



National Pg 3



TCRA, Comoros to collaborate on ICT advancement

National Pg 4



Participate in civic polls, DPM urges Tanzanians

National Pg 6



Climate action programme for youth launched in Z'bar

'Traffickers now rent houses to store drugs'

By Henry Mwangonde

DRUG dealers are increasingly renting houses to use as storage warehouses while living elsewhere, the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has observed.

Aretas Lyimo, the DCEA commissioner general, told a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, that drug dealers now prefer to rent houses, turning them into storage facilities for drugs, while residing in other locations.

He urged landlords to report any suspicious activity to the relevant authorities, as failure to do so could lead to legal consequences like confiscation of property, fines or imprisonment.

"When a landlord is aware of illegal activities in their property and fails to report it, legal actions may be taken, including fines of up to 50m/- or imprisonment," he specified.

He said that seven individuals had been arrested in connection with the seizure of 2,207.56 kilograms of heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other drugs by the in Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions.

On November 14, anti-drug enforcers apprehended Mohammed Suleiman Bakari and Sullesh Said Mhailoh, both residents of Mabibo suburb in the commercial capital, with 1,350.4 kilograms of

TURN TO PAGE 2

Data commission: Lenders risk fines



A resident of Kiloleli village in Kishapu District draws water from Kiloleli Dam for drinking and various other uses, as found recently. However, there are long-standing complaints that the water is way far from clean and safe. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

The commission plans to organise a workshop in the city of Dar es Salaam to provide educational instructions to various groups on the protection of personal data

By Guardian Reporter

THE PERSONAL Data Protection Commission (PDPC) has cautioned online lenders against demanding and using personal data of those seeking loans.

Dr Emmanuel Mkilia, the PDPC director general, issued this warning when addressing a press conference in the capital yesterday, in the wake of controversies concerning practices of online lending platforms where the Bank of Tanzania has recommended that most of them be delisted.

The personal data czar intimated legal measures on entities which will persist in demanding personal data for use and misuse on their clients in case of lateness in returning loans.

He said that lending platforms which display individuals' personal data on networking groups, when proved will have legal actions taken against them on the basis of the law.



They also demand seeing the phone numbers such a person has on their phonebook...

Up to the end of this month, upwards of 700 entities collecting and sorting out personal data were registered with the commission, while lending agencies are not legally allowed to issue reports of individuals taking loans.

"This is an offence in law and those identified to be engaged in such misconduct will face the full force of the law," he said.

The commission invites members of the public to provide information on persons or entities emitting their personal data without their permission as there is legislation to protect the privacy of individuals, he urged.

He said that the problem with leaking private information has led to harrowing pains for a section of society, including pushing a number of people to commit suicide.

The Personal Data Protection Act, No. 11 of 2022 and its regulations were legislated to protect personal privacy, as the digital environment has ushered in plenty of changes in the way people live, thus leading to personal data and their intimacies leaking to public notice.

The commission plans to organise a workshop in the city of Dar es Salaam to provide educational instructions to various groups on the protection of personal

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS



SEAD RAMOVIC'S ERA BEGINS AS YANGA HOST AL HILAL

Page 20



NO UTOPIA FOR MAN UTD AS AMORIM GETS CLOSE-UP VIEW OF CHALLENGE AHEAD

Page 19

Samia: Ensure worship places galvanise unity

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called on religious leaders and followers to use places of worship to strengthen their faith and foster unity, rather than allowing them to become sources of conflict and division.

At a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the Al Ghaith Mosque, of which say will be the largest mosque in East Africa, the president emphasised that places of worship should bring believers to embrace positive collective values.

The mosque, funded by the Dar Al Ber So-



we must avoid such behaviour and protect the peace and stability that we all benefit from

ciety of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) working with the local branch of the Islamic Foundation, is expected to cost 7bn/- up to completion.

"Places of worship should unite us, not divide us. Religious leaders should not be the cause of division among their followers," she urged, underlining that human beings will always have differences, "but we must avoid using our differences to cause disharmony."

She dwelt on the role of women in child-rearing, appealing to them to take an active role in parenting to combat ongoing moral

TURN TO PAGE 2

TIC, 300 local firms meet 40-plus Belgian investors

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA and Belgium have agreed to strengthen business ties by promoting investment in key sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries and industry.

Exchanging ideas with a visiting Bel-

gium business mission comprising 40 companies, Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemani Jafo stated that the meeting would help build relationships and generate economic opportunities.

The delegation is in the country to explore investment opportunities across

various sectors, paying a five day visit from November 23 to 28 to hold discussions with local entrepreneurs, a visit organized by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) working with the Belgian embassy.

He said that the government is focused

TURN TO PAGE 2



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Data commission: Lenders risk fines

FROM PAGE 1

This reporter yesterday visited some online applications and noticed that they still demand the personal data of loan applicants, including seeing an applicant's photo

IRDP unveils research initiatives to boost irrigation and rice yields

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has outlined its ongoing research initiatives aimed at enhancing the irrigation sector and adding value to rice production.

The efforts are designed to support the Ministry of Agriculture in developing innovative solutions to improve food crop production across the country.

In an interview with reporters at his office, IRDP Principal, Prof. Hozen Mayaya noted that agriculture plays a central role in the livelihoods of many Tanzanians, providing a critical avenue for economic empowerment.

As a result, the IRDP's research is focused on agriculture as a driver of societal economic growth.

"We started with rice production and plan to extend our research to other crops. Our goal is to empower institutions and individuals through research that addresses the economic challenges facing both the nation and local communities," Prof. Mayaya said.

He stressed that the institution aims to transform agriculture by moving away from traditional farming methods towards more productive, high-yield farming practices.

He highlighted the significant growth in the number of research projects funded by the institute, noting an increase from seven projects valued at 84m/- in 2020

on the lender's mobile phone.

They also demand seeing the phone numbers such a person has on their phonebook, seeing short messages sent and without agreeing to those conditions, a loan application is bound to fail.

to 16 projects worth 240m/- in the 2022/2023 financial year.

He added that the institution has been implementing participatory research projects to build capacity at both the institutional and individual levels, enabling communities to overcome economic challenges.

Prof. Mayaya also shared that the IRDP had recently reviewed 15 curricula and introduced seven new programmes to meet the requirements of the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education (NACTVET).

The updates ensure that the institute's training programmes are aligned with current agricultural and development demands, producing highly skilled professionals capable of contributing to national development across all sectors.

Prof. Joseph Kuzilwa, IRDP Governing Council Chairman expressed appreciation for the government's support in providing the institute with a modern facility funded by Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project.

He commended the government's commitment to investing in education to produce qualified professionals who can address the country's development challenges.

He assured that the council will continue to work closely with the institute to provide guidance on academic and developmental matters, ensuring the institute's ongoing growth and success.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan is briefed on what is lined up for development into Al Ghaith Mosque shortly after laying the foundation stone for its construction in Morogoro municipality yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia: Ensure worship places galvanise unity

FROM PAGE 1

decline in society. Parental authority should not be left to men alone as mothers need to engage more comprehensively in children's upbringing, she said.

"Mothers, don't threaten your children with their fathers when they misbehave," she said, demanding that they instead sit down with them, guide them, and help them understand their actions. "It is your responsibility to nurture your children with care and strong values," she declared.

The president praised the Islamic Foundation for helping to build over 1,000 mosques across the country, plus its focus on constructing madrasas to educate children and promote good morals.

Foundation contributions in health, education and water are commendable, as durable acts of charity that benefit communities for many years to come.

Hamad Yusuph Masauni, the Home Affairs minister, appreciated the president's active participation in inter-religious events, stressing the importance of collaboration

between the government and religious institutions in ensuring peace and stability.

He also levelled a warning gesture at politicians who exploit election periods to incite violence, underlining that "we must avoid such behaviour and protect the peace and stability that we all benefit from."

Arif Nahad, the foundation president, explained that the mosque's construction began in October 2021 and is now 80 percent complete. Once finished it will accommodate up to 3,000 worshippers, be dotted with a mortuary, a modern library,

accommodation for religious leaders and a madrasa.

The foundation has built more than 1,600 mosques across the country, with over 80,000 pupils regularly enrolled in its madrasas, while drilling more than 3,000 wells to bring water services nearer to communities.

Nahad also requested President Samia's support for the establishment of a teacher training college on a 38-acre plot in Kitungwa, Morogoro District, which the head of State accepted, at the event concluding a two-day tour of the region.

TIC, 300 local firms meet 40-plus Belgian investors

FROM PAGE 1

on increasing the number of industries to uplift job openings, with the background of improving business ties between the two countries.

Current trade averages \$186m of exports to Belgium, while importing \$115m worth of goods from that country, which the minister says demonstrates that we are doing well.

Tanzania primarily exports agricultural products, including coffee, tea and minerals, whereas the meeting would provide an opportunity for local businesses to seek ways of boosting exports, especially as Belgium is part of the wider European Union market.

"The government is committed to supporting agriculture, including increasing budget allocation to build infrastructure and input supply networks," he said.

Jestas Nyamanga, the envoy to Belgium, said the investors are in Tanzania to explore suitable investment niches, as the EU member state enhances its presence in Tanzania, with over \$430m invested in

sectors such as mining, agriculture, logistics and hospitality.

TIC organised the meetings to encourage further investments in different sectors, he said, pointing at the fisheries sector as a potential area of more investments.

The meeting attracted over 300 local business people, with several contracts expected to be signed, while the delegation toured the port of Dar es Salaam today to observe ongoing developments.

Daudi Riganda, the TIC acting director of investment, affirmed that by late last month 48 projects worth \$2m had been registered by Belgian investors, likely to create over 2,000 jobs.

"We expect the number of projects to increase following this meeting, as the number of projects registered over the past 20 years has been unsatisfactory," he stated.

Belgian resident ambassador Peter Huyghebaert expressed satisfaction with the strong turnout of local businesspeople, seeing it as a good sign of potential areas of cooperation. "It is a good start," he remarked.



Natural Resources and Tourism ministry permanent secretary Dr Hassan Abbasi (2nd-R) receives the 2024 World's Leading Safari Attraction Award from World Travel Awards president Graham E. Cooke at a ceremony held Madeira, Portugal, on Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Happy Shayo

'Traffickers now rent houses to store drugs'

FROM PAGE 1

tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), otherwise known as skunk, readied for the black market, he said.

On the same date, Iddy Mohamed Iddy, a resident of Chanika Buyuni on the outskirts of the city, was arrested with 150.2 kilograms of skunk stored in a rented house in the area.

Further, on November 17 in Tanga Region, suspects Ally Kassim and Fahad Ally Kassim were arrested with 706.96 kilograms of heroin and methamphetamine stored in a rented house. Some of the drugs were also found in a Toyota Noah

vehicle, he elaborated.

On November 19, officers arrested Michael Dona Mziwanda, residing at Tabata Segerea, and Tumpale Bernard Mwasakila of Temeke Mikoroshini, for possession of fentanyl.

Three vehicles and a boat belonging to the suspects were also seized during the operation, with the commissioner stressing that if the drugs had entered the market, they would have caused significant harm.

This is especially so for individuals who have not yet started using drugs or those in recovery, he added.

GABORONE

IT is important to capitalize on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to boost intra-Africa trade and position the continent as a global economic force, President of Botswana Duma Boko said during an international conference.

Addressing delegates at the African Economic Conference, which is co-hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the United Nations Development Program in Botswana's capital city, Gaborone, on Saturday, Boko said that multilateral cooperation and economic integra-

Botswana hosts conference to advance African development

tion into regional trading blocs are more important than ever.

"One of the most promising developments the world has ever seen is the AfCFTA, which is the largest single free trade area in the world," he said.

Highlighting AfCFTA's potential to reshape Africa's economic landscape by encouraging investment, creating jobs and promoting industrialization, Boko said that regional

cooperation must go beyond trade to include shared physical infrastructure, resource management and conflict resolution.

Claver Gatete, executive secretary of the ECA, said AfCFTA is the "crown jewel" of Africa's economic integration efforts, calling for its expedited implementation.

He reiterated the need for free movement of people, products, and services for integration, citing Bot-

swana's visa-free policies, as well as those of Rwanda and Ghana, as examples of how they can remove barriers to greater intra-African collaboration.

The three-day conference, held from Nov. 23 to 25 under the theme "Securing Africa's Economic Future Amidst Rising Uncertainty," gathered together experts to propose measures to enhance African development.



Charles Mwamaja, Commissioner for Financial Sector Development in the Finance ministry, pictured recently conferring a degree on a graduand at the Dodoma-based Rural Planning and Development College. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Reporter

TCRA, Comoros to team up on ICT advancement

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is set to enter a collaborative agreement with the Comoros National Agency for Digital Development (ANADEN) to advance Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in both nations.

The potential agreement was discussed over the weekend following a skills exchange meeting between the two parties in Dar es Salaam. The Ambassador of the Union of the Comoros in Tanzania, Said Yakubu, and Said Muiouno Ahamada, the Director General of ANADEN, expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn from Tanzania's ICT progress.

Eng. Mwesigwa Felician, TCRA's Director of Industrial Affairs (DIA), praised the delegation for choosing Tanzania and TCRA as a platform to learn about ICT advancements. In his presentation, Eng. Mwesigwa outlined Tanzania's notable ICT achievements, including the establishment of a National

Data Centre.

He also highlighted the widespread adoption of mobile money services in Tanzania, which are used by over 90% of the population, with 60.8 million SIM cards registered for the service as of September 2024.

Additionally, he noted Tanzania's recognition as a global leader in cybersecurity, ranking first in East and Central Africa and among the top countries globally, according to the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Global Cyber Security Index.

Said Ahamada explained that the purpose of the Comorian delegation's visit was to explore how Comoros can develop the expertise necessary to build systems for government services, including e-Government, a national domain registry, and a national data center. These developments are

intended to foster the growth of internet usage and digital services in both the public and private sectors.

Ahamada also mentioned that Comoros is expecting financial support from the African Development Bank (ADB) to fund ICT development through ANADEN. "With this funding, we aim to improve our internet systems by enhancing the capacity of our experts and strengthening system interoperability," he said.

Ambassador Said Yakubu emphasized the desire to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TCRA and ANADEN to facilitate expert exchanges and capacity building. "We hope that in the next meeting, your experts will visit Comoros to assess and advise on system improvements," he added.

New study seeks to co-produce solutions for climate resilience

By Getrude Mbago

ARDHI University (ARU) and the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) have jointly launched a special project aimed to explore and advance nature-based solutions (Nbs) in urban areas.

Dubbed: 'Listen, Learn & Leap: Co-Producing Equitable and Sustainable Nature-Based Solutions (Nbs) for Climate Resilience in East African Cities', the three-year collaborative project brings together a diverse group of partners including the University College London (UK), Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) in Kenya, ARU, CCI and ICLEI Africa.

The project, funded by UK Research and Innovation Fund, aims to build practical evidence for the uptake, efficiency, adaptability and scalability of Nbs for water management in urban informal settlements in East Africa.

Speaking during the official launch of the project in Dar es Salaam over the weekend Prof Wilbard Kombe from ARU and Principal Investigator of the project said the initiative aims to explore the socio-political factors that support the uptake, sustainability and institutionalisation of Nbs, with a particular focus on amplifying the voices and perspectives of young people, especially young women and girls living in informal settlements.

"Through the initiative, we will work to ensure that the marginalised groups play a central role in the design and management of localised NBS solutions in communities," he said.

Prof Kombe said the aim is to engage local communities in creating solutions that not only address immediate environmental challenges but also contribute to long-term social and economic well-being.

He noted that nature-based solutions are actions that protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems to address societal challenges such as climate change, food and water security, human health and disaster risk reduction.

For example, mangrove tree planting in coastal areas can mitigate flooding from storm surges and coastal erosion while providing critical habitat for biodiversity, including fish, birds and plants.

Prof Kombe said the collaborative effort is set to generate valuable insights into how

nature-based solutions can be scaled and institutionalized to build climate resilience in East African cities, while also promoting social equity and environmental sustainability.

"We aim to leverage learning from residents and local governments to ensure practice and policy impact, as well as academic contribution. Incorporating urban nature, green infrastructure, and Nature-based Solutions to flooding issues prevalent in the planning process of informal settlements, the project emphasizes resident-driven gender-equitable informal settlement improvements," he said.

Dr Tim Ndezi, CCI executive director said the participatory research approach aims to engage local communities in identifying and implementing nature-based solutions that can address climate change and environmental degradation while fostering sustainable livelihoods.

"The study will explore various Nbs initiatives, including tree planting, waste management and erosion control measures," he said.

Dr Ndezi said in Dar es Salaam, a group of youth in the Karakata Street in Ilala District has launched a bamboo planting project along the Msimbazi River to combat erosion.

The effort, aimed at protecting the riverbanks, is part of a broader movement to use bamboo as a sustainable, eco-friendly solution to environmental challenges.

In other parts of the city, such as Chamazi and Kiburugwa in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, local communities are actively engaging in urban farming initiatives to improve food security and contribute to climate resilience.

The projects also involve mangrove planting, a key Nbs that helps protect coastal areas from flooding and provides habitat for biodiversity.

Kissa Kasekwa, the coordinator of the Tanzania Federation for Urban Poor (TFUP) in Mnyamani and Vingunguti wards in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam shared that as part of the project, their groups had commenced bamboo planting two months ago with the aim of stabilising the banks of nearby rivers and improving the local environment.

"We are excited about the progress we have made, and we are committed to expanding these efforts to build a more resilient community," Kasekwa said.

By Getrude Mbago

PSA calls for reforms to empower smallholder farmers in SADC bloc

THE Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance (PSA) has called for critical policy reforms aimed at enhancing food security and empowering farmers across the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

PSA is consortium led by Action-Aid International and including the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) and SAFAIDS.

Among its key recommendations, the alliance urges SADC member states (MSs) to adopt a gender-based right to food and nutrition framework in all future reviews of policies and strategies.

This would ensure that food and nutrition rights are prioritized and accessible to all, particularly to women and vulnerable groups who are often the backbone of agricultural production in the region.

Joe Mzinga, ESAFF regional coordinator made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at the stakeholder consultation meeting on the SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) 2017-2022 shadow report and input to the new SADC RAIP 2025-2030.

He underscored the need of having a concrete framework that defines farmers' involvement in all

research cycles so as to bring productive outcomes.

The one-day workshop gathered government officials, smallholder farmers, civil society groups, and agricultural stakeholders to review the current RAIP's impact and propose recommendations for the next cycle. It was supported by the German Development Agency - Strengthening National, Regional Linkages (GIZ-SNRL) programme.

Mzinga advocated for the establishment of a Parliamentary Front Against Hunger within the SADC Parliament, drawing inspiration from successful models in Portuguese-speaking African countries and Latin America.

"This platform would focus on combating hunger and advocating for policies that ensure the right to adequate food and nutrition for all," he said.

He further called for the creation of National Committees in each SADC member state, in line with Article 9 of the SADC Treaty, to improve coordination and implementation of agricultural and food security initiatives.

He also highlighted the need for transforming the SADC Parliament to grant it legislative powers, enabling it to play a more active role in

shaping and enforcing policies on agricultural development and food security.

The Alliance also recommended the inclusion of Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) in the SADC Biennial Review Reports (PBR). FMSS, which empower farmers to manage their own seeds and preserve local biodiversity, are seen as vital for building sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

Mzinga emphasized that supporting FMSS would lead to more self-reliant food systems across Southern Africa.

"This event is seen as a significant step toward aligning agricultural policies with the goals of the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and advancing regional integration efforts within SADC," he said.

Daines Mtei, a senior officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to advancing regional agricultural development.

She highlighted the country's alignment with the broader SADC and African Union agricultural plans, particularly its National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (TAFSIP).



Child development, growth and parenting specialist Magdalena Telentine conducts parenting training at the weekend for parents from Luchebele ward in Mwanza city. The sessions are offered free of charge every Saturday at a local early childhood education and care centre. Photo: Vitus Audax



INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION - CURRENT AND POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Madrasa Early Childhood Programme - Zanzibar (MECP-Z), is an Early Childhood Development (ECD) organization supported by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). MECP-Z has been implementing ECD programs in Zanzibar since 1996. MECP-Z received full registration as a pre-primary Teacher Training Institute and has been recently working with local partners in the areas of Human Rights and Advocacy for people with disabilities and Inclusive Education and Comparative Early Childhood Education.

MECP-Z intends to draw up a new preferred suppliers/service providers list to ensure that we get the best possible supply rates, quality discounts, payment terms and efficiency. It is also our intention to deal with compliant companies/individuals who adhere to internationally accepted corporate governance guidelines. If you wish to be considered, please apply on your company letter head.

Scope of Work

MECP-Z invites application from qualified and competent firms/individuals for the purpose of pre-qualifying suppliers for goods, services and works for the year 2025 - 2027

S/N	SERVICE CARTEGORY
1	Stationeries and office supplies
2	Teaching materials and teachers' resources
3	Restaurant - Catering services (Unguja)
4	Restaurant - Catering services (Pemba)
5	Printing (books, periodicals, posters, etc.)
6	Hotel Accommodations in Zanzibar, Dar -es- salaam, Mtwara, Lindi and Pemba.
7	Travel agency - Air Tickets
8	Freight/currier services
9	Tours/car hire/taxis
10	Office equipment and furniture
11	Vehicle Fuel
13	Vehicle maintenance and repair
14	Electric equipment repair (Unguja)
15	Electric equipment repair (Pemba)
16	Car Parts and tire supplies
17	Meeting and Conference Halls in Zanzibar and Pemba
18	Drinking water and office refreshments
19	Illustration and cartoon designs
20	Premises maintenance (water, electricity, painting etc)
21	Vehicle insurance
22	Security Service (Unguja and Pemba)
23	Internet service Unguja and Pemba
24	Children books
25	Computers, Printers, Projectors, Mobile phones, Tablets, and other IT equipment's
26	Other Supplies/Services that of an interest (Please specify)

Suppliers Specification.

VAT registration, TIN No., Brief company profile, copy of Certificate of Incorporation, specified category of service/product dealt in, list of previous customers and referees, banker's details and functional bank numbers, and declaration of conflict of interest.

How to apply

Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications including contacts details before the close of business (04:30 pm) on 15th Dec 2024 to the Procurement Committee, Madrasa Early childhood Programme - Zanzibar, Plot No. 173, House No.740 ,Kiponda Street. P.O. Box 3716, Zanzibar, Tanzania, or E mail: info.mecpz@akdn.org.

Serengeti balloon safaris declared as the best global service provider

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SERENGETI Balloon Safaris, the pioneering Tanzanian balloon adventure company, has been named the world's best balloon ride operator.

The announcement was made during the grand finale of the World Travel Awards, known as the Oscars of the global tourism industry, held this weekend in Funchal, Portugal.

"For the first time in history, the award for the best balloon services goes to Serengeti Balloon Safaris from Tanzania. Congratulations on your outstanding contributions," the ceremony organizers declared.

"This accolade not only celebrates Serengeti Balloon Safaris' exceptional quality and service but also underscores Tanzania's growing prominence in global tourism," commented the Managing Director, John Corse.

Famous for offering breathtaking aerial views over Serengeti National Park, Serengeti Balloon Safaris delivers unforgettable experiences that combine stunning landscapes with extraordinary wildlife encounters.

This prestigious award highlights the company's commitment to excellence, raising the standard for extraordinary ballooning adventures and emphasizing the important role of African tourism.

As trailblazers in launching balloon flights over the Serengeti, Serengeti Balloon Safaris has set the benchmark for safety and remarkable passenger experiences.

"We have become leading conservation partners in the parks we operate, consistently earning the title of Best Balloon Operator from Tanzania National Parks," Corse said.

The company adheres to rigorous safety standards and collaborates closely with the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority to continually improve industry practices.

