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Commission sees loopholes in sabotage, 'case dismissed' laws

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Law Reform Commission has identified several loopholes in eight laws, including those governing economic sabotage and organised crime.

Justice Winfrida Korosso of the Court of Appeal, who is also chairperson of the commission, made this observation in presenting a report on the review of the laws on Thursday, at a parliamentary committee session.

She said that the commission further noted the absence of a dedicated body to manage and coordinate protection issues for informants and witnesses, while there are inconsistencies between the protection regulations for informants and witnesses and the relevant protective laws.

This situation poses a major challenge, she stated, pointing at deficiencies in laws governing bail and compliance with legislation on property rights and joint rights.

The commission identified shortcomings in the application of the Criminal Procedure Act regarding the dismissal of court cases, as well as in laws governing penalties for offences, she stated.

Other contentious issues noticed include maritime transport regulations as well as those applying to land transport and especially road transport, she further noted.

Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, the Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister, after receiving the report, acknowledged that the commission's work is extensive and requires in-depth research to achieve meaningful improvements that align the laws with contemporary needs.

He expressed confidence that the recommendations in the report would meet public expectations plus stakeholders in the criminal justice system, affirming that the government is already preparing a bill for rectifying various provisions.

The minister however urged the commission to conduct self-assessments of its operations in order to function as a research institution, in the manner of similar bodies.

He appealed to public agencies and ministerial departments considering legal amendments to submit them to the commission for thorough research and recommendations that would enhance law provisions and ensure their longevity.

The report on the laws will be presented in the National Assembly for further action, he added.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar bin Zubeiry bin Ally (L) registers at Kwamndolwa in Korogwe District, Tanga Region, yesterday in readiness for participation in the countrywide local government elections scheduled for November 27. Photo: Courtesy of Muhidini Michuzi

'Regional airlines need innovative technology'

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Association of Travel Agents (TASOTA) has underscored the need to embrace innovative technologies to shield the sector from disruptions like the Covid-19 pandemic.

Agnes Rwegasira, the TASOTA chairperson, made this appeal at a travel convention and annual general meeting (AGM)

in Dar es Salaam yesterday, an event that brought together key stakeholders from the travel, tourism and hospitality industries.

The meeting was intended for crucial deliberations, networking and collaboration with the expectation of shaping the future of the local travel industry.

"We are gathered here with various stakeholders from the

airlines and the tourism sector in general. Our goal is to collaborate with the government and private agencies to promote domestic and international tourism in line with the country's policies," she stated.

The meeting featured panel discussions on how East African countries can work together to enhance tourism, address policy and infrastructure challenges and foster the

industry's sustainable development.

The new distribution capability protocol adopted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) came up for discussion, which stakeholders say is revolutionizing airline services by enabling personalised offers and im-

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Activists urge more action on lead paint poisoning exposure

By Getrude Mbago

STAKEHOLDERS have called for coordinated efforts by the government and importers and manufacturers to permanently eliminate lead poisoning in paint in order to rescue the public from serious health impacts.

Dora Swai, senior programme officer with the Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA) activist organisation, said at a multi-stakeholder workshop

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Muhimbili forms unit for stroke cases

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

A SPECIALISED unit for stroke management is being set up at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) following a rapid increase in stroke cases being reported at the top referral hospital.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, the MNH executive director, told journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday that since 2022 the brain and nervous system unit has taken up 10,271 outpatient cases, up to half of them having suffered strokes.

Upwards of 60 percent of patients admitted daily to the non-communicable diseases (NCD) ward are stroke patients, he said in illustration, noting that strokes pose an increasing threat in the country.

One-third of patients admitted daily with brain and nervous system complications suffer from paralysis, while over 334 epilepsy patients, ranging from children to adults, were treated during the period, he explained.

The medical facility leadership

initiated setting up the specialised unit specifically for stroke patients due to the rising number of cases, as half to two thirds of patients with brain and nervous system ailments are hit by strokes, he stated. The brain and nervous system unit initially treated about 50 patients in its clinic but after relocating, it now serves 150 patients, he said, underlining the severity of the disease complication over the past two years.

An average of 2,953 patients are admitted with stroke at any par-

ticular time, he said, listing stroke with NCDs, where globally nearly six million patients die from strokes every year.

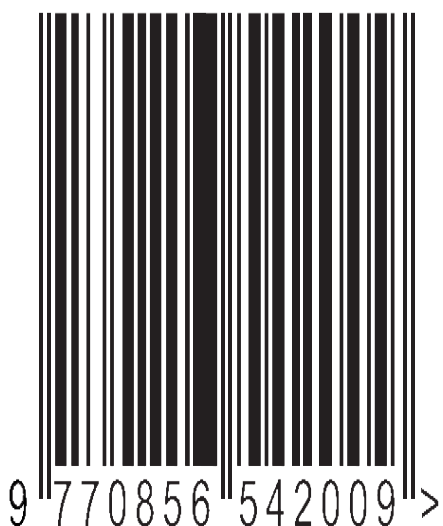
Stroke patients should not be put to massages and instead undergo physiotherapy as massages can worsen muscle stiffness, the top medic cautioned, hinting that after a massage the patient may feel weak and lethargic, which is detrimental to stroke recovery.

The unit has also cared for 338 inpatients and 4,850 outpatients being treated for epi-

lepsy from October 2022 to September 2024, he said, where the unit offers advanced treatments.

These include surgeries for epilepsy patients, an improvement over relying solely on administering drugs, he stated, urging the public to adopt healthy lifestyles by walking up to six kilometres or 10,000 steps a day. "There's no need to go to the gym for this," he said.

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi gifts visiting Iranian Agriculture minister Dr Gholamreza Nouri (L) a Zanzibar carved door shortly after talks in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House.

Activists urge more action on lead paint poisoning exposure

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on lead paint elimination in Dar es Salaam yesterday, underscoring the urgency of the issue.

She underscored the need for the country to establish specific policies, laws and regulations to control and eradicate lead poisoning, as it increasingly poses major health risks to communities, especially children.

Lead is a toxic metal residue used for many purposes and noticeably present in a variety of consumer products such as paint, ceramic glazes, solder, ammunition as well as some traditional medicines and cosmetics, she stated.

The workshop was conducted in view of the international lead poisoning prevention week which takes place annually, taking up the third week of October, a week of action intended to raise awareness about the health effects of lead exposure, she stated.

Allowing lead-based paints to still enter the country or being

locally produced poses significant risks to children as they are the primary victims of lead poisoning, she said, pointing out that paint containing lead additives posing risks to health from poisoning and environmental contamination.

"Lead can have permanent health effects on children and also causes harm to adults, she asserted, urging the government to implement robust strategies to ensure the nation remains safe from lead poisoning.

"We all need to raise awareness about the health effects of lead exposure, highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure particularly in children, and urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory measures at the national level," she elaborated.

Yohana Ngoshashy, head of poison control nationwide at the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), noted that in previous years the gov-

ernment took steps to remove lead-based fuels from the market. As challenges remain with other products, this calls for concerted efforts to eliminate this poison, including increased supervision and monitoring of small-scale battery processing factories, mines, weapons, cosmetics, toys and paints, he declared.

