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CCM assures international community on democracy, human rights



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Samia to avail 3.6bn/- for new ferries



National Pg 5

Digital inclusion project to bridge tech gap



Musa Bakari and his wife Asha Milanzi, residents of Mijelejele village in Masasi District engaged in cashew farming, sort their raw cashews in readiness for selling them to a nearby agricultural marketing cooperative society. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

TCRA engaging with traders on electronic waste regulations, levy

The regulations relate to the entire lifecycle of imported equipment, addressing aspects such as importation, distribution, sales, recycling and refurbishing of such equipment

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is finally beginning to inculcate an understanding of measures introduced last year for the disposal of electronic waste, saying they were intended to protect public health and the environment.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a consultative meeting with representatives of the Kariakoo Business Community.

Meeting with the traders was part of a stakeholder awareness campaign initiated on the safe disposal of electronic waste, including

pre-inspection and collection of an advanced ecology levy.

This charge was introduced in May 2023 as among key steps in managing the disposal of used communications equipment, where the Kariakoo part of the central business district serves as the distribution hub for consumer electronic communications equipment.

He updated traders on the actions TCRA has taken to manage electronic waste since the introduction of electronic communication standards and e-waste management regulations in 2020.

The measures are designed to ensure the safe disposal of electronic waste, preventing

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Acquired Mbeya Cement in new investments round

By Francis Kajubi

MBEYA Cement Co. Limited is set to expand production outlays with investments billed at 871.8bn/- (\$320m) now in the offing.

Nehemiah Mchechu, the Treasury registrar, said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the three-year projects are expected to generate 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The main part is expanding Mbeya Cement's current clinker production capacity pegged at 1,000 tons a day, setting up a new clinker factory in Tanga valued at worth \$190m.

The factory will see its clinker production capacity rising to 5,000 tons a day in the next three years, boosting its industry profile where the government holds 25 percent of company shares, with 10 percent held by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

Amsons Industries (T) Ltd, part of a chain of companies tied with the Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF), holds majority shares at 65 percent

"Following a boom in state-owned construction mega projects such as the SGR network, BRT in Dar es Salaam, tarmac and concrete roads projects, en-

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TATO unveils compact safari 'code of conduct' for guides

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

TOUR operators have unveiled a new safari guide code of conduct and ethics designed to elevate professional standards in the rapidly growing tourism industry.

Henry Kimambo the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) vice-chairman said at the launching here on Monday that the document is a comprehensive set of principles for safari guides in fulfilling the formal requirements of the profession

The document serves as a reference framework for promoting responsible and sustainable tourism he said, noting that for the guide to be effective, TATO expects all parties to take it up, including conservation agencies like the Tanzania



Safari guides need to foster respectful engagements with local communities, thereby enriching tourists' cultural experiences

National Parks (TANAPA), the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA).

Others include key members of the travel industry, host communities and tourists arriving or touring in groups, to be familiarised to some of its tenets, he told stakeholders who gathered for the commemoration of Nyerere Day in the safari capital.

"The code of conduct aims to maximize the benefits of the multimillion dollar industry while minimizing its potential negative impacts on the environment, cultural heritage and community expectations," he said.

TATO chairman Wilbard Chambulo

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'TRA respects tax backlogs directives'

"On other hand, the commissioner general has opened a window for taxpayers with tax debts to apply for a waiver of interests and penalties which form part of previous assessments..."

By Special Correspondent

AUTHORITIES at the national revenue authority have disputed some stakeholder accusations on tax practices in relation to existing government directives on the matter.

A senior official with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) issued a statement to this effect yesterday in reference to a front page news story run in yesterday's issue of this paper, quoting Songwe Re-

gion miners as having said that TRA was ignoring directives on tax backlogs.

The official expressed dissatisfaction with the story, stating that it did not give the reporter's name when saying that TRA officials still charge miners on the basis of tax debts from several years ago.

He said that implied that TRA was ignoring the government's position on the matter, which he disputed, arguing that the point was not checked for further clarification from the TRA Songwe Office

or headquarters "much as TRA was not in that meeting".

The TRA official also noted that the reporter or the source of the news further included other levies such as mining inspection fees to be collected by TRA in the form of tax, describing that as not correct and arguing that the matter was administered by the Tanzania Mining Commission.

"Please, be informed that after the assessments have been issued to taxpayers which might have originated from tax audits, examination, investigation or sometimes normal taxes, taxpayers are given an opportunity after the expiry of due dates to enter into agreements to pay the taxes on instalments basis as the case may be," said the statement.

It added: "On other hand, the commission-

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SPORTS

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Simba coach Davids targets attacking precision ahead of Yanga derby

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Nigeria soccer team boycotts Africa Cup qualifier after being stranded at Libya airport



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TATO unveils compact safari 'code of conduct' for guides

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praised the conservation sub-committee for crafting the safari guide code of conduct and ethics, noting that this initiative will elevate safari guiding standards and strengthen formal commitment to sustainable tourism and heritage preservation.

He urged tour operators to adopt the code and ensure their guides comply with specific standards set out in detail, as by embracing these guidelines, operators can significantly enhance the image and quality of safari guiding in the country.

Lembris Loipuko, the Tanzania Tour Guides Association (TTGA) chairman appreciated the code, stating that it will revolutionize the tourism industry.

"This is an invaluable tool for ensuring the sustainability of wildlife safaris, providing tourists with unforgettable experiences and safeguarding natural and cultural heritages," he declared.

Elirehema Maturu, the TATO executive director, outlined the code's seven focus areas as professionalism and presentation, conduct and ethics, training and experience, vehicle protocols, environmental impact, wildlife interaction and cultural sensitivity.

The code stresses professionalism in dress, language and behaviour when a guide is on duty or off duty, he said, elaborating that it demands compliance with the laws, respect for privacy, inclusiveness, prohibiting illicit drug use and alcohol consumption while on duty.

Pointing at the importance of safeguarding clients' privacy and data, he said that guides should operate within their area of expertise

and pursue ongoing professional development. "The code includes emergency protocols and stresses the need for accurate information," he further noted.

The guidelines seek to ensure vehicle safety, adherence to speed limits and sticking to respectful driving, all of which are essential for conservation and client safety, he emphasised.

Responsible waste management, the avoidance of single-use plastics and the protection of wildlife are stipulated, he said, underscoring guides' responsibility to minimize their ecological footprint and educate clients on sustainability practices.

It also emphasizes minimal interference with natural habitats, respect for animal comfort zones and the discouragement of disruptive behaviours on the part of tourists or accompanying personnel, he said.

Safari guides need to foster respectful engagements with local communities, thereby enriching tourists' cultural experiences, he specified.

Established in 1983 with merely 35 members, thanks to the efficiency of the association in representing private tour operators to the government, the TATO membership base has grown by leaps and bounds over the years, reaching more than 300 members to-date.

The umbrella body thus holds 78.4 percent of licenced tour operators, making it the key industrial lobby for a leading global safari destination and fully appreciated by the government as the tour operators' functional representative, he added.

Acquired Mbeya Cement in new investments round

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hancing clinker and cement manufacturing sounds logical in line with current growth forecasts," he said.

Tanzania is among ten countries with the highest rates of population growth, estimated at 65m people present, up from the August 2022 Census total of 61.7m, he said.

The growth in population pushes up demand in residential and commercial properties in urban and rural areas, he said, hinting that the factory dominates the market share.

In that regard, shareholders see the importance of enhancing production to survive the tremendous competition, he stated, pointing at nearby markets of Malawi, Zambia, DRC.

The southern highlands region are a major target in the projects as when completed the firm will raise total production to 10,000 tons of clinker on a daily basis, he said.

Ahmed Mhada, the firm's director of finance, said that the company anticipates growth in cement manufacturing to attain 4.2m tons on a daily basis, boosting the brand's market share two-fold.

Mid this year the country had a total of 14 cement factories, of which seven are integrated plants and seven are small factories, with cement production for the year 2023 which reflects the demand of the market, standing at 8.0m tons.

'TRA respects tax backlogs directives'

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er general has opened a window for taxpayers with tax debts to apply for a waiver of interests and penalties which form part of previous assessments. Taxpayers are advised to utilise this vital opportunity which can help them to reduce their tax debts."

It said the (TRA) commissioner general had set Thursday in each week as a special day for receiving and attending to taxpayers' problems, as the case may be, advising any aggrieved taxpayers to visit the nearest TRA office "whenever they come across problems in doing business."

Local factories produced 9.1m tons of cement, with an excess of 1.1m tons that was eventually directed at export markets.

Dangote Industries Ltd, Tanzania Portland Cement Plc, Lake Cement Co. Ltd, Mbeya Cement Co. Ltd and Tanga Cement Plc are all engaged in cement production and exports, he said.

"These companies sell cement in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, DRC and Zambia," he said, affirming that the sector was employing 17,885 workers as of April 2024. A total of 4,176 workers are directly employed and 13,709 others are indirectly employed," he said in his remarks.

During fiscal 2023/24, the government permitted Amsons Industries (T) Ltd, holder of the Camel brand of cement, to acquire the Mbeya Cement Co. Ltd.

This is expected to increase Clinker production to 1.2m tons from 305,000 tons per year, raising cement production by 60 percent to 1.68m tons from 1m tons per year.

A favourable environment is in place in cement sub-sector with a 35 percent duty on imported cement to protect local manufacturers, thus the government encourages cement producers to increase production to gain stable productivity and be competitive in foreign markets, he added, citing the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government's mining sector revenue collections in the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year exceeded expectations, with 287bn/- collected against a target of 247bn/-

Minerals Minister Anthony Mavunde said this yesterday during a virtual discussion about the achievements of the sixth phase government in enhancing the sector.

He outlined various government initiatives to curb mineral smuggling as contributed greatly to a significant increase in revenue from the sector. "We strengthen revenue collection systems and control mineral smuggling to ensure the country benefits from taxes, fees and royalties. The establishment of mineral markets and purchasing centres has significantly boosted revenue," he said.

Mavunde further credited the achievements to changes in mining laws that facilitated creation of the centres. In the 2015/16 fiscal year, non-tax revenue from the sector



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi signs a condolence book at Miembeni in Zanzibar yesterday in mourning Special Seats legislator and South Pemba regional commissioner Tereza Alban Ali. Photo: Zanzibar State House

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hazardous substances in communications equipment from endangering human health and the environment, he stated.

"The eco levy is an end-of-life disposal fee that holds producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products. All equipment entering Tanzania is inspected at its country of origin, and all communications equipment must receive type approval from TCRA," he said, indicating that TCRA also licenses importers and distributors of such equipment.

TCRA engaging with traders on electronic waste regulations, levy

TCRA seeks to regulate the communications sector by actively engaging with stakeholders through interactive consultative meetings, he said, highlighting that the Environmental Management (Control and Management of Electrical and Electronic Equipment Waste) Regulations, 2021, require exporters to identify consignments and pay an

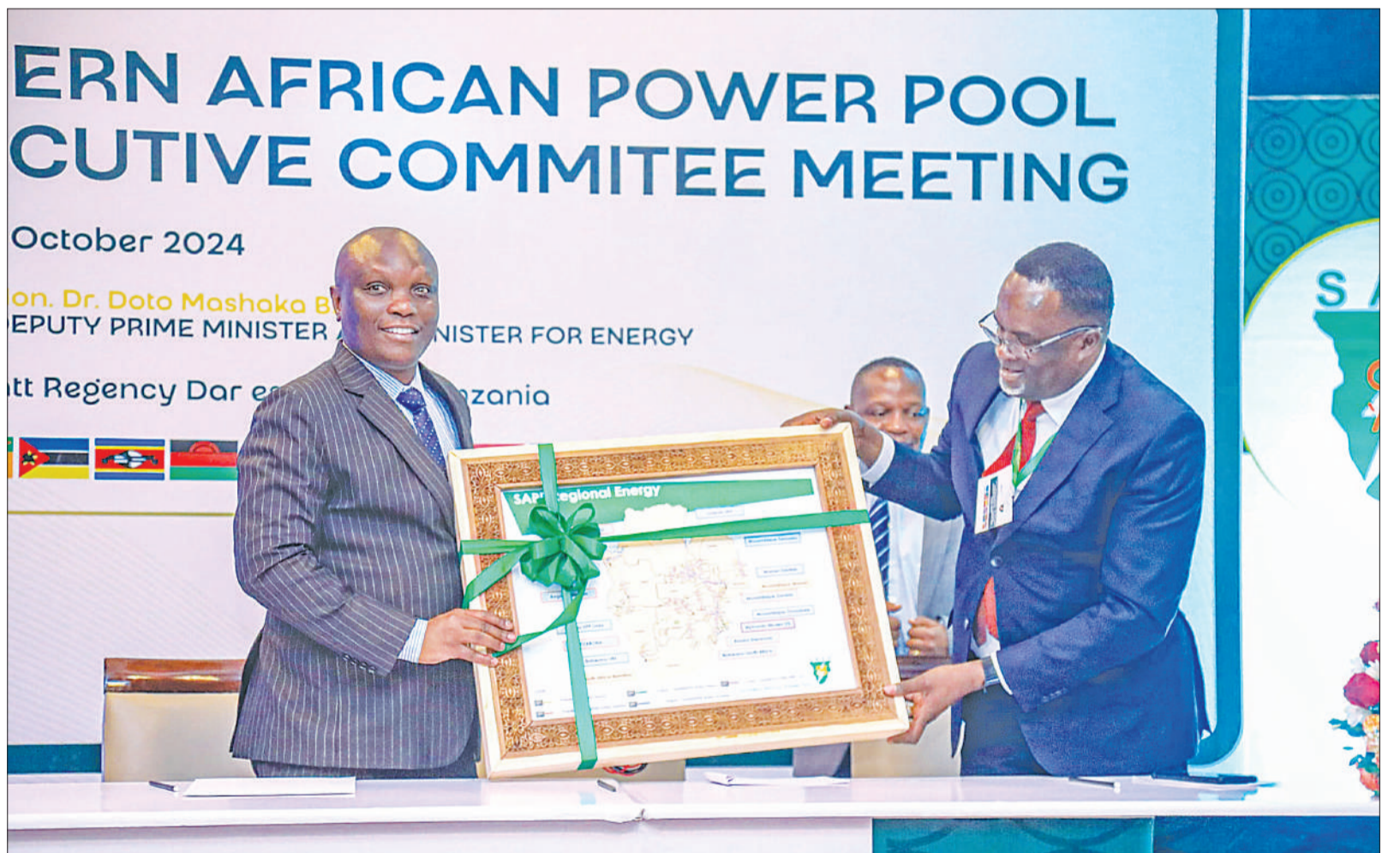
advance ecology levy.

The regulations relate to the entire lifecycle of imported equipment, addressing aspects such as importation, distribution, sales, recycling and refurbishing of such equipment.

Other spheres are assembling, dismantling and disposal of electronic waste, he stated, noting that

the country's approach aligns with international best practices for managing electronic waste.

The registration and inspection of communications equipment in the country of origin complies with the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, he added.



Khatibu Kazungu (L), the Energy ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday receiving a sample photo featuring a map on electricity systems in southern African countries from Southern African Power Pool CEO Stephen Dihwa during the 57th meeting of the SAPP steering committee. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Mining revenue for first quarter of 2024/25 exceeds expectation

amounted to 161bn/-.

However, following the establishment of mineral markets and stricter anti-smuggling measures, the sector generated 753bn/- in 2023/24, with expectations of reaching 1trn/- in 2024/25.

Regarding the sector's contribution to the national economy, Minister Mavunde noted that it accounted for 7.2 percent in 2021/22 and has risen to over 9 percent in 2023/24.

"To ensure continued growth, we plan to conduct comprehensive research nationwide to identify mineral indicators and assess the available resources," he said.

He mentioned that, so far, only 16 percent of the country has undergone extensive research, yet the sector continues to make sig-

nificant contributions.

In 2022/23, mining was the top contributor to foreign exchange earnings, accounting for 56 percent, with mineral exports valued at \$3.5 billion.

Additionally, he noted that during that year, the sector contributed 15 percent of all domestic tax revenue, amounting to 2.1trn/-.

"The mining sector contributed over 648bn/- to the government's main fund as non-tax revenue, with 1.7trn/- circulating within our 43 markets and 102 purchasing centres," he said.

Mavunde elaborated that the achievements stem from research conducted on 16 percent of the land, prompting the ministry to introduce further strategies, including

the 2030 Minerals Vision, which focuses on making minerals a source of wealth and prosperity.

"Our goal is to ensure that by 2030, we have conducted thorough research covering 50 percent of Tanzania territory. This is our primary strategy: to conduct detailed research across a large area of our country," he said.

The minister also encouraged Tanzanians to engage in the mining sector through direct employment, providing services or supplying goods to the mines.

"It was once rare for Tanzanian youth to lead mining companies and this is part of our strategy to promote greater participation among Tanzanians," he said.



Omary Khama (R), Assistant Commissioner for Debt Management in the Finance ministry, has a word in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Juhana Lehtinen, Head of Cooperation in the Finnish Embassy in Tanzania. It was on the sidelines of a seminar on collaboration between the government and Tanzania's development partners. Photo: Finance ministry

SADC members meet, want electricity trade at low cost

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

IN efforts to promote cooperation and ensure reliable and affordable electricity, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has established various strategies to strengthen energy infrastructure in the region.

This was said during the 57th meeting of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Committee, held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The meeting aimed to discuss how member countries can collaborate to efficiently produce, transport and distribute electricity with the aim of reducing energy costs and improving electricity trade throughout the region.

Apart from the host Tanzania, other member countries participating in the meeting are Malawi, Zambia, Angola and Zimbabwe. Participants outlined strategies to generate sufficient electricity, connect regional power grids and utilise alternative sources such as solar, wind and geothermal energy.

The strategies are designed to address challenges related to electricity shortages, high distribution costs and the impacts of climate change on energy production.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy (electricity and renewable energy) Khatibu Kazungu, noted that Tanzania has made significant progress in electricity generation projects such as the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHHP) which currently generates 700 megawatts and is expected to reach 2115 megawatts upon completion.

Additionally, the government plans to produce 600 megawatts from solar energy and 5,000 megawatts from geothermal sources.

Kazungu said that the government is well prepared to implement strategies for electricity generation and distribution by enhancing existing energy sources and initiating new solar, hydro and geothermal projects.

He added that the efforts aim not only to meet domestic demands but also to provide opportunities to sell electricity to neighbouring countries like Zambia which currently faces energy supply challenges.

"Tanzania, as a leading country in renewable and traditional energy projects, is committed to continuing its collaboration with SADC to strengthen electricity infrastructure, connect remote regions to the national grid and invest in clean energy projects such as solar, wind and geothermal," he said.

Costa Rubagunya, acting Managing Director of Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco), said that the company is focused on enhancing electricity production by collaborating with regional networks like SAPP.

Rubagunya noted that Tanzania's integration into regional electricity networks will increase the country's capacity to sell electricity to other SADC nations, especially those experiencing energy shortages.

He elaborated that Tanzania will continue to invest in electricity projects to ensure the nation has sufficient power for domestic use and regional trade.

Steven Dihwa from Malawi, chairperson of the meeting, emphasized that regional cooperation on energy matters is essential for SADC countries to secure affordable and reliable electricity.

He mentioned that collaborative strategies to connect member countries to electricity grids are a significant step towards achieving sustainable development goals across the region.

By Henry Mwangonde

CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi has assured the international community that democracy and human rights will improve in Tanzania under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership.

Dr Nchimbi made the statement during separate meetings yesterday with Ambassador of Türkiye to Tanzania Dr Mehmet Güllüo lu, Moroccan Ambassador Zacharia El Goumir and Dan Barnes, Chief Executive Officer for Policy and Evaluation at the United States' Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

During the meeting which was held in Dar es Salaam Dr Nchimbi highlighted the significant progress made in strengthening democracy,

Dr Nchimbi guarantees improvement in democracy, civil rights under Samia

good governance, the economy and civil rights.

The discussions aimed to enhance relations across various sectors, including politics, agriculture, technology, education and sports, fostering mutual development for all involved.

During his meeting with Dr Güllüo lu, Dr Nchimbi emphasized the strategic relationship between Tanzania and Türkiye, citing the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) as a successful example of the cooperation.

Dr Güllüo lu affirmed Türkiye's commitment to collaborating with

Tanzania on development projects in technology, education and agricultural trade.

In his conversation with El Goumir, Dr Nchimbi expressed gratitude for Morocco's contributions to education and sports, and praised support in constructing the largest mosque in East Africa located in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

He noted that cooperation between Tanzania and Morocco significantly benefits both nations, particularly in promoting education, sports and security in Africa. Ambassador El Goumir confirmed Morocco's commitment

to supporting academic and sports development in Tanzania.

On the other hand, Dr Nchimbi's discussions with the MCC delegation centred on politics, development projects and good governance.

He stressed that the CCM-led government continues to take strong measures to enhance democracy and human rights in the country.

He reiterated that these aspects are part of the government's vision to uphold civil rights and good governance, positioning Tanzania as a role model in Africa and beyond.

DAR RAPID TRANSIT AGENCY



Request for Expression of Interest to Invest in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) at Gerezani BRT Terminal in Dar es Salaam.

The Dar Rapid Transit (DART) Agency is a governmental entity established by Government Notice (GN) No. 120 of 25th May 2007 under the Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of 1997. The Agency's mandate is to plan, develop, and manage an efficient public transport system in Dar es Salaam to reduce traffic congestion, promote sustainability, and improve urban mobility.

- The Agency owns a parcel of land in a prime area located at Gerezani, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam, measuring approximately a total of 19,000m², which is planned for accommodating TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT(TOD). The area is divided into two lots:
 - Lot One: 8,000 square meters
 - Lot Two: 11,000 square meters
- Developers may express interest in developing either one or both lots. Each lot must be submitted separately but under the same conditions and address.
- The objective is to transform the Gerezani BRT Terminal into a more appealing customer-oriented hub to complement the transport services with them, but not limited to: -
 - Supermarkets
 - Retail Shops/Stores
 - Malls
 - Residential and
 - Small Traders (Machinga)
 - Parkings
- To foster BRT services, the Agency plans to develop the referred piece of land under a Joint Venture model in a form to be agreed upon by both parties (investors). Therefore, the Agency seeks an eligible, reputable, competent investor(s) who powerfully demonstrates the appropriate muscles, experience, and expertise in designing and investing in the referred TOD at Gerezani BRT Terminal.
- The developer may express interest in a Joint Venture (JV), but the JV must still meet all legal and technical requirements, with defined roles and responsibilities for each member.
- This advert serves to invite sealed submission of the Expression of Interest from eligible and reputable investors to formally express their interest in investing in the referred TOD at Gerezani BRT Terminal under the Joint Venture or Design, Build, Finance, Operate/Maintain and Transfer (DBFOMT) Arrangements.
- Those who are interested and find themselves to be eligible for investing in the referred TOD MUST avail the Agency with the following paper qualifications: -
 - Expression of Interest letter
 - Company Profile
 - Document establishing the company (certified copies)
 - Pre-proposal design
 - Feasibility study/business plan
 - Proposed financing model
 - Cost estimates
 - Audited Financial Statement for the past three (3) years
 - Profit-Sharing Proposal
 - Proof of experience investing in a similar large-scale project for at least Seven (7) years worth at least Tsh 100 billion.
- Expression of Interest MUST be accompanied by a proof of availability of funds for the proposed TOD project in either form from the reputable financing institution(s)
- NOTE:** This is not an invitation to tender
- Interested investors who may wish to visit the area for the proposed TOD are humbly encouraged to do so and should contact the responsible Officer via Mobile No. +255 784632208 effectively from 16th October, 2024 to 30th October 2024.
- A request for clarification MUST be in writing and reach the office of the undersigned at the latest five (5) days before the deadline for submission of the expression of interest.
- The Agency has the mandate to accept or reject any submission and, if necessary, may annul the entire expression of interest process at any time without consideration for the interested investors.
- Expression of interest in a sealed envelope marked "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) AT GEREZANI BRT TERMINAL" must be submitted on or before 30th October 2024 and should be either physically or electronically delivered to the address below:

Chief Executive
Dar Rapid Transit Agency,
Ubungu Maji, Morogoro Road,
P.O. Box 724,
DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania.
Email: ce@dart.go.tz



UNCOLLECTED DIVIDENDS FOR CRDB BANK PLC SHAREHOLDERS

CRDB Bank Plc reminds all shareholders who have not claimed their dividends which were paid from 2009 to 2023 to update their payment details. Shareholder KYC update can be done via;

Nearby branches
Website (<https://www.crdbbank.co.tz>)
CRDB Bank Head Quarters

The shareholder is required to submit an updated form together with his/her national ID/Passport/Driving license/ Voter's ID.

