




**National Pg 3**  
US to help Tanzania in sickle cell battle



**National Pg 4**  
INEC provides voter education to OCDs



**National Pg 6**  
'Offer regular training for HR managers'



**Headline inflation, overall price index see mild decline**

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE October 2024 annual headline inflation decreased to 3.0 percent from 3.1 percent recorded in September, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has stated.

A statement issued at the weekend said that the decrease occurred within a trend where the overall commodity value index went up from 112.18 for October 2023 to 115.54 during the past month.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages prices for October 2024 stagnated at 2.5 percent price rise, the same as in September, it asserted, noting that the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended October 2024 was less than what was registered for the year ended September.

Alternatively, annual inflation for all items without food and non-alcoholic beverages for October 2024 slid to 3.2 percent from 3.4 percent recorded in September.

NCPI indicates relatively stable price movement from October 2023 to October 2024, ranging from 112.18 to 115.54, with annual headline inflation over the

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# MSC ship to load 600 containers of cashew



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana lays a wreath at the Dar es Salaam War Cemetery yesterday in marking Remembrance Day. Records show that the site is for 1,764 First World War Commonwealth burials (60 of them unidentified) and 41 from the Second World War (seven of them unidentified). The 112 war graves of other nationalities, the majority of them Belgian and German, all date from the First World War. Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. The day is also marked by war remembrances in several other non-Commonwealth countries. In most countries, the day is observed each November 11 to recall the end of First World War hostilities. Photo: Correspondent Happy Shayo

*"We are committed to ensuring that Mtwara Port becomes a key gateway for cashew exports and other cargo from the southern regions and beyond"*

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

A SHIP operated by the Mediterranean Shipping Co. is expected to load 600 containers and depart the next day, making way for other ships to load cashews, the port management here has said.

Ferdinand Nyathi, the port manager, made this observation before regional commissioner Col. Patrick Sawala, who visited the port at the end of the week to inspect the port's capacity to handle cashew exports.

The port is equipped with robust systems to ensure reliable operations, he said, asserting that 11 ships had already been serviced with 6,222 containers received, 1,000 of which are already loaded with cashews.

The RC issued an appeal to cashew crop buyers to remove the crop stored in warehouses and transport the cargo to the port for export from there, where the port manager said stuffing operations are being pursued inside and outside the port.

The port has a handling capacity of 2m metric tons per year, accommodating large vessels of up to 240 meters long, "with sufficient draft depth for any large ship," he stated.

Cashew exports accounts for just a part of the total cargo handled as last year the port managed 1.7m tonnes of cargo, where cashews represented 253,000 tonnes, he said.

The president visited the port to inspect its refurbishment and instructed that all cashew harvests from the southern regions be transported through Mtwara port, he recalled.

The Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) was implemented this directive, he said, while Francis Alfred, director for the Cashew Board of Tanzania (CBT), said that the 2024/2025 season started with success and is now in its seventh week.

"So far, cashew production and sales have reached 261,796,808 tonnes, valued at 999bn/-," he stated, not


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**SPORTS**



**TAIFA STARS COACH MOROCCO CONFIDENT AHEAD OF CRUCIAL AFCON QUALIFIERS**

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**HOW A TRUMP PRESIDENCY COULD IMPACT THE 2026 WORLD CUP**

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# Get the vote out, PM tells party leaderships

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on leaders of political parties participating in the civic polls to be champions in maintaining peace and condemn any incitement for unrest.

The premier made this appeal at the general assembly and symposium on the importance of peace ahead of the local government elections, urging that party leaders encourage their members and supporters to participate in the polls.

They also need to prioritize the preservation of peace and harmony, he said, remarking that all those registered on the local government elec-

tion voter list ought to turn up to cast their ballots at respective polling stations on Wednesday, November 27.

"This day will be observed as a special public holiday for voting purposes," he stated at an event organized by the Shia Muslim community, reiterating appeals by President Samia Suluhu Hassan that religious leaders need to persist in promoting peace.

Party leaders need to motivate their members to participate in the election in like manner as upholding peace, he said, stressing that every eligible Tanzanian should turn out to vote to elect local lead-

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**I am a true witness to the initiatives of the Shia community to ensure Tanzania's peace and security continue to strengthen**

# Ministry, tourism stakeholders to hold blue, green economy summit

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TOURISM and environmental activists, with the participation of the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry, are organising what is billed to be a ground breaking tourism policy reform summit later this week.

Lathifa Sykes, the Tourism Confederation of Tanzania (TCT) chief executive officer, told a press conference here yesterday that summit is being organised in partnership with the government and an Environment Now activist group, themed 'Blue and green: Making the most of Tanzania's coast and hinterland ecosystems,' in the commercial capital on Thursday and Friday.

The stakeholder summit promises to be a major step in shaping the future of sustainable tourism, aligning with the envisaged Vision 2050 development goals, she said.

Public and private sector institutions and entities will get a platform to discuss strategies for enhancing the tourism industry while ensuring sustainability, environmental protection and socio-economic growth are at the heart of the discussion.

"With the country's rich natural landscapes like the coastal areas and hinterlands, the event will focus on exploring sustainable approaches to tourism development that can

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## Headline inflation, overall price index in mild decline

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same period remaining stable at around 3.0 to 3.2 percent, it says.

Monthly CPI values from September to October decreased from 115.88 to 115.54 with overall index decrease attributed to the price decreases on a range of items, it stated.

Wheat grains prices slid by 0.9 percent, rice by 1.7 percent, sorghum grains by 0.9 percent, wheat flour by 0.6 percent, oils and fats by 0.2 percent.

Others declining prices were registered for vegetables by 3.4 percent, round potatoes by 2.6 percent, sweet potatoes by 0.5 percent, fresh cassava by 7.2 percent, cocoyams by 4.4 percent, cooking bananas by 5.1

percent, dry cassava by 1.9 percent as well as cassava flour by 4.1 percent and sugar by 1.1 percent.

Price decrease for non-food items included women garments by 0.3 percent, men footwear by 0.1 percent, housing maintenance materials by 0.2 percent and kerosene by 3.0 percent.

Others noticed in the trend are firewood by 2.4 percent, wood charcoal by 1.2 percent, household furniture by 0.1 percent, diesel by 4.7 percent, petrol by 3.8 percent, laptop computers by 0.2 percent, television sets by 0.2 percent aside from entrance fees for recreation, sport and culture by 0.1 percent on average, it added.

## Ministry, tourism stakeholders to hold blue, green economy summit

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both preserve the environment and drive economic growth," she stated.

A broad spectrum of government entities will be involved, in a collaborative approach to shaping the future of tourism in the country, she said, listing the sector ministry, the Treasury, the revenue authority and investment centre among other key stakeholders.

The various entities will contribute to high-level discussions on what is needed in tourism regulatory reforms, tax policies and widening investment opportunities in tourism, she stated.

The sector minister will for instance offer valuable insights into the country's tourism strategy in relation to sustainable development, she said, hinting at a collective undertaking to be unveiled at the event.

The undertaking is a forward-thinking initiative designed to guide the future of sustainable tourism development, where delegates will engage in extensive reflections on challenges and opportunities on the issues.

They are expected to cover infrastructure, investment and environmental conservation, leveraging the newly designed collective initiative, she explained.

Tourism sector stakeholders will be in a position to interact directly with the tax authorities and project registration officials to address concerns around investment, taxation and regulatory issues, she stated.

This practical platform will support business growth and adopting best practices, with the confederation chieftain affirming that the summit would take up issues of environmental, social inclusion and governance -ESG- principles.

## Get the vote out, PM tells party leaderships

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ers. They are a crucial link in community harmony, locally based officials like village chairmen, street leaders, sub-village leaders and village government or neighbourhood committee members.

"Remember, voting is a constitutional right and duty of every Tanzanian," he stated, acknowledging the significant contributions of religious denominations and institutions in fostering the civic ethos.

He expressed acute regard for their spiritual influence and the

contributions they make in the realisation of government efforts to deliver accessible social services to the people.

Sheikh Alhad Musa Salum, the chairman of the Inter-Religious Peace Committee of Tanzania, in his remarks praised the religious community for its efforts in canvassing for privileging peace and stability in the country.

"I am a true witness to the initiatives of the Shia community to ensure Tanzania's peace and security continue to strengthen," the veteran organiser declared.

## EABC, partners drill youth traders on AfCFTA market

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC), Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) have conducted a training workshop for 40 Tanzanian youth traders.

Supported by GIZ, the session focused on equipping participants with knowledge on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Trade in Goods Protocol, particularly in regard to the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) annexes.

Lazaro Msasalaga, TBS Director of Quality Management commended the EABC for organizing the workshop, noting the vital role it plays in addressing compliance issues that impact SMEs and hinder intra-EAC trade. He affirmed the Tanzanian government's commitment to providing essential infrastructure to support Annexes 6 and 7 of AfCFTA Proto-

col on Trade in Goods.

Mercy Sila, President of Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce and Goodwill Ambassador for EABC, highlighted the importance of compliance with regional and international trade standards.

Sila reinforced the significance of sustained collaboration among EABC, TPSF, SMEs and youth traders.

She urged young traders to capitalize on the market opportunities AfCFTA presents and emphasized the importance of meeting regulatory standards to boost cross-border trade.

Moses Kanyesigye, EABC Regional Coordinator, encouraged participants to broaden their trade scope beyond EAC to the wider African market. He advised SMEs to utilize EABC's e-commerce and SME platform to showcase their products continent-wide, stressing the benefits of partnerships for business expansion.



Mtwara Port manager Ferdinand Nyathi (C) briefs Mtwara regional commissioner Col Patrick Sawala, who toured the facility at the weekend. Left is Mtwara district commissioner Abdallah Mwaipaya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## MSC ship to load 600 containers of cashew

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enough ships available for transporting the tonnage," he said, highlighting that so far, 157.8bn/- has been invested in constructing a new 300-metre-long berth at the port.

This berth, with a water depth of 13 metres, is capable of accommodating ships up to 230 metres long and handling bulk carriers with a deadweight capacity of up to 65,000 tonnes.

The new infrastructure in-

cludes a 75,807-square-metre yard that can store up to 8,600 twenty-foot containers on a rotating basis annually, he said, noting that the port's cargo handling capacity has grown significantly in recent years.

During fiscal 2022/2023 the port handled 1.629m metric tons of cargo, a massive increase compared to 106,170 tonnes recorded for fiscal 2018/2019, he said, highlighting that fiscal 2023/24 saw

the port handle 1.7m tonnes and the target for this year is within the 1.7m tonnes range, with 10,000 tonnes more to the mark.

"We are committed to ensuring that Mtwara Port becomes a key gateway for cashew exports and other cargo from the southern regions and beyond," he said. The goal is to handle all exports efficiently thus succeed to attract more import and export business to the port, he added.



USAID Breakthrough ACTION programme manager Mark Lwakare (L) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at an exhibition held in Arusha city on the sidelines of a recent national health conference. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## DC wants chemical users to mind safety

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

CHUNYA District Commissioner Mbaraka Batenga has urged chemical users to strictly adhere to safety regulations in order to mitigate the risks and harmful effects associated with improper handling.

Batenga made the call here at the weekend during opening of a training session on safe chemical management organised by the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) Southern Highlands office.

"Chemicals are widely used in mining and mineral processing and they must be handled and stored with the utmost care to prevent harm to users, animals and the environment," he said.

He commended GCLA for organising the training, recognising the vital role mining plays in the country's economic devel-

opment.

He also encouraged the authority to continue providing educational programmes, noting that many stakeholders across various sectors are still involved in chemical-related activities.

Elias Mulima, GCLA Southern Highlands Zone Manager, urged participants to become ambassadors of chemical safety within their communities. He also invited those unable to attend the session to participate in future ones as trainings are regular. "We will continue offering training sessions to ensure that chemicals are used safely, protecting both users and surrounding communities from potential harm," he said.

Omary Hamisi, representative from Small-Scale Miners Association in Chunya, expressed gratitude to GCLA for equipping them with crucial knowledge on safe

chemical practices.

He highlighted the valuable insights gained on chemical regulations, safety symbols and proper storage and handling of hazardous substances.

GCLA was established by the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority Act No. 8 of 2016 and became operational in June 2022. It is tasked with managing and controlling production, importation, transportation, exportation, storage, sale and disposal of chemicals as well as provision of forensic laboratory services.

Its core functions include ensuring safety and quality of agricultural and industrial products, conducting laboratory analyses for cases involving toxicology and DNA and offering expert advice to the government on forensic science matters such as illicit drugs, toxicology and environmental management.



Solicitor General Dr Ally Possi (L, facing camera) and the President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Judge Imani Daud Aboud (to his left) pictured at the court's headquarters in Arusha city at the weekend while on official duties. The court, which holds four ordinary sessions each year, is one of two continental bodies charged with protecting human rights in Africa and interpreting the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter). Its counterpart, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, has a more expansive mandate. Photo courtesy of East African Community secretariat

By Correspondent James Kandoya

## US pledges support in fight against sickle cell disease with focus on early diagnosis

THE United States has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Tanzania in the fight against sickle cell disease with focus on improving early diagnosis and access to affordable treatment.

The renewed pledge responds to alarming statistics showing that 7 percent of Tanzanian children under five die from the disease annually, underscoring the urgent need for intensified efforts to combat its impact on young lives.

US Ambassador to Tanzania Michael Battle made the pledge last weekend during a visit to Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) to strengthen collaboration in addressing sickle cell disease, a critical public health challenge in Tanzania.

"Saving the life of a child with sickle cell is not just saving an individual, it's saving entire communities," he said. "Together, we can ensure that children with sickle cell

disease live healthier lives and ultimately we can work to eliminate the disease."

Battle highlighted the role of influential leaders like former President Jakaya Kikwete in raising awareness and leading efforts against sickle cell, citing Kikwete's personal experience with the disease as a valuable asset. He also emphasized the need to work with global pharmaceutical companies to make essential medications such as Hydroxyurea more affordable and accessible in Tanzania.

Dr Irene Minja, Co-Principal Investigator at the Sickle Cell Programme, outlined key initiatives, including the "Break the Cycle" campaign which educates young people on sickle cell genetics before marriage. Early education, she noted, helps reduce the risk of

passing on the sickle cell trait as 13 to 20 percent of Tanzanians carry the gene.

Dr Minja stressed the importance of early testing and treatment with Hydroxyurea, a crucial medication that prevents infections and complications. She advocated for making the medicine available for free similar to antiretroviral drugs for HIV.

Dr. Minja also highlighted that over 1,000 Tanzanian doctors have been trained on sickle cell care through MUHAS.

Dr. Agnes Jonathan, Sickle Cell Programme Manager at MUHAS, thanked the US government for its support and praised Battle's commitment to reducing sickle cell-related deaths in Tanzania.

"Tanzania is one of the hardest-hit countries, with 7 percent of chil-

dren under five dying from sickle cell disease annually. Between 11,000 and 14,000 children are born with it each year," she said.

Dr. Jonathan underscored the importance of raising public awareness to reduce mortality rates and ensure timely care, noting Tanzania is the fifth country globally affected by the disease.

Ongoing efforts include a newborn screening programme in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, with plans for expansion to ensure early diagnosis and immediate treatment. Dr. Jonathan proposed integrating sickle cell screening into routine maternal and child health services at clinics.

"With continued support, we can reduce the burden of this disease and ultimately work toward its elimination," she said.

## Contractors' association appeals to govt to clear tardy members' debt

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania United Contractors and Allied Services Association (TUCASA) has urged the government to address significant overdue payments owed to many of its members.

Samuel Marwa, TUCASA Chairman, said in a statement yesterday that the delayed payments, linked to government contracts that have been completed, have severely impacted the operations and financial stability of numerous companies, threatening the future of Tanzania's construction and supply sectors.

"TUCASA's members include contractors, construction material suppliers and equipment providers, all of whom have met their obligations in good faith by delivering essential infrastructure projects and supplying critical materialism," he said.

He said despite fulfilling their responsibilities, the businesses have faced prolonged delays in receiving payment from the government, with some waiting for years.

"The situation is becoming increasingly unsustainable as contractors are burdened with rising costs from unpaid bank loans, mounting interests and growing pressure from other creditors. The consequences of the overdue payments are severe," he said.

Marwa detailed that many contractors currently struggle to meet their financial obligations with some companies facing insolvency or being forced to consider liquidation.

In addition, in an effort to reduce operational costs, many companies have been forced to lay off workers, leading to significant job losses and economic hardship for many Tanzanian families.

"With insufficient cash flow to sustain their operations, several companies are at risk of shutting down, which threatens the future

of Tanzania's construction industry and the availability of reliable infrastructure services. The current crisis forces companies to make difficult decisions just to survive," he said.

Marwa said that without immediate intervention from the government, the consequences will extend far beyond individual businesses and affect the broader Tanzanian economy, including jobs, livelihoods and key national development projects.

"TUCASA urges the government to act swiftly to release the funds owed to contractors and suppliers. This is not only critical for the survival of individual companies but also for the stability of Tanzania's infrastructure and protection of jobs for thousands of Tanzanians," he said.

He further called for the government to establish a clear and transparent timeline for disbursing the overdue funds and implement measures to prevent similar delays in future contracts.

He said TUCASA remains committed to working with government agencies to find a viable solution that secures the future of Tanzania's construction industry and provide relief to struggling businesses and their employees.

Last week, a section of Members of Parliament said that longstanding debts owed to contractors and suppliers providing services in public schools need to be paid by the government as some face foreclosure by banks due to unpaid loans.

**“The current crisis forces companies to make difficult decisions just to survive”**

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## SUA advocates for biotech to address agro challenges

By Guardian Reporter

SOKOINE University of Agriculture (SUA) has reaffirmed its commitment to leading research efforts on biotechnology to better understand benefits and risks of technology in Tanzania.

Biotechnology is a versatile field that involves using biological systems to create products and solve problems.

Prof Raphael Chibunda, SUA Deputy Vice Chancellor, affirmed this at the weekend during a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Crop Science Association of Tanzania (CROSAT) in Dodoma.

The discussion which brought together biotechnology researchers from Tanzania, Belgium and Kenya focused on the role of biotechnology in crop improvement and global perspectives on its use in agriculture.

"As key institution in our country's agricultural research, we have submitted a proposal to the government for our university to be one of the three centres of excellence for biotechnology research. This will allow us to thoroughly investigate the potential of the technology and provide the country with reliable insights," he said.

He explained that the slow adoption of biotechnology in Tanzania and other African countries has been largely due to misunderstandings of the technology and resistance from critics.

The opposition has led to the creation of 'stringent' laws and regulations that restrict local researchers from fully participating in biotechnology research and development, hindering the nation's ability to address pressing challenges in agriculture.

"It is the plea of scientists that the time has come for African countries, including Tanzania, to reconsider how we can engage with biotechnology. We have seen how countries like the United

States, China and India have embraced it. Even in Europe, where genetically engineered crops are not widely cultivated, they are major consumers, importing from countries that grow them," he said.

He also stressed the importance of SUA leading research in the area, noting that it is essential for Tanzanian scientists to generate local evidence regarding the potential risks or benefits of biotechnology rather than relying on external studies or opinions.

Earlier in the session, Prof. Marc Heidje from VIB International Plant Biotechnology Outreach (VIB-IPBO) presented findings highlighting the growing global demand for food due to population growth, land degradation, climate change and the need to increase food production.

He noted that many countries worldwide have adopted biotechnology to enhance crop yields and improve agricultural productivity.

"Biotechnology is not a panacea for all agricultural challenges, but it is an effective tool for improving seed production and accelerating development of desired traits compared to traditional methods. To date, no evidence has shown that using genetically modified crops has led to harm," he said.