More public education is also needed to raise awareness about the impacts, he said, affirming that no level of lead exposure is considered safe for adults or children.

Lead can be found in decorative paints used on the interiors and exteriors of homes, schools, public and commercial buildings, aside from toys, furniture and playgrounds, he elaborated.

Dr Grace Mhando, a pediatrician from Amana regional referral hospital in the city, noted that childhood lead poisoning, including exposure during pregnancy, can have lifelong health impacts such as learning

disabilities, anemia and disorders affecting coordination, visual-spatial and language skills.

This raises the need for more clinician training on heavy metal management to combat lead exposure, she stated, while Silvani Mng'anya, the AGENDA executive secretary, stated that concerted national and international action is urgently needed to address the challenge.

Studies have documented that lead exposure results in neuropsychological impacts in children, including impaired intelligence, he stressed, noting that even minimal exposure can lead to lifelong developmental and health issues. This makes eradication of lead exposure a paramount public health concern, he declared.

Last year estimates by the World Bank put the global cost of the loss of intellectual capacity in children under five years old at \$1.4trn, with the highest impact in low- and middle-income countries.

Miraji Kambangwa, a stand-

ards officer at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), said that one among actions taken by the government in that direction is endorsing legal standards that set a limit for lead in paint and other coatings.

Manufacturers are required to comply with the limit of no more than 90 parts per million (ppm) (90 mg/kg total lead), he said, affirming that this limit has also been harmonized within the East Africa Community partner states.

In so doing, Tanzania joins nearly a half of United Nations member states with legally binding controls on the production, import, sale and use of lead paints, he remarked.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified lead as one among ten widely used chemicals posing major public health concern, requiring action by member states to protect the health of workers, children and women of reproductive age.

'Regional airlines need innovative technology'

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proving financial systems.

Discussions centred on how to capitalise on Tanzania's leisure tourism potential with luxury offerings, innovative experiences and international partnerships, without offsetting sustainable tourism practices.

"Conversations highlighted the need to expand domestic air connectivity, address challenges in remote areas, making air travel more accessible and sustainable across the country," she explained.

David Kihenzile, the Transport deputy minister, remarked that the growth of the travel and tourism sector has to be

aligned with sustainability, stressing that environmental considerations should be integral to business strategies, not an afterthought.

"As key stakeholders in the industry, you have the power to lead by example by adopting sustainable practices, such as initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and investing in eco-friendly infrastructure and responsible tourism," he stated.

The TASOTA leadership, government representatives, industry experts from IATA and regional travel executives offered valuable insights into the future of local air travel and in the Southern Africa region.

Muhimbili forming unit for stroke cases

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People also need to manage stress as it significantly affects the nervous system, he stated, suggesting health check-ups once or twice a year, he said, similarly observing that the unit treats patients with mobility issues, nervous system infections and autoimmune diseases.

Since its establishment, the unit has seen a reduction in complications faced by stroke patients, who now spend less time in the hospital and are more rapidly treated for infections, along with undergoing specialized rehabilitation exercises, he said.

Dr Mohamed Mnacho, a neurologist, noted that the causes of strokes vary

as in children, strokes primarily arise from genetic conditions such as sickle cell disease and congenital heart defects.

For adults, high blood pressure and diabetes particularly for those over 40 years of age are the main causes, he said, cautioning that excessive alcohol use increases the risk of forms of epilepsy and stroke, as alcohol toxins can harm the brain.

"Alcohol can disrupt the brain's balance, leading to cell death, tremors, confusion and memory loss which may trigger epilepsy. If you must drink, limit yourself to one bottle," he emphasized.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the hospital noted an increase in patients with nervous system complications caused by viral infections, he added.

NAIROBI

Kenya deputy president sacked while in hospital

KENYAN senators voted to remove Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua from office on Thursday night despite his failure to testify at his impeachment trial after his lawyer said he had been taken to hospital.

In one of the most dramatic days in Kenya's recent political history, Gachagua had been due to appear in the Senate to defend himself on Thursday, a day after he had pleaded not guilty to 11 charges.

However, Gachagua, popularly known as Riggy G, did not show up and his lawyer requested a postponement saying his client was suffering from chest pains and was being treated by doctors at The Karen Hospital.

Senators chose to continue the trial without him, prompting the defence team to leave the chamber.

The senators' refusal to delay proceedings until Saturday - as long as would have been legally allowed - shows their determination to oust Gachagua, several months after

he fell out with President William Ruto.

Last week, an overwhelming majority of MPs in the National Assembly - the lower house of parliament - voted to impeach him, setting the stage for his two-day trial in the Senate.

Gachagua, a wealthy businessman from the vote-rich central Mount Kenya region who was present in the house on Thursday morning before falling ill, had described the impeachment as a "political lynching."

President Ruto has moved quickly to name a replacement and yesterday morning, nominated Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof Kithure Kindiki to become his deputy. This was unanimously approved by parliament.

The 52-year-old is a close ally of the president and served as his lawyer during his trial for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (ICC) that was even-

tually dismissed because of a lack of evidence.

However, in another dramatic development on Friday, the Nairobi High Court has suspended the impeachment, and Kindiki's swearing-in.

On Thursday evening, the required two-thirds of the 67 senators upheld five charges including inciting ethnic divisions and violating his oath of office.

The unprecedented move means he cannot hold public office again and he also loses any retirement benefits.

He was cleared of six charges including corruption and money-laundering.

This comes just two years after Ruto and Gachagua were elected on a joint ticket.

The vote draws a line under months of infighting at the top level of government and consolidates Ruto's hold on power.

The row came to a head in June when Gachagua, in an act seen as under-

mining the president, blamed the head of the intelligence agency for not properly briefing Ruto and the government over the magnitude of mass protests against unpopular tax hikes.

In a huge blow to his authority, Ruto had just been forced to withdraw the taxes. He sacked his cabinet and brought in members of the opposition to his government.

At the start of the trial, one of Gachagua's lawyers, Elisha Ongoya, said all of the allegations were "either false, ridiculous or embarrassing."

Before the vote, Gachagua had said he would challenge the decision if it passed.

A doctor is quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying the 59-year-old had gone to hospital with heart trouble, but was stable and undergoing tests.

Ruto has not commented on the impeachment



The benefit of the zebra crossing notwithstanding, these pupils literally saw sense in invoking the spirit of solidarity before crossing the road at Malamba Mawili in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

of his deputy or his removal from office besides informing parliament on Friday of his nomination of Kindiki.

Ruto and Gachagua were elected on a joint ticket two years ago - and the partnership helped Ruto win by marshalling support in Mount Kenya, the heartland of the Kikuyu people who are

the largest voting bloc in Kenya.

Ruto himself became deputy president on a joint ticket with Uhuru Kenyatta, also a Kikuyu - but fell out with his boss who refused to back him to become president in 2022.

The pair had joined forces when they both faced trial at the ICC for

their part in electoral violence following the 2007 election in which 1,200 people were killed.

The prosecution dropped charges against then-President Kenyatta in 2014 and judges threw out the case against Ruto in 2016, one noting a "troubling incidence of witness interference and intolerable political med-

dling."

