of June election

NOUAKCHOTT

FORMER Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz has been ruled out of the June 29 presidential election for lack of necessary sponsorship, his spokesman Mohamed Ould Djibril told journalists last week, denouncing the sponsorship system in place.

"This blocking by the authorities is undemocratic," the spokesperson added. "There are 10 of us who are victims of this plot by the authorities."

Aziz, who led Mauritania, a country between the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa, until 2019, had taken steps to present his candidacy, according to his spokesman. He would have faced the outgoing president, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, his successor and one of his most loyal companions in the past, with whom he is now in open conflict.

The former president was sentenced in 2023 to five years in prison for illicit enrichment.

The government through the ruling party had set conditions requiring presidential candidates to get approvals from the municipal councillors and mayors. Only the opposition Islamist party Tewassoul has any room for manoeuvres, as it has the required number of municipal councillors.

The opposition parties had previously denounced the law terming it unjust.

"We denounce the hegemony of the majority parties, who are thus choosing their opponents from among the candidates and leading the country towards the holding of a unilateral electoral parody," denounced a dozen opposition candidates, including Aziz, in a joint statement.

"Even if the former president had collected sponsorships, his qualifications would have been highly uncertain. Candidatures must be submitted to the Constitutional Council. However, according to the Constitution, the president 'may be re-elected only once', and Aziz has already served two terms," they added.



Work on a drainage chamber in progress yesterday at a Mbagala section of Dar es Salaam's Kilwa Road as part of the ongoing implementation of the city's rapid transit bus project. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Fifteen ventures selected to pitch at Africa Tech Summit in London

By Special Correspondent

FIFTEEN startups have been picked to pitch to investors at the 8th Africa Tech Summit (ATS) at the London Stock Exchange on June 7.

The ATS conference series provides insight and networking with the African tech ecosystem in London, Kenya and West Africa, bringing together tech leaders, banks,

international investors, entrepreneurs, governments, trade bodies, media and leading ventures to drive investment and business in African tech.

The 8th ATS London will take place on June 7 at the London Stock Exchange, featuring an investment showcase that offers startups opportunities to present their business model to investors and potential partners, garner exposure, and secure funding to pro-

pel their growth.

The startups include digital addressing solution OkHi, carbon finance platform Earthbond, e-health platform OneHealth, AI healthcare service PBR Life Sciences, energy solutions startup Rana Energy, clean energy venture So-Cool and fintech startup Veend-HQ which are from Nigeria.

Three are from South Africa, namely climate-tech company Decarb.earth, food-

tech venture Newform Foods and smart energy company Plentify. From Kenya are blockchain company Melanin Kapital, connectivity venture Poa Internet and SaaS e-commerce platform SkyGarden.

Also pitching will be Ethiopia's Teraki, an audio streaming platform; and Egypt's Wfley, an app for promotions and instant marketing.

"As we celebrate the eighth ATS London,

we are delighted to spotlight 15 ventures defining the future of tech innovation. With over 150 quality entries received this year, the decision-making process was a challenging one. With several of our past ATS Investment Showcase participants securing funding and partnerships, we're excited to see what the future holds for these ventures," said Lauren Adair, director at Africa Tech Summit.

Deaf teen outshines others in community ballet dance

NAIROBI

A DEAF teenager from a Nairobi slum has defied expectation by excelling in a community ballet programme, despite not being able to hear the music.

Seventeen-year-old Gorrety Akinyi is the only deaf student in the class and has been able to master the routines by carefully copying her teacher and classmates.

Founded by Michael Wamaya, Project Elimu offers after school arts education and a safe space for children in Kibera, the largest informal settlement in the Kenyan capital.

Using sign language, Akinyi said that she joined the classes with other local children in 2020 when all the schools were closed down.

"I was the only deaf girl but Mike was willing to help me and I remember them wondering how I would do it because I am deaf and it is about dancing. So I had to copy what the hearing are doing, as I can't hear and speak as well," she said. In a programme where sound is so important, her decision was met with disbelief among her hearing peers.

But growing up deaf, she has

learnt to navigate life's challenges with determination and explains how dancing brings her great joy.

"I think I am inspired. I'm in high school and once I am done, I would wish to continue with ballet," she said.

Through their shared love of dance, Akinyi has forged friendships with her fellow ballet students. She's even taught them some sign language.

"I have been teaching them how to use sign language and so we can even have a discussion and show each other how to dance," she said. Watching her dance, Akinyi's mother, Florence Awino, said she is proud of her daughter.

"Ever since she joined ballet, I have seen a great improvement. Even in terms of the way she dances, you would assume she can hear but she doesn't hear. It's by God's grace that she has come this far," she said.

Ballet teacher, Erick Mwangi, says everyone is welcome in the classes. "That is why you can't notice that a certain child is special in a certain way, especially when they are dancing, because they have learnt to be together, to dance as a team," he said.



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye (L) tries on a 'Maasai' bracelet at Kinua village in Namelock ward earlier this week while assessing the state of rural communication services in Kiteto District. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Annual Africa trade, investment summit to take place next month

LONDON

INVEST Africa, a leading pan-African trade and investment platform, will convene its 10th annual Africa Debate on 6th June in London, under the theme 'Africa's role in a changing global order.'

The Africa Debate is London's leading Africa-focused investment forum.

Headline speakers include Samaila Zubairu, President and Chief Executive Officer, Africa Finance Corporation; Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank Group; Andrew Mitchell MP, Deputy Foreign Secretary and Minister of State (Development and Africa), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office; Diana Layfield, Chair, British Inter-

national Investment; Zeinab Badawi, President of SOAS, University of London; and Idris Elba, Actor, Filmmaker, Musician, Entrepreneur, and Activist; amongst other leaders from government and private enterprise.

"In the lead-up to the 10th anniversary of The Africa Debate, I have been reflecting on Africa's rising prominence on the world

stage," Chantelé Carrington, Chief Executive Officer of Invest Africa said in a statement yesterday.

Carrington added: "Now, more than ever before, Africa is stepping into its own as a global leader, equipped with immense natural capital and a burgeoning population and primed to become a major pole of global economic activity. Join us on 6th June for a day of

debates on Africa's role in a changing global order, and let's explore how we can collectively advance our trifecta themes for this year's conference: Trade, Investment, and Leadership on the continent."

As part of The Africa Debate programme, Invest Africa will host a Morocco Investment Forum on 5th June in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco

in the United Kingdom.

The Forum will provide a unique platform for the visiting delegation of Moroccan government officials and businesses to brief attendees on key sectors ripe for investment, as well as recent reforms and policies aimed at nurturing an investor-friendly environment.

Invest Africa is a leading pan-African business platform that pro-



A pineapple vendor waits for customers beside a Mwenge-Mpakani section of Dar es Salaam's Sam Nujoma Road yesterday. He gave lack of access to a nearby proper market as the reason for operating from the unauthorised site. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Migration of herds put herders, farmers in CAR at loggerheads

By Special Correspondent

THE seasonal migration of cattle is a long-standing practice in the Central African Republic (CAR), as herders search for water and pasture.

Things have generally been peaceful along so-called transhumance corridors, but pressures, including climate change, have increased tensions between herders and farmers.

As pressure mounts on resources like water and farmland, there have been incidents when herds cross and damage unharvested fields, or farmers sow their crops on designated transhumance corridors.

"My herd devastated a plantation. The owner came to ask me for damages and we were able to resolve the issue amicably. I paid the amount he asked me," said cattle herder, Mohammed Abakar.

He said he wants to avoid conflict, but not everyone shares his view, with one farmer saying that some herders refuse to pay for crops their cattle have destroyed.

"I caught the oxen committing this act. But the herder asked me to wish his cattle 'bon appetite'. He then asked me to leave and threatened to kill me with his bow if I insisted. This is how I lost my field," said farmer Sidonie Tontiyi. "No herder has ever been imprisoned because of our ravaged crops. Agricultural products are consumed by both farmers and ranchers. I hope the government will ensure that herds stay away from our plantations," he said.

Earlier this week, the UN mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) together with partners, held a conference in the capital, Bangui, in a bid to find ways to reduce the insecurity and violence associated with the migration.

It brought together representatives of all national and regional actors involved in transhumance activity, non-governmental organisations, as well as technical and financial partners.

Delegates drew up a series of recommendations, which should serve as the basis for a roadmap to establishing a sustainable solution to the ongoing problems between the two communities.

Over 10 dead as man sets mosque on fire in Nigeria

KANO

AT least 11 worshippers have been killed and dozens others injured after a man attacked a mosque in Nigeria's northern Kano state, police said yesterday.

A man allegedly sprayed the mosque with petrol and locked its doors before setting it on fire, trapping about 40 worshippers, they said.

The attack was triggered by a family dispute over sharing of inheritance.

Police said they arrested a 38-year-old suspect.

The incident happened when people were attending morning prayers on Wednesday in Gezawa area of Kano state.

Residents said flames engulfed the mosque after the attack with worshippers

heard wailing as they struggled to open the locked doors.

After hearing the explosion, neighbours rushed to help those trapped inside, local media reported.

Rescue teams including bomb experts from the city of Kano were immediately deployed in response to the attack, a police statement said.

Police later confirmed that a bomb was not used in

the attack. The Fire Service in Kano said they were not called immediately after the fire started, adding that they could have brought the situation under control much faster. Kano Fire Service spokesman Saminu Yusuf said that they were only informed after locals had already put out the fire.

"In a situation like this, people are supposed to call us but

we didn't get any call from the location until after normalcy had returned," he said.

Police said the suspect confessed that his actions were part of a dispute over inheritance, claiming he was targeting some family members who were inside the mosque.

"What happened is not associated with any act of terrorism, rather it was a skirmish that arose as a result

of inheritance distribution," Umar Sanda, a local police chief, told journalists after visiting the scene.

"The suspect is presently with us and is giving out useful information," he said.

Initial reports said one worshipper had died from the attack but the death toll later rose after more victims died while receiving treatment at the Murtala Muhammad Spe-

cialist Hospital in Kano.

More victims, including children, are still receiving treatment at the hospital, according to police.

Sheikh Dauda Sulaiman said killing people while they're praying is one of the biggest sins possible and that apart from repenting to God, the culprit should pay blood money to the families of those that died.

Another oil and gas licensing round is good for fiscal needs

IN a global situation where fossil fuels in their various guises, such as oil wells or natural gas with a fire chimney visibly damaging the earth's atmosphere, engaging in talks with major stakeholders on a new auction of petroleum exploration blocks later this year can register a little discomfort.

There are many who would not wish to hear this kind of news, having committed their faith and imagination to eliminating fossil fuels for renewable energy as the principal goal of action of the environment.

It is not an irrelevance but the world is still a bit far from eliminating oil altogether and, even less so, natural gas.

A senior official with the Indian High Commission in Tanzania recently made exploratory consultations with the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA), with the government's plan to auction oil and gas blocks set to come up in the next few months.

The high commission deemed it necessary to meet the right Tanzanian officials to enable it provide comprehensive information to companies and stakeholders back home, as a number of Indian firms are likely to be interested in this information.

That was another moment of economic diplomacy, as auctioning oil and gas blocks doesn't just need advertising as in supplies tenders but soliciting likely interested parties. It's a risky investment in part, much unlike a supply deal.

While there are Western companies operating in the oil and gas sector in the country, it is unclear what sort of expansion plans they have.

It is similarly unclear whether they would still benefit from investment risk guarantees back home, as quite often this is a deciding component in an investment package.

It is undeniable that renewable energy is the mantra in policy settings in the West. The fact that hundreds of European Union legislators organised not only demonstrations but also filed a court case against the East African Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project shows the way feelings are etched in Europe.

Still, these are early days in the auction plans for onshore and offshore blocks, and already most firms doing that kind of work are Western.

It is thus possible that they may wish to expand their foothold, with other companies in their respective states not wishing to join any 'oil rush'.

Optimal conditions for the auction may therefore still prevail, in the sense of a fairly competitive set of companies turning up, not just from one area and having synchronised their bidding positions.

A critical part of that quest is a pre-existing model of production sharing agreements as their drafting or formal approval will be tossed back and forth as top levels contest state prerogatives or benchmarks.

Some relief was visible with an observation that a review of the Petroleum Act of 2015 was under way, mainly with a view to identifying sections requiring amendments.

Oil and gas exploration and production regulatory authorities in the two countries are seeking to create synergies in particular areas, diminishing the pressure on investment firms as they have an extra channel of official communication.

Locally, the collaboration is geared at capacity building for personnel in oil and natural gas, eventually improving upstream and downstream capacities as well. It is mostly a matter of investment synergies that can be generated with different investors.

Decline in externally-sourced malaria funding spells danger

EXPERTS are beginning to worry about the scarcity of local financing as this channel is becoming increasingly vital in combating malaria.

This was the mood emerging from the annual scientific conference for institutions working under the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

The event saw health researchers listing ways meant to address hurdles facing the year 2030 malaria elimination target.

Technical observations raised include the need to focus on outdoor mosquito control in contrast with directing all the energy to treated bed nets to control night time mosquito bites. That is plain enough.

The range of issues raised at the conference, where at least on that day malaria prevalence seemed to be top of the agenda, related to the improving tools for use in the fight against malaria - including its financing.

There are good reasons for the demand to enhance local financing, but habit shows that this is primarily anchored in multilateral cooperation, such that both the agenda at any time and the substance of financing schedules were usually external in character.

That is why projecting what happens in that sphere in the next decade is problematic, as it involves contrasting trends in the malaria prevalence control and reduction campaign.

Stakeholders in the research sphere in particular seek an elevation of financing in order to take up a wider array of issues, to anchor policy actions in advanced research.

Conference participants pointed at the need to beef up vector control, resistance and surveillance which

are effective but remain slow in controlling malaria prevalence, decrying the focus on night mosquito bites.

Widening this spectrum to daytime bites or early evening spread of mosquitoes demands more field work, and thus more financing.

While there is no objection that all these areas of malaria transmission fight like larvae source control need funding, only a breadth of it looks feasible, for instance taking up vaccination of children under five years as they are the most vulnerable.

There are vaccines that have been tested and accepted for use by the World Health Organisation (WHO) especially for children, even as their rate of effectiveness is being rated at nearly three-quarters of the vaccination sample population. That means controlling at least 70 per cent of all new malaria cases among children.

When the funds are inadequate for strengthening surveillance and monitoring, especially on mosquito resistance, chances are that public authorities will be tied down to the basic curative or disease management function of the healthcare system. Research then boils down to academic work that may at times help those guiding the ministry concerned to adopt this or that decision.

That would be a crucial intervention in one regard or another, for instance adopting the stance of anti-malaria vaccination for children. Precision on larvae sources or resistance to control measures on one hand and drugs on another would probably come later.

That casts doubt on the goal of eliminating malaria by 2030 as there are no integrated aspirations among stakeholders.

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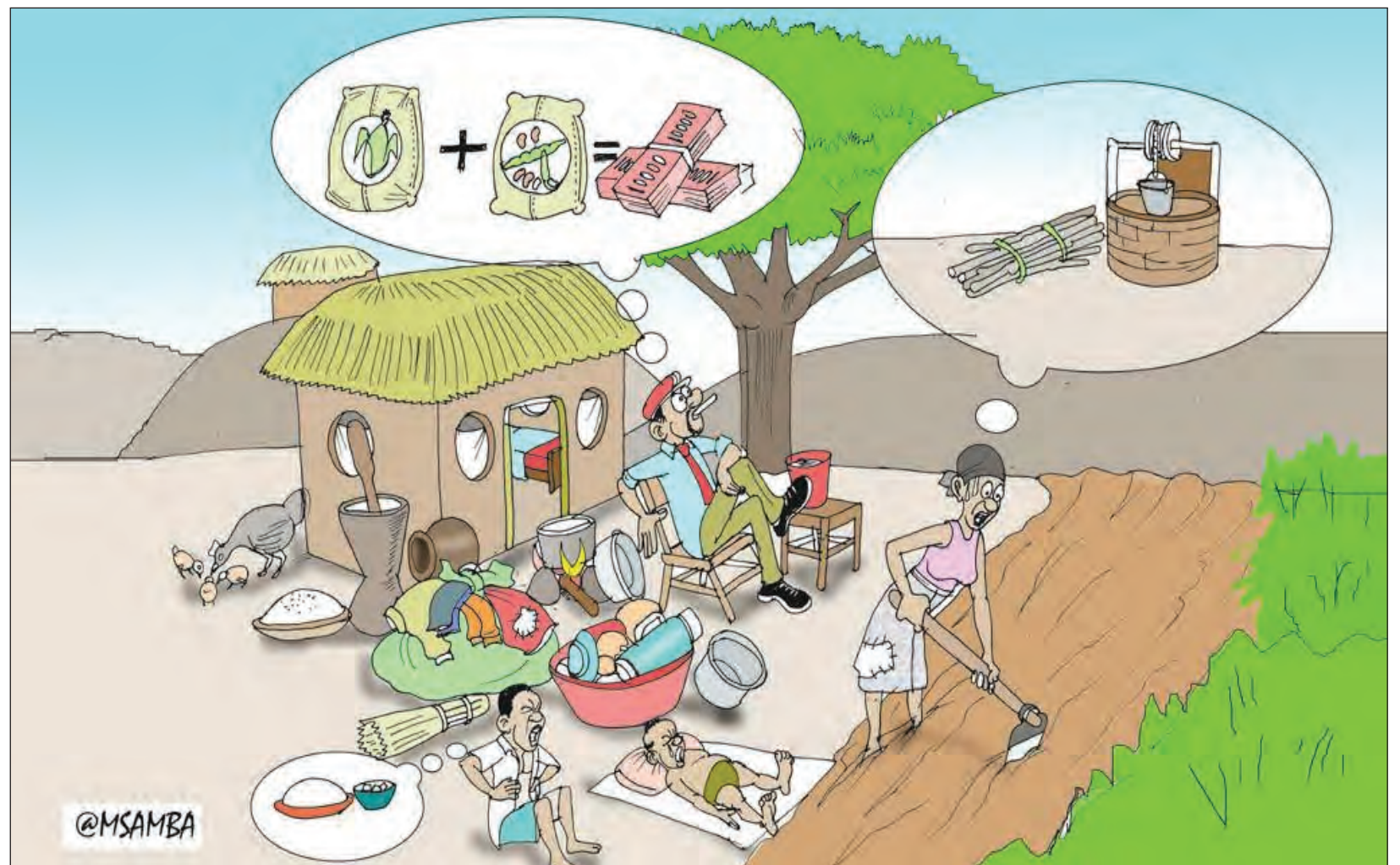
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We live in a democracy that was born out of pain and struggle – let's not squander it

By Andrew Ihsaan Gasnolur

THIRTY years ago, there was a sense of anticipation, fear, optimism and a collective sense that a country could be repurposed. From decades of oppression and degradation by an illegitimate regime, there was a clear path towards a better future - a future that was not gifted or simply obtained, but one that took countless lives, and robbed opportunity and promise from millions of South Africans.