The contact details of Shares Registry Office are as follows:

Shares Registry Office
CRDB Head Quarters - 10th Floor
Cnr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road/ Obama Drive, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email - shares_unit@crdbbank.co.tz
Mobile Number : 0755 197 700
WhatsApp Number : 0767 757 215

By Order of the Board.

J. B. Rugambo
Company Secretary
16 October, 2024

Conduct research publishable in prestigious journals, dons urged

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has challenged academics to produce research suitable for prestigious international journals to enhance the country's global visibility, strengthen academic credibility and address both local and global challenges.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology, threw the challenge in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a ceremony to honour emeritus Prof Karim Manji for his outstanding academic achievements, including his recognition by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in the United States.

The event organized by Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) brought together deans, students, academicians and government officials.

Prof Mkenda said that Prof Manji's significant contributions to national and international health policy, particularly in the area of neonatal care meant a lot in saving lives.

He said that to produce qualified and competent scientists, Tanzanian researchers must compete globally, warning that progress cannot be achieved without science.

"A scientist cannot close doors, they must compete to advance," he said.

The minister also stressed the need for academicians to produce high-quality, original research that adheres to international standards and showcases the country's potential to contribute to global knowledge.

He further pledged to advocate for dedicated government funding to support scientific research

and called for the recognition of academicians' contributions to national development, suggesting they be honoured in the same way as politicians.

"If streets can be named after politicians or former leaders to honour their contributions, why not do the same for academicians who have made significant achievements in fields like health?" he questioned.

"We should honour them while they are still alive and not wait until they have passed away."

According to him, Prof Manji dedicated most of his time for the country's and global health development.

Emeritus Prof Manji, a professor of paediatrics and child health, also encouraged academicians to strive to publish their research in international journals to gain global recognition.

He cautioned that failure to do so could result in "publication colonialism" where foreign, unverified data could mislead citizens.

Prof Manji also acknowledged the support of his fellow academicians, friends and family, noting that their contributions helped him overcome challenges.

"Your support enabled me to reach the targeted groups and be resilient in the face of challenges," he said.

MUHAS Vice Chancellor Prof Appolinary Kamuhabwa praised Prof Manji's contribution to health policy, citing his work in improving treatment of diarrhoea in children.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Prof Manji has received numerous awards from international institutions.

Ministry demands accurate data ahead of HEET evaluation by WB

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

COORDINATORS of Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project have been urged to expedite its implementation by keeping accurate records, managing finances efficiently and empowering youth to achieve the project's objectives.

They have also been directed to complete procurement process, strengthen collaboration with various stakeholders and themselves for an upcoming mid-term evaluation by the World Bank (WB).

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Daniel Mushi made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during a meeting to evaluate implementation of the project.

He wanted the coordinators to prepare well for an upcoming mid-term evaluation of the project by the World Bank (WB). "It is essential to have comprehensive reports showing positive outcomes and the challenges we have encountered; this will help improve the project's implementation," he said.

He noted that approximately Itrn/- in concessional loan from WB has been allocated to enhance teaching and learning environments in 22 higher education institutions.

Mushi clarified that between

75 and 80 percent of the funds will be used for infrastructure development at these institutions, with some construction already underway.

The project runs for five years (from 2021 to 2026) and aims to produce skilled professionals equipped to contribute to the country's economic growth.

Mushi said that the government expects the project to strengthen the contribution of higher education to the national economy by 2026, particularly by providing more opportunities for youth in the job market.

However, he mentioned that due to high demand, the government was preparing to apply for an additional loan to further enhance education sector.

Prof Suzana Augustino, HEET project coordinator at Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Arusha, remarked that the meeting offered coordinators a chance to exchange experiences and learn from successful project implementations.

She added that collaboration between project coordinators, Tanzania Commission for Universities and National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training will ensure that new curricula are developed and accredited to meet current educational needs and standards.



Kishapu constituency legislator Boniphace Butondo (2nd-L) and his wife Eva Ndamo lead a "royal procession" at the weekend shortly after he was installed as ceremonial chief of the Buduhe community in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has pledged to facilitate allocation of 3.6bn/- for completion of new ferries that are currently under construction in Mwanza and other regions.

She made the commitment on Monday at the climax of the 2024 National Uhuru Torch Race at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza Region.

In her address, President Samia highlighted several strategic projects being implemented by the government in Mwanza, including water supply initiatives, road construction and construction of a passenger terminal at Mwanza

Samia pledges to avail 3.6bn/- for completion of new ferries

Airport. She also mentioned other projects such as the JPM Bridge which connects Misungwi and Sengerema districts.

The President assured the public that all projects will be completed on time to benefit citizens and drive development.

"Regarding the ferries, when I arrived in Mwanza, I followed up on the construction progress and was informed that the work is well advanced. I want to assure the

people of Mwanza that I will secure the remaining funds necessary to ensure the ferries are completed and operational," she said.

The government, through the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Services Agency (TEMESA), continues with the construction of five new ferries that will serve various areas in Mwanza Region.

One ferry for Ijinga and Kahangala in Magu District, Bwiro and Bukondo in Ukerewe District, Nyakaliro and Kome, Buyagu and Mbalika in

Sengerema District in Mwanza and Kisorya in Bunda District, Mara Region. The construction of the ferries is currently over 85 percent.

Additional ferry projects are underway in Mafia and Nyamisati in Coast Region where a new ferry has begun construction and is more than 35 percent.

The government also plans to deploy two small ferries (Sea Taxi ferries) at Magogoni-Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam to ease transportation in the sprawling commercial capital.



Nusura Myonga, Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) and Mastercard Foundation 'Going Beyond' Project Lead from Her Initiative, explains a point to young entrepreneurs who have benefited from the project. It was at an assessment workshop held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

FERTILISER demand in the country has increased from 485,000 metric tonnes in 2015/16 to 848,884 metric tonnes (131 percent) in 2023/24 while availability has increased from 578,472 metric tonnes in 2015/16 to 1,213,729 metric tonnes in 2023/24.

Joel Laurent, Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) Executive Director unveiled this at the weekend when speaking during the 1st Fertiliser Symposium in Dodoma.

The symposium is part of commemorating the World Fertilizer Day and TFRA organized this event under the theme 'Let's Talk Fertiliser!'.

The event brought on board key stakeholders along the fertiliser value chain across the country and beyond to discuss and deliberate on matters substantial for development of the subsector. The two-day event took place from 11th to 12th October.

Both fertiliser demand, availability increase by over 100pc since 2015

He also stated that consumption of fertilizer has increased from 325,916 metric tonnes in 2015/16 to 840,714 metric tonnes in 2023/24.

Despite the progress we've made, there are still some challenges facing the fertilizer subsector: Soil degradation, climate change, limited access to fertilizer financing and vulnerability to fertilizer global market shocks are significant hurdles," he said.

"These challenges also present us with opportunities to innovate and collaborate. By addressing these issues head-on, we can unlock the full potential of the fertilizer subsector and agriculture sector in general."

At the event, agriculture stakeholders

explored a number of issues, including financing mechanism for fertilizer development in Tanzania; examining capital constraints and financing sources.

The session also provided platform for discussion on numerous opportunities and avenues through which fertiliser financing and other resources can be mobilized.

Other were promoting fertiliser production, consumption and cross border trade in Eastern and Southern Africa: prospects and challenges as well as Nairobi Fertilizer and Soil Health Declaration: Examining the strategies to enhance fertilizer utilization in the region.

Laurent also stated that the platform

also forged long-lasting relationship between government agencies, research institutions, the private sector and local communities.

"By forging robust partnerships, we can ensure that our initiatives are aligned with national, regional and international goals and that they benefit all stakeholders involved. Looking ahead, we envision a future where every farmer has access to quality fertilizer at affordable price and knowledge necessary to maximize their yields sustainably. Our goal is to empower farmers, enhance their livelihoods and contribute to the overall development of Tanzania and the African continent at large."

ADVERTISEMENT IN THE GAZETTE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO WIND UP MAGNO IT TANZANIA LIMITED COMPANY NO. 155919434

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, NO. 12 OF 2002, AND IN THE MATTER OF MAGNO IT TANZANIA, IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION, MEMBERS' WINDING UP

On the 8th day of October 2024, the Shareholders of MAGNO IT TANZANIA LIMITED, at an Extraordinary General Meeting RESOLVED the following: -

- That the Company be wound up voluntarily; and
- That Mr. Ketanbabu Shah of Grant Thornton Advisory East Africa Limited is hereby appointed as the liquidator for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing assets of the Company.

We, the undersigned shareholders of the company, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and bona fide resolution passed by the Company on the 8th day of October 2024.

Chairman:
Name: LARA VIRGINIA DE GROOT
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 08th October 2024

Secretary:
Name: GRANT THORNTON ADVISORY EAST AFRICA
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 08th October 2024



Zanzibar President Dr Husein Ali Mwinyi pictured in Zanzibar yesterday presenting an award to Amour Muro, Head of KCB Sahl Banking (representing KCB Bank Tanzania), in recognition of the bank's efforts to foster community partnerships. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Joy as cashewnut auction attracts over 4,000 per kg

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

CASHEW farmers in Masasi, Mtwara and Nanyumbu districts, represented by Masasi Mtwara Cooperative Union (MAMCU) expressed happiness here yesterday after selling over 18,000 tonnes of cashewnut at relatively high prices.

The crop was sold at a price of 4,195/- per kilogramme and a minimum price of 3,440/- . Such prices have not been seen in the southern regions' cashewnut auctions for nearly 10 years.

This was witnessed during the first cashewnut auction of the 2024/2025 season, held at Nakachindu Village in Masasi District Council. The auction utilised the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) system.

During the auction, many farmers expressed their excitement, noting that the prices were unprecedented in recent cashewnut auction seasons.

Faith Milanzi, a farmer from Nakachindu Village, stated that the prices brought renewed hope for their livelihoods.

Milanzi attributed the favourable prices for commercial crops, particularly cashewnut, to the government's efforts to market the crop.

Faraja Hassani, another farmer from Nanyumbu District, recalled that seven to 10 years ago, cashewnut prices were so low that they discouraged farmers from cultivating the crop.

He emphasized that the recent price improvements have reignited their commitment to cashew farming.

"We thank the government for responding to our pleas for better crop prices, especially for

cashewnut. Today we are witnessing significantly high prices and every farmer here is satisfied," he said.

Francis Alfred, Director General of Cashewnut Board of Tanzania (CBT), told farmers that cashewnut prices will remain favourable to ensure that they benefit from good prices.

He added that CBT, in collaboration with the government, has effectively managed crop pricing to achieve the best outcomes for farmers.

Biadia Matipa, MAMCU general manager, stated that cashewnut prices for the 2024/2025 season are expected to remain high.

Masasi District Commissioner Loutery Kanoni encouraged farmers to use their earnings wisely, including investing in their children's education and avoiding unnecessary expenditures.



We thank the government for responding to our pleas for better crop prices, especially for cashewnut. Today we are witnessing significantly high prices and every farmer here is satisfied

NAIROBI

KENYA'S wildlife authorities said on Monday they relocated 44 elephants in the past two weeks to boost human and wildlife coexistence.

Rebecca Miano, cabinet secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, said that the initiative, which targets relocation of 50 elephants from Mwea National Reserve to Aberdare National Park in central Kenya, reflects government efforts to manage and protect the country's elephant population.

"By relocating elephants, we not only protect the animals

Kenya relocates 44 elephants to lift human, wildlife coexistence

and the communities they affect but also advance conservation and tourism," she said when she oversaw the capture and release of a herd of elephants at the Aberdare National Park.

She added that the elephant population in Mwea has risen significantly from 49 individuals in 1979 to 156, exceeding the reserve's carrying capacity by a big margin.

The Kenyan official said that the population growth, though a conservation success, has placed immense pressure on the ecosystem, causing elephants to stray into nearby settlements, where they have damaged crops, infrastructure and property.

Director General of Kenya Wildlife Service Erustus Kanga noted that elephants, as a keystone species, are vital to

maintaining healthy ecosystems, but unchecked population growth in confined spaces can lead to environmental degradation and escalate human-wildlife conflicts.

Kanga added that the relocated elephants are being closely monitored, with some having been fitted with GPS collars to track their movements over the next two years through the Earth Ranger system.

TIGO TANZANIA FOURTH QUARTER TARIFF REPORT (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024)

On Demand Tariff (All taxes Inclusive)

** - Voice charging is rounded off to the nearest second
- Data charging is rounded off at Tsh. 0.09 per 10Kb

Call Category	Price (Tsh/Min)
On net (Tariff is applied during peak and Off peak hours)	30
Off Net (Tariff is applied during peak and Off peak hours)	30

Call Category (Zones/Groups)	Price (Tsh/Min)	Destinations
Group 1	720	China, India, USA, Canada
Group 2	1020	Angola, South Africa, Nigeria, Botswana, Ghana, Ethiopia
Group 3	1020	Lebanon, Israel, Spain, UAE, UK
Group 4	1200	Sweden, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Yemen, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Ireland.
Group 5	1800	Australia, Nepal, Turkey, Russia, Comoros, France, Denmark, Italy, Oman, Germany
Group 6	2520	Rest of the world
Group 7	2520	Cuba, DRC, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Switzerland, Malawi, Zambia
Group 8	19800	All satellite networks
Group 9	260	Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan

Category	Price (Tsh/SMS)
National SMS	8
International SMS	215

Category	Price (Tsh)
Data MBs	9.35

Bundle Tariffs (Voice, SMS & Data) All Taxes Inclusive

Price (Tshs)	Tigo - Tigo / Zantel - Zantel (Mins)	All net Minutes	Total Mins	SMS	MBs	Validity
1000	0	40	40	10	350	24 hrs
1000	0	150	150	25	0	48 hrs
1500	0	180	180	50	0	7 days
1500	250	50	300	50	0	7 days
2000	0	250	250	100	50	7 days
3000	0	450	450	50	0	7 days
3000	55	70	125	50	1024	7 days
5000	100	180	280	100	1434	7 days
5000	0	400	400	100	0	30 days
10000	0	1200	1200	100	0	30 days
10000	0	500	500	50	3072	30 days
20000	0	800	800	50	7168	30 days
30000	0	900	900	500	11264	30 days

Price (Tshs)	Tigo - Tigo / Zantel - Zantel (Mins)	All net Minutes	Total Mins	SMS	MBs	Validity
200	0	0	0	200	0	24 hrs
500	0	0	0	1000	0	7 days
1000	0	0	0	5000	0	15 days
1500	0	0	0	10000	0	30 days

Price (Tshs)	Tigo - Tigo / Zantel - Zantel (Mins)	All net Minutes	Total Mins	SMS	MBs	Validity
1000	30	30	60	50	0	No Validity
1000	0	0	0	0	250	No Validity

Price (Tshs)	MB	Validity	Add-on
500	246	24 hrs	N/A
1000	492	24 hrs	N/A
2000	985	24 hrs	N/A
2000	950	7 days	N/A
2100	1024	7 days	N/A
3000	1434	7 days	N/A
5000	2458	7 days	N/A
10000	4920	7 days	N/A
15000	7373	7 days	N/A
10000	4920	30 days	N/A
20000	9830	30 days	N/A
35000	17240	30 days	N/A
50000	24576	60 days	N/A

Price (Tsh)	Total Mins	SMS	MBs	Validity
1000	India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 10 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 40 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan - 4 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 4 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	Nigeria, Ghana - 4 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	Egypt - 4 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 4 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
5000	UK (+441, +442), Germany, Ireland, Norway, Turkey - 5 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
5000	Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 3 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
5000	Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 3 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
5000	Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 3 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
5000	France - 4 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 80 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 8 Mins	0	0	7 days
6000	Nigeria, Ghana - 8 Mins	0	0	7 days
6000	Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan - 8 Mins	0	0	7 days
6000	Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 8 Mins	0	0	7 days
6000	Egypt - 8 Mins	0	0	7 days
10000	Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 6 Mins	0	0	7 days
10000	Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 6 Mins	0	0	7 days

10000	Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 6 Mins	0	0	7 days
10000	Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia - 5 Mins	0	0	7 days
10000	UK (+441, +442), Germany, Ireland, Norway, Turkey - 12 Mins	0	0	7 days
10000	Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan - 14 Mins	0	0	30 days
10000	Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 14 Mins	0	0	30 days
10000	Nigeria, Ghana - 14 Mins	0	0	30 days
10000	Egypt - 14 Mins	0	0	30 days
10000	India, USA, Canada, China, Hong Kong - 180 Mins	0	0	30 days
10000	Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 18 Mins	0	0	30 days
15000	Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 10 Mins	0	0	30 days
15000	Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 10 Mins	0	0	30 days
15000	Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 10 Mins	0	0	30 days
15000	France - 13 Mins	0	0	30 days
20000	Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan - 29 Mins	0	0	30 days
20000	Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, South Africa - 29 Mins	0	0	30 days
20000	Nigeria, Ghana - 29 Mins	0	0	30 days
20000	Egypt - 29 Mins	0	0	30 days
20000	UK (+441, +442), Germany, Ireland, Norway, Turkey - 24 Mins	0	0	30 days
20000	Oman, UAE, Yemen, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon - 38 Mins	0	0	30 days
22000	Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast - 15 Mins	0	0	30 days
22000	Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia - 10 Mins	0	0	30 days
22000	Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 15 Mins	0	0	30 days
22000	Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Somalia - 15 Mins	0	0	30 days

Price (Tsh)	Total Mins	SMS	MBs	Validity
1000	China, India - 22 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
1000	USA, Canada - 25 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
2500	South Africa, Mauritius - 5 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
2500	UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt - 5 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
2500	Oman - 3 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
2500	Pakistan, Hong Kong, Japan - 10 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	France - 3 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	Germany, Italy, UK (fixed), Turkey - 4 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
3000	Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda - 3 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
5000	Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe - 4 Mins	0	0	24 hrs
5000	South Africa, Mauritius - 11 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt - 11 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	Oman - 8 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	France - 6 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	China, India - 110 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	USA, Canada - 110 Mins	0	0	7 days
5000	Pakistan, Hong Kong, Japan - 25 Mins	0	0	7 days
7500	Germany, Italy, UK (fixed), Turkey - 10 Mins	0	0	7 days
7500	Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda - 8 Mins	0	0	7 days

** These changes have affected some SAIZI YAKO bundles as well

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EAC trains experts on health information sharing novelty

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) secretariat has trained experts on digital health innovations and explored strategies to enhance access to health information.

Eng. Andrew Kajeguka, EAC Senior Health Informatics Officer said this in Dar es Salaam when speaking recently at a three-day workshop, which involved partner states supply chain experts from the national medical stores, ICT experts, EAC pooled procurement mechanism focal persons, EAC regional digital health facilitators, system architects, and developers.

They were trained on using the newly developed digital tool for improving access to health commodities.

Held from 7th to 9th October, the workshop was facilitated by the EAC Secretariat and the EAC Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunisation and Health Supply Chain Management (VIHSCM).

He emphasised the importance of digital transformation and innovation in strengthening regional cooperation in the health sector across East Africa.

Kajeguka underscored the region's significant progress in digital health. He noted that the EAC Regional Health Data Governance Framework, recently approved by the 24th EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health, serves as a key reference for implementing various digital health initiatives, with a strong emphasis on data sharing, protection, privacy, and security.

Kajeguka said that development of the EAC Regional Health Data Governance Framework aimed at creating an enabling environment and a shared vision for seamless and secure cross-border health data sharing throughout EAC region.

He disclosed that the framework was made possible through financial support from various partners, including the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) through the EAC Integrated Health Programme (EIHP), the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW), the USAID's Local Health System Sustainability (LHSS) and East Africa project under Abt Associates Inc.

Other partners were the EAC

Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization, and Health Supply Chain Management at the University of Rwanda, the Pan African Health Informatics Association and East African Integrated Disease Surveillance network.

"This framework represents a commitment to harnessing the power of data responsibly and ethically, laying the groundwork for a healthier, more equitable future for all citizens of the EAC region," he said.

Kajeguka informed participants that the framework was developed as part of implementation of the directives of the 23rd Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health that directed the secretariat to develop an instrument that will facilitate data security, privacy, use and sharing of health data.

He said the framework is essential for building trust among partner states and ensuring secure and efficient exchange of health data and information in the region. The framework will also play a pivotal role in advancing regional health cooperation, facilitating seamless sharing of health data while upholding stringent security and privacy standards.

John Ring Dut, chairperson of the meeting and EAC Focal Person for Health, Republic of South Sudan, said the region still faces challenges of disease outbreaks, global climate change and its consequences which call for collective efforts to guarantee that the systems developed comply with simplicity of use so that end users can effectively operate them efficiently.

Dr Domina Asingizwe, Research Coordinator at the EAC Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization, and Health Supply Chain Management, praised the collaboration of EAC partner states in the development of the digital platform. She emphasized that it is now time to introduce end users to the digital innovations.

"This framework represents a commitment to harnessing the power of data responsibly and ethically, laying the groundwork for a healthier, more equitable future for all citizens of the EAC region"

TIA engages contractor for Singida campus at 13.5bn/-

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Institute of Accountancy (TIA) has signed a contract worth 13.5bn/- for construction of its campus building in Singida Region.

The agreement was signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Chief Executive Officer of TIA Prof William Pallangyo and representative of Salem Construction Charles Casmir.

Speaking after signing the contract, Prof Pallangyo said construction of the new campus will alleviate the need for the college to rent private buildings.

He noted that funds for the project come from the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) programme, funded by the World Bank.

Prof Pallangyo urged the contractor to ensure that a high-quality building is constructed and to engage with the local community in Singida so that they become custodians of the project.

"We have asked the contractor to follow all construction regulations to ensure safety of workers at all times. We want to see this project completed without any accidents or injuries," he said.

He reminded the contractor to complete the building within the agreed 24-month timeframe, with a focus on quality.

"We ask that you construct a building that students will be proud of and that you, the contractor, can take pride in when you drive by and show your work to your colleagues," he added.

TIA, according to Prof. Pallangyo, will work closely with the World

Bank to ensure timely payments to the contractor to avoid project delays.

Casmir stated that while the contract allows for 24 months, they plan to complete the project in 18 months.

He promised that the building will be exemplary and they will prioritize safety of both workers and the surrounding community.

Oyombe Simba, HEET project coordinator at TIA, expressed gratitude to the government for allocating funds to improve the learning environment for students.

He said that TIA received a total of 27.6bn/- which will be used to improve the institution's campuses, including construction of buildings at Mwanza campus.

The new dormitory building in Mwanza which costs 7.2bn/-, will accommodate 306 students. Simba added that the project will also focus on curriculum improvement and building capacity of instructors at TIA.

Dr Kennedy Hosea, National HEET Coordinator at the Ministry of Education, praised TIA management for urgently engaging the contractor, noting that other institutions have struggled to finalize their procurement processes.

He emphasised the importance of quality construction as the buildings are critical to the future of higher education in Tanzania.

"We insist that the buildings must meet high standards because during their opening, we aim to invite national leaders to highlight the importance of the projects," he said.



Constitution and Legal Affairs minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (4th-L) presents 6m/- to Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance chairman Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaimu in Dodoma city recently. It was in part-implementation of a commitment by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Eliakim Maswi (to the minister's left), meant as an incentive for two employees who have served the commission for over thirty years. Photo courtesy of C& LA ministry

By Guardian Correspondent, Dubai

TANZANIA Digital Inclusion Project (TADIP) has excelled in this year's connecting the Unconnected (CTU) Challenge Prize, ranked among the best projects that work to bridge digital divide.

Implemented by the Internet Society Tanzania Chapter (ISOC-Tanzania), the project recorded victory after competing with various projects from around the world.

Speaking soon after receiving the award during the IEEE Connecting the Unconnected Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Monday, ISOC-Tanzania president Nazar Kirama said the award was a proof of the many positive developments

recorded in Tanzania. He said the project has been recognised for various efforts which include providing digital education for girls, connecting schools to high-speed internet, promoting affordable smartphones for small-scale women traders and implementing artificial intelligence as well as big data solutions to facilitate development of smart cities.

He noted that effective policies being implemented by the government enable civil society

Tanzania digital inclusion project recognised for bridging tech gap

organisations and their initiatives to excel.

"For instance, the government's policy that facilitated the establishment of a national fibre optic network spanning over 12,000 kilometres has allowed us to connect 15 schools and local governments to high-speed internet," he said.

He noted that in May of this year, the project also won a global communication award during the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS 2024 PRIZES) held in

Geneva, Switzerland.

TADIP's goals by 2034 include establishing 200 community network hubs across Tanzania to connect four million people to high-speed internet and provide digital education to 1.5 million young people and women traders.

IEEE Awards programme is a more than 100-year old, peer-recognition initiative that inspires achievement and sets a standard of excellence and a motive to aspire to shape the future for the benefit of humanity, one innovation at a time.