Kindiki, who also from the Mount Kenya region, had been a top contender to replace Gachagua. His nomination requires parliamentary approval before he is sworn in, but it is unlikely to face difficulties as Ruto has the majority in parliament as well as the backing of the main opposition party.

Dr Mwinyi wants ties between Tanzania, Iran to prioritise agriculture cooperation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has named the agriculture sector as a key area to strengthen diplomatic cooperation between Tanzania and Iran.

Dr Mwinyi encouraged the partnership in the sector, praising Iran for its advancements in agricultural technology.

He made the remarks at State House Zanzibar yesterday while speaking with Iranian Minister for Agriculture Dr Gholamreza Nouri who arrived with a delegation of 15 experts from various development sectors in Iran.

Dr Mwinyi said that agriculture is a significant part of the economy in Tanzania Mainland, given its vast geographical resources.

He urged Iran to enhance cooperation by sharing experiences, methods and technologies in the field.

Regarding Zanzibar, Dr Mwinyi noted that the isles primarily focus on spice cultivation, as a large portion of its economy relies on tourism which contributes significantly to the overall economy.

He also informed his guest about ef-

orts to revitalise and strengthen historical sites to boost heritage tourism and improve existing cooperation between Tanzania and Iran.

President Mwinyi spoke on the maritime transport subsector and requested Iran to increase collaboration in the area to enhance trade and economic ties through the ports of both nations.

On cooperation with the private sector between Tanzania and Iran, President Mwinyi assured the minister that Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce would strengthen ties with Iran to foster sustainable economic development between the two sides.

In response, Dr Gholamreza praised the strong diplomatic relations between Iran and Tanzania and added that to further improve cooperation, he welcomed Tanzania to establish an embassy in Iran.

The minister also stated that they would sign agreements with Tanzania in various development sectors, including agriculture, tourism, education, trade and engineering while promising to provide support and exchange experiences and technologies in the said areas.



Rifaly executive Loth Makuza (4th-R) presents a Smart Foundry certificate of sales to The Guardian Ltd deputy general manager Jackson Paul shortly after a business meeting at the newspaper publishing company's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on are senior officials from both firms. Rifaly, previously known as M-Paper App, offers a range of digital publishing services. Photo: John Badi

Govt lists gains in livestock research, policy in 50 years

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has recognised the significant impact of its partnership with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in advancing livestock subsectors over the past 50 years.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister Abdallah Ulega made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during ILRI 50th alumni and partners' dinner reception.

Ulega highlighted ILRI's crucial

role in enhancing institutional and policy support, particularly through development of the Tanzania Livestock Master Plan of 2022.

He noted that the plan has influenced budget allocations for livestock within the agriculture sector and facilitated the establishment of a private sector desk at the ministry. With technical support from ILRI and funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a \$624 million investment plan has been

integrated into the national development strategy to boost livestock production and strengthen value chains.

"This has been not only ILRI's achievement but also the ministry is as it serves as our compass for livestock development and a benchmark for our progress," he said. Ulega also discussed ILRI's Africa Asia Dairy Genetic Gains Programme (AADGG) launched in 2016. The programme utilises ICT platforms, genomic evalua-

tions and farmer engagement to monitor dairy cattle productivity and improve livelihoods. In collaboration with the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), AADGG has registered over 69,000 animals from 33,000 herds across Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya and Songwe regions. Additionally, Ulega underscored ILRI's EnviroCow project, which collects data on methane emissions from smallholder dairy farmers. The initiative aims

to help farmers address climate change challenges while enhancing productivity. "The ministry has received two laser methane detectors valued at \$24,000 to support advanced research in this area," he said.

Fabian Kausche, ILRI Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation, emphasized ILRI's commitment to working in four interconnected areas: livestock development, health, climate and the environment.

"Our new corporate strategy is ambitious: to improve the livelihoods of 300 million people by focusing on sustainable, science-based livestock solutions," he said.

Kausche also highlighted the importance of strategic focus within countries, prioritizing specific value chains identified by governments and collaborating with the private sector, development partners and other non-state actors to ensure a holistic and sustainable approach.



CCM's Organisation Department Secretary, Issa Ussi Gavu, makes remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the opening of a national prayer conference organised by a church based in the city. Photo: Correspondent Fahadi Siraji

FAO focuses on small-scale fishing for poverty alleviation, food security

By Guardian Reporter

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has reaffirmed its commitment to promote fishery sector in Tanzania with particular focus on small-scale fishing as a means to alleviate poverty and ensure food insecurity.

Dr Oliva Mkuambo, coordinator of the International Small-Scale Fisheries Project at FAO Tanzania, made the remarks in Bukoba Municipality, Kagera Region on Wednesday during a training session aimed at enhancing saving and borrowing practices for women's groups involved in small-scale fishing.

"The training aims to ensure sustainability of the fishing sector, benefiting people's lives and increasing public access to nutritious food," she said.

She said that FAO was working closely with the government, particularly through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, to empower women in the sector.

Small-scale fishing accounts for over 90 percent of the global fishing industry, involving small boats and female processors.

"Many small-scale fishers face poverty despite significant sums passing through their hands. We are exploring ways to improve their livelihoods by providing adequate capital for their businesses to enhance their quality of life and increase incomes for themselves, their communities and the nation as

a whole," she said.

A key priority of the project is to unite women by establishing the Tanzania Women in Fisheries Activities Forum (TAWFA), which facilitates discussions on development plans, including those related to fishing.

FAO has collaborated with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to implement guidelines for sustainable fishing, ensuring community benefits.

However, access to loans and adequate funding for project initiation remains a significant challenge, particularly for women in small-scale fishing.

Dr Lilian Ibengwe, Chief Fisheries Officer in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, said the project, initiated in 2017, currently operates in five areas: Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, the Indian Ocean, Lake Nyasa and the smaller waters of Kyerwa and Karagwe in Kagera Region.

During consultations, Dr Ibengwe identified the lack of affordable loans and capital as a major challenge. This led to the decision to provide training on saving and borrowing for women engaged in small-scale fishing, enabling them to access affordable loans using their own funds.

Participants in the saving and borrowing training emphasized its importance, noting that it came at a crucial time when many women are engaged in various businesses to enhance their families' incomes.

ATE study uncovers inadequate awareness on ESG sustainability

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A STUDY exploring Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) landscape in Tanzania has uncovered eight key challenges with a significant barrier being low awareness about sustainability.

The study titled "Tanzania's ESG State of Play" conducted by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) highlights the need for a cultural shift in how businesses perceive ESG alongside addressing fragmented

awareness and sector-specific disparities.

ATE Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Ndomba-Doran said in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launching ceremony that the study aimed to help businesses navigate evolving expectations and standards in ESG practices.

She said the study was conducted across 10 key revenue-generating sectors, including agriculture, extractives, financial, tourism and manufacturing

She named other challenges as non-uniform understanding of ESG across Tanzanian firms, resulting in varying levels of awareness and comprehension and differences between local and multinational firms.

Other multinational companies demonstrate greater implementation of ESG practices while local firms lag behind, larger companies tend to embrace ESG more compared to smaller ones and sector-specific impacts.