Thirty years ago in April 1994, an eight-year-old joined his family in the voting lines in Bonteheuwel on the Cape Flats of Cape Town, and millions of others, in the belief that our country was not gifted, but rather that it required our participation for a government that is mandated to serve the people of the Republic.

There is no denying that communities, where that eight-year-old lived and to which his family was displaced, are yearning for more. Yearning for a country that can live up to its founding; a country with a Constitution that implores us to all improve "the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person".

Today, with a national and provincial election two weeks away, the disillusionment across the country is palpable.

The optimism of 30 years ago has been eroded by sequential and multiple failures, coupled with intentional malfeasance and self-interest by the governing party, and the inability of the current crop of opposition parties to mount a convincing argument to the voters of the country.

The disillusionment in some ways has been entrenched by the failures of coalition politics to shift the needle in South Africa's metros, which instead have been riddled with consequential failures that continue to compromise service delivery for the most vulnerable.

However, the opportunity of this election is that South Africans are once again being reminded that South Africa is not defined by ineffective political leaders, but rather by the spirit and tenacity of a people that continue to refuse and defy defeat.

Over the past year, and through this relatively muted election campaign, we have seen an important opportunity for new leaders to step up - not in a bid to save South Africa, but rather to work with communities and people for real participation, and for a shift in political culture.

After the 1994 election 30 years ago, too many South Africans took their hands off the wheel. We anticipated



South African president Cyril Ramaphosa

that a government in service of the people, mandated to serve the interests of the people, would be enough - instead, we have been confronted by betrayal and the accumulation of wealth and power for a few.

In two weeks, young children will watch as adult South Africans (at least those registered) show a real commitment to participatory democracy, underpinned by an enabling Constitution that holds public power in check.

For us to properly enable the next period of our democracy, it is critical that we remind young people, friends and family that this is the moment when we can redirect the future of South Africa.

We can collectively redirect and shift the needle for those people and communities that have been ignored for too long, and perhaps we can practice real commitment to building a country that honours the sacrifices that many have made and continue to make for freedom.

In two weeks, South Africans across the country will remind the governing party (across the country, and also in provinces) that public power is not exercised without due care and consideration.

The power of the people will be an important reminder to mark 30 years of our constitutional democracy in South Africa - far more meaningful and impactful than the country's political elite may appreciate.

However, the only way to ensure

coalition politics does not leave a bitter taste in our mouths - and more lost years of effective government - is through the active participation of South Africans.

The political parties seeking the votes of South Africans must be reminded that the mandate granted to them on 29 May is a reminder that they work on borrowed time and that they have no choice but to serve the interests of the Republic.

The choice before South Africans, at both the national level and across the provinces, is to demand more - to rebuild our country in a way that can honour "those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land" - and to leverage the democratic principles that are embedded in our founding to finally confront the triple threat of unemployment, inequality and poverty.

This is a time for South Africans to reject the policies of the day that have entrenched inequality and unemployment, embraced wildly inadequate thinking on rebuilding our cities to reject apartheid spatial planning, and elevated political leaders from freely elected representatives into apparatchiks of a broken political system.

The only way to remedy this crisis is for us to punish those political parties in the sixth Parliament, and to introduce a swathe of new leaders who are driven by principles and are committed to the service of the people.

The prospect of new leaders, driven by values and an urgent de-

sire to serve the people, is exactly why our imperfect democracy is underpinned by an enabling and progressive Constitution - a document that does not simply exist to provide parameters for our country and its leaders, but rather imposes a progressive and continuing obligation on our elected leaders to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with those values.

It is a Constitution that implores the people to participate actively in the wellbeing of our democracy, and which secures their place in this democracy.

We must not be swayed by those willing to engage in ethno-nationalism, and the identity politics of fear-mongering. Instead, we must ensure that the right people and new leaders are infused into South Africa's seventh Parliament (and across our provincial legislatures).

There is a desperation and an urgency across South Africa that must be responded to.

Our elected representatives in this next chapter of South Africa's democracy must be given notice that now is the time for urgency and commitment - a commitment that is not focused on perpetuating the fear-mongering of xenophobia or ethno-nationalism or peppered with the conveniently hollow rhetoric of fear and power.

Real power has always resided in the people of South Africa, and on 29 May, South Africans can begin the work of taking back power from those who have abused and

By Telesphor Magobe

Parental care is non-delegable child upbringing responsibility

LAST week, we briefly looked at the death penalty in relation to Union Day (April 26, 2024), when President Samia Suluhu Hassan granted an amnesty for 1,082 prisoners. Of all the prisoners who were granted an amnesty, 20 of them had initially been convicted of murder or treason and had been sentenced to suffer death by hanging in accordance with section 26(1) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022).

However, their penalty was commuted to life imprisonment. We then said Tanzania is among the countries referred to as "abolitionist in practice" - that is countries which still have death penalty in their penal laws, but have not carried out executions for at least 10 years! It suffices to say that the death penalty should be abolished because it is a cruel and barbaric penalty to be practised in civilised society which guarantees and protects the light to life.

Today, I invite you to reflect again on child upbringing albeit on a different aspect from what we have already covered. We will do that in light of sections 9 (parental duty and responsibility) and 13 (protection from torture and degrading treatment) of the Law of Child Act (R.E 2019). Section 9(3)(b) in particular provides that every parent shall "provide good guidance, care, assistance and maintenance for the child and assurance of the child's survival and development."

Studies show that the brain of children aged 0-6 years (others put it up to 8 years) has an extraordinary capacity for learning. They suggest that when children at this



Many of the industries have been partially paralyzed for a lack of raw materials like tomatoes.

including John. As a result, John started underperforming and his parents thought it was because he liked playing very much and watching TV cartoons instead of looking for the real problem facing him. They assumed that his underperforming was a result of lack of concentration on classwork and homework.

John, who was at the beginning brilliant in class, scoring between 85-99 per cent, slipped to between 40 and 60 per cent in exams. His teachers, having been alarmed by John's performance called his parents and told them John could be advised to look for another school because he gets very low marks and to continue like that wouldn't do any help to him. The teachers said if he got another school he could start well and eventually improve. Looking at John's poor performance the persons to blame are his parents because they have failed to help their child to maintain his brilliance.

Unfortunately, John even if he is asked very simple questions, he can hardly score beyond 60 percent. From getting A John now gets C or D. His parents are to blame for his recurring problem. He is often sternly rebuked, but hardly corrected as a child. With such treatment, the child might have undergone some traumatic experience which has affected his academic performance.

As the Law of the Child (R.E 2019) puts it, parents (including guardians) have the duty and responsibility to provide good guidance, care, assistance, maintenance and assurance of their children's survival and development. There is no better upbringing than this. If the child misses out on this is likely to learn his or her own way and may turn into a juvenile delinquent and a future law-breaker, instead of being a responsible and law-abiding person. So, parents as busy as they are shouldn't delegate their parental duty to teachers.

Today's proverb: 'When thy neighbour's house doth burn, be careful of thine own.'

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The Law and You



age are exposed to quality education they are likely to excel not only in education, but also in life. The opposite of this is also true. When the same children are exposed to nasty experiences they are likely to miss out on quality education and on character formation. We can add that it is in childhood children learn to be what they will be and do when they become adults.

Yet, most parents fail in parental care, especially if they don't provide good guidance, care, assistance, maintenance and assurance of their children's survival and development. The harsh treatment children pass through during their childhood and frequent stern rebukes do not help them at all to excel in life. John comes from a family of two children - he and his sister. He is now nine years old. After he was born he had a problem with his legs and had to undergo a medical operation.

quent stern rebukes do not help them at all to excel in life. John comes from a family of two children - he and his sister. He is now nine years old. After he was born he had a problem with his legs and had to undergo a medical operation.

This delayed him to start pre-primary education for at least a year and half. However, when he was well again he was able to start school and was brilliant in class. After some time their school had a shortage of teachers because some of them were leaving for greener pastures in other schools.

A frequent change of teachers affected some schoolchildren,

Patients' pains are sometimes psychosomatic

By Peter Muthamia

THE world's greatest philosopher, Socrates, once said that the biggest misconception of today is the separation of the mind and body by physicians. What he meant was that there is lack of interconnection between the state of mind, feelings, emotions and ailments in the patients' bodies by most doctors. Yet, there are all indications that preconceived notions that one's sickness or the magnitude of the pain felt is sometimes attributable to his or her mental state.

Sample this: A patient is brought into the clinic to see the doctor and slumps on the chair complaining of pain real or imagined in different parts of his or her body including headache, nausea and back pain. Dictates of good medical practice, though often ignored by doctors, are that there is need to first look into the

psychological aspect.

As if that is not enough, some patient insists to a certain medication prescription regime or injection, or insistence on seeing a specific doctor or nurse can safely be argued that the patient suffers psychosomatic disorder.

Tony, 40, and editor went to the hospital complaining of headache, stomach ache and back pains. After all tests were done, including MRI, CT-scan and laboratory examinations, he was found to be as fit as a fiddle.

The doctor on interrogating him found out that he was fatigued (he worked so hard) and suffered anxiety disorder. Resting was recommended or him. A couple of days after, he resumed his work feeling well and up to the task.

Disorders and pains that are not directly attributable to organic diseases are called psychosomatic pains

- psycho meaning mind, and soma meaning cells other than reproductive cells.

When no organic disorder can be pointed at to explain these symptoms as a result of medical examination, laboratory investigations, and imaging available at the hospital, then such diseases are considered to result from the mind (psyche).

According to Dr Adrian, a cardiologist at Aga Khan Hospital, rarely do patients exhibit psychosomatic symptoms at his level of specialized treatment because if a patient suffers anxiety symptoms, the case is diagnosed earlier at clinical level and handled by neurologists, psychologists and psychiatrists.

"When the doctor becomes conclusive that there are no tell-tale symptoms after medical examination, laboratory investigations, and imaging, checking of the aspects of the mind becomes obvious," he says.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders reference book of diagnostic criteria in psychiatry explains psychosomatic diseases as follows.

"A combination of multiple physical symptoms that occur within a period of time, with continuing search for treatment, and resulting in deterioration of social or professional life."

It explains it as having at least four separate pains (headache, abdominal pain, pain in the arms and legs, back pain, etc.), two gastrointestinal tract symptoms (nausea, bloating, vomiting without pregnancy, diarrhoea, gastric irritation), one sexual function or genital system symptom (menstrual irregularity, impotence in men, sexual aversion to women and men, etc.).

It further explains that for one to be considered suffering from one neurological symptom (impaired balance, regional paralysis or decreased strength, difficulty swallowing, double vision, deafness, loss of consciousness, etc.).

It further states that lack of evidence of any organic disorder to explain these symptoms as a result of medical examination, laboratory investigations, and imaging methods. If one is not addicted to alcohol, drugs, or other substances or if one exhibits insecure and skeptical approach to psychiatric examination, then it can be safely concluded that the patient

Stress is one of the major causes of psychosomatic diseases. Stress causes many bodily functions to deteriorate or not work properly.

"Often, the psychosomatic nature of pains experienced by patients is discovered at the clinical level by doctors at the emergency and other initial stages of diagnosis are first handled by the neurologists, psychiatrists and psychologists at that level after an array of clinical tests have been done including ECG, ECHO and other laboratory tests have been done and found not to be. The cases of this nature that get to us as specialists, say, cardiologists are negligible," says Adrian

He further alludes that generally,

there are people brought in with anxiety problems especially children and women. They may complain of chest pains or any other ailments but chest pains could be symptoms of an array of problems and not necessarily heart problems.

But according to Dr Abbas A. Abbas, a psychiatrist at the Muhimbili Hospital at Mulganzira, patients actually feel pain and that is why they go to the hospital in the first place.

"One cannot rule out the fact that the patients actually feel some sort of pain and that is why they come to us. As for patients preferring a specific doctor, it is human nature to choose whoever they want to treat them. In many such cases, multidisciplinary approach," says Dr Abbas.

Placebo medication "Occasional cases of psychosomatic disorder may manifest themselves in the elderly or children or those people working under pressure in the high offices. Most of them happen to be woman, the elderly and children. Since problems like chest pains or such ailments have many differentials, we refer them to the neurological department who offer them psychological support.

In some cases, doctors may make use of placebo medicines.

Placebos look like real drugs but are made of inactive substance such as starch or sugar. Despite of there being inactive ingredient in them, some patients feel better after taking them," says Dr Adrian.



By Special Correspondent

THE debacle that is the Cuban food industry is no secret, though that does not diminish the devastating scene of the statistics offered on Tuesday, which allows us to quantify the collapse suffered in just five years.

Between 2018 and 2023, the production of 23 foods, selected by the National Office of Statistics and Information as a reference for measuring the state of the manufacturing sector, declined by 66.7 percent.

Spanish news agency, EFE, echoed the report as soon as it was released. From it, they highlighted with stupor that bread production had declined from 493,700 in 2013 to 326,300 in 2023, by 34 percent as noted in the headline. It is not, however, the most impactful data.

Despite the alarming numbers-aggravated by the fact that this is a basic necessity-a detailed review of the decline in each of the food products analyzed, the truth is that bread is among the least depleted products. Only preserved meats (33 percent) and lobster tail (20 percent) declined less.

Among the worst declines were pork, which declined from 149,400 to 13,300 tons-a 91 percent decline, and rice which fell by 90 percent from 272,800 tons to only 27,900; both are products of great importance in Cuban diets.

The last five year period was also nefarious for coffee and milk, elemental in national culture, which registered declines of 51 percent in the case of the first, and 90 percent for evaporated milk, while whole pasteurized frozen milk declined by 49.6 percent.

In the middle tier, again taking into consideration their importance in the cuisine and catastrophic production are pastas, with a 91 percent decline since 2018; vegetable oils, 81 percent; yogurt with 68.8 percent decline and wheat flour, 57 percent. Beef production fell by 58 percent, cheeses 52 percent, canned tomatoes 76 percent and unsalted butter 76 percent. In this case, the disaster of salted butter is notable; production fell from a high of 100 tons to absolute zero, the worst percentage among the 23 products selected.

Two special mentions are lobster and shrimp, products protected for what they mean for the country's economy through exports and the hemorrhage of which could not be contained. The first fell from 7,200 tons in 2018 to 1,200 last year, which represents an 82% decline. For lobster, although tails are among those that barely

Cuba's food industry fell 67 percent in the last five years



Many of the industries have been partially paralysed for a lack of raw materials like tomatoes.

contained the catastrophe, whole, pre-cooked, frozen lobster fell from 645,000 tons to 325,100 – a 49.6 percent decline.

Fruit preserves, excluding baby food, also collapsed by half in these five years, as did other more superfluous foods such as ice cream (a 55 percent decline), fancy crackers (74.7 percent) and saltines, which experienced a sharp 85 percent decline from 18,500 tons to 2,700.

Rounding out the list was animal feed, which fell by 70 percent from 1,356,200 tons to only 406,400, a data point which helps explain the catastrophic situation of animal source foods. Something similar is happening with chemicals used in

agriculture, which appear in another one of the sections of the report that presents very negative data.

Of the 43,000 tons of complete fertilizer produced in 2018 only 1,500 were produced in 2023. The same occurs for ammonium nitrate, which is used in the production of leafy green vegetables, the production of which declined from 28,000 tons to 1,700.

The document includes several categories-though of lesser importance in the daily life of Cubans – including all types of beverages (beer and soda production also fell by half), tobacco, clothing and shoes, construction materials, machinery and

even televisions. Of the entire four-page list, production improved for only three products in this five-year period: household detergent, paint and gas stoves.