Small traders in an eager wait for customers but in conditions far from hygienic, as found at a section of Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

KINSHASA

Volcano erupts in eastern DR Congo

THE Nyamulagira volcano, located in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has been erupting since Saturday, sources with the Goma Volcanological Observatory (OVG) confirmed late on Monday.

The eruption consists of an overflow of lava from its crater and the lava has been pouring on the northern, western and southwestern flanks, said Charles Balagizi, scientific director of the OVG.

The latest satellite images showed that three lava flows have been formed on the flanks, with the most advanced flow having travelled about 7 km, according to him.

"A fiery glow is visible at the summit of the Nyamulagira volcano, observed from the city of Goma," Balagizi told the Congolese Press Agency, the official outlet of the DRC, late on Monday.

The DRC authorities have not

reacted to the eruption.

The Nyamuragira volcano is considered one of the most active volcanoes in Africa. It is located in the middle of the Virunga National Park, which is largely occupied by the March 23 Movement (M23) rebels, affecting the surveillance of the OVG.

For months, the OVG staff have been on strike, demanding unpaid wages from the DRC authorities. Goma is home to two active

volcanoes, Nyamulagira and Nyiragongo. The Nyiragongo volcano erupted in May 2021, killing at least 32 people.

According to the OVG, Nyamulagira last erupted on March 14, 2023.

Nyamulagira's activity is normally far from threatening the capital of North Kivu. Its previous eruptions have been directed into the Virunga National Park or toward nearby roads, according to local media.

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Mental disorders still a big challenge calling for action

THE magnitude and seriousness of problems associated with mental ailments in Tanzania has for long touched off hugely engaging discussions.

One instance we can remember is when, a whole fifteen years ago, a legislator shot up in the National Assembly in Dodoma city, seeking to know from the government the most common types of mental illnesses in the country and the kind of treatment the patients got.

Responding, the then Health and Social Welfare deputy minister told the House that the number of people down with mental health problems in the country was rising by an annual six per cent on average.

Referring specifically to mental patients attended to in hospitals in the previous five years, she said the number had shot up by six per cent for those admitted and by four times as much for outpatients.

Going by the deputy minister's remarks, the factors most commonly triggering the problems included alcoholism, drug abuse and stress resulting from harsh social, health and economic conditions.

But she quickly added that some mental disorders were hereditary, suggesting that there was a limit to what human ingenuity in general and science and technology in particular could do to help.

The deputy minister's elaboration tallied with explanation by the World Health Organisation in a message to coincide with celebrations to mark World Health Day in 1989.

The organisation noted that there were probably very few people who had not experienced a period of depression, if not actually a nervous breakdown.

It however added, sort of diplomatically, that nature had its own way of dealing with things

like the shock of bereavement, the collapse of a marriage, natural catastrophes and the horrors of war so that normality eventually returned to the troubled spirit.

According to the UN agency, it was important to show that challenges variously associated with mental health could be gainfully dealt with through expertly handled engagement. That could be done among friends, within the family or, if need be, with professional help.

The agency distinguished between psychiatry and mental health programmes, saying both played an invaluable role in society: the former dealing with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and the latter was in part concerned with ways of reducing the incidence of psychiatric disorders.

But while medicine and science have worked miracles over the years, with the public health sector among the biggest beneficiaries, alcoholism, drug abuse and other forms of living in urgent need of reform keep eating into the giant strides made.

Even worse, as noted by WHO: "A stigma still attaches to mental ailments, to the nervous breakdown, and to anyone who has ever been in hospital suffering from a mental complaint."

One reason is that society is often unaware of the magnitude of the problem all this amount to and of the possibilities of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation - and therefore remains prejudiced against mental illness.

This can - and must - change if community leaders, experts, politicians and all other players join the struggle. Where the problem is due to risky lifestyles, safety valves are ready at hand, at times with counselling performing wonders. It can be that easy.



Key reporting advice from a year of elections worldwide

By Phineas Hogan

JOURNALISTS covering elections in 2024 have combated pervasive misinformation and disinformation, documented the rise of political extremism and persevered amid growing attacks on the press.

By the end of the year around half of the world's population, across more than 60 countries, will have been impacted by these major votes.

The electoral processes, however, have been at varying levels of free and fair. The US presidential decision looms next month (November), a result that will be watched closely in light of its impact around the globe.

In a recent Crisis Reporting Forum session, the International Journalists' Network (IJNet) brought together three journalists who reported on major elections and their aftermath this year in Germany, South Africa and Venezuela.

The three are Laura Goudkamp, a radio and TV journalist for German broadcaster ARD and an ICFJ Burns Fellow; Janet Heard, managing editor of South Africa's Daily Maverick; and Dariela Sosa, founder of award-winning Venezuelan media outlet Arepita. They discussed the lessons they learned and how fellow reporters can apply them in their coverage of future elections.

Key challenges

When covering their respective elections, the panelists discussed how they reported accurately while adapting to their complexities.

In South Africa, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) lost its longstanding absolute majority for the first time since the fall of Apartheid in 1994.

Heard said an increase in populist appeals during the campaign and the splintering of parties were critical developments for journalists to stay on top of.

"We had a lot more opposition, a lot more parties. A lot of splinter parties and also the rise of some really tricky parties," she said, adding: "There was also a rise of populism, populist parties which made everything just a little bit less certain."

Goudkamp's focus during the German election in early September was on the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD).

She said striking a balance between giving the movement media attention because of its prominence without amplifying some of its "harmful" views was difficult for journalists.

She elaborated: "On one hand, the AfD's presence in the election needs to be reported as part of the



democratic process. On the other hand, it is just as essential to not provide an uncritical platform for harmful ideology."

In Venezuela, where the political opposition had an opportunity to end the authoritarian rule of President Nicolas Maduro, journalists found themselves battling disinformation coming from the government.

Although evidence showed that Maduro lost the election by a landslide, Venezuela's national electoral council ruled that he had won re-election.

"What do you do when the very institution meant to safeguard democracy starts operating within a post-truth framework?" noted Sosa, rhetorically.

Informing voters on the stakes

The panelists concurred that, in the face of challenges like these, journalists and newsrooms should work to engage people in politics and push back on disinformation.

They underlined the need for journalists also to be intentional about the role they themselves play in elections.

"Journalists need to double down on fact-checking, provide context and work together with trusted networks to expose these preferences," said Sosa, adding: "The goal isn't just to report the facts but to unite people who want discussions based on evidence."

Explaining party platforms in a digestible fashion is an important aspect of election coverage, Goudkamp explained, elaborating: "Really holding parties accountable, especially parties like the AfD, looking into their party manifestos - I think that is really important to let people know what it they are saying on so many different political issues. This is because most of the time they don't really have solutions,

right? It's more about bashing the current coalition on how they are doing."

Some potential voters are completely burned out with politics even though their elections have major implications, noted Heard, adding that media organizations should be cognizant of that and use methods like humour to re-engage readers.

"Taking a serious matter and putting a light touch on it really does work without becoming too gimmicky. People who are otherwise very avoidant of the news or just exhausted with politics, exhausted with elections, can re-engage," Heard said.

To visualise the role of journalism in times of turmoil, Sosa offered a prompt: picture the meme of a dog drinking coffee in a burning house saying: "This is fine."

Sosa suggested that good journalism should be like that cup of coffee - reliable, consistent and one that readers can confide in, elaborating:

"A cup of coffee that raises our audience's awareness without inducing panic; a cup of exceptional coffee, the kind that makes you want to come back tomorrow. A cup that helps our community to make better decisions; and a cup that becomes a comforting daily ritual, a compass that guides us in times of uncertainty."

Being pro-democracy - but not partisan

The journalists said communicating the stakes of elections for democracy while remaining nonpartisan is a difficult line to walk but that, amid growing anti-democracy sentiments, it is necessary.

Goudkamp meanwhile urged that journalists must be critical of political rhetoric, especially from

extremist parties and movements, and carefully consider how they cover it.

"It is really crucial not just using narratives of right-wing populist parties, for example," she said, adding: "I always try to think twice: Is that the right word to use? Is it loaded? Can I find a narrative that is more nuanced or, you know, more objective?"

Journalists should strive to be honest and accurate with framing, filtering and word choice, Heard noted, emphasizing: "Call out and think about the wording that you use when you are reporting on parties and actually interrogate it."

"We do have a perspective in terms of democracy. We will try and get to the bottom of things fairly and as accurately as we can," she said.

In order to protect democracy, said Sosa, journalists must know its importance - and make sure that their audience does too.

"Democracy is like a living system: it is imperfect, it needs constant care and vigilance. Our role is to inform the public so they can make informed decisions, and we need to find better ways to communicate effectively when a candidate or action threatens democratic values," Sosa argued.

She elaborated: "Without democracy, people would not have a voice. The day you have a problem with a powerful person or the government or a corporation or even a drug cartel, you have no rights as a citizen. This is why democracy is important. It is the only system where you really have your rights."

* A dispatch by IJNet, a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Phineas Hogan is IJNet's Disarming Disinformation intern and a journalist with Cronkite News, an Arizona PBS affiliate station.

Nyerere Day commemoration remarks massively revitalising

THERE was plenty to listen to or follow in marking 25 years since the October 14 death in a London hospital of Tanzania's founding president, Mwalimu JK Nyerere.

One highlight was an international seminar at Mwalimu's own birthplace, Butiama village in what is now known as Mara Region, where Pan-Africanists from around the region met to revisit issues that have been debated for decades on his leadership and his international profile as a role model.

Militant African leaders of the second generation coming office - or to power - in the 1980s and 1990s and those of the third generation now in office easily retain Nyerere as a reference point. The situation is not likely to change soon.

There was a way in which external participation and panel sessions where prominent speakers were drawn from outside enlivened or enriched the take on what we know or remember of that period.

One participant from Uganda noted that in the years that followed the radical shift to socialism and intervening global conditions saw the gross domestic product come down by about 40 per cent over 20 years.

Discussion within Tanzania has usually followed on the matrix of price changes at the global level, like the tripling and eventually quadrupling of oil prices, starting in October 1973.

The floating of the US dollar in 1969 and its eventual devaluation in 1971 had a crippling impact on poor countries' wealth, in terms of what they could buy from developed countries in reciprocal trade.

What has usually not been coming up in debate, and neither did it quite surface in the recent discussions, is how far creating state-based commercial organisations was likely

to be viable as an economic strategy.

Looked at with the benefit of hindsight, it can be said that state-based economic agencies have been a credible tool in ensuring national independence in a particular sphere but not as much as tools for economic growth, the sum total of which is known as 'development'.

Pan-Africanists have usually emphasized Mwalimu's ethical parameter - his unquestioned contempt for making money as a vocation in life or in office.

Many even among the youth of that period resisted the idea of shifting to a multiparty system, fearing that it would bring up political pressures where cash flows determine whom the people would vote for as leaders, thereby losing our cherished ethical parameters.

That dimension is however left out as a function of time - with Mwalimu's successor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, famously noting that 'each epoch has its book'.

Taken together, it appears that of all reflections on Mwalimu's leadership given at the time he left office, at the time he died and 25 years later, two matters stand out.

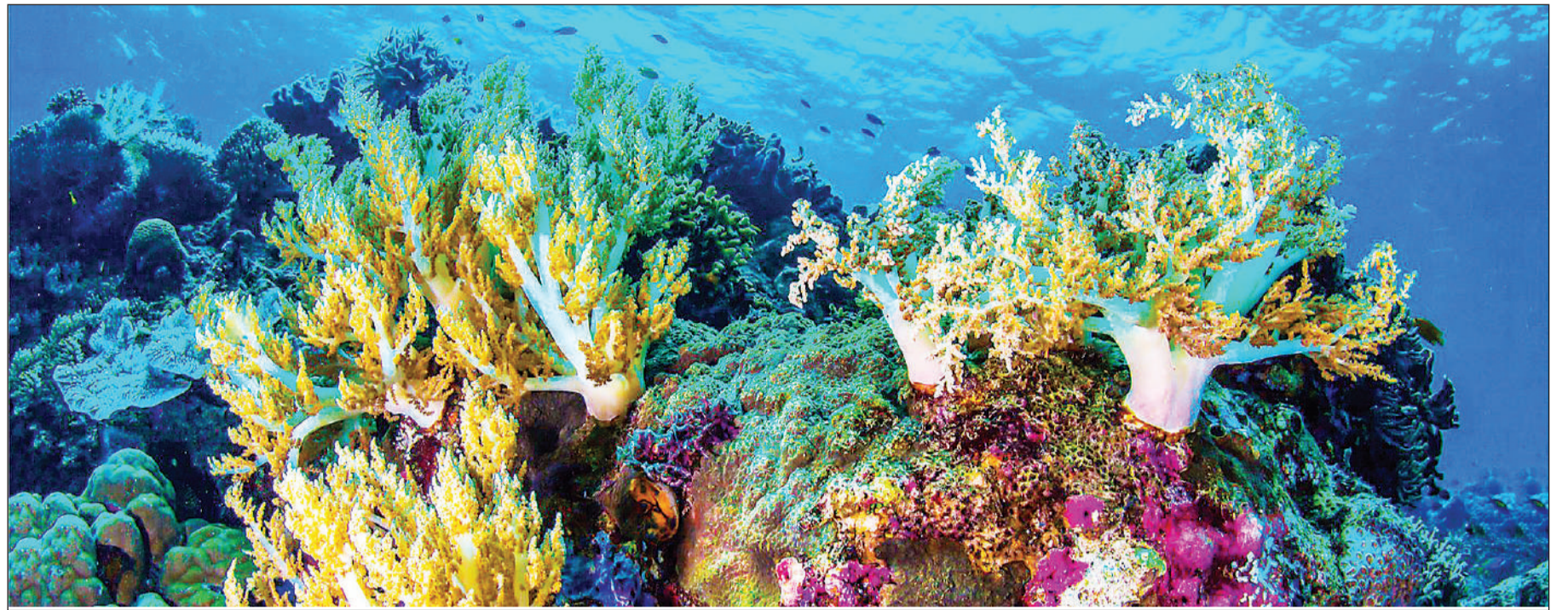
One is Mwalimu's undeniable success in fostering national unity not first by economic success but by salutary ethical example - redoubtable commitment.

The other is that his expectations of building a socialist country were unsustainable in relation to the vagaries of world trade and human nature at the local level, landmark inefficiencies, etc.

All this makes one recall the cryptic summation by Nyerere's distinguished admirer and critic, the late US-based Kenyan Africanist Ali Mazrui, of our socialism having fallen short of fully standing the test of time at the time.

By Telesphor Magobe

Ecological restoration as effective climate change mitigation model



In some areas the destruction of coral reefs and mangroves is rampant that some coastal communities' beach management units (BMU) have started taking initiative to restore them.

STUDIES show that global warming has been happening since the industrial revolution and threatens the survival of terrestrial species, including humans, animals and plants. Global warming is one of the effects of climate change and is attributed to the rise of greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations caused mainly by human activities.

The three main GHG concentrations are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). In 2019, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations reached 410 parts per million (ppm), CH₄ reached 1.866 parts per billion (ppb) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) reached 332 ppb, according to the Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report.

"Observed concentrations of these GHGs reached record levels in 2022, the latest year with available consolidated data. In 2022, atmospheric concentrations reached new records," says a group of experts report on the assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation for inland transport submitted at the 27th session in Geneva on October 1-2, 2024.

Global surface temperature in the first two decades of the 21st century (2001-2020) was 0.99 [0.84 to 1.10]°C higher than 1850-1900. Human-caused climate change is a consequence of more than a century of net GHG emissions from energy use, land-use and land use change, lifestyle and patterns of consumption, and production.

Another report titled "State of the World's Migratory Species 2024" suggests that "the impacts of climate change are already being felt by many migratory species, and these impacts are expected to increase considerably over the coming decades, not just as a direct threat to species, but also as an amplifier of other threats."

Citing another report titled "International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)" it says most migratory species are affected by a combination of threats, which often interact to exacerbate one another. "Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (primarily driven by agriculture), and overexploitation (hunting and fishing, both targeted and incidental) represent the two most pervasive threats to migratory species and their habitats."

The report mentions four most critical threats facing migratory species which are overexploitation, habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, climate change and pollution.

The coast of Mainland Tanzania, which covers 1,424 kilometres from Tanga to Mtwara, including offshore islands, experiences the impact of climate change. This includes the bleaching of coral reefs and the wilting of mangroves which serve as breeding grounds and habitats of aquatic organisms, including a variety

of fish species on which coastal communities depend for their livelihoods.

The rise of sea levels has caused some parts of the islands and lowlands to be submerged by ocean water and the residents of such areas have been relocated to highlands.

This means in the long run some islands are going to disappear. There is also an increase in salinity in coastal areas, thus impacting on the lives of coastal communities.

In some areas the destruction of coral reefs and mangroves is rampant so much so that some coastal communities beach management units (BMU) have started taking initiative to restore them, which goes hand-in-hand with fighting against dynamite fishing. Fishing

and increasing sedimentation have been reported to affect both fringing and riverine mangroves in Tanzania. Moreover, the report says the coast of Mainland Tanzania and the entire tropical Western Indian Ocean (WIO) encompasses the largest warm sea surface temperature (SST) pool of the world's oceans, with the potential to influence both the regional and global climate.

"On sea level, model reconstructions of long-term sea level trends from a longer record of 50 years show a general rising trend in Tanzania ranging from 0.4-2.0 mm per year," says a new report on the state of the coast of Mainland Tanzania published this year.

It suggests that climate change factors such as sea level rise, excessive flooding,

and increasing sedimentation have been reported to affect both fringing and riverine mangroves in Tanzania. Moreover, the report says the coast of Mainland Tanzania and the entire tropical Western Indian Ocean (WIO) encompasses the largest warm sea surface temperature (SST) pool of the world's oceans, with the potential to influence both the regional and global climate.

"The coast plays a predominant role in driving rainfall changes over East Africa via modulations to local and large-scale atmospheric circulations. During 1901-2012, the generally cool WIO region warmed faster than any other region of the tropical oceans, experiencing an anomalous SST warming of 1.2°C during the North-East Monsoon (December-

February)."

Unless coastal communities take initiative to mitigate climate change effects they are going to suffer most due to an increase in sea level rise, salinity, frequent strong winds and floods. The melting of glaciers implies ongoing global warming and sea level rise.

The survival of terrestrial species is threatened by increased human activities which can be likened by cutting a branch of the tree on which one is seated on.

More public awareness is needed so that more coastal communities engage in ecological restoration activities and fight against environmental degradation.

Government tackles housing crisis amidst rising costs, youth-led urbanisation surge

By Adonis Byemelwa

ON October 7, 2024, the world came together to observe World Habitat Day under the theme 'Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future'. The event highlights a critical global challenge—rapid urbanization—and emphasizes the pivotal role of young people in shaping more sustainable, resilient cities. As urban populations grow, especially in regions like Africa and Asia, the involvement of youth in planning for their urban future has never been more crucial.

With the youth comprising over 70 percent of urban populations in many countries in the Global South, their input in urban planning is not just necessary but imperative for cities to thrive. As the world races towards an urban future where cities are projected to host 70 percent of the global population by 2050, the need for sustainable, inclusive urban planning has never been more urgent.

Yet, despite growing awareness and action, challenges remain in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in addressing poverty, inequality, and the ever-looming threat of climate change.

A core focus of World Habitat Day is to mobilize youth to contribute their creativity and energy toward building cities that prioritize equity, sustainability, and resilience. With their engagement, cities can better tackle the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and build a future where everyone, regardless of background, can enjoy a decent quality of life.

In Tanzania, the government's efforts to address housing shortages come at a crucial time. According to UN-Habitat statistics, Tanzania faces a housing deficit of 3.6 million units, with the rate of new housing construction standing at around 350,000 annually.

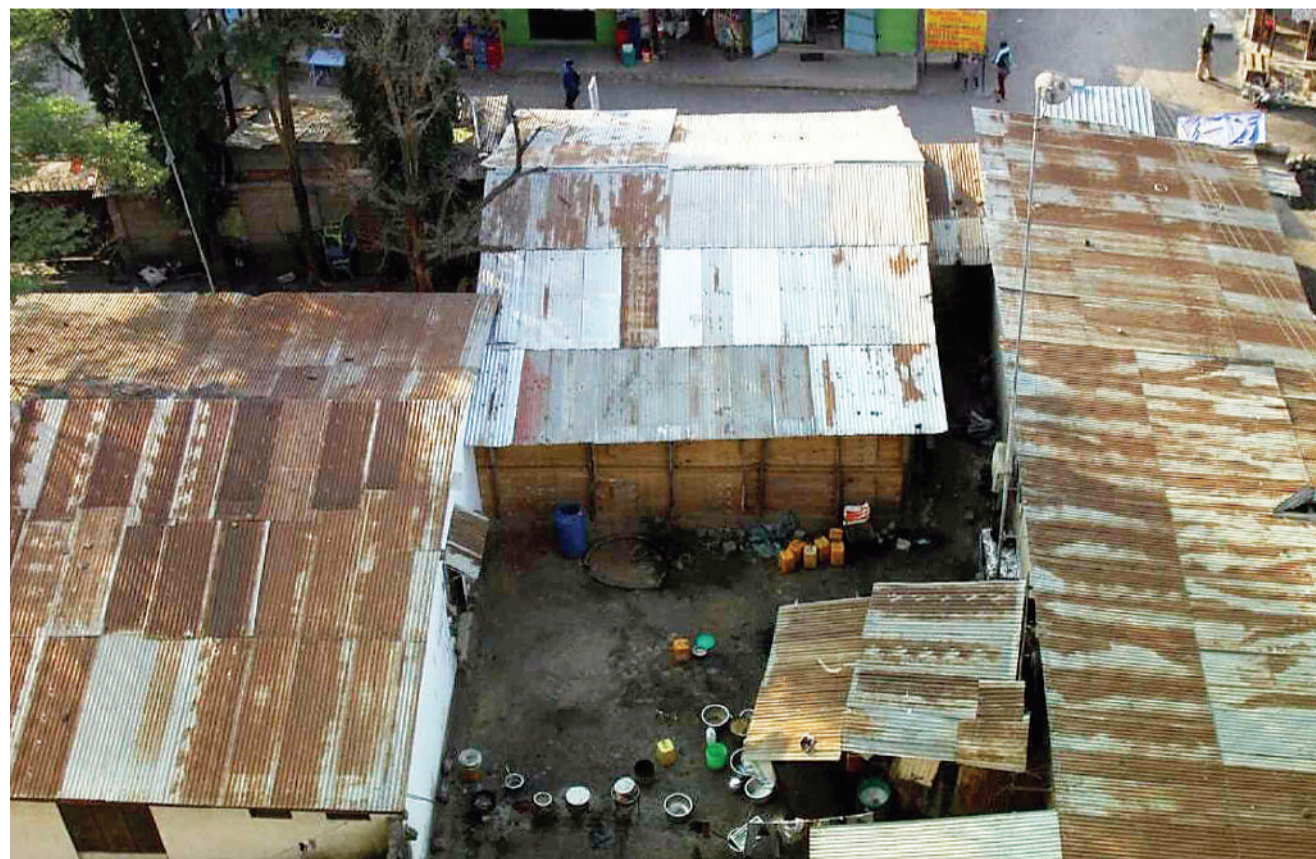
While this helps address the shortage, it is a far cry from the demand, leaving millions, especially young people, struggling to find affordable homes in a rapidly urbanizing environment.

The Ministry of Land, Housing, and Human Settlements Development is taking bold steps to confront this issue. In a decisive move on May 24, 2024, the Ministry appealed to Parliament for a significant budget of Sh171.37 billion to fund various housing projects, including the ambitious Kawe 711 development.

However, challenges persist, as highlighted by Jerry Silaa, a former Minister, who provided updates on ongoing housing projects and outlined the government's vision for tackling the housing crisis.

One of the flagship housing projects, the Kawe 711 development, stalled since 2018 and is now back on track with 35 percent of the work completed. The project is expected to be finished by 2026, delivering 422 much-needed housing units.

Silaa also mentioned ongoing discussions between the National Housing Corporation (NHC) and contractors regarding the Golden Premier Residence project, which



remains stalled. In the Morocco Square development, 71 out of 100 residential units have already been sold, while leasing of hotel, retail, and office spaces continues to progress.

Despite these efforts, Tanzania's housing challenges are exacerbated by rising construction costs. The steep increase in cement prices, driven by factors like the depreciation of the Tanzanian Shilling and global fuel price hikes, has made affordable housing more elusive.

In August 2023, Dangote Cement announced a price hike of Sh885 per bag, further straining the construction sector. Compounding the issue, a new excise duty introduced by the government in 2023 has increased the price of domestically produced and imported cement, pushing the cost of construction materials higher. The repercussions are felt across Dar es Salaam, where a 50kg bag of cement now costs up to 17,000/-, compared to 14,000/- in previous years.