She said the identified areas of

economic production are more impacted by ESG concerns and exhibit greater awareness and implementation of ESG practices.

Ndomba-Doran emphasized the need for a cultural shift towards sustainability whereby ESG is viewed not merely as a compliance issue but as a fundamental aspect of business.

She pointed out that a two-pronged approach is required to solidify ESG practices in Tanzania to strengthen regulatory frameworks and ensure fit-for-purpose ESG com-

pliance and mindset shift.

The event was attended by representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), manufacturers, civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Ndomba-Doran stressed that ESG principles have become increasingly important as they influence company practices related to environmental sustainability, social responsibility

and corporate governance.

Jamal Baruti, acting Environmental Manager (Compliance and Enforcement) at NEMC, said the study provides the status of the environment and how to conserve the environment and make sure businesses are sustainable.

"We drive towards a voluntary culture and mindset shift which looks to embed ESG sustainability in education curricula, awareness raising and using good practices to demonstrate ESG as a driver for businesses.

Minister wants action to curb invasive weeds choking NCA

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Pindi Chana has directed Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) to address challenges posed by invasive weeds that threaten natural vegetation within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).

The minister wants TAFORI to collaborate with other authorities to assess the situation within NCA and propose effective solutions to control the invasive plants.

Dr Chana made the directive during a meeting with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) management at its offices in Arusha. The meeting is part of a series of workshops organised by the ministry to address challenges faced by employees in the sector and find viable solutions.

During the meeting, Dr Chana also wanted the NCAA to develop strategies to further enhance collections to align with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives to enhance tourism income and con-

tribute more significantly to the national gross domestic product.

"I commend you for the good work you are doing but the President expects us to increase revenue and develop new tourism products," she said.

She emphasized the need for the NCAA to operate professionally and make a meaningful contribution to the national economy.

"It is essential that we leverage the unique biodiversity and cultural heritage of NCA to attract more visitors and generate additional income," she said.

Nkoba Mabula, Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for tourism in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism urged the NCAA to embrace innovation in its promotional strategies and to explore development of diverse tourism products.

"We must highlight the unique experiences that Ngorongoro has to offer, including cultural tourism, adventure activities and ecotourism, to boost government revenue," Mabula said.



Dr Ashatu Kijaji (2nd-L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), pictured in Dodoma city yesterday leading members of the financial, economic and business committee of the Tanzanian and Zanzibar governments during talks on Union matters. She is with Hamza Hassan Juma (2nd-R), Minister of State in the Zanzibar Second Vice President's Office (Policy, Coordination and Zanzibar House of Representatives), Cyprian Luhemeja (L), Permanent Secretary in the (Union) Vice President's Office, and Salhina Mwita Ameir, Permanent Secretary in the Zanzibar Second Vice President's Office. Photo: VPO

UAE ready to collaborate with Nigeria on tech startup growth

By Special Correspondent

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) has signalled its readiness to partner with the Nigerian government to bolster development of the country's burgeoning tech startup ecosystem.

Khalfan Belhou, chief executive officer of the Dubai Future Foundation, made the announcement at GITEX Global, the world's largest startup and investor exhibition, taking place in Dubai.

Belhou, who manages the UAE's smart city strategy across five business units, highlighted the significance of nurturing innovation and building partnerships to propel growth in the digital economy.

"There are many innovations in Nigeria, and more can be achieved. We are open to collaborations in technology development, but the right conversations are essential," he stated.

Belhou acknowledged Nige-

ria's dynamic startup ecosystem, noting that several Nigerian companies are already making strides in the UAE market. "The startup scene is developing, and there is immense potential," he added.

His remarks coincide with Nigeria's aspirations to become a leader in Africa's digital transformation. The nation boasts a vibrant tech startup culture, with significant investments flowing into sectors such as fintech, e-commerce, and various technology-driven

industries. Lagos, in particular, has emerged as a critical hub, housing over 400 startups.

Nigerian startups secured a substantial 35 percent of the \$466 million in total funding raised by the African tech sector between January and March 2024, spanning equity, debt, and grants. A report by Africa:

The Big Deal spotlighted Moove, a transport tech startup, as a major player, accounting for two-thirds of the funding direct-

ed to Nigeria in the first quarter of 2024.

Over the past five years (2019-2023), Nigerian startups have captured the largest share of investment, representing 29 percent of the \$15 billion total raised by African startups.

In addressing the migration of African talent to Dubai, Belhou stressed the necessity for increased investment in research and development (R&D) and talent cultivation to ensure the long-

term sustainability of startups.

The UAE's eagerness to collaborate with Nigeria aligns with its ambition to become a global innovation hub, leveraging its advanced infrastructure and business-friendly environment to attract entrepreneurs and investors.

GITEX Global, ran from October 13 to 18, 2024, and is recognised as the world's largest and most influential technology and startup event.



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura addresses a working session of district criminal investigation officers in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Police Hqs

Mafia residents decry transport misery as faulty ferry grounded

By Guardian Correspondent, Mafia

RESIDENTS of Mafia District, Coast Region, have expressed concerns over lack of boat transport services for a week now, forcing them to rely on traditional dhows and fishing boats due to high cost of air travel.

The concerns follow an engine failure by the ferry that has been serving the residents.

In separate interviews, some residents explained that the transport issue causes them to take two to three days to reach Nyamisati in Kibiti District, instead of the usual four to five hours by ferry.

Karim Mohamed, one of the residents, urged the government to value Mafia Island as other islands, emphasizing that residents require essential services and transport is crucial for accessing supplies from Dar es Salaam.

He noted that income of Mafia residents is generally low, making air travel unaffordable for many. As a result, they rely on dhows and fishing boats while waiting for the ferry to be repaired.

Khatibu Hamis said the available transport options are unsafe and take much longer, making the journey unstable compared to travelling by ferry.

Hussein Mbaruk expressed concerns that lack of reliable transportation could prevent residents from registering for the upcoming civic polls as some need to vote in other districts in Coast Region and Dar es Salaam but remain stranded in Mafia.

Mbaruk called on the government to provide reliable ferry to transport island residents and resolve the recurring issue, highlighting that even patients referred to Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam struggle to travel.

"When the ferry is repaired, after some time, another problem arises and people struggle with transportation again. We request the government to address this issue once and for all," he said.

Alfred Mgweni, head of marketing and public relations at the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA), said that the existing ferry suffered an engine failure, leaving only one functioning engine which led to the suspension of services.

Mgweni asked residents to remain patient as repairs continue and urged them to avoid unsafe transportation options.

Appeal for vigorous measures to protect children against climate change impacts

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE government and key stakeholders have been urged to put in place robust measures to protect children against the impacts of climate change.

During Children's Conference of Parties (COP 29) simulation held in Dodoma on Thursday, Elda Akyoo from Babati District in Manyara Region emphasized the need for the

government to enhance child protection and safety in light of global challenges posed by climate change.

Akyoo highlighted several challenges that children face due to climate change, including child abuse, violence, natural disasters, loss of life, destruction of infrastructure, and a lack of essential needs such as food, shelter, and clothing.