Also notable is the absolute absence from the document of information on petroleum products in 2023. The report only accounts for data through 2022, for unknown reasons, but which might relate to the opacity the government maintains on this product due to the U.S. sanctions, which aim to prevent its delivery. Most of the refined products fell by at least half between 2018 and 2022.

The report also includes data on the labor force, which apparently grew in the manufacturing industry during this period. Salaries also experienced a significant increase, especially in 2021 with the Reordering Task, although the estimate should be analyzed taking into consideration the high inflation rate over the last five years-in the three-digit range if the informal market is considered-as well as the devaluation of the currency.

Another of the conclusions extracted from the document is the decline in spending on electricity among the manufacturing industry, which contributes to lower production. If in 2018 it consumed 1,432 giga watts (GW) per hour, or 6.9 percent of total electricity consumption, in 2023 it declined to 1,068 GH or 5.7 percent of the current 18,781.4.

The scene presented by the document – despite being incomplete and taking into consideration its representative sample of production – is one of an industry that has practically been annulled, even taking into account that it is one a sector in which the government has invested more money last year, with 16,854 billion pesos, or 17.5 percent of the total and second only to tourism, with 33.5 percent if both its component areas are added.

US floating pier to improve Gaza's critical aid pipeline

By Paul Adams

GAZA'S latest aid corridor is about to open. With some of the key land crossing points still closed, an ambitious American maritime corridor is due to start operating in the coming days.

With 2.2 million Palestinians in need of food, shelter and other assistance, how much difference will it make?

Early on Thursday morning, a temporary pier, several hundred metres long, was attached to the beach just south of Gaza City.

Several miles offshore, a large floating platform has already been anchored, ready to receive the first shipments of aid from a staging post in Cyprus, 200 miles (320km) to the north.

US officials say the first 500 tonnes of assistance will arrive soon, with thousands more to follow.

Because of the shallowness of the waters off the Gaza

Strip, pallets of aid will be transported to the floating platform before being ferried to the pier aboard logistics support vessels (LSVs), capable of carrying up to 15 Lorries each.

Fleets of Lorries will ferry the aid ashore to a large marshalling yard prepared and guarded by the Israeli military.

From there, aid agencies - primarily the World Food Programme - will be responsible for distributing supplies across the Gaza Strip.

Vice-Adm Brad Cooper, deputy commander of US Central Command, said he initially expected to see about 90 Lorries a day delivering aid via the maritime route, known as a Joint Logistics Over-The-Shore (JLOTS) capability.

He said this figure would rise to 150 Lorries a day.

"We have high expectation," he told reporters on Thursday, while making it clear that JLOTS are no substitute for properly functioning land corridors.

But given the threats faced by aid convoys, which

have been looted by gangs, mobbed by desperate civilians, and shot at by the Israeli military, how safe will this operation be?

"Our assessment is clearly that we can operate safely under current conditions," Vice-Adm Cooper said.

"We've worked very closely with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to develop a series of protocols and best practices."

But following a series of episodes, including an Israeli drone strike on 1 April which killed seven aid workers from the organisation World Central Kitchen, officials admit the wider operation is not without risk.

It's one thing to bring aid ashore, quite another to ensure that it's safely distributed in places where fighting is still going on.

"The deconfliction measures are not where they need to be at, given the complexity of the environment," Ms Korde said, referring to the procedures used to help keep aid workers out of harm's way.

"Those conversations... need to get to a place where humanitarian aid workers feel safe."

That certainly isn't the case at the moment.

"It's a highly insecure environment," Georgios Petropoulos of the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

With the UN once again running out of fuel and drivers sometimes too frightened to show up for work, aid distribution remains perilous and patchy.

"It has to be part of a holistic logistical ecosystem," Mr Petropoulos said.

For aid agencies, anything that improves the overall picture is welcome.

Most regard the JLOTS as an expensive, less efficient substitute for land corridors, and possibly fraught with risk. But they seem willing to give it a chance.

"We should not be distracted by how things come into Gaza," Mr Petropoulos said.

"The United Nations in Gaza will work to make sure that even the maritime corridor is a safe place from which we can help people."

The UN was able to move some of its existing supplies from warehouses in the south to help meet the needs of

more than half a million Palestinians who have fled north from Rafah over the past 10 days.

But with the Rafah crossing with Egypt closed and the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel barely functioning, there's a critical break in the aid pipeline.

The UN says 4,000 tonnes of food and other aid items remain stored in warehouses in areas subject to last week's Israeli evacuation orders in eastern Rafah.

"It's a matter of time before people realise that nothing more is coming," Mr Petropoulos said.

The arrival of the JLOTS is timely, but it seems there's only so much it can do to improve Gaza's desperate humanitarian situation.



A military vessel seen on Thursday in the sea next to pier that will be used to bring aid ashore to Gaza.

East Africa warned of impending food shortage after floods devastate croplands, kill livestock

By Tony Malesi

THE heavy rainfall and floods that have been battering East Africa since March have submerged thousands of acres of croplands and killed thousands of livestock, leaving the region vulnerable to an imminent food shortage, according to experts.

Alongside the loss of life, the agricultural devastation is immense and has significant nutritional implications. In Kenya alone, at least 9,973 livestock have been lost and 41,562 acres of cropland, including crucial staple foods like maize, have been swept away, with rice fields submerged, according to authorities.

Moreover, more than 60 roads, many of which connect farmers to fresh produce markets on a daily basis, have been damaged and rendered impassable, according to records from the National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) and Kenya Red Cross Society.

The contamination of 1,465 clean water sources, such as ponds, rivers, and streams, which serve as vital sources of aquatic foods, exacerbates the situation. In some instances, these water sources have become breeding grounds for deadly diseases like malaria, further complicating the already dire circumstances.

The World Food Programme and other global humanitarian agencies engaged in responding to the flooding crisis across East Africa – where over 26 million vulnerable people were already facing hunger before the flooding crisis – have expressed concerns about disrupted food production.

Kenyan farmers count their losses

According to humanitarian aid organisation Action Against Hunger, damaged infrastructure and collapsed supply chains will inevitably lead to a food shortage crisis,

putting vulnerable populations at risk of hunger and malnutrition.

“Torrential downpours have submerged over 41,000 acres of croplands and thousands of livestock have died or been lost amidst the deluge. In a country where two-thirds of people live in poverty and many depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, a hunger crisis may be imminent,” the organisation said in a statement.

In parts of Central Kenya and the Rift Valley region – the country’s reliable food baskets – farmers have been asked to permit response and rescue teams to create large water diversions or channels on their farms leading to nearby streams.

“I am a rice farmer. Nearly six acres of the crop have been destroyed, amounting to almost Ksh 1 million (\$7,633). I don’t know where to begin. The entire field is submerged in floodwater, and the crop is now rotting away,” James Odero, a farmer in Kenya’s Busia County, told local media.

Odero’s sentiments echo those of thousands of other distressed farmers across the country. Speaking to the media, Felix Mutua, a farmer from Eastern Kenya, appealed to the government to compensate those who have lost their crops to aid in their recovery.

“The best thing the government can do for farmers like myself, who have lost over Ksh 2 million (\$15,296) worth of investment, is to provide us with free seeds and fertilisers. We are also incurring losses in the dairy sector. Milk aggregators cannot reach us to collect the commodity due to destroyed roads,” said Mutua, adding that some smallholder farmers are stuck with rotting fresh produce like cabbages, tomatoes, and carrots as roads to markets have been severed.

In addition to agricultural losses worth millions of shillings, Kenya’s Ministry of Agriculture revealed



Crops in Kenya destroyed by floods.

that state corporation Kenya Seed Company has also lost over 2,000 acres of seed under propagation.

“Agriculture has suffered greatly due to the flood wrath caused by climate change. Everyone has witnessed the ravages of floods,” said Paul Rono, agriculture principal secretary.

Devastation in Tanzania

In Tanzania, floods have claimed lives and decimated thousands of farmlands, with the Department of Disaster Management in the Prime Minister’s Office estimating a 30 per cent drop in food production.

“The rains and floods since January have left 155 dead and 236 injured and affected 200,000 people and 51,000 households. In Pwani and Morogoro regions alone, 76,700 hectares of farmland were flooded and 10,800 households were displaced to temporary camps and shelters,” Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said in a recent statement to the Tanzanian Parlia-

ment.

With the majority of the Tanzanian population dependent on agriculture and livestock, the relentless floods have exacerbated food insecurity in the country. The ongoing floods in Eastern Africa have thus far affected over one million people in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, and Burundi, disrupting regional food production, with experts predicting hunger in the coming weeks.

Climate change disrupting regional food production

The impacts of extreme weather events extend beyond the East Africa region, spreading across Southern Africa, where they pose a significant threat to food security.

Throughout the Southern Africa region, El Niño has exacerbated dry weather conditions and led to decreased rainfall, prompting governments in Mada-

gascar, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to declare states of emergency.

The situation in Zambia is particularly dire, prompting the country’s cabinet to approve the suspension of stringent measures, including taxes, on all imported maize last week to address the shortage caused by drought.

In leaked ministerial correspondence between the two countries, the Permanent Secretary in Uganda’s Ministry of Agriculture, David Kyomukama, confirmed receiving a request to supply up to 500,000 metric tonnes of grain to drought-stricken Zambia.

African Development Bank commits \$2 billion as it leads the way at landmark summit for access to clean cooking in Africa

PARIS

THE African Development Bank Group pledged \$2 billion over 10 years towards clean cooking solutions in Africa – a major step along the road to saving the lives of 600,000 mainly women and children each year.

Speaking at a landmark summit on Clean Cooking in Africa held in Paris this week, the Bank Group’s President Dr Akinwumi Adesina, said the institution would now commit 20 per cent of all its financing of energy projects towards promoting safe alternatives to cooking with charcoal, wood and biomass.

Receiving heads of state and government, and leaders of international organizations at the Elysee Palace to discuss the outcomes of the summit, French President Emmanuel Macron, praised the African Development Bank’s leading role and commitment to delivering clean cooking in Africa. The summit resulted in \$2.2 billion pledges from the public and private sectors.

“As part of the Paris Pact for People and the Planet, and with the commitment of Tanzania, Norway, the International Energy Agency, the African Development Bank, and many other partners, we are taking a step forward against this silent scourge today. We are mobilizing \$2.2 billion to provide clean alternatives to populations in Africa,” Macron said.

Addressing the summit plenary yesterday, the African Development Bank President noted that in Africa a staggering 1.2 billion people lack access to clean cooking facilities.

The Summit was co-chaired by United Republic of Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Norway Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, Dr Adesina and the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency Dr Fatih Birol.



In his passionate address, Adesina declared that it was time to end the sight of African women and girls, backs bent bearing heavy loads, walking kilometres each day, often with a lack of security just to cook daily family meals. He noted that the tools for enabling clean cooking access are readily available and affordable but had not been sufficiently prioritised.

“As a result over 10 years, six million people, mainly women, will die prematurely. That is not acceptable,” he told the summit attended by some 20 African heads of state and government, representatives of all leading international organisations and global businesses.

“Access to clean cooking is about more than cooking, it is about dignity... It is more than about lighting a stove, it is about life itself. It is about fairness, justice and equity for women,” Adesina said, recalling how as a youth he had damaged his own eyesight blowing into smoking wooden fires and how a friend had died in a kerosene-related explosion.

Worldwide, the lack of access to clean

cooking affects over two billion people – more than half of whom are in Africa, typically cooking over open fires and basic stoves. Using charcoal, wood, agricultural waste, and animal dung as fuel, they inhale harmful toxic fumes and smoke with dire consequences for health.

It is the second leading cause of premature death in Africa. Opportunities for education, employment and independence are also severely impacted because women instead spend hours each day foraging for rudimentary fuels.

“This momentous summit on clean cooking in Africa is the largest ever gathering of leaders and policy makers dedicated to confronting the issue of access to clean cooking in Africa. We can fix it,” Adesina added. “There is nothing improved in continued suffering. No woman in Africa should have to cook again with firewood, charcoal or biomass. It is time to restore dignity to women who cook in Africa.”

The Bank’s pledge of \$200 million per year represents an important contribution to the

\$4 billion per year needed to allow African families to have access to clean cooking by 2030.

In addition to its dramatic toll on human lives, the lack of clean cooking facilities is one of the main causes of deforestation in Africa.

International Energy Agency figures show that globally 200 million hectares of forest, 110 million of them in Africa, were at risk because of the climatic effects of cooking with charcoal, biomass, and wood. “Providing access to clean cooking is not only right, fair and just – it is also the globally responsible thing to do,” Adesina said in his address to the Summit plenary session.

Adesina hailed the event in which close to 60 countries took part, with over 1,000 delegates in attendance, as a major turning point on an issue which had gone too long unaddressed.

He added that commitments announced at the summit go beyond the money alone – they set out concrete steps on how governments, institutions and the private sector can work together to solve the clean cooking

challenge this decade.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania told the gathering that successfully advancing the clean cooking agenda in Africa would contribute towards protecting the environment, climate, health, and ensuring gender equality.

“This summit underscores our commitment to advancing this agenda and providing a framework towards universal adoption of clean cooking fuels and technologies across the continent,” she said.

President Samia launched during COP28 a national programme to solve this challenge in Tanzania, and in other parts of Africa, with the African Women Clean Cooking Support Program.

She made a strong call to the global community to ensure a bold replenishment of the next three-year cycle of the African Development Bank Group’s concessional window, the African Development Fund. “To guarantee resources for clean cooking, this summit has to call for a generous next replenishment of the African Development Fund that includes \$12 billion for clean cooking,” President Suluhu urged.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store of Norway said: “Improving access to clean cooking is about improving health outcomes, reducing emissions, and creating opportunities for economic growth. With today’s summit, we have mobilized much needed support, and built a diverse partnership that together can make a real difference. Norway is a steadfast supporter of clean cooking, and I was pleased to announce today that we are committed to investing approximately \$50 million in this important cause.”

“This summit has delivered an emphatic commitment to an issue that has been ignored by too many people, for too long. We still have a long way to go, but the outcome of this summit, \$2.2 billion committed, can help support fundamental rights such as health, gender equality and education while also reducing emissions and restoring forests,” IEA Executive Director Birol declared.

Birol said the IEA would build on the summit’s achievements by continuing to play a convening role to engage more willing partners and generate new funds to help meet the \$4 billion a year in capital investments required between now and 2030. Reaching this level of funding would enable the world to deploy the stoves and fuel delivery infrastructure needed to reach universal access to clean cooking in sub-Saharan Africa.

Political parties' limited number of women in leadership and candidate lists: Some solutions

By Victoria Lihiru

TANZANIA, in keeping with global political trends, reserves 30 percent of seats in parliament for women. These so-called special seats were introduced with multiparty politics in 1992, in response to the low numbers of women elected to positions of power.

There were only eight elected female parliamentarians after the first multiparty elections in 1995. Ten years later, 17 women were elected to parliament, representing 7 percent of legislative seats.

Fast forward to the 2020 General Election, women make up 37.4 percent of parliament. However, only 27 women (10.2 percent) were elected directly from the 264 constituencies.

Special seats are credited for increasing women's representation. This has enabled the passing of a couple of "gender sensitive" laws. However, the special seats system is not the magic bullet for achieving gender equality in political representation across the board.

While political parties have met the legal requirements for nominating women for special seats, concerns linger about the parties' internal commitment to advancing women's political participation.

In a recent paper I set out to assess whether the main political parties voluntarily sought to increase women's participation in their internal leadership positions and candidate lists. In particular, I examined whether their constitutions contained voluntary gender quotas beyond fulfilling the quotas in the national statutes.

I found that the constitutions of both parties recognised women's rights to representation as enshrined in international and regional conventions as well as national laws, but these commitments largely start and end with the establishment of a women's wing. Men dominate the parties' decision making organs at national and lower levels.

Since its establishment in 1992, Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema) has never had a woman among its six main national leaders. The ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) named its first female national chair and the first female deputy general secretary-mainland only in 2021. That is 44 years after the party was formed in 1977.



Where the parties stand

On the face of it, Tanzania has advanced women's representation. President Samia Suluhu Hassan is one of the few female presidents the African continent has ever had. But that's not by CCM's constitutional design. The office of the president became vacant on March 17th 2021, when John Pombe Magufuli suddenly died in

power. Samia Suluhu Hassan, then the first female vice president in the history of Tanzania, became president.

She was elected CCM's chair in keeping with the party's tradition that the president is the party leader.

In addition, for about two years, Christina Mndeme held the position of deputy general secretary-

mainland. She was the first woman to hold such a position.

As gender representation is not embedded in CCM's constitution, progress was shortlived.

CCM decision-makers: For instance, while CCM had two women (33 percent) among its six national party leaders in 2021 to December 2022, the number dropped to one (16 percent) after the December 2023 internal elections under Suluhu's watch.

The national structures of the two main political parties show that commitment to women's participation is weak. Women now make up 28 percent of the national general assembly, 23 percent of the national executive committee, 25 percent of the central committee, and 16 percent of the national secretariat.