These rising costs place pressure on builders, who may be tempted to cut cor-

ners and compromise quality to balance budgets. As a result, substandard housing has proliferated in areas like Mbagala and Chanika, where residents purchase homes at lower prices but often at the expense of safety and durability.

The housing crisis is not unique to Tanzania. Across the globe, countries struggle to ensure adequate settlements for their growing urban populations. Nevertheless, several nations have managed to mitigate housing shortages successfully. In Singapore, for instance, a robust public housing system has provided affordable, high-quality homes to over 80 percent of the population.

Meanwhile, in contrast, countries like India and Brazil face significant housing deficits, with millions living in informal settlements or slums. The stark contrast between successful and struggling nations underscores the importance of decisive government action, proper urban planning, and investment in affordable housing solutions.

While the Tanzanian government has

made strides in addressing housing needs, challenges remain, especially in terms of affordability for the youth. Unemployment and the soaring cost of living leave many young Tanzanians unable to afford housing, despite government projections that aim to deliver middle-income homes costing between 20m/- and 50m/-.

As the country navigates these obstacles, it is clear that comprehensive urban planning and affordable housing initiatives must remain a top priority. The ongoing flooding crisis in Dar es Salaam, driven by unregulated development and a lack of proper planning, is a stark reminder of the need for sustainable, well-regulated urban growth.

Legal hurdles, such as delays in the approval of master plans and the discretionary nature of planning area declarations, have left many parts of the city vulnerable to environmental hazards, further exacerbating the housing crisis.

Addressing these issues requires bold, coordinated efforts from both the government and private sector. Streamlining the

master plan approval process, ensuring regular updates to urban development plans, and implementing mandatory planning area declarations will help prevent future crises and build a more resilient, sustainable urban future.

As the world observes World Habitat Day, the call to engage youth in shaping the urban landscape has never been more urgent. By integrating young people into urban planning and decision-making processes, cities like Dar es Salaam can tap into their creativity, energy, and forward-thinking perspectives. This approach is essential to building more inclusive, sustainable environments for all residents. The future of Tanzania's cities hinges on the choices made today, and the active involvement of the next generation will be pivotal in ensuring that future urban spaces are vibrant, livable, and equitable.

To push for adequate housing settlements in Tanzania, several strategic actions must be taken. First, there needs to be a more robust framework for affordable housing, driven by partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society organizations. Policy reforms should incentivize developers to prioritize affordable housing while reducing bureaucratic barriers that stifle construction.

Second, urban planning must focus on creating resilient infrastructure that can accommodate Tanzania's rapidly growing urban population, which is expected to triple by 2050. This includes enhancing transportation networks, access to utilities, and public services, particularly in informal settlements where overcrowding and poor living conditions are rampant.

Third, land tenure issues should be addressed. Simplifying land ownership procedures will empower communities to secure titles to their homes, reducing the prevalence of informal settlements. Innovative financing models, such as microloans or government-backed mortgages, can also help more Tanzanians afford safe, adequate housing.

Finally, youth should be at the forefront of these efforts. Programs that train and empower young people in urban planning, construction, and environmental sustainability will foster a generation equipped to tackle Tanzania's housing challenges. Their involvement is not only vital for inclusive cities but also key to securing a brighter future for Tanzania's urban landscape.

By Kirsten Schuijt and Maria González

The Amazon fast approaching point of no return: COP16 is a vital opportunity to act



OVER the past few months, communities in the Amazon have been living through a ferocious fire season following a period of extreme drought. Fuelled by deforestation, the El Niño weather pattern and compounded by climate change, the number of fires reached its highest level in 14 years this September.

The fires are one of the symptoms of a global ecosystem in peril. WWF's Living Planet Report 2024, published today, warns that the world is fast approaching dangerous, irreversible tipping points driven by the combination of nature loss and climate change. It reveals that there has been a catastrophic 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife populations in just 50 years (1970-2020), leaving ecosystems less resilient and more vulnerable to climate change, leading to regional tipping points with global implications.

In the Amazon, deforestation and climate change are warming and drying the region, pushing it closer to a tipping point where it can no longer survive as a rainforest. Even the "flying rivers" that carry humidity from the Amazon rainforest to other parts of the continent have turned into vast corridors of smoke that can be seen from space. And it's not just the Amazon under threat - coral reefs and other ecosystems are also nearing critical tipping points.

If the Amazon reaches a tipping point, it will release billions of tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere through fires and plants dying off. This would further exacerbate climate change and make the 1.5°C goal impossible to achieve. It would also alter weather patterns, which would impact agricultural productivity and global food supplies.

Losing the Amazon rainforest would be devastating for the communities and wildlife it supports. The Amazon is home to over 47 million people, including 2.2 million Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other rights holders, who depend on its resources and have cultures deeply interwoven with the forest and the nature it supports. The rainforest holds more than 10% of Earth's known species, including the endangered pink river dolphin. Hundreds of dolphins are known to have died last year due to extreme heat and drought, and experts are concerned about the risk of further mass-mortality events.

Fortunately, we are not yet past the point of no return, and nature remains our greatest ally in tackling the climate crisis.

We already have the solutions and global agreements to set nature on the path to recovery and drastically cut

emissions by 2030. But their success depends on the decisions we make and the actions we take over the next five years.

A key moment on the horizon for governments and businesses is the 16th UN biodiversity conference (COP16), hosted in Cali in Colombia from 21 October to 1 November. Here countries have a critical opportunity to demonstrate bold leadership and deliver on the commitments they made almost two years ago at COP15 in Montreal - where they adopted the landmark Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

For the GBF to succeed, countries need strong, well-funded national action plans to recover biodiversity. In Montreal, govern-

ments promised to submit their national plans by COP16, but with just over a week to go, the vast majority have yet to do so. COP16 is the occasion for governments to speed up the delivery of their own nature targets and step up support to other countries doing the same.

While the push in the GBF to conserve 30% of the world's land, waters and seas is crucial for nature's recovery, it is not enough on its own. COP16 must adopt action-led decisions that further transform our food, energy and finance systems if we're to seriously move the needle on biodiversity loss. Real progress requires eliminating overconsumption, and changing harmful business and finance practices that are destroying

nature, worsening climate change and undermining the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other rights holders.

Safeguarding the natural systems that support all life requires everyone's involvement. It's not just the job of environment ministries; we need transformative action from all sectors and across all levels of government. Policies and business models for climate and sustainable development must work hand in hand with plans to protect biodiversity and vice versa. Only by working together can we ensure a thriving planet for future generations.

To sustain our economies, we need to invest at least \$700 billion a year in nature. That is less than 1% of total global GDP, and

much less than the \$7 trillion a year that pours into activities that fuel the nature and climate crises. While the private sector can offer ways to boost biodiversity financing and scale investment in nature to contribute to the \$200 billion per year committed under the GBF, governments must also keep their promises.

In Montreal, developed countries committed to mobilizing \$20 billion a year to developing states by 2025, which is far from being achieved. Agreement on how to equitably share the benefits from the use of nature's DNA is also an important piece of the puzzle - as is ensuring that adequate, timely and accessible funds reach the Indigenous Peoples and local communities that have been safeguarding nature for millennia.

As a country that hosts 10% of the world's biodiversity, Colombia has a deep understanding of the value nature can offer in building resilience against the climate crisis, and in achieving peace and stability. COP16 has all the hallmarks to be a true "people's COP", one that brings Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendent communities, tribal groups, rural communities, women, youth, business leaders and environmental human rights defenders together. Finding a way to live in harmony with nature would offer us all greater equality, safety and prosperity. We can restore our living planet and essential ecosystems like the Amazon, but we must first find peace with nature.

Dreaming of diamonds: Generations dig for fortune in India's gem town

By Vishnukant Tiwari

"I feel sick if I don't search for diamonds. It's like a drug."

Prakash Sharma, 67, speaks about diamonds with a passion that has defined his life for the past five decades.

A diamond hunter in India's central state of Madhya Pradesh, he spends most of his day in the mines of Panna district.

Panna is among the country's most backward regions - its residents face poverty, water scarcity, and unemployment. But it's also home to most of India's diamond reserves and remains a prime destination for diamond hunters.

While most mines are managed by the federal government, state officials lease out small parts of land to prospective miners every year at nominal prices. The district has the country's only mechanised diamond mine.

However, once known for its large and rare finds, diamond mines of Panna are run-down now. Its reserves have depleted due to over-mining over the years.

Despite this decline, hopeful miners continue their quest.

They have to hand over their finds to the government diamond office, which evaluates the stones and sells them in an auction.

After deducting royalties and taxes, the proceeds are sent back to the miners, a bit-sweet reward for their tireless digging.

Sharma says he began digging for diamonds in 1974, right after he finished school, following in the footsteps of his father who was once a famous diamond hunter in his village.

He soon hit the jackpot after he found a six-carat diamond, which was worth a fortune 50 years ago.

That, he says, fuelled a pas-

sion in him to keep searching for more.

"I wanted to continue doing this instead of getting a low-paying government job," he says.

Sharma is among thousands of men - young and old - who spend their days in the mines, hoping to strike rich and escape the cycle of poverty.

The miners start digging through gravel in the early hours of the morning. They then wash, dry and sift through it looking for diamonds until sunset. Their families help them in their work.

It's a physically demanding task - but for the people of Panna, it's an intrinsic part of their lives, conversations and hopes for a better future.

For many, diamond hunting is a family tradition passed down through generations.

Shyamal Jatav, 58, comes from one such family. His grandfather started the work and now his son continues it, balancing his studies while

working part-time in the mines.

Jatav says his grandfather found many diamonds, but in those days, they did not sell for much.

But things are different now, with some of these stones selling for tens of millions of rupees. Raja Gound is among the few who got lucky. A labourer by profession, he was neck-deep in debt when he found a massive 19.22-carat diamond in July.

He sold the diamond at a government auction for about 8m rupees (\$95,178; £72,909).

Gound said he had been leasing mines for more than 10 years in the hope of finding a diamond.

India has always played a key role in the diamond industry. For more than 3,000 years, it was the world's sole diamond source.

This changed in the 18th Century with discoveries in Brazil and South Africa.

But Panna's legacy as a hub

for diamonds has endured.

The district's Majhgawan mine, operated by the state-controlled National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), is the country's only organised source of diamond production.

NMDC began mining in 1968 and by 2024, it had extracted over 1.3 million carats of diamonds.

Though anyone can mine diamonds in Panna - that too at a cheap price - most hunters avoid taking the official route to sell their treasure.

Several residents said Hindi that there was a big market for illegally mined diamonds - but the exact figures of the trade are unknown.

A black-market dealer, who did not want to be named, said people sell their finds illegally to avoid taxes and to ensure quick payments.

"If they go through official channels, they only get paid after the diamond is sold at auction, which can sometimes

take years," he said.

Ravi Patel, Panna's mining officer, says authorities have taken measures to curb illegal sales but it's difficult to track them because most of the diamonds mined are relatively small and do not fetch high prices. Officials admit that there has been a decline in the number of diamonds deposited for government auctions.

In 2016, the office received 1,133 diamonds, but the numbers shrank to just 23 in 2023.

Anupam Singh, a government diamond evaluator in Panna, says restrictions on mining are behind this decline.

"The forest department has marked off significant zones, turning them into no-go areas for diamond hunters," Singh said.

There are more than 50 tigers living in the Panna Tiger Reserve and recent government efforts to preserve their population has presented many challenges to the miners.

Diamond miners who once operated within forested areas, including the buffer zone of the reserve, are prohibited from mining there and risk facing severe penalties if caught.

But despite the hardships and challenges, thousands of men continue to work in the shallow mines, hoping to overturn their fate.

Prakash Majumdar started digging for diamonds in 2020 after the Covid-19 lockdown took away all the labour and farming jobs in his hometown.

Desperate and struggling to feed his family, Majumdar found his first diamond worth 2.9m rupees within a month of mining.

A lot has changed since - his family has now moved to a concrete home and he has become the elected village head.

Yet, his relentless quest for more continues.

"Diamond hunting will remain a part of my life and I am not going anywhere until I strike it rich," he said.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Zambia's programme empowers vulnerable households, making environment cleaner

LUSAKA

THE Zambian government recently launched a programme to combat poverty and improve living conditions as the country faces the effects of a severe drought, leaving many families struggling to make ends meet.

The programme, called "Cash for Work," aims to provide relief to drought-affected communities and urban areas grappling with rising food prices and job losses due

to the 2023/2024 farming season drought.

Christine Phiri, a 41-year-old resident of Mandevu compound in Lusaka, the capital, is one of the programme's beneficiaries. With seven dependents to support, she has faced great hardship, especially during the drought. When she learned about the programme, she saw it as an opportunity to earn money and invest in a small business to provide a stable income for her family.

"I was really hoping to get a chance



with Cash for Work. With the money I earn, I want to start a small business to take care of my family," she said, as she cleared waste material from a drainage beside a busy road in her community.

Valeria Tembo, 32, another beneficiary from Kapiri Mposhi in central

Zambia, has already experienced the programme's positive impact. With the money she earned, she was able to buy books and uniforms for her two school-going children, easing her financial burden and allowing her to focus on meeting her family's basic needs.

"I am grateful for the Cash for Work programme," Tembo said with a smile. "It has helped me provide for my family in ways I never thought possible. My children now have the necessary school supplies."

Beyond providing financial aid to families in need, the programme

also aims to improve the environment.

Stanley Mumba, chairperson of the Ward Development Committee for Justin Kabwe Ward 24 in Mandevu compound, spoke about the programme's impact on the community.

"We have seen a significant improvement in cleanliness since the programme started. Beneficiaries are involved in activities like cleaning drainage systems and collecting garbage in public spaces. This not only benefits them but also makes our community a better place to live," Mumba said.

Under the programme, individuals work for 10 days and receive 600 Zambian Kwacha (\$22.7). Though the amount may seem small, it can make a significant difference to those living in poverty.

The clean-up efforts also have a long-term positive impact on the environment, making it a win-win for both the beneficiaries and the broader community.

The Zambian government has allocated two billion Zambian Kwacha for the Cash for Work programme, with 1.8 billion going directly to beneficiaries across the country. The programme is expected to run for six months from its official launch date.

Africa's e-waste crisis escalates amid calls for sound policy interventions

By Special Correspondent

AS the demand for electronic gadgets, including mobile phones, laptops and computers grows in Africa, driven by rising middle-class incomes, the continent is grappling with a significant burden of electronic waste (e-waste).

Ahead of International E-Waste Day, observed globally every year on Oct. 14, experts have acknowledged that Africa's e-waste crisis is concerning and requires robust awareness campaigns and sound policy interventions.

David Onga're, director of compliance at the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in Kenya, said that the proliferation of second-hand phones and computers in Africa is exacerbating e-waste pollution, harming vital ecosystems such as watersheds.

Onga're said that international agreements, like the Basel Convention on the transboundary movement of waste, signed by many African countries, including Kenya, could help strengthen efforts to manage electronic waste on the continent.

According to Statista, an international data and business intelligence platform, Africa generated 3.6 million metric tonnes of e-waste in 2022, up from 2.9 million metric tonnes in 2019. Countries with the highest levels of e-waste generation include Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa, while many others lack formal systems for collecting and recycling discarded electronic devices.

Onga're said that Kenya is implementing e-waste management regulations and urging importers and manufacturers to take responsibility for electronic devices throughout their lifecycle.

"We expect key players like the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance to address sustainable e-waste collection and recycling, protecting vulnerable groups from health hazards," Onga're said.

Kenya is a member of the Africa Environmental Health and Pollution Management Project, a World Bank-funded project, which includes a component aimed at reducing the continent's e-waste burden, he said.

"As a country, we advocate for a continental approach to e-waste management and are working to make the circular economy a reality," Onga're said, emphasizing that investing in supportive infrastructure is key to enhancing the collection and recycling of obsolete electronic devices across Africa.

Despite having the lowest per capita e-waste generation, at 2.5 kg annually in 2019, Africa is becoming a major destination for obsolete gadgets, such as smartphones and computers, from the developed world.

Improper handling and disposal of e-waste pose serious public health risks to communities living near urban landfills, as these discarded devices often contain hazardous materials like lead and mercury.

According to Statista, the continent was able to collect and re-



cycle only 0.7 percent of its e-waste in 2022, though efforts to tackle the issue have started showing results.

The Global E-waste Monitor 2020 report indicates that 13 African countries have developed policy and legislative frameworks to improve e-waste management and mitigate its adverse effects on the environment and human health.

In an article published in June 2023, Richard Munang, the former deputy regional director for the United Nations Environment Programme Africa Office, said that Africa is

gradually turning e-waste into a source of economic opportunity.

"With innovative strategies, Africa is transforming what was once an environmental threat into a treasure trove of economic opportunities, especially for its growing youth population," Munang said.

He also said that countries including Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa have introduced regulations to identify key actors responsible for e-waste management.

Munang added that clearly defining value

chain actors has ensured that manufacturers, importers and distributors uphold their responsibilities for the end-of-life management of electronic products.

Sustainable financing, strong partnerships with industry, and enforcement of laws have also improved e-waste management in Africa, fostering the growth of a circular economy that employs vulnerable urban youth.

"Africa can further solidify its e-waste management systems, create more jobs, and ensure a cleaner and safer environment for future generations," Munang said.

In Zimbabwe's rural areas, bicycles keep girls in school

CHIREZDI

REJOICE Muzamani is studying in preparation for her next paper during the end-of-term examinations at Mwenje Primary School in Chiredzi, southeast Zimbabwe.

The 13-year-old girl, who is in Grade 7 or final year of primary school, is not worried about leaving school early to make the 7-kilometer journey back home before dusk, risking attacks from wild animals.

Muzamani, who stays with her grandmother as her parents live in neighboring South Africa, will still get there in time because she will pedal the narrow dirt unpaved road in this part of Masvingo Province.

"I get to school on time and I do not have to miss any lessons," she tells IPS, adding that though it was her first time owning a bicycle, learning how to ride it was easier with the help of her friends.

"I also go home on schedule, sparing enough time to do my homework."

Built for long distances and rugged terrain, the Buffalo bicycles help keep vulnerable girls in schools in rural areas.

Muzamani, who got hers in mid-2021, is one of the more than 62,248 students in Zimbabwe who have been given bicycles since 2009 by a United States-based charity, World Bicycle Relief.

About 70% of these are girls.

Born into a family of five, Muzamani lives in one of the remotest and poorest regions in Zimbabwe, with insufficient schools forcing many to

walk up to 20 kilometres to get to the nearest school.

Girls face a myriad of challenges as they pursue their education in rural Zimbabwe.

As a young girl, Muzamani, as part of the tradition, is expected to do house chores—cooking for the family and cleaning the house.

This takes most of her time and she cannot afford to lose more time when walking long distances to school.

Attacks from hyenas are also a threat to these girls in rural areas surrounded by game reserves.

"I used to be late and miss classes. I felt low. Despite waking up early in the morning, it was tough to get to school on time because of the house chores," Muzamani says. "I remember one day in winter, it was so dark that I was afraid to go to school. I started walking along with others. I also could not do homework because we had no electricity. I have to be home early and use daylight."

Faith Machavi, a learner at Mwenje Dumisani Secondary, says some of her friends dropped out

of school while some got married early because of long distances to school. "I remember when I was still in primary school, I almost gave up. I told my mom that I was tired and I could not do this anymore. Walking to school daily against the background of being a girl child expected to do all the house chores is demoralizing," she says, adding that her desire to be a lawyer kept her going.

"At some point, I could stay in the bush until others get dismissed and join them going back home."

Machavi, who is preparing to write for her Ordinary Level final examinations this October, received a bicycle in 2022 after paying a small fee of less than USD 5.

"I was so happy. It was a relief," she says, adding that she had learnt to ride a bicycle a few years earlier from other privileged children in the village.

Born into a family of five, Machavi no longer has to walk more than 5 kilometres to get to school.

She is not missing classes or feeling cramps anymore.

Child rights activists say education is a haven for girls.

Maxim Murungweni, a Zimbabwean child rights expert, says bicycles help girls access education.

"The bicycle initiative for girls does not only improve their mobility but also empowers the girls psychologically as well, giving them the ability to manage their day-to-day activities, as now they can plan knowing that they have the mobility to maneuver around," he says.

Even though Zimbabwe outlawed child marriages in 2016 in a landmark ruling by the constitutional court, some of the existing laws were yet to be aligned to the country's constitution.

But in May 2022, President Emmerson Mnangagwa signed into law the Marriages Act, which prohibits the marriage of minors under the age of 18.

In Zimbabwe, one woman out of three is married before reaching adulthood, and more than one out of five adolescents give birth, according to the United Nations Children's Fund. Child marriages have devastating effects on girls,

including dropping out of school and early pregnancies.

Sean Granville-Ross, executive director of programs at World Bicycle Relief, says this education-focused initiative is crucial for girls in Zimbabwe, where many face daily commutes of three to ten kilometers to reach school.

"This distance leads to significant dropout rates, especially for girls, due to safety concerns, exhaustion, and the risk of child marriage. Bicycles help reduce travel time, increase attendance, and enhance feelings of safety, with a 35 percent reduction in days late to school and a 35 percent increase in students feeling safer while traveling," Sean Granville-Ross tells IPS.

"For girls, this means more opportunities to stay in school, pursue higher education, and avoid early marriage and pregnancy. By empowering girls with bicycles, we are not only improving their access to education but also providing a tool for broader community development, as bicycles are often used by their families for economic and household activities."

By Special Correspondents

'Try or die' - one man's determination to get to the Canary Islands

SENEGALIAN farmer Mouhamed Oualy has never been to sea, but he is about to embark on a perilous sea journey - one that has turned the Atlantic Ocean into a mass grave.

"The boat guys have called me - they said I should get ready. I am asking you to pray for me - the time has come," he says.

Migrants hope to reach Europe via the dangerous crossing between West Africa and Spain's Canary Islands. And Oualy wants to be one of the migrants to reach the archipelago - whose numbers have reached an all-time high.

The regional government there warns that what awaits them on the rocky shores of the archipelago is a system "overwhelmed" and "at breaking point" - but nothing will dent Oualy's determination.

Packed on to an overcrowded pirogue, a traditional wooden fishing canoe, Oualy could face days, even weeks, at the mercy of one of the most unforgiving seas in the world.

From Senegal, it is an estimated distance of between 1,000km (600 miles) and 2,000km on the open ocean - depending on where you leave from, around 10 times the distance of other migrant routes crossing the Mediterranean.

Battling the ocean's storms and strong sea currents, migrants often run out of water while suffering from severe motion sickness and intense fear.

At night, surrounded by dark waters, people often become delirious, overwhelmed by panic and dehydration.

Far away from the coast, in Senegal's eastern region of Tambacounda, Oualy's children and extended family depend on the little money he made through farming.

The 40-year-old has not seen them for almost a year, after he moved closer to one of the major departure points along the coast.

There he has been working as a motorbike taxi driver, and borrowing money from friends, to gather the \$1,000 (£765) fee to board one of the vessels leaving for the Canary Islands.

Fearing he could be scammed, he has agreed with the smugglers that he will only hand over the full amount if the boat makes it all the way.

"Nobody knows what could happen to me in these waters. The evil spirits of the sea could kill me," he said.

"The boat could capsize, killing everyone. If you fall into the water, what would you hold on to? The only possibility is death, but you have to take risks."

Dozens of boats have disappeared with hundreds of lives on board. Without proper navigation systems, some veer off course and end up drifting all the way across the Atlantic, washing up on the coasts of Brazil.

If Oualy survives the journey, he hopes to make a liv-



The number of migrants who have arrived since the start of 2023 in El Hierro has more than doubled the island's population

ing to take care of his extended family, but he is keeping his plans secret to avoid worrying them.

While Senegal recorded a solid economic performance during the decade from 2010, more than a third of the country still lives in poverty, according to the World Bank.

"I did any job you can imagine, but things didn't get any better. If you don't have money, you don't matter. I am their only hope and I don't have money," he says.

Like Oualy, most migrants on this route are sub-Saharan Africans fleeing poverty and conflict, exacerbated by climate change.

The Canary Islands have become a main gateway for irregular migrants and refugees hoping to reach Europe, especially after countries such as Italy and Greece introduced measures to crack down on other routes crossing the Mediterranean from Libya and Tunisia.

Almost 40,000 arrived in 2023, the highest number in three decades. So far this year, already more than 30,800 have made it to its tourist beaches, more than double the number from the same period last year.

As the weather conditions improve in the Atlantic, the Canary Islands government fears "the worst" is yet to come.

In an exclusive interview, Fernando Clavijo, the president of the Canary Islands government, described an "oversaturated" emergency system where sea rescuers, police and Red Cross volunteers are stretched beyond their limits.