"Our pilots are among the most

experienced in the field, with extensive expertise in weather dynamics. To date, we've guided over 250,000 guests across the iconic Serengeti skies," he added.

In June 2024, Serengeti Balloon Safaris expanded its horizons with a successful inaugural flight over Tarangire National Park, marking this vital wildlife refuge as their fourth operational site.

"As we descended above the woodland canopy on the western side of the ridge, we enjoyed remarkable wildlife sightings, moving past Tarangire Sopa Lodge towards the open spaces near the Tarangire River," recounted Claire Warner, a passenger on the inaugural flight.

The passengers witnessed a range of wildlife, including elephants, buffalo, porcupines, waterbucks, bushbucks, white-headed vultures, hornbills, African green parrots, and reedbucks.

"Both balloons landed gently in a clearing with baobab trees by the riverbank," Warner added. "The morning ended with a breakfast beneath an acacia tree and a celebratory champagne toast, marking the successful launch of Tarangire flights."

Pascal Kirigiti, Serengeti Balloon Safaris' Marketing Manager, emphasized: "We are always striving to enhance our customer experiences, and this new Tarangire route demonstrates our commitment to innovation."

Tarangire is now the fourth national park in Tanzania where Serengeti Balloon Safaris operates, joining Serengeti (year-round operations tracking migratory patterns), Ngorongoro Conservation Area (December to March), and Ruaha (June to October).

As safari enthusiasts increasingly seek experiences in Tarangire, Manyara, and Ngorongoro, guests can now embark on a balloon safari in the heart of Tarangire from March to June.



Zanzibar Police Commissioner Hamad Khamis Hamad briefs journalists yesterday on the marking of this year's edition (Nov 25 to Dec 10) of '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' in Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Biteko urges Tanzanians to partake in civic polls for stronger democracy

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Dr Doto Biteko has called on Tanzanians to participate in the Local Government Elections, scheduled for today across the country, highlighting the significance of the elections for strengthening democracy in the country.

He also called for peaceful and fair elections, urging citizens to embrace democratic values and respect the electoral process.

He made the call yesterday during a visit in the region, where he encouraged all registered voters to take part in the election process, un-

derscoring the important role that local leaders play in shaping the future of communities and the nation as a whole.

"I urge all Tanzanians who have registered in the voter roll for the Local Government Elections in their respective areas to come out and vote for their leaders. This is a critical moment for us as a country to choose leaders who will drive our communities forward," Dr Biteko said.

The Minister emphasised that local government leaders are the cornerstone of the nation's development.

He stated: "These leaders are the

foundation of our country. They understand the challenges that people face in their daily lives and are the ones who will work towards solving the issues. They know the problems of their people, what needs to be done and how to address those challenges effectively."

He further stressed that participation in the elections is not only a civic duty but also a fundamental democratic right for every eligible Tanzanian.

"Voting is your right, and it is an opportunity to have a say in who will represent you at the local level. Every eligible Tanzanian should come out and cast their vote on No-

ember 27, 2024, to ensure that the leaders elected are truly reflective of the people's needs and aspirations."

Dr Biteko further urged local communities, stakeholders and civil society organisations to play an active role in supporting the electoral process.

This year's local government elections are set to be crucial in shaping the political landscape of the country, as the newly elected leaders will have a direct impact on decision-making at the grassroots level, particularly in areas such as infrastructure development, education, healthcare and community welfare.

Report urges ethical governance, inclusive legislation on AI East and Southern Africa

By Guardian Reporter

NEW research examining legal and policy frameworks governing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Mauritius, and Zambia has called for immediate legislative action to keep pace with AI adoption on the continent.

"It is evident that without swift and comprehensive legislative action, the region risks falling behind in AI's ethical and effective governance, which has significant implications for human rights and societal well-being," the report warns.

These are findings arising from the research conducted by Paradigm Initiative. It was prepared by four law firms, including K-Solutions Partners (ALN-Rwanda), providing support in Rwanda, ALP East Africa providing support in Uganda, South Sudan Bowmans providing support in Mauritius, Tanzania, Zambia and Triple OK Law providing support in Kenya. ALP East Africa coordinated it.

This legal research was facilitated by TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono network.

Gbenga Sesan, Paradigm Initiative's Executive Director, said the research was timely as it is coming at a time when the usage of Artificial Intelligence is on the rise.

"We must laud the efforts of every organisation or individual who made this possible as the findings are of the essence and quite useful. It is my appeal to all stakeholders to play a role in ensuring legislative action so we are not left behind."

The study indicates that AI is gaining momentum across the seven countries, especially in the agriculture, healthcare and telecommunication sectors. The report was launched at the ALP AI Forum taking place in Kampala, Uganda, between 25th November and 26th November 2024.

Among the seven countries scrutinised, Mauritius is the only country with AI-specific laws within the financial sector through the Financial Services (Robotic and Artificial

Intelligence Enabled Advisory Services) Rules of 2021. At the same time, the research findings show that Kenya and Rwanda are making great strides toward AI-focused legislation.

The report states that most jurisdictions, except South Sudan, rely on soft laws or general laws, such as data protection regulations, to partially govern AI without dedicated legislation. It has also established that only Rwanda and Uganda have made considerable progress in addressing ethical AI and human rights. "Rwanda's national AI policy and Uganda's Data Protection and Privacy Act exemplify a human-rights-centred approach to AI governance," the report states.

Besides examining policies and laws, the study also examines stakeholder involvement in policy-making within the seven countries. It points to gaps in clear guidelines on how public participation should be conducted despite the fact that most countries see the need for it in their constitutions.

"In many cases, participation is limited to select stakeholders such as notable non-governmental organisations and experts, often excluding the broader public input," the report explains, adding that the issue is glaring in Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan and Zambia where information on the involvement of stakeholders is limited.

The report recommends that the current approaches may be inadequate to address the regulatory challenges posed by AI, proposing that laws be benchmarked against global standards such as UNESCO's recommendations on AI ethics.

"Key policy recommendations for AI governance across East Africa, Zambia and Mauritius include enhancing public awareness campaigns to foster informed public participation, urging policymakers to commit to human rights and ethical principles in AI development, and establishing clear provisions and guidelines to ensure meaningful public involvement in the policymaking process," the report adds.



Yasinta Mponze (L), a children's leader at a CSO based in Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni suburb, Dar es Salaam, takes visiting youth from Sweden around the centre. The visitors were particularly interested in learning how to effectively involve children and youth in the running of community economic empowerment and environmental conservation activities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Partnership key in driving Tanzania's mining industry'

By Guardian Reporter

TWIGA Minerals, the joint venture between the Tanzanian government and Barrick Gold Corporation, has been praised as a model collaboration that benefits both the government and the private sector.

This was highlighted at the just-concluded Tanzania Mining Investment Conference in Dar es Salaam. The conference, themed "Mineral Value Addition for Socio-Economic Development," serves as

a platform to showcase Tanzania's mining investment potential.

Melkiory Ngido, Barrick's Country Manager described the partnership as exemplary, noting Barrick's leading role in contributing to national revenue and its transformative impact on Tanzanians, through job creation and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects.

He also highlighted Barrick's collaboration with the government on the Barrick-Twiga Future Forward Education project, which is improv-

ing public secondary school infrastructure and expanding educational opportunities.

The project, with an investment of 70.5bn/-, aims to construct classrooms, latrines, and dormitories in 161 schools across Tanzania. The first phase has been completed, with further phases underway.

Barrick and the Tanzanian government received recognition for their commitment at the conference, with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presenting the awards.

Twiga has a 50:50 economic benefits-sharing partnership, which also vested a 16 percent shareholding in each mine with the government.

Since its establishment, Twiga has invested more than \$12.5 million in landmark projects to provide access to quality healthcare, educational facilities, potable water, and alternative sources of income. Among these is an irrigation system expected to improve production for 2,356 farmers substantially.

New digital payment option launched for Arusha traders

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SMALL and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Arusha Region have a reason to smile after the launch of a new digital payment option for businesses.

NMB Bank has made digital payments possible through its 'QR pay by link' contactless payment option. The move is part of the bank's long-term strategy to drive digital payment transformation.

The new payment option introduced by the lender for the first time in the Tanzanian market aligns with the bank's financial inclusion strategy and allows businesses to accept card payments easily and cost-effectively using "QR Pay by link".

Speaking during an event to unveil the new payment option held in Arusha at the weekend, Elirehema Maturu, Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) executive director expressed optimism that the new payment option will offer a big relief to many entrepreneurs in the tourism sector value chain.

"The tourism sector has been facing numerous challenges including a lack of flexible payment options and this has sometimes irked tourists. I believe that these options unveiled by NMB Bank will help address such challenges," he said.

He urged the need to invest in research and innovation, especially in transport, accommodation, telecommunication, and digital payments, to further enhance the tourism sector's contribution to the national economy.

"I believe innovation will stir our tourism sector to greater heights. I take this opportunity to commend NMB Bank for being at the forefront of enhancing digital payments," he said.

Mosses Alfonse, Mastercard Manager said the new payment option is set to revolutionize the domestic payment ecosystem, empowering Tanzanian consumers with safe and secure contactless payments whilst advancing the financial inclusion agenda and expanding access to financial services.

"NMB Bank has partnered with Mastercard to introduce this contactless payment solution in Tanzania. We remain committed to offering simple, secure, and cost-effective innovative digital payment solutions to merchants and consumers," he stressed.

He added: "With a simple link, it will now be easy to pay a bill on the go with a bank account without having to enter or remember payment details. With Pay by link, we allow businesses to accept and receive payments anywhere," he said.

Philbert Casmir, the bank's head of Card Business said the NMB Mastercard QR Pay by link is a significant step in shaping the future of payments in the country because it offers convenience, faster transactions, and contactless payment thereby reducing the need for cash payments.

Casmir noted that through the payment option, a consumer makes a cashless payment by scanning a QR code at any location that accepts a Merchant Presented QR Code.

"I urge SMEs in Arusha to embrace this new payment option as it comes with many advantages. Most importantly, this option comes with no additional cost," he added.



With a simple link, it will now be easy to pay a bill on the go with a bank account without having to enter or remember payment details. With Pay by link, we allow businesses to accept and receive payments anywhere

Z'bar takes bold action to lessen road accidents

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has stated that the government is implementing various measures, including the Road Safety Strategy for 2024-2030, to eliminate preventable deaths and permanent disabilities caused by road accidents.

Speaking during the climax of the first Road Safety Week celebrations and the launch of the Zanzibar Road Safety Strategy, held at the Nyamanzini Exhibition Grounds near Zanzibar City, Hemed emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in reducing and eventually eliminating road accidents.

He pointed out that studies reveal human error as the primary cause of road accidents. Factors include drivers not adhering to traffic laws, speeding, drunk driving, using phones while driving, vehicle defects, poor infrastructure, and adverse weather conditions.

Hemed urged the public to utilize these findings to identify the root causes of accidents and develop solutions to curb the loss of lives and property.

Hemed shared that from 2019 to 2023, a total of 1,181 road accidents were reported, resulting in 799 fatalities and 1,461 injuries. Between January and October 2024, 193 accidents were reported, leading to 264 deaths and 216 injuries.

He called on the National Road Safety Committee to continue fulfilling its legal mandate, including educating the public on road safety, while urging the police to enforce traffic laws and penalize violators.

The Vice President also advised drivers to adhere to traffic regulations, ensure their vehicles

are roadworthy, and encouraged the public to cooperate with road safety authorities by reporting violations.

Zanzibar's Minister for Infrastructure, Communication and Transport, Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed described road accidents as a national disaster causing loss of lives, permanent disabilities, and financial hardships due to rising medical expenses.

Dr Khalid emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure adherence to traffic laws and the provision of road safety education. He also highlighted the importance of urban planning to curb haphazard construction near roads, which contributes to increased accidents.

Zanzibar Police Commissioner Hamad Khamis Hamad lauded the ongoing infrastructure development initiatives by President Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, noting their positive impact on road safety. He also highlighted challenges, including the public's lack of road safety knowledge, and called for continuous education on safe road use.



Hemed urged the public to utilize these findings to identify the root causes of accidents and develop solutions to curb the loss of lives and property



Journalists based in Manyara Region and various other members of the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs participate in a peaceful demonstration in Babati town yesterday during the launch of this year's edition (Nov 25 to Dec 10) of '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'. The annual event is meant as an opportunity to revitalise commitments and call for accountability from decision-makers towards achieving gender equality and women's and girls' rights globally. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

By Correspondent Rose Ngunangwa

THE government has been urged to create specific regulations for the enforcement of Section 135 of the Presidential, Parliamentary, and Councillors' Elections Act, which addresses gender-based violence in upcoming elections.

Section 135 of the Elections Act 2024 states, "A person who, during the election process, engages in acts of sexual harassment or violence against a candidate commits an offense and shall, upon conviction in accordance with the Electoral Code of Conduct, be subject to the penalties outlined in such a code."

The call for action was made in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Monika Muhoja, speaking on behalf of the MKUKI Coalition, during the launch of the national event marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, organized by

Enforce GBV regulations in elections, activists urge govt

WILDAF.

The Coalition also called on the government to enact a specific law addressing gender-based violence and allocate sufficient resources to implement the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children.

WILDAF National Coordinator, Advocate Anna Kulaya, emphasized that gender-based violence hinders women's participation in elections, whether through physical, psychological, or online abuse.

"During the last elections, women faced significant violence. I urge Tanzania to prioritize this issue, and for political parties to include

strategies to increase women's participation in the upcoming elections," Advocate Kulaya said.

Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs condemned violence against women, stating it is unacceptable and should not be tolerated, as it undermines a significant group in society.

A report by the Tanzania Women Cross Party Forum titled Violence Against Women during the 2025 General Elections revealed that approximately 69 percent of women candidates reported experiencing abusive language during election campaigns. The

report further highlighted incidents of verbal harassment, insults, and being booed while on stage.

"Interviews with some women aspirants and candidates revealed that they were subjected to sexual demands from party leaders and campaign managers, which discouraged them and hindered their effective participation in the electoral process," the report stated.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, observed annually from November 25 to December 10, aims to raise awareness and mobilize action to end all forms of violence against women and girls.



Business is slowly but surely getting back to normal in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone only days after closure meant to give way to a search and rescue operation following the collapse of a multi-storey building in the area in which several people died and dozens were injured. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ZAFELA to honour activists' efforts in combatting GBV

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) is set to recognise and celebrate outstanding individuals and organisations that have shown exceptional commitment and courage in combatting gender-based violence (GBV).

The awards ceremony, scheduled for December 7, aims to honour those who have worked tirelessly to make Zanzibar a safer place for women and children by reporting and preventing gender-based violence, thus fostering a culture of respect, accountability, and social change.

Addressing reporters over the weekend here ZAFELA Director Jamila Mahmoud emphasized the importance of collective effort in the fight against GBV.

"The journey to eradicate gender-based violence begins with each and every one of us," she said.

Mahmoud highlighted that the awards serve as a crucial tool to inspire and drive social transformation.

She urged citizens, community leaders and policymakers to actively support these initiatives by participating in campaigns against GBV and advocating for stronger policies that protect victims and hold offenders accountable.

As part of the ongoing 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, ZAFELA has organised visits to women prisoners, offering support and educational outreach.

Additionally, the organisation conducts awareness campaigns across Zanzibar to raise public understanding of the issue and encourage action to prevent GBV.

Zanzibar Police Commissioner Hamad Khamis Hamad reaffirmed the police force's commitment to addressing GBV cases promptly and ensuring justice for victims.

He called on communities to collaborate with law enforcement by reporting incidents of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and

public spaces.

"Statistics show that gender-based violence remains alarmingly prevalent. This calls for a unified effort from the government, non-governmental organisations, civil society, religious leaders, and the public to educate people about the devastating effects of GBV and promote a culture of respect for human rights," Hamad said.

He stressed that everyone has a role to play in ensuring women and girls live in safety and dignity, free from abuse or exploitation.

"Together, we can eliminate violence against women and girls in Zanzibar and create a safer environment for all," he said.

School in D'Salaam receives 150 desks, 150 tree seedlings to enhance learning environment

By Guardian Reporter

UFUKONI Primary School in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam, has received a donation of 150 desks and 150 tree seedlings to improve its learning environment and promote environmental conservation.

Kigamboni District Commissioner Halima Bulembo, accompanied by the District Administrative Secretary, education officials, and stakeholders, presided over the handover ceremony, which was made by Stanbic Bank (T).

"This is a significant milestone for Ufukoni Primary School and the Kigamboni community," DC Bulembo said, adding: "The bank's generosity marks an essential step toward improving the educational environment and advancing environmental conservation efforts."

The commissioner highlighted that the 150 desks address the challenge of inadequate school resources, enabling students to learn in a conducive environment.

"This support will transform lives by fostering a better learning experience and helping students achieve their educational goals," she said.

She also emphasized the importance of the 150 tree seedlings as a long-term investment in environmental sustainability.

"These trees will provide shade, enhance the school surroundings, and serve as an educational tool for sustainability and environmental responsibility," Bulembo noted.

She urged teachers, students, and the community to care for the resources, saying, "Let these desks and trees symbolize our commitment to environmental awareness and educational excellence."

Emma Medda, Branch Manager of Stanbic Bank's Industrial Branch,

reiterated the bank's dedication to education. "These desks will help create a better learning environment, supporting the broader goal of quality education for all," she stated.

Saleh Said Awadh, the Branch Manager of Stanbic Bank's Kariakoo Branch, emphasized the importance of tree planting.

"These seedlings represent a commitment to protecting the environment. Planting trees today ensures a greener and healthier planet for future generations," he said.

The initiative was part of Stanbic Bank's ongoing Stanbic Madawati Initiative, which aims to donate 1,000 desks to schools across Tanzania. Several schools have already benefited from the project, which aligns with Tanzania's development goals by promoting education and sustainability.

Stanbic Bank's contributions reflect its long-term commitment to empowering communities and creating a sustainable future. Through initiatives like this, the bank is strengthening its role in supporting Tanzania's development agenda.



The bank's generosity marks an essential step toward improving the educational environment and advancing environmental conservation efforts

UNICEF launches climate action programme for Zanzibar's youth

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has launched a sustainable education initiative, 'Young People for Climate Action,' aimed at raising awareness and empowering children to actively participate in mitigating the effects of climate change on the island.

Speaking to government officials, students, and pupils from Chungu Primary and Tumekuja Secondary School, UNICEF Representative Laxmi Bhawani emphasized the significant impacts of climate change, such as rising temperatures and environmental changes that exacerbate diseases, particularly among children.

"We involve children in addressing climate change because it's crucial to educate and raise awareness among young people, so they can begin to take action from the grassroots level to mitigate and prevent climate change," Bhawani said.

She noted that climate change contributes to droughts, hampers food production, and threatens global food security. One of the primary impacts in Zanzibar is the rising sea level, which increases temperatures, disrupts lifestyles, and accelerates the spread of diseases like malaria due to floods, putting communities at risk.

"We are empowering and equipping youths with the knowledge and information needed to address climate change and mitigate its effects in the future," Bhawani explained.

Asia Iddi Issa, Director of Education in the Zanzibar's Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, stressed the importance of continuing tree planting programs through youth clubs to deepen young people's understanding of climate change at the grassroots level.

"We should encourage discussions on climate change in local communities and debate clubs, so young people understand the urgency of global warming and the importance of planting trees as part of the efforts to mitigate its effects,"

Issa said.

UNICEF's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Officer, Marko Msambazi, highlighted the program's focus on providing youths with the technical knowledge to address climate change in their daily lives.

"We planted trees today at Chungu Primary School and demonstrated their importance, such as oxygen production, as well as other benefits that contribute to social development," Msambazi said. "In addition to planting trees, UNICEF is also promoting the recycling of plastic bags and other waste to create alternative products."

The initiative aims to foster a generation of informed and proactive youth who can tackle climate change and contribute to sustainable development in their communities.



We should encourage discussions on climate change in local communities and debate clubs, so young people understand the urgency of global warming and the importance of planting trees as part of the efforts to mitigate its effects



Muheza District Medical Officer Dr Fani Mussa pictured yesterday opening a training session for community health workers at the district's St Augustine Health and Community Science College. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE government has allocated 2.5bn/- in the current fiscal year for procuring training equipment for students with disabilities.

Umyy Nderiananga, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, and Coordination) disclosed this over the weekend when speaking during a special luncheon for people with disabilities in Dodoma, organized by the Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the Transatlantic Forum for Education and Diplomacy (TFED) organization.

Nderiananga outlined the government's efforts to enhance learning conditions for disabled students at local colleges, stressing

Govt allots 2.5bn/- for training gear for PWDs

that the funds aim to purchase various teaching tools, including 45 laptops, 45 mobile devices, 80 sound recorders, and other specialized equipment, for 18 colleges in mainland Tanzania and one in Zanzibar.

She emphasized the government's commitment to creating a supportive learning and living environment for people with disabilities, ensuring the availability of adequate facilities and infrastructure from the grassroots level.

"This initiative reflects the

government's determination to uphold the rights of disabled communities and provide equal opportunities for education and personal development," Nderiananga stated.

She also highlighted the government's provision of a two-percent loan fund for disabled individuals and lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan's dedication to uplifting disabled communities.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule encouraged disabled individuals to utilize government-provided economic

opportunities, including the 10-percent loans disbursed through local councils.

She expressed concern over cases where some beneficiaries misused such support. "For instance, some people sold business cages provided to them, instead of using them to establish sustainable enterprises," she noted.

The event also included a call for disabled individuals to actively participate in the upcoming local government elections and vote for capable leaders.



Personal Data Protection Commission director general Dr Emmanuel Mkilia addresses journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on the need for agencies engaged in the issuance of loans to desist from illegally sharing customer information. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has highly skilled air traffic controllers, which has greatly improved air transport services in the country, leading to a low number of incidents.

Daniel Malanga, Acting Director General of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA), made the remarks over the weekend during the opening of the 44th Annual Conference of the Air Traffic Controllers Association of Tanzania (TATCA) in Dar es Salaam.

Malanga added that this expertise comes from the fact that these pro-

Tanzania's skilled air traffic controllers boost safety, efficiency in air transport

fessionals are trained right here in the country.

He further noted that in addition to their skills, TCAA has continued to improve their working environment, including the installation of modern voice radio systems that facilitate communication between air traffic controllers and pilots.

Malanga also expressed his admiration for this year's TATCA theme, which says, "Promote Health

through Efficient Air Traffic Control," and urged the air traffic controllers, in addition to performing their duties with excellence, to also take care of their health.

Malanga also launched the new TATCA logo, which will be used to represent the various activities of the association in the country.

TATCA conference, aside from being attended by members of local allied associations, also had repre-

sentatives from air traffic controller associations from Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Merkiory Ndaboya, TATCA President expressed his gratitude to TCAA for continuing to support professional associations in carrying out their work, as well as TCAA's efforts in installing modern voice radio systems for air traffic control, which make their work easier.

DC lauds financial institutions for equipping farmers, herders

By Guardian Correspondent, Tukuyu

RUNGWE District Commissioner Jaffar Haniu has commended financial institutions in Tanzania for their efforts in empowering

farmers and herders.

DC Haniu described the initiatives as vital for fostering economic growth and advancing an inclusive economy built on formal financial systems.

He was speaking here over the weekend when speaking during the launch of the “Win Your Matches in Your Own Style, and NBC Shambani” campaign by NBC Bank. Haniu emphasized the

importance of such programs in providing tailored financial solutions for communities in the Rungwe and Kyela districts.

He underscored the transformative impact of designing banking services and loan products specifically for farmers and herders.

“This initiative will motivate farmers to adopt formal financial systems, driving inclusive economic growth,” he said.

“It marks a significant shift from the past when farmers and herders were deemed unreliable by financial institutions due to challenges like inadequate collateral,” he added.

He called on banks to maintain favourable interest rates to ensure accessibility and build trust among farmers and livestock keepers.