Chadema decision-makers: Over at Chadema, women comprised 10 percent of its national convention after the party's 2019 election. Only 8.6 percent of the governing council are women, 15.6 percent of the central committee, and 10 percent of the national secretariat.

CCM would appear to be ahead with 16 percent-28 percent of women in key decision-making organs compared to Chadema (8 percent-15 percent). But both parties are still below the 30 percent critical mass principle established in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995. They are also way below the 50/50 men and women representation required under the international and regional conventions.

Similarly, the CCM and Chadema constitutions do not set any numerical gender representation goals in electing their leaders and in nomination of candidates to local and general elections.

Currently, women make up only 10.5 percent of party chairpersons and only 10.5 percent of party secretary generals of 19 registered political parties. Women made up 9.2 percent of all candidates for all positions in the 2020 general election..

All-male affair

At lower levels of party decision making, the story is the same. Women form a small minority in boards of trustees, advisory councils and key departments.

CCM's board of trustees has a chair and eight members. At the time of my survey, only one was a woman. Chadema fares better on this score with equal representation of three men and three women. This is both voluntary and temporary because the party's constitution is silent on the gender composition of the board of trustees.

CCM's advisory council is composed of former presidents who, by custom, served as CCM chairs for both Mainland and Zanzibar. The council also includes former national party deputy chairs. Since its formation in 1977, CCM's advisory council has been an all-male council.

Finally, representation at departmental level reveals the same skew. Four of CCM's five departments are headed by men. Men are at the helm of all Chadema's four departments, known as directorates.

Despite the difficulties in obtaining data, the available information pointed towards the same under-representation of women in the lower administrative tiers of the two parties.

Next steps

The low level of women's representation requires CCM and Chadema, as well as other political parties, to adopt voluntary gender quotas for leadership positions and candidates' lists in line with the law governing political party affairs.

Alternatively, the law governing political party affairs should set out the gender representation numerical goals for parties' leadership positions, decision-making organs and candidates' lists, including rewards and penalties.

Victoria Lihiru is the lecturer, Faculty of Law, The Open University of Tanzania

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 106 -

14. a synthetic calorie-free substitute for fat in foods, able to pass through the body without being absorbed

18. a Mexican agave with large fleshy leaves, cultivated for the fibre it yields

19. a Polynesian garland of flowers

20. in poor health

21. Republic of South Africa

22. aerie

DOWN:

1. a punctuation mark (,) in Kiswahili

2. a wooden frame for holding an artist's work in progress

3. loss or impairment of the power of voluntary movement.

4. Pineapple in Kiswahili

5. aen

6. a small deer

7. dialect form of you

13. A guard in Kiswahili

15. Czar 16. set upright

17. diminish or end

19. of less than average height

ACROSS:

1. follow a winding course

8. Brother in Kiswahili

9. umph 10. extremely stupid

11. Again in Kiswahili

12. forming nouns denoting objects or parts having a specified nature

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.

ROW: AND DAB: WET ADO: BDS
EID: INRO TELLERS FARE: SNOW
RAT: ODE AIRER MAHA: RYOT
WOLFHOOND LAAGER LOGS
DEER ALL-IN FLUENCE

Yesterday's solution

M A S M A R A M I N O R S
O F O O L D E O V E N I
S E R E N G E T I O Y S T E R
C A I R O B E N D D T I R E
O R C A C U R E A L M O N D
W A S K C M F L E E T O
A E N O K I A L I N N
G R A D E N S H A V O C O
M E V E N T S H A I R

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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

Coast top in investing success, small traders' empowerment

By Guardian Correspondent, KIBAHA

Coast Region has excelled in creating a conducive environment for investment as well as providing designated spaces for petty traders to sell their goods.

Even though the designated business spaces have not been officially allocated to them yet, the region's proactive efforts have already been recognized in the assessments conducted by business councils across 15 regions in the country.

This observation was made recently by Chief Economist Mwamini Mkwizu from the office of the Prime Minister during his presentation at a training session for the Coast Region Business Council in Kibaha.

Additionally, Mkwizu highlighted that the region is excelling in agenda preparation by elevating them from mere questions.

He mentioned that Mtwara region sets a precedent in the business council, holding decisive meetings. Conversely, Tabora region falls short as it reportedly doesn't hold any Council meetings based on the assessment.

Previously, Abubakar Kunenge, the Regional Commissioner for Coastal region, emphasized during the council's opening session the importance of addressing current obstacles to enhance the region's contribution to the national income in alignment with the prevailing

investment landscape.

Kunenge further instructed the facilitating institute to establish a welcoming environment for investors, ensuring the region remains an attractive destination for investment.

He expressed his desire to avoid hearing about investments in the region failing or relocating to another area.

The RC stressed that the council should prioritize the President's directives to boost the economy and attract more investors by fostering a favorable business and investment environment.

"Our Chamber of Commerce should set a unique standard for others to follow and learn from. As we address current challenges, it's crucial to have a clear vision of our destination," emphasized RC Kunenge.

Conrad Milinga, Director of Economic Empowerment and Private Sector Development at the Office of the Prime Minister, Parliamentary Policy and Coordination, highlighted that the training aims to enhance the capabilities of business councils to effectively collaborate with the private sector as strategic partners.

Milinga emphasized that the councils should recognize the pivotal role of the private sector in driving economic growth, creating job opportunities, and enhancing the value of goods and services.

Hundreds of investor fraud cases reported on State House portal

Kampala

At least 271 cases of investor fraud have been recorded by the State House Investors' Protection Unit (SHIPU) online portal since its launch five months ago.

Edith Nakalema, the State House Investors' Protection Unit commander who was speaking about the one year since SHIPU was established, revealed that of the 271 cases, the biggest were lodged by local investors, amounting (171) while the rest were from foreign ones. She adds that 57 cases of land fraud were the most reported complaints.

Land fraud cases were followed by soliciting of bribes, unnecessary delays and bureaucracy, financial (loan) related matters, mediation and arbitration issues, extortion, impersonation, and taxation-related complaints.

The portal, which translates into more than ten languages both local and foreign, according to Nakalema, says it is a game-changer for Uganda's investment environment.

The unit commander adds that of the reported cases, 263 were followed up and concluded within the same period, citing an example of an Indian investor who was about to lose prime property in Kampala worth one 75 million dollars over a loan facility, as her land title certificate was shortchanged by the ministry of lands officials during the Christmas holiday when no one is expected to be in the office.

"There is an Indian whose property is worth USD 76 million, here at Kankjoka, it was being taken by the Bank of India on Christmas, and on the 26th I was here. It was about a loan that she was about to complete, it was remaining with less than 10 percent. So they attached her property, and they worked with someone in lands, they were transferring her title into the bank's name. I had to come and look for the principal judge, and this was during the Christmas holiday when everybody was out of the office," she explained.

Agencies

A \$2million worth project launched in Dodoma to assist poultry farmers

By Correspondent
Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE international and local livestock institutes are teaming-up with the potential poultry sector stakeholders to introduce a major project targeting to improve and accelerate chicken keeping activities towards the youth and women poultry farmers in Dodoma region.

Bankrolled by the USAID at a far tune of at least \$2million, the two-year initiative have been hatched to expand access to improved breeds of dual-purpose backyard village chickens, especially commercial broilers and layers, and is expected to reach out to a total of 18,000 farmers in Dodoma rural and urban.

Dubbed 'Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative -Livestock' (AID-L) Tanzania, the robust initiative which has been designed for implementation across all eight districts of Dodoma region also focuses to support cost-share of start-ups and scale-ups, as well as reducing morbidity and mortality of poultry through advisories and mass media.

The institution institutions behind the meaningful economic project include the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), and Land O lakes Venture 37.

And the stakeholders in the project incorporate Silverlands Tanzania Limited, Interchick Company Ltd and the Poultry Association of Tanzania (PAT) to mention but a few.

The hatched initiative, is a brainchild of the Southern Africa Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I) Rapid Delivery Hub, the \$50million worth 36-month initiative which is being implemented in the four countries of Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania, focusing to reach out to a total of 3 million beneficiaries.

Speaking yesterday during launching of the initiative, Adolf Jeremiah, the research coordinator for ILRI in Tanzania expressed that the initiative was working to empower the poultry farmers in the region to modern technologies so as to execute



Adolf Jeremiah, a research coordinator for ILRI, makes a point at the launch of an 'Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative Livestock' project held yesterday in Dodoma. Photo: Valentine Oforo

their activities more commercially and with needed productivity.

He expressed that the project was a gender-based responsive private sector-led women and youth-focused improved chicken-based intervention to contribute to improved food and nutrition security and rural incomes, saying it will run for 18 consecutive months.

Among others targeted outcomes, according to Jeremiah is to further increasing access to improved breeds by the involved number of the project's beneficiaries through women and youth-focused broader units and vendors.

"The initiative will also work to heighten access to bundled advisory services, inputs, and off-takers through agri-entrepreneurs," he communicated.

Talking about supporting cost-share of start-ups and scale-ups, he said the initiative target to increase business oriented for at least 80 women and youth broader, and 200 vendors through capacity building and actor linkages.

"As per the project's design, an entrepreneurial ecosystem approach to delivery module will be

applied, to increase access to investment capital (cost shared and village saving and loan groups)," he expressed.

To be implemented in the nature of gender-transformative in private sector-led, the robust project focuses to solve the myriad challenges troubling the poultry farmers, in both rural and urban areas of Dodoma region.

"Poultry, if managed professionally, is a simple and short-term income generating project which can allow the involved households to escape from the shackles of poverty," he observed.

Under the project's rolling-out, he detailed that the county's key chicken producer companies will hatch and produce to the farmers the best improved and vaccinated chicken breeds, and there will be a constructive move to sensitize the financial institutions to inject the farmers will friendly capital loans.

"We're going also to ensure the beneficiary poultry farmers are linkage to profitable and assured markets," he added.

In her remarks, the Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC) Rosemary Senyamule who graced

the project's official inception event, challenged the youth and women in the region to make full use of the prestigious economic opportunity.

She observed, basing on the fact that at least 72 percent of the people in the region are banking on farming and livestock, the initiated project was meaningful to scale up the economy of a record number of households, as well as the entire region as a whole.

"We, at Dodoma are impressed with the cropping up of this project in our side as it will unlock a number of potential economic and job opportunities throughout its relevant value chain activities," she appreciated, added: "At the government level, we're ready to accelerate the mission."

Adding his voice to the project, Amos Omoro, the ILRI Regional Representative, Eastern and Southern Africa unveiled that the project is for expanding the availability of chicken meat and eggs in Dodoma region.

He said poultry offers greater opportunity to improve livelihoods and economy, urged the citizens in all districts of Dodoma to stand at fore in

order to benefit from the key initiative.

"Currently, population is growing faster and people are urbanising to the tune of consuming more animal sources of foods, including chicken, and thus, this project has surfaced at a right time," he observed.

Presenting the project's donors remarks, Junior Ndesanjo, the Project Management Specialist - Agriculture, USAID, the world's premier international development agency and a catalytic actor have decided to fund the initiative with an eye to improve productivity in the poultry sector value chain in Dodoma region.

He briefed, the World Animal Production (WAP) Africa 2017, United Nations (FAO) statistics and Netherlands Africa Business Council (NABC) analysis 2017 shows that Tanzania produces more chicken layers, broilers than neighbouring Kenya and Uganda.

He further detailed, the market growth for the sector in Tanzania is currently at 5 percent potentially, reaching \$403million as of 2023.

"The poultry consumption in east Africa has been growing significantly, whereby presence of breeds is less than 5 percent with investment in day old chicken hatcheries, breeds and research," he informed.

According to him, the USAID Grain and Feed Report of April 2024 depicts that feed consumption is anticipated to shrink by 10 percent, to at least 450,000 metric tons (MT) as poultry and livestock companies either reduce their stock, or exist production due to high protein food crops.

"As per the report in question, local feed manufacturers reported that most soybeans extrusion in Tanzania have closed operations as they cannot source affordable soybeans for producing feed. Most soybeans for animal feed are imported from countries like Malawi and Zambia," he unveiled.

Over 80 percent of households across Tanzania keeps chicken, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2021, and they keep about 75 million chicken, equivalent to 85 percent of the total poultry production nationally, a significant part of the livestock's contribution to 26 percent of agri-GDP.

The role of clean cooking investments in Africa's growth story



Peter George (R) from Spark+ Africa Fund and Amena Bakr from Energy Intelligence discuss clean cooking

By Guardian Correspondent

AN exclusive one-on-one conversation at the Invest in African Energy (IAE) 2024, organized by Energy Capital & Power, delved into the ways financing solutions can bolster the expansion of clean cooking solutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

During an in-conversation discussion Partner and Co-Investment Director at Spark+ Africa Fund Peter George and Senior Research Analyst at Energy Intelligence Amena Bakr explored how investments in innovative technologies for clean cooking on the African continent are poised to transform communities across the continent.

According to a statement issued yesterday by Energy Capital

& Power and made available to this journalist, during a discussion, Peter George, partner and co-investment director at Spark+ Africa Fund and Amena Bakr, senior research analyst at Energy Intelligence, explored how investments in innovative technologies for clean cooking in Africa are poised to transform communities.

"From a market opportunity standpoint, \$20-40 billion a year is spent in African markets on cooking fuel, which is a huge market for the LPG industry, for electrification to enable the uptake of electric cooking stoves and fertilizer that can increase crop yields for farmers," George stated, adding, "There are all these different ways to address this energy access gap and a lot of market opportunities."

It was noted during the exclusive one-on-one conversation that clean cooking is poised to save at least 200 million hectares of forests globally by 2030. Clean cooking will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 1.9 gigatons of CO2 emissions equivalent per year, roughly equal to all emissions from airplanes and ships today.

"Clean cooking is thought to touch on 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals," George said, stating, "If you look at the cost from the standpoint of deforestation and lost productivity, there are all sorts of ways in which you can quantify people lacking access to modern infrastructure. This cost is something like \$2.4 trillion - in Africa, the cost is about \$800 million."

According to George, by taking concessional investment from the public sector, local and international companies can leverage private capital from more commercially oriented investors who seek higher-return profiles in Africa's developing market.

"Affordability is key, especially when it comes to Africa," stated Bakr.

A partnership between the African Refiners and Distributors Association and the Global LPG Partnership to mobilize \$1 billion in funding for clean energy solutions was announced during the IAE 2024 summit's first day. The aim of the fund will be to make the funds available to promote a sustainable transition to cleaner fuels for cooking.

Environmental faction addresses energy poverty in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE second annual 'Invest in African Energy' forum took place in Paris from May 14-15, uniting over 750 African officials and global investors with the aim of increasing investment in African energy projects, however, despite the positive atmosphere, an environmental group staged a disruption during the forum.

The event served as a clarion call to accelerate sustainable energy in Africa, with discussions centered on financing African renewable energy projects, advancing clean gas projects and mapping a just energy transition in Africa.

A statement issued yesterday by the African Energy Chamber (AEC) has that despite the rallying support by Europe and the US to make energy poverty history in Africa, environmental organization 'Friends of the Earth' chose to disrupt proceedings at the end of the two-day event, causing panic by deploying fake grenades and driving delegates and officials out of the venue.

This blatant attack on the companies and authorities that are making great strides towards developing Africa is a blatant attack on the continent itself, and shows the biased and anti-African agenda of the organization.



Unidentified members of Friends of the Earth staged a disruption at an energy event in Paris, France. Photo courtesy of AEC

The statement further indicated that this is not the first time that Friends of the Earth has taken direct action towards keeping Africa undeveloped and in the dark.

The organization continues to disrupt the development of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) in Uganda, a project which stands to transform both the country and neighboring Tanzania.

In 2020, the organization issued a legal case against TotalEnergies for the development of the project,

a battle which it continues to wage despite the support by the countries themselves for the project.

Meanwhile, in Mozambique, the organization has been fighting against the development of the country's natural gas projects - a clean, widely available and affordable energy resource for the country. The group sued the UK government over its financial support for Mozambique LNG - a 43 million ton per annum offshore project developed by France's TotalEnergies.

It is worth noting that since the start of production at the Eni-led Coral Sul FLNG project in 2022, Mozambique's GDP grew 6 percent in just one year, highlighting the role just one gas project can play in the country. Fortunately for Mozambique, the UK Supreme Court rejected the organization's application to appeal its case against a decision by the UK government to fund the gas project.

The organization's legal battles and obstruction doesn't stop there.

In South Africa, their actions extend to opposing projects by companies like Shell, impeding financial support for these ventures, and therefore, deepening the country's energy crisis.

Shell is trying to explore for oil and gas offshore South Africa, in a basin where major discoveries have been made in Namibia. Organizations such as Friends of the Earth continue to disrupt this, instigating legal battles that stand to deepen the country's energy crisis even further. Is eight to ten hours of loadshedding not enough for the organization?

However, AEC remains undeterred. Representing the voice of the African energy sector, the AEC remains committed to engaging with communities, investors and like-minded individuals who support Africa's right to choose its energy sources.

"The AEC advocates for a pragmatic approach that embraces all forms of energy, including coal, natural gas, renewables and oil. We stress the importance of constructive engagement with all parties involved and oppose actions that hinder Africa's energy progress," stated NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC.

Adding: "We believe that companies like TotalEnergies and Perenco, along with other international firms, are contributing positively

by creating jobs and opportunities. Attacking or demonizing these companies, does not address the climate crisis."