He also addressed misconceptions surrounding genetically modified crops in Europe, stating:

"There is misinformation suggesting that European countries do not grow or consume crops derived from genetic engineering. In Belgium, for instance, we grow genetically modified crops and many European countries import large quantities of such crops for both human and animal consumption."

This year's CROSAT meeting opened with a scientific conference themed 'Tackling Climate Change with Crop Production Technologies' and was followed by the association's annual general meeting, bringing together stakeholders from across Tanzania and beyond.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (in khaki cap) cuts the ribbon at the weekend to launch the implementation of a project meant to involve the planting of 5,000 oil palm seedlings along Mpiji River in suburban Dar es Salaam's Mambwepande ward as well as save the river from erosion-induced degradation. Third left is Wami/Ruvu Basin Water Board director Elibariki Mmassy. Photo: Frank Monyo

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has trained police officers commanding districts (OCDs) from across the country on voter education.

The one-day training on various laws and regulations guiding the commission was held at the Moshi Police School in Kilimanjaro Region at the weekend.

Kailima Ramadhani, Director of Elections at INEC, said that education for district-level police officers helps to eliminate conflicts between them and political parties.

"The officers are essentially the law enforcers at the district level. So, we have guided them through the laws governing INEC, presidential, parliamentary and civic election laws, enabling them to interpret the

## INEC offers OCDs voter education prior to polls

laws accurately and ensuring they perform their duties effectively without creating conflicts with political parties or the public in general," he said.

He noted that police officers understand their responsibilities and the roles that political parties should play during this period when the commission conducts voter register update countrywide.

INEC official also stated that as the country approaches the General Election next year, the commission will meet again with the police

to clarify various election-related matters to enable peaceful, free and fair election and post-election stability.

Commissioner of Police (Operations and Training) Awadhi Juma Haji said that the purpose of the training was to prepare Police Force for election process as its officers are the enforcers of the law and protectors of citizens and their properties.

He said that the commission provided training on the role of police in election activities, various

laws and regulations during the period of voter register update with the goal of organizing and ensuring that ongoing exercises in the country are conducted in secure environment.

The four-day training took place from Monday to Friday last week, covering various topics related to elections and the role of Police Force in the important democratic activity. Tanzania has two elections ahead: local government elections later this month and General Election next year.

## Director of Corporate Services

Ref 32786

Our Client, **Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST)**, a Non-Governmental Organization, is a social enterprise and a leading provider of family planning, sexual and reproductive health care and allied services. MST is a partner of the Government of Tanzania and a member of the Marie Stopes International (MSI) Global Partnership, which operates in over 37 countries worldwide. MST's mission is that all women and men in Tanzania will have "Children by Choice, Not Chance".

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# watu

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2	Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Office Curtain, Roller Shutters and Foldable Doors	20	Provision of Photography and Videography Services
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11	Supply of Staff Uniform (Custom-Made), Office Suits Supply (Ready-Made)	29	Provision of Fumigation Services
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		42	Provision of Glass Aluminium Office Partition Works

The supplier prequalification exercise will be conducted online via:



TenderSure™ platform is secure, transparent and provides an efficient prequalification process. Interested suppliers may access and register on [www.tendersure.africa](http://www.tendersure.africa) under the "Available Jobs" tab. Access to the prequalification will be granted upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **USD 30.00** per category payable in TZS. All payments will be made via an online payment platform during the application process. Available payment methods include Tigo, Vodacom, Airtel, Visa Card, and MasterCard amongst others. The online supplier prequalification exercise closes on **29th November 2024 at 10pm EAT**.

In case of any inquiry kindly contact us at [help@tendersure.africa](mailto:help@tendersure.africa) or our WhatsApp number +255 741914924.

**All existing suppliers are required to participate alongside prospective suppliers to be evaluated and considered.**

**All participants who duly complete the prequalification process online will be notified of the outcome.**

**Prequalification is not a guarantee for business opportunity, bidders will be invited to submit their quotations on need basis based on the opportunities available. Watu Credit (Tanzania) Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any bid in whole or in part at its discretion.**

# EACOP wins praise for achieving required environmental standards

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

UGANDA National Oil Company (UNOC) has commended the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project for adhering to international standards in environmental protection and safeguarding host communities.

"We are confident this project is environmentally-friendly and conducted with the highest regard for environmental protection as per global standards," said UNOC Board Chairman, Mathias Katamba, at the weekend after visiting oil tank and terminal sites at Chongoleani peninsula in Tanga Region.

At each project phase, he explained, EACOP has been carefully designed to protect communities along its route. "This commitment to community protection is evident in each step of the project," he said at the marine export terminal, adding that the project's economic benefits will extend far beyond petroleum sales.

Katamba noted that the project's implementation contrasts sharply with the criticisms it has faced, particularly regarding environmental impact.

"Environmental protection is a top priority here and we are thinking of future generations as we develop the project," he added, emphasizing the extensive positive impact the project will bring.

He explained that the

project aims to improve the lives of Ugandans and Tanzanians as well as to support sustainable and sufficient energy use in both countries.

"We plan to utilize other resources like natural gas, to transform energy consumption and reduce reliance on firewood, thus curbing deforestation," he said.

UNOC's Chief Legal Officer, Peter Mulisa, acknowledged that while the project has faced significant criticism over the past 13 years, its execution demonstrates a strong commitment to

international environmental standards. EACOP's Community Relations Supervisor, Daniel Semkiwa, said that both hazardous and non-hazardous waste management practices are designed to safeguard the environment.

UNOC, a public agency, holds a 15 percent stake in the project on behalf of the Ugandan government while Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) holds an equivalent share on behalf of Tanzania. France's TotalEnergies holds 62 percent and China's CNOOC 8 percent.

**Tanfihd**  
Management Consultants

## JOB VACANCY

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**Location:** Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania  
**Reports to:** Executive Director

**Job Overview**

As a Sales and Marketing Executive, you will play a crucial role in driving revenue growth and brand awareness. You will be responsible for developing and executing effective sales strategies, identifying potential clients, and creating innovative marketing campaigns that resonate with target audiences. This role involves collaboration with the marketing, product, and sales teams to align strategies and maximize reach.

**Key Responsibilities**

- Sales Strategy & Execution
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- Customer Relationship Management
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**Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Business, or a related field.
- Proven experience in sales and/or marketing, preferably in a similar industry.
- Strong understanding of sales principles and customer service practices.
- Proficiency in using CRM tools and marketing automation software.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Highly organized, with the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.

**Key Competencies**

- Ability to understand client needs, identify sales opportunities, and close deals.
- Knowledge of digital marketing strategies, content creation, and brand positioning.
- Strong data interpretation skills for performance tracking and reporting.
- Dedication to building client trust and enhancing customer satisfaction.

This role requires a proactive, results-driven individual with a passion for sales and marketing who is excited to contribute to business growth and expansion.

send your CV to [saidalharthy@tanfidh.com](mailto:saidalharthy@tanfidh.com) or WhatsApp +968 99 355 438



Said Saif Al Harthi  
Strategy Execution Expert

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Almost 70-90% of organizations fail at executing their strategies. At this course you will learn how to transform your strategy into more tangible terms and learn a disciplined approach that will enhance the likelihood of ensuring your strategy is executed effectively. If you are in doubt of the differences between visions and missions, strategic objectives, goals and linking strategy to operations and are looking to discover the tools and techniques to develop and execute strategy effectively, then this course is a must attend for you and your colleagues. Through a combination of presentations, discussions, and group work exercises, you will learn the key components of developing and executing a well formulated strategy. The focus of this event will be heavily directed to achieving a practical, realistic, beneficial and successful outcome rather than just academic theory.



**What you will learn**

- Leadership in change
- Strategic change management
- Effective Strategy Development
- Strategy Mapping
- Building Balanced Scorecard
- Cascade and align strategy
- Execution and governance
- Linking Strategy to Operations

**Who should attend**

- Chief Operations Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Human Capital Officer
- Information Technology
- Marketing Manager
- Logistic Manager
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- Internal & External Auditor
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- Regulatory Officer
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- Recruitment Officer

**Why to attend**

- Gain knowledge to develop Strategy, Vision, Mission and Values
- Support strategic decision-making process
- Use proven tools and techniques to execute strategy
- Learn to select the right KPIs
- Expand your knowledge in building Balanced Scorecard

**COURSE OUTLINE**

DAY 1		DAY 2	
Leadership & Change Management	Developing the Strategy	Cascading & Aligning Strategy to the Organization	Linking Strategy to Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive the Strategy Execution Agenda</li> <li>• Align Executive Team Behaviour with Strategy</li> <li>• Establish the Strategy Execution Office</li> <li>• Creating a Culture of Execution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affirm Mission, Values and Quantify the Vision</li> <li>• SWOT analysis</li> <li>• Core corporate values</li> <li>• Formulate Strategy</li> <li>• Define the Value Gap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define Corporate Strategy</li> <li>• Align Business Units to Corporate Strategic Priorities</li> <li>• Align Support Units</li> <li>• Align Employees</li> <li>• Communicate Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set Priorities for Strategic Processes</li> <li>• Create Operational Dashboards</li> <li>• Capacity Planning with the Strategy</li> </ul>
Translating the Strategy		Monitor and Review/ Test and Adapt	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design Strategy Map with Linked Strategic Objectives</li> <li>• Define Measures - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</li> <li>• Define Targets</li> <li>• Prioritize Strategic Initiatives</li> <li>• Assign Accountability</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct Strategy Review Meetings</li> <li>• Conduct Operational Review Meetings</li> <li>• Manage Initiatives</li> <li>• Performance Management Systems</li> </ul>	

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By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

# African countries urged to offer regular training for human resources managers

AFRICAN countries have been urged to prioritise professional development for human resources managers and supervisors to improve efficiency of public service employees in their respective countries.

Haorun Ali Suleiman, Zanzibar Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) made the call here at the weekend when wrapping up the 9th African Public Sector Human Resources Managers' Network (APS-HRMNet) under the theme 'Governance Resilience and Innovation to Foster Future-

Oriented Public Sector through Human Resource Leadership'.

"It is now the right time for African countries to ensure that human resource managers and supervisors pursue further development to enhance efficiency of serving public servants and increase momentum in overseeing implementation of development projects," he said.

He also urged employers across Africa to recognize the importance of the conference by funding

participants from their countries, given its impact on strengthening public service sector.

"This training is highly important for public service sector. I encourage employers in all African countries to acknowledge its importance by permitting and funding delegates to participate fully," he said.

Zena Ahmed Said, Zanzibar Chief Secretary, mentioned that systems yielding positive results in human resources in some countries should

be studied by other nations to improve service delivery.

"Some countries, including Tanzania, have made remarkable progress in public service and we even received an international award for it. So, it's beneficial for other countries to learn from successful examples," she said.

She added that to further improve efficiency, a team of advisory experts

should be formed to develop various topics to be presented at the 10th annual conference in line with the contemporary needs of human resource managers and supervisors.

Xavier Daudi, APS-HRMNet President, said that the conference allowed participants to exchange experiences and make resolutions that each country would implement

to increase efficiency.

"The conference has been a success for our African continent and I request that each country implements all agreed resolutions so that next year when we meet in Sierra Leone for the 10th conference, we receive feedback on our resolutions," he said.

APS-HRMNet comprises members from across Africa, organized into five regions: West Africa with 17 countries, East Africa with 10 countries, Central Africa with eight countries, North Africa with six countries and Southern Africa with 13 countries.



Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP-TZ)  
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P. O. Box 105303, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Website: <http://www.ccp.jhu.edu/>

## VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs is soliciting applicants for multiple positions for an upcoming proposal providing support to social and behavior change initiatives in Tanzania. The potential contract will be awarded under the United States Government financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The positions are subject to all applicable USAID and US Federal Government hiring regulations. The expected period of performance of this contract is March 2025 - February 2030.

Specifically, the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs is seeking the following positions:

1. Chief of Party
2. Deputy Chief of Party
3. MEL Director
4. Director of SBC
5. Finance Director

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and must be received no later than 23:59 Tanzania local time on November 18, 2024 at the [ccptz-hr@jh.edu](mailto:ccptz-hr@jh.edu) email account. Late submissions will not be considered.

Interested parties are encouraged to see the full version of the job descriptions at <https://bit.ly/ccpsbcjobopportunities> or by scanning the QR code below.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemeni Jafo (3rd-R) exchanges greetings with various other leaders on arrival in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, yesterday for the 15th African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Council of Trade Ministers meeting. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TWO secondary schools in Mbeya City Council have received 100 desks and 200 tree seedlings to boost education and promote environmental conservation.

The schools that received the donation from Stanbic Bank are Tulia Girls Secondary School and Nsalaga Secondary School.

Receiving the donation here at the weekend, Mbeya District Commissioner, Beno Malisa, acknowledged the bank's commitment to uplifting local communities through Corporate Social Initiatives (CSI).

Malisa expressed his appreciation, stating: "We as the government recognize the significant role of Stanbic Bank as a valuable partner in supporting education. Alongside their provision of essential resources such as desks and tree seedlings, we also see a need for additional digital tools like computers. Such tools are essential for equipping our teachers and pupils with the means

## Two secondary schools in Mbeya get free desks, tree seedlings from lender

to connect with the wider world and stay abreast of technological advancements, thereby preparing them for a modern, competitive environment."

Paul Mwambashi, Stanbic Bank's Mbeya Branch Manager, emphasized the bank's dedication to community development.

"At Stanbic Bank we believe in supporting communities we serve and we are proud to provide resources that contribute to better learning environment and greener surroundings," he said. "This donation is part of our commitment to making a tangible, positive impact."

The donation includes a mix of fruit and shade tree seedlings, aiming to cultivate a culture of environmental conservation among pupils and the community. Through initiatives like these, Stanbic Bank seeks to foster sustainable growth

and contribute to the future wellbeing of Tanzania's younger generations.

To date, Stanbic Bank's investment in community development initiatives has reached 312m/-, impacting over 104,660 people across Tanzania. The desks donated are produced locally, reinforcing the bank's dedication to supporting local businesses and driving economic growth within the community. Through the initiatives, Stanbic Bank not only supports education but also contributes to local business sustainability.

The bank's CSI activities focus on key areas such as education, healthcare, environmental sustainability and community development. Stanbic Bank remains committed to making impactful contributions to uplift communities and foster sustainable growth across Tanzania.

## Consulting firm to launch two-day training programme in Dar

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Dar es Salaam-based consulting firm Tanfidh Management Consultants Limited is set to launch a comprehensive two-day training programme titled

'Strategy Execution Professional' scheduled for November 26-27, 2024 in Dar es Salaam.

Tanfidh, a consulting firm specializing in strategy and execution, employs proven methodologies such as strategy maps, balanced scorecards, key performance indicators and objectives and key results.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, Tanfidh Strategy Execution Expert Said Alharthi said that even the best-developed strategies are ineffective without proper execution.

"Making strategy happen is increasingly essential to organizational success. This holds true across all types of organizations—public, government, private and non-profit—especially given today's global economic challenges," he said.

Alharthi noted that while most leaders are well-versed in strategy formulation, they often struggle with execution. "Leaders focus heavily on planning but often encounter challenges when it comes to taking action, which can hinder successful strategy implementation," he said.

"The worst part is that leaders often do not take ownership of the execution process, delegating it to lower-level employees who may lack proper training and guidance."

He described the course as a structured, logical process that enables organizations to turn strategies into reality.

"Without a carefully planned approach to execution, strategic objectives cannot be achieved. Building such an approach is a formidable challenge for management," he said.

He added that business landscape has become so unpredictable that even a five-year plan may become irrelevant within weeks. In today's fast-paced market, organizations must continually assess progress and adapt.

"Agility, flexibility, capability-building, continual learning and adaptation are the new rules for success. A unique strategy is important but it only provides a competitive advantage if executed flawlessly. Success comes with both strategic planning insight and the ability to execute."

Alharthi stressed that making a plan is not enough; organizations must take actionable steps to implement it. This requires strong leadership, commitment and the ability to drive change even amid resistance.



## Advertisements of Employment

### 1. Transport Officer

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- Oversee daily operations of the transportation department, ensuring efficient fleet management.
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- Ensure all transportation records and logs are maintained accurately for audits and compliance.
- Address customer concerns regarding transportation services and resolve issues promptly.
- Track vehicle movements using GPS tracking devices and ensure no safety or route violation/deviation.
- Coordinate with GPS and other relevant fleet service providers to resolve all issues and maintain the highest customer standards.
- Prepare yearly, monthly, weekly and daily logistic plans to meet customer requirements.
- Prepare and report performance of the fleet daily, weekly, monthly and yearly and suggest improvements following the PDCA approach.

#### Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Logistics, Transportation Management, or related field.
- At least 3 years of experience in a similar role, preferably in fleet management or transport operations.
- Strong understanding of transport regulations and safety standards.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to solve complex problems and think critically under pressure.

✓ Location: Moshi.

#### Mode of Application:

All applications accompanied with cover letter, photocopies of certificates and CVs to be sent to the undersigned, to reach him not later than 13/11/2024.

The Managing Director, Bonite Bottlers Ltd,  
P. O. Box 1352,  
[hr@bb.co.tz](mailto:hr@bb.co.tz)  
MOSHI.



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(EWURA)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under section 19 of the EWURA Act, Cap. 414 and Rule 20(4) of the Petroleum (Wholesale, Storage, Retail and Consumer Installation Operations) Rules, GN No. 150 of 2022)

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that, EWURA has received an application seeking approval on the transfer of a licence of a petroleum retail outlet with the particulars set out hereinafter below:

**The current name of the Station:** Mguli Petrol Station - Kibaigwa Majengo  
**Licence Number:** PRL-2020-355  
**Physical Location:** Plot No. 2, Block "Q" Majengo Kibaigwa Urban Area, Kongwa District in Dodoma Region  
**Proposed change of name:** Kobil Tanzania Limited  
**Transferor:** Mguli Petrol Station  
**Transferee:** Kobil Tanzania Limited

Any person who wishes to make any representations or objections with respect to the application should do so in writing and submit it to EWURA within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice. All representations or objections should be addressed to the address below.

Director General  
The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA)  
EWURA House, 3 EWURA Street, 41104 Tambukareli,  
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## Extensively amending labour laws could impact private sector hiring

LABOUR laws are one among a distinctive array of instruments where the state relates to industrialists, and where a bigger number of stakeholders, labour unions and activist groups, have their demands on the government.

Depending on the situation and indeed vital demands at a particular moment, certain changes will be made, but not all law changes are instantly enforceable. At the same time, an overly pro-labour law cadre can limit hiring by companies, a risk aversion attitude.

Thus, there were mixed feelings when the legislature was handed a bill for first reading that is proposing major amendments to labour laws, where it is stated in its objectives that it is meant for enhancing observation of workers' rights and addressing workplace challenges.

The Labour Laws (Amendments) Act, 2024 seeks to amend the Employment and Labour Relations Act, the Labour Institutions Act, and the Non-Citizens (Employment Regulation) Act, ostensibly to enhance clarity.

It is also intended to broaden protections and modernise provisions of specific employees, while the statement says employers will benefit.

Reports that a key provision in the bill envisages expansion of maternity leave for employees who give birth to premature children, as currently maternity leave is fixed to a set duration.

As such mothers leave workplaces earlier than expected, extended leave implies the supplementary time due to early birth and the proper leave.

Nothing objectionable there but companies may replace such officer if the hiring space is limited, while in the public service no problems are likely to arise.

There are changes that are said to offer greater flexibility in hiring,

for instance temporary work or seasonal employment, where the real intention appears to provide for a legal opening for new graduates to build their skills or gain work experience.