"The consequence is that more people will die, we won't be able to assist migrants as they deserve," explains Clavijo.

"Right now, Europe has the Mediterranean Sea blocked, which means that the Atlantic route, which is more dangerous and lethal, has become the escape valve."

Members of Spain's emergency services, who asked to remain anonymous as they described their exhaustion.

One said: "Workers can't bear witnessing death and devastation any longer."

In El Hierro, the archipelago's smallest island, the number of migrants who have arrived since the start of 2023 has already more than doubled the local population to nearly 30,000.

Clavijo says locals cannot use public buses because they are all being used to carry migrants, which he fears could fuel xenophobia and create social unrest.

"We will all have to take responsibility, from the European Union to the Spanish government, because you cannot leave the Canary Islands facing this crisis on our own."

In recent months, the sharp rise in arrivals has fuelled a fierce national debate in Spain over how to tackle irregular migration, with the Canaries calling for more state aid to care for those arriving, especially unaccompanied children.

Back in Senegal, Oualy has finally been summoned by the smugglers to join other migrants in a secret hideout. His fate is now in their hands.

"There are a lot of us, we've filled the house. There are people from Mali and Guinea too. They take us in small boats of 10 to 15 people until we get to the big boat, then we leave," he says.

To survive the long journey, Oualy has only taken a few bottles of water and a handful of biscuits. For the first two days, he is constantly sick. He stands up most of the time because of the lack of space and sleeps in sea water mixed with fuel. He also runs out of water and has to drink from the sea.

Some people on the boat start to scream and become delirious. The crew tells the others to hold them down, so they do not fall overboard or push someone else in.

According to data from the United Nations migration body (IOM), the Atlantic route is fast becoming the deadliest migrant journey in the world.

An estimated 807 people have died or disappeared

so far in 2024 - an increase of 76 percent compared to the same period last year.

But the number of casualties is likely to be significantly higher, because fatal accidents tend to go unrecorded on this route.

"Every 45 minutes, a migrant dies trying to reach our beaches. This means trafficking mafias are increasingly becoming more powerful," says Clavijo, referencing data sourced from the Spanish rights group Walking Borders.

The UN's Office on Human Rights and Crime estimates that criminals make around \$150m a year on this route.

"The mafias that organise trips have realised that this is like drug trafficking, with little chance of being detected," Lieutenant Antonio Fuentes, from a team in Spain's Guardia Civil set up to tackle the smugglers, he explains.

"For them, a migrant is a mere commodity. They carry people like they could carry drugs or weapons. They are simply victims."

To better understand these criminal networks, the BBC spoke to one Senegalese smuggler organising boat trips - who asked to remain anonymous.

"If you take a big boat, one that can carry 200 to 300 people, and each of them pay around \$500, we are talking about a lot of money," he says.

When challenged about his criminal responsibility as a trafficker, on a trip that has killed many in his community, the smuggler is unrepentant saying: "It is a crime, whoever gets caught should be put in prison, but there's no solution."

"You will see people in the water who have died, but the boats keep going." For five days, we received no news from Oualy. Then, one evening, he calls.

"The motor was heating up and the wind was so strong, some of the fishermen suggested we head to Morocco. But the captain refused. He said if we moved slowly, we'd be in Spain by 6am."

Oualy was less than a day away from reaching the Canary Islands when the ship's engine ran into trouble - and many of the migrants, fearful of stronger winds once they went further out into the Atlantic Ocean, rebelled against their captain.

"Everyone started arguing and insulting each other. The captain gave in and turned back to Senegal."

Oualy survived the journey, but he sustained injuries and serious health problems from the journey. He is in constant pain and moves slowly.

After a year planning the trip, Oualy is back to square one - and has now returned to his family and is saving enough money for another passage.

"I wish to go back and try again. Yes, honest to God, that is my belief. That is better for me. If I die, it is God's choice."

If Oualy makes it to Europe, it is likely he will not see his family for years. If he dies at sea, he will be lost to them forever.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 185 00 -

Across:

- greater amount
- a native of US state of Idaho
- led the Exodus of Israelites out of Egypt
- the hard glossy substance that covers the crown of a tooth
- seaweed, eaten fresh/dried in sheets
- a tropical plant of the mint family
- an individual units
- Power in Kiswahili
- having a cunning and deceitful nature

Down:

- a very brief period of time
- morning Person
- unspoilt and idyllic
- the tough central parts of fruits
- a coloured fluid used for writing
- Advertising Standards Authority
- Valletta is her mother city
- A donkey
- offers in the region of
- exclamation to express surprises
- Mute person in old Irish
- insane

Yesterday's Solutions

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

Y E

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

HIE HATEFUL
 TSARS USER
 MERE LAWNY
 RIP ERROR
 CHURA TEAM-UP
 YE: CRY ASS
 MOURN HUT

Felix: 0789437309 | felixmagezi@gmail

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

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BUSINESS

Company enhances cashew export services in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

A.P. Moller - Maersk has announced the launch of its new seasonal ocean service, the Korosho Express, specifically designed to support the Tanzania cashew trade.

The service will commence operations in late October 2024 and run through February 2025, aligning with the peak cashew season.

According to a statement issued yesterday, the bi-weekly seasonal ocean service will operate from Mtwara, Tanzania, offering dedicated capacity to facilitate cashew exports from Tanzania to destination markets in China, India, and Vietnam.

The Korosho Express will provide bi-weekly sailings from the port of Mtwara, Tanzania, to key markets in China, Vietnam, and India.

This strategic service enhancement demonstrates Maersk's commitment to supporting the growing cashew ex-

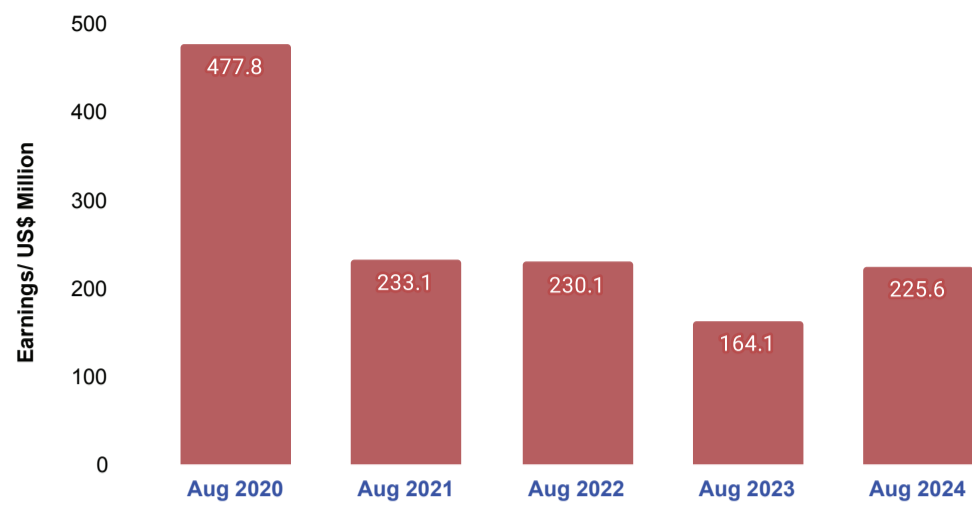
port industry in Tanzania.

"The introduction of the Korosho Express service reflects our dedication to providing tailored logistics solutions that address the specific needs of our customers. By offering reliable, scheduled services during the peak cashew season, we're enabling more efficient trade flows and supporting the growth of this vital export commodity," said the logistic company.

Babafemi Jay Aderounmu, Head of East Africa Market for Maersk's ocean business, said the Korosho Express service features dedicated capacity, equipment, improved connectivity and streamlined shipping to support growing export volumes while maintaining reliable transit times and schedule integrity.

"By offering reliable, scheduled services during the peak cashew season, we're enabling more efficient trade flows and supporting the growth of this vital export commodity," he said.

Tanzania's cashewnuts export earnings Aug 2020-Aug 2024



SOURCE: BANK OF TANZANIA

Tanzania is one of the largest producers of cashews in Africa, known for its high-quality cashew nuts, which are primarily grown in the southern regions like Mtwara, Lindi, and Ruvuma.

Cashew production is a key sector in Tanzania's agriculture, contributing significantly to the country's economy and exports.

Tanzania produces between 250,000 and 300,000 tons of raw cashew nuts annually. However, the production can fluctuate due to factors such as climate change, pests, and market dynamics. In recent years, the government has implemented policies to boost production.

According to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) report, during the year ended in August, 2024, Tanzania earned a total of US\$225.6 million

from cashewnuts exports, the third largest earning crop behind tobacco and coffee.

The peak cashewnuts exports were recorded in August 2020, when the country earned a total of US\$444.8 million, which was nearly half of total exports earnings from traditional export.

Global demand for cashew nuts in 2024 is expected to remain strong, driven by multiple factors such as increasing health awareness, changing dietary habits, and the rising popularity of plant-based diets.

Cashews are valued for their versatility, nutritional benefits, and use in various food products, which has spurred demand in both developed and emerging markets.

The Tanzanian government plays a crucial

role in the cashew sector including setting up marketing systems, providing subsidies, and promoting better farming practices.

The Cashewnut Board of Tanzania (CBT) is the regulatory body responsible for overseeing the industry, from production to export.

Cashew nuts are one of Tanzania's major agricultural exports, with India, Vietnam, and the United States being key destinations.

The country exports both raw cashew nuts and processed kernels, although the majority of the nuts are sold in raw form due to limited domestic processing capacity.

The country has positioned itself as a key player in the global cashew trade but faces strong competition from West African countries like Côte d'Ivoire, the world's top cashew producer.

Countries like Vietnam have become cashew processing hubs, adding value to raw nuts from African producers before re-exporting them globally.

It is estimated that Tanzania lost approximately US\$551 million by exporting unprocessed cashew nuts instead of adding value domestically. Efforts are now under way to revamp this situation, with initiatives focusing on improving processing capacity and developing cashew by-products.

Handeni District equips ward loans supervisors with financial skills

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Handeni

HANDENI Town Council recently organized a loan disbursement workshop aimed at enhancing the financial skills and knowledge of 12 newly formed ward-level loan supervision committees.

The workshop's objective was to prepare these committees for their roles in overseeing the disbursement of loans within 12 wards of the town council.

One of the key goals of the training was to ensure that the committees operate effectively, efficiently, and with integrity in managing the loan disbursement process.

The workshop covered guidelines and regulations for supervising loans, particularly for special groups, with discussions between the facilitator and attendees addressing challenges related to loan disbursement, repayment, and claims. Solutions were proposed to guide the committees going forward.

Speaking during the event, Handeni Town Council's Acting Executive Director, Gerald Kauki, who hosted the workshop alongside officials from the community development and

finance departments, emphasized the importance of accountability and integrity in loan supervision.

He noted that the workshop was designed not only to sharpen the participants' skills and knowledge of loan management but also to ensure that the targeted groups benefit fully from the loans in line with government directives.

He added, "The success of this seminar is a testament to good governance. The primary responsibility of these committees is to ensure that loan resources reach the intended ben-

eficiaries and are effectively monitored."

Kauki further stressed that the close supervision of loan disbursement is essential to ensuring that funds are allocated to the appropriate groups, in accordance with government guidelines.

Fredy Mpondachuma, head of the Community Development Unit, urged the commit-

tees to work diligently to meet both the government's and residents' goals. "I will closely monitor your performance to ensure you follow the set directives and procedures," he said.

Members of the committees pledged to carry out their duties with diligence, ensuring that all loan applicants receive their funds without favoritism or undue influence.

Tanga pastoralists lack education on improved keeping of livestock

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

PASTORALISTS in Handeni, Kilindi, and Pangani Districts in the Tanga Region need education on modern livestock keeping practices to prevent conflicts with farmers, protect water sources, and preserve forest reserves.

Joshua Kimaro, a pastoralist officer with the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), emphasized this need while presenting an assessment of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project to local officials, including planning, environmental, and livestock officers.

"Pastoralists should be encouraged to reduce the number of cattle they own while increasing profitability. This approach can help mitigate conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers and prevent them from encroaching on village land and forest reserves in search of pastures," he stated.

Conservationists have proposed that the government designate special grazing areas for livestock keepers to ensure they have adequate pasture. Additionally, all grazing land established through the IFBEST project should be planted with grasses to guarantee sufficient feed for cattle.

The primary goal is to ensure that there is no

shortage of grazing grass in these districts while preventing livestock from invading village forest reserves and reducing conflicts with farmers.

Currently, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and MJUMITA are implementing the IFBEST project in Handeni, Pangani, and Kilindi Districts, funded by the European Union through the Ministry of Finance.

"Under this project, we assist villagers in preparing land use plans that address grazing, agricultural activities, residential issues, water sources, village land forest reserves for community-based forest management, and sustainable charcoal harvesting plots," he explained.

The project is being carried out in Gendaganda, Mkalamo, Mseko, Lusane, Mmbogo, Mapanga, Nkhobole, and Msaki villages.

"The European Union has allocated a total of 5.4 billion Tanzanian Shillings through the Ministry of Finance to support the implementation of the IFBEST project," Kimaro added.

According to him, key challenges facing pastoralists in the areas where TFCG and MJUMITA are operating include a lack of land use plans, designated stock routes, water access, pasture shortages, reliance on children for livestock herding, grazing area invasions, drought, and conflicts over access to farmers' wells for cattle water.



Some villages lack cattle dips and charcoal dams, while others have encroached on forest areas for grazing, leading to tensions with farmers.

Currently, pastoralists in Genda Genda, Handeni, Nghobore, Lusane, and Mswaki villages are migrating to seek pastures, causing conflicts with farmers.

"Pastoralists rely on water to sustain their herds for health and survival. When pasture and water availability decline, they are forced to move their herds to avoid depletion and subsequent impoverishment," he said.

Village chairmen, executive officers, and various district officials have suggested that Handeni, Kilindi, and Pangani districts continue

to identify sources of boundary conflicts. This will help villagers benefit from available forest resources within their land while also minimizing conflicts.

Through the project, TFCG and MJUMITA have engaged directly with livestock keepers in Lusane, Mapanga, Mmbogo, and other villages, listening to their challenges and opinions to ensure their needs are considered in policy-making and to reduce conflicts with other land users.

The meetings included ward livestock officers, councillors, village executive officers, village chairmen, and representatives from village councils and natural resources committees.

The primary goal of these meetings is to in-

corporate the ideas and voices of pastoralists into decision-making processes regarding forest management.

Livestock keepers from Lusane, Nghobore, Mswaki, and other villages have called on the government to assist in constructing cattle dips, renovating the charcoal dam in Mswaki, and drilling water wells for local residents.

Isaya Paramisa, chairman of Lusane village, noted that the village currently lacks wells for domestic use and livestock watering. Instead, residents rely on the Dibuluma River, where cattle often trespass on nearby farms.

"We urge the government to help us construct wells in our communities to ensure access to water for both domestic use and livestock, thus preventing conflicts with farmers," he stated.

While they have charcoal dams, they have not had water for a long time, prompting them to seek additional support from the government and other stakeholders.

Mswaki village chairman reported that stock routes in Mswaki have been damaged and are now primarily farmland, with many areas in these villages lacking designated routes for livestock passage.

BEIJING

CHINA'S trade with BRICS countries grew by 5.1 percent year-on-year from January to September this year, reaching 4.62 trillion yuan (approximately \$653 billion).

Speaking during the China's State Council Information Office held a press conference on Monday, Vice Minister Wang Lingjun, Deputy Director of the General Administration of Customs, highlighted the importance of the BRICS cooperation mechanism in uniting emerging markets and developing nations.

Wang emphasized the role of the BRICS cooperation framework as a vital platform for fostering collaboration among developing and emerging economies, aiding in the protection of their shared interests.

Following the addition of five new members earlier this year, BRICS now represents over one-fifth of global trade, further cementing its influence in the world economy, Wang noted.

He also highlighted the complementary nature of BRICS member nations in producing industrial intermediate goods, pointing out their synergistic strengths in key sectors such as steel, chemicals, and textiles.

China's trade with BRICS grows 5.1pc

Formed in 2006, BRICS initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2011.

This year, the group expanded to include Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia as full members

starting on Jan. 1. The next BRICS summit will take place from Oct. 22-24 in Kazan, Russia, under Russia's presidency.

Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin highlighted the strong ties between Russia and China in a message

marking the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

He pointed out the durability of their economic partnership, noting that both countries had managed to expand trade volumes and complete major projects despite global challenges.

Putin emphasized the importance of maintaining close, cooperative relations with Beijing, particularly in light of the current international climate, where trade and joint ventures have seen significant growth across various sectors.

Last week, Chinese State Councillor Shen Yiqin reaffirmed China's commitment to strengthening relations with Russia.

At the Russian embassy in Beijing, Shen stressed China's willingness to deepen international collaboration, particularly through platforms like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

She underscored the importance of promoting multipolarity, supporting international fairness, and enhancing cooperation within these global institutions to unify the Global South and work toward building a

community with shared global goals.

The BRICS group aims to enhance cooperation to tackle common challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.

As emerging economies, they have the potential to shape global economic policies and contribute to a more multipolar world.

The BRICS countries collectively account for approximately 25 percent of the world's GDP. In nominal terms, their combined GDP is estimated to be around US\$27 trillion. This makes them a major economic bloc, second only to the G7 in terms of overall economic output.

Their collective economic size and influence position them as key players in international trade, finance, and geopolitics, with the potential to shape the future of the global economy.

When measured by purchasing power parity, which considers the relative cost of living and inflation rates, the BRICS nations' combined GDP is even larger, accounting for about 40 percent of global GDP.

This reflects their significant contribution to global consumption and production.



Oil prices fall as geopolitical premium fizzles

By Irina Slav

CRUDE oil took a dive today on reports that Israel was willing to not target Iranian oil facilities in its retaliatory strike that had oil traders on edge earlier this month.

The original report came out in the Washington Post, which wrote, citing two unnamed officials, that Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had told his U.S. allies that the IDF would focus on military targets, and not oil and nuclear power facilities. That report essentially killed the

geopolitical premium supporting oil prices last week, reinforcing a couple of other bearish news updates since the start of the week.

The first of these was Chinese consumer prices, which appeared to have disappointed oil traders by not rising sufficiently in September, and the other was OPEC's latest monthly report that featured a revised outlook on global oil demand.

The group cut its oil demand growth estimate for a third consecutive month, based on actual consumption data so far this year and expectations of slightly lower demand in some regions.

OPEC now expects global crude oil demand to grow by 1.93 million barrels per day in 2024, down by 106,000 bpd compared to last month's assess-

ment, the cartel's Monthly Oil Market Report for October showed on Monday.

Chinese oil demand growth was cut again and accounted for most of the downward revision of global oil demand growth in 2024. OPEC now expects China's oil demand to grow by 580,000 bpd this year, down from the 650,000 bpd growth expected in the September report. In further bearish news for oil prices, the latest China energy import data showed that shipments of crude over the first nine months of the year had dipped by 3 percent, according to Reuters.

Imports were also down by over 7 percent from August as refineries entered planned maintenance amid weak margins.

Overall, many analysts predict that oil prices in 2024

will be influenced significantly by geopolitical factors, particularly ongoing conflicts in regions like the Middle East and the war in Ukraine.

These issues could create volatility in the market, despite a general expectation of increasing global demand. OPEC's oil production forecast for 2024 indicates an expected increase in demand for its crude oil. Specifically, demand is projected to rise to approximately 30.2 million barrels per day (mb/d), which is an increase of 0.8 mb/d compared to 2023 levels.

This increase in demand aligns with overall expectations for global oil consumption growth, primarily driven by strong economic performance in key markets such as China and India.

The organization anticipates continued tightness

in supply, which could support oil prices, particularly as global GDP growth is forecasted at 2.5 percent for 2024. These dynamics suggest a balanced market, but ongoing geopolitical tensions and potential supply chain issues could impact production levels throughout the year.

Oil price forecasts for 2025 indicate a downward trend due to sluggish demand and increasing supply. Analysts expect Brent crude prices to average around \$76.88 per barrel, with West Texas Intermediate (WTI) at approximately \$72.13 per barrel.

Global biodiversity, wildlife species on the brink of critical distinction

By Francis Kajiubi

GLOBAL biodiversity has reached a point of no return against all sorts of nature destruction by humans.

WWF's 2024 Living Planet Report (LPR 2024) reveals significant declines in the average size of populations of wildlife species in the world.

According to the report released last week, Africa has experienced a decline of 76 percent in the size of monitored vertebrate wildlife populations between 1970 and 2020, driven primarily by habitat loss, land-use change, overexploitation, pollution, and the impacts of climate change.

This alarming trend highlights the urgent need for transformative action to safeguard the natural ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them. The decline globally is at 73 percent.

Europe and Asia had 35 percent in the loss of wildlife species while Northern America saw 39 percent of distinction, Asia and Pacific saw 60 percent.

Vultures and central Africa forest elephants have declined to an estimated 81 percent in between 2004 and 2014.

Invasive species, climate change and diseases emerge as major challenges to wildlife population growth at a global scale.

However, 85 percent of species in freshwater have faced distinction during the period.

The biennial report published by WWF in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) warns that the continued degradation of natural ecosystems could push the planet earth past critical tipping points without immediate interventions.

As ecosystems cross these thresholds, their ability to support both wildlife and human livelihoods becomes compromised. Global tipping points pose a great threat to humanity and most species.

This causes direct damage to earth's life sup-

port systems and destabilizes societies everywhere with severe consequences on food security, water availability, and climate resilience.

Dr Amani Ngusaru, WWF Tanzania Country Director, said: "LPR 2024 gives early warning signs that several global tipping points are fast approaching based on monitoring and scientific evidence such as mass die-off of coral reefs that could destroy fisheries and storm protection for coastal communities.

"Global biodiversity is calling for urgent action. The interlinked crises of nature loss and climate change are pushing wildlife and ecosystems to their limits, with global tipping points threatening to destabilize the entire world's ecosystems," said Dr Ngusaru.

According to him, the catastrophic consequences of losing some of the most precious species, forest elephants, and black rhinos to gorillas and ecosystems in many parts of Africa are quite real and would reverberate across the world.

"We must realize that conservation by itself is not enough to bend the curve, and we need a systems shift. We have the tools, the knowledge, and the opportunity to reverse these trends if we act now," he said.

He asserted that it is critical for nations to scale up nature-based solutions across Africa to address the interconnected biodiversity loss and climate change crisis.

He said reforestation, wetland restoration, and agroforestry projects not only help to preserve biodiversity but also enhance livelihoods by providing jobs, improving food security, and increasing resilience to climate change.

"We must not disregard the complex interrelationship that exists within ecosystems and the delicate balance between the biosphere and the atmosphere that have enabled humanity to thrive on the planet," said Dr. Ngusaru.

On his part, Dr Lawrence Mbwambo, WWF Tanzania Conservation Director said as much as the numbers of the black rhino and the Africa



Mother-and-baby black rhinos captured grazing. File photo.

elephants are reported to have increased in the past few years Africa is yet to get to the point where it should be confident and comfortable that wildlife has been restored.

The continent is still losing forests which are important habitats for wildlife and people, the quality and quantity of its waters in the rivers is deteriorating and its marine resources are definitely affected.

He said it is time to up Africa's actions, consume sustainably and bring its combined efforts on board if it wants to maintain a balance and achieve the 2030 GBF and SDG targets.

According to him, the international biodiversity and climate summits taking place this year - COP16 and COP29 - are an opportunity for Tanzania to rise to the scale of the challenge.

"WWF calls for countries to produce and implement more ambitious national nature and climate plans (NBSAPs and NDCs) that include measures to reduce global overconsumption, halt and reverse domestic and imported biodiversity loss, and cut emissions - all equitably," said Dr Mbwambo.

He said WWF urges governments to unlock greater public and private funding to allow action at scale and to better align their climate, nature and sustainable development policies and actions.

Tanzania has already committed to halting

and reversing nature loss under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and tackling climate change through the Paris Agreement.

Yet, the LPR warns that national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are falling short, with critical tipping points like the degradation of coral reefs and rainforests still looming.

Under the Paris Agreement countries must present new climate plans (Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs) in 2025, providing a blueprint for how they will contribute to limiting warming to 1.5°C.

These plans should include roadmaps for equitably phasing out fossil fuels and transforming food systems. At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan in November, WWF hopes to see the agreement of a new, ambitious climate finance goal to meet the mitigation, and adaptation needs of developing countries.

He said that Tanzania needs to pay attention to habitat loss and deforestation, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution alongside its industrialization drive and eradication of invasive species in national parks and other wildlife protected areas and address human-wildlife conflicts, secure wildlife corridors and eliminate poaching.

It needs to scale up nature based solutions and sustainable infrastructure development. Address interconnected biodiversity loss, protect and restore wetlands and fresh water catch-

ments.