According to Friends of the Earth's website, the vision of the organization is a "peaceful and sustainable world based on societies living in harmony with nature." The irony here is that the organization continuously shows aggressive acts towards people, companies and events advocating for equality, justice and progress.

Ayuk was of the view that if the organization has bothered to take part in the Paris event, listen to the discussions and witness the topics, they would realize that the very companies and projects they are attacking are the ones promoting a sustainable and clean energy future.

Friends of the Earth Africa - its African-based group - calls on world governments to adopt their plan to achieve 100 percent renewable energy in Africa by 2050. Yet, this group's parent organization attacked an energy event that sought to promote investments in African energy - specifically, clean energy.

"Friends of the Earth has proven time and time again that they are not friends of Africa. They would rather see the continent remain in the dark than developed through sustainable energy," Ayuk affirmed.

Mozambique, Angola to emerge as key global LNG suppliers as new projects bolster output

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING the completion of major offshore gas projects, Mozambique will become the fourth largest LNG producer worldwide, with more than 30 million tons brought to market. The country's inaugural FLNG facility started production in 2022, with the country recording a 6 percent growth in its GDP the following year. Similarly, Angola; through the Angola LNG project, witnessed a 14 percent year-on-year growth in LNG exports in 2023.

A statement issued yesterday by the Energy Capital & Power and shared to this paper, indicated that a CLG-sponsored panel discussion during the second annual Invest in African Energy forum in Paris, France; unpacked the role LNG has played in these markets, with speakers exploring strategies for gas monetization in emerging markets. As one of Africa's newest LNG exporters, Mozambique has rapidly emerged as a highly attractive offshore gas market. The Eni-led Coral Sul FLNG project delivered its



Energy experts exploring strategies for gas monetization in emerging markets at a forum in Paris. Photo courtesy of Energy Capital & Power

first cargo in 2022, setting the stage for the country to become a major player in the global gas market.

"Mozambique has huge potential when it comes to natural resources, and when it comes to gas, this potential is even higher. We operate Coral in Mozambique and it is a clear example of the role of gas. Coral was the first FLNG in ultra-deepwater worldwide. The impact of this project for the country is huge. In 2023, the GDP of the country increased by 6 percent - half of this

growth was related to the sale of gas from Coral," stated Marica Calebrese, Managing Director, Eni Rovuma Basin.

In addition to the Coral South project, Eni hopes to make FID for the Rovuma LNG project this year. The project monetizes gas from three fields in the Mamba complex in the first phase, with the development of two onshore liquefaction trains enabling the export of LNG.

Meanwhile, Angola plans to utilize gas to supply 25 percent of its energy

needs by 2025, with developments in associated gas production and LNG serving as a catalyst for achieving this goal. Players across the market are implementing strategies to reduce flaring and bolster LNG production. Specifically, Afentra is developing a zero-flaring approach at its recently acquired Block 3/05 in Angola.

According to Ian Cloke, COO of Afentra, "There is a pipeline 5km north of the asset, which goes from the deepwater fields straight to Angola LNG. One of

the plans going forward is to gather the gas, compress it and then pump it 5km to the LNG import line. Then you have a way to take an asset that has been flaring a lot and take it to zero flaring."

For Angolan service providers, the expansion of Angola's natural gas market means new opportunities for companies regarding contracts, participation and growth. Platforms such as the Association of Service Providers of the Angolan Oil & Gas Industry (AECIPA) facilitate participation by connecting companies to emerging pro-

jects across the value chain.

"To support gas monetization, we advocate for policies that would drive the main operators - be it service companies or project operators - to engage using gas and monetize it under the guidance of the Ministry. We also promote collaboration - both cross-country and internal. [Financing] is also a role the association plays, by promoting and bringing financing mechanisms into the country to support development," stated Bráulio de Brito, Chairman of the Board of AECIPA.

Natural gas stands to support electrification and industrialization in Africa, if the right investment is directed towards domestic infrastructure, Ghana - with 1.7 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves - has a gas processing plant that produces 240,000 tons of LPG and 46,000 tons of condensate in about 15,000 tons of isopentane.

"The gas processing plant in Ghana produces isopentane, and companies are trying to turn that gas into electricity. The challenge faced is investment. Today, companies have the technology to make that happen but it falls down to investment," stated David Pappoe Jr, CEO of Energas West Africa Limited.

Kenya bankers oppose 16 pct VAT on financial transactions

Nairobi

THE Kenya Bankers Association (KBA) has urged the government and the National Assembly to reconsider the proposed imposition of a 16 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) on financial transactions outlined in the Finance Bill, 2024.

"It has long been established that while VAT applies to payments for goods and services, bank charges are a cost recovery rather than a direct payment for goods or services. Therefore, bank charges have not traditionally been considered VATable," stated Raimond Molenje, Acting CEO of the Kenya Bankers Association.

The Finance Bill 2024 proposes VAT on various financial services including; issuance of credit and debit cards; telegraphic money transfer services; foreign exchange transactions, including the supply of foreign drafts and international money orders, cheque handling, processing, clearing and settlement, including special clearance or cancellation or cancellation of cheques.

Other services include; issuance of securities for money, including bills of exchange, promissory notes, money and postal orders; the assignment of a debt for consideration; the provision of financial services on behalf of another on a commission basis; management and related insurance consultancy services; actuarial services; and services of insurance assessors and loss adjusters

"The increased cost of banking to customers will hinder financial inclusion efforts, particularly affecting low-income individuals and small businesses. Combined with Excise Duty, the total taxation on financial services would rise to 40 percent from the current 15 percent (excise duty only), significantly impacting affordability and accessibility."

Regarding foreign exchange transactions, the proposed VAT will widen the margin charged on FX transactions. This could pose risks to economic growth by taxing export proceeds and hindering the competitiveness of Kenyan products, potentially deterring foreign investments, reversing the recovery of the tourism industry, and impacting foreign currency reserves and the stability of the Kenya shilling. The VAT application on FX transactions could also lead to increased costs, including fuel prices, reversing efforts to stabilize the cost of living.

"Finance Bill 2024 introduces both Tobin Tax and Robinhood Tax through the removal of VAT exemptions for banking transactions. This will increase the cost of basic banking services, raise the cost of credit, and potentially drive transactions to the black market. Kenya has been a leader in financial inclusion globally; an unnecessary tax on banking transactions will make the country less competitive. Large FX transactions may be offshored," stated Kenya Bankers Association Chairman John Gachora, CEO of NCBA Bank, on X (formerly Twitter).

Brazzaville to launch national gas firm, with local demand in mind

By Guardian Reporter



Bruno Jean-Richard Itoua, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo. Photo courtesy of Energy Capital & Power

THE minister of Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Congo (ROC), Bruno Jean-Richard Itoua, shed light on the country's oil and gas development plans on Wednesday, as the Invest in African Energy forum in Paris came to a close.

A statement issued yesterday by Energy Capital & Power, and shared to this paper, has that the minister confirmed that the government is prioritizing the formation of a gas master plan and comprehensive gas code and will establish a national gas company by Q3 2024.

It was noted that currently, ROC has successfully fast-tracked the development of several large-scale LNG projects in recent months, including Eni's Congo LNG and Wing Wah's multi-phase Banga Kayo pro-

jects.

"Gas will be transformed mainly for the local market. Gas, LPG, LNG - this is the main target. If there is any excess, then we will export it. In terms of exporting, it will not be for Europe, but for the sub-region, where the needs are also very high," stated Minister Itoua.

The Congolese Minister underscored the role of public-private sector cooperation in advancing integrated gas projects and driving upstream investment, with a view to increasing production and achieving market stability, targeting as much as a 60 percent oil production increase in one to two years.

The country has also seen recent merger and acquisition activity, with Trident Energy acquiring Congolese assets from Chevron and To-

talEnergies last month.

"Maybe 95 percent of investment in the oil sector in the Congo comes from the IOCs," said the Minister. "Our responsibility [as the government] is to create the best business environment, best legal network and best facilities to attract investors and partners interested in building solutions with us."

Speaking on the intersection between energy security and transition, Minister Itoua positioned universal access to electricity and clean cooking as key priorities for ROC and the continent.

"Our starting point is to solve energy poverty, not only for ourselves, but for the world. Is energy security in opposition to the energy transition? No - we can do both at the same time."

SA ambitious plan: 14,500 MW nuclear target by 2050 with a natural gas focus

By Guardian Correspondent

SOUTH Africa plans to add 14,500 MW of nuclear capacity by 2050 under its 2023 Integrated Resource Plan, currently in the draft stage. At the same time, the country targets over 7,000 MW of natural gas capacity as it moves to address persistent power supply challenges.

A statement made available to this journalist yesterday from Energy Capital & Power, indicated that a panel discussion at the second annual Invest in African Energy Forum in Paris France, unpacked opportunities across both the country and broader region's energy sector.

Speakers highlighted untapped opportunities in nuclear, mineral development and natural gas, advocating for a diversified energy mix to support economic growth.

Paul Eardley-Taylor, Head of Oil and Gas Coverage Southern Africa at Standard Bank, drew insight into recent milestones across the regional energy market, spotlighting Mozambique's offshore gas projects, Namibia's string of oil and gas discoveries and Zimbabwe's onshore gas exploration. Given the energy crisis in South Africa, these initiatives stand to support energy security through regional trade.

"Since 2022, Namibia has made 11 discoveries. The big announcement was made by Galp [this year], which



Koeberg nuclear power station. File Photo

announced 10 billion barrels of oil in place at the Mopane well. There is a scenario where Namibia has about 8 billion barrels of oil recoverable. This is good news for South Africa in that the Orange Basin - where these discoveries were made - extends to the country," Eardley-Taylor stated.

Diversification of the energy mix and the utilization of critical minerals were further explored by the panelists. Dr. Sama Bilbao y León, Director General of the World Nuclear Association, advocated for nuclear power as a clean transitional energy source. Dr. León noted, "Africa's priority is to energize. This is why we are trying to explain

why nuclear can be a true contributor [to supply]. Nuclear energy is the only carbon-free energy resource that can produce electricity and heat at the same time."

Dr. León highlighted some of the challenges associated with nuclear development. She underscored the substantial infrastructure requirements of nuclear projects, with construction times spanning ten years but providing energy supply for the next century.

She asked: "The real question is not how much does it cost to invest in energy but how much does it cost not to invest in energy."

Building on Dr. León's remarks, Calib

Cassim, Chief Financial Officer of Eskom, discussed South Africa's plans to increase nuclear power capacity by an additional 2,500 MW between the period 2031 and 2035. Faced with an energy crisis, South Africa is exploring diversification options for its power supply. In addition to nuclear, Cassim stressed the need for transition fuels such as natural gas, stating "While we move to renewables, we need some transition fuels. Gas is critical and part of our mix going forward. We will invest 3,000 MW in Richard's Bay Gas. You can't industrialize without power; we need to come together and stabilize the economy."

Bribes and 'Bush Clearing'

By Kyle Schutter

WHEN working with international investors you'll have to do some cross-cultural translations which go beyond language.

It took me 5 years to learn so maybe I can save you some time... useful for both foreign and African founders.

I arrived in Africa (I'll keep specifics vague to protect the innocent in this article) as a 23 year old ready to fix Africa's rural energy. How hard could it be, right? Among other plans, my goal was to never give a bribe. As westerners we believe avoiding bribes is sacred-it's part of our secular religion that we never think to question.

But after some time, I realized, democracy came to Africa on a boat. Before white people, Africans had a perfectly fine system that involved patronage to the local chief. They didn't need a complex system of millions of pages of writing. People back then didn't even need a writing system; they didn't have one.

Now Africa has a mixture of the traditional systems and democracy. We call it corruption.

Years ago I joined a business group-widely known for its strong moral values-in Kenya. I was the only white guy and the youngest.

We visited each other's businesses. This was eye-opening. They all had wonderful businesses. And giving bribes was not something some of them did. It was something all of them did. For many, strategically giving bribes was a core competency.

Bribes in the US only become important at the level of Boeing, Pfizer, Halliburton, etc but in Africa it's part of every day life for startup founders right from the beginning.

Now I understood better. Or I thought I understood. Because one day a guest lecturer came to the business group who had founded and ran a huge local company. "I've never paid a bribe," he said. "The other week I was caught by the police. They said 'pay a bribe or go to the police station.' So I said 'Let's go to the Police station.'"

Afterwards I talked to my groupmates, impressed. "Wow! so he has never paid a bribe."

They all laughed. "Kyle, of course he has paid bribes. You don't get where he is without paying bribes. Everyone pays bribes. When an African says that in front of an audience we are winking at each other. He must be trying to raise money from some Americans so he needs to impress them with his purity."

Flutterwave distances itself from missing customers' money worth 11 billion naira

Lagos

PAN-AFRICAN payment startup, Flutterwave, has confirmed that there was a security breach in one of its customer platforms but claims no money was stolen after early detection.

In a statement posted in the company's blog, Flutterwave says it recorded suspicious activity within the said platform in April this year and proactively stopped any theft of customers' money.

Moreover, as part of a wider security action, Flutterwave will notify some customers to migrate their accounts from the systems they are using. Flutterwave has also asked its customers to ensure that their accounts have multifactor authentication, 3D security, and IP whitelisting.

"We can assure our customers, members of the public and our stakeholders that no customer funds were lost or compromised, and the confidentiality of our customers' data remains intact," Flutterwave said in a statement.

TechCabal reported that a source from the company confirmed that the money was stolen and diverted to several unknown accounts across five financial institutions. Another conflicting source even said the money stolen was about 20 billion Naira - opposed to the 11 billion Naira mentioned earlier.

However, in a statement to the media, the Fintech did not indicate the amount of money involved in the security breach.

This is not the first time this is happening to Flut-

terwave. Over the last fourteen months, organized security breaches have compromised the company's ability to protect customers' funds. In October last year, 19 billion Naira was illegally channelled out to 6,000 bank accounts after unauthorized POS transactions.

In March last year, 550 million Naira was lost to 107 bank accounts. A month earlier in February, another 2.9 billion Naira was diverted to 107 accounts. These prolific attacks have been a reputation blotch to Flutterwave's integrity even as the startup looks forward to IPO.

Dealing with the Crooks
The pressing problem for Flutterwave in the past was identifying the owners of these accounts where its customers' monies were directed. However, the Central Bank of Nigeria issued new regulations for financial institutions, simply known as 'Know-Your-Customer'. All financial institutions must request for their customers' bank verification number (BVN) or a national identification number (NIN) for account or wallet opening by March 2024. In the long run, it will be easier to identify the people involved.

Moreover, Flutterwave was also allowed to recover lost assets from the said accounts in February this year.

Although the company has acknowledged that security breaches affect all Fintechs in the ecosystem, some have believed that Flutterwave's insiders are collaborating with malicious individuals to defraud customers.

Agencies



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 18 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto Wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:00 Shamba lulu
13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
17:00 Shansham 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: Mchezo 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 19 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:30 Usafiri wako
14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi
19:30 Mafuko ya wiki
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:30 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
Jackpot
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15 Kipindi maalum: Vodacom na Vodabima
22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 20 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI

TUESDAY 21 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Soap: Uzalo
10:55 Jijili
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 DW: Afrimaza
19:00 Alya ya Jami
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Daktika 45
22:15 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jijili
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 22 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Daktika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kumekucha
14:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 DW: Afrimaza
19:00 Alya ya Jami
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Daktika 45
22:15 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jijili
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 23 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Vodacom na Vodabima
11:20 Ripoti maalum

FRIDAY 24 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sama na Mahakama
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum: Mchezo Supa
14:30 DW: Afrimaza
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipimo Joto
23:00 Jijili
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 25 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

SUNDAY 26 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sama na Mahakama
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum: Mchezo Supa
14:30 DW: Afrimaza
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipimo Joto
23:00 Jijili
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 27 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

TUESDAY 28 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Daktika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kumekucha
14:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 DW: Afrimaza
19:00 Alya ya Jami
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Daktika 45
22:15 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jijili
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 29 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo

THURSDAY 30 May

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sama na Mahakama
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum: Mchezo Supa
14:30 DW: Afrimaza
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17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipimo Joto
23:00 Jijili
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 31 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

SATURDAY 1 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sama na Mahakama
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum: Mchezo Supa
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18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipimo Joto
23:00 Jijili
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 2 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

MONDAY 3 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
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11:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
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20:00 Habari
21:05 Daktika 45
22:15 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jijili
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

TUESDAY 4 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo

WEDNESDAY 5 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
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20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipimo Joto
23:00 Jijili
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 6 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo

FRIDAY 7 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
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19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Daktika 45
22:15 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jijili
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 8 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

SUNDAY 9 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sama na Mahakama
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum: Mchezo Supa
14:30 DW: Afrimaza
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisiam
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 Our earth
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipimo Joto
23:00 Jijili
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 10 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo

TUESDAY 11 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Daktika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kumekucha
14:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 DW: Afrimaza
19:00 Alya ya Jami
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Daktika 45
22:15 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jijili
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 12 June

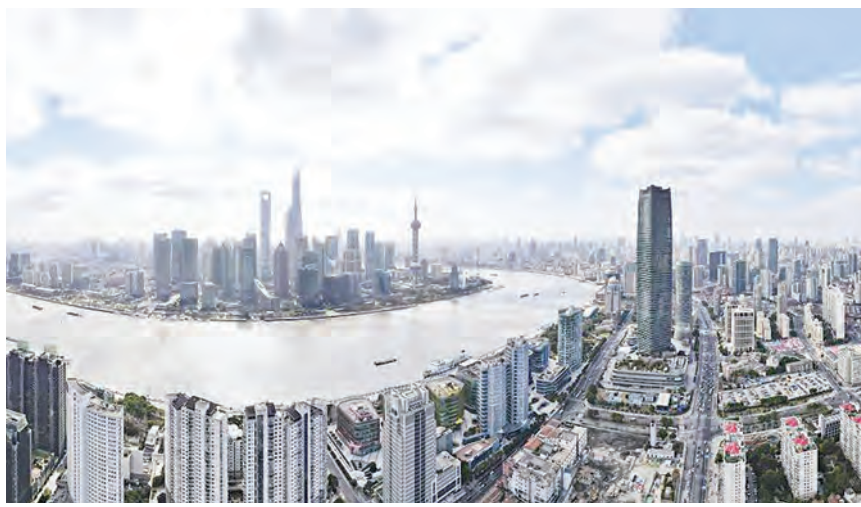
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo

THURSDAY 13 June

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Mchezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Daktika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kumekucha
14:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 DW: Afrimaza
19:00 Alya ya Jami
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Daktika 45
22:15 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jijili
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 14 June

WORLD



This Jan 10, 2023, aerial panoramic photo shows a view of Lujiazui area in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in Shanghai, China. XINHUA

UN gives cautiously optimistic near-term global economic outlook

UNITED NATIONS

GLOBAL economic prospects have improved thanks to strong performances in the United States and large emerging economies, although vulnerabilities remain, says a UN report released on Thursday.