The reason for this view is that temporary work or seasonal labour in farm areas are spheres that don't need legislation, but asking major companies and especially parastatal organisations to take in large numbers of graduates for partial work for a while, a year or six months, needs a legal cadre - and a clear budget.

What is unclear is what is meant by a provision where a new section is being introduced allowing employers and employees to agree on procedures for operating during emergencies such as health crises or other disruptions.

Is this a matter of agreeing or actually providing for such aspects in labour law, or making it explicit that public sector firms and private entities can state specific terms for emergencies?

This is a provision that the public sector needs, for there is a sense of aloofness to company or corporate needs that melts in a private sector entity.

Depending on what is expected from that provision, it is expected it would help to ensure job security when such requirements are in the law, not just commanded from above, as it were.

As expected in this regard, there is a provision curtailing disciplinary action taken against an employee while a dispute is pending before the Labour Commission or Labour Court.

There has to be a time frame for it to be resolved as even parastatals that need to enhance productivity just can't stand protracted disputes with employees they are convinced they can safely do without. Enforcing this may be costly.

## Digital format may ease pensioner verification, funds made available

THE government has another digital rabbit in a hat set to be unveiled in the next few months, as it is reported to be developing a digital system to simplify the verification of pensioners needing to be paid by the Treasury.

The new design would enable pensioners to verify their status remotely, either through mobile phones or using banking services, shedding plenty of physical verification.

There is obviously something worthwhile in such a shift, if other bottlenecks don't arise, as the physical verification was lengthy since the pension funds lack the needed cash.

That is why pensioners and the public at large wish to hear that once such verification is done there will be cash to be paid as, without this precondition, some digital buttons will not work accordingly, retaining manual verification, pushing files, reminder letters, etc.

A legislator shot up in the National Assembly recently seeking to know why the government was yet to establish a more convenient procedure for pensioners to verify their status at the council or ward level, instead of regional offices.

Surely, that demand went a bit too far as pensioners are consolidated at company level, and the idea of making this information available everywhere it simply hinges on digitisation.

As is often the case, the authorities responsible were looking at the benefits of the new modality, focusing on the travel part - whereas the crucial issue is the lack of a predictable payment time frame from the moment of retiring to obtaining benefits.

It is obvious that there are big

issues that can't be sorted out by digitisation, including the idea that those losing jobs should not just stay for six months and obtain their benefits but must sit this situation out until retirement age.

Law drafters make this a mercy procedure to save the client from any "mischief" with his or her money, which could indeed be true, but also impede those needing to resettle, urgently.

It is a moral debate how far this condescending attitude is warranted in the way social security is designed: that the government, not the client, is best placed to decide on a person's future.

This attitude apart, the proper reason is that pensioners' funds are too often tied up with projects that don't earn as much in a short while.

An example is the way city centre skyscrapers are jostling for office space clients with peripheral cottages and business complexes on the outer reaches of the old city.

Renters avoid the long morning and evening rush hour road traffic queues and thus modest villas rapidly become office units in the low-density neighbourhoods.

Thus, the format is enticing as it permits pensioners to authenticate their status and receive their benefits just so long as they can put up with the digitally processed details.

Evidently, it is a relief that the system will be integrated with mobile phones and banking platforms that are already widely accessible across the country.

The ball is in the government's court. Without the efficiency expected or wished for, things will slow down not for inability at the systemic level but more substantially for challenges with the accounts of pension funds.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

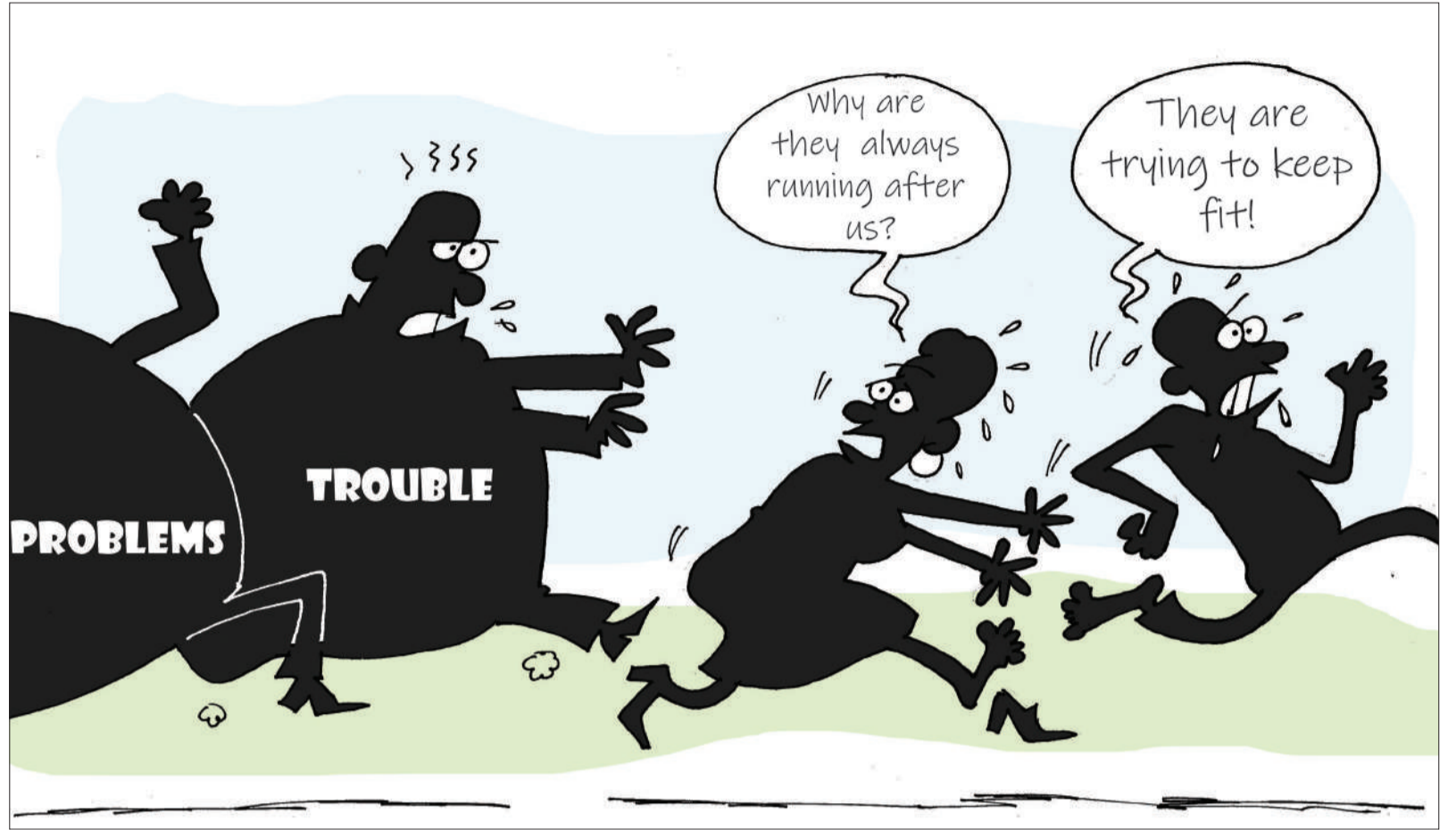
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By Guy Tasaka

THIS past summer, I presented actionable AI plans to publishers at several press and revenue events. When I was first invited to make the presentations, I wanted to discuss amazing tools and the possibilities.

To prepare, I reached out to several of my publisher friends who represented the groups I was presenting to. No judgment, but they all said: "We really haven't started yet. We'd like to."

In fairness to everyone, AI is a moving target. It's overwhelming. It's moving faster than any technology we've ever had in the modern era. Many people don't even know what they don't know but, more importantly, they don't know where to start.

I won't get into the ethics of AI; there are people who are way more qualified to discuss that.

Let's start with the number one complaint I've heard through all my publisher discussions: "AI just makes things up. It cites things that don't exist." You've probably all seen this. I have.

### Why does AI hallucinate?

AI today is synonymous with LLMs. LLM is short for Large Language Model. Large Language Models are statistical averages of question-and-answer pairs. Billions of question-and-answer pairs.

When an LLM receives a question it has never seen before, it, like a human, comes up with the best answer based on the average of all the past question-and-answer pairs it can. This inherent averaging can cause details to be left out or lead to a made-up answer.

We know AI for its large language models or LLMs. Brand names like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini and Llama are all LLMs. Different versions have different capabilities. Some are better at logic, some are better at creativity, and others are better at programming.

What sends an LLM down one discipline or another? Training data. To make it better at coding, feed it code. To make it better at poetry, feed it poems. History? Feed it history books.

To bring it down to human terms, think of an LLM as a brain - and everyone's brain is wired differently, based on their experiences.

Your brain knows every class you've ever taken, every book you've ever read, every programme or movie you've ever seen, and every interaction you've ever had. It all went into training your brain.

Suppose I ask you to "write a story about coffee". Maybe you've never written a story about coffee before or have never drunk coffee. In that case, you can still make the word association and recall other

## Jumping on the AI train: A guide for news publishers

shared experiences about coffee to compose a reasonable story.

The more specific you are about what you need, the better the results. If you ask AI to write a story about something generic like coffee, with a good prompt, it will return a decent story.

If you ask it to write about a school board meeting or an event that has never happened, be prepared for anything because the AI will make things up.

Here is an anatomy of a news prompt. Note that the reference material related to a story should be made available in a knowledge base or what is known as retrieval augmented generation or RAG. You'll hear that expression a lot related to news writing or co-pilots.

AI is the greatest tool ever developed and also the great equaliser for local media or any business. It gives you access to expertise and talent you could never attract to your market, and if you could, you probably couldn't afford them. Given the appropriate guidance, it works tirelessly and will do anything you need or want.

That being said, artificial intelligence is available and open to anyone who wants to master it. The cost of using AI tools and techniques is negligible.

That's the good news. The bad news for publishers is that it is available to anyone who wants to use it. The classic "two guys/gals in a garage", especially if they are technically astute and aggressive in using AI as tools, will dominate the space.

If you are slow to adopt and adapt, you will lose. We are in a major period of disruption that will make the invasion of digital platforms look like a minor inconvenience because, with AI, anyone can become your new competition.

### Small is the new big

I personally believe that the greatest success stories and case studies will come from smaller media companies. In the world of AI tools and automation, smaller, more nimble companies can dominate.

Committees, approval processes and institutional drag will bog down larger companies. In the new world of AI-driven entrepreneurship, speed is a competitive advantage. The winners will be those who can quickly adopt, integrate and iterate.

I predict that you will see the best, most innovative publishers and operators become frustrated with corporate oversight and build next-generation media companies unconstrained by legacy staff,

infrastructure and business models.

### What is AI's real superpower?

While most of the use cases for AI are headline writing, summarisations, copy editing and data mining, AI's superpower is in autonomous agent systems or AI agents.

AI agents can take a task with guidelines/guard rails and break them down into several subtasks, then accomplish those subtasks using the set of tools the system has available.

So, how is this different from an automation or an automated task that uses AI in its workflow? Automations typically fail if the appropriate tools or input are not available.

Agents will find workarounds to accomplish tasks even if without having the proper tools. That sounds scary, but good AI agent systems will surely put a "human in the middle" for checks and balances.

### Challenges of AI for media publishers

I've spoken to dozens of publishers about AI, and the three biggest challenges are: "I don't know where to start."

Given the speed at which the technology is moving, I always feel that. However, you just have to start. Baby steps.

"I know what I want to do; I don't know who to ask."

I have heard this constantly. Those who understand the possibilities of AI don't have a resource to help them or ensure they have access to the tools they need.

"We have people in our organisation using and testing it, but we don't have it organised." This is very dangerous. You don't want to slow things down or stomp out experimentation as a publisher.

At the same time, you need institutional control, or your people will do things "willy-nilly". When you're ready, two platforms you may want to look at are AICamp and TeamGPT.

### Invest in expertise, not tools

For the first time in the history of technology, the cost of - and access to - the technology are not barriers to entry. Most of you know that a subscription to paid ChatGPT, Claude and Perplexity is about US\$20/month. If you require API access to power your tools, they are very affordable.

A tool like Langflow, which will

allow you to build virtually any AI app, is a free and open source. But what do you do with the pieces?

[Meanwhile, API stands for Application Programming Interface. In the context of APIs, the word Application refers to any software with a distinct function. Interface can be thought of as a contract of service between two applications.]

The reality is that everyone needs a "guy". While I can address 95 per cent of all publishers' needs and questions, I have a "guy" who I go to to solve my problems.

Scott Pierce, a former colleague and chief architect at a media tech startup, is my guy. His Left Join Studio is an innovation lab where he takes my ideas from concept to product at record speed.

On that note, finding the right resource is the most important thing in the entire journey. Find a partner whose skills and philosophy are in alignment with yours.

Five things publishers need to do TODAY! First: Just start. Start with the free tools and grow from there. However, remember not to submit any private or confidential information as it can be used for training data.

Two: Find or develop AI talent. Critical to your journey, find a coach, staffer, your child or anyone you can who will push you to where you need to get to.

Three: Map your processes and workflow. Map your publishing processes and see how automation can eliminate expenses and time, then graduate to integrating AI into the automation.

Four: Create your "would" list. Your "would" list is everything you would do within your operation if you were not constrained by time, money and talent. That should be your goal as you move to using AI agents.

Five: Develop your AI policies and plan. Start developing your AI policies and roadmap as an organization. Don't let anything hold you back. When you have it, figure out how to implement it.

\* An E&P Magazine dispatch. Guy Tasaka is a seasoned media professional with a 35-year track record of leading change in the industry. He is the founder and managing partner of Tasaka Digital, specialising in helping media and technology companies navigate business transformations using his extensive experience and forward-thinking approach. Guy can be reached at [guy@tasakadigital.com](mailto:guy@tasakadigital.com).







Jane Goodall Institute

TANZANIA

For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

## JOB VACANCIES

### About Us

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. We strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) was founded in 2001 by Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE. The JGI Tanzania with its partners makes a difference through community centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths' environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, we work closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support implementation of the new USAID funded project, USAID Hope Through Action is currently seeking to recruit a suitably qualified and competent Tanzanian to fill the following vacant position:

<b>Job Position:</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>
<b>Program:</b>	USAID Hope Through Action
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Mpanda
<b>Reporting Line:</b>	Office In-Charge

### Job Summary:

The Administrative Assistant will support the USAID Hope Through Action project by providing administrative and operational assistance to ensure the smooth functioning of the office. The successful candidate will play a key role in facilitating communication, organizing documents, and supporting project activities.

### Key Responsibilities & Duties:

Main responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- Office Management: Maintain an organized office environment, manage supplies, and oversee equipment maintenance.
- Communication Support: Handle incoming and outgoing correspondence, including emails, phone calls, and mail. Facilitate communication between team members and stakeholders.
- Document Management: Assist in preparing, formatting, and distributing reports, presentations, and other documents. Maintain filing systems and ensure easy access to project documentation.
- Meeting Coordination: Schedule and organize meetings, workshops, and events. Prepare agendas and take minutes, ensuring timely distribution of information.
- Financial Administration: Assist with budgeting and financial reporting, process invoices, and track expenses.
- Travel Coordination: Support travel arrangements for project staff, including itineraries, accommodations, and transportation.
- Project Support: Provide administrative support for project activities, including data entry, scheduling interviews, and managing participant lists.
- Compliance and Reporting: Ensure compliance with USAID and organizational policies, maintaining accurate records for audits and evaluations.
- Including any other responsibilities, employer may assign the Administrative Assistant.

### Minimum Job Qualifications and Other Requirements:

Main minimum job qualifications and other requirements will include, but are not limited to:

- Bachelor's degree in business administration, Management, or a related field preferred.
- Minimum of two to five years of experience in administrative support or related roles.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and other relevant software.
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to manage multiple tasks and prioritize effectively.
- Excellent communication skills in both English and Swahili, both written and verbal.
- Demonstrated attention to detail and ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a diverse team environment.
- Experience working with USAID or other international organizations.
- Knowledge of financial management practices.
- Familiarity with project management software.

### Application Procedure:

All applications should be submitted together with the most recent Curriculum Vitae (CV)/resume, copy of relevant academic certificates & transcripts, testimonials, three names of reputable referees, day-time telephone number or e-mail address, and should be send to the following e-mail address: [recruitment@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:recruitment@janegoodall.or.tz)

Only the final shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and provided with the interview feedback.

**Deadline:** Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 before 5pm in the evening.

JGI Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, national or tribal origin, religious belief, gender, and marital status.

QUALIFIED FEMALE APPLICANTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

# Raising the next generation: Need to equip Gen Alpha with essential skills

By **Anastazia Rugaba**

As we wrap up the year, our families across Tanzania are celebrating a new milestone. Our children, these bright Grade 7 leavers, are moving on to Form One. And what a generation they are! Generation Alpha - the iPad, YouTube, Google generation! They're sharp, confident, and sometimes, to be honest, they know more than we do.

But are we really preparing them for the 21st century, or are we stuck pushing them towards grades without considering the skills they actually need?

As our kids are home enjoying a break, some have already started pre-secondary school programs, picking up skills in public speaking, debating, computers, or even life skills like farming and carpentry. Others, however, are simply at home, "chilling," as they say. And come January, all these kids will meet in Form One, but they'll come with very different experiences. Those who have been investing in life skills will have an edge. And that's a lesson for all of us.

### Education isn't just a certificate, it's skills

In Tanzania, we've all been conditioned to believe in one thing: get those As, and everything will work out. But here's a hard truth - the world is changing, and it doesn't just need straight-A students. It needs problem solvers, creators, thinkers! Today's job market is looking for skills like critical thinking, creativity, adaptability, and collaboration - not just the ability to memorize facts for exams.

Let's be real; many private schools are churning out "cramming experts." Kids are taught to memorize just enough to pass exams, then forget everything by next semester! We're creating "certified parrots," not innovators. Our education system is training kids to be grade chasers, not game changers. As one teacher joked, "Our kids are

great at remembering, but terrible at applying." The world isn't looking for walking encyclopedias; it's looking for minds that can think independently.

### 'Wazazi wa siku hizi' - Let's be present!

And this one is for the parents. I know we are all busy. Hustling for the family, chasing deadlines, and paying the bills. But as they say, "You can't leave the entire job to the teachers." If we want to raise a generation that's ready for the future, we need to be involved. You don't need a master's degree to teach your child practical life skills. Teach them how to make ugali, fix a bicycle, or even open a bank account. And please, take time to ask them what they want to be - not just in terms of careers, but as people.

If possible, use this break wisely. Enroll them in programs that build skills beyond the classroom. Public speaking, cooking, basic coding, even a short farming course! These are the real-life skills that build resilience, creativity, and self-confidence. Remember, watoto wa huku wakitoka likizo wanaenda shule na skills, wengine wanarudi tu na mambo ya Netflix!

The future of work: A certificate is not enough

The job market is moving quickly. Jobs we knew ten years ago are being replaced by technology. Employers want more than a certificate; they want skills. Yet, we have a system that often emphasizes book knowledge at the expense of practical know-how. You'll hear it from employers: "Tunatafuta watu wa kazi, sio watu wa makaratasi tu." (We're looking for workers, not just people with certificates.)

If Tanzania is to compete globally, we need to start equipping our kids with skills for the digital age. Our children should be able to solve problems, work with others, think critically, and create. Other countries are already moving forward with this. If we're not careful, we'll be left behind. Or, as the saying goes, "If you think education is ex-

pensive, try ignorance."