A tipping point has been realized as habitats are being degraded, climate change, changes in land use and over-harvesting.

The report warns that continued degradation of natural ecosystems could push the planet earth past the critical tipping points if immediate interventions are not taken.

Policy interventions to stop nature loss are a key area that is needed on the way forward.

According to the report, the early warnings of the tipping point include six major thematic areas, namely a mass die-off of global coral reefs which is likely to directly impact the fisheries industry.

Deforestation of the Amazon rainforest which is a key global intervention to carbon emission into the atmosphere is the second tipping point.

There is large-scale thawing in the Antarctica and Arctic rising threats to methane gas and carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere.

The melting of the ice sheet in Greenland and in the western Atlantic has reached a tipping point which will unleash levels of the sea.

Collapse of the subpolar gyre - the cooling system of North America and Europe is most likely to cause rising fears in the near future glaciation and on the other hand tropical countries will face extreme heat.

The LPR 2024 is further calling for nature distress with alarming data on the global decline of nature and biodiversity in all its forms.

This is an early warning indicator of extinction of species by tracking the size of wildlife population trends involving over 35,000 species at a global scale.

This is a comprehensive study showing the trend of biodiversity and global nature health. This is the fifteenth edition of the report since 1970.

WTTC forecasts indigenous tourism to boost global economy

SYDNEY

WTTC has launched its Supporting Global Indigenous Tourism report at its 24th Global Summit in Perth, Western Australia, highlighting how indigenous tourism is projected to contribute US\$67 billion to the global economy by 2034.

The report shows how indigenous tourism plays a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage, languages, and traditional practices, and showcases the sector's role in driving economic growth, particularly in remote regions.

Australia is one of the countries that is incorporating indigenous experiences into national tourism marketing.

Indigenous tourism is rapidly emerging as a key economic driver, creating jobs and economic value in remote areas. It promotes and protects indigenous people's cultures, languages and lands, and gives visitors a unique opportunity to experience and learn about indigenous history and tradition.

With the global indigenous tourism market set to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 4.1 per cent over the next decade to reach US\$67 billion, this sector is empowering communities to take control of their economic futures.

Interest and participation in Aboriginal tourism experiences continues to grow in Western Australia, while the indigenous tourism sector in Canada supports nearly 2,000 businesses, and over 39,000 jobs. In Panama's Guna Yala region,



Indigenous Hadzabe community in Tanzania

tourism is the primary economic driver, sustaining the Guna people and their culture while creating a self-sufficient economy.

This economic boom is fuelled by increasing demand for authentic cultural experiences, in countries such as Canada, Australia, and

the US, among others.

In Australia, more than 1.4 million international visitors engaged in indigenous tourism experiences in 2019, marking a six per cent year-on-year growth since 2010.

Western Australia Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAIT-

OC) CEO Robert Taylor highlighted the importance of authentic indigenous experiences.

WAITOC has worked closely with Tourism Western Australia to develop an action plan to support the continued development of indigenous tourism in the state - The

Jina: Western Australia Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021-2025 supports new businesses and encourages more Aboriginal people to work in the tourism industry.

Taylor remarked that "Western Australia is well on its way to becoming the premier destination

for authentic Aboriginal experiences in the country", naming programmes like Camping with Custodians as an example of "the continued growth of Aboriginal tourism in Western Australia", along with a strong growth in product offerings, such as women-only experiences.

In Northern Europe, the Sámi people have developed certification marks such as Sámi Duodji to protect their rich traditions, while Peru's innovative Kipi robot helps preserve endangered languages like Kukama, spoken by just 2,000 people.

Indigenous tourism is also a sustainable career path, exemplified by Canada's Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, which empowers communities to control their futures through tourism.

Meanwhile, countries like Australia and the US are increasingly incorporating indigenous experiences into national tourism marketing, ensuring authentic representation.

WTTC president and CEO Julia Simpson said: "This report demonstrates the immense potential of indigenous tourism to drive economic growth, particularly in remote regions, while preserving invaluable cultural heritage. As global demand for authentic experiences continues to rise, it is crucial that we support indigenous businesses and ensure they have access to the resources and funding needed to thrive."

Qatari lenders return to global debt markets for refinancing

DOHA

DESPITE being well capitalised on the back of high profitability, Qatari banks have been extraordinarily active in the international debt markets this year as they race to lock in lower borrowing costs for refinancing 2024 maturities as well as to diversify funding sources within an easing monetary cycle.

Banks in the gas-rich state have so far this year issued debt over \$5.5 billion compared to around \$2 billion for the whole of 2023, according to Fitch Ratings.

In terms of numbers, Qatari bank issuances increased 68 percent year-on-year (YoY) in the first half of 2024 to reach 42 new issuances, compared to 25 during the same period last year, according to Dubai-based financial services firm Arqaam Capital.

Recent issuances include Qatar Islamic Bank's \$750 million five-year sukuk, at a profit rate of 4.485 percent.

In September, the Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) sold its debut green bond, raising 225 million Swiss francs (\$247 million).

Islamic bank Dukhan Bank, which is majority owned by the Qatari government, placed a \$800m five-year sukuk earlier this month.

There have also been capital trades. The Qatar National Bank (QNB) privately placed \$40 million in fixed-to-floating rate subordinated notes, structured to qualify as Tier 2 capital.

The Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB) issued \$300 million Additional Tier 1 sukuk, becoming the only Qatari bank to issue a US dollar ATI so far this year.

Amin Sakhri, the country director for Qatar at Fitch, told Zawya that two main drivers are behind this pick-up in issuances: a higher amount of debt maturing this year, at around \$4.3 billion, as well as the more favourable financing conditions as rates decrease. The trend is set to continue.

"In 2025, we expect the momentum in issuance by Qatari banks to remain strong, with around \$7 billion in bonds and sukuk maturing on the back of a continuing decrease in borrowing costs," he added.

They are primarily issuing senior unsecured US dollar-denominated bonds, both to refinance 2024 maturities and lock in attractive all-in costs for long-term funding, Fady Gendy, Senior Fixed Income Portfolio Manager at Arqaam Capital, told Zawya.

Qatari banks are highly dependent on external funding. During the years it was subjected to an economic blockade by its GCC neighbours, massive amounts of external funds were withdrawn from the banking system—up to 13 percent of the GDP, according to some estimates—causing stress in the system until the government stepped in to replace the liquidity via the central bank and the sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority.

Even after the economic embargo was lifted, Qatari banks made sure they diversified funding across geographies and maturities to forestall and mitigate similar future risks, hence the rush to diversify into other currencies and list them in international markets like the London Stock Exchange, the SIX Swiss Exchange and the Taipei Stock Exchange. Recent issuances have included Formosa bonds and Swiss franc-denominated bonds.

"Their balance sheet is very diversified, so they also try to diversify their liabilities, looking to issue eurobonds or Formosa bonds so there is no reliance on one currency or geography," Chiradeep Ghosh, a banking analyst at Bahrain-based SICO Bank, told Zawya.

"Select Qatari banks, including the QNB and CBQ, have been active in the private placement market for many years now and will print in whatever currency or format end-investors are targeting (with most of these issuances being swapped back into USD)," Gendy added.

Among the world's top exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG), Qatar is expected to record only modest GDP growth in 2024 and 2025. However, growth is expected to soar when its North Field Expansion Project—up-sized after the recent discovery of new gas reserves and the signing of new supply contracts in Europe and Asia—comes online in 2026-2027, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the GCC.

According to Ghosh, the project will be crucial for the Qatari banks. He said the loan book driver for them would primarily originate from the Northfield Expansion Project over the next few years, with limited borrowing demand from other projects.



Qatar Central Bank

"We believe that, except for QNB, banks would not be looking to directly lend to the project but rather to the associated contractors, smaller firms, etc. So the prime loan growth would be relatively modest this year, before picking up from around mid-2025."

Qatar (Aa2/AA/AA) is also aiming to boost growth beyond the hydrocarbon sector,

underpinned by its Third National Development Strategy, which will push investments into clean energy, logistics, sports and tourism, etc.

But according to Moody's, non-oil GDP growth remains "well below the 5.7% achieved in 2022, when Qatar hosted the FIFA World Cup and benefited from related

infrastructure and investment activity".

However, what is not an issue within the Qatari banking system is stress on the regulatory capital cushions.

Sakhri said the Qatari banks' CET1 ratios improved by around 90 basis points at the end of H1 2024 versus end-2023, with the average CET1 ratio standing at 15.6% at end-H1

2024. "There are no capital or liquidity concerns within the Qatari banking system. The banks are possibly refinancing maturing debt and renegotiating terms on existing and fresh issuances at a time when the interest rates have started declining," said SICO's Ghosh.

UZALO

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

WEDNESDAY 16 Oct			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	12:00	Al Jazeera
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
6:00	HABARI	12:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
7:30	HABARI	13:30	Art and Lifestyle
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	13:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Shamsham za pwanji rpt
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	14:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Soap: Laws of love	15:00	Meza huru
9:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto wetu
10:00	Watoto wetu	17:00	The Base
10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt	18:00	Hapa na Pale
10:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Mapishi
11:00	Mjue zaidi	18:30	Jajina
11:40	Maji Kilimanjaro	19:00	Usafiri wako
11:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Soap: Laws of love
12:00	Al Jazeera	20:00	Habari
12:30	Bundesliga na DW	21:05	Malumbano ya hoja
12:55	Habari za saa	23:00	Mjue zaidi
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	23:30	Music: The Base
13:55	Habari za saa	00:30	Al Jazeera
14:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi		
14:40	Mapishi		
14:55	Habari za saa		
15:00	Meza huru		
16:30	Watoto Wetu		
17:00	Music: The Base		
18:00	Hapa na Pale		
18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative Social Climate		
18:30	Jarida la wanawake		
18:55	Kipindi maalum: TBS Testing		
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT		
19:30	Soap: Laws of love		
20:00	Habari		
21:05	Abu Yako		
21:50	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco		
21:55	Kipindi maalum: Ripoti maalum		
22:30	Soap: Uzalo		
23:00	Jiji letu		
23:30	Music: The Base		
00:30	Al Jazeera		
		FRIDAY 18 Oct	
		5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
		5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
		6:00	HABARI
		6:40	Kumekucha
		7:30	HABARI
		8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
		8:55	Habari za saa
		9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
		9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love
		9:55	Habari za saa
		10:00	Watoto wetu
		10:30	Usafiri wako
		10:55	Habari za saa
		11:00	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
		11:20	Jajina
		11:55	Habari za saa
		12:00	Al Jazeera
		12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
		12:55	Habari za saa
		13:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Malaha ni nyumba
		13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama
		13:55	Habari za saa
		14:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na mahakama
		14:30	DW: Afrimax rpt
		14:55	Habari za saa
		15:00	Meza huru:
		16:00	Watoto Wetu
		17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
		17:30	Kisiam
		18:00	Hapa na Pale
		18:15	ITV Top 10
		19:00	Shamba lulu
		19:30	Soap: Laws of love
		20:00	Habari
		21:05	Kipima Joto
		23:00	Jiji letu
		23:30	The Base
		00:30	Al Jazeera
THURSDAY 17 Oct			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo		
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi		
6:00	HABARI		
6:40	Kumekucha		
7:30	HABARI		
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo		
8:55	Habari za saa		
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo		
9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love		
9:55	Habari za saa		
10:00	Watoto wetu		
10:30	Shamba lulu		
10:55	Habari za saa		
11:00	Kipindi maalum		
11:45	Kipindi maalum rpt: TBS Testing		
	Habari za saa		
SATURDAY 19 Oct			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi		
6:00	HABARI		
6:40	Kumekucha		
7:00	Habari		
8:00	Al Jazeera		
9:00	Watoto wetu		
10:05	Shika Bamba 5		
10:35	Mjue Zaidi rpt		
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt		
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo		
12:50	Art and Lifestyle		
13:20	Shamba lulu		
13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love		
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative Social Climate		
16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma		
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani		
18:00	Hapa na Pale		
18:10	ITV Top 10		
19:00	Jungu Kuu		
19:30	Shika Bamba		
20:00	Habari		
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka		
21:15	Igizo: Haikufuma		
21:45	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Mn Jackpot		
21:55	Art and Lifestyle		
22:15	ITV Top 10		
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo		
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt		
00:30	Al Jazeera		
SUNDAY 20 Oct			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi		
6:00	HABARI		
6:40	Kumekucha		
7:00	Habari		
8:00	Al Jazeera		
09:00	Watoto Wetu		
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love		
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt		
12:45	Mjue zaidi		
13:30	Usafiri wako		
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo		
15:30	Mwangaza		
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt		
17:20	Kipindi cha kisiasa		
18:00	Hapa na Pale		
18:15	Mapishi		
18:30	Matukio ya wiki		
19:30	Igizo: Haikufuma		
20:00	Habari		
21:05	Doc: Beyond Narrative Driving School		
21:20	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Mj Jackpot		
21:40	Mjue Zaidi		
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt		
00:30	Al Jazeera		
TUESDAY 22 Oct			
6:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi		
6:40	Kumekucha Michezo rpt		
7:30	Meza Huru		
8:00	Capchat		
8:30	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt		
9:00	Culinary rpt		
9:30	Special Pgm: Historia ya Mml.Nyerere		
10:30	Business Edition rpt		
11:00	Culinary delight rpt		
11:30	Innovation rpt		
12:00	Meza huru		
12:30	Sports Gazette		
13:00	Special Pgm: Mml.Nyerere taru na ASP		
13:30	Monday Agenda Rpt		
20:45	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt#76		
21:30	Capital Prime News		
22:00	Dakika 45:		
22:45	The Decor		
23:15	Al Jazeera		
THURS 17 Oct			
06:00	Al Jazeera		
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt		
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt		
11:30	Spots gazette		
12:00	Innovation		
12:30	Culinary delight rpt		
13:00	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon rpt		
14:00	Our Earth rpt		
14:30	DW news Africa rpt		
15:00	Beyond the Narrative rpt		
15:45	Decor Rpt		
16:00	Tomorrow Today		
16:30	Business edition rpt		
17:00	In good shape		
17:30	Meza huru		
18:00	Out & About Rpt		
18:30	Mml.Nyerere Taru na ASP		
19:00	Our Earth Rpt		
20:45	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt#77		
21:30	Capital Prime News		
22:00	Capchat rpt		
23:00	Al Jazeera		
FRID 18 Oct			
06:00	Al Jazeera		
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt		
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt		
11:30	Capchat		
12:30	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt		
13:00	Culinary rpt		
14:30	Ripoti Maalum		
15:00	DK 45 rpt		
16:00	DW News Africa rpt		
16:30	The Monday Agenda rpt		
17:30	Meza huru		
19:00	Rev		
19:00	Beyond the Narrative		
20:15	Abu Yako		
20:15	Local Pgm: Business Edition		
20:45	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt#78		
21:30	Capital Prime News		
SAT 19 Oct			
08:00	Al Jazeera		
09:00	Rev rpt		
09:30	Jajina rpt		
10:00	Culinary delight rpt		
10:30	Innovation rpt		
11:00	Out n' about rpt		
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt		
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt		
12:30	Our Earth rpt		
13:00	Business edition rpt		
13:30	Al Jazeera		
14:30	Telenovela: In Love With Ramon rpt		
17:15	Beyond the Narrative rpt		
18:15	Capchat rpt		
18:15	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt		
19:30	The Decor		
20:00	Special Pgm: Culinary Tourism		
20:30	Tomorrow Today		
21:00	Out n' About		
21:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt		
23:00	Al Jazeera		
SUN 20 Oct			
08:00	Al Jazeera		
09:00	In good shape		
10:00	Capchat rpt		
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt		
11:30	DW		
12:00	Out & About Extra rpt 12:30		
13:00	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt		
13:30	In good shape rpt		
14:00	DW		
15:15	Abu yako		
15:30	Rev rpt		
16:00	Dakika 45 rpt		
16:45	Beyond the Narrative rpt		
17:00	The Decor rpt		
17:30	Meza huru		
19:00	Out n' about rpt		
19:30	Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights		
20:00	Jajina		
20:30	Out & About Extra		
21:00	DW News Africa		
21:30	Capchat		
22:15	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon rpt		
00:00	Al Jazeera		

CAPITAL

Monsoon havoc exposes West and Central Africa's rising flood risks

N'DJAMENA

FATHER-OF-SEVEN Dah Toubada Kadapia stood on a stack of homemade sandbags in his backyard in Chad's capital N'Djamena, surrounded by floodwaters that locals say have risen higher than past years, causing more damage than ever.

Over the last few months, heavy rains have flooded every one of Chad's 23 provinces, burst a dam in northern Nigeria, damaged ancient buildings in Niger's desert town of Agadez, and killed more than 1,460 people in the countries on the fringes of the Sahara, according to UN aid agency OCHA.

"If only the authorities could find a solution in advance, so that every year it wasn't just water, water, water and floods," Kadapia said.

Some of the inundations were not so predictable. Rains fell further north than usual, flooding desert areas that usually see little rainfall in Chad and elsewhere.

Africa's economic losses linked to floods have been rising. A report by the World Meteorological Organization, published in 2021, said they jumped to \$12.5 billion in 2010-19, more than double the average of the preceding three decades.

And experts say there is worse to come.

The Sahel is increasingly threatened by floods due to changes in natural climate patterns, greater rainfall intensity, poor urban planning and other causes, according to a 2021 study in the *Journal of Hydrology*, which noted that "widespread havoc and devastation are becoming commonplace".

'We lost everything'

A year after that paper was published, West and Central Africa was swept by one of the worst seasonal flooding disasters on record with more than 8.5 million people affected across 20 countries, according to OCHA.

This season, intense heat over the Sahara and other factors pulled the monsoon belt further north than usual, causing downpours in usually arid desert areas, said Wassila Thiaw, deputy director of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Centre.

Compared with the 1991-2020 rainfall record, this July-September period was among the five wettest years in much of Niger, Chad and parts of western Mali.

Some areas in western Niger and Mali, and the border between Niger

and Nigeria, saw more rainfall than in the calamitous 2022 season, Thiaw said.

Social media was awash with videos of roads turned to rivers, half-submerged trucks and displaced people desperately trying to salvage their belongings from flooded homes.

Mali declared a state of national disaster and pushed back the start of the academic year by a month as schools filled with families driven from their homes by the floods.

Grandmother Iya Kobla sought shelter after a river in the Mali's capital Bamako burst its banks, swamped her fishing village in ankle-deep water, and destroyed some of its mud-built homes.

"We lost everything and now my grandchildren are all sick," she said, next to makeshift beds on a school floor.

A critical moment

Some of these events were foreseeable. Climate experts say global warming has increased the frequency and intensity of rain. West Africa is also going through a decades-long natural cycle of wetter monsoons following prolonged drought from the 1970s to 1990s, NOAA's Thiaw said.

In 2023, the WMO and other international organizations launched an action plan to improve early warning systems for impending natural disasters in Africa, which has the lowest rate of access to such systems of anywhere in the world.

However, data show that the vulnerable communities most in need of these warnings are often the worst equipped to act on them, Andrew Kruczkiewicz, senior researcher at Columbia University's Climate School, said.

In Chad, more than 40 percent of the population live in poverty. Meagre resources are stretched further by the presence of 2 million refugees, many living in basic camps.

"It's incomplete to say if there were an early warning system, that action would have been taken and impact would have been averted ... There are many other elements that must be addressed," Kruczkiewicz said, referring to the need for a pre-agreed plan, funding, community buy-in and other essentials.

"We're at a critical moment and the West and Central Africa case exemplifies that, because the (rain) forecasts were there."

Agencies



Two men start up a motor pump in the Tougoudé district, southeast of N'Djamena's ninth arrondissement on Oct 8, 2024, to clear floodwater. AFP

Israel kills at least 40 in Gaza, tanks deepen raid in the north



This picture taken from Lebanon's southern city of Tyre shows smoke billowing following an Israeli air strike on the village of Zibqin on Monday. AFP

CAIRO

ISRAELI military strikes killed at least 40 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip as Israeli forces tightened their squeeze around Jabalia in the north of the enclave yesterday, amid fierce battles with Hamas-led fighters.

Palestinian health officials said at least 11 people were killed by Israeli fire near Al-Falouja in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, while 10 others were killed in Bani Suhaia in eastern Khan Younis in the south when an Israeli missile struck a house.

Earlier on Tuesday, an Israeli airstrike destroyed three houses in the Sabra suburb of Gaza City, and the local civil emergency service said they recovered two bodies from the site, while the search continued for 12 other people who were believed to have been in the houses at the time of the strike.

Five others were killed when a house was struck in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza.

Jabalia has been the focus of an Israeli offensive for more than 10 days, with troops returning to areas of the north that came under heavy bombardment in the early months of the year-long

war.

The operation has raised concerns among Palestinians and UN agencies that Israel wants to clear residents from the north of the crowded enclave, a charge it has denied.

The United Nations human rights office said on Tuesday the Israeli military appeared to be "cutting off North Gaza completely from the rest of the Gaza Strip."

"Amid intense ongoing hostilities and evacuation orders in northern Gaza families are facing unimaginable fear, loss of loved ones, confusion, and exhaustion. People must be able to flee safely, without facing further danger," Adrian Zimmerman,

ICRC Gaza head of sub-delegation, said in a statement.

"Many, including the sick and disabled, cannot leave, and they remain protected under international humanitarian law - all possible precautions must be taken to ensure they remain unharmed. Every person displaced has the right to return home in safety," he added.

The Israeli military has now encircled the Jabalia camp and sent tanks into nearby Beit Lahya and Beit Hanoun towns, with the declared aim of stamping out Hamas fighters who are trying to regroup there.

The Israeli military has told residents to leave their homes and head to safety in southern Gaza. Palestinian and UN officials say there was no place safe in Gaza.

Israeli officials said evacuation orders were aimed at separating Hamas fighters from civilians and

denied that there was any systematic plan to clear civilians out of Jabalia or other northern areas.

Hamas' armed wing said fighters were engaged in fierce battles with Israeli forces in and around Jabalia.

Zimmerman also urged for health facilities in the north to be protected, saying hospitals there were struggling to provide medical services.

Gaza's health ministry said the army ordered the three hospitals operating there to evacuate but medical staffers said they were determined to continue their services even though they are overwhelmed by the growing number of casualties.

On Monday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the level of civilian casualties in northern Gaza.

The northern part of Gaza is home to well over half the territory's 2.3 million people and hundreds of thousands of residents were forced to flee their homes amidst heavy bombing in the first phase of Israel's assault on the territory.

Around 400,000 people remained, according to United Nations estimates.

Israel launched the offensive against Hamas after the militant group's Oct 7 attack on Israel, in which 1,200 people were killed and around 250 taken hostage to Gaza, by Israeli tallies. More than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in the offensive so far, according to Gaza's health authorities.

Russia, unlike West, does not interfere in Georgia's internal affairs - Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE West is trying to sway the election campaign in Georgia, while Russia does not interfere and will not interfere in the internal affairs of this country, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"As for the elections, this is none of our business. We see indiscriminate attempts by Western countries to put pressure on the current Georgian authorities and to directly influence the course of the election campaign," the spokesman said. "We do not interfere in the internal affairs of Georgia in any way, and we have no plans to do so," he pointed out.

"Georgia is our neighbor. You know all our complications in bilateral relations, which at the same time do not hinder the development of humanitarian ties



through the line of societies, peoples of two countries," Peskov emphasized, adding that Georgians continue to travel to Russia and vice versa.

US and EU relations with Georgia deteriorated significantly after the country's parliament adopted the foreign agents law in May.

Agencies

India-Canada ties hit new low after expulsion of diplomats: Timeline of events on how relations turned sour

NEW DELHI

INDIA and Canada have been dealing with an unprecedented diplomatic crisis after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged that Indian government agents were involved in the killing of Nijjar in Canada. India has rejected Canada's allegations, terming it "absurd" and "politically motivated."

On Monday, Canada expelled six Indian diplomats and consular officials in connection with a probe of the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in 2023.

India has also announced its decision to expel six Canadian diplomats, which include Canada's Acting High Commissioner in India, Steward Ross Wheeler, Deputy High Commissioner in India Patrick Hebert and First Secretary Marie Catherine Joly.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner, Mike Duheme on Monday (local time) claimed that they have information on certain criminal activity carried out by agents of the Indian government.

He said, "In the past few years and more recently, law enforcement agencies in Canada have successfully investigated and charged a significant number of individuals for their direct involvement in homicides, extortions & other criminal acts of violence. In addition, there have been well over a dozen credible imminent threats to life which have led to the conduct of duty to warn, by law enforcement with members of South Asian community and specifically, members of the pro-Khalistani movement."