The world economy is now projected to grow 2.7 percent in 2024 and 2.8 percent in 2025, according to a mid-year update of the January 2024 World Economic Situation and Prospects report.

The January report predicted a 2.4 percent global growth rate for 2024 and 2.7 percent for 2025.

The upward revisions mainly reflect a better outlook in the United States and several large emerging economies, notably Brazil, India and Russia.

The outlook for China registers a small uptick with growth now expected to be 4.8 percent in 2024, compared with 4.7 percent in the January 2024 forecast.

The US economy has remained remarkably upbeat in the face of sustained high interest rates, so far defying the expectations of a slowdown or a "soft landing," says the report. The latest forecast for the United States points to 2.3 percent growth in 2024, instead of 1.4 percent in the January prediction.

Outperforming other developed economies, the US economy is projected to grow 1.7 percent in 2025 and inflation is projected to fall to 2.3 percent in 2025, with the unemployment rate remaining relatively unchanged, it says.

India's economy is now expected to grow 6.9 percent in 2024, 0.7 percentage points higher than the January forecast. Russia, despite the war in Ukraine, will see a growth rate of 2.7 percent, much higher than the January forecast of 1.3 percent. Brazil, another major emerging market, is expected to grow 2.1 percent, half a percentage point higher than the January prediction.

For other major economies of the world, the forecast for Japan's

growth remains unchanged at 1.2 percent. Britain's economy, which remains in the low-growth territory, is now forecast to grow 0.8 percent instead of 0.4 percent.

Although the economic outlook for developed economies is revised up from 1.3 percent to 1.6 percent for 2024, the European Union's growth is revised down from 1.2 percent to 1.0 percent.

Africa and Western Asia are the other two regions that will see slower-than-expected growth.

The report revises down Africa's growth rate from 3.5 percent to 3.3 percent. In Western Asia, growth is now expected to be 2.7 percent instead of 2.9 percent.

Developing economies as a whole will grow 4.1 percent in 2024, instead of 4.0 percent. For the least developed countries, however, growth is now forecast at 4.8 percent, lower than the 5.0 percent predicted in January.

Global trade in goods and services is expected to grow 3.2 percent in 2024, up from 2.4 percent predicted in January.

The report cautions that the outlook is only cautiously optimistic. Higher-for-longer interest rates, debt sustainability challenges, continuing geopolitical tensions and ever-worsening climate risks continue to pose challenges to growth, threatening decades of development gains, especially for least developed countries and small island developing states.

On average, global growth in the coming years is expected to remain below the average of 3.2 percent during 2010-2019, says the report.

The mid-year update and the January report were prepared by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.



Although the economic outlook for developed economies is revised up from 1.3 percent to 1.6 percent for 2024, the European Union's growth is revised down from 1.2 percent to 1.0 percent

Xi, Putin discuss strategic issues of common concern

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday at Zhongnanhai in Beijing, during which they had in-depth exchanges on strategic issues of common concern.

The world is undergoing changes unseen in a century and entering a new period of turbulence and transformation, Xi said, adding that in the face of the ever-evolving world landscape with volatility and turmoil, China has maintained its strategic resolve.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have overcome various difficulties and challenges, and are striving to promote high-quality development and Chinese modernization, he said.

China is willing to work with Russia and other countries to enhance solidarity and cooperation, steer global governance in the right direction, jointly safeguard international fairness and justice, and promote world peace and common development, said Xi.

Noting that China's development is unstoppable and that no force can contain China's growth and progress, Putin said that Russia is willing to improve cooperation with China and other Global South countries to promote international fairness and justice, and to work toward a more equal and multipolar world.

The two heads of state had an in-depth exchange of views on the Ukraine crisis.

Xi elaborated on China's consistent position and efforts to promote the politi-



Chinese President Xi Jinping (front, left) talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) as they meet at Zhongnanhai in Beijing, China on Thursday. XINHUA

cal settlement of the Ukraine issue, stressing that to deal with any major issue, it is necessary to address both the symptoms and the root causes, and to plan for the present as well as for the long term.

He said the core of the Global Security Initiative is advocating the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and the fundamental solution to the Ukraine issue is to promote the establishment of a new balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture.

Xi said China supports the convening of an international peace conference recognized by Russia and Ukraine at an appropriate time with equal participation and fair discussion of all options, so as to push for an early political settlement of the Ukraine issue, and China stands ready to continue to play a constructive role in this regard.

Putin introduced the relevant views and positions of Russia, saying that Russia appreciates China's objective, just and balanced position on the Ukraine issue and welcomes China to continue to play an important and constructive role in the political settlement of the issue. Russia is committed to resolving

the Ukraine issue through political negotiations and is willing to demonstrate sincerity and maintain close communication with China in this regard, he said.

Xi said that over the years, they have had many meetings and every exchange has been candid, in-depth and fruitful.

"I am ready to stay in close contact with President Putin and work together to steer the development of China-Russia relations in the right direction, guide the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era to achieve steady and lasting progress, bring more benefits to the two peoples, and contribute to world security and stability," he said.

Putin thanked Xi for his warm hospitality, saying that he is willing to maintain close communication with Xi, implement the important consensus reached between them, and ensure the full development of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era.

Xinhua

Israel to abolish free trade deal with Türkiye in retaliation for trade ban

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on Thursday announced that Israel would abolish its free trade deal with Türkiye and impose a 100-percent tariff on Turkish imports, in retaliation for Ankara's decision to halt exports to Israel.

The decision, to be submitted to the Israeli cabinet for approval, would remain in effect until the end of the term of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, "who is behind the decisions against Israel and its economy", Smotrich said in a statement.

The Turkish Trade Ministry

announced on May 2 to halt all trade activities with Israel due to the latter's "non-stop violence" against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Smotrich called the Turkish move "a declaration of economic boycott and a serious violation of international trade agreements".

On May 3, the Israeli Foreign Ministry announced that senior officials from the Israeli foreign and economy ministries, as well as the Israel Tax Authority, decided to work toward reducing the economic connection between Türkiye and the Palestinian territories, including the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Türkiye is the Palestinian Authority's largest importing source.

Meanwhile, Israel filed a complaint to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) against Türkiye over the latter's decision to suspend trade with Israel, said Israeli Economy Minister Nir Barkat in a statement. Both Türkiye and Israel are OECD member countries.

Israeli exports to Türkiye amounted to \$1.57 billion in 2023, while its imports from Türkiye reached \$4.61 billion, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. Agencies

Kim Jong Un's sister says N Korea's weapons not for exports after US sanctions Russian firms

PYONGYANG

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-un's influential sister yesterday dismissed allegations of military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, stressing that her country's weapons are not for sale for other countries, including Russia, but as a defence against South Korea, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The US on Thursday imposed sanctions on three Russian entities and two Russian individuals for their involvement in the transfer of military equipment and components between Pyongyang and Moscow amid the ongoing war against Ukraine.

Kim Yo-jong's statement comes amid US claims that North Korea has supplied weapons to Russia to support the latter's war in Ukraine.

"We have no intention to export our military technical capabilities to any country or open them to the public," Kim said, adding that such allegations are "the most absurd paradox", reported Yonhap News Agency citing the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Kim (pictured) said that North Korea's tactical weapons, including multiple rocket launchers and missiles, are intended to deter South Korea from engaging in "any idle thinking," in an apparent reference to the South Korea-US joint military drills.

Moreover, North Korea has been denouncing the allies' military drills as rehearsals for an invasion against it while, Seoul and Washington have rejected such claims, describing their exercises as defensive in nature.

"What is most urgent for us is not to 'advertise' or 'export' something but to make the war readiness and war deterrent of our army more perfect in quality and quantity and to make the enemy unable to overcome the inferiority in military capability," she said.

Meanwhile, South Korea's unification ministry said that North Korea's denial of providing weapons to Russia, despite clear evidence, is showing that the regime is aware of the illegality of such actions.

"We must once again emphasize that the arms trade between Russia and North Korea is an illegal act that violates the UN Security Council resolutions and undermines international norms," said Kim In-ae, deputy spokesperson at the ministry, during a press briefing.

In addition to the US imposing sanctions on Russian entities, America also claimed that Russia has relied upon North Korea to wage its war on Ukraine and said that the relationship between the two countries poses a wide-ranging threat to global security and the international non-proliferation regime.

ANI



Cultural legacy propels development of rural communities surrounding Sanxingdui Ruins

THE Sanxingdui Ruins, an archaeological site in Guanghan, southwest China's Sichuan province, are revered as one of the greatest archaeological findings of the 20th century. Every new discovery at the site is so sensational that it triggers an "archaeological fever" of the whole Chinese society.

Sanxing village is where the Sanxingdui Ruins locate. It was renamed Sanxing village in 1980 when archaeologists started excavation of the Sanxingdui site.

At the end of 2021, the village was home to 6,242 residents, with nearly 5,000 of them living within a three-square-kilometer area surrounding the core protection zone of the Sanxingdui Ruins.

How should the cultural heritage of the Sanxingdui

Ruins be leveraged in an effective and rational manner to harmonize the preservation of this invaluable archaeological site with the development of the surrounding rural communities?

At the end of 2021, Sanxing village repurposed an abandoned water park, building it into an archaeological exploration base themed with the Sanxingdui culture. It also invited professional teams to develop educational tours that delve into the rich archaeological legacy of the site.

The archaeological exploration base locates in the Sanxingdui ancient city, 200 meters away from the excavation cabin and 1.5 kilometers from the Sanxingdui Museum.

To enrich the educational

tours at the archaeological exploration base with resources from the Sanxingdui Ruins, an expert team comprised of young archaeologists pioneered an innovative public archaeology program, which offers participants unique opportunities to immerse themselves in the role of an archaeologist for a day.

Most members of the expert team are graduates with a master's degree in public archaeology from Peking University. Boasting rich experience in this realm, they have organized Peking University's archaeology summer camps for Chinese middle school students and established archaeology societies and alliances.

The archaeological exploration base features three major experiential scenarios:

a simulated archaeological site, a workshop, and an ancient Shu village, corresponding to the three core elements of the Sanxingdui Ruins: archaeological remains, craft techniques, and social life.

At the simulated archaeological site, students listen to instructors explaining the significant building ruins, ash pits, and the No. 2 sacrificial pit of the Sanxingdui site. After learning operation procedures, the students then pick up archaeological tools and follow the correct methods to excavate pre-buried replicas of bronze human heads and ivory artifacts.

They can create stunning replicas of bronze wares, experiencing the entire process of crafting, including mold making, pattern casting, pouring and finishing.

Students participating in the program can also experience the daily rhythms of life of the ancient Shu people, immersing themselves in activities such as foraging for food, processing grains, and spinning and weaving textiles, just as the Shu people did centuries ago.

Despite a simplified archaeological excavation process, it can convey concepts such as science-based excavation, legal excavation, and settlement archaeology.

Besides, the archaeological exploration base also engages in public welfare initiatives. It hosts free lectures for primary and secondary school students at least once a month, familiarizing them with the Sanxingdui civilization and the rich heritage of the ancient Shu culture.

Furthermore, the base collaborates with Sanxing village to organize community forums to enhance local residents' understanding of the significance and value of the Sanxingdui cultural legacy and the importance of preserving this archaeological treasure.

The base's prosperous development has also provided more employment opportunities for villagers while catalyzing the growth of local cultural and creative industries and the hospitality sector.

Educational tours centered around archaeology are becoming increasingly popular in the thriving cultural tourism sector. The attempts made by the archaeological exploration base have not only boosted rural development but also provided novel

approaches for the innovative integration of culture and tourism.

People's Daily



The archaeological exploration base features three major experiential scenarios: a simulated archaeological site, a workshop, and an ancient Shu village, corresponding to the three core elements of the Sanxingdui Ruins

Change in UK visa rules affects foreign students

LONDON

RECENT changes to the United Kingdom's visa rules that include a hike in the minimum wage needed to qualify for a skilled worker visa – from 26,200 pounds to 38,700 pounds (\$33,000 to \$48,800) – have led to job offers being withdrawn from foreign graduates of British universities.

Major employers, including HSBC, KPMG and Deloitte, have reportedly cited the UK government's stringent new visa rules when rescinding job offers made to foreign graduates, according to the Financial Times newspaper.

It said big firms had little choice after the new threshold was introduced in April, with dozens of job offers reportedly withdrawn as a result.

Neither HSBC, KPMG, nor Deloitte commented on the FT story.

The UK government raised the threshold for qualification for a skilled worker visa in a bid to reduce the number of immigrants arriving in the country.

While the threshold for qualification for a skilled worker visa now stands at 38,700 pounds for older people, the wage needed by those aged 26 and under is 30,960 pounds.

However, many graduates have complained that employers are simply not recruiting young trainee workers at that pay level.

One unnamed job seeker told the paper: "Having spent 50,000 pounds on attending university in the UK, I



A general view of the Houses of Parliament at sunrise in London, on Oct 21, 2022. AP

now have to go back to my home country."

The UK's Migration Advisory Committee, an independent body that advises the government on migration issues, said the government's decision to raise the threshold for qualification for a skilled worker visa while at the same time considering abolishing the graduate visa program, which lets foreign graduates of UK universities remain in the country for two years, are together causing widespread worry among overseas students.

The Conservative Party, which is in power but facing an uphill battle to secure

reelection later this year, is understood to want to take a hard line on immigration in a bid to win votes.

Consequences warned

But university vice-chancellors have warned the government that the hike in the threshold for skilled worker visas and the potential abolition of the UK's graduate visa would spell financial turmoil for the education sector.

While the change has already been made to the threshold for the skilled worker visa, the government has not yet made

a decision on the future of the graduate visa, although one is expected in the middle of next week.

The Guardian newspaper quoted Brian Bell, chairman of the Migration Advisory Committee, as saying: "Our review recommends the graduate route should remain as it is, and is not undermining the quality and integrity of the UK's higher education system."

The graduate route is a key part of the offer that we make to international students to come and study in the UK."

Agencies

South Africa urges International Court of Justice to order Gaza ceasefire, halt Israel's Rafah Op

THE HAGUE

South Africa has urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to order Israel to halt its assault on Rafah as part of its case accusing Israel of genocide against the Palestinians, Al Jazeera reported on Thursday.

South Africa, which filed its case in January over Israel's war

on Gaza, is seeking additional emergency measures over its offensive on Rafah, a city in the southern Gaza Strip where more than one million displaced Palestinians had sought shelter from Israeli attacks on other parts of the enclave.

It told the court in The Hague on Thursday that the Palestinian people are facing "ongoing annihilation" and the assault on Rafah was "part of the endgame in which Gaza is utterly destroyed".

Israel is pressing on with its attacks in Rafah despite "explicit warnings" that they could carry "genocidal" consequences, South African lawyer Tembeka Ngcukaitobi said.

Israel, which has rejected South Africa's claim that it is violating the 1949 Genocide Convention as baseless, will respond on Friday, Al Jazeera reported.

Minutes before the court hearings opened, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gal

lant said the widely criticised operation in Rafah "will continue as additional forces will enter" the area.

Rafah is a tiny, overcrowded city where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have taken shelter in tents and are facing the rapid spread of diseases and a severe lack of food and clean water. The only hospital in the area has shut down, leaving only a small facility that has been overwhelmed, Al Jazeera reported. ANI

What happened against Israel on October 7 was terrorism, says EAM Jaishankar

NASHIK

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that the attack that happened against Israel was "terrorism", adding that response will be there if any country is a victim of terrorism.