### Policy makers and educators, this one's for you

Education reform can't just be a buzzword. We need a curriculum that emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and real-world skills. Let's put an end to churning out exam machines and start creating thinkers and innovators. Our kids should be able to question things, to think outside the box, to create solutions.

Imagine a curriculum that doesn't just ask, "What is the capital of France?" but also, "How can we improve our local communities?" Let's challenge our kids to use their education to solve real problems, not just answer exam questions. Schools need to be places that ignite curiosity, not just prepare for exams.

### Building a future-ready generation

So, as we enter the new school year, let's embrace a new mindset. Let's invest in skills, not just grades. Let's make sure our children are not only prepared for school, but for life. Tanzania deserves a generation that can think, innovate, and lead.

As Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This training is more than grades; it's giving them the tools to thrive in an ever-changing world. We must set them up for more than just academic success. Let's raise a generation of problem-solvers and dream-chasers.

So, to all parents, policymakers, and educators: Let's invest in our children's futures. Let's make sure they are equipped with skills for the 21st century. Let's set them up to be not just good students but great thinkers, doers, and leaders. The world is waiting for them - let's make sure Tanzania doesn't remain behind.

**The author is the Director for Advocacy and Engagement at Twaweza East Africa**

**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	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 KIPWA, KITO 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 KIPWA, KITO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNJANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADUGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGOO HTS 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIIDI YA UMUJAWAYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIVEUJAMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKU TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI	07:30-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKUO 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 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBILE 18:00-21:00HRS JACHE 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**

# Local group's support to accelerate land ownership rights, break tradition barriers

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

**T**HE government and civil society organisations have partnered to promote access to land rights for rural communities but they have faced difficulty in reaching many people who do not know their land rights and how to access these rights. Both government and civil society functionaries live far from communities that need their services most. For those who on rare occasions live within communities, they face the problem of understanding traditions and culture of the relevant community and this hampers their efforts to reach out to many beneficiaries of their work.

For this reason projects encourage villagers to form local groups which are trained in basic land laws, land rights and secure tenure, good governance, human rights and conflict resolution, among others. Community members are responsible for selecting members of the groups, usually one group per village, basing on terms and conditions set by the village assembly. NGOs and government provide guidance on formation of such groups and thereafter provide training for those selected.

These groups carry various names but basically they execute similar responsibility, which is promoting access to land rights for villagers.

HakiArdhi, for example, call them Land Rights Monitors (LRMs). They are individuals who are democratically elected by villagers to help ensure sustainability in land rights and governance and create continuity at the community level in its land rights and governance training programme.

Action Aid Tanzania uses Community Development Facilitators (CDF), while Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) - a network of small-scale farmers' organizations - uses Promoters. On the other hand the Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) have Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) teams.

The idea behind is that local groups are better placed to promote land rights for villagers and sustain benefits that community members enjoy from implementation of specific projects. These groups also mobilise villagers to conserve the natural environment and adapt to impacts of climate change in order to build economic and environmental resilience for the community so that ownership of land and secure tenure become more meaningful.

The Tanzania Grass Roots Oriented Development (TAGRODE) that is conducting land rights related projects in four villages in Morogoro and Iringa regions has helped villagers to establish Community Forums. These are groups formed by small holder farmers and pastoralists' representatives in each of the four villages covered under the project. "The village government proposes the names of people who are eligible to join the forums but these must get approval by the village assembly. The criteria for selection include comple-



Para-surveyors in Iringa District being trained in the use of Mobile Application to Secure Tenure (MAST) technique by TAGRODE staff

tion of secondary school education, the candidate must be hard working and must be acceptable in the village because of good character. The forums comprise 20 people, ten males and ten females," explains Dickson Mwalumbandu, Field Coordinator for TAGRODE.

Community Forums act as an oversight structure to advocate and sensitize the community members on land rights and tenure. Members of Community Forums work on voluntary basis. In a bid to underscore the value of land, Community Forum members insist that no person should sell their land especially if they have only one plot because they will never have a place to live and neither will they have a reliable source of livelihoods. "That will be the end of their lives. Forum members also encourage villagers to train their children to know their land rights and be guardians of the family land and thus village land," explains Mwalumbandu.

In implementing the Enhancing land rights and land security of Rural Communities in Iringa and Morogoro Regions project, TAGRODE is working with Mlimba District Council to promote land rights and secure tenure for villagers in the project area. "We strive to build a sense of ownership among community members that each of them has the obligation to protect their land rights and that we only help

them to fulfil that obligation better. The responsibility to protect ownership rights must come from within the villagers and all community members in general. That is why we helped them establish the Community Forum because members of the forum live in the village, they know the problems that exist in relation to land rights and can therefore help their folks to solve these problems and to participate fully in promoting access to land rights. Besides they can easily win the trust of community members than someone who does not live in the community," explains Zubery Mwachulla, Executive Director of the organization.

Norbert Mpangile, Ikule Village Executive Officer says that villagers acknowledge the important work being done by members of the community forum. He explains that they play a big role in educating and raising awareness of the importance of owning land and ensuring that the ownership is protected. "They do this by engaging individual members, in church, in mosques and during village assemblies. Community Forums also advocate for women ownership of land although traditions and customs remain big obstacles," he explains.

The problem of failure of women to access land rights is not isolated to Ikule since in almost all villages under Mlimba District Council, villagers are still entrenched in traditions that do

not allow women to own land. "It is an age-old belief that makes it difficult for people to change their mindset. Under the circumstances members of community forums should step up efforts to educate people about equitable land rights for both men and women. It will take time for people to change," says Hiyasinti Edwin Libandama, acting District Lands Development Officer for Mlimba District Council.

Enock Kapola is a member of the Ikule Community Forum. He explains that the Forum's activities focus on educating community members in accessing land rights and how to protect the land they own by acquiring evidence of ownership. The Forum also strives to raise awareness among villagers of the need to abandon traditions that prohibit women from owning land. Some women simply don't want to own land for fear of breaching traditions and drawing the wrath of the family or the clan. "Since women and men make up families and the village population in general, there is no reason why some should have more rights than others when it comes to land ownership. The issue of equal rights becomes more conspicuous at family level where the wife and husband can have joint ownership in order to build a strong economy. We insist that when women own land they don't infringe men's rights of ownership; it is just about gender equality,"

he says.

But some villagers are reluctant to take part in activities that will have their parcels of land surveyed and mapped so that they can eventually be given CCROs. Besides conservatism, there are also fears that land certification is just a trick by the district council that would ultimately add to new sources of revenue through land tax or levies.

Even with the use of community forum, implementation of the project does not meet expectations of villagers and they are losing patience. "Awareness is high. People want to see their plots of land being surveyed and mapped and eventually being issued certificates of occupancy. But things are moving rather slowly and they blame forum members for the delay. Their trust is waning."

However, TAGRODE ED acknowledges some minor delays but is confident that the project activities are running according to schedule. "We are implementing this project in partnership with other stakeholders including the Mlimba District Council which is the major partner. Sometimes they are held back by other obligations and this slows down the pace of implementation. But I am confident we will accomplish the project as scheduled," says Dickson Mwalumbandu.

As awareness of land issues becomes high Ikule Villagers now look forward to having their land surveyed and are willing to pay 30,000/- to have more than one plot of their land surveyed. The project surveys and maps one piece of land and ultimately issues one Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO) free of charge for every individual. Those who want more plots surveyed, mapped and eventually be issued with certificates are required to part with the said amount.

"However project staff must visit the village frequently so as to reassure villagers that the project is ongoing and the objectives will be met. Currently forum members shoulder the burden of explaining the project status and villagers seem not to trust us anymore," says Frank Msemwa, a member of the forum.

Another CF member at Ikule village, Zakayo Mbwilo explains that the forum has to a small extent been involved in resolving conflicts related to land ownership. "But we need more training in conflict resolution and we should be given the responsibility to resolve such issues in the village. Currently our participation is limited and our impact in conflict resolution is minimal," he says.

## Improvement of German Road bolsters economy in Tarime DC

By Correspondent Deus Bugaywa

**I**NFRAStructure such as roads is vital for community development, much like veins and arteries are essential to the human body. This importance is evident among residents of rural areas surrounding the Nyamongo-Komaswa Road and neighboring wards in Tarime District, Mara Region.

The 45-kilometer road, known as the German Road, was previously impassable or very difficult to traverse, hampering economic activities and limiting the transportation of goods and produce. It also made daily commuting difficult, especially for schoolchildren, who could not cross two major bridges during the rainy season, leading to frequent school absences.

However, this situation has greatly improved after the North Mara Gold Mine rehabilitated the road, upgrading it to a gravel standard. The improved road and bridges have been a major relief for local residents.

Eliasi Itembele, the Executive Officer of Nyakunguru Village, confirms that the road has greatly benefitted villagers, reducing transportation costs for both passengers and goods. Before the road upgrade, residents had to travel first to Tarime before heading to Musoma or Mwanza, which added to travel costs.

The same issue applied to goods destined for villages along this route; products from Mwanza or Musoma were previously sold at higher prices due to the



Gokohe River Bridge

additional detour costs. "Now, things are different. Four buses now travel from Nyamongo to Mwanza daily. The challenges we faced before are gone. Farmers

also benefit as trucks now come directly from Mwanza or Musoma to Nyamongo. Make no mistake—developing infrastructure is the development of people," says

Itembele.

Nyanji Mwita, a resident of Nyakunguru Village, adds that in terms of social services, the road has been a great relief, enabling patients who need to be referred to larger hospitals to travel directly without long detours, ensuring timely access to medical services.

"In rainy seasons like now, students from Nyakunguru attending Kibasuka Secondary School couldn't reach the school because the Gokohe Bridge would be flooded. Students from Nyarwana faced similar issues getting to Genge Secondary School. Now, things have improved for everyone. Even for us women, doing business in nearby villages or attending social activities is much easier," says Nyanji.

She also notes that "boda-boda (motorcycle taxi) transport costs have decreased with the improved road—what used to cost 2,500 to 3,000/- now costs only 1,000/-."

Joseph Mwita, a resident of Nyarwana Village, also appreciates the benefits, stating that the German Road rehabilitation has

boosted local incomes and economic growth for villages along the route.

"This area has many agricultural products. Small-scale entrepreneurs from villages along this road can bring their products to the market, knowing there is demand. Besides large buses, many small cars now pass through. Travelers between Mwanza or Musoma pass here directly, avoiding the Tarime detour. The community benefits from this road in countless ways," he explains.

In addition to the German Road, Komarera Village residents have also benefited from a new five-kilometer road built to connect the village with a new community dispensary established by North Mara Mine.

"This road has invigorated trade and strengthened connections with neighboring villages. North Mara has been responsive in providing essential services for the community. The road's importance lies in its link to the village, neighboring communities, and the new dispensary, which is well-

equipped and has all necessary supplies. We truly thank the mine for bringing services closer to us," says Mussa Raphael, the Executive Officer of Komarera Village.

The Komarera Dispensary was built alongside a residence for the officer in charge to facilitate community services. The dispensary's in-charge, Dr. Dotto Makumikenda, notes that previously, residents had to travel to Genkuru Village for healthcare, but now they have access within their own village unless a case requires referral.

"Our dispensary has good infrastructure, a clean environment, essential equipment, medicines, and supplies, which makes my work easier and greatly benefits the community," says Dr. Makumikenda.

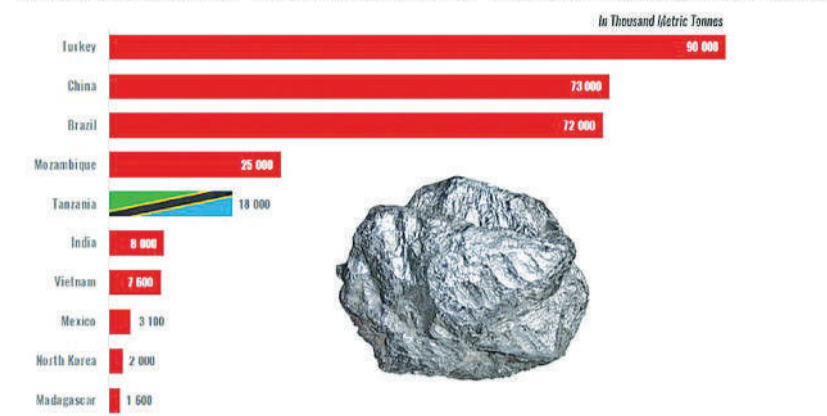
He adds that before this dispensary was established, patients had to travel far, increasing costs for families; those unable to afford it often resorted to traditional remedies without proper diagnosis, which could endanger their health.

The North Mara Gold Mine has been actively ensuring that the surrounding community benefits from its presence, going beyond the legal requirements of mining and local content regulations.



## BUSINESS

## TANZANIA GRAPHITE RESERVES WORLD RANKING 2019



## Tanzania to become a global graphite mining powerhouse

By Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania is projected to become a global powerhouse in graphite mining, ranking sixth worldwide and third in Africa by 2050, according to a recent report by the World Bank and data from the US Geological Survey.

Mozambique leads among African nations, followed by Madagascar.

This achievement was highlighted by Dr. Venance Mwashe, CEO of the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO), who represented the Minister of Minerals, Anthony Mavunde, at the "Ministerial Session" of the Africa Critical Minerals Summit held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Dr. Mwashe underscored Tanzania's rich endowment in critical minerals, including graphite, nickel, cobalt, lithium, rare earth elements, and niobium, all essential for modern energy production and technology advancement.

Dr. Mwashe outlined Tanzania's ambitious Mining Vision 2030, which aims to reduce risks for investors by conducting extensive geological research in areas where data is limited, thereby "de-risking" the mining sector.

"This initiative includes expanding high-resolution airborne surveys from the current 16% coverage to 50% by 2030, a move expected to improve exploration accuracy and build investor

confidence," he explained.

Emphasizing the need for a united African approach, Dr. Mwashe advocated for collaboration among African nations to establish processing and refining facilities on the continent.

He noted the strategic importance of conducting cost-benefit analyses to determine ideal locations for these facilities.

"For example, the upcoming Kabanaga Nickel multi-metal smelter in Kahama, Tanzania, will enable neighboring countries like Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo to process their minerals locally, fostering regional prosperity and maximizing resource benefits. Strong partnerships among African nations are key to making this vision a reality," he said.

Tanzania is also enhancing STAMICO's role to attract investment by issuing exploration licenses and conducting its own preliminary research.

This approach aims to reduce investor start-up times and minimize risks associated with unproven resources. Dr. Mwashe concluded by urging other African nations to strengthen their state-owned mining corporations to drive critical mineral development.

"By doing so, we can increase national benefits and boost Africa's position in the global mining sector," he said.



## Iran's empty threat to close the most important oil shipping lane

By Tsvetana Paraskova

Speculation over Iran blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil chokepoint, has resurfaced amid Middle East tensions.

The US and European naval presence in the Persian Gulf could quickly counter any blockade attempt, which would disrupt over 21 million barrels per day of oil flow. President Donald Trump is widely expected to re-impose the "maximum pressure policy" on Iran.

Every time tensions in the Middle East escalate, oil market analysts are back to speculating whether Iran will dare attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most vital oil chokepoint, which sees 20% of global daily oil consumption pass through.

The October attack from Iran on Israel and the limited Israeli response have revived speculation on the possible impact of an Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

Despite on-and-off threats for years, Iran has never attempted such a blockade. And analysts and geopolitical experts believe it will not do it this time, either.

The closure of the shipping route, where more than 20% of daily oil consumption passes, is a very low-probability event. It would harm both oil exporters from the region, including Iran itself, and all consumers, especially China, the world's largest crude oil importer, which relies on cheap Iranian oil supply.

However, a large US and European naval fleet presence in the Persian Gulf and the US Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain could move quickly to prevent an attempted Iranian blockade.

China, Iran's main oil customer, will not be happy with a blockade and traffic disruption, either, as shipping rates and oil prices will jump. The world's top crude importer depends on the Strait of Hormuz for its vast supply of oil from other Middle Eastern producers, too.

Moreover, Iran's crude oil going to China these days is reportedly priced at its narrowest discount to Brent in five years as Iranian cargo loadings slumped last month amid fears that Israel would target Tehran's energy facilities in response to the Iranian missile attack on Israel on October 1.

## Tanzania to benefit from Zambian steel plant

By Correspondent James Kandoya

The Tanzania market is poised to gain from a steady, cost-effective supply of construction materials following the recent inauguration of the Powerful Diligent Veracious (PDV) Metals Limited Steel Plant in Zambia.

The plant, a joint venture with China's PDV Group, has a production capacity of 300,000 metric tons of steel annually and aims to stabilize construction supply chains across the region.

The plant was inaugurated by Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, who commended the Chinese investors for their role in establishing the facility.

Zambia's Acting Minister for Commerce, Trade, and Industry Paul Kabuswe highlighted that the plant is not only set to boost Zambia's industrial sector but also expected to fuel the development of an iron ore mine, which would trigger growth in related sectors.

He said with 50-70 percent of the plant's output projected to be exported to Tanzania, the facility is well-positioned to support key infrastructure and industrial projects in Tanzania.

Kabuswe emphasized that the USD 230 million project was the largest rebar production facility in Southern Africa and stands ready to supply Tanzanian projects with high-quality steel products at competitive prices, creating a



Zambia's acting Minister for Commerce, Trade, and Industry, Paul Kabuswe

new chapter for Tanzania's steel industry.

Tanzania's mining, transportation, and construction sectors are expected to benefit from this increased steel supply. The PDV Metals plant will help stabilize supply chains, reduce dependence on imports, and foster a more self-sustaining industrial

ecosystem in Tanzania.

Kabuswe stated, "This venture is expected to meet Tanzania's growing demand for quality steel in construction and infrastructure, making high-strength rebar and other steel products available at competitive prices compared to imported alternatives."

"For Tanzanian contractors,

this means access to an ongoing supply of internationally certified steel products, enhancing the resilience of local infrastructure projects with reliable and high-quality materials."

He said beyond its manufacturing impact, the PDV Metals plant represents a long-term commitment to regional growth, with a focus on job creation and skill development. Tanzanian professionals and trainees will have the opportunity to gain valuable expertise in advanced steel production, preparing a skilled workforce capable of leading the region's future industrial projects.

"The positive impacts of this initiative extend to workforce development, ensuring Tanzanian professionals are ready to contribute to regional industrial growth," he added.

Zeng Jun, chairman of the Chinese company, underscored the plant's significance in increasing local production capacity in the manufacturing industry and noted that PDV Metals has plans for a technical training program aimed at transferring critical technological skills to the local workforce.

As the PDV Metals Steel Plant expands, this collaborative effort between Zambia, Tanzania, and China symbolizes the strength of regional partnerships.

It promises to reinforce a stronger Tanzania-Zambia economic corridor, advancing mutual development and shared prosperity across the region.

## CTI demonstrates govt efforts in addressing industrial challenges

By Guardian Correspondent

The Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) Chairman Paul Makanza has expressed appreciation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government in addressing the challenges raised by industrialists.

Speaking during the President's Awards for Best Producers (PMA-YA), organized annually by the CTI, Makanza specifically pointed out that issues such as the electricity problem and foreign currency shortages, which were major concerns last year, have been resolved.

He also noted that tax-related problems had been addressed, with the government setting up a special office to handle national tax grievances. Makanza urged the government to continue addressing emerging issues, such as the shortage of Tanzanian shillings and delays in contractor payments.

, representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan, presented awards for the best industrial manufacturers at the President's Awards for Best Producers (PMA-YA), organized annually by the Confederation of Tanzanian Industries (CTI).

The tobacco company Alliance One emerged as the top winner in the large tobacco processing category, where more than 100 companies competed in this year's 42 awards, held on Friday, November 8th.