To address these issues, she urged the government to re-

build and renovate damaged infrastructure, including water systems, health facilities and schools.

"Child protection and safety are crucial as they help children avoid the adverse effects of climate change such as floods," she said.

Akyoo also called for measures to eliminate gender based violence and teenage pregnancies. She stressed the importance of enacting

laws and policies to combat climate change impacts and empowering children to advocate for their rights.

Additionally, Akyoo recommended that the government allocate a budget specifically for managing natural disasters. She emphasized the need to involve children in discussions about climate change, ensuring their voices are heard in decisions affecting their lives.

Innocent Estomih, child protection and governance officer at Save the Children, said that the organization was preparing to attend the COP 29 Climate Change meeting scheduled for Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024.

"Save the Children is committed to ensuring that children understand how climate change affects them," he said.

Estomih emphasized the importance of involving children in discussions about climate issues, encouraging them to participate fully in decisions that impact their lives.

The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP 29, will be the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN-

FCCC). This year's conference will focus on advancing the goals of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including efforts to limit global warming, adapt to climate impacts, and mobilize financing for these initiatives.

COP meetings primarily revolve around negotiations and debates aimed at reviewing progress towards the overarching goal of UNFCCC: to limit climate change.

Oil, gas players for further stronger cooperation on clean cooking drive

By Guardian Reporter

THE Association of Tanzania Oil and Gas Service Providers (ATOGS) has called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to transition to clean cooking.

ATOGS Chairperson Abdulsamad Abdulrahim made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during Energy Connect Conference and Exhibition, saying that only through partnerships among government, the private sector, international organisations and local communities can this agenda be achieved.

"These efforts support the nation's ambitious goal of ensuring that by 2034, 80 percent of Tanzanian households have access to clean cooking energy. This aims to alleviate the burden of fetching firewood and reduce pollution and fatalities among women due to cooking smoke which claims millions of lives each year," he said.

Energy Connect 2024 brought together leading experts, policymakers and innovators from various sectors, including energy, policy,

academia, technology, finance and grassroots organisations, united by a common goal: advancing clean energy agenda. He noted that the platform serves as a springboard for transformative action, emphasising the importance of fostering innovative thinking, building strategic partnerships and promoting practical solutions to accelerate efforts towards universal access to clean and sustainable energy.

"At the heart of this conference is a clear and critical vision: to provide safe, reliable and sustainable energy solutions for every Tanzanian household," he said.

He affirmed that this ambitious target can be achieved through determination, recognising that clean energy is not just an environmental imperative but also a social and economic necessity.

Abdulrahim stated that Energy Connect 2024 was a platform for action where stakeholders must work together to ensure that communities, especially those in rural areas, are educated and empowered to make informed choices about their energy use.



R-L: International Labour Organisation chief programmes and operations officer Laura Greene, Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) CEO Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, the Occupational Safety and Health Authority director Dr Kassim Kapalata and Jane Sorogo, chief labour officer from the Prime Minister's Office, display copies of an environmental, social and governance (ESG) report prepared by ATE in collaboration with ILO shortly after launching it in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Kenyan ride-hailing company aids people with disabilities get mobile

NAIROBI

A RIDE-HAILING company in Kenya is trying to improve the lives of disabled people by providing them with safe and reliable transport.

Ace Mobility start-up was co-founded over three years ago by Daniel Gatura, now 27, who had witnessed the transport challenges faced by his wheelchair-bound father.

He was just seven years old when his father sustained a spinal cord injury in an accident that left him in a wheelchair.

This led to him losing his job which added to the challenges faced by the family.

The situation later inspired Gatura to find a mobility solution that would cater to the needs of people with disabilities.

Wheelchair user, Caroline Mwikali, uses the Ace Mobility service to help her get around. She said public transport is not adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.

"What happens, because it is regular seats and your wheelchair cannot fit inside, they even have stairs so someone has to lift you and put you in the chairs. I

mean, none of us wants to be lifted publicly like that," she said.

Disabled people feel they are discriminated against, and Gatura says it is important to change the narrative around disability and reduced mobility.

"Just because you have a disability doesn't mean you cannot earn for yourself, it doesn't mean you are a nobody in society," he said.

"We are using transport to make sure that people with disabilities and reduced mobility gain access to education, gain access to employment opportunities."

While Kenya's legal framework promotes inclusivity of people with disabilities, including access to public transport, in practice these laws often remain unenforced. Sandra Nyawira is the disability inclusion advisor at United Disabled Persons of Kenya which campaigns for disability rights on transport policy.

She says the policies do not "speak to people with disabilities" despite the visible challenges they face when interacting with public spaces and public transport.

"So, it's all about the intentionality of having the disability issues captured in

these policies and then being intentional about implementation of those actions," she said.

The United Nations Population Fund says people with disabilities make up 2.2 percent of Kenya's population, close to one million individuals.

The most common type of disability is mobility-related, accounting for 42 percent of cases.

For disabled people travelling around Nairobi, services like Ace Mobility are a step in the right direction towards making their lives easier.



Bajaj taxi operators, passers-by and various other road users find it rough and tough beating dirty water along a section of Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Street, as found earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Biggest companies agree to help resolve South Africa water crisis

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's biggest companies explore and widen a partnership with the government to help resolve a water crisis that's threatening to leave the nation's commercial hub dry.

Business for South Africa, which is already works with the government to boost energy production, fix a broken logistics system and tackle one of the world's highest crime rates - has held talks with President Cyril Ramaphosa over helping with the issue.

The offer of assistance comes as Africa's most industrialised economy wrestles with a worsening water crisis mainly attributable to decades of underinvestment and poor maintenance.

Earlier this month Rand Water, Africa's biggest bulk water supplier, said Gauteng province, the nation's commercial hub in which almost 16 million people live could run out of water unless consumption wasn't immediately curbed.

"There is a particular challenge in Gauteng," said Martin Kingston, chairman of the steering committee of the business grouping, known as B4SA, said in an interview on Friday. "There is significant scope for the private sector to provide assistance with operation and maintenance and to mobilise capital for incremental investment in infrastructure."

B4SA, which the chief executive officers of more than 140 major companies have signed up to support, plans to initially pool information about what the private sector is doing in the water industry and then seek to assist the government. A decision on how the partnership may proceed will be made in coming months, he said.

"With the correct structural reform and an appropriate regulatory environment as a backdrop" private companies will invest in water," he said. South Africa is the 22nd-most water-stressed nation in the world, sandwiched between the largely desert nations of Namibia and Iraq, according to an assessment by the World Resources Institute.

The country uses more than 80 percent of its renewable water resources every year, the nonprofit research company said.

Gauteng - which is the site of South Africa's biggest city Johannesburg and its capital Pretoria - is plagued by aging and poorly maintained water infrastructure.

Johannesburg alone loses 44 percent of its water to leaks and theft and has a R26.9 billion (\$1.5 billion) maintenance and water infrastructure backlog.

B4SA's partnership with the government has already led to changes to legislation that's fostered a boom in the building of privately owned power plants, easing years of recurrent power outages. A framework that will allow more private participation in running the country's ports and freight rail network has also been put in place.