The District Commissioner highlighted financial literacy as a cornerstone of the campaign, noting its role in sustainable

economic empowerment.

“Educating farmers and cooperatives on saving, insurance options—including health and crop insurance—and modern agricultural tools equips them with the knowledge they need to thrive,” he stated.

The event brought together key agricultural and livestock sector stakeholders, including leaders from Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) and other value chain participants.

Erick Mbeyle, NBC Tukuyu Branch Manager, explained the campaign’s goal of formalizing the financial activities of farmers and livestock keepers.

“Individual farmers and herders must maintain account balances between 500,000/- and 3,500,000/-, while AMCOS should hold balances between 50m/- and 100m/-,” Mbeyle said. “This encourages stakeholders to

safeguard their funds within formal banking systems rather than relying on informal alternatives.”

Amani Swilla, NBC Bank’s relationships manager (insurance) in Southern Highland Zone, elaborated on the insurance products available through the bank, including health, crop, and vehicle insurance tailored to farmers and herders.

“Insurance protects against losses from natural disasters such as hailstorms, floods, and fires,” Swilla said, emphasizing its role in ensuring financial resilience.

This initiative extends beyond financial services, aiming to empower farmers and herders by creating a secure, inclusive financial environment tailored to their unique needs. It reflects a broader commitment to strengthening Tanzania’s agricultural economy and fostering sustainable development.



This is all that remained at the site where two houses stood before floodwaters swept through Bugosi Street in Nyamisangura ward, Tarime Town Council, at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SEOUL

THE fifth and final round of negotiations to create a global treaty to end plastic pollution began on Monday in South Korea.

A recent study by the University of Leeds found that the world creates 57 million tonnes of plastic pollution a year.

In the face of this challenge, the head of the UN Environment Programme urged negotiators to agree to a strong treaty.

“Not a single person on this planet wants to witness plastic litter in green spaces, on their streets or washing up on their shores,” Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme, said during the opening of the talks.

It’s the fifth time the world’s nations have convened to try and craft a legally binding plastic pollution accord.

The previous four global meetings have revealed sharp differences in goals and interests. This week’s talks go through Saturday.

In addition to national delegations, representatives from the plastics industry, scientists and environmentalists are attending the talks.

If successful, negotiators will turn a 2022 ambition to make the first legally binding treaty on plastics pollution, into a reality.

Plastic pollution: Nations meet in final round of talks to strike treaty

Led by Norway and Rwanda, 66 countries plus the European Union say they want to address the total amount of plastic on Earth by controlling design, production, consumption and where plastic ends up.

The delegation from the hard-hit island nation of Micronesia helped lead an effort to call more attention to “unsustainable” plastic production, called the Bridge to Busan. Island nations are grappling with vast amounts of other countries’ plastic waste washing up on their shores.

Environmental groups and Indigenous leaders want a holistic approach

Graham Forbes, who is leading a Greenpeace delegation in Busan, said his group could support an agreement that puts sensible guardrails in place to reduce the amount of plastic produced, eliminates toxic chemicals and protects people from the uncontrolled use of plastics. That’s achievable, but will take political leadership and courage not seen yet in earlier negotiations, he added.

Frankie Orona, executive director of the Texas-based Society of Native Nations, said they demand a treaty

that tackles the root causes of the crisis rather than just managing plastic waste.

“We must seize this moment and leave a legacy we can be proud of, with a non-toxic sustainable future for all children and our children’s children,” he said.

The plastics industry wants to focus on redesign, recycling and reuse

Industry leaders want an agreement that prevents plastic pollution by redesigning plastics to be reused, recycled and remade into new products. They say this will keep the materials in circulation and out of the environment.

Company executives said they’ll support a treaty that recognizes plastics’ benefits to society, while ending pollution. “I would hate to miss this opportunity because we get fixated on issues that divide us rather than unite us in this purpose of ultimately addressing the issue of plastic pollution,” said Steve Prusak, president and CEO of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company. “It’s a really critical time. We’re really hopeful that what we get out of the meetings will lead to practical, implementable policies and harmonization across the globe.”

UN seeks more funding for Sudan’s 2025 humanitarian response plan: official says

SUDAN PORT

THE United Nations (UN) is working with Sudan to increase funding for the 2025 humanitarian response plan, UN’s top humanitarian official Tom Fletcher said over the weekend.

During the meeting with Mona Nourel Daim, chief of Sudan’s Humanitarian Aid Commission, Fletcher emphasized the need for joint efforts to tackle Sudan’s escalating crisis. “We will work in joint cooperation with the government of Sudan to contribute to increasing funding for the 2025 humanitarian response plan,” Fletcher said.

Fletcher arrived in Port Sudan on Saturday for his first humanitarian mission as the newly appointed Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. He assumed the role on Nov. 18.

Fletcher described his visit as an opportunity to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground and hear directly from those affected by the conflict.

Nourel Daim underscored the scale of the crisis, warning that donor contributions in 2024 have fallen short.

“Funding from donors during 2024 is below ambition, despite the fact that Sudan is going through the worst humanitarian crisis,” she said. She urged the international community to step up support for the 2025 response plan to implement critical projects and alleviate suffering among displaced populations.

The humanitarian response plan for 2024 was projected to require 2.7 billion U.S. dollars, but only 1.5 billion dollars have been secured, according to UN data.

Sudan has been gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023. According to the November update by the Armed Conflict Loca-

tion and Event Data Project, the deadly conflict has resulted in more than 27,120 deaths.

Additionally, the conflict has displaced over 14 million people, both within Sudan and across its borders, according to the latest estimates by the International Organization for Migration.



JOB OPPORTUNITY

HEAD OF COMMERCIAL

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Key areas of responsibilities include:

- Developing and implementing commercial strategies in line with the company’s goals to drive growth.
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- Identifying new business opportunities in different sectors such as retail, aviation, and alternative fuels.
- Building and maintaining strong relationships with key partners and stakeholders.
- Negotiating contracts and close agreements to maximize profits.
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- Developing and maintain relationships with major clients and accounts.
- Ensuring high levels of customer satisfaction and address issues as they arise
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- Driving the sales process from plan to close.
- Developing and managing the marketing budget and allocate/invest funds wisely.
- Ensuring the company’s products and services meet market demands and customer needs.
- Negotiating and managing contracts with suppliers, customers, and partners.
- Ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements
- Ensuring that the company’s commercial activities comply with national and international laws and regulations
- Managing budgets, forecasts, and financial performance in the commercial division.
- Working closely with the finance department to align commercial objectives with financial targets as well as developing pricing strategies to maximize profits and market share while ensuring customer satisfaction.
- Identifying and mitigating commercial risks, including market volatility and credit risks.
- Implementing risk management strategies to protect the company’s assets and interests.
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- Leading and developing a high-performing commercial team.
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- Using market insights to inform decision-making and strategic planning.
- Engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including government entities, industry associations, and communities.
- Representing the company at industry events, conferences, and public forums.
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Required minimum skills, attributes and competencies:
Skills: Strategic Planning \ Negotiation \ Financial Acumen \ Sales and Marketing \ Operations Management \ Regulatory Knowledge
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Competencies: Commercial Acumen \ Risk Management \ Stakeholder Management \ Innovation and Technology \ Team Development \ Customer Focus

Required minimum qualifications:

- A holder of Bachelor’s degree in Business, Marketing, Finance, Engineering or related fields
- Master’s degree will be an added advantage
- Working experience of not less than 10 years preferably in key account manager sales, customer service and commercial areas, 5 of which must be in Senior Executive level
- Understanding of global markets and the ability to operate in a multinational environment.
- Experience in the oil and gas industry, particularly within midstream and downstream sectors will be an added advantage
- Must be of good moral character and ethical background personally and professionally.

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(a) An application letter not exceeding 3 pages showing how you meet the position requirements
 (b) Copies of your university degrees and its transcript (For Foreign Universities degree attach TCU letter of recognition of your degree).
 (c) Copy of your NIDA card
 (d) Contact address including telephone number(s) and email address(s) and
 (e) Names and full addresses/contacts of three (3) professional related referees

Deadline for receiving applications is **17:00 hours 6 December, 2024**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Even a little care can make a difference in tough times

WHEN it comes to the handling of diseases, there just can be no end to scientific research and follow-up analyses of whatever findings experts come up with and the interventions the national and international agencies overseeing the health sector devise and make.

Similarly, the media just cannot desist from keeping relentlessly abreast of developments associated with the sector.

A case in point relates to autism, a health condition The Guardian has kept 'visiting' whenever it felt opportune to do so, given the trail of harm and misery it leaves behind whenever and wherever it strike.

For example, in several columns similar to this we have penned in recent years, we have felt compelled to devote our comments exclusively to the lot of children with autism.

These children have both directly and indirectly been crying out for largely elusive for support and care, apparently with demand for expert and other attention having long outstripped their capacity by far.

There was once the case of the Dar es Salaam-based World Federation Autistic Day Care Centre (WFADCC) speaking on the daunting challenges it was contending with. The occasion was a memorable parents' visiting day, which was appropriately coloured by a fancy fashion show where children with the medical condition were the main players.

These are times when most people's attention is often automatically drawn to deadly or debilitating diseases like malaria, cancer, diabetes, TB and Aids, while some "less violent" ones go largely unnoticed.

Experts describe autism as a complex set of neurobiological disorders which typically last throughout a person's lifetime but which, despite the life-long plight of those they afflict, fall under the second category.

This is sad because it is confirmed that early professional intervention can expose those with the condition to a normal development process.

WFADCC's managing trustee, a consultant physician, aptly underscored the need for society to help mitigate the havoc that autism can cause on children and the larger society.

Autism disrupts social and communication skills, implying an impaired ability to read, move around and manage various other social cues.

Its incidence in the US is approximately one out of every 150 births. It is also reported that a new case is diagnosed with autism almost every 20 minutes and that more children will be diagnosed with autism than with Aids, diabetes and cancer combined.

As if these statistics are not gloomy enough, it is said that there is no medical detection or cure for autism and that the condition receives less than five per cent of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases.

Experts say that, although there is no single cause or cure for the condition, it is quite possible to help people with autism into leading a normal life.

Children cared for at Dar es Salaam's WFADCC were said to have special needs and face a range of difficulties relating to day-to-day social skills, communication, behaviour, imagination, sensory perception and learning.

The disability is described as a nightmare to many parents and guardians, all of whom benefit from the services of the likes of the Dar es Salaam care centre - but not how many capable of helping really care?

As only focused and selfless community action could stand as an adequately effective intervention, we must all make that intervention effectively forthcoming because no one can tell who, when, where and how autism will next strike.

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CAMPAIGN GOES WRONG



Healing minds, empowering women: Ghana's climate change battle

By Aishwarya Bajpai

AS climate change wreaks havoc across the globe, its effects are most acutely felt by those living in vulnerable coastal and rural communities.

In Ghana, the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative that merges climate resilience with an often-overlooked aspect of the crisis: mental health.

For Valerie Nutakor, CDKN's Programme Assistant in Ghana, the urgency of the work is clear. "When people lose their homes, livelihoods, and dignity, the damage isn't just physical—it's deeply psychological. If their minds are broken, how can they rebuild their lives?"

In Shabu, a coastal community devastated by rising sea levels, homes have been swept away, livelihoods destroyed, and hope eroded. The stress is palpable, with residents voicing despair. "We are tired," they say. "How do we take action when our world keeps collapsing around us?"

The project provides psychological support to empower communities like Shabu, where rising tides have displaced families, destroyed businesses, and fractured dreams.

From Tears to Resilience

One poignant story from Shabu underscores the stakes. A local man who once owned a thriving recreational center now stands amid its ruins, drowning in debt. "Two years ago, I had a business, a family home, and a future," he said, breaking into tears. "Today, I have nothing."

For many, this emotional devastation has paralyzed action. Women, whose husbands are often fishermen, face a double burden. "Their husbands are at sea, their children are migrating for better lives, and they are left to fend for themselves amidst the wreckage," Nutakor explains.

Through one-on-one and group therapy sessions, the Climate Mental Health Initiative Project (CMHIP) initiative helps individuals reclaim their agency. "A mind that feels inadequate cannot act," Nutakor emphasizes. "But when we provide psychological intervention, we see transformation. People begin to believe that they can make a difference."

Empowering Women Through Song and Story

While addressing mental health, CDKN is also amplifying the voices of women in northern Ghana's Upper West region. Here, smallholder farmers and women



Vikpe women in the Upper West Region of Ghana during the song recording session. Picture Credit: CDKN



Valerie Nutakor, CDKN's Programme Assistant in Ghana at COP29. Credit: Aishwarya Bajpai/IPS

navigate extreme climate challenges with remarkable resilience.

"We realized that these women were already building resilience through indigenous practices but lacked the technical knowledge to enhance their efforts," Nutakor explains.

CDKN bridged this gap through an innovative storytelling initiative. Women's experiences with climate risks were transformed into community songs. These songs, rooted in folk traditions, weave together lived experiences and new knowledge, becoming powerful tools for awareness and advocacy.

"When we helped them record and broadcast these songs on local radio, the women felt seen and heard for the first time," Nutakor shares. "In a patriarchal community, this was a groundbreaking moment."

The songs resonated beyond their immediate communities, inspiring others to take action. "It's a ripple

effect," Nutakor says. "When one woman stands up, others see what's possible."

Mental Health and Action: A New Beginning

Back in Shabu, the impact of the mental health initiative is tangible. After therapy sessions, residents took the first step towards rebuilding their community—a beach cleanup. For Nutakor, this was a symbolic moment. "As they cleaned their beaches, it felt like they were also cleansing their minds, making space for hope and action."

This newfound agency challenges the common narrative that the government must solve every problem. "We helped them see that they can take the lead," Hagan explains. "Once they felt empowered, their actions followed naturally."

The project also engaged local leaders, teachers, and nurses,

creating a network of support. "We don't believe in top-down solutions," Nutakor asserts. "We believe in co-creating with the community so that the solutions are theirs, not imposed."

Changing the Climate Conversation

CDKN's approach isn't just about interventions—it's about shifting narratives. "Too often, we focus on people's vulnerabilities," Nutakor says. "But these communities are not just victims; they are innovators and problem-solvers."

By addressing mental health alongside physical and economic challenges, CDKN is redefining climate resilience. "This is more than an environmental crisis—it's a human one," Nutakor emphasizes. "And healing minds is as important as healing the planet."

A Call to Action

As global leaders discuss climate solutions at COP29, Nutakor has a message: "Real change starts with the people most affected. If we don't empower their minds, no policy will succeed."

In Shabu and the Upper West region, CDKN's work offers a powerful example of what's possible when mental health and empowerment are at the forefront of climate action. For the communities they serve, it's a lifeline—and a path forward.

"Development is not just about infrastructure," Nutakor concludes. "It's about people feeling valued, capable, and ready to take on the challenges they face. That's how we create real, lasting change."

Latest 'honoris causa' to Samia justly honours '4Rs' philosophy

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has again been at the centre of academic confetti in being awarded honorary doctorate degree in leadership by Mzumbe University, once a polytechnic and now among the country's leading universities.

That this is the sixth honorary degree awarded to the president since she assumed office is not a mean feat by any stretch of imagination.

At the same time it was a mark of maturity for the Morogoro-based institution with a vital wing in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

It illustrated that it was now taking its place as a leading academic institution, in like manner as its perennial rivals or alter egos, starting with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Mzumbe had a prolonged and difficult period of comparing its certificates with UDSM, where the debate was whether the diplomas they offered were equivalent to the first or second year of university.

The president was the chief guest at the graduation ceremony last Friday, where the Mzumbe leadership said the decision to honour her stemmed from carefully evaluating the solid contributions during the three years she has been at the helm of the state.

They see a solid effort towards sustainable development in Tanzania and beyond while also taking note of the more occasional turn of luck, as Samia was the first woman taking top leadership positions in our country, as vice president and then as president.

While no award is strictly speaking issued for that reason, she did justice to the job.

The university's leadership insisted that during the three years of her presidency significant achievements

have been realised, making her a deserving recipient of the honorary doctorate.

While there will unavoidably be those with contending views, the stream of citations shows the breath of admiration.

Those landing those citations are split in half - three local and three foreign citations: from Korea, India and Turkey. One could thus say the evidence that the citations have merit is overwhelming.

The Mzumbe leadership said in their citation that it was the first time the president was presented with an honorary doctorate exclusively for exemplary leadership.

Earlier citations for the doctorate honoris causa conferred by UDSM, the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), India's Jawaharlal Nehru University, Turkey's Ankara University and the Korea National University of Aviation cited different matters and aspects of the president's three years at the helm. The last pointed exclusively at aviation sector modernisation in the country and its wider ripples outside.

It is clear that the fact that the honour bestowed upon the president is associated with exemplary leadership does not amount to suggest perfection but, at most, excellence.

Leaders often bear responsibility for weaknesses on the part of the people and institutions they are supposed to keep watch over. But they remain only human - and remain eligible for such appreciation and recognition as Mzumbe University has extended to the president.

It is our hope the university's gesture is in the spirit of appreciating the president's self-avowed belief in the 4Rs - reconciliation, resilience, reforms and rebuilding - philosophy.

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

Tanzania promoting the use of clean cooking energy in rural communities



THE promotion of clean cooking energy is gaining global attention with numerous organizations and governments working to provide affordable, sustainable solutions.

In Tanzania, the initiative is seen as essential for improving health outcomes, safeguarding the environment and enhancing energy security. Modern cooking methodologies are entirely dependent on access to clean fuels with very low levels of polluting emissions when burned.

These include biogas, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), electricity, ethanol, natural gas as well as pellets used in specialized biomass stoves can also be a clean fuel.

Renewable energy comes from a source that won't run out because they are natural and self-replenishing, and usually have a low or zero carbon footprint.

Examples of renewable energy sources include wind power, solar power, bioenergy (organic matter burned as a fuel) and hydro-electric, including tidal energy.

Health experts say that, breathing the smoke produced from cooking with polluting fuels can lead to a number of diseases such as heart diseases, stroke, cancers, chronic lung diseases and pneumonia.

Unfortunately, millions of people most of whom from African continent continue to die prematurely every year from household air pollution, which is produced by cooking with inefficient stoves and devices paired with firewood, coal, charcoal, dung, crop waste and kerosene.

In order to avert such situations from happening, nations across the globe including Tanzania have put in place various strategies in a bid to curb the increased phenomenon.

It is a well-known fact that without rapid action to scale up clean cooking, the world will fall short of its goal to achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030.

It is from this reason that, Tanzania's sixth phase government has been in the fore-front emphasizing the use of clean cooking to the extent that it recently launched its National Clean Cooking Strategy 2024-2034 that aims for 80 percent of the population to accessible energy sources by 2030.

The initiative is crucial for enhancing energy security, improving health outcomes and promoting together with other things education on the environmental sustainability.

Partnerships and global advocacy

To uphold the government's initiative in support of the idea, various stakeholders have been conducting seminars and held forums that bring many stakeholders of the sector to discuss the matter.

This opportunity for Tanzania arises from the significant efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has been championing the move towards ensuring the use of clean energy and ensuring its availability.

To abide by her orders, she recently introduced directives requiring public and private institutions such as schools and prisons serving meal to over 100 people to stop using firewood and charcoal for cooking by end of this year.

Two weeks ago, the head of state hosted Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary conference that brought together wives of African heads of States in Dar es Salaam city.

The two days conference brought together numerous dignitaries including 15 African first ladies from countries such as Kenya, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Also in attendance was the Chairman of Merck Foundation Board of Trustees Professor Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp,

The President emphasized among other things, the use of clean cooking energy aligning with the Merck Foundation's goals of enhancing inclusivity, which can be championed by the first ladies in their respective nations to ensure effective implementation.

It was an interesting topic of discussion to African first ladies, whereby President Samia urged African first ladies to actively support the clean cooking initiative, emphasizing that their influential roles can significantly advance a just energy transition both in their countries and across the continent.

"I urge you, my dear sisters, to passionately embrace the clean cooking

agenda and encourage our fellow presidents who are your husbands to prioritize it, thus helping women achieve cleaner cooking solutions," she said.

The clean cooking initiative aims to protect women, who are often the most vulnerable to the harmful effects of unclean cooking methods, which also contribute to environmental degradation through greenhouse gas emissions including carbon dioxide.

In December of last year President Samia launched the Africa Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP) at the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

This initiative positions her as a champion for eco-friendly cooking energy across the continent.

President Samia pointed out that approximately 80 percent of households in Sub-Saharan Africa still rely on wooden biomass energy, which has detrimental effects on both health and the environment.

She explained that the heavy reliance on biomass has led to deforestation, with about 3.9 million hectares of forest lost between 2010 and 2020, hindering the continent's efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

As of 2022, The World Health Organization (WHO) 2.3 billion people worldwide still remain without access to clean cooking facilities, thus are relying instead on the traditional use of solid biomass, kerosene, or coal as their primary cooking fuel.

The use of inefficient, polluting fuels and technologies is a health risk and a major contributor to diseases and deaths, particularly for women and children in low and middle income countries.

The WHO also works with the Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA) to improve the health and livelihoods of the poorest populations.

The 2023 World Bank statistics shows the number of Tanzanians using clean cooking energy has risen from 1.5 percent in 2010 to 6.9 percent in June 2024. This is indeed a tremendous increase.

Despite government's efforts in its move to curb environmental degradation, destruction of forests and natural vegetation has continued unabated. The pace has increased due to unsustainable human activities including the use of charcoal, agriculture and nomadic herding and arbitrary burning of forests.

Wanton tree felling is one among the most harmful results that causes environmental degradation bearing in mind the fact that trees helps maintain environment. Statistics shows that Tanzania loses 469,000 hectares of forest annually.

Experts: Developing new skills key to future labour market

By Telesphor Magobe

THE world of the 21st century is referred to as the rapidly evolving world characterised by a fusion of emerging or exponential technologies, which require new skills and competencies to maintain.

It is also referred to as the digital era and its economy, a circular data-driven digital economy, which "optimises the economic and environmental impacts of digitalisation, including supporting business opportunities and job creation," according to the Digital Economy Report 2024.

Thus, the report stresses a more circular digital economy which seeks to reduce, reuse and recycle digital devices and infrastructure, including extending their lifespan.

Commenting on this, UN Secretary General-General António Guterres says "A just and sustainable digital economy requires just and sustainable policies. Yet, many developing countries continue facing obstacles in accessing digital technologies for their development needs..." Moreover, the report says promoting skills development and sustainable enterprises, formalisation, and the establishment of employer and employee organisations and social dialogue are all part of a just transition in e-waste management.

World Economic Forum (WEF) in its 2024 report titled "Putting Skills First: Opportunities for Building Efficient and Equitable Labour Markets" says: "As we navigate the complexities of the future job market, where demand for certain skills fluctuates, embracing a dynamic approach to talent acquisition becomes indispensable." It says solutions, such as a skills-based hiring strategy, "allow businesses to stay agile and responsive to emerging needs, positioning them at the forefront of innovation."

This means the acquisition of new skills and competencies is critical during this 21st century in which jobs have become so scarce that only those who are most skilled can get them.



On some local TV programmes some young people show how talented they are in various areas. Some have designed communication gadgets, some have designed radio calls, helicopters or planes, and others vehicles. Yet, one of the challenges facing them is to advance their innovative designs. As a country we need a facility or facilities where new talents are groomed which will help in job creation and in curbing unemployment.

Compared to other countries Tanzania still lags behind in global talent competitiveness. For instance, in the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2023 Tanzania ranked 121st out of the 134 surveyed countries worldwide and 20th out of the 32 surveyed sub-Saharan countries. In the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2022 Tanzania ranked 117th out of the 133 surveyed countries worldwide and 17th out of the 32 surveyed sub-Saharan countries. In both rankings Tanzania underperformed in global talent competitiveness. This could explain that although some young people could be talented, their talents and skills remain undeveloped for lack of an enabling environment.