In his event's inaugural speech, the Vice President Dr. Philip Isidor Mpango congratulated the CTI and emphasized that the industrial sector is a critical pillar of the national economy.

He challenged producers with five key points, stressing the importance of nurturing and growing emerging industries to enable them to thrive and withstand global economic shocks.

Dr. Mpango also called on factory owners to enhance environmental conservation efforts, particularly by improving recycling processes, and urged industrialists to create strategies that would generate more job opportunities for unemployed youth in urban areas. He further noted that the government is already working to align the country's education system with available job opportunities.



Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Exaud Kigaha (C) presents an award to Alliance One spokesperson John Magoti (L), during the industrial manufacturers award held last weekend. Right is the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) Chairman Paul Makanza. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The Vice President also encouraged CTI to develop a youth-centered strategy and warned stakeholders to prepare for the battle against counterfeit products that are damaging the local market.

Speaking on behalf of Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited, company spokesperson Advocate John Magoti expressed gratitude to the CTI for recognizing the company's contribution to the industrial sector, particularly in agri-processing.

He highlighted that the award, received for three consecutive years, reflects the strong collaboration between the company, its employees, and other stakeholders in the tobacco sector, including the farmers they work with.

Magoti assured that Alliance One is committed to processing tobacco locally and aims to further develop this small sector to increase foreign exchange earnings for the country.

"We are committed to improving environmental conservation in our factories, and we are focusing more on utilizing renewable energy such as solar energy. This is part of the company's broader ESG (Environmental, Social, and

Governance) strategies to mitigate environmental impact throughout its value chain," Magoti said.

He also emphasized that the company's victory at the awards was made possible by its corporate social responsibility programs, including those in water, the environment, and education. "Alliance One is a resident of Kingolwira suburb in Morogoro, so we actively participate in various community donations, including extending donations to the local health center," he said. Magoti further explained the company's significant contributions to transforming Kingolwira Primary School, such as building new classrooms, renovating old ones, providing a borehole, water pumps, filters, and constructing new sports facilities, including football, netball, and basketball pitches.

Magoti also highlighted that the company, which opened its processing plant in 1998 with a capacity of 100,000 metric tonnes, has been operational continuously. It currently employs 350 permanent, pensionable staff and more than 3,000 seasonal workers, with these workers supporting their

families year after year. Additionally, Alliance One works with over 13,000 farmers in tobacco-growing zones under special farming contracts.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Exaud Kigaha congratulated CTI for continuing the awards, which have contributed significantly to the success and prosperity of the national economy. He reassured attendees that the government will continue to implement policies that support the development of industries and is currently reviewing policies for both large and small industries to ensure greater effectiveness.

Kigaha also noted that the government is designating areas for industrial development across the country, with all districts and regions instructed to focus on industrialization. He added that the government will collaborate with industry stakeholders to ensure that the country benefits from the upcoming African Free Trade Area, which is set to officially begin in 2025.

The overall winners of the awards were the Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC) in first place, followed by Plascon and ALAF.

# Emissions from private jets seen soaring

By Helena Kudiabor

A global analysis of private-jet use shows that the number of aircraft, trips and the distance planes covered have all soared over the past four years, exacerbating the sector's carbon dioxide emissions. Between 2019 and 2023, the number of private flights rose to more than four million a year, increasing emissions by 46 percent.

The study, which was published on 7 November in Communications Earth and Environment, found that private flights produced 15.6 million tonnes of CO2 last year, and identified events that they were concentrated around, including the COP28 climate summit in Dubai last year.

This work "is so important in the light of global warming and the absolute inequalities that we have across the

world," says Milan Klöwer, who researches the impact of aviation on global warming at the University of Oxford, UK. "While private aviation is obviously a small share of commercial aviation, it really shows how disproportionately they're just burning the planet."

Researchers have explored the impacts of air travel on climate change. But few studies have focussed on the global scale and climate cost of private jets, which are one of the most energy-consuming ways to fly. "Per hour, a large private aircraft can emit more than an average person emits per year," says study co-author Stefan Gössling, who studies transport behaviour and climate change at Linnaeus University in Sweden.

Gössling and his colleagues collected private aircraft logs from 2019-23, which provide



real-time location information for all flights. Flight time data were then "associated with aircraft model-specific fuel use to determine emissions", he says.

Their analysis showed that the number of private jets increased by 28.4% over the four years, to almost 26,000 jets in 2023. The total distance the jets flew also increased.

And although total CO2 emissions increased from 10.7 to 15.6 million tonnes, average emissions per kilometre decreased, which could be due to more efficient jet systems

(see "The jet set").

Nearly 50 percent of the flights were shorter than 500 kilometres; such distances, Klöwer says, could have been done by train or by car. And many journeys – well as emissions – were clustered around major world events. For example, 172 of the 595 private planes that flew to the 2023 World Economic Forum were also seen at the Cannes Film Festival that year. COP28 was linked to 644 private flights, releasing an estimated 4,800 tonnes of CO2.

Although the scale of emissions from private flights is small compared to other sources, the study argues that the rate at which they are increasing is concerning. "I have already heard many colleagues say that 15.6 million tonnes is nothing in global comparison, and that we can ignore the sector," says Gössling. "I think we should

see it the other way around. If individuals get to emit thousands of tons without consequences, why should anybody else reduce their emissions?"

Klöwer agrees that the global rise in private jet usage is "not sustainable," adding that stricter regulations would help reduce the incentives around private flight. "Carbon is a cost, and this cost should be internalised," says Gössling. "I think every country could put taxes on every private jet that lands or takes off," Klöwer says, although he acknowledges that rules like this would be "politically very, very difficult".

Klöwer is keen for future studies to explore non-CO2 emissions from flying, such as methane or sulphur dioxide. He says that although calculating these emissions would be challenging, research on this could help to provide a clearer picture of how individual jets contribute to climate change. "You could really pin down people and say ... 'this is the amount of warming you are responsible personally for.'"

## Bitcoin nears \$80,000

NEW YORK

Bitcoin is closing in on \$80,000 for the first time, boosted by President-elect Donald Trump's embrace of digital assets and the prospect of a Congress featuring pro-crypto lawmakers.

The cryptocurrency climbed as much as 4.3% to an unprecedented \$79,771 on Sunday and remained near \$79,000 as of 2:05 p.m. in Singapore. Smaller tokens like Cardano and meme-crowd favorite Dogecoin also rallied.

Trump vowed on the campaign trail to put the US at the center of the digital-asset industry, including creating a strategic Bitcoin stockpile and appointing regulators enamored with digital assets. He emerged from Tuesday's election in a stronger position than expected – his Republican Party has control of the Senate and is on the verge of holding a narrow majority in the House.

"With the dust from Trump's victory still settling down, it was only a matter of time before a run-up of some sort occurred given the perception of Trump being pro-crypto, and that's what we're seeing now," said Le Shi, Hong Kong managing director at market-making firm Auros.

Bitcoin has added about 90 percent so far in 2024, helped by robust demand for dedicated US exchange-traded funds and interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. The rise in the largest digital token, which scaled fresh records after the US vote, exceeds the returns from investments such as stocks and gold.

The ETFs, powered by BlackRock Inc.'s \$35 billion iShares Bitcoin Trust, posted a record daily net inflow of almost \$1.4 billion on Thursday, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. A day earlier, the iShares ETF's trading volume jumped to an all-time peak – all signs of how Trump's victory is reshaping crypto.

Trump's stance contrasts with a crackdown on digital assets under President Joe Biden. Securities & Exchange Commission Chair Gary Gensler repeatedly labeled the sector as rife with fraud and misconduct. The agency turned the screws on crypto following a 2022 market rout and a litany of collapses, notably the bankruptcy of Sam Bankman-Fried's fraudulent FTX exchange.



## Employers report narrowed skills gap

By Francis Kajubi

The Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) has reported significant progress in narrowing the skills gap among youth in the competitive job market over the past three years.

Speaking at a conference in Dar es Salaam last week, ATE Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Ndomba-Doran (pictured) highlighted the success of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project, launched in 2021 to equip youth with skills for both employment and self-employment.

Addressing the conference theme, "Social Dialogue and Decent Jobs for Young Tanzanians," Ndomba-Doran noted that while TVET equips youth with the skills needed for decent employment and contributes to economic growth, Tanzania's technical and vocational training system faces challenges in adapting to the evolving labor

market needs.

"The project covered Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, training 1,098 youth in fields such as fitter mechanics, electrical installations, food production, and refrigeration," she said.

The project was implemented in collaboration with institutions like Don Bosco Oysre-bay VTC, VETA Dar es Salaam (Changombe), Kihonda VTC, Mikumi VTC, and Mzinga VTC. ATE also signed 12 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), VETA, Don Bosco VTC, and Mzinga VTC to promote skills development.

Among the key achievements were the creation of guidelines for TVET graduates and interns, along with training for 34 teachers to enhance curriculum delivery. Additionally, 50 TVET trainers were capacitated in occupational health and safety,

ensuring they can teach students about market needs related to workplace safety.

"We've trained over 350 students in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, preparing them for employment," Ndomba-Doran added.

Despite the successes, Ndomba-Doran acknowledged the need for more funding to improve TVET institutions across the country, emphasizing the importance of formal contracts for industrial attachments to ensure student safety and well-being.

The project received support from the Danish Industry (DI), the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), and development partners, including companies such as Bakhresa Group, MeTL Group Limited, Chemi Cotex Industries, Coca-Cola Kwanza, Kilombero Sugar, Alliance One Tobacco, and others.

## DSE stresses need for ESG principles

By Correspondent  
Zuwena Shame

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) marked a significant milestone by announcing the return of the DSE Members Awards 2024 (DMA).

This year's theme, "Embracing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Principles for Sustainable Capital Markets," underscores the event's focus on fostering sustainable practices. The awards, paused since 2020 due to the global pandemic, have made a celebrated comeback.

DSE joined the United Nations-Sustainable Stock Exchanges (UNSSE) Initiative as a Partner Exchange in 2016. This partnership represented a vital commitment to embedding sustainability into governance, operations, and the broader Tanzanian market framework.

"We are delighted to reach this milestone after a three-year pause of the DSE awards," said DSE Chief Executive Officer Peter Nalitolela during the 2024 awards night in Dar es Salaam. "These awards were introduced as part of our dedication to recognizing exceptional practices in ESG among our members. They are more than ceremonial – they aim to inspire meaningful action across our ecosystem."

Nalitolela highlighted that globally, and especially in East Africa, ESG principles are shaping investment choices and driving a fundamental transformation of capital markets toward sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economies.

"The world is a unique



DSE Chief Executive Officer Peter Nalitolela

gift, and if we destroy it, we undermine our ability to conduct business," Nalitolela emphasized. "It's essential for the public to understand that business isn't just about profits; it's about sustainable practices that ensure the well-being of future generations. Considering the environment, society, and business integrity is vital, and these awards motivate our members to excel."

DSE's 2024 awards celebrated members who showed genuine commitment to ESG principles. According to Nalitolela, these efforts affirm that environmental stewardship, good governance, and social responsibility are foundational for a thriving modern market. "Adopting these prin-

ciples strengthens our capital markets and contributes to a future that benefits everyone," he added.

The DSE Members Awards 2024 included ten categories: Best Listed Company of the Year under the Main Investment Market Segment (MIMS) – Industrial and Allied Category; Best Company of the Year under MIMS – Banking and Investment Category; Best Listed Company of the Year under MIMS – Commercial Services Category; and Best Listed Company of the Year under the Enterprise Growth Market Segment (EGM). Other categories included Best Stockbroker of the Year, Best Upcoming Stockbroker, Best Nominated Advisor (NOMAD) of the Year.

## Govt sets out to expand sustainable energy access

By Correspondent James Kandoya

The Tanzanian government has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding access to sustainable energy and empowering citizens through modern, clean energy solutions.

Engineer Innocent Luoga, Commissioner for Renewable Energy, emphasized this commitment dur-

ing an award ceremony in Dar es Salaam, where 25 young women received scholarships for a master's program in energy efficiency.

Luoga highlighted that Tanzania's energy sector is undergoing significant reforms to meet growing demand, combat climate change, adapt to global trends, and foster socioeconomic growth. He stressed

that achieving these goals relies on a skilled workforce, with a particular focus on gender equality.

"Tanzania is committed to providing affordable, sustainable energy for all. Support from the EU and the Embassy of Ireland is crucial to equipping young women with the qualifications needed to address energy challenges and drive innova-

tive solutions," he said. The Energy Efficiency Action Plan, currently in progress, aims to build expertise in energy management and auditing to fill critical gaps in the sector. "A skilled workforce, especially women, is essential for advancing our energy efficiency goals and sustainable development," Luoga added.

UNDP Resident Representative

Shigeki Komatsubara emphasized the importance of bridging the skills gap in the traditionally male-dominated energy sector. "This program opens the door for women to contribute to Tanzania's energy and climate goals," he said.

Mags Gaynor, Deputy Head of the Embassy of Ireland, expressed pride in supporting women and youth in

the energy sector. "We are pleased to see the number of female scholarship recipients grow from 10 to 35, enhancing knowledge in sustainable energy and climate action," she said.

Funded by the EU and the Embassy of Ireland, the scholarships are part of Tanzania's Energy Efficiency Action Plan, implemented by UNDP on behalf of the Ministry of Energy.

# Barrick Gold falls behind rivals

TORONTO

Most of the world's top gold miners have seen their shares surge this year as bullion prices hit repeated record highs. Not Barrick Gold Corp.

Missed production targets, higher operational costs and political turbulence at mines in Africa and Asia have investors turning increasingly sour on the world's second-biggest gold producer. On Thursday, Barrick posted gold output that missed analysts' estimates for the 11th straight quarter.

Barrick is one of several miners that have struggled to capitalize on the bullion boom amid higher mining costs and weaker output. But among the largest precious metal producers – Newmont Corp., Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. and AngloGold Ashanti Ltd. – Barrick has routinely underperformed, with its shares virtually unchanged since the beginning of January. Gold, meanwhile, has soared 30 percent in the period.

According to Barrick Gold Corp. CEO Dennis Mark Bristow: We're rebuilding the business

Barrick has spent years working to improve its balance sheet after amassing debt from acquisitions. Bristow, who joined as CEO in 2019 as part of the Canadian company's takeover of Randgold Resources Ltd., has paid down that debt while exercising restraint in dealmaking. He has also pursued diversification into copper. Bristow's explanation doesn't seem



to be winning over investors. Some of Barrick's top investors have sold off shares while boosting stakes in competitors. Blackrock Inc., one of Barrick's biggest shareholders, reduced its stake while buying into Agnico Eagle and Newmont, according to regulatory disclosures in November. Other major investors like Van Eck Associates Corp., First Eagle Investment Management LLC and Capital Group Inc. also

trimmed their holdings in recent months. Barrick isn't alone in drawing scrutiny from shareholders whose expectations have been lifted by gold's rally. Larger rival Newmont suffered its biggest one-day stock drop since 1997 last month after posting disappointing quarterly earnings.

Bristow said investors are undervaluing Barrick's stock. "It's our job as managers to make

sure that the market properly understands us," he said in an interview.

Barrick's strengths lie in its complex of productive mines in the US, along with huge operations in Papua New Guinea and Mali. It has diversified through expanding in copper just as the global energy transition boosts demand for the wiring metal. The company has relatively little debt.

Still, Barrick has faced setbacks in its attempts to match production to cost targets. Its Nevada operations, co-owned with Newmont, need significant infrastructure repairs, and labor costs have increased.

"We're still not as efficient in Nevada as we are in some of our African mines," Bristow said. "But we're getting there."

Africa is also a chief concern among investors, notably in Mali, where the military government is threatening to withdraw the company's right to operate a mine. In the Dominican Republic, an extension to Barrick's Pueblo Viejo mine has taken longer than expected to complete.

Operating issues at the Nevada mines and Pueblo Viejo will "persist into 2025 and are expected to have an impact on production," Bank of Nova Scotia analyst Tanya Jakusconek wrote in a Friday note.

The setbacks have ceded territory to rivals. Newmont solidified its position as the world's top producer with its acquisition of Newcrest Mining Ltd. last year, significantly boosting its production of gold and copper. Agnico Eagle, once a small gold producer, surpassed Barrick's market capitalization for the first time early this year. Barrick's annual gold output, meanwhile, is at its lowest level since 2000.

Barrick has regularly missed Wall Street's expectations for important measures such as revenue and gold production in its quarterly results – including last week's financial disclosures.

"Barrick has a lot of challenges to overcome," said Rick Rule, a US investment adviser and shareholder. "At the very least, it would be useful if the quarterly performance matched guidance."

## Iran and China discuss expansion of trade ties

TEHRAN

Iran is attending China International Import Expo (CIIE) in a bid to increase the export of Iran-made goods and services, also expand economic and trade relations with China.

Running from November 5 to 10, the 7th CIIE has attracted 3,496 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. It also sets a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attending the event.

Some Iranian high-ranking officials, from government and private sector, have traveled to Shanghai to visit the CIIE and evaluate the country's needs in various sectors as well as the export potential of Iranian companies in order to develop exports, in addition to examine the existing obstacles in the path of Iranian companies' exports to China, in interaction with Chinese officials and companies, and hold consultations to resolve them.

Mahmoud Najafi-Arab, the head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TC-CIMA), who traveled to Shanghai on the head of an Iranian trade delegation, met with some entrepreneurs of the private and state-run sectors of China as well as Iranian businessmen living in eastern China in two different meetings upon arriving in Shanghai to attend the CIIE, and discussed with the Chinese sides the conditions and fields of economic relations development, with the focus of attracting investment in projects in the field of renewable energy, processing and food industries, agricultural products, medicine and medical equipment, housing construction, etc.

As reported by the TCCIMA Public Relations Department, Mohsen Bakhtiar, Iran's ambassador to China, Ali Mohammadi, Iran's consul general in Shanghai, and Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), were also present in these meetings, and discussed the challenges facing the development of Iran-China relations by private sector entrepreneurs.

In these meetings, the TCCIMA head announced the readiness of the Tehran Chamber to host trade delegations from China in various fields of production and trade, and emphasized the need for the two sides to get to know each other as much as possible about the capabilities and capacities of the two countries in meeting the needs and also joint investments.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Iran's pavilion in the CIIE, which was also participated by the TPO head and Iran's ambassador to China, Najafi-Arab said: "This huge commercial event provides a valuable opportunity to introduce the export capacities and capabilities of Iran in various industrial and agricultural fields and to strengthen the economic and commercial relations between Iran and China."

Pointing out that Iran and China are big trade partners in the region, he said: "Last year, the bilateral trade, excluding oil export, between the two countries reached about 33 billion dollars. This cooperation continues to grow through trade development in various fields including mining, petrochemicals, food, agriculture and new technologies. The figures show the high capacity of the two countries to expand cooperation, but the relations between the two countries can be developed far beyond this. We should use these capacities optimally by increasing delegation exchanges and developing joint projects and carry out commercial and industrial exchanges on a wider level."



ITV PGM SCHEDULE table with columns for Day, Time, Program Name, and Channel. Includes sections for Saturday 9 Nov, Sunday 10 Nov, Monday 11 Nov, Tuesday 12 Nov, Wednesday 13 Nov, Thursday 14 Nov, Friday 15 Nov, Saturday 16 Nov, Sunday 17 Nov, Monday 18 Nov, Tuesday 19 Nov, Wednesday 20 Nov, Thursday 21 Nov, Friday 22 Nov, Saturday 23 Nov, and Sunday 24 Nov.