UN envoy proposes partition as solution to Western Sahara

NEW YORK

THE United Nations envoy for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, has proposed partitioning the territory between Morocco and the Polisario Front as a potential resolution to the nearly five-decade-long conflict.

The dispute, which began in 1975, sees Morocco asserting its claim over Western Sahara while the Algeria-backed Polisario

Front advocates for full independence.

In a closed briefing to the UN Security Council, de Mistura outlined his vision for the territory's future, suggesting that the southern region could become independent, while the northern part would be integrated into Morocco, with international recognition of Moroccan sovereignty.

However, both Morocco and the Polisario Front have firmly rejected the proposal. De Mistura cautioned that if tangible pro-

gress is not achieved within six months, he would consider stepping down from his role as envoy.

The UN Security Council has repeatedly called on both parties to strive for a political resolution, describing Morocco's autonomy plan as "serious and credible."

Morocco's plan has garnered significant support from key international players. In July, France joined the United States in endorsing Morocco's sovereignty over West-

ern Sahara, while Spain and several Arab and African nations have also expressed their backing.

The diplomatic support reflects a broader trend, as more countries align with Morocco's position in the dispute.

Despite the backing, tensions remain high. The Polisario Front withdrew from the UN-brokered ceasefire in 2020, reigniting sporadic hostilities. Although the conflict is currently of low intensity, the

situation remains volatile, with periodic flare-ups reported. De Mistura's proposal has sparked renewed debate about the best path forward for peace in the region.

Observers are concerned that the lack of a comprehensive agreement could lead to further instability. As the UN continues to push for dialogue, the need for a viable solution that addresses the aspirations of both parties remains critical to achieving lasting peace in Western Sahara.



Tabora regional commissioner Paul Chacha (2nd-R) and members of the region's defence and security committee - which he chairs - pictured on Thursday at a Lake Victoria water access and relaying point installed at Ihelele village in Misungwi District, Mwanza Region, and managed by the Kahama-Shinyanga Water Supply and Sanitation Authority. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Nigeria to launch new malaria vaccine after receiving doses

ABUJA

NIGERIA will become one of the first countries to roll out a new malaria vaccine after receiving a first batch of 846,200 doses.

Developed by scientists at the University of Oxford in England, the R21 vaccine was produced by Serum Institute of India and Novavax.

The Nigerian Health Minister, Muhammad Ali Pate, said the doses represent a significant milestone in the country's efforts to eliminate malaria.

Mosquitoes, which spread the disease to humans through bites, breed in water and are especially plentiful during the rainy season.

Malaria remains a major public health challenge in Nigeria, affecting some 97 percent of the population.

According to the World Health Organization, it is the world's worst-affected country, accounting for 31 per cent of global deaths from the disease.

The health ministry says the inoculations, which were pro-

cured in partnership with the international Vaccine Alliance, Gavi, will be administered freely.

A trial roll out will begin in two states with the highest malaria burden, Kebbi in the north and Bayelsa on the coast, before expanding nationwide.

A balance of 153,800 more doses is expected in the country on 26 October, bringing the number of available vaccines to a million.



A trial roll out will begin in two states with the highest malaria burden, Kebbi in the north and Bayelsa on the coast, before expanding nationwide

Healthcare Indaba 2024: Advancing global health through innovation, digital solutions

CAPE TOWN

DELEGATES will gather in Cape Town, South Africa, this month for the second annual Healthcare Indaba, part of the 2024 Africa Health Congress, to discuss and share expertise to advance innovation in addressing health challenges.

Taking place from October 22 to 24 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), the two-day Indaba expands on last year's successful inaugural event, featuring discussions on global health and artificial intelligence

(AI) and digital health.

A new element this year is the dedicated forum titled "EmpowHER: Women in Healthcare," aimed at celebrating female leadership in the sector.

Cynthia Makarutse, spokesperson for the organisers, said: "Our goal is to create a lasting brand that supports women in healthcare, providing insights into leadership journeys and fostering a supportive community. Our speakers will share their personal experiences, challenges, and successes to inspire the audience and ensure the

sustainability of our industry."

Prof. Salome Maswime, Head of the Global Surgery Division at the University of Cape Town, will chair the Global Health discussions.

She expressed excitement about the programme, emphasizing its potential to redefine Africa's role in global health.

"We have an opportunity to reimagine the future of Global Health for Africa," Maswime said, noting that the Vice President of the United Nations Foundation will deliver the keynote address on strategies for a resilient future.

The second day will focus on AI & Digital Health, showcasing how technology can revolutionize healthcare delivery. Dr Mories Atoki, chief executive officer of ABCHealth, highlighted the significance of this day as a platform for experts to address pressing healthcare challenges.

"The conversations here will influence policy and drive improvements in healthcare services across the continent," he said.

Dr Chris Fourie, a speaker on the second day, emphasized the importance of addressing health data accessibility in Africa before fully le-

veraging AI technologies.

He pointed out that understanding the burden of disease in Africa is crucial for effective AI implementation.

"We need to focus on infectious diseases and maternal child health when targeting data science and AI interventions," he said.

The third day will feature the EmpowHER forum, showcasing leading female voices in healthcare. Makarutse described the summit as a chance for women to unite, sharing their journeys to inspire others.

Makarutse emphasized that the

Healthcare Indaba has become a catalyst for change, bringing together diverse stakeholders to establish an ecosystem of innovation.

"This gathering will transform healthcare delivery across Africa and inspire solutions on a global scale," she said.

The Africa Health Congress, organised by Informal Markets' Global Healthcare Group, aims to bridge gaps in medical knowledge through CPD-accredited conferences, offering the latest insights into cutting-edge healthcare procedures and techniques.

Suicide bomber kills at least seven at a café in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU

AN explosion at a café in Mogadishu, Somalia, has left at least seven people dead and six others injured.

The attack occurred on Thursday, October 17, 2024, near the General Kaahiye Police Academy, where Somali soldiers and police officers were stationed.

Witnesses reported that the café, a popular spot for locals and security personnel, was bustling with activity when the suicide bomber detonated an explosive device.

The victims included both police officers and civilians who were enjoying tea outside the establishment at the time of the blast.

Deeqsan Ahmed, an eyewitness and survivor of the attack, recounted the moments leading up to the explosion. "Some people found the bomber suspicious due to the item he was carrying and questioned his intentions. After they voiced their concerns, he blew himself up," Ahmed said.

His account highlights the chilling nature of the attack and the constant fear residents' face.

Emergency services quickly arrived at the scene, transporting the injured to nearby hospitals for urgent care. Authorities have not yet released the names of the victims, but local officials confirmed that many were well-known in the community.

This bombing has raised alarm over the ongoing violence in Mogadishu, where attacks by extremist groups, remain a significant threat.

Just days before this incident, security forces had intensified operations against militants in the region, aiming to restore stability in a city long plagued by insecurity.

In response to the attack, the Somali government condemned the violence and pledged to enhance security measures around critical areas, including police facilities and public spaces. Officials have called on the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to prevent further tragedies.