The GTCI 2023 report says "more than capital, individual skills and talents are the engines of growth and driving forces that guide human beings towards the future. In today's complex and dynamic global economic system of intense competition, an environment where talent can be adequately and effectively attracted, developed and retained is of utmost importance for business's investment decisions and, by extension, for countries' sustainable growth."

The report suggests global rankings seek to arouse attention to growing challenges that countries across the world face when developing, attracting and maintaining talent, and to highlight best practices in talent management. This is still a big challenge in many countries, including Tanzania. It may take years to find a workable mechanism through which emerging talents are developed, attracted, maintained, and managed to achieve intended outcomes.

WEF stresses that skills and talent shortages are critical challenges facing societies and economies today. It says that the absence of relevant skills impedes business growth, hinders economic prosperity and

inhibits individuals from realising their full potential. "Employers need to rethink their limited focus on using educational achievement and previous experience as proxies for the skills they require. Such an approach perpetuates the scarcity of talent and excludes many people who would otherwise be hugely valuable in the workplace."

Some experts suggest investment in workplace reskilling and up skilling, including higher education. According to an open online source, reskilling and up skilling are capacity building methods that help employees develop new skills to improve their performance and adapt to a changing work environment.

While, according to the open source, up skilling can help employees advance in their careers, reskilling can also help employees adapt to changing job functions. OECD Education Spotlights: Directorate for Education and Skills (2024) suggests that higher education institutions (HEIs) can play a key role in facilitating the development of competencies needed to foster innovation and meet changing job demands.

"Developing system-wide strategies can

help establish a clear vision for the role of higher education in developing and delivering up skilling and reskilling offerings primarily targeted at adult learners. Providing financial support for the provision of up skilling and reskilling can encourage and equip HEIs to offer relevant training opportunities," it says.

Therefore, instead of firing and hiring, employers could also opt for reskilling and up skilling, but some of them may not want to spend on their employees' capacity building. So, they may prefer a firing and hiring method, which also comes with costs for the very reason that it breaks job continuity in the workplace.

It suffices to say that we live in a world in which new skills are needed most to cope with the rapidly evolving world with a circular (as opposed to linear) data-driven digital economy, which seeks to reduce, reuse and recycle digital devices and infrastructure.

By Alden Wicker

The plastics crisis is now a global human health disaster, experts say

IT'S been clear for some time: We're in the midst of a rapidly escalating global plastics crisis. More than 11 billion metric tons of virgin plastics were produced worldwide from 1950 to 2022. And the rate of production has soared, with at least 71% of all plastics ever made produced in the 21st century.

Of all those billions of tons manufactured, three-quarters were discarded in landfills, open dumps or directly into the environment. Today, our oceans, beaches, rivers, cities and wild places are awash in discarded plastic and synthetic textiles, while microplastics have been detected from pole to pole, on remote mountaintops and in clouds.

In view of the tremendous buildup of visible trash, it's not surprising that the plastics crisis so far has mostly been treated as a problem of poor waste management and consumer choice. Likewise, efforts for a fix have largely focused on recycling and consumer education.

But talking about plastic as a litter problem ignores one of the most alarming facets of our plastic addiction: its impacts on human health.

Fast-mounting evidence points to microplastics entering the human body and doing internal damage. Likewise, thousands of chemicals that leach out of plastics are finding their way into our bodies (via food wrappers, storage containers, cooking utensils and other routes) with some of those chemicals linked to a range of health impacts, including immune suppression and cancer.

In a new report out Nov. 7th in the journal *One Earth*, an international group of researchers attempted to gather all of plastic's myriad negative impacts into a global framework ahead of the final round of negotiations for a global plastics treaty scheduled to run Nov. 25 to Dec. 1 in Busan, Korea.

The report puts it bluntly: "Despite the manifest benefits of plastics, plastics pollution now threatens the environment, food security, and human health."

What's lurking inside that spatula?

The trouble starts at the very beginning of the supply chain, when petroleum is extracted and processed into the petrochemical ingredients for plastic.

Plastics are often marketed as if they are simple, pure polymers – labeled, for example, as polyester, polyurethane, PVC and more. And while we do know that PVC and polystyrene can leach hazardous substances such as styrene, phthalates and vinyl chloride, there are other dangers lurking in these generically labeled polymers.

Plastic packaging, toys, clothing, kitchenware and construction materials almost always include a proprietary mix of chemicals: processing aids and additives such as plasticizers, flame retardants and pigments, which can make up to 70% of their weight, according to the *One Earth* report.

Some of these chemicals are known to be carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductively and developmentally toxic. Of the more than 16,000 chemicals used to make plastic, or present in plastic materials and products, more than 4,200 – up to two-thirds of the chemicals used or found in well-studied plastic types – are of concern because they are persistent, bioaccumulative, mobile and/or toxic. Hazard information is lacking for another 10,000.

But research has shown that these chemicals don't stay inside plastics; untold numbers of them, in unknown amounts, end up inside us. A study published in September found that more than 3,600 chemicals are found in both plastic food packaging and in human blood, indicating that these chemicals are leaching out of plastics – whether from packaging into food or from microplastics that we ingest into our bodies.

Researchers are scrambling to understand what plastic and its chemical additives are doing to us, an effort greatly slowed by a stunning lack of transparency from the petrochemical industry as to what chemicals are in what plastics.

But scientists are increasingly warning that the rising rates of cancer, lung disease, infertility and obesity are due not solely to lifestyle factors but to environmental pollutants, including those in plastics. For example, a May 2024 study linked higher rates of breast cancer to the presence in outdoor air of chemicals used to make polystyrene and PVC plastics.

Of particular concern are plasticizers, or endocrine disrupting chemicals added to plastics to make them soft and pliable, including BPA and its many bisphenol



Workers sort through discarded plastic in Bangladesh.

cousins and phthalates. PFAS, a toxic class of chemicals known as "forever chemicals" because they never break down or go away, are also endocrine disruptors and often found in plastics.

Hormone disrupting chemicals have been associated with hormone-related cancers, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. A 2020 meta analysis showed that people with higher levels of endocrine disruptors in their bodies were more likely to be obese. A 2022 study showed that the presence of more endocrine disruptors in the bodies of women trying to get pregnant was associated with a lower chance of success.

Plastic makers have traditionally proposed recycling as the solution to the plastics crisis. But recycling done wrong can amplify plastic's toxicity. Take for example, black plastic spatulas, takeout containers and even children's toys were recently found to contain high levels of flame retardants and flagged as a public health problem. That's because the black plastic used to make electronics (which can be toxic and was never intended for use in connection with food) is frequently recycled in developing nations (where there is little to no regulation or oversight) and turned into new plastic products.

Plastic products continue to be a potential source of toxins even after disposal. While a single-digit percentage of plastics get recycled, an estimated 14% of all the plastic ever created has been incinerated, which can release plastics into the air and environment in the form of tiny particulates (linked to lung and heart disease),

heavy metals such as lead and mercury and dioxins, which have been linked to impairment of the immune system, reproductive system and the development of the nervous system in children.

Microplastics, macro problem

The other huge public health problem with plastics arises when they start to degrade – either in our homes while we're using them, or after they end up in the environment. Plastics over time degrade into smaller and smaller pieces. The result is microplastics, which are found everywhere on Earth.

Microplastics from many sources find their way into our bodies in a typical day: Plastic microfibers are shed from clothing and furnishings; nanoplastics leach out of food packaging and containers (especially when we microwave them). Microplastics are found in the produce we eat, tap water and, especially, bottled water, beer, seafood and the air we breathe. One study found that microplastics can end up in baby formula when it's prepared in polyethylene bottles.

They've also been found throughout the human body – in brain tissue, lungs, placentas, breast milk, livers, testes and blood. The microscopic plastics found in humans range from PET (used in polyester clothing and plastic water bottles) to polyethylene (stretchy plastic, milk jugs and shampoo bottles) and PVC (shower curtains, vinyl construction products and clear plastic fashion accessories).

How microplastics interact with human

organs or how they impact body function remains largely unknown, as microplastics and health is a new field of study. But alarm bells are already sounding in the scientific community.

A study published in March found that half of patients with asymptomatic cardiovascular disease had microplastics in their carotid artery plaque and were at higher risk of a heart attack, stroke and death in the next three years than those who did not. A similar correlation has been found between the presence of microplastics in feces and inflammatory bowel disease. In the lab, microplastics can be deadly to human cells.

Rodent studies have shown that microplastics affect the lungs, liver, intestines and the reproductive and nervous systems. And at least one of those rodent studies found that even "clean" microplastics that are free of hazardous additives can cause health problems.

It's important to note here, correlation does not prove causality: Scientists say it may take years to trace the precise mechanisms by which microplastics and thousands of plastic additives impact our health. In the meantime, the American Chemistry Council has responded to these early warnings by saying the research is inconclusive and pointing to the complexity of plastics.

And it's true: Microplastic particles may be almost as unique as snowflakes – they come in all sizes, shapes, colors and types, containing secretive mixtures of thousands of chemicals.

This complexity means it might be im-

possible to find a definitive causal (as opposed to correlative) link to myriad potential health effects ... at least within our lifetimes. That's why many scientists are urging world leaders to adhere to the precautionary principle and take action to protect human and animal health now, based on the evidence we have so far. Otherwise, astronomical levels of plastic waste could overwhelm the natural world and accumulate in our bodies while we wait decades to line up incontrovertible evidence.

Taking action against an insidious threat

When confronted with these alarming public health studies, some people look for ways to reduce their personal exposure to plastic, microplastics and additives.

But because plastics and microplastics are ubiquitous – because there are no mandated disclosures about what is in plastic products and because so many chemicals in plastics have never been analyzed for their health impacts – it has become an impossible task for individuals or communities to avoid plastic's harms altogether.

"Plastics are seen as those inert products that protect our favorite products or that make our lives easier that can be 'easily cleaned up' once they become waste. But this is far from reality," says PhD candidate Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez at the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University and lead author of the *One Earth* report. "Plastics are made out of the combination of thousands of chemicals ... with which we interact on a daily basis."

Researchers, activists and a 66 nation coalition known as the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution are calling for the full life cycle of plastics to be regulated, from the extraction of petroleum, to the creation of plastic's petrochemical ingredients and their safe disposal. They'll make their case at the fifth U.N. plastics treaty summit to be held Nov. 25 to Dec. 1 in Busan, South Korea, where delegates hope to finalize treaty language for future ratification by the world's nations.

In August, the Biden administration indicated it would support limits on plastic production, which, scientists and advocates say, would be the simplest solution to protecting human health. But now, with the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, Biden has reverted to the original weaker U.S. position, of allowing nations to voluntarily set their own limits on production. With the Busan summit less than a week away, some environmental advocates fear that the changing winds of politics and policy in the U.S. may not bode well for a strong binding agreement addressing plastic production, cradle to grave.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Women in war-torn Sudan earn living by making sweets

PORT SUDAN

IN a shelter centre for internally displaced persons in Port Sudan, eastern Sudan, the air was filled with the joyful sounds and laughter of women moving among tools for making sweets, accompanied by the rhythmic noise of flour being mixed.

These women, displaced by the ongoing civil war in the country, are striving to overcome life's hardships by securing a source of income after losing their homes and belongings to the conflict.

About 17 displaced families reside in the shelter centre, which was converted from the Al-Thawra West Boys School. Here, women are learning confectionery skills to secure both food and income.

Madina Ahmed, a displaced woman in her 60s, is leading the initiative, teaching the craft of making Balah Al-Sham, a popular fried dough pastry.

"I'm a nutritionist, and I wanted to share my experience to help these families learn a profession to secure a stable source of living," Ahmed told Xinhua.

She explained that she has trained the 17 families to make

Balah Al-Sham, a sweet of Syrian origin resembling dates, which has become popular in Sudan.

Several organizations have provided flour, oil, and sugar to the displaced families, enabling them to produce these sweets for sale in local markets. The income helps them purchase essential items not supplied by aid organizations, Ahmed added.

"My message through this initiative emphasizes the importance of self-reliance. We must manage under these challenging circumstances and cannot solely depend on aid that might be cut off at any moment," she said, noting that the activity also helps uplift the psychological well-being of the women.

"For me, with four children and a disabled father, this project has been a lifesaver, providing us with a vital source of income," said Safaa Omer, a displaced mother from Wad Madani, central Sudan, now living at the shelter centre.

"I produce between 7 and 10 kilograms daily, and my children sell them in the Port Sudan market," Omer said, adding that the income allows them to buy essentials such as meat, milk, and eggs.



Speaker Jemma Nunu Kumba during the 18th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers at Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi on November 13, 2024.

Looking ahead, Ahmed said she plans to expand the training program to all 80 shelter centres in Port Sudan, which currently

house nearly 21,000 displaced families—approximately 105,000 individuals—from various Sudanese cities, particularly Khartoum,

Wad Madani, and Sinnar.

Sudan has been gripped by a devastating civil conflict since mid-April 2023, displacing over 14

million people inside and outside the country, according to the latest estimates from the International Organization for Migration.

Namibia's Katutura Fashion Week champions innovation, inclusivity

WINDHOEK

THE fourth edition of the Katutura Fashion Week (KFW) concluded in Namibia's capital, Windhoek, on Saturday evening, with innovation and inclusivity taking center stage.

Katutura, once lacking a platform for designers to showcase their talents and create opportunities, saw a change with the launch of KFW in 2019.

Dennis Hendriks, founder of the Katutura Fashion Week, said that the two-day event, held under the theme "Inventing Fashion Today," celebrates the fusion of fashion, culture and local tourism.

"The show is thus an inclusive platform for all emerging and seasoned fashion designers, models and artists to showcase items that highlight the rich diversity that defines our fashion landscape," he said Sunday.

The show attracted local participants and fashion designers from other countries, including South Africa, Botswana and Angola. Models walked a straight runway, showcasing traditional, contemporary and crochet outfits. Jewellery designs, featuring necklaces, bracelets and rings, added a finishing touch, while handbags and accessories crafted from repurposed materials complemented the

various fashion pieces.

Participants laud the platform for creating opportunities for local designers. Naha Neumbo, a local fashion designer who is showcasing her collection for the third year, said that the KFW has catapulted her fashion enterprise.

Before the event, Neumbo, a fashion designer since 2011, worked from home, making outfits for friends and close relatives. However, her first showcase with the KFW marked a turning point, leading to a growing client base and an expanded range of services for a broader audience.

Since then, she has also designed attire for the country's official national pageantry,

Miss Namibia. "It is really a marketing avenue for lesser-known fashion designers seeking to grow," she said.

This year's event placed a strong emphasis on sustainable practices and cultural preservation within the fashion industry. Neumbo's summer collection demonstrated her commitment to environmental protection.

"I used old offcuts from materials from old clients and patched them to create good summer attire. By not throwing this into the environment, one protects it," she said.

Meanwhile, the event's impact extended far beyond the runway, centering on inclusivity. It featured designs from

participants aged 65 and 55, marking their first time showcasing work on such a stage.

Emgard Gaweses has been a tailor in Katutura since moving to Windhoek in 2008. She specializes in making local indigenous Nama tribe clothing, scarves with different pieces patched and traditional bags.

"When I moved to Windhoek, I hoped to earn money, so I started sewing by hand, a skill I learned from my mother while growing up," she said. With the income generated, she bought a sewing machine in 2011.

In spite of her passion and skills, she has never had models showcase her attire on a ramp or at an event. On Satur-

day evening, at the age of 65, Gaweses' designs were showcased at the KFW.

"This is my first time seeing my designs paraded to many people and myself getting on a stage. I had never imagined that this would be possible. I am happy," she said. Meanwhile, she hopes that the showcase will aid her business growth.

Similarly, 55-year-old Leentjie Gereses described her feature at the KFW as "a proud moment that seemed farfetched."

In early 2014, Gereses turned to her passion for fashion to fulfill her childhood dream. She wanted to supplement her income as a domes-

tic worker and turned to her love for sewing.

"I used my aunt's sewing machine and eventually got my own. I started taking more orders," she said. As luck would have it for her, she got a call to apply to participate in the KFW.

"Whoever thought that such a moment could come at 55? It shows how one should never give up," Gereses said. With the showcase, she plans to expand her business of dresses, shirts, trousers and bags.

In the meantime, for the designers, participation in the event also fostered a sense of unity and collaboration with other designers, models and fashion enthusiasts.

Sudan stands ravaged by disease, famine and war

UNITED NATIONS

AS living conditions in Sudan deteriorate as a result of the Sudanese Civil War, levels of famine and violations of international humanitarian law continue to accelerate among the roughly 11.5 million displaced persons.

Conflict between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have severely hampered aid efforts, leaving millions of civilians to deal with widespread disease and an overall lack of essential resources.

New data from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) shows that South Sudan has been hit the hardest by famine, with roughly 57 percent of the population projected to be acutely food insecure through the 2025 lean season. Children will be disproportionately affected, with many facing the highest levels of hunger and malnutrition on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale.

Since the wake of the civil war, nearly 30,000 Sudanese refugees have fled to Tuti Island, a small island in Sudan that borders the Nile. In April 2023, the RSF had besieged the island, transforming it into an "open-air prison" that teems with disease and insecurity. As of October of this year, most of the refugees residing on Tuti have returned to the mainland. The latest study from the IPC shows that nearly 85 percent of returnees will be faced with catastrophic hunger as of early next year.

UNICEF's representative's South Sudan Hamida Lasseko reports that due to malnutrition and compro-

mised water sanitation systems in Sudan, waterborne diseases have begun to spread among displaced populations. Hunger has decimated the immune systems of displaced populations, leaving them highly vulnerable to malaria, dengue fever, and cholera.

A study conducted by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports more than 28,000 cases of cholera and 836 deaths from July 2024 to October 2024. Dengue fever has surged in the Kassala and Khartoum regions, with 4,544 cases and 12 deaths as of October 28. It is noted that cases likely exceed what is reported.

"We are racing against time. With heavy rains and flooding, diseases can spread more rapidly and severely worsen the outlook for the children in the affected states and beyond," says Sheldon Yett, UNICEF Representative to Sudan.

Civilians continue to get caught in the crossfires of this war, leading to an increasing number of civilian casualties. Due to the scale of fighting in the state capital, Khartoum, it is difficult for experts to determine the exact number of lives lost from war-related causes.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's Sudan Research Group estimates that although the majority of deaths observed in Sudan are from disease and malnutrition, there are an estimated 26,000 people who have succumbed to injuries as a "direct result of violence" in the Khartoum state.

In Darfur, a region located in Sudan's west, there are predicted to be many more casualties, along with re-



A Sudanese child residing in a displacement camp in Tawila, located in the northern region of Darfur.

ports of ethnic cleansing and violations of international humanitarian law. According to a press release from Amnesty International, French military technology is being used by the two warring parties, which is in clear violation of the UN arms embargo.

"Our research shows that weaponry designed and manufactured in France is in active use on the battlefield in Sudan. The Galix System is being deployed by the RSF in this conflict, and any

use in Darfur would be a clear breach of the UN arms embargo. All countries must immediately cease direct and indirect supplies of all arms and ammunition to the warring parties in Sudan," said Agnès Callamard, Secretary-General, Amnesty International.

Due to extensive conflict between the warring parties, healthcare systems have been severely damaged, leading to a lack of critical assistance for millions of people that are grappling with disease and/or those who face war-related injuries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), roughly 70 to 80 percent of Sudan's medical facilities are none or partly functional. This is primarily due to a lack of funding and warring parties looting the facilities, leaving medical equipment damaged.

"It's extremely dire. Sudanese colleagues are facing shortages of essential medicines. There was a point not too long ago when 85 of our staff there were sick, many with severe malaria, and we didn't even have treatment for them. They're often sheltering in camps while trying to continue to work, and then they get sick and we can't look after them," said Avril Benoit, Executive Director of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières in the United States.

Benoit adds that relief responses from the international community have been largely inadequate in mitigating the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. This is primarily due to a lack of funding. As of October, the United Nations' 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Sudan has reached only 57 percent funding out of the required 2.7 billion dollars. This greatly impacts aid efforts and leaves humanitarian organizations unable to scale up responses.

On November 13, Sudanese authorities allowed for humanitarian aid trucks to access the Adre crossing for another 3 months. Humanitarian organizations predict that the Adre crossing will be an indispensable route for aid deliveries as it allows for highly vulnerable populations in Darfur to be reached through Chad.

Clementine Nkweta-Salami, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan has said that the humanitarian crisis in Sudan welcome this decision, for the Adre crossing is a "critical lifeline" for the vulnerable people across the country but especially in Darfur.

"Keeping the Adre border open means humanitarianism can continue to deliver emergency food and nutrition supplies, medicine, shelter, and other life-saving assistance to hundreds of thousands of hungry, malnourished mothers and children, people suffering from diseases, and others that desperately need these supplies."

Protecting victims of conflict: Need for African value systems to strengthen humanitarian law

By Darlington Tshuma

INTERNATIONAL humanitarian law seeks to limit the excesses of warfare and regulate the conduct of armed hostilities. But it is often ignored. Using ethnographic case studies from southern Africa, researcher Darlington Tshuma underlines the growing importance of integrating indigenous practices into the application of humanitarian law in armed hostilities.

What are the gaps in international humanitarian law?

Firstly, many people in Africa, including non-state armed groups, are sceptical of the international legal system. Governments and non-state actors see it as an unwelcome intrusion and an extension of neo-colonialism.

Secondly, international humanitarian law is state-focused. This weakens its ability to regulate the conduct and behaviour of non-state armed groups. These groups cannot become parties to international humanitarian law treaties. It is thus unsurprising that they don't comply with those rules.

The deficiencies of the law in protecting victims of armed conflict is evident in the deliberate targeting of civilians, obstruction of humanitarian aid, and abuse of vulnerable groups in Gaza, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For the law to be relevant, effective and authoritative, its hierarchical and binary view of the world must change. The current view suggests that there is only one "right way" of doing things, informed by western norms and values.

What African protection mechanisms should be adopted?

Many African customs and indigenous cultural practices limited the excesses of warfare, like deliberate starvation and wilful attacks on civilians.

Ubuntu

The moral philosophy of ubuntu (humanness) demands humane treatment of others, even enemies. It opposes practices such as torture and mass atrocities.

The Ndebele proverb "Inkosi yinkosi ngabantu" ("A chief is a chief through his people") illustrates the argument put forward by scholars like Mutoy Mubiala, Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni and Emmanuel G. Bello.



Internally displaced civilian victims of the war in Sudan

They argue that many African societies had - and still have - in-built measures of security and protection for people, including the most vulnerable.

The proverb shows that African codes of conduct sometimes mirror the tenets of international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian law guides the conduct and obligations of nations and individuals in conflicts. It also applies to neutral nations and people with protected status.

For example, King Moshohoe I (1786 - 1870) of the Basotho nation held to the African values of ubuntu and humanitarianism. He extended a helping hand and sheltered refugees fleeing the social and political upheaval of the Mfecane period of the 1800s in southern Africa.

The king treated prisoners of war humanely. This is consistent with the Basotho's philosophy of batho pele ("humanity first"). He accorded even his adversaries respect and dignity. He opposed such inhumane practices as torture, looting and dehumanising war practices.

Folklore

The indigenous communities of southern Africa used folk tales, proverbs and riddles to promote hu-

manitarian protection principles and prevent mass atrocities during armed hostilities. These were deployed to advise, warn, reprimand and instil positive values.

Embedded in these practices are moral values such as humanness, respect, hospitality and dignity. Take for instance, the Ndebele proverb Isisu somhambi asingakananiinganophonjwana lwembuzi ("a traveller's stomach is the size of a goat's horn"). It implores host communities to provide relief - food and shelter - to those fleeing conflict and persecution.

The underlying message is that providing for a stranger will not deplete one's food banks. A visitor ought to have all the conveniences of a homestead.