## WORLD

## OHCHR: Nearly 70% of verified Gaza war dead women and children



Palestinian women mourn a relative killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, at a hospital in Deir al-Balah, Aug 22, 2024. AP

fensive in response to the Oct 7, 2023 attack in which Hamas fighters killed about 1,200 people in southern Israel and seized more than 250 hostages, says it takes care to avoid harming civilians in Gaza.

It has said approximately one civilian has been killed for every fighter, a ratio it blames on Hamas, saying the Palestinian militant group uses civilian facilities. Hamas has denied using civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, as human shields.

#### Youngest victim aged one day

Ajith Sunghay, Head of the UN Human Rights Office for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, told reporters at a briefing in Geneva that the fatalities included in the report were verified by three sources such as neighbors, family members, local NGOs, hospital records or UN staff on the ground.

"The numbers are, of course, massive compared to previous years, so we do need time to catch up and verify", he said, adding

that he thought the final UN tally was likely to be similar to the Palestinian toll.

The youngest victim whose death was verified by UN monitors was a one-day-old boy, and the oldest was a 97-year-old woman, the report said.

Overall, those aged 18 or under represented 44 percent of the victims, with children aged five-nine representing the single biggest age category, followed by those aged 10-14, and then those aged up to and including four.

This broadly reflects the enclave's demographics, which the report said reflected an apparent failure to take precautions to avoid civilian losses.

It showed that in 88 percent of cases, five or more people were killed in the same attack, pointing to the Israeli military's use of weapons with an effect across a wide area, although it said some fatalities may have been the result of errant projectiles from Palestinian armed groups.

killed in the war.

This finding indicates "a systematic violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including distinction and proportionality," the UN rights office said in a statement accompanying the 32-page report.

"It is essential that there is due reckoning with respect to the allegations of serious violations of international law through credible and impartial judicial bodies and that, in the meantime, all relevant information and evidence are collected and preserved," United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not immediately respond to a request by Reuters for comment on the report's findings.

Israel's military, which began its of-

#### GENEVA

THE UN Human Rights Office said on Friday nearly 70 percent of the fatalities it has verified in the Gaza war were women and children, and condemned what it called a systematic violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

The UN tally since the start of the war, in which Israel's military is fighting Hamas militants, includes only fatalities it has managed to verify with three sources, and counting continues.

The 8,119 victims verified is a much lower number than the toll of over 43,000 provided by Palestinian health authorities for the 13-month-old war. But the UN breakdown of the victims' age and gender backs the Palestinian assertion that women and children represent a large portion of those

## Xi urges China-Italy cooperation for building better world

#### BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with Italian President Sergio Mattarella in Beijing on Friday, saying the two countries should make joint efforts to build a world of harmonious coexistence.

Mattarella is in China for a state visit at the invitation of Xi.

Noting that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi said China and Italy, both ancient civilizations, should uphold their traditions of openness and inclusiveness, and encourage the international community to resolve differences through dialogue and rise above conflicts through cooperation.

Noting that mutual respect and trust, and win-win cooperation should always be the defining feature of China-Italy relations, Xi said the two sides should fully leverage the role of the China-Italy Government Committee and dialogue mechanisms in various fields, strengthen exchanges, consolidate mutual trust, continue to understand and support each other on issues of core interests and major concerns, and be strategic partners of mutual

support.

China-Italy cultural cooperation has yielded fruitful results and is full of vitality, Xi said. He urged the two sides to continue to strengthen people-to-people exchanges, implement the new round of cultural cooperation action plans, deepen cooperation on culture and art, cultural relics' protection, translation of classical works, tourism and education, and make cooperation on cultural heritage sites a new highlight of China-Italy people-to-people exchanges.

Xi called on the two sides to support language teaching and youth exchanges, and remain cooperative partners helping each other to succeed. China is willing to import more quality Italian products, support mutual investment by enterprises of the two countries and continue to advance cooperation on science, technology, environmental protection, clean energy and aerospace, Xi said.

Xi said that China and Europe are major forces for peace and constructive action, and should stick to the right direction of strategic communication, open cooperation and mutual learning, which is in the interests of both sides and the world at large.

Xi said that China takes Eu-



rope as an important partner on the path toward realizing Chinese modernization. He urged the two sides to seek win-win cooperation and manage their differences properly to ensure that bilateral relations are more mature and stable, as duly expected.

"China is willing to strengthen cooperation with the European side to cope with global challenges, and hopes that Italy can play a positive role in this regard," Xi said.

Mattarella said this year

between Eastern and Western civilizations, as well as the progress of human civilization.

Mattarella said Italy firmly adheres to the one-China policy and always considers China as an important partner. Italy looks forward to working with China to take the opportunity of celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership to strengthen cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and science and technology, and push bilateral relations to a new height.

Italy shares similar positions with China on many major issues. Both sides oppose protectionism, advocate mutual openness, and stand for strengthening constructive communication, solidarity and cooperation to jointly meet various challenges. Italy is willing to work closely with China in multilateral collaboration and contribute the wisdom of the two civilizations to promoting world peace and stability, Mattarella said.

After the talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of culture, science and technology, education, and the protection of world heritage sites.

Xinhua

## Australian businessmen see big opportunities at import expo

#### SHANGHAI

SEVEN years ago, Wei Li, an Australian businessman and the owner of Auswan, a wine brand, had some hesitation when he was invited to participate in the first China International Import Expo (CIIE).

"When global enterprises from various industries come together, there might be only a few purchasers interested in or knowledgeable about wine," he thought.

But the result surprised him. In 2019, the year after Li participated in the first CIIE, he sold about 7 million bottles of wine in the Chinese market, a great leap from the 4 million bottles in 2018. This made him a seven-time attendee of the expo.

In Li's first CIIE journey, he only met a dozen Australian enterprises. During the seventh CIIE, held from Nov. 5 to 10, his booth is set in the hustle and bustle of the Team Australia Pavilion,

covering over 1,000 square meters. "It's packed with exhibitors and visitors, and sometimes I have trouble squeezing through," said Li.

Over 250 Australian enterprises attended this year's CIIE, hitting a historical high, according to the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade).

The Team Australia Pavilion gathered over 170 enterprises, showcasing various foods and beverages such as meat, seafood, wine and dairy products. From Nov. 4 to 6, Australian enterprises and their Chinese partners have jointly signed 25 memoranda of understandings, with a total value of nearly 300 million Australian dollars (about 199.53 million U.S. dollars), said the Austrade.

China has been Australia's largest trading partner, export market and import source for 15 consecutive years. In 2023, bilateral trade in goods increased by 4.1 percent year on year.

China is also the main importer of agricultural and mineral products from Australia. China's market is huge, and Chinese consumers now attach greater importance to clean, safe and healthy food, and this happens to be the competitive advantage of Australian enterprises, said Dominic Trindade, minister (commercial) at the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

"For the Australian businesses, the CIIE is not only a chance to meet major Chinese buyers, but also a platform to know better about the changes in the Chinese market, learn from other companies in their industry, and build new cooperations," he said.

A kind of dry red wine with its wrappers featuring "celebrating the upcoming Chinese zodiac Year of the Snake" under the Auswan brand debuted at the seventh CIIE, and Li's company also cooperated with a seafood enterprise to hold cuisine culture experience activities to better attract Chinese

consumers. Just steps away, Auswan's white wine can find its perfect fine-dining mate, a whole rock lobster from the cold and nutrient-rich rugged waters off Southern Australia.

The premium seafood was brought to Shanghai from the other side of the earth by Andrew Ferguson, a seasoned Australian fisherman and now a seafood processor and exporter.

"This second-time CIIE participant is eager to try his luck again. "The amount of deals I reached during my first CIIE was a really impressive number," Ferguson said, with a smile.

Speaking with Xinhua, Ferguson noted that the Chinese market's appeal lies not only in its sheer size but also in its strong demand for seafood products. "No other place in the world has that sort of liking for seafood like the Chinese market. It's a great place for us to showcase our product," he said. Discussing his business prospects, Ferguson said his products are

already featured in five-star hotels and upscale restaurants, and he now plans to establish a retail pathway to bring them to supermarkets and, ultimately, more Chinese dining tables.

But what made the Australian businessman's CIIE story truly inspiring is that his rock lobster now serves as a testament to China's rock-solid commitment to further opening up its market. China's opening stance has also strengthened the confidence of CIIE veterans like mining giant Rio Tinto in the Chinese market.

Rio Tinto has brought more than ten high-quality mineral raw materials and other products to the expo, including iron ore, copper, aluminum, lithium, and borates from Australia, Canada, the United States, Mongolia, South Africa and Madagascar.

Meanwhile, this year, Rio Tinto achieved a new milestone in the Chinese market, with its cumulative iron ore supply to China reaching 4 billion

tonnes.

Over the years, the CIIE has had a profound and positive impact on global business and trade, fostering win-win collaboration and reshaping industry dynamics with innovative momentum for high-quality development across sectors, said Bold Baatar, Chief Commercial Officer of the company.

According to the senior executive, the event's success not only reflects China's commitment to driving reform and high-quality growth through greater openness but also highlights the importance of global partnerships in addressing shared challenges and exploring new opportunities.

"I feel immense pride whenever I think about how our raw materials have supported China in building advanced infrastructure and developing new quality productive forces, improving the lives of 1.4 billion people," he said. Xinhua

## 'G20 should bring tangible results to people'

#### NEW DELHI

BRAZIL'S Ambassador to India, Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nobrega on Friday said that the country's presidency of the G20 will focus on driving tangible results and addressing global challenges.

He further emphasised that on the relationship between India and Brazil and said that there is a "sheer interest" between the business communities and science communities.

While speaking with ANI, Nobrega said, "As I have mentioned, the last sentence of my speech tonight was 'these are indeed exciting times to be Ambassador of Brazil to India'. Why is that? In 12 months, 40 missions from Brazil business and official missions from Brazil and numerous missions also from India to Brazil have taken place. There is a sheer interest between our business communities and science communities to do things together."

He added, "Food security, agriculture, and defence are the key areas... These things are booming and that is why, I am so excited."

On being asked about the focus area for G20 under Brazil's Presidency, Nobrega said, "Our presidency to a considerable extent is a presidency that is a continuity of India's presidency in the sense that we have also developed activities and proposals that boost the legitimacy of G20..."

He added, "We launched, with the approval of the other G20 countries, task forces to fight poverty, hunger and to fight climate change. The idea is that the G20 should bring tangible results to people. I think political decisions and consensus are very important. G20 needs also to deliver things on the ground for the people. Another stunning result was this 'call for action' we approved in New York. This was the first-ever meeting of G20 foreign ministers within the United Nations headquarters. G20 is becoming more and more important as a group that proposes solutions to the great challenges of humanity."

Notably, Brazil is holding the G20 presidency in 2024. The G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2024, in Rio de Janeiro, with the presence of the leaders of the 19 member countries, along with the African Union and the European Union.

The Brazilian Ambassador further spoke on the outcome of the US presidential elections and said that Brazil has "intense bilateral relations" with the US and that their government will work with Donald Trump. "US has a solid democracy for more than 200 years so we see democracy at work in the United States. Brazil has traditional, very intense bilateral relations with the US and we will work with President Trump. There is no doubt about this," Nobrega told ANI.

Earlier in the day, Nobrega, while giving a speech in New Delhi on the occasion of Brazil National Day, had said that the relations between Brazil and India have become even stronger and emphasised that both countries have developed strong bonds that are based on "common values, perceptions, and interests."

He said, "In 2024, Brazil-India relations have become even stronger. Traditional spheres of cooperation have converged with new ones. Such convergence shows that our long-standing friendship has been gaining in breadth and depth and in a challenging international environment, finding secure paths to social economic development requires new approaches to economic complementarities and, above all, mutual trust." ANI

#### Pentagon confirms lifting of ban on entry into Ukraine for US military contractors

#### WASHINGTON

THE US Department of Defense (DoD) has confirmed the lifting of the ban on entry into Ukraine for American military contractors to repair and maintain the US-supplied equipment, with all possible risks related to the decision taken into account, a Pentagon representative said, responding to a TASS request.

"In order to help Ukraine repair and maintain military equipment provided by the US and its allies, DoD is soliciting bids for a small number of contractors who will help Ukraine maintain the assistance we've already provided. These contractors will be located far from the front lines and they will not be fighting Russian forces," he said, adding that "some of the equipment the US has provided Ukraine - or will provide Ukraine in the coming months - such as F-16s and Patriot air defense systems require specific technical expertise to maintain."



## Close to 70% of those killed in Gaza were children and women, says UN report

GENEVA

THE United Nations Human Rights Office on Friday published a report detailing the horrific reality that unfolded in Israel and Gaza since October 7, 2023 and asserted that justice must be served with respect to the "grave violations of international law."

In a statement, the UN Human Rights Office said that it has been verifying the personal details of those killed in Gaza by strikes, shelling and other conduct of hostilities.

"Of those fatalities, it has so far found close to 70 per cent to be children and women, indicating a systematic violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including distinction and proportionality," it said.

It further said, "The continuation of these attacks, killing even across the population, demonstrates an apparent indifference to the death of civilians and the impact of the means and methods of warfare selected."

The most represented of verified fatalities are children. The three categories of age most represented were children aged from 5 to 9 years old, children from 10 to 14 years old, and babies and children from 0 to 4 years old.

Of the verified fatalities, about 80 per cent were killed in residential buildings or similar housing, out of which 44 per cent were children and 26 per cent were women.

Meanwhile, sharing a video message from Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Human Rights shared a video message on X and said, "My office is publishing a report today detailing the horrific reality that has unfolded for the people of Israel and Gaza, since October 7, 2023."

I have repeatedly warned about the risk of atrocity crimes being committed. Justice must be served for these grave

violations of international law."

He further spoke about the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and said that their actions raise concerns owing to attacks on hospitals as well as journalists.

"The report raises concerns about the actions of the Israeli Defence Forces with respect to attacks on hospitals, and journalists."

It also points to the reported use of white phosphorus munitions. States have an obligation to act to prevent atrocity crimes, and I urge them to support the work of accountability mechanisms including the International Criminal Court; to exercise universal jurisdiction to investigate and try crimes under international law in national courts, and to comply with extradition requests."

Notably, Hamas launched a massive terror attack on Israel on October 7 last year, killing over 1200 people and holding over 250 as hostages. Around 100 of them are still in captivity, many are feared dead.

In response, Israel launched a strong counteroffensive targeting Hamas units in Gaza. The Israeli operation, however, has reportedly killed over 45,000 Palestinians in Gaza. The mounting civilian toll has raised global concerns and increased the call for a ceasefire. **ANI**

**Of the verified fatalities, about 80 per cent were killed in residential buildings or similar housing, out of which 44 per cent were children and 26 per cent were women**

## Our relationship with India is much expanded from what it was: US Defence Secy

WASHINGTON

THE US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin while addressing the media following a change of command ceremony at US Southern Command in Doral, Florida highlighted the significant expansion of the US-India relationship.

"We have a great relationship with the Philippines, and we continue to work together in ways that we should be working together .... Our relationship with India is much expanded from what it was," he said, also adding that Japan has greatly increased its investment in defense over the past four years," said Austin as per a statement by the US Department of Defence.

He was recounting the progress achieved by the Defense Department during his four-year tenure as the Pentagon's top official while also praising DOD leadership.

Donald Trump created history by winning the US presidential elections on November 5, becoming only the second leader to serve non-consecutive tenures. The Republican Party also gained control of the House and Senate.

He secured over 300 electoral votes, well ahead of the 270 mark needed to win the presidency. On the other hand, outgoing Vice President Kamala Harris could only win 224.

In a major takeaway, Trump won all seven battleground states as well as the popular vote.

After a resounding victory in the US Presidential Elections, Donald Trump took to the stage and in his speech, said, "America's future will be bigger, better, bolder, richer, safer and stronger than it has ever been before. God bless you and God bless America."

<https://x.com/SecDef/status/1854658132355825684>

"Today, I was in Miami where the colors of @Southcom passed from Gen. Richardson to Adm. Holsey. It was an honor to celebrate the men & women of this command & thank them for contributing to this Department's efforts to strengthen partnerships & counter the security challenges throughout our hemisphere," posted Austin on X.

Austin also commented on progress made in other regions.

"Despite supporting and managing security assistance to Ukraine, and also [supporting] Israel's efforts to defend its sovereign territory, we've been able to maintain a focus on the Indo-Pacific

as well," he said.

Austin commented on the progress made in Europe and the Middle East since the 2022 start of the war in Ukraine and the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

"We strengthened NATO. We've pulled NATO together. We've kept 50 countries focused on providing security assistance to Ukraine," Austin said, referencing the alliance of more than 50 nations comprising the Ukraine Defence Contact Group.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, Austin said that providing adequate humanitarian relief to Gaza remains a high priority, and that he had spoken earlier that day about that priority topic with Yoav Gallant, during his last days as Israel's defence minister, the statement added.

"Today, when I talked to [Gallant] for the final time in his position, I emphasized again how important [the humanitarian aid issue] is and thanked him for what he did to help us move things along," Austin said, adding that more progress on the issue needs to be made.

In terms of the overall situation in both Europe and the Middle East, Austin said he's glad those conflicts have stayed relatively contained, as per the statement.

"I think we've done a magnificent job there in terms of managing things and not allowing things to blossom into a full-blown regional war," the statement quoted him as saying.

When pressed on whether he has any concerns about how the new commander in chief will use the military once the new administration takes over in 2025, Austin said that he wouldn't speculate on such a topic, but that he has full faith in the military leadership.

"I will tell you that we have an incredibly professional group of leaders in the military, and they are absolutely focused on doing the right things to maintain the competitive edge in the battlespace," Austin said.

"These senior leaders will stay focused on the task at hand: defending this country, taking care of our troops [and] succeeding through teamwork," he added.

"This is what they're made of. This is what they do. I have 100% confidence in them going forward," Austin said.

ANI

## Chinese-funded bamboo project brings relief to flood-ravaged Kenyan communities

NAIROBI

FOR decades, Francis Mayobo's farm, located along the Nzoia River in western Kenya, was repeatedly inundated by floods that destroyed his crops and pushed him to the brink of poverty.

A retired public works official, Mayobo's farmland is near the river, which originates in Kenya's northwestern highlands and drains into Lake Victoria, Africa's largest freshwater body. Four years ago, Mayobo took a proactive step by planting hundreds of bamboo trees on his farm after learning about the tree's flood-mitigating potential.

"I was motivated to venture into bamboo farming after training and research on how it could protect my farm from floods," Mayobo told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Today, the bamboo trees not only shield his farm from seasonal floods but have also rejuvenated the soil, allowing him to grow crops such as maize, legumes, bananas, and millet.

Mayobo is one of many smallholder farmers in western Kenya's flood-prone areas set to benefit from a bamboo agroforestry initiative funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences through its Sino-Africa Joint Research Center. The project is implemented by the United Nations Environment Program's affiliated International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP), in collaboration with local partners. Dubbed "Ecosystem Restoration for Enhancing Livelihoods and Addressing Climate Change: China-Kenya Cooperation on Bamboo Technology Transfer," the project promises flood protection, income generation, and improved resilience for local farmers and fishermen.

Under this initiative, Mayobo and other farmers have received training on bamboo cultivation, helping them establish nurseries and secure seedlings for replanting in flood-prone zones.

Samuel Juma Magoba, an elderly farmer involved in the project, has cultivated bamboo on his one-acre farm and found new income opportunities by selling bamboo for furniture, ornaments, utensils, and compost.