In a statement on Monday, India "strongly" rejected a diplomatic communication from Canada suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats were "persons of interest" in an investigation and termed it as "preposterous imputations" and part of the political agenda of the Justin Trudeau government.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's hostility to India has long been in evidence and his government has consciously provided space to violent extremists and terrorists "to harass, threaten and intimidate Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada".

Although the India-Canada relations reached a new low after Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing in 2023. However, the history of strained ties between India and Canada extends beyond current events.

Here's a series of events that have led to the strained ties between the two nations.

February 2018: A convicted Khalistani terrorist Jaspal Atwal, who was active in the banned International Sikh Youth Federation, posed with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's former wife Sophie Trudeau at an event in Mumbai, during the Canadian first family's visit to India.

Jaspal Atwal was also invited for a formal dinner with the Canadian Prime Minister, hosted by the Canadian High Commissioner in Delhi. However, the invitation to Atwal to Trudeau's reception was rescinded. Atwal was convicted of the attempted murder of Punjab minister, Malkiat Singh Sidhu, on Vancouver Island in 1986.

June 2023: Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot outside a Gurdwara in British Columbia's Surrey on June 18, 2023.

August 2023: A Hindu temple was vandalised in Canada by extremist elements, with Khalistan referendum posters in the late hours of Saturday, Australia Today reported. The incident happened in British Columbia province in Canada.

ANI

Think tank report explores opportunities, challenges for news media in AI era

URUMQI

A report released on Monday by a think tank affiliated with Xinhua, China's national news agency, provides insights into the opportunities and challenges faced by news media outlets worldwide in the era of artificial intelligence (AI).

Just like the previous revolutions in communication technology, the development of AI cannot escape from the "Collingridge dilemma," says the report, titled "Responsible

ity and Mission of News Media in AI Era," highlighting the quandary between the need for development and the imperative of governance in order to harness AI for the betterment of humanity.

According to the report, released during the ongoing 6th World Media Summit in Urumqi, capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the majority, 66 percent, of the news media surveyed worldwide view the impact of generative AI on the in-

dustry positively. Additionally, 51.2 percent of the respondents had already started implementing AI technologies.

Media organizations primarily expected generative AI to enhance the timeliness and productivity of news reporting.

However, they also expressed apprehensions about the potential credibility risks associated with AI, particularly regarding the "distortion and inaccuracy of news clues and materials."

A substantial 76.4 percent of

respondents shared these concerns. Additionally, a significant majority, 85.6 percent, of the surveyed news media believed that the application of generative AI required better regulation.

These findings were based on a questionnaire survey conducted in 2024. The survey covered over 1,000 respondents from 53 countries and regions, representing a diverse range of media outlets such as newspapers, periodicals, broadcasting and television stations, news

agencies, websites, and mobile application service providers.

"AI is driving a new wave of productivity in news media, creating advanced productive forces across content collection, production, distribution, and evaluation," the report points out. It empowers both media organizations and consumers with enhanced experiences that transcend time and space, integrating virtual and real-world interactions, and facilitating human-machine communication.

Additionally, AI is fostering

new business models, including a media-centric approach for everything, platform-based media, and a digitalized and intelligent industry.

The report, however, warns against multiple risks and challenges brought about by the uncertainty of AI and its misuse. False information has escalated in scale, form and distribution, triggering a global crisis of authenticity, it says, noting that the technology's limitations and the users' private interests have created a "collusion" effect, pol-

luting public opinion and negatively affecting individual perceptions and societal discourse. Meanwhile, widespread value disputes and ethical dilemmas have put AI in a dilemma between development and governance.

The "intelligence divide" may further widen the gap between people, urban and rural areas, and between the North and the South, promoting technological hegemony and exacerbating global development imbalances, it adds.

Xinhua

Interview: Thriving life in Xinjiang proves Western smear campaign wrong, Fatah official says

RAMALLAH

PEOPLE'S life in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is thriving and the West's smear campaign against China about its Xinjiang policy is unconvincing, a senior official with the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) has said.

"Among the people of the region, the level of harmony and respect is comprehensive and complete," Bassam Zakarneh, a member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council of Palestine, told Xinhua during a recent interview.

Zakarneh has paid multiple visits to China. Speaking of some Western governments' and media's smear campaign against China about its Xinjiang policy, he said that the West is "trying to exploit anything to undermine China's progress and development."

This March, a delegation of members of political parties from Arab countries headed by Zakarneh, visited Xinjiang. "China's experience in all regions is rich, and with every visit, we feel the magnitude of the benefit we gain in various fields," Zakarneh said.

During the visit, the delegation learned about Xinjiang's development in such areas as agricultural technology, livestream shopping and cross-border e-commerce.

"We find agriculture that does not require much space and land," Zakarneh said. "Many of our products are destroyed due to the inability to sell them in season, but after learning about the agricultural industrialization carried out by China, our countries can enhance communication to exchange experience in this field."

The delegation visited mosques and some other places of worship. Zakarneh said China preserves and gives each religion care for its sanctities with full and comprehensive support.

Zakarneh said the delegation expressed respect for China's treatment of freedom of religion and the extent of its respect for human rights, contrary to what the U.S.-led West has said to distort China's image and hinder its progress.

The delegation attended an exhibition on China's counter-terrorism effort as well. "China has creativity in confronting terrorism through the awakening and cohesion of its



An aerial panoramic drone photo taken on May 9, 2024 shows a city view of Wujiaqu, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Xinhua

people and the strength of its security services," Zakarneh said.

The first measures, he added, are to educate citizens about preventing the infiltration of terrorist ideas and stopping anyone from exploiting this to attack China, by rehabilitating these people and educating them in school, so that they graduate with mastery of crafts, not to mention providing job opportunities and supporting various groups so that everyone in the region

could become a producer, whether in agriculture, industry, or trade.

"China has faced this with strength and confidence and opened the borders of the Xinjiang region for all delegations to see for themselves the reality as it is. Our visit and observation on the ground were proof that Western propaganda is false," he added. Xinhua

Netanyahu tells Biden that Israel plans to strike military targets in Iran – WP

WASHINGTON

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the administration of US President Joe Biden that Israel plans to strike military targets in Iran, not nuclear or oil facilities, The Washington Post reported.



According to its sources among officials, during a phone call with Biden on October 9, Netanyahu said, "he was planning to target military infrastructure in Iran." According to the publication, this means that the Jewish state may follow with "a more limited counterstrike aimed at preventing a full-scale war."

The publication notes that this plan of Netanyahu was met with relief in Washington. The publication stresses that if Israel strikes oil facilities in Iran, energy prices could rise sharply. An attack by the Jewish state on Iranian nuclear facilities could trigger "further escalation" and increase the risk that the United States will be drawn into the ongoing events to a greater extent. On October 2, Biden said that he did not consider it appropriate for Israel to strike nuclear facilities in Iran. According to sources, Netanyahu was in a "more moderated place" in that discussion than he had previously been, the newspaper says. According to the publication, an Israeli strike on military targets in Iran is expected before the US presidential election, which will take place on November 5.

Global media leaders highlight AI opportunities, risks at World Media Summit

BEIJING

GLOBAL media leaders highlighted the opportunities and challenges faced by news media outlets worldwide in the era of artificial intelligence (AI) after a report on AI was released on Monday by a think tank affiliated with Xinhua, China's national news agency.

With the title "Responsibility and Mission of News Media in AI Era," the report, based on interviews with global media, tech organizations and multi-language questionnaires, was released during the ongoing sixth World Media Summit in Urumqi, the capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

"This is a very important document," said Wafef Kumayha, president of the Silk Road Institute for Studies and Research in Lebanon, noting that the world has entered a new era as a result of generative AI technology, which has brought great changes to many industries, including news media.

According to the report, the majority, 66 percent, of the news media surveyed worldwide view the impact of generative AI on the industry positively.

Additionally, 51.2 percent of the respondents had already

started implementing AI technologies. "AI provides the media industry with the ability to be more efficient by doing the heavy lifting, freeing up time for our journalists and creatives to express strategy and present their content and storytelling effectively," said Viasen Soobramoney, chairman of the editorial board of Independent Media in South Africa.

AI is empowering creative innovations in smartphones, enhancing the personalization of television and revolutionizing broadcast, said Gao Jack Qun-yao, chairman of Whale TV in Singapore. Speaking at the summit, Andrey Kondrashov, director general of Russia's TASS news agency, said that AI is profoundly transforming the media industry.

"It is essential for media practitioners to come together and seize this opportunity to utilize this technology correctly, to collectively enhance human well-being." However, the news media surveyed also expressed apprehensions about the potential credibility risks associated with AI with a significant majority, 85.6 percent, of the surveyed media believing that the application of generative AI required better regulation.

"It's important for us to understand how artificial intelli-



Participants attend the opening ceremony of the 6th World Media Summit in Urumqi, capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Oct. 14, 2024. The 6th World Media Summit opened on Monday morning in Urumqi, capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

gence is being applied, particularly as these new technologies often contribute to this misinformation and hate speech that impact the lives of millions of people around the planet," said Pierre Krahenbuhl, director-general of International Committee of the Red Cross.

The spread of disinformation and "deepfakes" is a major issue that requires collective efforts to resolve. Interaction, rather than division, within the global professional community should be our primary mission,

said Dmitrii Gornostaev, deputy editor-in-chief of Russia's Rossiya Segodnya Media Group. The report stressed that widespread value disputes and ethical dilemmas have put AI in a dilemma between development and governance, therefore news media should shoulder their social responsibilities, commit to a "people-first" approach and promote "intelligence for good" in the era of AI.

Tamas Kovacs, CEO of Hungary's ATV Media Group, said disseminating truth remains the

core of news reporting and the responsibility that news media should shoulder in the digital era, amidst the rapid development of new technologies.

"We still bear the primary responsibility of creating high-quality content that is truthful, trustworthy, and meaningful," said Kondrashov. "It is crucial that we uphold professional standards, engage in objective and rational thinking, and apply the Chinese wisdom of seeking common ground while respecting differences." Xinhua

PM Modi calls for global standards for AI and data privacy at IMC 2024

NEW DELHI

WHILE inaugurating the India Mobile Congress 2024 yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for global standards for artificial intelligence (AI) and data privacy. Giving his inaugural speech Modi asked the industry leaders, tech innovators and startups to create a global standard for AI and data privacy.



The PM (pictured) said, "Create global standards for ethical AI and data privacy that also respect the diversity of different countries." The prime minister added that we have global rules for the aviation sector we need a similar framework for the digital sector.

"Just as we have created a framework of global rules and regulations for the aviation sector, the digital world also needs a similar framework," said PM.

PM Modi asked the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTS) to work on this and create global standards for ethical AI and data privacy to respect the diversity of different countries.

"I would like to ask every member of WTS to think about how to make telecommunications safe for everyone. In this interconnected world, security cannot be an after-thought. India's Data Protection Act and National Cyber Security Strategy show our commitment towards creating a safe digital ecosystem." said Modi. ANI

Russian troops liberate Levadnoye community in Zaporozhye area over past day

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN troops liberated the community of Levadnoye in the Zaporozhye Region over the past day in the special military operation in Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry reported on Monday.

"Battlegroup East units liberated the settlement of Levadnoye in the Zaporozhye Region and gained more advantageous positions," the ministry said in a statement.

Over the past 24 hours, Battlegroup East units inflicted damage on manpower and equipment of the Ukrainian army's 72nd mechanized, 58th motorized infantry and 110th territorial defense brigades in areas near the settlements of Dobrovoyle in the Donetsk People's Republic and Temirovka in the Zaporozhye Region, it said.

The Ukrainian army's losses in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to 120 personnel, an armored personnel carrier, four motor vehicles, a 155mm Bogdana self-propelled artillery system and a French-made 155mm Caesar motorized artillery system, the ministry said.

Russia's Battlegroup North inflicted 45 casualties on Ukrainian army over past day

Russia's Battlegroup North inflicted roughly 45 casualties on Ukrainian troops in its area of responsibility in the Kharkov Region over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup North units inflicted casualties in the Liptsy and Volchansk directions on formations of the Ukrainian army's 57th motorized infantry and 129th territorial defense brigades in areas near the settlements of Volchansk and Liptsy in the Kharkov Region," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army's losses in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to 45 personnel, an armored combat vehicle and two motor vehicles, it specified.

In addition, Russian forces destroyed a field ammunition depot of the Ukrainian army over the past 24 hours, it said.

Russia's Battlegroup West inflicted 490 casualties on Ukrainian army over past day

Russia's Battlegroup West inflicted roughly 490 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed three enemy ammunition depots in its area of responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup West units gained more advantageous lines and positions and inflicted



ed damage on manpower and equipment of the Ukrainian army's 3rd tank, 14th, 114th and 115th mechanized, 112th territorial defense, 1st and 27th National Guard brigades in areas near the settlements of Novoosinovo, Petropavlovka, Glushkovka, Kupyansk-Uzlovoi, Dvurechnoye, Pershotravnevoye and Kruglyakovka in the Kharkov Region. They repelled two counterattacks by assault groups of the Ukrainian army's 67th mechanized and 3rd air assault brigades," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army's losses in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to 490

personnel, two armored combat vehicles, including a US-made M113 armored personnel carrier, three pickup trucks, a US-made 155mm M198 howitzer and a 152mm D-20 howitzer, it specified.

In addition, Russian forces destroyed three ammunition depots of the Ukrainian army over the past 24 hours, it said.

Russia's Battlegroup South inflicted 620 casualties on Ukrainian army over past day

Russia's Battlegroup South inflicted roughly 620 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed three enemy ammunition depots in its area of

responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup South units kept advancing deep into the enemy's defenses and inflicted casualties on formations of the Ukrainian army's 28th and 56th mechanized, 79th air assault and 116th territorial defense brigades in areas near the settlements of Levanevskoye, Shevchenko, Kramatorsk, Zaliznyanskoye and Kurakhovo in the Donetsk People's Republic. They repulsed three counterattacks by formations of the Ukrainian army's 28th and 46th mechanized and 81st airmobile brigades," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army's losses

in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to 620 personnel, an infantry fighting vehicle, four motor vehicles, a US-made 155mm M777 howitzer, a 122mm D-30 howitzer and a US-manufactured 105mm M119 artillery gun, it specified.

In addition, Russian forces destroyed three ammunition depots of the Ukrainian army over the past 24 hours, it said.

Russia's Battlegroup Center inflicted 465 casualties on Ukrainian army over past day

Russia's Battlegroup Center inflicted roughly 465 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed an enemy armored combat vehicle in its area of responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup Center units improved their frontline positions and inflicted damage on manpower and equipment of the Ukrainian army's 5th tank, 28th, 67th and 100th mechanized, 25th airborne, 119th territorial defense and 14th National Guard brigades in areas near the settlements of Rodinskoye, Kurakhovka, Selidovo, Dimitrov, Tsukurino, Novoselidovka, Dzerzhinsk and Mirolyubovka in the Donetsk People's Republic. They repelled

nine counterattacks by formations of the Ukrainian army's 53rd, 100th, 110th and 157th mechanized brigades, 49th and 425th assault battalions and 38th marine infantry brigade," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army's losses in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to 465 personnel, a Turkish-made Kirpi armored combat vehicle, four motor vehicles, a 122mm D-30 howitzer and a 100mm Rapira anti-tank gun, it specified.

Russia's Battlegroup Dnepr inflicted 25 casualties on Ukrainian army over past day

Russia's Battlegroup Dnepr inflicted roughly 25 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed an enemy ammunition depot in its area of responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup Dnepr units inflicted casualties on formations of the Ukrainian army's 141st infantry, 35th marine infantry and 124th territorial defense brigades in areas near the settlements of Stepnoye in the Zaporozhye Region, Dneprovskoye and Antonovka in the Kherson Region," the ministry said. Agencies

SPORT

Six people accuse Diddy of sexual assault in new lawsuits, including man who was 16 at the time

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

SEAN "Diddy" Combs was hit Monday with a new wave of lawsuits accusing him of raping women, sexually assaulting men and molesting a 16-year-old boy. It is the first time he's been sued by a person alleging they were abused as a minor.

At least six lawsuits were filed against Combs (pictured) in federal court in Manhattan, adding to a growing list of legal claims against the indicted hip-hop mogul, all of which he has denied. The lawsuits were filed anonymously to protect the identities of the accusers, two by women identified as Jane Does and four by men identified as John Does.

Some of the Does, echoing others who've accused Combs in recent months, allege that he used his fame and the promise of potential stardom to entice victims to lavish parties or drug-fueled hangouts where he then assaulted them. Some allege that he beat or drugged them. Others say he threatened to kill them if they didn't do as he pleased or if they spoke out against him.

The lawsuits describe alleged assaults dating to the mid-1990s, including at Combs' celebrity-studded white parties in Long Island's Hamptons, at a party in Brooklyn celebrating Combs' then-collaborator Biggie Smalls, and even in the storeroom at Macy's flagship department store in midtown Manhattan.

The plaintiffs in Monday's lawsuits are part of what their lawyers say is a group of more than 100 accusers who are in the process of taking legal action against Combs following his Sept. 16 federal sex trafficking arrest. Plaintiffs' lawyer Tony Buzbee announced the planned litigation at an Oct. 1 news conference and posted a 1-800 number for accusers to call.

In a statement, Combs' lawyers slammed those tactics as "clear attempts to garner publicity," and said the rapper and his legal team "have full confidence in the facts, their legal defenses, and the integrity of the judicial process. In court, the truth will prevail: that Mr. Combs has never sexually assaulted anyone—adult or minor, man or woman."

Combs, 54, has pleaded not guilty in his criminal case, which involves allegations he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

Twice denied bail, the Bad Boy Records founder remains locked up at a Brooklyn federal jail while awaiting trial in May. Two judges have concluded that Combs would be a danger to the community if he is released. On Friday, an appeals court judge denied Combs' immediate release from jail while a three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals weighs his bail request.

Before Monday's raft of lawsuits, all of the accusers suing Combs had been adults at the time of their alleged abuse, although a Chicago record producer claimed in a February suit that he had "irrefutable evidence" of Combs sexually abusing minors.

In a lawsuit Monday, a John Doe alleged that Combs fondled his genitals when he was 16 at one of Combs' white parties in 1998. The man,



who now lives in North Carolina, alleges that Combs told him he had "the look" of a star and then abruptly ordered the then-teen to drop his pants.

According to the man's lawsuit, Combs explained to him that it was a rite of passage to becoming a music star, at one point asking him: "Don't you want to break into the business?" The man said he complied out of fear, anxiety and a power imbalance he felt with Combs, only realizing later that what he says happened was sexual assault.

Other lawsuits filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan include allegations of rape, forced oral sex and drugging to incapacitate victims.

One of the Jane Does alleges Combs raped her in a locked hotel room in 2004 after he invited her and a friend there for a party, gave them drinks and told them to snort cocaine. The woman, then a college freshman, alleges Combs also forced her friend to perform oral sex on him and threatened their lives if they didn't comply.

Another Jane Doe alleged Combs violently attacked and raped her in a bathroom in 1995 at a party in Brooklyn for Smalls' music video, "One More Chance." Smalls, also known as the Notorious B.I.G., was killed two years later in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles.

According to the woman, Combs brought her into the bathroom to talk privately and started kissing her unexpectedly. When she tried pulling away, she alleges, he slammed her head against the wall, causing her to fall to the floor. She said she tried to escape, but Combs hit her again and raped her.

Afterward, according to the woman, Combs nonchalantly adjusted his clothing and told her: "You better not tell anyone about this, or you will disappear."

The other John Doe lawsuits allege: Combs sexually assaulted a security guard at a 2006 white party after giving him a drugged beverage; forced a man working for a rival fashion brand to perform oral sex on him in the Macy's stockroom in 2008; and sexually assaulted a man at a party in October 2021.

The latter man, who suspects a drugged beverage left him unable to fight back, recalls multiple men assaulting him and distinctly recalls seeing Combs above him, naked, at one point during the assault, his lawsuit said.

AP

Perfect Mtibwa Sugar lead the pack in Championship

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE fourth round of the 2024/25 NBC Championship League campaign saw Mtibwa Sugar cling onto top spot, while Mbeya Kwanza climbed out of the relegation zone.

Mtibwa Sugar had to work hard for the three points on Friday, defeating Songea United 1-0 at the Manungu Complex Stadium thanks to a goal from Anuary Jabir in the 80th minute.

Their endeavour was further rewarded on Saturday when nearest chasers Stand United were beaten 3-0 at TMA, leaving the gap between the teams at three points.

Second-placed Songea United and Stand United are tied on nine points, while TMA are fourth with seven points.

As a result, Mtibwa Sugar under head coach Melis Medo are the only side with a perfect record of winning all their four opening matches in the league this season.

Medo was subsequently Championship League coach of the month while Raizin Hafidh scooped the player of the month award for September.

Kiluvya dropped back into the basement after suffering their fourth loss of the campaign when they went down 1-0 at home to Geita Gold on Sunday.

Bigman and Mbeya City were also winners on Saturday, as they proved too strong for

Cosmopolitan and African Sports respectively, while Mbuni and Biashara United shared spoils on Friday. Mbeya Kwanza are creeping up the log after beating Green Warriors 1-0 on Friday. They have now moved out of the relegation, climbing from 11th place to 9th on the log with six points to their name.

Transit Camp picked up their first point of the season with a goalless draw against Polisi Tanzania. They are second-bottom, four points from safety.

The Championship will resume with a full round of fixtures on the weekend, October 18-20. At the end of every Championship campaign, the top two teams are promoted automatically.

The teams finishing third and fourth in the league compete in a promotional/relegation play-off competition with two sides from the Premier League.

The bottom two teams get relegated from Championship to the First League at the end of every season. Sides that finish between 14 and 11 places go into relegation playoffs.

The promotion and relegation play-offs were introduced to the Premier League and Championship in 2018/19 following the expansion of the top tier to 20 clubs.

The league was later reduced to 16 teams but the playoffs were kept with few alterations made.

SPORTS

Injury boost for Simba as Hamza rejoins squad for Yanga clash

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA have received a major boost ahead of their highly anticipated derby clash against rivals Young Africans (Yanga) this Saturday, with central defender Abdulrazzak Hamza making a swift recovery from injury.

Hamza (pictured) had been sidelined after sustaining an injury during his call-up to the Taifa Stars camp for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) qualifiers against the Democratic Republic of Congo. His return is timely for Simba's technical bench as they aim to solidify their defense for the upcoming showdown.

Simba's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, has called on fans and club members to turn out in large numbers at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium to support the team. "We know the game against Yanga will be difficult, but with our fans, leaders, players, and the technical bench united, we are confident we can achieve victory," Ally said, urging for unwavering support from the fanbase.

The fixture presents an opportunity for Simba to improve their recent form in derby encounters. Over the last ten league meetings between Tanzania's football giants, Simba has managed just one victory, while Young Africans have claimed four wins, with the remaining five matches ending in draws.

This record has been a source of frustration for Simba, and they are eager to turn things around as they push for momentum in the Premier League title race.

Simba coach Fadlu Davids, who took charge earlier this season, will lead his side into the derby for the second time this year. Their most recent clash was in the Community Shield semi-final, where Young Africans secured a narrow 1-0 win.

Despite the loss, Davids' side showed resilience, which has bolstered their confidence heading into this encounter. There is a strong belief within Simba's camp that this time, they can reverse their fortunes and secure a crucial win.

Saturday's match will be pivotal not only for Simba's pride but also for their early-season title ambitions.

While they remain one of the top contenders, inconsistent results,



including a 2-2 draw against Coastal Union in their last Premier League outing, have put pressure on the team to deliver in this high-profile fixture.

Through Ally, Simba's leadership has stressed the importance of the entire Simba community coming together.

"We need to fight for this win. Our fans need to buy their tickets early and fill the stadium. This is our match, and with unity, we can make sure the lion roars again," Ally said.

A key factor that could influence the derby's outcome is the return of Hamza. Simba's medical team has worked diligently to ensure the player is fully fit following his injury scare during national duty.

Hamza's return to training ahead of the Young Africans clash will provide a significant boost to Simba's defense, as they prepare to counter the attacking threats posed by their rivals.

As the derby approaches, Simba are counting on their fanbase's passionate support to drive the team forward. The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, known for its electrifying atmosphere

during major matches, is expected to be packed with enthusiastic supporters.

Ally has encouraged fans to buy tickets early and ensure a sea of red fills the stands on Saturday.

With both teams gunning for victory and the long-standing rivalry intensifying the atmosphere, the stage is set for yet another thrilling chapter in the Simba-Young Africans derby.

For Simba, it's not just about bragging rights; it's about sending a strong message to the rest of the league as they aim to reclaim the Premier League title.

As the countdown to the game continues, all eyes will be on the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, where thousands of fans are expected to witness a fiercely contested battle between two of Tanzania's football powerhouses.