Another example is emuva kuphambili ("past acts have a way of catching up with a person"). This proverb can be applied broadly to everyday life. However, in war, it encouraged humane treatment of prisoners of war and discouraged acts of retribution.

Protection of civilians

Many pre-colonial societies in southern African had well-defined and sophisticated humanitarian

protection systems. These were designed to shield vulnerable groups from the effects of armed conflict. They resemble modern international humanitarian law protection regimes that prohibit attacks on civilians and ill-treatment of protected persons.

For instance, the Nguni people developed social taboos related to the treatment of children, women and expectant mothers. Such protections extended to civilians and captives during war.

Under King Moshohoe I, women, children and the aged were considered inviolable. They were to be treated with care even during war.

How can these be built into international humanitarian law?

Integrating these customary practices into humanitarian law requires structural changes within international law. It also requires openness to diverse cultural perspectives.

Incorporating African customs into humanitarian law could provide a framework that resonates more deeply with local actors, in particular non-state armed groups. They are often the primary parties in armed conflicts in Africa.

Firstly, humility and reciprocal learning between international institutions and local communities is essential. Involving African societies in discussions on international humanitarian law, actively listening to their perspectives, and valuing their customs would be helpful.

African traditions could inform training programmes for peacekeepers and humanitarian workers in Africa. By understanding local norms and practices, peacekeepers could engage more effectively. They could build trust with local communities. This might aid compliance with humanitarian law, and reduce friction between international actors and local populations.

Engagement with non-state actors is crucial. By highlighting what's common to humanitarian law principles and African customs, international organisations like the Red Cross might get buy-in from more groups.

Integrating African customs into humanitarian law would involve policy shifts at the United Nations. It would also need greater representation of African scholars, historians and leaders in these discussions.

Using an African lens would enrich international humanitarian law, making it more accessible and increase its impact where it is most needed.

Military rule is on the rise in Africa, nothing good came from it in the past

By Special Correspondents

IN the last few years, there has been a spate of military coups in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Sudan and Guinea. Military rule, long dormant in African politics, is back.

Coup leaders have suppressed protest, gagged the media and spilled much civilian blood in the name of public safety. They claim to be protecting their people from enemies both internal and external - some invented to justify their takeovers and others very real (while military regimes have arguably made violent extremism worse, they did not create it).

The generals fight with one another as much as with their enemies, leading to duelling coups in Burkina Faso and a full-on civil war in Sudan.

In west Africa, soldiers have shaken up the geopolitical order, pushing away France and the United States, while drawing the Russian Federation (or more precisely, Russia-funded mercenaries) closer.

Outside observers, and a fair number of insiders, were blindsided by these events. That's because military rule, with its drab aesthetics and Cold War trappings, seemed like a relic of the past. Explanations for its return have mostly focused on meddling outsiders, especially Russia. Others emphasise the inherent vice of African states - the weaknesses that were there from the beginning of in-

dependence, including poverty and corruption, that made people disenchanted with democracy.

I'm a military historian, and over the last few years I watched with alarm as the history I was writing about military dictatorships in the 1980s became current events. Military rule has deep roots, as my open-access book Soldier's Paradise: Militarism in Africa After Empire argues. The coups of the last few years are a return to one of independent Africa's most important political traditions: militarism.

Militarism, or rule by soldiers, is a form of government where military objectives blur into politics, and the values of the armed forces become the values of the state at large.

West Africa's recent string of coups can only be understood in the long view of postcolonial history. The military regimes of the past were brutally innovative. They made new rules, new institutions and new standards for how people should interact. They promised to make Africa an orderly and prosperous paradise. They failed, but their promises were popular.

Africa's military regimes

Militaries ruled by force, not consensus, but plenty of people liked their disciplinary verve. Whipping the public into shape, sometimes literally, had a real appeal to people who felt that the world had become too unruly. Independence did not



Gen Abdourahmane Tiani (second left), the head of the military regime in Niger, greets a crowd in Niamey in July 2024.

always mean freedom, and soldiers' rigid ideas shaped decolonisation in ways that we're only starting to understand. Long submerged by more hopeful ideological currents, militarism is now rising back to the surface of African politics. My book describes where militarism came from, and why it lasted so long.

Petty and paranoid

Between 1956 and 2001 there were about 80 successful coups, 108 failed ones and 139 plots across Africa south of the Sahara. Some countries had many coups (Sudan has the highest,

with 18 known attempts since 1950) while others had none (like Botswana). But even in places where the military wasn't in charge, the threat of a military takeover shaped how civilians governed.

The successful coups produced military regimes that were remarkably durable. Their leaders promised their regimes would be "transitional" or "custodial" and that they would hand back power to civilians as soon as they could.

Few did, and in some countries military rule lasted for decades. This could involve a graveyard-like stabil-

ity where a single soldier-king ruled for an entire generation (like Burkina Faso), or constant turmoil as one junta gave way to another (like Nigeria). Military governments were petty and paranoid - each officer knew he had a line of rivals behind him waiting for their moment.

In these "revolutions", as coup plotters called their takeovers, a new ideology emerged. Militarism was a coherent and relatively consistent vision for society, even though not all military regimes were the same. It had its own political values (obedience, discipline), morals (honour, bravery, respect for rank), and an economic logic (order, which they promised would bring prosperity).

It had a distinct aesthetic, and a vision for what Africa should look and feel like. The military's internal principles became the rules of politics at large. Officers came to believe that the training they used to make civilians into soldiers could transform their countries from the ground up. Some came to believe, ironically, that only strict discipline would bring true freedom.

The army officers who took power tried to remake their societies along military lines. They had utopian plans, and their ideology could not be boiled down to the big ideas of their times, like capitalism and communism. There were military regimes of the left, right and centre; radical and conservative; nativist and interna-

nationalist.

Militarism was a freestanding ideology, not just American liberalism, Soviet socialism or European neocolonialism dressed up in a uniform. Powerful outsiders pulled some of the strings in African politics, but not all of them, and officers were proud of the fact that they followed no one's orders but their own.

Military tyranny

Part of militarism's appeal was its maverick independence, and military regimes endeared themselves to the public by cutting ties with unpopular foreigners, just like Niger and Burkina Faso did with France in 2023. Soldiers ran their countries like they fought wars. Combat was their metaphor for politics. Their goal was to win - and they accepted that people would get hurt along the way.

But what did "winning" look like when the enemy was their own people? They declared war on indiscipline, drugs and crime. To civilians, all of this was hard to distinguish from tyranny, and military rule felt like a long, brutal occupation.

No military dictatorship succeeded in making the martial utopia that soldiers promised. Other parts of government pushed back against the military's plans, and African judiciaries proved especially formidable opponents. Civil society groups fought them tooth and nail, and challenges came from abroad, especially from the African diaspora.




RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Radio One



Making seasonal marketing year-round business successes (Part 2)

Page 14



How to develop financial intelligence in the real world

Page 15



Africans urged to seize aviation opportunities

Page 15

Stock of foreign private investment hits 54trn/- in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE decreased Foreign Direct Investments in Africa in 2022, the stock of foreign private investment (FPI) in Tanzania, in real time exchange rates, amounted to 54trn/- in 2022, from 48.6trn/ recorded in 2021, the survey conducted by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in collaboration with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows.

FPI comprises Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Portfolio Investment (PI) and Other Investment (OI).

The increase attributed to continued government initiatives in maintaining and improving the investment climate through the formulation and implementation of investor friendly policies that continue to attract more FDI inflows.

In 2022, the survey report shows that FDI inflows to Tanzania were USD 1,437.6 million, 20.8 percent higher than the inflows recorded in 2021.

This makes Tanzania to be among few African countries that recorded positive high growth in 2022.

Emmanuel Tutuba, Governor, BoT and Chairman of the Executive Committee Private Capital Flows Survey says the increase was attributed to continued initiatives to improve the country's investment climate including macroeconomic stability, transport, infrastructure, and other legal and regulatory reforms undertaken in Tanzania.

"While the performance of FDI in Tanzania in 2022 shows an upward trend, we envisage to performing

better particularly as global economic conditions improve. We promise to advise the governments and do whatever it takes to improve business environment and attract more investors," the governor commented in the report.

Financing of FDI inflows in 2022 was mainly through reinvestment of earnings, followed by equity and investment fund shares.

"Over time, the two sources have been the major sources of FDI flows to Tanzania, suggesting the existence of investors' confidence in the country's investment climate," the report attributes.

Mining and quarrying, finance and insurance, and manufacturing, continued to attract the largest share of FDI inflows altogether accounting for 88 percent of total inflows in 2022.

Large inflows to the mining and quarrying activity is associated with the expansion of mining activities by large companies while inflows to finance and insurance activities emanated from investment in digital financial services.

According to the report, there was a notable increase in inflows to the mining and quarrying activity, amounting to USD847.1 million compared to US\$596.3 million in 2021.

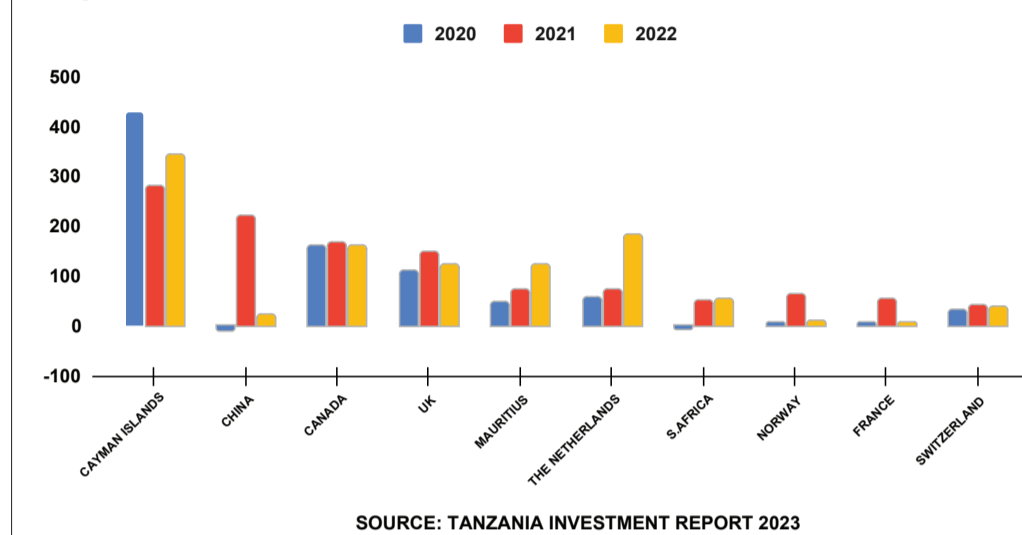
Although there was a decline in manufacturing inflows from USD351.9 million in 2021 to USD180.1 million in 2022, the activity retained its prominence.

Low inflows to manufacturing activity are largely accounted for by a significant decline in profitability reported by firms, reflecting the extent of exposure of this activity to global shocks.

In 2022, reinvestment of earnings from manufacturing activities dropped to USD 147.7 million from USD 783.6 million in 2021.

However, investment in manufacturing activities is expected to grow in 2023, driv-

Top Ten Source Countries of FDI Inflows, 2021 – 2022



SOURCE: TANZANIA INVESTMENT REPORT 2023

en by the government's commitment to the industrialization ambition.

This trend suggests investors' optimism about the country's macroeconomic developments, legal and regulatory frameworks, and political stability; among others.

The results show limited diversification of sources of FDI inflows as few countries namely, Cayman Islands, the Netherlands, Canada, and Mauritius continue to dominate the sources of FDI flows.

The five countries accounted for 58.3 percent of FDI sources in 2022.

Inflows of portfolio investment declined to USD 0.2 million in 2022 from USD 4.9 million in 2021. A cyclical trend of portfolio inflows has been observed in previous surveys accounting for the volatility of this type of investment and the infancy of Tanzania's capital market. Further, the share of portfolio investment to total foreign private investments remained less than one percent.

In 2022, the net profit after tax amounted to USD 2,057.3 million which is lower than USD 2,509.6 million in 2021.

Likewise, the dividends declared were USD 460.8 million compared to USD 836.6 million declared in 2021.

Activities that declared the most dividends were consistent with those that attracted more FDI inflows.

The World Investment Report 2023 indicates that FDI inflows to Tanzania have shown significant growth over recent years with its share in Africa increasing by 1.2 percentage points from 2021.

This is notable considering the global economic challenges, reflecting the country's improvement in the investment climate.

"The prospects for global FDI flows are uncertain amidst a backdrop of economic slowdown, currency fluctuations, and geopolitical tensions," says the United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The UNCTAD expects the downward pressure on global FDI to continue in 2023.

Factors including rising interest rates, trade disputes, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic create challenges for investors.

However, opportunities may arise in activities such as technology, renewable energy, and healthcare, driven by evolving consumer demands and technological advancements.

"The governments' policy responses and efforts to enhance the business friendly environment will play a crucial role in shaping future FDI trends in Tanzania," it says.

The government has been undertaking major legal and regulatory reforms in a quest to make Tanzania one of the best investment destinations in the continent.

These reforms include tax regime, automation of investment procedures and processes, harmonization of institutions, land laws as well as unlocking hurdles that impede business growth.

Tanzania's economy has exhibited strong performance despite global shocks, thus making it an attractive destination for investors seeking stability and growth opportunities.

Tanzania has abundant investment opportunities across a broad spectrum of activities, mostly in agriculture, mining, tourism, manufacturing, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, real estate, livestock, and the blue economy.

The government is dedicated to enhancing the investment climate and developing mega infrastructure to attract both foreign and domestic investments.

Through ongoing legal and regulatory reforms highlighted in the Blueprint for regulatory reforms to improve the business environment, Tanzania is positioned to become a prime investment destination in Africa, fostering social and economic prosperity for its citizens.

Crude oil prices decrease amid signs of advance in Ukraine war

By Tina Teng

AFTER reaching a two-week high, crude oil prices fell back on Monday as investors rebalanced positions in major asset classes. However, bullish factors remain in the near term as geopolitical tensions rise.

Crude oil prices rose to a two-week high amid a major escalation in the Ukraine and Russia war. The Brent futures at ICE surged 5.8 percent and the WTI futures at NYMEX rallied 6.3 percent last week.

However, the upside momentum faltered during the Asian session on Monday, most likely due to positions rebalancing in major asset classes.

Michael Brown, a senior research strategist at Pepperstone London wrote in a note: "I'd be reluctant to buy into the rally here, though, instead seeking to fade any geopolitical risk premium priced into crude."

At 6.30 am CET, the Brent futures fell 0.72 percent to \$74.63 per barrel, and WTI futures declined 0.53 percent to \$70.71 per barrel.

The war-induced rally in gold and the US dollar have all lost steam as the precious metal prices slumped 1.7 percent, erasing Friday's gains, and the dollar index retreated from a two-year high, declining 0.5 percent.

Despite the price retreat, crude markets may maintain bullish trends as the year-end approaches. Geopolitical tensions and a potential revival in China's demands will likely contribute to further rebounds in the oil markets in the near term.

Ukraine carried out US-made longer-range missiles targeting a military base inside Russian territory one week ago. In response, Russia warned of lowering its doctrine to use nuclear weapons and fired a hypersonic missile at Ukraine, marking a major escalation in the geopolitical tensions between the West and Russia.

The concerns surround potential supply disruptions if Ukraine attacks Russia's oil and gas infrastructure. The escalation may continue this week as Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky said that Ukraine had been targeted by nearly 500 drones and become "a testing ground" for Russia's munitions.

In the Middle East, traders are closely



monitoring the risk of a retaliatory strike on Iran's oil infrastructure by Israel amidst escalating tensions between the two nations. According to S&P Global, Iran's crude oil loadings have slowed since October.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board (IAEA) passed a resolution to pressure Iran into a new round of nuclear talks. A meeting between Iran and the European counterparties, Germany, and Britain will be held this Friday, Reuters reported.

Parties are progressing toward an agreement before Trump comes into power in January. The US presidential-elect is expected to reinforce restrictions on Iran's oil exports, which could lead to one million bpd cuts, or 1 percent of the world's supply if this happens.

Iran is the world's third-largest oil reserve holder in 2023. However, its production has been limited due to the US sanctions for several years.

Expectations for a revival of China's imports in November were another catalyst that buoyed oil prices. China's crude import may reach 11.4 mil-

lion barrels per day this month due to price cuts, the third-highest monthly shipment this year, according to LSEG Oil Research.

A report from S&P Global showed China's oil demand may grow by 1.1 percent to 17.29 million bpd in 2024 and increase by 1.7 percent to 17.59 million bpd in 2025.

China announced sweeping stimulus measures in September and ongoing implementation of further easing policies to bolster the economy.

The recent economic data showed that China's exports surged 12.7 percent year on year to \$309.06bn in October, the highest increase since March 2023. China's retail sales, manufacturing activities, and housing markets have all seen better-than-expected readings last month.

Despite China's optimism, analysts from Commodity Insights believe that rising production in the US and Canada, coupled with production hikes in the OPEC+, will potentially lead to a balanced demand and supply market, offsetting the price impact of rising demands.

FINANCIAL ABUSE:

The hidden weapon of gender-based violence

JOHANNESBURG

GENDER-based violence (GBV) remains a widespread and deeply troubling issue in South Africa, with its effects felt in countless homes across the country.

While physical and emotional abuse often takes centre stage in discussions, there is another form of abuse that is just as destructive - financial abuse.

Financial abuse involves the use of money or economic resources as a tool to control, exploit, or harm another person. It can occur in various relationships, such as between intimate partners, family members, caregivers, or even within professional settings.

According to Jessica Pillay, financial adviser at Momentum Financial Planning, this form of abuse is often hidden in plain sight, but its impact can be devastating, leaving victims financially trapped and emotionally drained.

According to the 2022/23 Victims of Crime Survey by Statistics SA, a significant proportion of women have experienced various forms of gender-based violence, including physical and sexual violence.

What often goes unnoticed, however, is that financial abuse is present in the overwhelming majority of domestic violence cases, with many victims enduring severe economic control by their abusers.

"Financial abuse involves using money as a weapon to control, manipulate, and undermine a partner's independence, often leaving them dependent and voiceless," says Pillay.

The statistics speak for themselves as 21 percent of South African women report having experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, and more than half of these cases involve financial abuse.

Stats SA (2022) reports that economic

violence is a significant part of the broader GBV epidemic, with many women trapped in abusive situations because of their lack of financial independence.

More than 50 percent of women in abusive relationships report being subjected to some form of financial control or economic violence.

As South Africa reflects on the 16 Days of Activism (held from 25 November to 10 December every year) against gender-based violence, Pillay says it is essential for women - particularly those in abusive situations - to understand what financial abuse looks like and to ask themselves, "do I have a financial voice, or am I constantly silenced".

According to her, financial abusers often try to limit ability to work, pursue a career, or study, effectively cutting off your access to financial independence.

"By keeping you financially dependent, they maintain control over you," she said.

In a meantime, she said "a controlling partner may prevent you from seeking medical care or deliberately make it difficult for you to access healthcare services, putting your well-being at risk".

These are just a few examples of how financial abuse can play out, but the impact is far-reaching. Pillay says it's important to recognise the signs so that you can take action to protect yourself.

"Strength doesn't come from the body; it comes from your will. If you decide to take control of your financial life, the solutions are within reach."

"By recognising the signs of financial abuse, understanding your rights, and taking steps to protect yourself, you can break free from the cycle of control and build a secure, independent future. It's time to own your power and your financial life and start shaping a future where you are the one in charge," she says.

Making seasonal marketing year-round business successes (Part 2)

EACH of the seasons has a marketing influence for special promotions. For instance, spring is the ideal season to advertise outdoor recreation, gardening equipment, and cleaning supplies. Summer is the best season for beachwear, travel related goods, cooling related appliances, and so on.

How to maintain a brand's consistent tone through out, by simply keeping your brand's essential identity is just as vital as adjusting your marketing to the various seasons. Your brand's values and overall voice must be reflected in your seasonal campaigns. Even though your messages vary with the seasons, this consistency aids in establishing recognition and trust with your audience.

Planning and timing. When it comes to seasonal marketing, timing is crucial. You run the risk of annoying your audience if you start too early. You will miss the height of seasonal interest if you start too late. Getting the timing right requires careful preparation and a thorough comprehension of the behaviour of your audience.

Making a budget. Additional financial and human resources are frequently needed for seasonal marketing. It can be challenging to strike a balance between these higher expenses and possible profits, particularly for smaller businesses. To ensure that your seasonal efforts are economical, be sure to thoroughly plan and calculate your return on investment. The accountant's love this.

It is typical to observe a decline in engagement or sales following a

DIGITAL MARKETING

Alley Mtatya



significant seasonal push. For many marketers, creating plans to keep customers interested and loyal after the seasonal peaks is a constant challenge. For this reason, rather than being handled as stand alone campaigns, seasonal marketing ought to be integrated into a broader year round marketing strategy.

Stay away from oversaturation. Customers are inundated with advertisements during peak times like Eid, SabaSaba etc. New Years and Christmas. It can be difficult to stand out in this crowded area. Instead of just adding to the noise, concentrate on developing distinctive, value driven campaigns that speak to your target audience in order to get past this.

Consider more than just the obvious seasonal touchpoints when you're planning your next marketing calendar. Seek out those special opportunities that fit your brand and appeal to your target market. You can make every season a great time to do business if you have the right amount of imagination, preparation, and seasonality. Among the many advantages of seasonal marketing

are its ability to make marketing initiatives timely and relatable to your target audience through its relevance to current events and seasonal themes. Customer engagement with seasonal campaigns is frequently higher, which results in higher engagement rates. Its effective seasonal marketing can give you a competitive edge and make you stand out in a crowded market and finally, increased sales during peak times can be achieved by matching seasonal purchasing patterns.

Therefore, consider more than just the obvious seasonal touchpoints when you plan your upcoming marketing calendar. Seek out those special opportunities that fit your brand and appeal to your target market. You can make every season a great time to do business if you have the right amount of imagination, preparation, and seasonality.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is Advertising, Marketing, Branding and Customer Experience Expert based in Dar es Salaam.

•Leveraging: Leverage is the ability to do more with less. To increase revenue, you need to serve more customers or find ways to increase efficiency. For example, if you're asked to carry 3,000 cubic meters of water, using a large jerrycan with a 1,000-cubic-meter capacity is a form of leverage that makes your task easier.

•Improving Your Financial Information: By regularly reviewing and correcting your financial information,

your financial intelligence improves. Most people don't track their financial information, so they don't know what to fix or retain. The most common form of leverage is borrowing money to invest and grow wealth.

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Bridging funding gap with blended finance

By Barbara Rambousek

PUBLIC funds can play an important role in facilitating the scaling up of investments into climate solutions, especially in emerging markets.

With the estimated annual financing required for tackling climate change between 2023-30 at a staggering \$2.4tn, public funds can be deployed via blended finance to help bridge this substantial funding gap and reach scale for impactful and sustainable investments in emerging markets.

Blended finance can be used to address risk challenges that continue to be associated with new technologies or less mature markets. It can be structured through mechanisms such as risk guarantees, first-loss protections and concessional finance to make projects in emerging markets more attractive to private investors.

Multilateral development banks play a critical part as key vehicles for the design and deployment of different blended finance instruments. Their involvement helps bring to market innovative solutions, meaning they can achieve scale and reach investors and geographies that may otherwise not have been in a position to deploy or access climate finance.

North Macedonia deploys public and private sector to achieve climate goals

The role of MDBs as providers of blended finance extends beyond mobilisation. Technical assistance can be critical in supporting capacity building of investors, financial intermediaries and end users. It can also be deployed in order to tackle challenges in the wider regulatory system, from the introduction of effective auction systems to more policies that facilitate a just transition.