He recalled the severe flood damage he witnessed in his youth in his village near the Nzoia River basin -- a devastation that has no-



Edmond Machoki is pictured at his stand with bamboo products at an exhibition in Nyeri County, central Kenya, Sept. 13, 2024. Xinhua

tably decreased since local farmers started planting bamboo along the riverbanks.

According to Dennis Otieno Ochuodho, a senior researcher at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in Kenya, a project partner, the bamboo agroforestry project offers an effective, nature-based solution to climate-induced flooding.

Ochuodho said the project aims to expand research, training, and technology transfer in bamboo farming, restore the degraded Nzoia River basin, and enhance food security through mixed cropping systems.

A large-scale bamboo plantation, he added, will protect native species, serve as a carbon sink, and supply raw materials for herbal medicine, supplements, and roofing.

Despite her advanced age, Alice Makhulo's passion for cultivating bamboo on her seven-acre farm near a swamp remains undiminished, thanks to the economic and environmental benefits she has reaped from the trees. "Even my children and grandchildren appreciate the cool breeze from the mature bamboo trees. I have also been selling the bamboo stems to local furniture makers," Makhulo said.

As part of the China-funded bamboo

agroforestry initiative, more than 200 farmers will receive training in sustainable bamboo cultivation, which also includes a 25-hectare demonstration site to showcase ecological restoration through the planting of this iconic tree species.

Guoqin Wang, program manager at UNEP-IEMP, emphasized that by stabilizing the Nzoia River banks, the project not only curtails flooding but also enhances local livelihoods by combining food crops with bamboo and creating natural products for sale.

Leveraging Chinese bamboo technology and expertise, the initiative aims to regenerate degraded landscapes, conserve water sources, and improve climate resilience for river communities, Wang added.

Symprose Anyango, coordinator of Eco Green Kenya, a conservation lobby, noted that communities along the Nzoia River have embraced the project, particularly women, saying that "bamboo has in particular been of huge benefit to women who suffer most from climate change. They are using bamboo to revive traditional weaving and earn an additional income."

## Germany government collapse: Pressure mounts on Scholz to trigger election soon

BERLIN

GERMAN opposition parties and business groups on Thursday urged Chancellor Olaf Scholz to trigger a new election quickly to minimize political uncertainty after his rocky three-way coalition collapsed.

The coalition fell apart on Wednesday when years of tensions culminated in a row over how to plug a multi-billion-euro hole in the budget and revive Europe's largest economy, headed for its second year of contraction.

The break-up creates a leadership vacuum at the heart of the European Union just as it seeks a united response to Tuesday's election of Donald Trump as US president on issues ranging from possible new US trade tariffs to Russia's war in Ukraine and the future of the US-led NATO alliance.

The chancellor said he would hold a confidence vote in January, which he would probably lose, triggering a new election by the end of March - six months ahead of schedule.

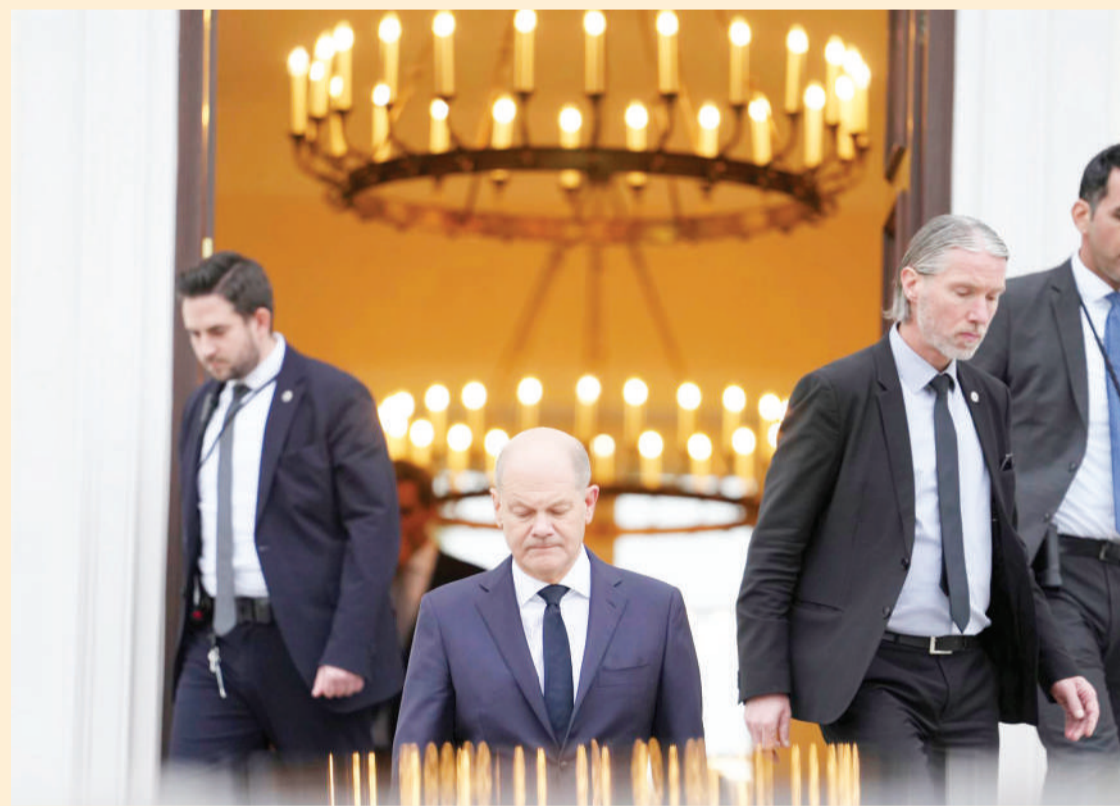
Friedrich Merz, leader of the opposition conservatives, who are leading in nationwide polls, called for a vote of confidence "by the beginning of next week at the latest", in comments echoed by other opposition parties.

An election could take place in late January, he said.

"We simply cannot afford to have a government without a majority in Germany for several months now, followed by an election campaign for several more months and then possibly several weeks of coalition negotiations," Merz told reporters.

German industry, reeling from high costs and fierce Asian competition, also urged Scholz's government on Thursday to arrange an election as soon as possible.

The uncertainty caused German borrowing costs to jump,



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (center) leaves Bellevue Palace in Berlin, Nov 7, 2024. AP

with the benchmark 10-year yield rising as much as 10 basis points to its highest since July. A key market gauge that signals debt risk as it falls dropped to its lowest on record.

Scholz delayed his departure for Thursday's European Union summit in Budapest due to the crisis at home and canceled his attendance at the next United Nations climate change summit.

Scholz, of the center-left Social Democrats (SPD), said he had fired his finance minister, Christian Lindner of the fiscally conservative Free Democrats (FDP), for obstructing a resolution of budget disputes.

The last straw was his opposition to Scholz's plan to ease debt limits in order to increase support for Ukraine in the 2025 budget by 3 billion euros (\$3.25 billion).

Lindner's dismissal led to the FDP quitting the coalition, leaving Scholz's SPD and the Greens

running a minority government and relying on cobbled-together majorities to pass any substantial measures in parliament.

A meeting between Scholz and Merz on Thursday failed to solve the impasse, a government source said.

Joerg Kukies, a top official in the chancellery and close SPD ally of Scholz, will be named finance minister.

The crisis comes at a critical juncture for Germany, with a flatlining economy, aging infrastructure and an unprepared military. It is likely to deal another blow to consumption and investment in coming months even as Trump's return threatens to dampen exports, economists said.

The FDP's exit is likely to spell the departure of the government's transatlantic coordinator, who has spent months cultivating ties with senior US Republicans in preparation for a pos-

sible Trump return to the White House.

But the crisis could also be a long-term blessing given the tensions that have plagued the coalition, the first of its kind at national level, said ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

"Elections and a new government could and should end the current paralysis of an entire country and offer new and clear policy guidance and certainty," he said.

Still the rise of both leftist and rightist populist parties in Germany, as elsewhere in Europe, means that even a new election might not easily enable a coherent coalition with a clear majority.

"You don't have to be a clairvoyant to deduce ... that things will not automatically become easier in the future, even after the next election," said Economy Minister Robert Habeck of the Greens.

## TPLB reschedules matches to support players' recovery after FIFA break

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has announced the postponement of two NBC Premier League matches originally scheduled for November 21.

The delay, according to TPLB, is to allow players ample recovery time following their return from international duty after the FIFA break.

The affected matches include Pamba Jiji vs. Simba SC at CCM Kirumba Stadium and Young Africans vs. Fountain Gate FC at Azam Complex. The league will resume on November 23 as scheduled, with regular fixtures resuming thereafter.

The FIFA international break, set to conclude on November 19, includes Tanzania's final AFCON qualifier against Guinea to be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

TPLB CEO Almas Kasongo clarified the rationale for rescheduling the matches involving Simba and Young Africans, emphasizing the need for player recovery.

"We've decided to postpone the matches scheduled for November 21 due to the AFCON qualifiers running from November 11-19," Kasongo explained.

"It's impractical to expect players to return and immediately play on November 21. As such, we've opted to push these matches back. Starting November 23, the league will proceed as planned."

Kasongo highlighted that CAF's recent decision to shift the AFCON qualifiers from November 10-18 to November 11-19, shortening the international window by three days, prompted the TPLB to adjust its schedule to ensure

manageable player rosters.

"These adjustments provide clubs with additional time to regroup and prioritize player recovery," Kasongo noted.

In addition, Kasongo praised the NBC Premier League's progress, noting it now ranks sixth in Africa. He highlighted increased competition within the league, with mid-table teams challenging top-ranked clubs.

"This season, the league's competitiveness has notably increased. Last year, several teams remained unbeaten after 10 games, but this season, 15 out of 16 teams have already experienced at least two defeats," he said.

Simba currently lead the league with 25 points, boasting an impressive goal difference of 21 goals scored and just three conceded.

Young Africans follow closely with 24 points, while Singida Black Stars and Azam FC sit third and fourth with 23 and 21 points, respectively.

The league has witnessed heightened competitiveness this season, with traditionally weaker teams displaying improvement.

As the season advances, the TPLB anticipates intensified battles for the championship, top-four spots, and relegation avoidance.

Simba's strong offense and defense have positioned them as front-runners, with Azam FC also displaying robust defensive stats.

In contrast, Namungo, Kagera Sugar, Pamba Jiji, and KenGold find themselves at the bottom, struggling to gain momentum.

Kasongo expressed optimism about the league's progress toward May, expecting even fiercer competition as teams vie for the top positions.

## Biggest omissions from Hemed Morocco's latest Tanzania squad

By Correspondent Michael Mwebu

INTERIM head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman has named his squad for Tanzania's upcoming 2025 African Cup of Nations qualifiers against Ethiopia and Guinea.

However, some big names have failed to make the cut. The Taifa Stars head coach Morocco (pictured) has made some big calls in his 26-man squad for the two crucial games this month.

**\*Selemani Mwalimu (Fountain Gate)**

The Fountain Gate striker is the NBC Premier League top scorer this season. Last season he topped the scoring charts in Zanzibar Premier League.

Despite racking up six goals and one assist in nine games, the striker was snubbed by interim head coach Morocco. At 25, Mwalimu still has plenty of time to add to his collection of two Tanzania caps, but will need to continue firing for Fountain Gate.

**\*Himid Mao (Talaal El Geish FC)**

With an impressive 66 caps to his name, Himid Mao can count himself unfortunate to have missed out on the latest squad.

Many believed that Himid's experience and leadership skills would be enough to keep in the team even though he seems to have lost his place in the first eleven.

**\*Kelvin John (Aaab)**

Granted, Kelvin John is struggling to establish himself in Denmark. But many believe that he deserves a place in the Tanzania squad.

He is yet to score but he is getting valuable minutes in a much more competitive league. This season he has played ten games while clocking more than 300 minutes of play for the Danish topflight side.



With Taifa Stars's forward options limited, the AaB forward could do a job for Suleiman. He last played for Taifa Stars in March's international friendly win over Mongolia where he scored the final goal.

**\*Bakari Mwamnyeto (Young Africans)**

In 2021, Bakari Mwamnyeto was named Tanzania Defender of the Year. Fast-forward to today - the Young Africans centre back is not in Morocco's plans for important matches.

Mwamnyeto is also a victim of other players' form, with Morocco spoilt for choice in the central defence. In terms of form, it's hard to argue with Morocco's decision when you look at the players he has included.

**\*Haji Mnoga (Salford City)**

Haji Mnoga has made 12 appearances for Tanzania, but

the UK-based defender is not in the latest squad.

Since joining English League Two side Salford City early this season, the right full-back has featured in ten games and grabbed one assist so far.

**\*Salum Kihimbwa (Fountain Gate)**

The former Mtibwa Sugar playmaker has notched three goals and four assists for Fountain Gate this term, but that wasn't enough to earn him a call-up.

Despite scoring three goals and bagging four assists in nine games for Fountain Gate this season, the skilful playmaker was overlooked by coach Morocco.

**\*Taifa Stars full squad:**

**Goalkeepers:** Aishi Manula (Simba SC), Zuberi Foba (Azam FC), Metacha Mnata (Singida Black Stars)

**Defenders:** Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Shomari Kapombe (Simba SC), Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC), Paschal Msindo (Azam FC), David Bryson (JKT Tanzania), Ibrahim Hamad (Young Africans), Dickson Job (Young Africans), Ibrahim Ame (Mashujaa FC), Abdulrazack Hamza (Simba SC)

**Midfielders:** Adolf Mtasingwa (Azam FC), Novatus Dismas (Goztepe, Turkey), Habib Khalid (Singida Black Stars), Mudathir Yahya (Young Africans), Feisal Salum (Azam FC), Abdulkarim Kiswanya (Azam FC U20), Idd Nado (Azam FC)

**Forwards:** Mbwana Samatta (PAOK FC, Greece) Clement Mzize (Young Africans), Kibu Dennis (Simba SC), Simon Msvu (Al-Talaba, Iraq), Ismail Mgunda (Mashujaa FC), Cyprian Kachwele (Vancouver Whitecaps, Canada), Nasoro Saadun (Azam FC)

## Kibwana Shomari seeks loan move amid limited playtime under Gamondi

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli



In a surprising turn at Young Africans SC (Yanga), right-back Kibwana Shomari has reportedly requested a loan move during the upcoming transfer window, opening mid-December and closing in January.

Shomari (pictured), once a prominent fixture in Young Africans' defensive lineup under former head coach Nasreddine Nabi, has struggled for game time since Miguel Gamondi took charge, leading to frustrations and a desire to play elsewhere.

Shomari initially thrived under Nabi, impressing in his role and enjoying significant playing time. However, this season has seen a shift.

With Ivorian defender Yao Kouassi assuming the starting right-back role, Shomari's opportunities have dwindled. Even after Kouassi sustained an injury, Gamondi opted to deploy winger Denis Nkane in defense, leaving Shomari on the bench. This decision underscores his relegated status within the squad and fuels his pursuit of a loan.

According to a source close to the player, Shomari has formally submitted a loan request to Young Africans' management.

"Yes, he's unhappy with his situation here. He's written a letter seeking a loan move in the coming window due to his limited playtime," said the insider. "He isn't just missing first-team action; he's struggling to make the squad at all, which has been difficult for him to accept."

The source further revealed that several clubs are reportedly interested in Shomari's services, with Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) and Singida Black Stars among those named.

Both teams could potentially provide the regular minutes that Shomari seeks, allowing him to maintain his fitness and form.

"KMC and Singida Black Stars are interested, but more teams may come forward once the window opens," the source added. "Kibwana wants a team where he can play regularly to enhance his skills."

Under Gamondi, Shomari has not appeared in a single NBC Premier League match this season. Even in the recent fixture where Tabora United secured a 3-1 victory against Young Africans, Shomari was benched and did not see any minutes. This lack of action has likely influenced his decision to seek a move to reignite his career.

As Shomari explores his options, the club's management faces a decision on whether to grant his loan request or persuade him to remain.

While his dissatisfaction is clear, Young Africans' leadership might hesitate to release him, particularly if changes in the coaching staff occur.

Gamondi's position has been under scrutiny following mixed results this season, and potential changes in the coaching lineup could impact player retention strategies, especially for

squad members like Shomari who might find renewed opportunities under new management.

Adding complexity to the situation is Shomari's recent contract extension. At the beginning of the season, he signed a two-year deal, binding him to Young Africans until 2026. Any loan or transfer move must align with the club's long-term plans, with management holding the final decision on whether to release him temporarily or retain him as a backup option.

Shomari, who joined Young Africans from Mtibwa Sugar, has shown his potential and professionalism in the past two seasons, adapting well to the demands of the club and earning praise from fans and teammates alike.

However, in his current role as a fringe player under Gamondi's system, his desire for regular playtime remains unfulfilled.

A loan move could allow him to rediscover his form, stay competitive, and potentially secure a stronger standing at Young Africans upon his return.

If approved, Shomari's loan transfer would provide valuable minutes and a chance to prove his worth in Tanzania's top-tier football scene.

For now, his future hinges on Young Africans' decision, which will determine whether he remains a part of Gamondi's roster or embarks on a new chapter with a loan spell at another club.



## 'After six titles, maybe another team deserves one' - reveals Guardiola

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola says maybe another team deserves to win the Premier League after their sustained period of success.

The Blues have won six of the past seven Premier League titles, including four in a row, but have fallen five points behind leaders Liverpool following a 2-1 defeat by Brighton.

Guardiola has now lost four successive matches (excluding shootouts) for the first time in his 17-year managerial career, and this is City's first four-game losing run for 18 years, since Stuart Pearce was manager.

In recent weeks, they have lost to Bournemouth and Brighton in the league, Tottenham in the Carabao Cup, and Sporting in the Champions League.

"We have to try and win games again," Guardiola told BBC Match of the Day. "Four [defeats] in a row. We have to change things quick.

"The schedule becomes tough but it [winning games] is going to happen when the players come back."

He added: "Maybe after seven years winning six Premier Leagues, maybe one year another team deserve it."

City continue to be ravaged by injuries with Ruben Dias, John Stones, Jeremy Doku and Jack Grealish - despite his England call-up - all missing, alongside long-term absentees Rodri and Oscar Bobb.

Centre-backs Nathan Ake and Manuel Akanji were only fit enough for the bench, meaning Guardiola handed a first Premier League start to 19-year-old Jahmai Simpson-Pusey in defence.

Speaking to BBC Radio 5 Live, he said: "This is sport. Sport is not always sunrises. It is not always good moments.

"Today in the press conference I was asked if it was the end of the era. I know people want that. I smell it for many, many years.

"What we have done in these years, people have said it's so difficult, but if somebody would like to beat us it is going to happen because in the next 50 years we're not going to win all the Premier Leagues. It's impossible."

Guardiola previously lost three back-to-back games with Bayern Munich, before losing a fourth in a shootout, in the 2014-15 season.

His worse run as City boss had been three successive defeats. Asked about the current run, Guardiola told Sky Sports: "Two in the Premier League. You have to count the victories and defeats, and we will win a lot.

"If you have to count how many victories in a row, we are far away from that position."

It is "not nice" to lose two league games in a row, but City are "not far away" from the top of the table, in second place going into the international break, he said.

On Saturday, City took a first-half lead at Brighton through Erling Haaland's 12th Premier League goal of the season.

The Blues dominated for much of the first half, having 67% possession and five shots on target to Brighton's zero.

But that flipped after the break to just one on target, to Brighton's four. City looked lethargic for large periods of the second half as Brighton substitutes Joao Pedro and Matt O'Riley scored to earn the win.

It was the first time City had lost a Premier League game having led at half-time since 2021.

Speaking on Match Of The Day, former City defender Micah Richards said: "The most defining thing for me is not pressing any more. They're going as individuals.