Implementation of rapid transit bus transport infrastructure project in progress at the Goldstar section of Dar es Salaam's Nkrumah Street earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

EU leaders' summit opens with more stringent migration policy

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union leaders arrived at a summit in Brussels, Belgium on Thursday to seek ways to make the bloc a more hostile destination for migrants and asylum seekers following a recent surge in support for anti-migration parties.

As the summit opened, the 27 EU leaders prepared to look at plans to speed up initiatives to get unwanted migrants out of the bloc and process asylum applications far outside their borders.

The tenor of the debate is a far cry from 2015, less than a decade ago, when the EU was faced with a migration

crisis. Well over a million migrants and refugees sought help then, mainly from the Middle East and Afghanistan. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the EU's dominant national leader at the time, famously said, "We can manage that."

Now, EU leaders want to manage and seal off their bor-

ders ever more tightly.

In recent weeks, Poland has said it wants to temporarily suspend the right to asylum. Italy has opened two centres to process asylum seekers outside its borders in Albania and Germany has reinstated border controls - all of them measures going in the same direction.

With the extreme right surging in the EU parliamentary elections in June and in other polls in Germany and Austria since, migration remains a trigger button for leaders.

On Wednesday, an Italian navy ship docked at the Albanian port of Shengjin to bring the first group of 16 migrants intercepted in international

waters for processing there.

Under a five-year deal signed last November by Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni and her Albanian counterpart, Edi Rama, up to 3,000 migrants picked up by the Italian coast guard in international waters each month will be sheltered in Albania. They will be screened initially on board

the ships that rescue them before being sent to Albania for further assessment.

Unauthorized migration to the bloc declined sharply in the initial eight months of the year, regardless of increasing political rhetoric, violence aimed at migrants, and gains by far-right anti-immigration gatherings.

Tech experts call for unified efforts to strengthen Africa's cyber security

KIGALI

DIGITAL technology experts attending the 2024 Africa Cyber Defence Forum, which officially opened on Wednesday in the Rwandan capital of Kigali, have called for concerted and unified efforts to safeguard Africa's digital infrastructure against rising global cyber threats.

"There's a need to have a common goal to secure Africa because cybersecurity is the next drive," William Baraza, chairman of the forum, said during the meeting, emphasizing that collaboration among African nations is crucial to counter the growing cyber threats targeting businesses and governments across the continent.

James Kimuyu, director of Kenya's National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee, expressed optimism during a panel session at the forum. "Threats are common, and so are the solutions. Working together between the private and public sectors will help create a safer environment for businesses to thrive," he said.

Innocent Muhizi, chief executive officer of the Rwanda Information Society Authority, highlighted the importance of identifying and valuing critical infrastructure for effective protection at the event.

"We need to know what critical infrastructure looks like and attach value to it to inform security strategies," Muhizi explained.

Zareefa Saleh Mustafa, manager of the cybersecurity department at Nigeria's National Information Technology Development Agency, underscored the importance of sharing cybersecurity best practices among African nations. She emphasized that adopting proven solutions from neighboring countries could be more effective than starting from scratch.

Speaking at the forum, Paula Ingabire, Rwanda's minister of information communication technology and innovation, called for harmonized cybersecurity laws across Africa to address the capacity gaps that hinder the continent's digital growth. She stressed the need for collective efforts to effectively counter cyber threats and ensure a secure, inclusive future for Africa.

The forum, which runs through Friday and has brought together more than 400 cybersecurity experts from 50 countries, aims to discuss strategies for strengthening Africa's cyber resilience with a focus on cybersecurity policies, incident response frameworks, and capacity-building initiatives.



Air France-KLM's Tanzania Country manager Rajat Kumar pictured at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport recently presenting an International Day of the Girl Child gift to one of the girls cared for at the city's Ebenezer Centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Symposium roots for upscale of perennial rice planting in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

THE China-Africa International Symposium on Perennial Rice in Africa opened on Wednesday at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa with a call for expanding perennial rice planting across the continent.

The symposium discussed how perennial rice could boost food security in Africa by fostering innovative agricultural practices and leveraging the strategic partnership between China and Africa in the agricultural sector.

Josefa Leonel Sacko, AU commissioner for agriculture, rural development, blue economy and sustainable environment, said Africa is not self-sufficient in rice production and relies heavily on imports to meet about 64 percent of its demand.

"To bridge the existing gap between supply and demand, we must embrace innovative solutions that promote sustainable rice cultivation. One of such solutions is the introduction and promotion of perennial rice, developed through cutting-edge breeding techniques,"

Sacko said.

Perennial rice is unique in that it can grow for several years without the need for replanting and often offers a range of benefits to smallholder farmers, including low production costs. "It is commendable that Africa should embrace the perennial rice to reduce the cost of production, improve soil fertility, reduce erosion and loss of nutrients, and promote biodiversity," she said.

The commissioner also said China and Africa have a long-standing partnership in the field of agricul-

ture, which was scaled up through the China-Africa science and technology partnership, paving the way for the transfer of agricultural technology to Africa.

"This symposium is yet another testament to strengthen China-Africa cooperation to enhance the adoption of perennial rice throughout Africa by leveraging China's expertise in agricultural research and Africa's biodiversity," Sacko added.

Addressing the symposium, which brought together leading Chinese and African agricultural

scientists and experts, Hu Changchun, head of the Chinese Mission to the AU, said China has been actively sharing its experience and technologies to help the continent ensure food security through agricultural development.

"China has built 24 agricultural technology demonstration centres and five demonstration parks in Africa, and promoted more than 300 advanced and practical technologies such as green super rice, high-yield corn, greenhouse vegetable cultivation, and rapid cassava breeding, which have ef-

fectively improved the agro-industrial production chain in Africa," Hu said.

He said trial planting of perennial rice is underway in Uganda, Madagascar, Burundi, Nigeria, Kenya and other countries, yielding more than six tonnes of rice per hectare.

Perennial rice technology was developed by Chinese agronomists, and it was selected as the "International Agricultural Innovation Technology" in 2018 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



A porter in business at Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis commuter bus stop yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Africa CDC urges partners to honour pledges as mpox death toll tops 1,100

By Special Correspondent

THE number of mpox-related deaths has now exceeded 1,100, impacting 18 of Africa's 55 nations.

The statistic was unveiled on Thursday by Jean Kaseya, the head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

The recent surge in fatalities includes 50 deaths reported this week alone, highlighting the urgent need for effective intervention.

Kaseya called on international partners to fulfill their financial commitments to support Africa's response to the ongoing outbreak.

"A coordinated global effort is crucial to manage the outbreak and prevent further loss of life, urging immediate action to ensure that promised support is delivered to those in need," he said.

The Africa CDC, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, has proposed a six-month action plan with an estimated budget of nearly \$600 million.

Of the total, 55 percent is allocated specifically for mpox response efforts in 14 affected nations, while the remaining funds aim to bolster preparedness in 15 additional countries.

Mpox, which is related to smallpox but typically causes milder

symptoms, can still lead to severe complications. Common symptoms include fever, body aches, and, in serious cases, lesions on the face, hands, and genitals. The virus poses a particular risk to vulnerable populations, including those with weakened immune systems.

In recent developments, Zambia and Zimbabwe confirmed their first cases of mpox, adding to the list of affected countries. Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo continues to serve as the epicenter of this global health emergency, with healthcare systems strained by the increasing number of infections.