For example, at COP28 North Macedonia launched an investment platform to guide its far-reaching plans for a low-carbon and just transition of the electricity sector. By creating a vehicle for investment and policy development that brings together government, international finance and the private sector, the platform represents a milestone for the historically coal-dependent country and highlights its ambition to transform its energy sector and economy to a low-carbon, low-cost and secure paradigm.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has been supporting the North Macedonian government in the development of the platform and will lead coordination with international partners, including the Climate Investment Funds, World Bank, European Investment Bank, Council of Europe Development Bank, KfW, CDP and, more recently, Agence française de développement. The aim is to reduce the country's net greenhouse gas emissions by 82% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, as set out in the nationally determined contribution for North Macedonia.

As the electricity sector is prominent in the country's emissions profile, with coal historically accounting for over 40 percent of generation, the energy transition is key to achieving this goal. To address the impact of this transition on local labour markets in the coal-reliant regions of the country, the platform will support regional economic diversification and human capital development in line with a Just Transition Roadmap, supported by the European Union and EBRD.

To be successful, initiatives such as country-level platforms need to be tailored to address specific local challenges and characteristics. These differ substantially across emerging markets globally, where risks, investor interest and the types of local policy solutions call for adjusted approaches.

As climate finance is being scaled up and more investors consider entering this space, there is a need for further engagement between investors and MDBs to enhance awareness of the role that blended finance can play and to better set out the opportunities for co-operation. MDBs can play a broader role in helping to build this capacity across the wider global investment community. They can help build local and regional platforms and create momentum to catalyse investments into priority sectors and regions.

Barbara Rambousek (pictured) is Director of Gender and Economic Inclusion at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

How to develop financial intelligence in the real world

By Paulo Mwasubila

FINANCIAL intelligence is the ability to process financial information and resolve financial-related problems, often measured by one's financial IQ. It is developed through financial education. A quick overview of financial intelligence can be interpreted through one's ability to earn more, protect their wealth, and pass it on to future generations.

Financial education teaches individuals how to make money work for them, unlike professional education, which focuses on teaching people how to work for money. There are four main types of education: academic education, which imparts arithmetic and linguistic skills; professional education, which prepares individuals for specific careers; financial education, which shows how to make money work hard for you; and spiritual education, which guides one to grow closer to their creator.

The global school system teaches students to work for money. From primary school through to university or college, students acquire skills to secure a job, receiving a paycheck in return. The system often fails to emphasize the importance of financial education, leaving graduates vulnerable to financial challenges.

With this traditional mindset, students graduate with high academic achievement but lack financial knowledge. Despite excelling in their studies, they often struggle with managing their finances because schools do not equip them with financial literacy.

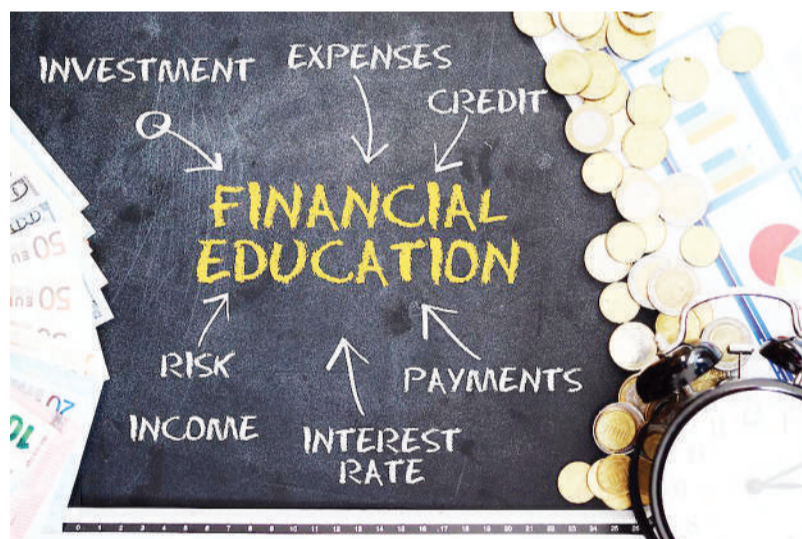
The school system promotes the idea that students should become employees, encouraging them to think about jobs from an early age.

This mindset limits their ability to develop the financial intelligence needed to process and resolve financial challenges. If asked why acquiring financial education is important, the answer is simple: we all need financial education, regardless of our academic or economic status, as we are all bound to handle money at some point. Overcoming financial challenges requires improving financial intelligence by tackling smaller financial problems, which in turn enhances one's ability to solve bigger issues.

Traditional education relies on the Q&A model—questions and answers—which rewards students who memorize answers and avoid mistakes. However, financial intelligence thrives on making mistakes, learning from them, and refining one's approach, as the world of money involves many uncertainties and educated guesses, some of which may be right and others wrong.

While schools may not provide financial education, there are other sources, such as the street, where individuals interact with people, make mistakes, and learn; the corporate world, where coaches mentor students; and families, where parents and siblings impart financial knowledge.

Developing financial intelligence requires a balance, much like a dual-edged sword. On one



hand, it may involve being frugal, living below your means; on the other, it may require adopting a more lavish lifestyle to achieve the goals you're pursuing. Just like Newton's third law, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

In the quest to develop financial intelligence, one school of thought promotes frugality, advising individuals to live below their means. Another suggests embracing a lavish lifestyle, paying the price for the lifestyle they want. Achieving financial success, much like academic education, is a step-by-step process, with feedback provided along the way to guide improvements.

Having academic education is not an indicator of financial intelligence. For example, a banker would not ask for your academic report to approve a loan. Whether you choose frugality or a lavish lifestyle, both approaches could lead to the same outcome.

But why be frugal, living below your means, and leaving your wealth to be spent carelessly by your children and siblings after your passing? Instead, you should pay the price for your desired outcome.

Paying the price means committing to the processes that will help you reach your goal. For instance, if you want to become a better runner, you need to exercise regularly, pushing yourself to the level of top athletes like Eliud Kipchoge.

Many people dream of becoming wealthy but fail to pay the price required. Paying the price is the bridge that leads to increased financial intelligence and, ultimately, greater wealth.

Financial education consists of five main components: earning more money, protecting your money, budgeting, leveraging, and improving your financial information.

- **Earning More Money:** This component encourages individuals to have multiple income sources instead of relying solely on a paycheck. Financial security cannot be achieved by depending on one source of income. Consider starting a side business, such as poultry farming or real estate investment, to supplement your income.

- **Protecting Your Money:** This involves shielding your income from financial predators, such as taxes and other income leaks. Taxes are a major drain on employee income, and constant requests for money from family members can reduce the cash you have at your disposal.

- **Budgeting:** A budget is a plan that coordinates your income and expenses. Most people use a budget to become poorer, but it should be used to create a surplus. Aim for a budget surplus at the end of the month rather than a deficit.

CURRENT NEWS



Africans urged to seize aviation opportunities

CAIRO

AT the 56th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) held in Cairo, International Air Transport Association (Iata) director-general Willie Walsh (pictured) delivered a powerful address outlining the opportunities and challenges facing Africa's aviation industry.

With 18 percent of the world's population but only 2 percent of global air transport, Africa remains underutilised in aviation—a gap Walsh believes the continent is ready to close.

Walsh began his speech by highlighting Africa's untapped aviation potential. "Africa has enormous potential," he said. "You know the statistics. It is home to 18 percent of the world's population but accounts for just 3 percent of global GDP. And it accounts for an even smaller share of global air transport—just 2 percent."

However, he acknowledged that realising this potential requires addressing various challenges, including high costs and taxes, limited adoption of safety standards, and underdeveloped airport infrastructure.

Safety: Always a top priority

Safety, Walsh stressed, remains the industry's cornerstone. He praised African airlines for their progress, citing the absence of hull losses or fatal accidents between 2020 and 2023. However, he noted setbacks in 2024 and called for increased commitment to global safety standards like IOSA and data-sharing initiatives such as the Global Aviation Data Management (GADM) system.

"Africa has made significant safety improvements," Walsh said. "But even in 2023, the African turboprop hull loss rate was the highest globally. This tells us there is still work to do."

Another pressing issue Walsh addressed was the repatriation of blocked airline funds, a challenge disproportionately affecting African airlines. "Globally, \$1.662bn of airline money is blocked from repatriation—\$950m of which is in African countries," he revealed.

Walsh stressed that such financial



obstacles threaten connectivity, which drives economic prosperity. "If airlines cannot repatriate their revenues, they cannot be expected to provide service. Economies will suffer if connectivity collapses," he warned.

Sustainability: Africa's opportunity

Sustainability was another focal point of Walsh's address. He emphasised the global aviation industry's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, describing it as "existential to our future growth."

The transition to sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) presents an economic opportunity for Africa. "SAF will contribute more than 60 percent of the mitigation needed for aviation's decarbonisation," Walsh stated. "Africa has the people and natural resources to develop a world-leading SAF sector, provided the financing and government incentives are available."

He called on stakeholders, including financial institutions like Afreximbank, to prioritise SAF development, underscoring the potential for job creation, economic growth, and energy independence.

Walsh concluded with a message of collaboration and optimism. "As your global association, I want to assure you that we work closely with AFRAA, we are focused on your needs, and we are looking at how we can support our members' success even more effectively," he said.

The AFRAA AGA 2024 brought industry leaders

together to strategise on advancing Africa's aviation sector. Key discussions, led by Willie Walsh, highlight the importance of safety, sustainability, and financial transparency in unlocking the continent's aviation potential.

Africa's growing economies, urbanization, and rising middle class are increasing demand for air travel, both domestic and international.

However, African airlines face some of the highest taxes and fuel costs globally, impacting ticket affordability and profitability as well as slow implementation of SAATM and protectionist policies in some countries, which continue to limit market liberalization.

A lack of trained aviation professionals, including pilots and engineers, also hinders the industry's ability to grow sustainably.

Strategic investments in infrastructure, implementation of SAATM, and sustainability initiatives are critical to unlocking the sector's future. If these are realized, African aviation could become a vital enabler of the continent's broader development aspirations.

Adani bonds decrease to year-low

SINGAPORE/SYDNEY

ADANI dollar bond prices fell on Monday to almost one-year lows, as investors cut their exposure to the Indian conglomerate and some bankers considered pausing fresh lending in the wake of bribery and fraud accusations by US authorities.

The group's billionaire chairman, Gautam Adani, and seven other people were last week charged with agreeing to pay around \$265 million in bribes to Indian government officials.

The charges related to alleged payments to obtain contracts that could yield \$2 billion of profit over 20 years as well as to develop India's largest solar power project.

The charges also included making misleading statements to the public despite being made aware of the US investigation in 2023.

The Adani Group has said the accusations as well as those levelled by the US Securities and Exchange Commission in a parallel civil case are baseless and that it will seek "all possible legal recourse".

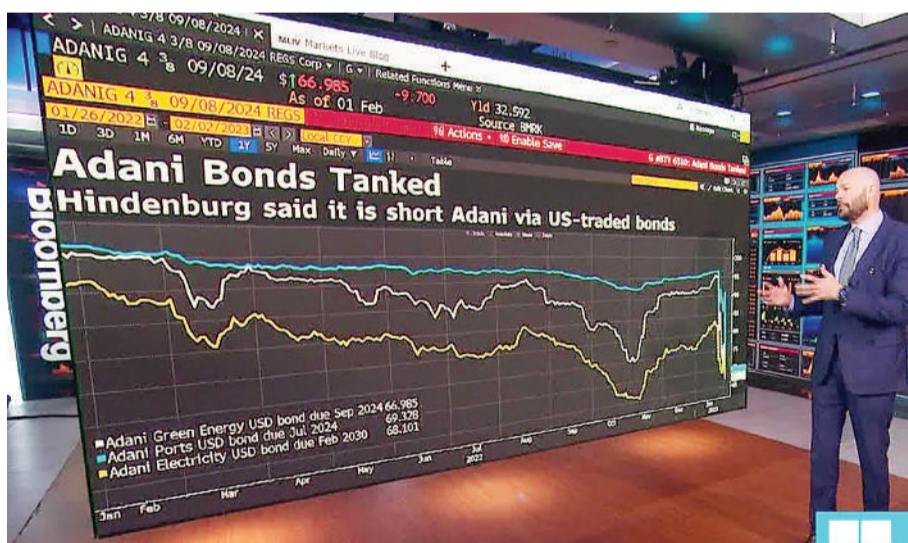
Banks and regulators have been reviewing exposure to the ports-to-power conglomerate in the wake of the charges.

The Singapore banking sector's overall exposure to the Adani Group, is small, the Monetary Authority of Singapore said on Monday.

"Banks have in place measures to review and manage their exposures to borrowers and counterparties," an MAS spokesperson said in a statement.

DBS Group, Singapore's biggest bank by assets, had said in early 2023 that its exposure to the Adani Group was \$31.3 billion (\$967 million). DBS declined comment in response to request from Reuters.

Some global banks are considering temporarily halting fresh credit to the company after the U.S. indictment but



maintaining existing loans, according to several bankers spoken to by Reuters, raising questions about its access to future funding.

"In the near term, the U.S. indictment is likely to constrain the group's access to financing, particularly in the offshore market," a Lucrator Analytics note published on Smartkarma said.

Cash balances of Adani portfolio companies stood at \$6.33 billion as of first half of the current fiscal year ending March 2025, the company said.

The cash balances exceed long term debt repayments for next 28 months, Adani said in a presentation on the credit and financial performance of its group companies, which it regularly shares after its quarterly results.

The crisis is the second in two years to hit the Adani group, which was last year accused by short seller Hindenburg Research of improperly using offshore tax havens. The company denied those claims.

In Asian trade on Monday, some of the most liquid debts, issued by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone fell between 1 cent and 2 cents, with similar selling in Adani Transmission debt.

Ports bonds maturing in 2027 were down 1.6 cent to 88.98 cents on the

dollar, having lost nearly 7 cents in face value since US prosecutors issued the charges last week.

Longer-dated Ports bonds were down on Monday and have lost between 8 cents and 10 cents in face value on the news.

Adani Transmission debt maturing in May 2036 fell 1.8 cent on Monday for a loss of more than 7 cents since Wednesday.

Adani group's 10 listed stocks led by Adani Enterprises lost \$27.9 billion in market value over two sessions last week after the US charges.

The stocks regained some lost ground on Monday, as Adani Energy Solutions rose 6 percent, while Adani Green Energy rose 4 percent in early trade.



Banks have in place measures to review and manage their exposures to borrowers and counterparties

LNG seeks to step up to solve Europe gas woes

LAUNCESTON

CONCERNS that Europe is facing a natural gas supply crunch this winter are overblown, with the liquefied natural gas (LNG) market already stepping up to avoid any shortfall, albeit at higher prices.

European natural gas prices climbed to the highest level in two years last week, with the benchmark front-month contract at the Dutch TTF hub reaching 49.03 euros per megawatt hour on Nov. 22, equivalent to \$14.97 per million British thermal units (mmBtu).

Prices have rallied about 40 percent since mid-September amid fears that the remaining Russian pipeline supplies to Europe will be halted, or face further curtailment.

New US sanctions on Russia's Gazprombank, the financial institution some remaining European importers of Russian gas use to process payments, have also raised concerns about the future of supply.

Throw in some early cold weather and the expiry at the end of the year of the transit agreement for Russian gas through Ukraine and it's hardly surprising that prices have been rallying.

But there is little sign that Europe is about to run short of natural gas, and the global LNG market is already adjusting to reflect the current dynamics.

Europe's November imports of the super-chilled fuel are on track to rise to the highest since February, with commodity analysts Kpler tracking arrivals of 9.16 million metric tons.

This is up from 7.56 million tons in October and 6.37 million in September, which was the lowest monthly total in three years.

The increase in imports is largely being met by increased shipments from the United States, the world's largest LNG exporter and the swing

supplier between the Atlantic and Pacific basins.

Europe is on track to import 4.32 million tons of U.S. LNG in November, the most since February and up from October's 3.13 million, according to Kpler data.

In contrast, Asia's imports of US LNG are estimated to drop to 2.19 million tons in November, the lowest since March and down from 3.21 million in October.

Asia's overall imports of LNG are expected to decline in November to 23.13 million tons, the lowest since June and down from 24.39 million in October.

The drop is largely because of weaker imports in the South Asian nations of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, with India, the fourth-biggest buyer in Asia, expected to land 2.21 million tons in November, down from 2.36 million in October.

India is among a group of Asian buyers that tend to be price sensitive, and the recent rise in spot LNG prices will act as a brake on the country's demand.

Spot LNG for delivery to North Asia rose to \$14.60 per mmBtu in the week to Nov. 22, an 11-month high and up from \$13.60 the prior week.

The price has been rising steadily in recent months and is now up 76% from its 2024 low of \$8.30 per mmBtu.

However, it's still short of peak in 2023 of \$17.90 per mmBtu, reached in late October as utilities in Asia stocked up ahead of winter.

The current forecasts for winter in North Asia are for a colder season than last year, which may serve to bolster demand for LNG, especially in top importers China, Japan and South Korea.

Coupled with the likelihood of higher European demand for LNG, it's likely that spot prices will continue to rise.



Sierra Leone woos miners to clean energy with \$11bn

FREETOWN

SIERRA LEONE wants mining companies to connect to the grid and help reassure renewable-energy investors there's enough demand in the West African nation to justify an ambitious \$10.9-billion power plan.

Most mining firms rely on their own diesel supplies to extract iron ore, diamonds, rutile and bauxite in the resource-rich country. Sierra Leone would require them to switch over to the grid by 2040, according to an energy-transition roadmap launched earlier this month.

The plan seeks to increase capacity 15-fold to 4 500 MW by 2050 – 90 percent of it fueled by renewable energy – in an expansion that would cost an estimated \$10.9-billion. That would be a huge jump for a country with existing installed capacity of just 300 MW.

The power that Sierra Leone currently produces is inadequate even for the few households and businesses already connected to the grid, spurring a heavy reliance on private fossil-fuel generators. The mining industry, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's export earnings, self-generates more than 500 MW of electricity. Local units of the Gerald Group, based in the UK, and China Kingho Energy Group run some of the biggest operations.

Smaller economies like Sierra Leone can't afford to pay for their own transition to cleaner energy and the high cost of capital makes borrowing too expensive, leaving them reliant on development finance and foreign investors.

The prospect of connecting mining companies would help attract private funding for the plan, Kandeh Yumkella, the chairman of a presidential initiative on climate change and renewable energy, said in an interview.

"If we do that, our utility becomes profitable immediately," he said. It would also help miners "green" their operations.

"Anchor demand" from these firms would help expand electricity access to households in one of the least electrified countries in the world, Yumkella said. Less than a third of the 8.5 million population of Sierra Leone has access to electricity, according to the World Bank.

"It is an idea that most companies are gravitating toward," said Ibrahim Sorie Kamara, secretary of the Sierra Leone Chamber of Mines. "Producing your own electricity is expensive and logistically challenging," he said. "If this power can be sustainable and reliable, it will make economic sense."

Sierra Leone plans to import energy from the West African Power Pool – a regional electricity market – to feed its grid until it ramps up its domestic production, with an initial focus on hydro and solar power, Deputy Energy Minister Edmond Nonie said in an interview.

The government is also working to resolve issues with some of its existing partners while courting new ones.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Countries remain divided as 5th UN plastics treaty talks begin

BUSAN/BAKU

AS delegates from 175 countries gathered in Busan, South Korea yesterday for the fifth round of talks aimed at securing an international treaty to curb plastic pollution, lingering divisions cast doubts on whether a final agreement is in sight.

South Korea is hosting the fifth and ostensibly final UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) meeting this week, after the previous round of talks in Ottawa in April ended without a path forward on capping plastic production.

Instead, talks will be focused on chemicals of concern and other measures after petrochemical-producing nations strongly opposed efforts to target plastic production over the protests of countries that bear the brunt of plastic pollution.

The divisions plaguing plastics treaty talks echo conflicts that have long stalled UN efforts to curb global warming, with the most recent climate summit, COP29, having just ended with an agreement that poorer nations assailed as inadequate.

"Without significant intervention the amount of plastic entering the environment annually by 2040 is expected to nearly double compared to 2022," INC Chair Luis Vayas Valdivieso said at the

opening session in Busan on Monday.

"It is about humanity rising to meet an existential challenge," he said, noting that microplastics have been found in human organs.

The United States raised eyebrows in August when it said it would back plastic production caps in the treaty, putting it in alignment with the EU, Kenya, Peru and other countries in the High Ambition Coalition.

The election of Donald Trump as president, however, has raised questions about that position, as during his first presidency he shunned multilateral agreements and any commitments to slow or stop US oil and petrochemical production.

The US delegation did not answer questions on whether it would reverse its new position to support plastic production caps. But it "supports ensuring that the global instrument addresses plastic products, chemicals used in plastic products, and the supply of primary plastic polymers," according to a spokesperson for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, said she was confident the talks will end with an agreement, pointing to the communique from the Group of 20 nations at a summit last week calling for a legally binding treaty by the end of this year.



Environment activists shout slogans during the press conference outside of the venue for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution in Busan, South Korea yesterday. AP

Impact on health

For a Pacific island country like Fiji, a global plastics treaty is crucial to protect its fragile ecosystem and public health, said Sivendra Michael, Fiji's climate minister and chief climate and plastics negotiator.

He told Reuters on the sidelines of the 29th UN Climate Change Conference this month that despite not producing any plastic, Fiji is bearing the brunt of its downstream pollution.

"Where do these plastics end up? It ends up in our oceans, in our landfill, in our backyards. And the impact of the plastics breaking down into little substances has detrimental effects, not only on the environment, but on us as individuals, on our health," he said, noting studies that showed most of the fish consumed in the country was polluted with microplastics.

While supporting an international treaty, the petrochemical industry has been vocal in urging governments to avoid setting mandatory plastic production caps, and focus on solutions on reducing plastic waste, like

recycling.

"We would see a treaty successful if it would really put ... emphasis on ending plastic pollution. Nothing else should be the focus," said Martin Jung, president for performance materials at chemical producer BASF.

Previous talks have also discussed searching for forms of funding to help developing countries implement the treaty.

At COP29, France, Kenya and Barbados floated setting up a series of global levies on certain sectors that could help ramp up the amount of money that could be made available to developing countries seeking support to aid their clean energy transition and cope with the increasingly severe impacts of climate change.

The proposal included a fee of \$60-\$70/ton on primary polymer production, which is on average around 5-7 percent of the polymer price, seen potentially raising an estimated \$25-\$35 billion per year.

Industry groups have rejected the idea, saying it will raise consumer prices.

What to expect from upcoming supply chain expo in Beijing

BEIJING

THE second China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) will run from today to Saturday in Beijing.

As the world's first national-level exhibition focusing on supply chains, the expo will gather industry leaders and experts from around the world and help promote global cooperation in industrial and supply chains. The following is an overview of what to expect from this year's event.

WIDER PARTICIPATION

Themed "Connecting the World for a Shared Future," the expo, hosted by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), will see the participation of more than 600 companies, up about 20 percent from the first expo in 2023, according to the CCPIT.

Foreign exhibitors will account for 32 percent of the total, compared with 26 percent a year earlier. U.S. companies will contribute the largest share of overseas participation, while the number of businesses from Europe and Japan will also increase significantly this year. Companies from countries participating in the Belt and Road cooperation will constitute 40 percent of foreign exhibitors at the 2024 edition.

Notably, to promote cooperation with less developed countries, China has invited many African enterprises to the expo and will provide free booths to help them showcase their products.

The expo's opening ceremony on Tuesday is expected to see the attendance of more than 1,000 global representatives, including political figures and



The 3 millionth vehicle produced by Tesla Gigafactory Shanghai rolls off the assembly line in Shanghai, east China, Oct. 11, 2024. Xinhua

business elites. It is estimated that the five-day event will attract a professional audience of about 200,000 in total.