"What happened against Israel on October 7th was terrorism, there is no question of second thought. If there is terrorism against any country or if any country is becomes the victim of terrorism, then it's natural that a response will be there," Jaishankar (pictured) said while addressing a programme event titled 'Vishwabandhu Bharat' in Nashik.

The conflict in Gaza escalated after Hamas carried out a massive terror attack against Israel on October 7, killing over 1200 people, taking around 250 people hostage and even committing sexual assault against

civilians. In response, Israel launched a strong counteroffensive targeting the Hamas terror units in the Gaza Strip.

Further, he slams the opposition, stating that they are not ready to say anything regarding the Israel-Hamas war because if they do so, their vote bank will be affected.

"I am aware that there are some parties that are refraining to speak as they have some other calculation. They think that their vote bank calculation will be disrupted," EAM Jaishankar said.

During his address, he also advised to prevent the loss of civilian lives and stressed on the need for a long-term solution to the Palestinian issue.

"But we also need to think about the civilians, to ensure that innocent lives are not lost. And in the long term, this Palestinian issue, Palestinians need to find a solution for their coun-



try," said Jaishankar.

"So whenever such situations arise, I believe that if we keep our point forward with fairness and directness, people will understand that our stance is genuine. As Modi says, we are on the side of peace, we are on the side of stability," said Jaishankar.

"So the more balanced our position is, the more people should feel that it is a fair position, that you are not being cunning; there are only some ethics and morals involved in this ap-

proach," he added.

India's position on Israel and Palestine is long-standing and consistent. India supports a two-state solution where Palestine is a sovereign, independent, and viable state within secure borders, living in peace with Israel. India also supports Palestine's full membership at the UN and believes that only a two-state solution achieved through direct negotiations will bring lasting peace to the region.

Earlier, on the same day, Jaishankar also visited the Shree Kalaram Temple of Prabhu Ram in Nashik and prayed for the blessing of "Viksit Bharat."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India sent a special envoy to Israel during its war with the Hamas terror group, to urge them to maintain peace rather than engage in combat during the month of Ramadan.

In an interview with Republic TV, PM Modi stressed on Friday that Israel should not fight, at least during the auspicious month of Ramadan. "The time when Israel and Hamas were at war. I sent my special envoy to Israel to explain that Ramadan is going on. At least don't fight in Ramadan, don't attack anyone," PM Modi said.

"Secondly, I said that during the month of Ramadan, whatever the people need, India wants to send them, there should not be any hindrance. So this is our character and when we do this, we don't brag about it. Sometimes we get success, sometimes we don't. But we are doing it," he said.

While speaking regarding the Israel-Hamas war, PM Modi stated that when the world is choosing sides, we maintain a clear stance, India stands for peace.

ANI

Russian deputy minister sees possibility of downgrading diplomatic ties with US

MOSCOW

MOSCOW may lower the level of diplomatic relations with Washington if certain scenarios unfold, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told TASS in an interview.

In his words, Russia has never been the first to make such moves in its relations with the United States or other NATO countries.

"But, in my opinion, [such steps are] quite possible if the West chooses the path of escalation," the diplomat said, adding that developments that will make the downgrade of diplomatic relations possible "do not necessarily imply increased support to Kiev," but, for example, measures "related to our assets or other moves in the economic domain."

The diplomat, however, added that he was not ready to theorize on what the exact "trigger" for this situation could be.

"I'm not ready to theorize on the subject," he said. "If the situation continues to deteriorate, it will become a subject of specific analysis and decision-making at the level of political leaders."

Agencies



Construction of China's second homegrown large cruise ship in steady progress

RECENTLY, China's second domestically-built large cruise ship entered a shipyard in Shanghai for final assembly.

At the shipyard of Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. (SWS), a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited, the three-level grand block sections of the cruise ship have taken full shape and are now progressing into the painting and coating phase.

Wei Shengsheng, deputy head of the Cruise Ship Project Department at SWS, noted that the construction of a cruise ship, which involves installation of over 25 million parts, is unique right from the initial steel plate cutting stage, explaining that a large number of steel plates used in cruise ship construction are thin-walled

steel plates ranging from 4 to 8 millimeters thick.

Unlike other types of ships, large cruise ships are extremely sensitive to weight control, Wei said. An increase of just one ton in the ship's own weight means a reduction in either the cargo capacity or the passenger volume, he added.

In addition, cruise ships, which navigate on the sea, need to endure the challenges of wind and waves and also address fundamental issues such as water and electricity supply, and waste disposal. Furthermore, they must cater to the needs of thousands of people on board for daily lives, leisure activities, and entertainment. Coordinating such a complex array of functions within limited space is undoubtedly a challenging task.



China's first domestically-built large cruise ship Adora Magic City leaves a dock of its builder Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited, June 6, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Long Wei)

"After forming the hull, we began installing components, just like building bricks, which seems simple, but calls for skills," said Yang Xin, also deputy head of the Cruise Ship Project Department at SWS.

According to Yang, a cruise ship consists of the hull section and the hotel section, with dozens of areas providing din-

ing, entertainment, leisure, and accommodation functions for passengers, as well as over 2,000 cabins of various types - an enormous system.

Cruise ships integrate the most advanced shipbuilding techniques, outstanding materials, propulsion technology, electronics technology, communications and naviga-

tion technology, and hotel engineering technology, Yang added.

"A large cruise ship has to accommodate thousands of people living onboard simultaneously. Within the limited space, it requires equipment hundreds of times more than a normal cargo ship. The utilization of space is pushed to the

extreme," Wei explained.

In 2019, construction officially began on China's first domestically-built large cruise ship, a process that took over 3 years.

"Based on summarizing the experience gained from building the first ship, and leveraging a series of research results, management experience and tools, we optimized the building process and worked for technological breakthroughs," said Yang, adding that the construction efficiency of the second cruise ship is expected to be improved by 20 percent than the first. In particular, the dry dock period will be reduced by nearly eight months. The core competitiveness of China's design and manufacturing of large cruise ships is continuously enhancing.

"In building the second cruise ship, we are becoming increasingly confident," Yang told People's Daily.

Compared to the first ship, the second one is larger in size and equipped with more advanced facilities. It features a massive 16-deck superstructure area for living and entertainment. Through optimized design, the public areas and outdoor activity spaces have increased in size, further enhancing passenger comfort and experience.

It is reported that after the ship entered the shipyard, construction work will revolve around hull construction, outfitting, and regional outfitting. Cabin module installation and interior outfitting will be basically completed by 2025.

People's Daily



Zanzibar Sharks players in a group picture at the Eiffel Tower during their eight-day tour in France where they competed in this year's edition of the Mondial Pupilles Plomelin Youth Tournament. Photo: Courtesy of Zanzibar Sharks.

Z'bar Sparks return home from France

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Zanzibar women's U-14 football team, Sparks, returned home on Thursday from France where they competed in this year's edition of the Mondial Pupilles Plomelin Youth Tournament.

Welcoming the team in Zanzibar, Petra Karume, who is the executive director and co-founder of Women Empowerment Zanzibar (WEZA), said the Sparks did the country proud by competing in the tournament which she described as very competitive.

Also in attendance at the welcome ceremony, were high dignitaries including officials from the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF).

She said the eight-day tour in France was very productive to Zanzibar and Tanzania as a whole and urged members of the team to work hard in their lives to achieve their dreams and goals.

"It is with great pride and joy that we welcome back our very own Zanzibar Sparks, the first U-14 girls' football team from Zanzibar, who have just returned from a remarkable eight-day journey in France.

"Your journey was more than just a competition. You represented Zanzibar with dignity and passion, showcasing not only your athletic talents but also your positive spirit and strong discipline that defines your team.

"The feedback we received from the tournament organizers in France and other teams participating in the tournament spoke volumes about your exceptional character and sportsmanship. You made friends, learned new skills, and opened doors to a world of possibilities," she said.

Karume said the three-day educational and cultural excursion to Paris was a once-in-a-lifetime experience as the team visited the Eiffel Tower and other historical landmarks which has undoubtedly broadened their horizons and enriched the players' understanding of the world, adding that the experiences will stay with the players forever, shaping their future and inspiring those around them.

She also said the France tour was a unique opportunity to immerse and also thanked the Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) for providing the team with qualified coaches and guidance, and commitment to the team's development, adding that this has been instrumental in the success of the team.

Karume said the ZFF gesture has nurtured not just the players' football talents but also their character and teamwork.

She also thanked the French Embassy in the country for funding the journey as a part of "Twende Olympics 2024" project.

"Your support has opened up new horizons for these young athletes and will be the beginning of a movement that empowers girls through sports and purposeful play. We also extended our gratitude to the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for their unwavering support. Your belief in the potential of these girls has empowered them to dream big and achieve great things," she said.

"To the Zanzibar Sparks, you have made us immensely proud. Your achievements in France are just the beginning. As you continue to grow and strive for excellence, remember that you carry the hopes and dreams of many young girls in Zanzibar who look up to you as role models," she added.

Simba still eyeing major signings to bolster squad in transfer market

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a strategic move to bolster their squad, Simba Sports Club is still making waves in the transfer market.

After securing what is said to be a pre-contract with Coastal Union's central defender Lameck Lawi, Simba has now set its sights on Ley Matampi, a renowned goalkeeper from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

If negotiations proceed smoothly, Matampi could don the Simba jersey next season, adding significant strength to the team's lineup.

Insiders at Simba reveal that Matampi has impressed both the technical bench and the club's management, earning him a spot on their target list.

This interest comes amid uncertainties surrounding their current Moroccan goalkeeper, Ayoub Lakred.

The club is proactively considering alternatives to ensure they maintain a robust goalkeeping squad.

"There's no certainty about Lakred's stay," disclosed a club insider, preferring anonymity. "Even if he wishes to remain, there might be conditions set by the club that we cannot meet. Should an agreement not be reached, Matampi is our next best option. The technical bench and leadership are very satisfied with his capabilities."

Previously, Simba had their eyes on another goalkeeper, Joseph Fabrice Ondo from Cameroon, who currently plays for Nimes Olympique in France's National League, the country's second-division league. However, the club appears to have shifted focus to Matampi, whose skills have captured their attention.



Coastal Union goalkeeper Ley Matampi. Agencies

Negotiations with Matampi are reportedly underway, and initial talks have been promising. Simba is optimistic that there will be no resistance from his current club, Coastal Union.

Matampi's track record speaks volumes about his prowess. He once represented the DRC national team and ranks second in clean sheets in the league, trailing only behind Young Africans' goalkeeper Djigui Diarra.

Matampi joined Coastal Union from Renaissance Club in the DRC. His illustrious career also includes stints with top Congolese clubs AS Vita, TP Mazembe, and DC Motema Pembe, and he

has also showcased his talents internationally with Lebanon's Al-Ansar.

Simba's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, addressed the transfer rumors but remained tight-lipped about specific details, emphasizing the club's focus on the ongoing NBC Premier League season.

"We are currently focused on the league," Ally stated. "While we do not stop rumors regarding transfers, the truth will be revealed once the season concludes. We are planning significant signings, but it's premature to disclose names."

Simba's proactive approach in the transfer market reflects their ambition to reclaim dominance in the NBC Premier League.

The club's decision to target key players like Lawi and Matampi underscores their commitment to strengthening their squad depth and ensuring a competitive edge.

As the current season progresses, the potential addition of Matampi could be a game-changer for Simba. His experience and goalkeeping skills are expected to provide a solid backbone for the team's defense.

Fans eagerly await the conclusion of the league and the official announcements of new signings, hoping these strategic moves will lead Simba to greater success in domestic and continental competitions.

The focus now shifts to how these potential signings will integrate into the team's dynamics. Lawi's defensive prowess combined with Matampi's goalkeeping acumen could significantly enhance Simba's performance, providing a well-rounded and formidable squad ready to challenge for titles.

With the transfer window approaching, the anticipation builds around Simba's final decisions.

The club's management is expected to make calculated moves to ensure they assemble a squad capable of achieving their ambitious goals.

Simba's supporters, known for their passionate and unwavering support, are keenly observing the developments. The prospect of new, high-caliber players joining their ranks brings a wave of excitement and optimism.

The club's strategic planning and targeted acquisitions signal a promising future, setting the stage for a thrilling next season.

Timberwolves force Game 7 by blowing out Nuggets 115-70 behind 27 points from Anthony Edwards

MINNEAPOLIS

ANTHONY EDWARDS flashed seven fingers to the roaring crowd as he walked off for a fourth-quarter timeout during a blowout by the Minnesota Timberwolves.

He had that tenacious look of a superstar player refusing to cede to the defending champs all night.

Edwards scored 27 points to pull the Timberwolves out of their mid-series slump and deliver a flawless 115-70 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Thursday to force a Game 7 in this roller-coaster matchup.

Jaden McDaniels pitched

in 21 points and lockdown defense, and Mike Conley had 13 points in his return from injury. Big men Rudy Gobert, Karl-Anthony Towns and Naz Reid combined for 38 rebounds and a relentless effort to keep NBA MVP Nikola Jokic to a relatively quiet 22 points.

The Wolves posted the largest winning margin in a postseason game since 2015, when Chicago beat Milwaukee by 54 points in a first-round series clincher, according to Sportradar.

"Guys just believing in themselves," Edwards said. "I think the last three games we were all down on ourselves."

The decisive game for a spot in the Western Conference finals is in Denver on Sunday night. Just as Edwards promised the locker room staffer at Ball Arena after the Wolves lost in Game 5.

Jamal Murray struggled again with 10 points on 4-for-18 shooting while battling a sore elbow for the Nuggets, whose bench was outscored 36-9 – and seven of those points came in the final five minutes. The Wolves reserves led a 24-0 run in the fourth quarter on the way to a

staggering 50-point lead, a fitting follow-up to the 20-0 surge the starters led in the opening frame.

"We talked a lot today just about getting our edge back, our swagger, playing a little more free and easy," coach Chris Finch said. "It just felt like we hadn't had our best effort on both sides of the ball yet."

No defending NBA champion had ever lost in the playoffs by more than 36 points until this flop by the Nuggets, who were out-rebounded 62-43.

"That to me speaks volumes about the game and our approach," Denver coach Mike Malone said.

Aaron Gordon had 12 points and eight rebounds for the Nuggets, who finished just 7 for 36 from 3-point range and trailed by at least 17 points for the last 31 minutes of the game.

For the Wolves, offense from McDaniels is typically a bonus, but he can't be as quiet as he was over the first five games with a total of 35 points. He was all over the court this time, going 3 of 5 from deep and mixing in some well-timed dunks to ignite the crowd.

E d w a r d s ,

whose 44-point performance was ultimately wasted in a Game 4 loss the last time he played at Target Center, had nine points in the 20-0 spurt and needed only nine shots from the floor to get 19 points in the first half. "Just shoot it every chance I get, because last game they took the ball out of my hands," Edwards said.

In the third quarter, he turned a steal into a fast break before using two crossover dribbles to get Michael Porter Jr. in the air and blow by him for a dunk. A few minutes later, he drove past Porter to draw a foul and landed hard on his back. The Wolves called timeout to give Edwards more time to catch his breath, and when he walked back on the court without missing time the "MVP!" chants fired up.

The Wolves were frequently in disarray on offense during Game 5 in Denver while Conley sat out with right leg soreness, and the 17-year veteran point guard clearly helped keep the half-court sets crisp and organized in his return.

"It was a no-brainer. I was going to try to find a way," Conley said. "We're just better when we're a complete team."

The Wolves held the Nuggets to 14 points in the first quarter, tied for the second-lowest total in the league this postseason behind Miami (12 points) in a Game 3 loss to Boston in the first round.

Murray had a devil of a time doing anything productive against McDaniels, Edwards and the rest of the NBA-leading defense that snapped to life after revealing some sizeable cracks over the last three games.

Murray, who had a 3-for-18 clunker in Game 2, tried everything from leaners, fadeaways and spot-up 3-pointers. He even air-balled a finger roll from the baseline, then got backed down in a bad matchup by Naz Reid in the post on the subsequent possession for a flip-in that put the Wolves up 43-24.

McDaniels tipped in a missed 3-pointer by Reid at the halftime buzzer to make it 59-40, a sharp contrast from the 55-foot swish Murray had at the end of the second quarter in Game 3 to cap an 8-0 run over 20 pivotal seconds of that contest.

"Speaking from experience," Murray said, "Game 6 is always the hardest."

AP



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards dunks during the first half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against Denver Nuggets on Thursday, May 16, 2024, in Minneapolis. AP

Lionel Messi's record \$20.4m salary dwarfs entire MLS teams

NEW YORK

LIONEL Messi's record \$20.45 million annual salary from Inter Miami makes him by far the best paid player in Major League Soccer but also puts him ahead of the entire squads of 25 of the league's clubs, according to data released by the MLS Players Association on Thursday.

The players union regularly releases the full pay details of the entire league and while it was no surprise to see the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner at the top, the gulf with other players and indeed teams is striking.

Messi has a guaranteed compensation of \$20,446,667 made up of a base salary of \$12 million plus various bonuses.

The figures from the players' union do not include the huge income the Argentine World Cup winner receives in commercial deals, endorsements and sponsorships from companies such as Adidas and Apple.