"When you lose the best midfielder in Europe [Rodri] you're always going to have a strain on the team. But they are just too easy to play through at this moment in time."

Guardiola added: "We are not able to do 90 minutes right now. We played a really good first half, but we were not able to sustain the rhythm in the second half.

"We lost again so [we will] clear our heads [in the] international break and hopefully our players come back fit."

In his news conference, Guardiola added: "When the players come back, I don't have any doubt that we will be back to our best."

City's run is tough after the break, with games against Tottenham, Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Crystal Palace, Manchester United and Aston Villa before Christmas.

BBC

# How a Trump presidency could impact the 2026 World Cup

By Henry Bushnell

BY the time much of America awoke to Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 presidential election on Wednesday, the president-elect had already received an enthusiastic message from his most powerful admirer in sports.

"Congratulations Mr President!" FIFA president Gianni Infantino wrote in an Instagram post replete with emoji. "We will have a great FIFA World Cup and a great FIFA Club World Cup in the United States of America!"

Infantino concluded by tagging Trump, a man he has known since at least 2018 - and now, a man whose favor he'll need to curry.

He also sounded pleased - perhaps, soccer insiders speculated, because he is. Trump's autocratic governance, three insiders told Yahoo Sports, could help FIFA plan the 2026 men's World Cup, which the United States will co-host alongside Mexico and Canada. One cited a famous 2013 line from Jérôme Valcke, FIFA's then-general secretary, that has rung true throughout a messy 2026 planning process: "Less democracy is sometimes better for organizing a World Cup."

In conversations and messages over the past two weeks, before and after the election, other officials involved in World Cup preparations cautioned that the implications of a Trump presidency were and are unclear. "It's too early to tell," one observer said.

Some noted that Trump's isolationist policies, his anti-immigrant rhetoric, his vola-



Gianni Infantino and Donald Trump may forge an even closer partnership as the U.S. prepares to co-host the 2026 World Cup. (Agencies)

tility and his divisiveness were wild cards, and could complicate an event that purports to "unite the world."

But they were all certain that Trump will embrace the World Cup - and, two summers later, the 2028 Olympics. Many can already envision him alongside Infantino, à la Vladimir Putin at Russia 2018, front and center as the U.S. puts on an unparalleled show. "Trump obviously is gonna lean in," one insider said. "He's gonna love the politics of it."

And so, in return, his administration will surely lean into the organization of the tournament - once they have the bandwidth for it.

### 'Trump's influence on FIFA's operations

World Cups require planning. Layers and layers of planning, FIFA, soccer's global governing body, owns and operates the event, but has long relied on local entities to shoulder expenses and logistical loads. In Russia, for example, Putin's government and the Russian Football Union jointly established a central organizing committee.

Qatar formed the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, which partnered with FIFA. In North America, an

expanding FIFA has been more hands-on, but it still commands the cooperation of "host committees" in each host city.

Those committees, in turn, have been working with their governments - local, state and federal - to secure funding and operational support. And that, of course, is where the U.S. president comes in.

FIFA and the host committees have spent years cultivating relationships within Congress and the Joe Biden administration. They've lobbied for federal assistance, particularly with security. FIFA even hired a head of government relations, Alex Sopko, straight from Biden's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Now, they'll all have to build new relationships. Although some lower-level agency staffers will remain, Trump will appoint an entirely new cabinet and deputies. The change of administration, according to three people familiar with the World Cup process, could exacerbate organizational delays. It could interrupt or distract from ongoing conversations around security and visas.

"A [Kamala] Harris administration was more likely to be able to hit the ground running and build on what the current administration was already pursuing to prepare for the World Cup," one person familiar with the efforts told Yahoo Sports via email.

"The incoming Trump administration will have a lot on its plate, many competing priorities, a disproportionate amount of focus on the southern border and border enforcement. Accordingly, my hunch is that it's

going to be a bit harder to get their attention in the early days. World Cup preparation is likely to take a back seat at the outset."

The counterargument, though, is that once the World Cup does come into focus, Trump and his advisers will be more willing to flout convention, cut through bureaucracy and give Infantino what he wants.

Rather than funneling FIFA through a complex web of departments, including Homeland Security and State, Trump, "if he decides this is something he wants to ensure is a success," could "streamline" the World Cup process, said Travis Murphy, a former State Department officer and now the CEO of Jetr Global Sports + Entertainment.

This, after all, is how Infantino likes to operate. He has cozied up to dictators, such as Putin and Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman. He is accustomed to dealing with singular, powerful figures - such as the president of a national soccer federation, or a sports minister, or even a head of state - to get things done.

And that, in 2018, is what led him to Trump. Soon after FIFA's members selected North America to host the 2026 tournament, Infantino scored a meeting in the Oval Office. He presented Trump with gifts and formed a chummy relationship. A few meetings later, at the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Infantino heaped praise on Trump, who in turn lauded Infantino as a "great friend."

Four years later, this past May, they again communed at a Formula 1 race in Miami. In the interim, on the other hand, Infantino never managed to score a White House meeting with Biden.

FIFA was forced to navigate the bureaucracy. The lack of a centralized sports ministry or World Cup-focused entity became a pain point, according to people familiar with the planning. Some, sensing FIFA's surprise and frustration, have joked that "FIFA forgot how democracy worked."

All of which is why Trump's election this week is seen by some as a positive for FIFA, or at least for Infantino. Two sources speculated that Infantino, who's now based in South Florida, could push for a meeting during

the presidential transition at Mar-a-Lago, the Palm Beach resort where Trump lives.

### 'Immigration and visa concerns for World Cup fans

Others expressed concerns related to policy. Trump, in addition to promising the "largest deportation operation in American history," has repeatedly called for a crackdown on immigration.

He has said he'll enact a "travel ban" that's "even bigger than before and much stronger than before," a reference to his first administration's heavy restrictions on travel from several predominantly Muslim countries.

Such a ban might compound worries that thousands of World Cup fans won't be allowed to enter the United States.

Consular officers already deny around 24% of applicants for B1/B2 visitor visas, according to 2023 State Department data. And some applicants must wait more than a year simply to get an interview.

Under Trump, "I don't see this getting easier," Murphy said. "There's just not a good way, and a limited amount of time, to differentiate between the millions of people who are applying for a visa to come into the United States - for business reasons, for visiting family, or for the purposes of staying long term - and people who are just coming for the [World Cup]."

"I have to assume," he continued, "that wait times will go up, that immigration restrictions will be tightened. And as such, the fans - that could continue to be an issue."

Others believe, however, that any negative impact will be counterbalanced by Trump's willingness to grant FIFA preferential treatment. In 2018, during the bidding phase, Trump sent three letters to Infantino. The third, as reported by The New York Times, promised an "open and festive" World Cup, "and that all eligible athletes, officials and fans from all countries around the world would be able to enter the United States without discrimination."

A few months later, Infantino told reporters in Washington that he was "not concerned or worried at all there would be any issue with any team or fans from any country. Iran will [probably] qualify. If they qualify, they will play, and their fans will be welcome."

\*yahoo!sports

## 'Now we are candidates' - classy Liverpool take early title control

By Gary Rose

Liverpool have taken early control of the Premier League title race, but Alexis Mac Allister says he didn't think they would be contenders at the start of the season.

Arne Slot's side beat Aston Villa 2-0 at Anfield after reigning champions Manchester City had earlier slipped up 2-1 at Brighton.

The results gave Liverpool a five-point lead at the top over Pep Guardiola's men, who have now lost four successive games.

"If we are top of the league by five points then it means something," said Mac Allister.

"But we have to go step by step. If you asked me before the season started I would not say we were candidates, but now it looks like [we are]."

Records have tumbled under Slot, who replaced Jurgen Klopp in the summer, as his excellent start at Anfield continued with a ninth Premier League win in 11 games and 15 from 17 overall.

But the Dutch boss was wisely managing expectations as he added: "We are really happy that most of our players have stayed fit through

this tough run.

"If I look at the games that are ahead, they are tough. It will be a tough season in general. Margins are small, we have a margin but it is small.

"There are many challenges to come for us."

### 'Experienced Reds can sustain title challenge'

Liverpool are looking to win the Premier League for the first time since 2019-20, and their side against Villa featured several players who were part of that trophy-winning team, including Mohamed Salah.

The Egypt international scored for a fourth successive league game when he netted the second at Anfield on Saturday night.

It continued Salah's fine individual form, with his latest strike making the 32-year-old the first player in all competitions across Europe's big five leagues this season to have registered double figures for both goals (10) and assists (10).

Former Liverpool winger Steve McManaman believes the Reds have the experience to maintain their challenge at the top.

"This group of players have been long into a campaign, some of them

have won the Premier League and the Champions League, so of course they can sustain it," he said on TNT Sports.

"If they stay fit and roll that starting 11 out and the five or six from the bench then of course they will go all the way."

### 'Statistics bode well for a 2019-20 repeat'

After Liverpool's win against Aston Villa and Manchester City's loss at Brighton, Opta's League Prediction model put the Reds' chances of finishing first in the Premier League at 59.3%.

Liverpool were only given a 5.1% chance of winning the title pre-season by Opta's projections, behind City (82%)

and Arsenal (12%). It is the first time this season City have not been deemed favourites.

What also bodes well for the Reds is the similarity between this season and 2019-20 - when they won the Premier League.

Only in that title-winning campaign have they collected more points after 11 games of a Premier League season - 31 compared to 28 this term.

At the same stage of that season they were six points clear of second-placed Manchester City - compared to five this time. They went on to become champions by an 18-point margin.

And the statistics con-

tinue to make for impressive reading for Slot. He has now earned 28 points from his first 11 Premier League games in charge of Liverpool (W9 D1 L1), the joint-most by a manager after as many games in the competition, along with Guus Hiddink at Chelsea.

### 'Man City the hunters again'

While Liverpool are in the ideal position right now, their supporters will know there is a long way to go in the race.

Manchester City have won the last four Premier League seasons in a row and while some of those have been comfortable, they have also had to overcome the

pressure of being the side hunting the leaders.

Two seasons ago they trailed Arsenal by four points after 10 games but battled back to ultimately finish five points clear.

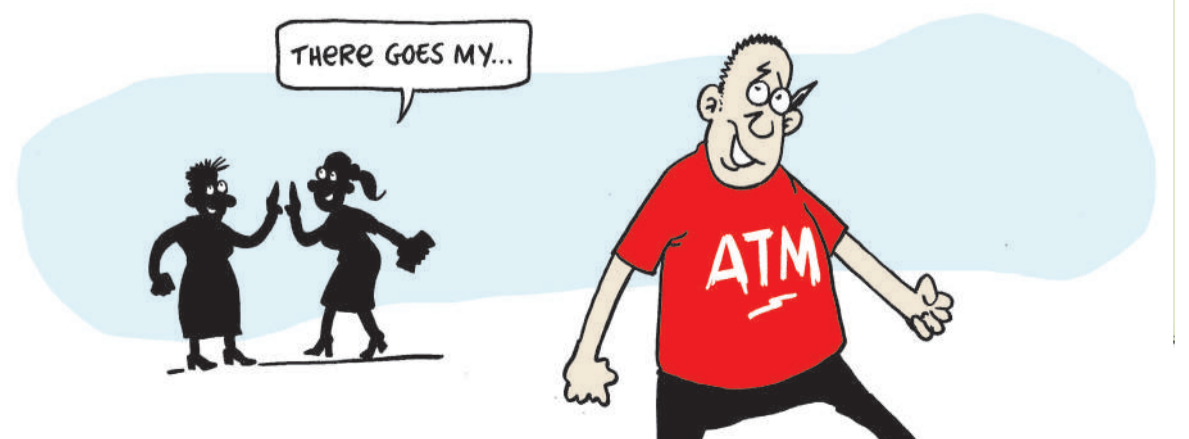
In 2020-21 it was Chelsea who led the Premier League at the same stage as Liverpool lead this time.

The gap on that occasion was just three points after 11 games, but Manchester City went on a run of 12 consecutive wins that saw them 13 points clear of the Blues by the end of January.

As the club's supporters often sing, "we fight til' the end".

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



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## Simba ready for CAF Confederation Cup after stellar start to Premier League season

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club head into the FIFA international break atop the NBC Premier League standings, boasting 25 points from 10 matches.

Under the guidance of South African head coach Fadlu Davids, Simba have achieved an impressive start to the season.

Now, Davids (pictured) is turning his attention to Simba's CAF Confederation Cup campaign, which kicks off later this month.

Davids, in his first few months with the club, has assembled a competitive squad that not only leads domestically but is also beginning to make waves on the international scene.

With several players called up to represent their national teams, Simba's progress reflects a growing ambition to dominate both local and continental football.

During the international break, Davids will focus on intensive training for players who are not on national duty, refining tactics and strategies for their first group-stage match against Mozambique's Bravos do Maquis on November 28.

Simba have been drawn into Group A alongside Angola's Bravos do Maquis, Algeria's CS Constantine, and Tunisia's CS Sfaxien. The upcoming home fixture against Bravos will be essential for setting the tone in their CAF Confederation Cup journey.

A substantial part of Simba's squad will be absent during this preparation period due to call-ups for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 qualifiers.

Key Tanzanian players, including goalkeeper Aishi Manula, defenders Shomari Kapombe, Mohammed Hussein and Abdulrazak Hamza, and winger Kibu Denis, will join the Taifa Stars.

Uganda's Steven Mukwala, Burkina Faso's Valentine Nouma, and Guinea's Moussa Camara have also been selected for their respective national teams.

These call-ups highlight Simba's technical progress under Davids, with the coach's emphasis on player development and tactical refinement yielding results in domestic dominance and increased international recognition.

To further support Simba's CAF Confederation Cup preparation, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has rescheduled their next Premier League fixture against Pamba Jiji, originally set for November 21.

The rescheduling provides Davids an 18-day window to focus on his squad's training ahead of their group-stage opener against Bravos.

His goal is to secure all three points at home, which he views as critical to their tournament progress.

Davids, who previously led South Africa's Orlando Pirates to the Confederation Cup final in 2022, brings valuable continental experience to Simba.

His tenure with the Pirates, where they narrowly missed the title in a penalty shootout against Morocco's RS Berkane, has raised fans' expectations that he can guide Simba to a deep run in this year's tournament.

"We need to ensure we lead Group A to secure a favorable position for the quarter-finals," Davids emphasized.

Finishing at the top of the group would allow Simba to start knockout rounds away and play second legs at home - a strategy that could prove advantageous in high-stakes matches.

With Simba leading the Premier League, Davids and his team are determined to replicate their domestic success on the continental stage, signaling their ambition to not only compete but contend for the CAF Confederation Cup title.

As the league takes a break, the coming weeks will be crucial for Simba's preparations, as they aim to kick off their Confederation Cup journey with a win and establish themselves as a formidable contender in Group A.

## Taifa Stars coach Morocco confident ahead of crucial 2025 AFCON qualifiers



National soccer team players pictured during a training session at KMC Complex. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S interim head coach, Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, is optimistic about his team's preparation and readiness for the upcoming must-win Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

With two crucial matches approaching, the Taifa Stars are aiming for strong performances to keep their qualification hopes alive.

In a pre-training session, coach Morocco reviewed tactics and strategies with the squad, analyzing past performances to highlight both strengths and areas needing improvement.

Currently training at KMC Stadium, the Taifa Stars are focused and motivated, with experienced players like captain Mbwana Sa-

matta, Simon Msuva, and Shomari Kapombe rejoining the team after recent absences.

This mix of seasoned and younger players provides the coach with a versatile squad, ready for the challenge ahead.

Tanzania will face Ethiopia in Kinshasa on November 16 and then host Guinea at home on November 19.

These games are vital, as Tanzania currently sits third in Group H, behind DR Congo and Guinea. Only the top two teams from each group will qualify for the AFCON 2025 finals, hosted by Morocco.

Tanzania needs positive results in both matches to advance.

"We currently have 18 local players in camp, and they arrived ahead of

schedule. Foreign-based players will join us over the weekend, after fulfilling club commitments," Morocco noted.

He expressed satisfaction with the team's initial training sessions, praising the players' motivation and commitment.

Their positive attitude, he said, is a promising sign for the challenging matches ahead.

The coach has carefully

analyzed previous performances, identifying areas for improvement.

Despite good gameplay, Tanzania has struggled in key moments, missing out on potential wins and narrowly losing close matches, like the recent defeats to DR Congo.

"We need to focus on the small details that can make a big difference in the game's outcome," he emphasized.

Tanzania will use the 2025 qualifiers as preparation for co-hosting the 2027 AFCON finals alongside Kenya and Uganda, hoping to develop a stronger, more cohesive team by then.

Recent results have shown both potential and areas for growth: a goalless draw with Ethiopia, a surprising 2-1 away victory against Guinea, and narrow defeats to DR Congo.

With the final two rounds of qualifiers set for November 13-19, the remaining slots for AFCON 2025 will soon be decided.

This 35th edition of the tournament will take place from December 21, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

As seven teams have already secured qualification, Tanzania hopes to join them by securing their own ticket to Morocco.

## Tanzania prolongs woes in ICC Men's CWC Challenge League B

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA'S senior men's cricket team conceded its second loss in a row in the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B, losing to Uganda by 209 runs in Kampala on Saturday.

In Tanzania's opening match on November 7, they went down to Italy by nine wickets via the Duckworth-Lewis system in a rain-affected tie.

In the Saturday duel, the tournament hosts Uganda had the chance to take the crease first, making full use of it given the cricketers amassed 289/7 in the allotted 50 overs.

The top-order batsmen lived up to expectations, with all of them chipping in with meaningful figures.

Team captain Riazat Shah stood out of the rest, making his way back with an 87-ball 104.

Opener Obuya Robinson scored 36 runs, making up for a brief stint the fellow opening batsman Raghav Dhawan (10 runs) endured.

Kenneth Waiswa notched 20 runs before he was trapped for leg before wicket (lbw) by Tanzania's Akhil Anil.

Shrideep Mangela also chipped in with two digits for the hosts - posting 21 runs.

A late batting onslaught by Alpesh Ramjani, which had the cricketer blasting 74 runs, had Uganda reaching 269/6 with 14 balls left when the batsman was run out.

Anil was by far the bowler who sought to prove his worth, finishing with 2-53 and a 5.30 economy rate.

Chasing 290 runs from the allotted 50 overs to emerge victorious happened to be a tall order for Tanzania, given they were skittled for 80 runs in 27.5 overs.

The team's batting weakness was ruthlessly exposed, given that top-order batsman Ivan Ismail and low-order batsman Sanjay Thakor were by far the cricketers to have made their presence felt.

Skipper Abhik Patwa, as was the case in the opening clash, was less convincing at the crease, given the cricket faced early dismissal.

Patwa, the otherwise reliable performer for the team, managed to notch a mere eight runs before making his way back to the pavilion.

Ismail, who opened the innings with Patwa, notched his

double digits and had Tanzania reaching 25-2 when he got out in the fourth over.

The rest of the top-order and middle-order cricketers crumbled, struggling to repel Uganda's bowling onslaught.

The low-order batsman Thakor made his way back with the bat in hand, whilst scoring 18 runs.

Tanzania would have an opportunity to turn their fortunes around when they come up against Hong Kong on Tuesday.

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B is viewed as the first stage of the road to the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The tournament is the second edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League and a cricket tournament which forms part of the 2027 Cricket World Cup qualification process.

Tanzania's senior national cricket team is featuring in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B whilst boasting a successful run in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A, held in Dar es Salaam in September.



Tanzania's senior men's cricket team player Maker Mukesh jubilates upon notching a half-century when they confronted Italy in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B duel in Kampala last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