BETTER SHOWCASE

Global industry leaders will exhibit their cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions in supply chains at this expo in China's capital.

Maersk and Sumitomo Electric are expected to debut new products, while Siemens will bring world-leading industrial automation technology to the event. China Resources and Honeywell will present technologies in the environmental protection and carbon reduction fields, while Rio Tinto, Bosch, Baowu Steel and XPENG will jointly exhibit in the expo's

smart vehicle zone.

The 2024 expo will introduce a new exhibition area dedicated to advanced manufacturing, adding to last year's clean energy, smart vehicle, digital technology, healthy life, green agriculture and supply chain service areas.

A complete global advanced manufacturing industrial chain will be showcased in the new area, focused on four categories -- R&D and design, application of new materials, key components and processing, and intelligent manufacturing and high-end equipment.

This year's expo will have Hungary as its guest country of honor. The Hungary Pavilion will showcase Hungary's leading industries, unique resources, cul-

tural heritage, beautiful landscapes and national brand image.

CLOSER COOPERATION

The expo is expected to further strengthen global consensus on industrial and supply chain cooperation, helping businesses from across the world to integrate more effectively into the global supply chain.

"Given the coexistence of opportunities and challenges in industrial transformation and international expansion, the CISCE holds significant importance," said David Xu, president of Bosch China.

CISCE acts as a crucial bridge in fostering communication and collaboration across the entire supply chain, noted Li Zheng, chief strategy officer of WOLQE, a German company focused on incubating startups in the new energy sector.

In the course of the exhibition, seven thematic events will be held, featuring domestic and international guests engaging in in-depth discussions. Additionally, over 300 activities, ranging from breakfast meetings to business negotiations, will take place during the expo.

A Beijing initiative, which aims to promote stable and smooth global supply chains, will be released at the event, and a flagship report will be published, providing analysis of new supply chain trends and drawing a global map for 11 key industries, including humanoid robots, smart cars and integrated circuits.

As the first of their kind in the world, two new indices will also be launched to provide governments and businesses with clearer insights into global supply chain development trends and risks.

Xinhua

Long-term value creation drives sustainable growth for Barrick

NEW YORK

BARRICK Gold Corporation is making significant progress in building a business for the future with a peerless Tier One focused asset portfolio and a strategy that continues to uncover and unlock value, while also fostering productive partnerships in its host countries.

Speaking in New York to investors at an in-depth presentation on the group's position, achievements and plans, president and chief executive Mark Bristow said that since the merger, Barrick had generated \$23 billion in operating cash flow, invested \$15 billion in its operations and growth projects – effectively recapitalizing operations for the next 10 years or more – reduced the net debt by nearly \$4 billion and returned over \$5 billion to shareholders.

"Our world-class projects are set to deliver a new growth phase and our targeted exploration programs are on course to maintain Barrick's unmatched record of reserve replacement, which allows us to project a 10-year production profile," he said.

Barrick is opening up exciting new frontiers in Chile, Peru and Ecuador while also exploiting value-creating opportunities within its current asset portfolio. "In Nevada, we're making significant progress with mine extension projects at Leeville, Goldrush, Hanson, Robertson, Swift and new extensions to Turquoise Ridge.

The newly permitted Goldrush mine is ramping up production and the adjacent Fourmile, which is currently 100% owned by Barrick, is turning out to be a truly world-class asset," Bristow said.

Barrick has completed a preliminary economic assessment at Fourmile using conservative mining rates and costs, all of which draw directly from the current Goldrush mine plan. The results highlight the potential for annual operating cash flows that are at least 70% higher than the already world-class Goldrush project.

Bristow said Barrick's holistic approach to sustainability is central to every aspect of its value-driven business. "It enables us to make the most of the highest-quality gold assets in the industry while building a world-class copper business.

It supports the evolution of a partnership model that benefits all stakeholders. It is key to the management of the mines that generate the free cash flow to fund our organic growth projects and build the strong balance sheet that enables a disciplined return to shareholders. Not least, it attracts the best and the brightest new employees because it resonates with their own values," he said.

China's drive propels G20 cooperation on boosting global development

BEIJING

AT the recently-concluded G20 summit held in Rio de Janeiro, China laid out its actions for global development, and advocated for a fair and equitable global governance system, prompting the G20 to continuously play an exemplary role in striving for the development of all countries and the progress of the entire world.

As an important member of the G20 and the world's largest developing country, China has always been a firm advocate of global development.

Back in 2016 at the G20 Hangzhou Summit, development was brought to the core of the global macro-policy framework for the first time. Eight years on, Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded on China's actions and propositions in Rio de Janeiro aimed at promoting common global development with Chinese wisdom and strength.

China has been promoting the cause of global development with its own growth. China has lifted 800 million people out of poverty and met the poverty reduction target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ahead of schedule. China's development is an important part of the common development of the world. "China has decided to join the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty," Xi said at this year's G20 summit.

China's story and dedication to global poverty alleviation have inspired many. "China is clearly demonstrating its commitment to the fight against poverty and its real support for the development of countries, especially those in the Global South," said Eduardo Relagado, a researcher at the International Policy Research Center of Cuba, after Xi's speech at the G20 summit.

True development means the common development of all countries. As a stellar example of this, China has always shared its development opportunities with others.

At the summit, China outlined eight actions for global development, which include pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, implementing the Global Development Initiative, supporting development in Africa, and supporting international cooperation on poverty reduction and food security.

Xinhua

G20 shoulders responsibility for history, takes historical initiative, moves history forward

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Nov. 18 attended the 19th G20 Summit and delivered important speeches, explaining Chinese philosophies on "Fight Against Hunger and Poverty" and "Reform of the Institutions of Global Governance."

He announced China's eight actions for global development and proposed concrete measures in economic, financial, trade, digital and environmental fields for the G20.

Xi's important speeches provided crucial conceptual guidance for improving global

governance and addressing the practical challenges facing global development, helping consolidate consensus and strength in building a just world of common development and a just and reasonable global governance system.

To build a just world of common development, all parties should shoulder their responsibility for history, take historical initiative and move history forward.

Xi said prosperity and stability would not be possible in a world where the rich become richer while the poor are made poorer, and coun-

tries should make global development more inclusive, beneficial to all, and more resilient.

Countries need to channel more resources to such fields as trade, investment and development cooperation, and strengthen development institutions. They need to support developing countries in adopting sustainable production and lifestyle and enhancing ecological conservation.

They need an open, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for international economic cooperation, and should promote a universally

beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. They also need to stay committed to multilateralism, and uphold the UN-centered international system, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Only through unity and cooperation among all parties can the goal of building a just world of common development be achieved.

China is always a doer and go-getter working for the

cause of global development. It has lifted 800 million people out of poverty, and met the poverty reduction target of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ahead of schedule.

China's story is proof that developing countries can eliminate poverty, and that a weaker bird can start early and fly high, when there is the endurance, perseverance, and striving spirit that enables water drops to penetrate rocks over time and turns blueprints into reality.

China's eight actions for global development an-

nounced by Xi, including pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, implementing the Global Development Initiative, supporting development in Africa, and supporting international cooperation on poverty reduction and food security, fully prove that China is a reliable long-term partner of fellow developing countries and is willing to go hand in hand with fellow developing countries toward modernization.

International observers believe that China's eight actions for global development

will help make global development more just, inclusive, and sustainable.

To build a just world of common development, it is important to establish a fair and equitable global governance system. Currently, the Global South is gaining significant momentum, yet global governance reform has long been stagnant.

After a 16-year development, the G20 needs to build on its past achievements and continue to act as a force to improve global governance and move history forward.

People's Daily

World reaches groundwork climate deal at COP29

BAKU

A package of climate agreements was reached early Sunday at the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The agreements included decisions on the New Collective Quantified Goal for climate financing and issues relating to the global carbon market mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The agreements set the post-2025 climate finance targets, including an annual funding of at least 300 billion U.S. dollars from developed countries and a broader climate financing goal of at least 1.3 trillion dollars per year by 2035 to support the climate actions of developing countries.

A BASE ON WHICH TO BUILD

"Reaching an agreement at COP29 was essential to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming limit alive," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a post on X. "I had hoped for a more ambitious outcome – on both finance & mitigation – to meet the scale of the great challenge we face, but the agreement reached provides a base on which to build."

Guterres added that the agreement "must be honoured in full and on time. I appeal to governments to do so urgently."

The arrangements are expected to lay the groundwork for developing countries to undertake climate action and submit a new round of nationally determined contributions next year.

Nearly 200 parties broke years of deadlock in multilateral negotiations, finally reaching a consensus on the international carbon market mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. It marked the completion of the implementation rules for the market mechanism under Article 6 and resolved the last pending issue within the Paris Agreement.

In addition, the conference also reached decisions on various is-



This photo taken on Nov. 11, 2024 shows a view of the China Pavilion during the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. Xinhua

issues, including the carbon trading mechanism, the implementation of the Global Stocktake results, the mitigation work program, and the global adaptation goal.

In his speech at the closing plenary session, Zhao Yingmin, head of the Chinese delegation and vice minister of ecology and environment, highlighted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Over the past 30 years, the process of climate governance under the convention has faced challenges but has consistently moved forward.

Zhao emphasized that humanity is a community with a shared future, and in the face of the climate crisis, unity and collaboration are the only viable paths.

Zhao noted that the outcome document on the New Collective Quantified Goal revealed that developed countries' financial commitments still fall far short of meeting the needs of developing nations, and their financial obliga-

tions must be further clarified.

He added that addressing the global climate crisis requires adhering to the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities," upholding multilateralism, and working together for mutual benefit.

Zhao reaffirmed that China, as a responsible major developing country, will steadfastly promote the multilateral process and international cooperation on climate change, regardless of how the global landscape evolves.

China will continue to implement its national strategy for actively addressing climate change, pursue its carbon peaking and neutrality goals, and engage extensively in South-South climate cooperation to contribute to global green, low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable development, said Zhao.

"I commend everyone who worked hard to build consensus. You have shown that multilateralism – centered on the Paris Agreement – can find a path through

the most difficult issues," said UN chief Guterres in his COP29 closing statement.

CHINESE CONTRIBUTION

During COP29, Liu Zhenmin, China's special envoy for climate change, noted that over the past decade, China has become one of the world's fastest reducers of energy intensity, saving approximately 1.4 billion tonnes of standard coal.

Liu said China's renewable energy capacity accounts for over one-third of the global total, and cumulative investments in renewable energy rank first worldwide. The country is also a leading international supplier of wind power, photovoltaic equipment and battery technologies.

In an interview with Xinhua, former UN Under-Secretary-General Erik Solheim noted that China is now an indispensable nation for global climate efforts.

He affirmed China's important role in the global green energy transition, which accounts for

60 percent or more of global production in key green sectors, including solar, wind and hydro-power, as well as electric cars and batteries.

Jeffrey Sachs, president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, told Xinhua that China is making energy structure transformation possible around the globe by exporting green technologies through good partnerships worldwide, which is a vital part of the solution to climate change.

Zhao noted China has supported South-South countries in low-carbon demonstration projects, mitigation and adaptation efforts, and talent training.

Official statistics showed that China has signed 54 cooperation agreements with 42 developing countries on climate change cooperation. Since 2016, the country has provided and mobilized over 24 billion dollars for projects to assist other developing nations in tackling climate challenges.

Xinhua

South Korea boycotts Japan memorial event at mine in blow for ties

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea held a memorial event in Japan on Monday for its laborers forced to work at a controversial mine during World War II, after boycotting one organized by Tokyo, highlighting lingering sensitivities in ties between the neighbors.

Seoul and Tokyo have seen ties generally improve in recent years, as they sought to put aside acrimonious diplomatic and trade disputes tied to Japan's 1910-45 colonization of the Korean peninsula.

Seoul's decision not to attend Sunday's official event at the Sado mine followed reports that Japan's government would be represented by an official who had visited a shrine some neighbors see as a symbol of the nation's militarist past.

The governments could not resolve their differences in time, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul said in a television interview on Saturday, but added the incident should not damage improved ties under President Yoon Suk-yeol. South Korea's ambassador to Japan

led Sunday's memorial event, with the participation of nine descendants of the original laborers as well as some government officials.

In his remarks, Ambassador Park Cheol-hee expressed deep sorrow at the plight of the South Korean forced laborers, exhorting the neighbors to ensure the painful history of the Sado mine was not forgotten.

Japan's top government spokesman, Yoshimasa Hayashi, said it was not Tokyo's place to explain the reasons for

South Korea's absence from the memorial ceremony held by Japan's government.

"But we do think it is regrettable that they did not participate," he told a daily briefing in the Japanese capital.

Hayashi added that Tokyo had explained to Seoul that Akiko Ikuina, the official who represented Japan at the ceremony, had not visited the Yasukuni Shrine that commemorates its war dead, including some war criminals, since becoming a lawmaker.

Agencies

China a positive force driving global development

CHINESE President Xi Jinping attended the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on the morning of Nov. 18, local time.

He delivered an important speech at the Session I of the summit on Fight Against Hunger and Poverty under the title "Building a Just World of Common Development," in which he outlined China's eight actions for global development.

Today, transformation of a scale not seen in a century is accelerating across the world. Humanity faces unprecedented opportunities and challenges. International personalities told People's Daily that Xi's important remarks have charted the course for international cooperation on poverty reduction and pooled strength for global development. They believe that the eight actions will help build a just world of common development.

Xi pointed out that China's story is proof that developing countries can eliminate poverty, and that a weaker bird can start early and fly high, when there is the endurance, perseverance, and striving spirit that enables water drops to penetrate rocks over time and turns blueprints into reality. If China can make it, other developing countries can make it too. This is what China's battle against poverty says to the world.

"With a turbulent international landscape, the topic of 'Fight Against Hunger and Poverty' holds significant practical significance," said Osmar Junior, executive secretary of Brazil's Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger.

"President Xi Jinping has led the Chinese people to win the battle against poverty, a remarkable achievement that has drawn global attention. We are eager to learn from China's experience," Junior added.

Henrique Couto da Nóbrega, president of the Brazil-China Friendship Association, stated that China has successfully eradicated absolute poverty through decades of



Local workers harvest foxtail millet in the China-Uganda Agricultural Cooperation Industrial Park in Uganda. (Photo by Long Wenjing)

efforts, enabling people to live better lives.

"China's achievements in poverty alleviation are of global significance, and the Chinese experience is worth learning from for Brazil. Deepening cooperation in this field between Brazil and China will further promote the common development of the two countries," Nóbrega said.

Hayati Nufus, a researcher at the Research Center for Politics BRIN in Indonesia, pointed out that targeted poverty alleviation proposed by Xi is a crucial concept. By imple-

menting tailored poverty alleviation measures based on local conditions, different groups are provided with customized poverty alleviation solutions. During this summit, China actively supported the establishment of a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. China's ideas and actions contribute to enhancing the capacity building of developing countries, Nufus said.

Nasser Bouchiba, president of the Africa-China Cooperation Association for Development in Morocco, stated, "As an important member of

the Global South, China, on the G20 platform, calls for the construction of a just world of common development. It demonstrated the sense of responsibility of a major country. Through initiatives such as the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and the three major global initiatives, China has built bridges for cooperation among Global South countries."

China actively shares experiences, provides technology, and is committed to ensuring that innovative achievements benefit the Global South, enabling more people in de-

veloping countries to lead better lives, Bouchiba added.

"A key factor behind China's success is its ability, rooted in its own history and experience, to resonate with the needs of developing nations, which make up the majority of the global community," said Charbel Barakat, head of Foreign Desk at Aljarida newspaper in Kuwait. He pointed out that by taking a series of measures to promote common development, China has provided strong support for the better development of a large number of developing countries.

China's eight actions for global development outlined by Xi this time include supporting international cooperation on poverty reduction and food security. In response to this, Victor Otazu, a potato expert from Peru who was honored with the Friendship Award by the Chinese government, said, "Many regions around the world are still suffering from poverty, and the causes of poverty reduction and food security are of great significance in improving people's lives."

The Global Development Initiative proposed by Xi focuses on addressing real-world issues, and is bound to have a profound impact globally, Otazu said.

Matangi Tisa Village in Kenya's Nakuru County is designated as the country's first demonstration village for China-Africa agricultural development and poverty reduction. It is currently under construction.

Dennis Munene Mwaniki, executive director of the China-Africa Center at the Africa Policy Institute, stated that China has enabled hundreds of millions of people to get rid of poverty, which is a great achievement.

China is actively engaging in cooperation with Africa through platforms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, assisting in Africa's modernization efforts, from which many Kenyan people have benefited, he said. He believes that China's advancement in modernization will provide more momentum for global development.

Emirates joins the move to -150C coalition

DUBAI

EMIRATES has joined the Move to -150C global coalition, securing its place as the first airline to bring its expertise to the initiative.

As a world leader in the transport of perishable goods, Emirates will lend its wealth of knowledge and experience in handling and shipping to the practical application of this potentially industry-changing initiative.

First launched at COP28 hosted in the UAE, the Move to -150C coalition aims to redefine frozen food temperature standards and reduce energy consumption in the frozen food supply chain.

The working hypothesis suggests that a three-degree change in temperature could make a significant environmental impact with no compromise on food quality and safety.

By bringing together cross-industry partners, the coalition will explore the real-world implementation of this research through data sharing, suggested operational revisions, collaborating with members and stakeholders, as well as engaging with policymakers and regulators to educate and advocate.

Perishables represent Emirates SkyCargo's largest business unit by tonnage, with 900 to 1,000 tonnes of fresh food travelling around the world on Emirates' flights every day.

While frozen foods may represent a small percentage, the airline has built outstanding cool chain infrastructure, employed proprietary innovations and established strong working relationships across the supply chain that would provide key insight when reimagining the frozen food supply chain.

Dennis Lister, Senior Vice President of Product and Innovation, Emirates SkyCargo said, "We have long been leaders in the movement of perishable food, connecting the global agricultural community with their customers across the globe and delivering freshness you can taste."

The Move to -150C coalition is a future-looking concept, bringing together likeminded partners to evolve the industry in line with current advancements in technology, equipment, facilities, packaging and more. We are excited to offer our insight and expertise to help shape the next phase of food logistics while driving meaningful environmental impact."

Thomas Eskesen, Chairman of the Move to -15°C Coalition, says, "We are excited to welcome Emirates to our Coalition. The airline industry plays a vital role in the global cold chain, and having a leading airline like Emirates on board represents a key step forward to us."

"Ambitious climate action across the complex frozen food supply chain - which includes food production, ports, shipping, road, rail and air freight, cold storage and retail - can only happen through cross-sector collaboration. By joining the Coalition, Emirates is demonstrating that change is possible through industries joining forces."

The Move to -15°C coalition was established in 2023, following the launch of the Three Degrees of Change report, an academic paper supported by global logistics firm, DP World, and delivered by experts from the Paris-based International Institute of Refrigeration, the University of Birmingham, and London South Bank University, among others.



Ambitious climate action across the complex frozen food supply chain – which includes food production, ports, shipping, road, rail and air freight, cold storage and retail – can only happen through cross-sector

SPORT

Athletes now claim they see climate change as threatening their sports and health

By DORANY PINEDA and MICHAEL PHILLIS

PRAGNYA Mohan has been a professional triathlete for nearly a decade, but summers in her native India are now so hot that she can't train there anymore. She escaped the heat to train in the United Kingdom, but worries about a day when a warming world kills her sport entirely.

American discus thrower Sam Mattis described temperatures as high as 44 Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) at the 2021 U.S. Olympic trials in Eugene, Oregon, causing some fans, officials and athletes to pass out. And New Zealand soccer player Katie Rood recalled training in heat chambers to prepare for the Tokyo Olympics, and warmups cut short in high heat and humidity.

All three spoke at the United Nations climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan to talk about the threat that climate change poses to them, to fans and to sport itself. With billions of fans worldwide, they're among athletes and leagues trying to get more people to care, and act, on climate change.

"In the future, if climate change is not addressed and is not thoughtfully handled, triathlons can cease to exist," Mohan said at a panel discussion.

It's not all about heat. Mohan noted this year's Paris Olympics had to delay some triathlon events because heavy rains – which have increased as a warming atmosphere holds more water – contributed to high bacteria levels in the Seine River.

Some top soccer clubs have gotten together in a climate action alliance aimed at reducing emissions and inspiring fans to act on climate change. One of those is La Liga club Real Betis. Rafael Muela Pastor, general manager of the club's foundation, said at another panel in Baku that soccer is "the most powerful and massive sport in the world" and it's crucial that "we have to do something."

"We have a super power and we have a responsibility with that," he said.

Leslie Mabon, a lecturer on environmental systems at the United Kingdom's Open University, said athletes can raise awareness on issues like global warming, but the most transformative activism often comes from elsewhere.

"I do think athletes can move the needle, but sometimes it's away from the very highest levels," said Mabon. "The financial implications of what's at stake do make it very difficult, and particularly the governing bodies – the leagues, the FIFAs of this world – it's very hard to get them to take action."

FIFA – the governing body for world soccer – was unmoved by concerns about heat and human rights in holding the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, a country criticized for its treatment of migrant workers, among other issues. And at times, outwardly positive actions from sports leaders can be little more than greenwashing.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino attended COP29 and posted on Instagram about extending a partnership with Pacific Island nations to foster "climate-resilient football development" and raise awareness about climate change. That came just months after FIFA signed a sponsorship deal with Saudi Arabia's state oil giant Aramco.

Women soccer players from around the world signed an open letter urging FIFA to end the deal, citing both the country's record on the rights of women and LGBTQ+ people and the impact of fossil fuel production on climate change.

FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for

comment from The Associated Press.

"It's very hard for anything that comes from the top levels to be taken seriously or to be taken credibly when you still have these kind of deals in place," Mabon said.

Climate change is also making sports more expensive and widening disparities. Jessica Murfree, assistant professor of sport administration at the University of North Carolina, said athletes will have to travel farther and spend more to train and compete as some places become incompatible with sport because it's too hot or there isn't enough snow.

"That's going to have a massive impact on athletes and athlete hopefuls," she said. "It drives a bigger socioeconomic wedge between the haves and the have-nots, which then becomes a justice issue."

Sports are seeking to adapt to a hotter planet. Sometimes competitions get moved to different places, or starting times get shifted to cooler parts of the day. Then there's technology: Qatar spent billions to air-condition stadiums at its World Cup to keep fans and players cool.

But sports can't air-condition its way out of the climate crisis, said Rood, the New Zealand soccer player.

The energy it requires "is a huge cost to the environment," she said in an interview, adding: "It's not just the isolated events that happen once or twice a year. It's the training and the lead-up ... those conditions can't necessarily be created every time."

And that's concerning for Tina Muir, a former elite runner from the United Kingdom who talks about the threat of climate change through the business she founded, Running for Real. Athletes are conditioned to push themselves beyond their limits, she said.

"It's going to be almost like a war of attrition for many athletes," Muir said. "It's who can handle these tough conditions the most. ... but also becomes a bit of a safety game, being able to tough it out but doing long-term damage to yourself in the process."

“

I do think athletes can move the needle, but sometimes it's away from the very highest levels," said Mabon. "The financial implications of what's at stake do make it very difficult, and particularly the governing bodies – the leagues, the FIFAs of this world – it's very hard to get them to take action"



Indian triathlete Pragnya Mohan, from left, David Rudisha, former Kenyan runner, and Katie Rood, New Zealand soccer player, attend a session on sports for climate action during the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit, Monday, Nov. 18, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. (AP Photo)

SPORTS

Tanzanian football pleasingly on the up and up



Taifa Stars squad against Guinea.

By Lloyd Elipokea

WITH countless Tanzanians still basking in the glory of the Taifa Stars' brilliant qualification for the 2025 AFCON, it goes without saying that there is a feel-good factor among Tanzanians across the length and breadth of our great country.