Maendeleo Bank triumphs in corporate soccer tournament

By Guardian Correspondent

MAENDELEO Bank's soccer team emerged as the overall winner of a thrilling corporate soccer tournament held in Dar es Salaam, defeating Akiba Commercial Bank in the final.

The match, hosted at Masaki Sports Park on Monday, concluded 3-1 in favour of Maendeleo after an intense penalty shootout.

The tournament, organized to mark the 40th anniversary of SGA Security's presence in Tanzania, featured 24 corporate teams battling in tightly contested matches that electrified the crowd.

Spectators cheered loudly throughout the day, bringing the venue to life with a hive of activity.

Adding to the excitement, five top actors from the popular local series Huba, including Rammy Galis (aka Dev), Ibrahim Omary (aka Fabrizo), Tito Zimbwe (aka Roy), Ben Kinyaiya (aka Judi), and Haji Salum (aka Chidi), played under their team, Huba Football Club.

The actors not only took part in the

matches but also engaged and socialized with participants, much to the delight of their fans.

Other participating teams included SGA Security, Dar es Salaam Inter Club, Ramada Resort Hotel, Equity Bank, Sali International Hospital, KCB Bank, Kampala International University, Team Uganda, and Mowara.

Also competing were Bank of Africa, Exim Bank, Selcom Bank, Inter Tek, Impala Terminals, TCC Plc, Absa Bank, NBC Bank, Puma Energy, Tusiime School, and Kairuki University Hospital.

The event featured exhilarating matches, accompanied by lively music from a DJ, making the daylong tournament a fun-filled and competitive affair.

Speaking at the tournament, Kinondoni District Administrative Secretary (DAS), Warda Abdallah Obathany, commended the security company for its 40 years of success and urged other investors to continue creating employment opportunities for Tanzanians.

"As the government, we applaud your efforts and call on other companies to follow your example by engaging various

institutions through events like this football tournament, which also promotes fitness and health among employees," she said.

She also encouraged the company to make the tournament an annual event, allowing even more institutions to participate in the future.

Eric Sambu, the company's managing director, expressed his delight in organizing the event, which saw the participation of other 23 corporate teams.

"This tournament has been both exciting and competitive. We are grateful to the Huba series crew for joining us today," he said.

Sambu also highlighted the importance of such tournaments in promoting fitness and helping combat non-communicable diseases in the workplace.

Rammy Galis (aka Dev), representing the Huba series team, praised the company for organizing the tournament, which brought them closer to their fans.

"We didn't just play football today; we also had the chance to interact with our supporters," he said.



The Kinondoni District Administrative Secretary (DAS), Warda Abdallah Obathany (with green headcloth), handing over the winners' trophy to Maendeleo Bank team after beating Akiba Commercial Bank 3-1 on penalties in a thrilling final during the corporate soccer tournament held at Masaki Sports Park. Right is the SGA Tanzania Managing Director, Eric Sambu. Photo: Correspondent

FIFA to open global talks on updating transfer rules after landmark Diarra ruling

ZURICH

AFTER a landmark court decision for the soccer transfer market, FIFA said Monday it will now invite "key stakeholders" worldwide for talks about updating rules put in question by former France international Lassana Diarra.

The European Court of Justice ruled in the Diarra case on Oct. 4 in Luxembourg that some parts of FIFA's transfer regulations did not comply with its laws on competition and freedom of movement for labor.

While some analysts speculate that the entire global transfer market, worth more than \$10 billion each year, could be upended, FIFA believes its consultations can focus more narrowly on player-club disputes where contracts are allegedly broken without just cause.

The FIFA talks should include the global players' union FIFPRO, plus representatives from clubs, leagues and national soccer federations.

"Together with them, FIFA will determine what conclusions must be drawn from the Diarra decision, and which changes are most appropriate and suitable to make to article 17 of

the (transfer regulations)," the governing body's chief legal officer Emilio Garcia said in a statement.

Diarra, a former Real Madrid, Arsenal and Chelsea player, signed a four-year contract with Lokomotiv Moscow in 2013. The deal was terminated a year later after he was unhappy with alleged pay cuts.

FIFA and then the Court of Arbitration for Sport found the Russian club terminated the contract "with just cause" and ordered the player to pay 10.5 million euros (\$11.2 million). Diarra argued his search for a new club was affected by FIFA rules, making his next employer jointly responsible for paying compensation to Lokomotiv.

"The Diarra decision confirms the sanctity of contracts. Nobody, neither a club nor a player, can simply walk away from a valid contract," Garcia said. "Consequently, if players wish to be released from a contract, there will be financial consequences."

The FIFA-led talks will open while the Diarra case now goes back to a local court in Belgium, where a final ruling could take years rather than months.

AP

Erik ten Hag given brutal deadline by Man United to save his Old Trafford career

THE report has mentioned that if Man United lose their next two games against Brentford in the Premier League and Fenerbahce in the Europa League, Ten Hag will be sacked by the club.

The pressure is increasing day by day on the Dutch manager at Old Trafford after his team's disastrous start to the new season.

In ten games in all competitions, the Red Devils have only managed to win three games.

Their current position of 14th in the league is far from what the club had expected at the start of the season after investing in their squad heavily in the summer transfer window.

Man United are reportedly considering a number of managers to replace Ten Hag at the club with former Borussia Dortmund manager Edin Terzic also a part of the list of potential candidates to replace the under-fire Dutch manager.

Meanwhile, Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe has also been linked with the big job at Old Trafford as uncertainty surrounding the future of Ten Hag increases.

Despite winning two trophies during his time at the club, Ten Hag's form in the Premier League and Europe has been a huge cause of concern.

The Red Devils finished eighth in the league last season and currently they are 14th after making their worst ever start to a Premier League season.

Last season's exit from the Champions League in the group stage which included teams like Galatasaray and Copenhagen was a sign of things to come.

New signings and investment in the squad have not helped turnaround the fortunes of the club and poor recent results against FC Porto and Aston Villa have worked massively against Ten Hag.

As per the report, the Dutch manager's failure to get positive results in the next two matches will cost him his job.

After the club showed faith in the manager in the summer, he has failed to live up to their expectations and the club's poor form and the negativity surrounding the organisation is adding fuel to the fire.

Ten Hag has a chance to change his team's dismal form in the next match against Brentford at home but a tough away encounter in Europe next, against former manager Jose Mourinho's Fenerbahce side will come as a huge test to the struggling Red Devils.

AGENCIES

Mendy says he was lent money by former Man City team-mates

By Simon Stone

FORMER Manchester City defender Benjamin Mendy says he was lent money by his then team-mates Raheem Sterling, Bernardo Silva and Riyad Mahrez when the club stopped paying him after he was charged with rape and sexual assault, an employment tribunal has heard.

The France defender is claiming £11.5m in unpaid wages from when he was charged in August 2021 and suspended without pay by City.

Mendy, 30, was cleared in 2023 of a series of rape and attempted rape charges made against him.

The club continued paying Mendy after his first arrest in November 2020, but argued they did not have to after he was charged as his bail conditions - one of which prevented him from going near the club's stadium or training ground - and a Football Association suspension meant he was not able to perform his contractual duties.

Court documents said Mendy "very quickly ran out of money" and had to sell his Cheshire mansion to cover legal fees, bills and child support payments after his wages were withheld.

"Raheem Sterling, Bernardo Silva and Riyad Mahrez all lent me money to help me try and pay my legal fees and support my family," Mendy said in his witness statement.

In November 2022, Mendy sent a Whatsapp message to Omar Berrada, who was City's Chief Football Operations Officer from September 2020 to July 2024, to ask when he would receive his outstanding salaries but received no reply.

Mendy's agent Meissa N'Diaye, who also spoke at the hearing, said on 20 September 2021 he spoke to Berrada and was told "once the trial was over Benjamin would be paid back all the salary that had been suspended". Berrada, who is now Manchester United's chief executive, denied giving assurances when asked about this at the hearing.

The hearing also addressed how on 15 separate occasions Mendy either held or attended parties in breach of Covid-19 or bail conditions, or both. Under questioning from City's counsel Sean Jones, Mendy admitted his behaviour in continuing to hold parties represented "a risk".

When Jones said to Mendy: "The truth is you couldn't care less it exposed you to risk," the full-back replied via videolink: "At the time, yes."

Nigeria soccer team boycotts Africa Cup qualifier after being stranded at Libya airport

ABUJA, Nigeria

NIGERIA'S soccer players returned to their country dancing and singing on Monday after boycotting their Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Libya where they were stranded overnight at Al Abraq Airport in what the team captain described as "mind games."

Though authorities in Libya denied it was sabotage, the Confederation of African Football which organizes the competition said it will investigate the "disturbing and unacceptable experiences" of Nigeria.

The Super Eagles were scheduled to play the Group D game on Tuesday. Nigeria won 1-0 when the teams played on Friday, when similar accusations of sabotage from the Libya team came after they were delayed at a Nigerian airport.

Nigeria captain William Troost-Ekong said the plane was due to land at Benghazi Airport but was diverted at the last minute to Al Abraq some 220 kilometers (130 miles) away.

"The Libyan government rescinded our approved landing in Benghazi with no reason," Troost-Ekong said on X.

"They've locked the airport gates and left us without phone connection, food or drink. All to play mind games. As the captain, together with the team, we have decided that we will not play this game."

The Libyan Football Federation said it regretted the flight diversion, adding: "It is essential to note that such incidents can occur due to routine air traffic control protocols, security checks or logistical challenges that affect international air travel," it said on X.

CAF said it referred the incident to its disciplinary board which will take "appropriate action against those who violated" its rules.



Nigeria players were stranded in a Libyan airport for 12 hours (@WTroostEkong / X)

Pictures posted online by the players showed some of them lying on airport seats, their luggage beside them and with no other passengers in sight. By Monday morning, some of them were asleep.

Nigerian Football Federation spokesman Ademola Olajire said the team spent 19 hours at the Libyan airport and they were prevented from leaving the facility to board the buses that Nigerian officials eventually hired.

"At past midnight, it was learnt that there had been word from 'higher authorities' that the Nigeria delegation should be delayed for a minimum of 10 hours at the airport for what they falsely claimed was done

to their team in Nigeria," Olajire said without elaborating.

The Nigerian players and officials eventually resorted to games and music to play down their anger and frustration, he said.

Among the players in Nigeria's squad were Ademola Lookman, who scored a hat trick for Atalanta in the Europa League final last season and is on the Ballon d'Or shortlist, and Victor Boniface, a striker for German champion Bayer Leverkusen.

English Premier League players Ola Aina, Calvin Bassey, Alex Iwobi, Taiwo Awoniyi and Wilfred Ndidi were also in the team that beat Libya 1-0 on Friday.

The Libya team accused Nigeria of

maltreatment ahead of the first leg, an allegation the Nigerian federation denied.

Libya captain Faisal Al-Badri said they were delayed "from one city to another" for three hours after their bags were searched, and before they were transported on a road trip to the city where the match was played. He had called for "reciprocity."

Nigeria sports minister John Owan Enoh said he instructed the soccer federation to send a formal complaint to CAF.

"This must be on record and thoroughly addressed," he said in a statement.

AP

Soccer player unions and leagues in Europe go to Brussels with latest legal challenge against

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR

IN a busy soccer season when players have talked of going on strike, their union teamed up with domestic leagues to go to the European Union on Monday with a long-promised challenge to FIFA about how it adds new and bigger men's competitions.

The European division of player union FIFPRO and the 33-nation European Leagues group filed a formal complaint on competition grounds, alleging FIFA fails to consult properly on decisions that are to its commercial benefit.

It is the latest dispute playing out in the legal arena, where FIFA has been pressured in the past year by rulings related to the European Super League, player agent regulations and - just this month - the global transfer market.

On the field, FIFA will launch a 32-team Club World Cup - including 12 from Europe - in the United States next June and July, and the 2026 World Cup, also in North America, will have 48 teams instead of 32 and last for one extra week.

FIFPRO said "the oversaturated international football calendar risks player safety and wellbeing," and at a briefing played a video montage of Kylian Mbappé and star players talking about their increasing workload.

"You have so many competitions and we are happy to play but when it's too much, it's too much," Mbappé said at an awards ceremony in May.

The France superstar is set to go to the Club World Cup with Real Madrid.

The complaint delivered Monday to the European Commission targets FIFA, which manages the calendar of protected dates for national-team games. Clubs must release players who are selected.

"The complainants are not seeking financial compensation from FIFA, but instead a fair and inclusive decision-making procedure," their lawyer Mark English said, adding the EC was asked to make a "cease and desist" decision on FIFA breaking European competition law.

It does not cite European soccer body UEFA, which this season has committed hundreds of players to extra competitive games by expanding three of its men's international compe-



Javier Tebas (fourth right) during a press conference after European Leagues, Fifpro and La Liga filed a formal complaint against Fifa on competition law grounds. Photo EPA

titions: the Champions League and Europa League for clubs, and the Nations League, which has a new playoffs system.

"We have some representation (at UEFA) and we use that," English Premier League lawyer Mathieu Moreuil said, when asked why the European body was left off the complaint. "With FIFA we have literally nothing."

Officials from leagues, clubs and unions once had a formal seat at the table with FIFA on its Football Stakeholder Committee. It was shut down in 2021 by president Gianni Infantino.

This season, Europe's domestic leagues have had their fixture scheduling options squeezed by four extra

midweeks from September through January now occupied by UEFA club competitions.

However, FIFA's new club event was compared by Belgian league CEO Lorin Parys as a threat, like the Super League plan by elite clubs defeated in 2021 by a fan-led backlash.

"Here comes FIFA through our back door whistling and yelling: 'Surprise,' saying: 'We have got a present for you guys,' and it's really the Super League under a different name," Parys said.

The leagues' grievance with FIFA is also in not being fully consulted during talks to agree the latest calendar renewal through 2030 for national-team games, which mostly force them to

shut down lucrative weekend fixture slots. FIFA has said its offers this year of talks were not taken up.

The complaint in Brussels, to the executive arm of the 27-nation EU bloc, also was joined by Spain's La Liga and claims FIFA abuses its dominant position in soccer.

FIFA's role, the complaint states, as governing body and regulator conflicts with its commercial objectives as a competition organizer.

FIFA previously suggested there was hypocrisy in European soccer, which sees clubs play lucrative off-season games worldwide, while it had a global duty to protect and develop the game.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Nigeria soccer team boycotts Africa Cup qualifier after being stranded at Libya airport

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dodoma Jiji eye consistency as they now face Coastal Union after injury setbacks

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA Jiji FC have expressed confidence in their form as they prepare to face Coastal Union at the KMC Stadium this Friday in the NBC Premier League.

The team, under head coach Mecky Mexime and assistant Nizar Khalfan, has been buoyed by a strong showing during the international break, which has helped several key players elevate their performances.

Mexime has implemented a possession-based style of play this season, resulting in Dodoma Jiji suffering only one loss in their last five matches.

The coaching staff is pleased with the progress made so far and aims to continue building on their momentum after a 2-0 victory against Tabora United before the break.

"We allowed our players a brief four-day break after the win over Tabora United," Mexime said. "This gave us the chance to regroup and come back stronger. The break has helped us maintain our rhythm, which is crucial as we push forward in the league."

Despite a relatively mixed start to the season with two wins, three draws, and two losses from their first seven league matches, Mexime believes his squad has the potential to improve.

Dodoma Jiji's coaching team is particularly focused on improving the club's defensive structure, as they have conceded four goals while scoring five, leading to a slight negative goal difference.

"Our players have the talent to create scoring opportunities, and we are confident that with the right approach, we can turn things around," Mexime said.

However, injuries have been a concern for the team, impacting their overall league performance. Assistant coach Khalfan expressed concerns over the injury situation, which has seen several key players sidelined. Among those affected is striker Ibrahim Ajibu, who was injured in the match against Simba SC, as well as Hassan Mwaterema and Augustino Nkasa, who are also recovering from injuries sustained in the league.

However, Khalfan remains optimistic despite the challenges. "We've had a tough time with injuries, but the players are working hard to recover. Ajibu, Mwaterema, and Nkasa are critical to our squad, and we're hoping to have them back soon," he explained.

Dodoma Jiji face a demanding schedule ahead, with three away matches and two home fixtures in their next five games. Their upcoming opponents include Coastal Union, JKT Tanzania, KenGold FC, Kagera Sugar, and KMC.

Khalfan acknowledged that Coastal Union will pose a formidable challenge, especially following their spirited 2-2 comeback against Simba SC.

"Coastal Union is a strong team, and their recent performance against Simba shows their resilience," Khalfan noted. "But our aim is to build on our recent success and maintain our winning mentality. We know we need to analyze our opponents thoroughly, capitalize on their weaknesses, and continue our upward trajectory in the league."

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (I)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zile Kuntu
16:55 Dandao Za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zile Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shaping process.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Moshi Khalsa closes in on winning 2024 Nyerere hockey tourney title



Hockey players are pictured battling it out in the previous edition of the Nyerere hockey tournament which took place in Moshi last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

KILIMANJARO Moshi Khalsa has inched closer to winning the 2024 Nyerere hockey tournament title, following victory over a battling Tanga Stars in the semi-finals in Moshi last weekend.

The clash's winners were slated to lock horns with Black Mambaz in the final following the latter's victory over the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) outfit in the second semi-final.

The first tie of the men's category semi-finals, which saw Moshi Khalsa confront Tanga Stars, witnessed the Kilimanjaro side making full use of its experience to dispatch the youthful Tanga Stars.

Both squads started the

encounter at a fast pace, with Moshi Khalsa having the upper hand due to the home-ground advantage and a sizeable batch of home supporters.

Tanga Stars - consisting of youthful players - opened the scoreboard in the fourth quarter to secure a 1-0 lead until the closing stages of the game that saw Moshi Khalsa secure an equalizer.

The home side drew level through a penalty stroke given in a manner which left many puzzled to witness the score line reading 1-1.

Both teams had equal scoring chances, and they were still locked to the 1-1 draw until the final whistle. Therefore, it was settled via penalties.

In the penalties, Moshi Khalsa confidently took their chances to win 4-2 against the resolute Tanga Stars.

The promising Tanga Stars, incidentally, were seen to be favourites to win the semi-final game against Moshi Khalsa.

Luck, however, was not on the Tanga squad's side, although it showcased an entertaining, spirited showing.

Tanga Stars displayed one of their best performances ever in the history of the outfit's participation in domestic hockey, deservedly bowing out with their heads held high.

In the other semi-final played on the same day, the TPDF side managed to notch a 1-1 draw with Black Mambaz and the tie was also decided by penalties.

The penalties saw Black Mambaz, an emerging side in domestic hockey, secure a 4-3 victory over the regular campaigners, TPDF, to book a place in the final.

Black Mambaz was expected to meet Moshi Khalsa in what was expected to be a pulsating final at 11.00 am on Monday.

In this season's edition's opening day clashes, played on Friday, tournament favourite Moshi Khalsa was held to a 0-0 draw by TPDF, and Arusha Twigas edged Ngome 1-0.

In the following day, Moshi Khalsa bounced back thrillingly, having trounced Arusha Twigas 3-0.

The army-owned TPDF side then garnered their first win, defeating fellow army side, Ngome, 1-0.

Black Mambaz salvaged a 2-2 with a spirited Tanga Stars, Twende recorded a similar outcome when they faced Kili Vijana.

In the day's other encounters, TPDF defeated Arusha Twigas 1-0, and Moshi Khalsa walloped Ngome 2-0. Black Mambaz regrouped to secure a comprehensive 4-1 victory over Twende and Tanga Stars battled to 0-0 draw with Kili Vijana.

In the Ladies' tournament, TPDF Ladies opened their campaign on the wrong foot, as they succumbed to a 4-2 loss to long-time rivals Twende.

New contenders, Temeke, opened their search for the top honour gallantly having clobbered Ilala 2-0.

The annual tournament - hosted by Moshi's Sikh Union Club under the umbrella of the Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) - gears towards improving the game's promotion domestically.

The Sikh Community of Moshi is the Nyerere hockey showdown sponsor.

Simba coach Davids targets attacking precision ahead of Yanga derby

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

DESPITE Simba Sports Club's impressive goal-scoring record this season, head coach Fadlu Davids remains concerned about his team's offensive efficiency as they prepare for their highly anticipated Dar es Salaam derby against rivals Young Africans SC (Yanga) this Saturday at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

In the five league matches played so far, Simba have scored 12 goals and conceded only two, with strikers Lionel Ateba and Valentino Mashaka, along with midfielder Jean Charles Ahoua, each netting two goals this season.

While these numbers reflect a strong attacking output, Davids (picture) is not entirely satisfied with how his forwards are converting the numerous chances created in matches. He warned that inefficiency in front of goal could pose problems in high-stakes fixtures, particularly in the looming derby against Young Africans.

"We are creating a lot of chances in our matches, but our efficiency in converting them is not where it should be," Davids admitted during a press briefing.

Reflecting on Simba's recent draw over Coastal Union, Davids pointed out the missed opportunities that could have settled the game much earlier.

"We created more than four clear chances in the first half, but we didn't capitalize, which allowed our opponents to stay in the game," he said. Coastal Union fought back in the second half, forcing Simba into a more challenging contest.

"We made some costly mistakes that could have been avoided," Davids added, highlighting the need to be more clinical in future



Looking ahead to the derby, Davids emphasized the importance of making the most of rare scoring opportunities in such tense encounters.

"In derby matches, chances are few and far between. We need to sharpen our focus and take advantage of any opportunities that come our way," he explained.

The upcoming fixture is critical for Simba's Premier League ambitions. The coach acknowledged the strength of his rivals, Young Africans, and stressed the need for a strategic approach.

"We know Yanga's quality. We're prepar-

ing carefully to control the game, improve our attack speed, and be vigilant in defense," Davids noted.

With only a few days left until the derby, Simba have been intensifying their training sessions, focusing on tactical adjustments and improving their finishing in front of goal.

Davids and his technical staff are working to ensure that the players are mentally and physically prepared for what is expected to be a fiercely contested clash.

Over the last five seasons, the Dar es Salaam derby has produced a range of results, with both Simba and Young Africans enjoying periods of success. The following is a summary of the teams' meetings in the league:

• **2023/24:** Simba 1-5 Young Africans (November 5); Young Africans 2-1 Simba (April 20)

• **2022/23:** Young Africans 1-1 Simba (October 23); Simba 2-0 Young Africans (April 16)

• **2021/22:** Simba 0-0 Young Africans (December 11); Young Africans 0-0 Simba (April 30)

• **2020/21:** Young Africans 1-1 Simba (November 7); Simba 0-1 Young Africans (July 13)

• **2019/20:** Simba 2-2 Young Africans (January 4); Young Africans 1-0 Simba (March 8)

Simba will be eager to avenge last season's defeats to Young Africans and reassert their dominance in the Tanzanian football scene. While Simba's defense has been solid, Davids knows that offensive precision will be key to victory in this highly anticipated encounter.

For Simba fans, the hope is that their team can rise to the occasion, deliver a victory, and reassure their coach about the attacking efficiency he's been seeking.

The derby promises to be a thrilling contest, with both sides eager to claim supremacy in one of the most prestigious fixtures on the Tanzanian football calendar.

Simba Queens early pace setters in the Women's Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE second round of the new Women's Premier League season took place over the weekend, and there was plenty of drama once again.

JKT Queens were held to a draw by Bunda Queens, while champions Simba Queens maintained their winning starts to the new campaign.

Simba Queens kept their 100% start with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Fountain Gate Princess at the KMC Mwenge

Complex on Monday afternoon.

Elizabeth Wambui, Precious Christopher and Jentrix Shikangwa were on the score sheet for Simba Queens while Anna scored the consolation goal for Fountain Gate Princess. The three-time champions, who are under new head coach Yussif Basigi, have now opened up a two-point lead at the top of the log as they look to defend their crown once again.

They remain the only side with a perfect record while rock bottom Fountain Gate are the only team to have lost all two

of their matches so far this season.

In Mara, a youthful Bunda Queens side managed to force JKT Queens to a 1-1 draw at Karume Stadium. Melikia William scored a late equalizer to save a point for the hosts after Winfrida Gerald gave JKT Queens the lead in the first-half. The match finished 1-1 after what was an exciting encounter.

Yanga Princess, under head coach Edna Lema, were yet again forced to share spoils following a goalless draw with hosts Alliance Girls at Nyamagana

Stadium in Mwanza on Sunday.

Mashujaa Queens picked up an impressive home victory against CEASIAA Queens at Maj. Gen Isamuhyo Stadium.

Fumukazi Ally scored after just six minutes to give her team the lead before Zabela John Mbale and Anna Hebron Mwaisyula capped off a fine 3-0 win.

The ten-team Women's Premier League campaign will pause for three weeks to allow the FIFA Women's soccer calendar break and resume with a full round of fixtures on November 5th.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