Messi signed his last contract with Spanish club Barcelona in 2017, a four-year deal that gave him the potential to earn 138 million euros per season including salary and add-ons.

Messi moved to Paris Saint-Germain in August 2021, after his contract with Barca ended and was reported to be earning between 30-35 million euros with the French club.

The 36-year-old joined Miami in July last year on a deal which runs until the end of the 2025 season but he may still be receiving payments from Barca.

Joan Laporta, the Barca president, said in January 2022 that the club were scheduled to make deferred salary payments to the player until 2025.

Toronto's Italian striker Lorenzo Insigne, who was MLS's best-ever paid player until Messi's arrival, was second on the list with a guaranteed income of \$15.4 million from the Canadian club.

Messi's Spanish team-mate, Sergio Busquets, the 35-year-old former Barca midfielder, is the third top earner in the league on \$8.8 million guaranteed.

Miami's former Barca duo of Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez and Spanish full-back Jordi Alba each earn \$1.5 million per year.

Inter Miami's total wage bill is \$41.68 million with Toronto second on \$31.41 million. Current league champions, the Columbus Crew, had a total salary cost of \$15.19 million, ranked 21st in the league. **AFP**

Palestinians call for Israeli ban as Gaza war spills into football

BANGKOK

THE war in Gaza came to the fore at world football's biggest meeting yesterday as the Palestinian association called for Israel to be immediately suspended from FIFA.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino told the congress in Bangkok that the sport's global governing body will take independent legal advice to consider the Palestinian demand.

The Palestine Football Association (PFA) and its backers had hoped there would be an immediate vote on a possible ban, which has the support of the Asian Football Confederation, of which it is a member.

Israel called the ban call "cynical".

But Infantino said: "FIFA will mandate as of now an independent legal expertise to assess the three requests made by the Palestinian football association and make sure that the status and regulations of FIFA are applied in the correct way."

"Due to the urgency of the situation, an extraordinary FIFA council will be convened and take place before July 20 of this year to review the results of the assessment and take the decisions that are appropriate."

PFA head Jibril Rajoub minutes earlier took the stage in the Thai capital to demand Israel's "immediate" suspension.

He said the Israeli FA (IFA) had broken FIFA rules, saying: "FIFA cannot afford to remain indifferent to these violations or to the ongoing genocide in Palestine."

Rajoub's demand came after the PFA said in March it would bring the matter to the congress.

The PFA has voiced its unhappiness with some specific incidents, including a case in which Israeli media footage showed scores of stripped Palestinians, including children, detained in Gaza City's Yarmouk stadium in December 2023.

The PFA in March also called on FIFA to address "the inclusion of football teams located in the territory of another association, namely Palestine, in its national association".

At least five football clubs based in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank are members of the Israeli Football Association. The settlements are illegal under international law.

The representative of Jordan stood up to back the Palestinian demand and call for an immediate vote by the congress, a call rejected by Infantino, who said it must be handled by FIFA's council -- its regular decision-making body.

When it was the turn of the Israeli federation chief to take to the stage to speak, the Iranian and Iraqi delegates walked out of the hall. **AFP**

Klopp now leaves lasting legacy after restoring Liverpool to elite

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp will leave Anfield on Sunday as a living legend, having restored Liverpool to the elite of English and European football while building a lasting bond with the city and its people.

Ever since the manager in January announced the shock decision he would be stepping down at the end of the season, the sense of loss that has enveloped Merseyside has been palpable.

The raw emotion is testament to a transformation that Liverpool had not seen since the days of Bill Shankly decades ago.

On Klopp's first day in charge at Anfield in October 2015 he modestly declared himself as "a Normal One", in stark contrast to Jose Mourinho's bombastic "Special One" arrival as Chelsea boss a decade earlier.

Yet the German would prove he was anything but normal, becoming the only Liverpool manager to complete the collection of Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, League Cup, Club World Cup and Community Shield during his tenure.

The 56-year-old had made a name for himself before arriving in England, overcoming the might of Bayern Munich to win back-to-back Bundesliga titles with Borussia Dortmund.

- Liverpool in doldrums -
But confidence was not high that he could turn around the fortunes of a global giant that had spent decades in the doldrums.

Klopp arrived with Liverpool 10th in the Premier League table and without a league title in 25 years.



Jurgen Klopp is preparing to take charge of Liverpool for the final time. Agencies

Yet his force of personality, charisma and coaching nous soon began to enchant a highly emotive fanbase.

"This is a very, very special club. I didn't make them believe, I reminded them that it helps when you believe," said Klopp earlier this month.

"Everybody was ready to push the train. That's what we did now for eight-and-a-half years."

Liverpool's history has been marked by tragedy and triumph. The 1989 Hillsborough disaster, which resulted in the deaths of 97 fans, has left indelible scars.

"A great communicator, a showman and the leader of the pack," said former Liverpool

captain and manager Graeme Souness of Klopp. "He is a great fit for Liverpool because he feels the emotion of the place."

"Liverpool is an extremely emotional football club, with its history, its tragedies. You get that emotion when you go to Anfield and hear 'You'll Never Walk Alone' (the club's anthem)."

- "The love grew" -
Before the joy under Klopp there was plenty of heartbreak. Liverpool suffered defeats in his first three finals -- in the League Cup, Europa League and Champions League.

In 2018/19 a then club-record 97 points was still

not enough to overcome Pep Guardiola's Manchester City in the Premier League.

But within weeks Liverpool had beaten Tottenham in Madrid to win the Champions League -- becoming European champions for the sixth time.

On the way to the final, Anfield enjoyed arguably its greatest-ever European night as Lionel Messi's Barcelona were humbled 4-0.

The three-decade wait to win a league title ended in 2020 but there was a hollow feeling as the trophy was lifted at an empty Anfield due to coronavirus restrictions.

The Covid period was especially tough on Klopp. He was unable to attend his own

mother's funeral due to travel restrictions and Liverpool suffered during the 2020/21 season, largely played behind closed doors.

As normality resumed, so did the success of his side as Liverpool won the League Cup and FA Cup in 2022.

They narrowly missed out on completing an unprecedented quadruple as City again claimed the league by a single point and Real Madrid won the Champions League final 1-0.

After a difficult 2022/23 campaign, Klopp proved his managerial acumen once more by refreshing the squad with youth and energy, which inspired another quadruple quest. But he admitted at the start of this year that his reserves had run dry.

"It was a win-win situation from the first day. I enjoyed each second of it," Klopp said recently.

"The responsibility and love that grew over the years is a big part of the decision I made, so I'm absolutely fine and at peace with the decision."

Ultimately, there was to be no fairytale ending, even though Liverpool collected silverware by beating Chelsea in the League Cup final in February.

The Reds' season has come off the rails in the final weeks of the campaign, with exits from the FA Cup and Europa League, and they dropped out of the Premier League title race after a poor run.

But that will not diminish the pain as Klopp leaves Anfield for the final time after Sunday's match against Wolves with his place secured in the hearts of his adoring faithful. **AFP**

Jurgen Klopp's highlights at Liverpool

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp takes charge of Liverpool for the final time against Wolves tomorrow, bringing down the curtain on a golden spell that has transformed the club's fortunes.

AFP Sport looks at five moments that defined the German's manager's time at Anfield:

* **2016 Dortmund delight**

It took nearly four years for the trophies to start flowing for Klopp in England but there were memorable moments from his first season as Liverpool reached the Europa League final, where they lost to Sevilla.

Klopp faced a reunion with former club Borussia Dortmund in the quarter-finals.

After a 1-1 draw in the first leg, two early goals from the Germans at Anfield left Liverpool with a mountain to climb.

But the Reds roared back, with Dejan Lovren scoring a late winner as Klopp bounced up and down on the touchline, celebrating a 5-4 win on aggregate.

Liverpool would go onto reach four European finals under Klopp as he restored the English giants as a powerhouse in continental competition.

* **2019: Barcelona blown away**

For all of Liverpool's rich history in European



Jurgen Klopp lifts the Champions League trophy after Liverpool beat Tottenham to win the 2019 final. Agencies

competition, arguably Anfield's greatest ever night came in a remarkable fightback against Barcelona to reach the Champions League final in 2019.

A Lionel Messi-inspired Barca had won the first leg 3-0 at the Camp Nou.

Back at Anfield they were demolished by an under-strength Liverpool, who were without two of their own talismanic front three in Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino.

In their absence, Divock Origi was the unlikely hero as he and Georginio Wijnaldum each scored twice in a stunning 4-0 victory.

* **2019: Champions League glory**

After beating Barcelona, Tottenham were tamed as tens of thousands of Liverpool sup-

porters turned Madrid red in celebration of a sixth Champions League title.

Salah and Origi scored the goals at the Metropolitan Stadium as Klopp finally got his hands on Europe's biggest prize after losing his two previous finals with Dortmund and Liverpool.

* **2020: First Premier League trophy for 30 years**

Liverpool posted a then club-record 97 Pre-

mier League points in the 2018/19 season, but still missed out on the title by one point to a relentless Manchester City.

The following year they were not to be denied -- even by the interruption to the season caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Klopp's men won 26 and drew one of their opening 27 games on their way to racking up 99 points and claiming a first league title in 30 years.

The players had to lift the trophy at an empty Anfield because of Covid restrictions, but thousands of fans defied the ban on socialising to gather outside the stadium, setting off red flares.

* **2024: Unlikely final trophy**

Klopp's goodbye did not reach a glorious crescendo as Liverpool's

Premier League title challenge came off the rails in the final weeks of the campaign and they exited the FA Cup and Europa League.

However, there was still silverware to celebrate from his final season in the League Cup.

Virgil van Dijk's header minutes from the end of extra-time beat Chelsea 1-0 to secure an unlikely triumph for Klopp's under-strength side.

Liverpool were severely weakened by injuries and absences at the Africa Cup of Nations and Asian Cup when they arrived at Wembley.

But Klopp's faith in a clutch of teenagers paid off as they helped turn the tide in Liverpool's favour during extra-time before Van Dijk's stooping header broke the deadlock.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Klopp leaves lasting legacy after restoring Liverpool to elite

PAGE 19



Taifa Stars interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman. Agencies

Hemed Morocco preaches 'the process' after Taifa Stars loss

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TAIFA Stars interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman believes young players must be trusted by giving them more playing chances if they are to reach the top level.

A youthful experimental Taifa Stars side lost 2-1 to Sudan in an international friendly game at King Fahd Stadium played on Wednesday in Saudi Arabia.

The team was dominated by young and fringe players as well as a few foreign-based ones who are not getting enough playing time in their respective clubs.

However, coach Morocco was impressed with the battling quality shown by his youthful side, and feels the young players have an exciting future ahead of them.

"It was not easy. Even though we lost the match, I congratulate my players because they showed fighting spirit. We made mistakes and lost chances, but I find comfort that the players have showcased their abilities.

"The important thing is to encourage them and go back to the training ground to try to fix what was seen in today's game. I believe in the next game we can play well and get a good result," he said.

Morocco continued: "I didn't want to focus on the result even though football isn't like that. I wanted to look at the players we have and who can help the team in the future.

"It is very comforting to see the type of players we have here, they have been able to show the level that I expected according to their age. I would like to see that we support and give them chances as much as possible. I believe that our dreams of excelling will come true."

According to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) statement, Taifa Stars will play Sudan in a rematch this weekend before the players return to their respective clubs to complete the 2023/24 campaign.

Azam, Coastal Union battle for Federation Cup final spot

3.30 PM

This clash promises not only a ticket to the final but a chance for redemption for Azam, who are targeting their second domestic cup final appearance this season following a setback against Simba in the Union Cup final last month.

Azam have won the Federation Cup once, with their triumph arriving in 2019 when they defeated Lipuli in the final, and they were also runners-up last season.

Azam made it to the last four of the domestic cup after thrashing Namungo 4-1.

They also beat Alliance, Green Warriors and Mtibwa Sugar in this season's Federation Cup.

Youssouph Dabo charges go into this game as favourites on paper. However, they must dig deep if they are to beat Coastal Union who are always hard to play against.

The Senegalese coach will hope his key players Feisal Salum, Kire Junior and Gibril Sillah are in fine form to beat the resilient Coastal Union's backline.

Meanwhile, Coastal Union are hoping to recreate their 2022 success in the tournament, when they reached the final after beating Azam on penalties following a 1-1 draw in 90 minutes of normal play.

Wagosi wa Kaya booked the spot in this stage of the lucrative tournament after defeating Geita Gold 1-0 at the Mkwakwani Stadium early this month.

They had defeated Na-

mungo 5-4 on penalties following a 0-0 draw in the Round of 16 match in April.

They overcame championship side Mbeya Kwanza and non-league outfit Greenland in the earlier stages of the competition.

Wagosi wa Kaya have not been at their best in recent games as they come at the back of just one win in their last five games, but as legend has it, cup form usually differs from league form.

Head coach David Ouma believes if they can approach the game against Azam without any fear, they can surprise them.

They held Azam to a 1-1 draw in a league encounter earlier this month.

The other semi-final will pit league champions Young Africans against Ihe-

fu tomorrow.

While Young Africans are chasing a double, Ihefu's only chance of getting to continental football is winning the domestic trophy.

The winners of the two semifinal ties will meet in the final on Sunday, June 2 at the Kwaraa Stadium in Manyara.

In addition to a trophy, medals for players and the technical bench and Tsh50m prize money, the winner of the Federation Cup earns a ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Young Africans are the defending champions of the Federation Cup after a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Azam on Monday, June 12, 2023.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE first 2023/24 CRDB Bank Federation Cup semi-final takes place in the afternoon as Azam and Coastal Union collide at CCM Kirumba, Mwanza. Kick off at



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) leaders, president Wallace Karia (2nd R), first vice president Athuman Nyamiani (R) and chief executive officer Kidao Wilfred attend the 74th Congress of the football's world governing body (FIFA) in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Yanga shift focus to Federation Cup after securing NBC PL title

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

FRESH off their triumph in the NBC Premier League, Young Africans, under the guidance of coach Miguel Gamondi, are now setting their sights on the semi-finals of the CRDB Bank Federation Cup.

The much-anticipated clash against Ihefu FC is scheduled for tomorrow at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha, with kick-off at 3:30 pm East Africa Time.

The Jangwani Street-based side have displayed a formidable form this season. They secured their spot in the semi-finals with a convincing 3-0 victory over Tabora United in the quarter-finals.

Their opponents, Ihefu FC, advanced by narrowly defeating Mashujaa FC 4-3 on penalties after a goalless draw in regular time.

The journey for Yanga in the Federation Cup has been

impressive. They started their campaign with a commanding 5-1 victory over Housing FC, followed by a 5-0 thrashing of Police Tanzania.

Their dominance continued with a 2-0 win against Dodoma Jiji, before dispatching Tabora United in the quarter-finals.

Over these four matches, Yanga have scored an impressive 15 goals while conceding just one.

Striker Clement Mzize has been the standout performer, netting five goals and leading the charge for his team.

This season, Yanga have demonstrated their prowess, successfully defending their NBC Premier League title for the third consecutive year.

However, their ambitions extend beyond the league, as they aim to clinch the CRDB Bank Federation Cup as well.

Yanga's team manager Walter Harson expressed the team's readiness for the cru-

cial semi-final encounter.

"The team is in great shape for this important semi-final match of the CRDB Bank Federation Cup. Winning this cup is a key objective for us this season," he stated.

Harson also called on the local supporters to turn out in large numbers.

"I urge our fans in Arusha region to fill the stadium and cheer us on. Your support is invaluable as we strive to win this cup," he added. "All the players are in good condition and ready for this important game. We are confident in our ability to secure a victory."

On the other hand, Ihefu FC's road to the semi-finals has been equally noteworthy.

They began their campaign with a 3-0 victory over Rospa, followed by a 2-0 win against Mbuni.

They continued their run with a 3-0 triumph over KMC and a hard-fought 0-0 draw against Mashujaa FC eventu-

ally winning 4-3 on penalties.

These victories underline Ihefu's resilience and determination, setting the stage for an exciting semi-final clash.

The winner of the Yanga vs. Ihefu semi-final will face the victor of the other semi-final match between Azam FC and Coastal Union.

This pivotal game is set to take place today at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

The grand finale of the CRDB Bank Federation Cup is scheduled for June 2, promising a thrilling conclusion to the tournament.

As the teams prepare for the showdown, the anticipation is palpable among fans and players alike.

Yanga, with their rich history and recent success, are favorites, but Ihefu's journey thus far has proven they are not to be underestimated.

The Yanga's strategy will likely focus on leveraging their attacking prowess,

spearheaded by the prolific Mzize, while maintaining their solid defensive record.

Coach Gamondi's tactical acumen will be crucial in navigating the high-stakes match.

Ihefu FC, under their determined leadership, will aim to disrupt Yanga's rhythm and capitalize on any opportunities that arise.

Their path to the semi-finals has shown their ability to perform under pressure, especially in penalty shoot-outs, which could be a critical factor if the match remains tightly contested.

As the countdown to the semi-final begins, football enthusiasts across Tanzania are gearing up for what promises to be a captivating encounter.

The Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium is expected to be a cauldron of excitement, with fans fervently supporting their respective teams.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