Following the Taifa Stars' splendid exertions to seal a spot at the AFCON finals next year, in the end, it all came down to one final testing battle against Guinea last Tuesday in what turned out to be a real cliffhanger.

With three points up for grabs, both sides resolutely started the football contest at the stately Benjamin Mkapa stadium in Dar es Salaam knowing fully well that a win for the victors would clinch qualification for the AFCON and that a loss would spell doom for the unfortunate losing team.

Since the first half ended scoreless, the Taifa Stars came out in the second half with a steely determination to net that much-needed opening goal in what was a dicey encounter.

In the 61st minute of the nail-biting matchup, a near-perfectly weighted cross from Mudathir Yahya unerringly flew to Simon Msuva, who spectacularly got on the score-sheet with a sublime diving header.

Try as they might, Guinea incredibly tried to net an equalizer but all of their efforts ultimately proved to be in vain.

And, with the sea of ardent Tanzanian football fans in attendance at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium loudly cheering on the Stars, the final whistle blew at last, which prompted the home fans to enter into a state of euphoria.

Speaking of jubilation, there are good grounds to believe that we are progressing in an extremely promising fashion where our football is concerned.

Lest we forget, it should be noted that our senior national women's football team, who are affectionately dubbed the Twiga Stars, sewed up their qualification for the elite 2025 Women's AFCON (WAFCON) finals earlier this year.

In addition, the national men's under-20 football team magnificently outplayed our fierce East African rivals to wonderfully qualify for the 2025 Under-20 AFCON.

Therefore, considering that our various national men's and women's football teams will be vying for top honours on different fronts, it may not be jumping the gun to believe that 2025 could well be an Annus Mirabilis for Tanzanian football.

Still on football, our two local

behemoths, Young Africans SC and Simba SC are presently undergoing intense training for their opening group stage clashes in the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederations Cup respectively.

For Young Africans' part, the Jangwani Street-based football outfit will be seeking to return to winning ways after their brief run of two straight defeats before the international break.

Indeed, those unwanted losses for Young Africans compelled the club's upper echelons of leadership to give the team's ex coach Miguel Gamondi the heave-ho.

Following the dismissal of Gamondi, Young Africans hired the German tactician Sead Ramovic to turn around the team's fortunes.

As for Young Africans' bitter rivals, Simba SC, the Msimbazi Street-based side head confidently into their opening match of the CAF Confederations Cup's Group Stage after topping the Mainland Premier League prior to the international break.

Thus, with both Young Africans SC and Simba SC scheduled to play this week in continental football's greatly esteemed championships, let us hope that both juggernauts prevail in their respective group stage openers.

Pak Stars A thrash Delaware Upanga SC in 2024 TCA Champions League

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

PAK Stars A's cricketers have expressed a desire to get down to a successful outing in the ongoing Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League, having walloped Delaware Upanga SC A by six wickets recently.

Ramesh Alluri led the top-order batsmen into a zealous pursuit of a better score as Delaware Upanga SC went in to bat first in the clash which took place at Leaders Club venue in Dar es Salaam.

The top-order batsmen guided Delaware Upanga SC to secure 154/9 in 20 overs, with Alluri playing a pivotal role in the acquisition of the figure.

He was the batsman with the most runs during his side's turn with the bat, notching a 28-ball 35 and the fellow top-order batsmen equally made their presence count with two digits.

Opening batsman Vikram Rathore garnered 33 runs, whereas Shivani Kamania – who posted 21 runs – and the other opener, Rishen Patel, who posted 11 runs, had the batting squad in control.

Pak Stars A bowling unit led by Younas Afridi attempted to weaken Delaware Upanga SC A batsmen's resolve having sent Prem Thakkar, Dhyye Shah, Omary Ramadhani, and skipper Ashish Kamania back to the pavilion within a short space of time.

Ramadhani ended two runs short of two digits as the cricketer was bowled by Afridi of Pak Stars A in the 16th over.

There was, nevertheless, a late onslaught by low-order batsman Muhammad Sohail (21 runs), whose solid knocks propelled Delaware Upanga SC A to 152/9 by the time the cricketer got out in the 19th over.



Pak Stars A cricketers.

Afridi wound up his four overs with an impressive 4-31 – which had the performer secure a 7.75 economy rate.

Basit Raza and Mohammad Ali also fought to repel the Delaware Upanga SC A batting surge, having taken two wickets apiece.

The Kashif Adnan-led Pak Stars A cricketers were chasing a tricky target but they earnestly reached it convincingly – amassing 157/4 in the 18th over.

The experienced Zafar Khan displayed his batting prowess for Pak Stars A having garnered 44 runs, blasting four fours and two sixes.

Opener Nisar Ahmed earlier had the club getting off to a great start with his 39 runs and had the outfit reaching 55/2 when he was dismissed after 26 balls.

Delaware Upanga SC A's Sohail went for a catch to get Ahmed out from a Rishen Patel delivery.

Hassan Raza (39 runs not out) then forged a solid partnership with Mohammad Ali (three runs not out) to catapult Pak Stars A to the successful chase.

Pafrod Anacet took 2-34 in his four overs when Delaware Upanga SC A fielded. His resoluteness however hardly helped his outfit contain the ruthless Pak Stars A batsmen.

The TCA-organized tournament, involving Division A clubs, is one of the high-profile club events seeking to efficiently develop cricket locally.

Strikers, Pak Stars A, Delaware Upanga SC A, Aga Khan SC, Caravans, Aces A, and Lions A are the teams battling for the silverware in the 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League.

Guardiola says it's his responsibility to get Manchester City firing again

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola said it is his responsibility to get their season back on track after they suffered a fifth successive defeat on Saturday and that the current squad is strong enough to turn things around.

City's 4-0 Premier League defeat to Tottenham Hotspur at Etihad Stadium marked the first time in Guardiola's career that he has lost five games in a row in all competitions.

They have been without a number of key players this season, with Ballon d'Or winner Rodri, midfielder Mateo Kovacic and defender Ruben Dias among those absent due to injury on Saturday.

"We don't expect to lose impor-

tant players for many times, but it's happened. You have to find a way to deal with that ..., " Guardiola told reporters.

"When we start to lose, I said to the people: 'I have to find a way - I have to. We have to find another way to win it.' It's my duty, my responsibility. Find a way to be more consistent and our game will be better, and we will win games."

Asked if City needed to be strengthened in the transfer window, Guardiola added: "I trust more than ever with these players. I think the squad, when all the squad is there, is exceptional, but the team is not ready here."

City are second on 23 points, eight adrift of leaders Liverpool who they meet at Anfield on Sunday. **Reuters**

Slot hails Liverpool's second-half comeback in 3-2 win at Southampton

LIVERPOOL boss Arne Slot praised his team for mounting a second-half comeback in a 3-2 win at Southampton when the Premier League leaders were in danger of losing to the bottom side before Mohamed Salah came to their rescue.

Liverpool were gifted the opener from a Southampton error but failed to capitalise in the first half before the home side took a shock 2-1 lead after the restart. Salah then grabbed a double that took Liverpool eight points clear at the top.

"In the second half I saw the intensity I was looking for in the first half. Southampton make it really difficult for many teams, including top clubs, and they made it difficult today, though we dominated the game completely," Slot told Sky Sports.

"There was not enough urgency to arrive in the box (in the first half), we just kept the ball instead of attacking the box. Although we fell behind in the second half we showed more urgency and intensity.

"That led to numerous chances and eventually two goals. It is tough to create chances against a 4-5-1 low block but we know Southampton want to play out from the back so you have to be really aggressive, if not they have a really good game plan".

Salah's double took him to 10 league goals this season -- two behind top scorer Erling Haaland -- and the Egyptian has scored six goals in his last five league games.

His first goal took Southampton by surprise when all Salah did was take one touch outside the box to let the ball roll past the onrushing keeper and into the net before he scored the winner from the penalty spot.

"If you want to win you need to score goals and we know Mo can score," Slot said.

"For me his first goal is the most important as we scored out of nowhere. Then after that it was just waiting for us to score another."

Slot has now won 10 of his 12 Premier League games in charge of Liverpool in his debut season but he enters arguably his toughest week so far when they host Real Madrid in the Champions League on Wednesday followed by Manchester City next Sunday.

"They are two teams who have dominated football the last few years. So two big games and that's why we needed to win today. That is what I am happy about," Slot said. **Reuters**

Real Madrid boss Ancelotti confident about Mbappe position switch after Leganes win

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti is confident his tactical decision to switch Kylian Mbappe's position in attack paid off after the Frenchman broke his goal drought in Sunday's 3-0 win at Leganes.

The 25-year-old scored his seventh goal of the season, but his position has been the subject of debate since joining the LaLiga champions, as he has struggled to play as a centre-forward.

However, according to Real's boss, a simple change with Brazilian striker Vinicius Jr was all it took for the France international to find the back of the net again.

"Mbappe played on the left side, where he did well, and Vinicius on the inside. We have to highlight their play to open the scoring. They did very, very well. Mbappe scored, after a fantastic assist from Vinicius. Little by little, they're both improving," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"Kylian is more used to playing there and today, for the team and for him, it was the best thing. Because playing on the outside brings more effort and Vinicius was back on Thursday. Meanwhile, Kylian had been training here for a week and a half, he was fresher," the coach added.

Mbappe was not called up for France during the international break, despite being the team captain, while Vinicius played in Brazil's two matches in the South American World Cup qualifiers earlier this month.

With an injury crisis at the back and a trip to Anfield to face Premier League and Champions League leaders Liverpool on the horizon, Ancelotti added he was hopeful of Lucas Vazquez, who has a hamstring strain, and Aurelien Tchouameni, who is recovering from a sprained left ankle, returning to action.

He was also upbeat about the contribution of Uruguayan Federico Valverde, who scored from a free-kick while playing in a different position.

"The truth is that Fede, at the back, has done very well. He's a fantastic fullback. After Dani Carvajal and Lucas Vazquez, the best right-back in the world. His problem is that he can play at this level in many positions and is the coach's problem to choose the best position for the team.

"Let's see if Lucas and Tchouameni can recover. If not, we will make decisions," the manager said.

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe believes he is finally getting up to speed with his Real Madrid teammates after scoring in a 3-0 LaLiga win at Leganes on Sunday.

Mbappe, who had played in a central attacking role since joining from Paris St Germain, went four games without scoring in all competitions before netting the opener against Leganes.

The 25-year-old was moved back to his preferred position on the left and combined well with fellow attacker Vinicius Jr, who set up Mbappe's goal. **Reuters**

No utopia for Man Utd as Amorim gets close-up view of challenge ahead

WHEN Manchester United scored 81 seconds into Ruben Amorim's first game as head coach Sky Sports commentator Peter Drury described the moment as utopian.

Amorim himself barely celebrated Marcus Rashford's close-range effort though and simply sipped from his water bottle.

The Portuguese knew full well there was still a long way to go, not just in the game, but also on the road to turning around the fortunes of England's most successful club.

Struggling Ipswich duly equalised and were perhaps the better side in a 1-1 Premier League draw at Portman Road.

For all the early hysteria among the travelling United fans in Suffolk, Amorim was given a close-up view of exactly how much work he has in front of him.

Former United captain Roy Keane said that for all talk of a 'temporary bounce' effect, there was precious little evidence on the pitch that the squad Amorim has inherited is good enough.

"It was all very positive before the game, but when it started it was the same old stuff," Keane told Sky Sports. "Predictable and a real lack of quality."

Amorim, whose impressive work at Sporting in Portugal convinced United's hierarchy to appoint him in the wake of Erik ten Hag's exit, was warmly applauded by the United fans after the final whistle. But they know patience will be required.

The 39-year-old has had just a few days working with the whole squad because of the international break and admitted that getting his philosophy, including his preferred 3-4-3 system across to the players, will not be a smooth process.

"I learned today that it's a tough league," Amorim, who took Sporting to the Portuguese title last season, told Sky Sports.

"I think my players were thinking too much during the game. You could feel it. When you start the game like this you score one goal but then you have to control the tempo of the game.

"We have two ways. Just try to



Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim reacts during their Premier League match against Ipswich Town at Portman Road, in Ipswich, Britain on November 24, 2024. **REUTERS**

win games and don't risk anything at this moment and I guarantee this time next year we will have the same problem. From the first moment, the players will have problems, be confused sometimes but we have to address new ideas and try to be better in the next year.

"We will learn things about the players but will need a lot of time to work out these things."

The statistics, according to Opta, showed that Manchester United's players ran a combined 102km against Ipswich, their second-lowest total this season -- a stark contrast to his hard-running, high-energy Sporting team that thrashed Manchester City in the Champions League earlier this month.

"They are confused a little bit but we've had only two days of training. We have to understand the data to see what happened in the game. We have to be so much better physically."

Amorim expressed himself eloquently as he chatted to the Sky Sports analysts, although he declared that he will be happy when

the talking can stop and he can focus solely on helping United start to climb the table from their current 12th place.

"This week I spoke more than four years with Sporting," he said. "And if you speak too much and don't win it's really hard for everybody. I want to work with my players and nothing more but I understand that this is a different game here."

Meanwhile, Ipswich Town must have been wondering how much harder it would get when they failed to win in their first 10 Premier League games but four points from their last two matches against Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United have calmed the nerves.

The Blues, playing in the Premier League for the first time in 22 years, served notice they could put up a fight at the top level when they claimed their first league win of the campaign with a 2-1 success at Spurs before the international break and on Sunday they followed up with a 1-1 draw at home to United.

The visitors arrived with Ruben

Amorim in charge for the first time but the new manager bounce failed to materialise in the late game at Portman Road as the hosts made it difficult for the Portuguese coach's new charges to build on an early lead.

That came after 81 seconds from Marcus Rashford but Ipswich refused to lay down and took the game to United as they sought an equaliser that came before half-time from Omari Hutchinson. They were well worth a share of the points in a close contest.

"We could have won the game for sure. We finished the first half in big ascendancy and on the balance (of play) we probably deserved to be at least level but probably ahead," said Ipswich manager Kieran McKenna.

"The second half was really competitive - we had a couple of big chances but we had to defend a lot as well. United had some good control and we had to be disciplined in our defending. We take the positives and we move on."

Ipswich are still the only Premier League club without a home win this season but on this evidence it is a matter of time before they put that straight with matches against Crystal Palace and Bournemouth to come next month at Portman Road.

"We've got some good young players, there's no doubt about that, who are improving and of course we've got some top senior players as well who are stepping up to the Premier League and getting stronger every week," added McKenna.

The Ipswich manager worked at the Tottenham and United academies and was assistant to Jose Mourinho at Old Trafford so he will be especially pleased at his side's last two results although they will need more of the same to escape relegation.

Sunday's hard-earned draw left them third-bottom with nine points from 12 games before visiting Nottingham Forest next Saturday, although they are only three points behind 14th-placed West Ham United, who visit Newcastle United on Monday. **Reuters**

Ranieri optimistic despite starting third Roma stint with Napoli defeat

AS Roma manager Claudio Ranieri praised his team's hunger and determination as he began his third stint in charge at the club with a narrow 1-0 Serie A defeat at Napoli on Sunday.

Ranieri (pictured), who came out of retirement to take the reins at Roma, saw his side suffer defeat courtesy of a goal from Romelu Lukaku, who played for the capital club last season.

The 73-year-old agreed to take charge of his childhood club until the end of the season after Roma sacked their second manager of the campaign earlier this month.

"If we look back, we have some problems and that is why I was called. We were up against a team that is fighting to win the Scudetto," Ranieri told Sky Sport Italia.

"Having said all of that, I am happy with the performance from my players. We made some mistakes that we will talk about during the week, but the hunger, the determination to get back on track was there.

"We have a lot of work to do, but I feel positive."

Ranieri has a challenging task ahead with Roma in 12th place on 13 points, 16 behind leaders Napoli.

"We know there is work to be done, we have to focus on reacting rather than sitting there feeling sorry for ourselves," Ranieri said.

"They (players) need the right character to help themselves and then others. Naturally, when I arrived, the team was a little closed up, but I think we started to open up a bit by the second half."

Roma will next play at Tottenham Hotspur in the Europa League on Thursday, before hosting Atalanta in Serie A on Dec. 2.

Meanwhile, Napoli manager Antonio Conte stressed the importance of focusing on the team's improvement rather than on their position in the



Serie A standings after his side climbed back to the top with a narrow win over AS Roma on Sunday.

Conte's side secured a 1-0 win at home against Roma, with Romelu Lukaku scoring a second-half sliding tap-in.

A victory was needed to reclaim the Serie A lead after Napoli dropped points following

a 1-1 draw with Inter Milan and a 3-0 home defeat to Atalanta. However, Conte emphasised that this was not part of the match preparation.

"Before the match, I told the lads not to look at the table, but to focus on ourselves and improving what we are working on," Conte told Sky Sport Italia. **Reuters**

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

No utopia for Man Utd as Amorim gets close-up view of challenge ahead

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Aussems bemoans missed chances as Singida Black Stars stumble in Tabora



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SINGIDA Black Stars head coach Patrick Aussems has expressed frustration over his team's inability to capitalize on opportunities during their 2-2 draw against Tabora United in the NBC Premier League.

The match, played at the Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora, saw Singida Black Stars drop from second to fourth place in the league standings, with 24 points from 12 games.

Speaking after the game, the Belgian gaffer (pictured) highlighted the need for clinical finishing.

"We had a strong start, taking an early lead, but our inability to convert chances cost us the win," Aussems said.

"This is football, but we must work on eliminating such mistakes as we prepare for our next match against Azam FC."

Despite creating numerous scoring opportunities, Singida Black Stars failed to secure all three points, a shortcoming the coach said would be addressed in training.

"Our objective was to climb higher in the table, but we lacked focus in crucial moments. That cost us dearly," he added.

The match, initially scheduled for November 24, was postponed due to adverse weather. Despite the delay, the game was an intense, action-packed affair.

Singida Black Stars started strongly, with Elvis Rupia opening the scoring in the 16th minute. Anthony Tra Bi Tra doubled their advantage in the 32nd minute, giving the visitors a 2-0 lead.

Tabora United, however, mounted a spirited comeback. Yacouba Songne halved the deficit just before halftime, scoring in added time of the first half (45+1).

Heritier Makambo then equalized in the 49th minute, completing the fightback for the home side.

Songne, instrumental in Tabora United's resurgence, consistently troubled the Singida Black Stars defense.

His energetic display earned him the Man of the Match accolade, despite being substituted in the 68th minute due to an injury.

Tabora United head coach Anicet Azayidi commended his team's determination.

"I'm proud of my players for their fighting spirit. After conceding two quick goals, they regrouped and showed great resilience to earn a point," Azayidi said.

While acknowledging Singida Black Stars' dominance in the second half, Azayidi credited his team's defensive organization and effective counterattacks for the result.

"We'll use this performance to identify and address our weaknesses as we prepare for the next match against KMC," he added.

The draw had significant implications for both teams. Singida Black Stars, aiming to reclaim second place, dropped to fourth with 24 points. Tabora United moved up to fifth, with 18 points, surpassing Fountain Gate FC, who have 17 points.

Singida Black Stars face a challenging test in their next match against Azam FC, while Tabora United will look to build on their momentum in an away fixture against KMC.

The match underscored the fiercely competitive nature of the NBC Premier League, where consistency and the ability to seize opportunities are critical for success.

As the season progresses, both teams will aim to capitalize on their strengths and secure vital points to bolster their campaigns.

CAF sanctions MC Alger: A boost for Yanga ahead of CAF CL showdown

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has issued strict sanctions against Algerian club MC Alger following unsporting behaviour by their fans during a CAF Champions League group stage qualifying match against Tunisia's US Monastir.

The sanctions, announced by the CAF Disciplinary Committee under Decision DC23173 on November 24, 2024, include a ban on fans attending MC Alger's next four home matches in the competition.

This decision offers a potential advantage for Tanzania's Young Africans SC, who are scheduled to face MC Alger in one of these fan-less games.

MC Alger has also been fined \$50,000 (approximately TZS 132.5 million), payable within 60 days.

The club faces stricter monitoring over the next 12 months, with the ban becoming final only if no further violations occur during this period.

The disciplinary measures stem from incidents during MC Alger's 2-0 home victory against US Monastir on September 21, 2024. Although the win secured MC Alger's progression to the CAF Champions League group stage, fan misconduct marred the match, violating CAF's regulations on sportsmanship and respect.

This ruling affects MC Alger's Group A fixtures, including matches against Young Africans (December 7, 2024), Al Hilal (December 14, 2024), and TP Mazembe (January 10, 2025).

For Young Africans, the ruling is a welcome development. The Tanzanian champions have historically faced challenges in Algerian stadiums, where hostile atmospheres and chaotic environments have often undermined their performance.

A notable example was during the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final, when Young Africans won 1-0 at Stade du 5 Juillet but lost the title on aggregate amid challenging conditions.

With MC Alger now set to host Young Africans in an empty stadium on December 7, the Tanzanian side stands to benefit from a calmer and less intimidating environment.

This scenario could allow Young Africans to focus entirely on their tactical preparations, potentially improving their chances of securing a positive result.

Young Africans' immediate focus, however, remain on their opening CAF Champions League Group Stage clash against Sudanese giants Al Hilal today at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

A victory would provide a solid foundation ahead of their Algerian test next month.

CAF's sanctions are part of ongoing efforts to maintain the integrity of African football competitions by discouraging fan misconduct.

The governing body emphasized the need for clubs to adhere to competition rules and has warned MC Alger of harsher penalties if similar incidents occur in the future.

"These measures reflect CAF's commitment to promoting clean football values and ensuring the safety and fairness of its competitions," a CAF statement read.

The penalties against MC Alger serve as a strong warning to other clubs across the continent. For Young Africans, they represent an opportunity to compete on a more level playing field as they aim to establish themselves as a dominant force in African football.

As the Tanzanian champions prepare for their Algerian challenge, the absence of MC Alger's fans could be a game-changing factor, offering a rare chance to excel without external disruptions.

But for now, their focus remains on today's showdown with Al Hilal, a critical match that could set the tone for their CAF Champions League campaign.

Sead Ramovic's era begins as Yanga host Al Hilal



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans kick off their CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign this afternoon as they welcome Sudanese giants Al Hilal to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

All eyes will be on Sead Ramovic (pictured), who takes charge of his first match as the head coach of Young Africans, making this an intriguing matchup on both a personal and professional level for the Serbian.

This match against Al Hilal represents more than just a fixture; it's the first step towards ending a painful period of back-to-back defeats suffered in the NBC Premier League prior to the international break.

Kicking off their continental campaign at home, Young Africans find themselves in a position where a victory is crucial. Securing three points not only bolsters their confidence but also injects some much-needed optimism among the supporters.

As the team faces a challenging group stage, the importance of starting strong - particularly on home soil - cannot be overstated.

This fixture brings back memories of Young Africans' loss to Al Hilal, where Florent Ibenge triumphed over Nasreddine Nabi in the preliminary two seasons ago.

Since then, Young Africans have continued their upward trajectory, reaching the CAF Confederation Cup final in 2023 and Champions League quarter-final early this year.

Yet, Ramovic knows his side will face a stern challenge against an Al Hilal squad

that has remained one of the most consistent forces in African football.

"I think we will play against a very strong team. I am sure the game will be intense, proactive and will require a lot of mental and tactical readiness. But I know as a team we have the ability to control the ball and the game and this is our approach. We are ready for a tough battle," he said.

On his part, Al Hilal coach Florent Ibenge, who is known for his tactical approach, said his side is relishing the big game against Young Africans.

"We are going to face a very big opponent. We play away and the stadium will be full. We are happy for that because we are competitors and when you are a competitor you want to play against big teams.

"So, it is an opportunity to play that kind of a big team, big game and we expect we are going to enjoy it," said Ibenge.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



These measures reflect CAF's commitment to promoting clean football values and ensuring the safety and fairness of its competitions