The mpox virus was first identified in Denmark in 1958 and has historically spread sporadically in Central and West Africa. However, the outbreak that began in 2022 marked a significant escalation, as wealthier nations quickly mobilized to distribute vaccines from their stockpiles to combat the spread.



A coordinated global effort is crucial to manage the outbreak and prevent further loss of life

Gaza Strip faces famine risks despite reduced hunger level

GAZA

MORE than a year into Israel's war, the Gaza Strip remains vulnerable to famine, despite a recent decrease in the number of individuals experiencing severe hunger, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which monitors hunger crises.

Antoine Renard, the World Food Programme Country

Director, stated that, "Any improvements in food security we see are a result of the amount of humanitarian aid and commercial flows entering Gaza. With local food systems destroyed and farms damaged, people are completely dependent on supplies coming through the border. For real progress, this flow of aid must be steady and reliable."

According to the Integrated

Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), more than 1.8 million individuals, approximately 86 percent of Gaza's population, are facing severe hunger crises.

The IPC cautioned that the situation could decline swiftly, forecasting a doubling of catastrophic hunger levels in the upcoming months.

It highlighted a recent reduction in aid, the beginning of the typical cold and rainy

winter, and the difficult circumstances people endure in overcrowded tent camps with inadequate food, clean water, and toilets.

This week, the United States warned Israel that it might cut off military aid if its ally does not do more to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Israel's military says slightly more than 5,800 tons of food have arrived in Gaza this

month, compared to almost 76,000 tons in September.

Aisha Saliby, a woman forced to leave Gaza City, expressed her despair, saying, "Our primary desire is for the fighting to stop. We do not seek food or drink. End the war and let us return home in safety."

In a statement released on Wednesday regarding a second shipment, the military announced that it will persist

in following international law to help facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

Israel has been in control of Gaza's entire land border since May.

The Israeli military organization overseeing civilian matters, known as COGAT, asserts that it imposes no limits on humanitarian aid entering Gaza and blames U.N. agencies and aid groups for delays

in aid delivery.

In contrast, these organizations contend that their operations are greatly affected by Israeli restrictions, ongoing violence, displacement, and the deterioration of law and order in many regions.

In recent weeks, Israel has again mandated the evacuation of the northern third of Gaza and has launched a new major military operation there.

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**Taking A New Look
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Commuter bus e-ticketing appears all but 'explosive'

THERE has recently been talk of plans to apply an electronic ticketing model to Dar es Salaam city commuter buses, ostensibly to improve efficiency, transparency and revenue collection in the transport sector.

This isn't exactly a done deal, but launching official canvassing for the idea prepares the way for its formalisation and then a rough start to its application on the ground.

It is unclear where else in the region and perhaps much further e-ticketing is made applicable to commuter buses as total formalisation.

A communications official with the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra) has spoken on the importance of investing in e-ticketing - at the launch of a carefully designed 'daladala experience'. The theme featured was a bit academic, suggesting that it was intended for an audience rather than passengers, when it talks of 'exploring Tanzanian identity through immersive art'.

Earlier, there was a meeting between traffic police officers and drivers of upcountry buses on the need to observe 'etiquette' in general and the use of polite language in particular.

Public transport certainly plays a decisive role in the lives of millions of people, from the popular daladala minibuses to the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) system and, lately, the standard gauge railway (SGR) as summarised in the LATRA documentary.

It neatly skipped over the regular city rail transit service that is close to the commuter bus experience and which would probably have been run far more efficiently were it in the private sector.

With ticket prices or fares low, the taxation has to be low as well, not sharing out revenues as e-ticketing would definitely mean or

imply.

It was surprising that the documentary needs to be viewed by the authorities concerned as a valuable resource for understanding the people's daily lives, challenges and potential solutions for public transportation.

This demanding use of commuter buses calls for e-ticketing investment rather than e-ticketing as a solution, where it would be explicit that fares will not rise - which is impossible.

The point is that electronic devices are becoming the right tool for levies and taxes; it is easy to administer taxes that way.

More to the point, though, is that the communications official noted that the documentary highlights overcrowding, safety concerns and inefficiencies in fare collection. Where e-ticketing could address some of these challenges it would streamline payments, reduce the incidence of fare disputes and enhance revenue management.

It is easily the last element that counts in that commuter bus operators would work in a three-way sharing modality, not between bus owners and crew but involving owners, crew and the government in relatively comparable amounts. The result could easily be crippling private buses and expanding DART services.

Explicit publicity stunts like 'daladala Xperience' showcasing innovative technologies or intersection of art, technology and culture "as seen through the transport system" may excite administrators, but the bottom line is the fare level. The taxes the government has been collecting are nearly constantly rising, so it is relevant to systematise formal sector tax sources of revenue, while also amplifying the public-private partnership format to elicit higher levels of financing for development projects.

Trading key minerals via local auctions by state agencies might stutter yet again

SEEING is believing. The saying could aptly apply to how far domestic gemstone auctions being reinstated at various points across the country will succeed in being used by miners and traders for window-dressing while they do their real business by auxiliary means.

Auctions are to take place in key mineral production, marketing and sales areas like Mimerani, Mahenge, Tunduru, Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Tanga, with more expected internationally in the likes of Thailand's capital, Bangkok.

Auction procedures started after President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive as she inaugurated the Mwanza gold refinery back this June, which implies that local auctions will to that extent ease the way for the refinery to access gold ore. With the major producers found in the formal sector, that should not pose problems. However, there are sharp revenue breaches when the minerals market is haphazard, as much of it is taken across borders.

So the issue is less about reinstating such actions than about aligning their conduct with markets in nearby areas in that miners could decide to sell there instead of being pushed to cross borders.

The Tanzania Mining Commission, in collaboration with the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX), is being assigned to steer those auctions, apparently equipped with an electronic trading system.

That is a significant point as electronic systems ease trading when taxes are minimal and make trading impossible when taxes are optimised and fully billed via that device. As it is unclear that there is a re-

thinking of the tax levels directed at the sector, for both large miners and small-scale units, chances of enthusiastic use of auction mechanisms are limited.

The ministry is right now preoccupied with legal procedures needed for auction operations to start before the necessary infrastructure for domestic auctions is in place.

It is understood that those overseeing the project boast considerable exposure on how international exhibitions and auctions operate - and view local auctions as a window through which to promote local gemstones in wider markets.

Some would disagree, as it is enough for a trader to promote the goods he or she has online. Exchanges can be conducted in much the same way, without anyone needing to travel to Mimerani or some other auction centre.

Additionally, vital gemstones can do without exhibitions connecting local traders with reliable markets to ensure that they get fair and appropriate prices.

In the final analysis, the stumbling block is less the prices offered by traders but the levies levelled by the state, and there has been no hint that remedial or corrective action may come any time soon.

But as some ministerial officials might privately suggest, the procedures being set up will prove usable for traders and thus the new auction infrastructure will be put to good use. With that, all that the public can do is to wait and see how far the new procedures are market-friendly. All fallback options of using informal selling mechanisms meanwhile remain in place.

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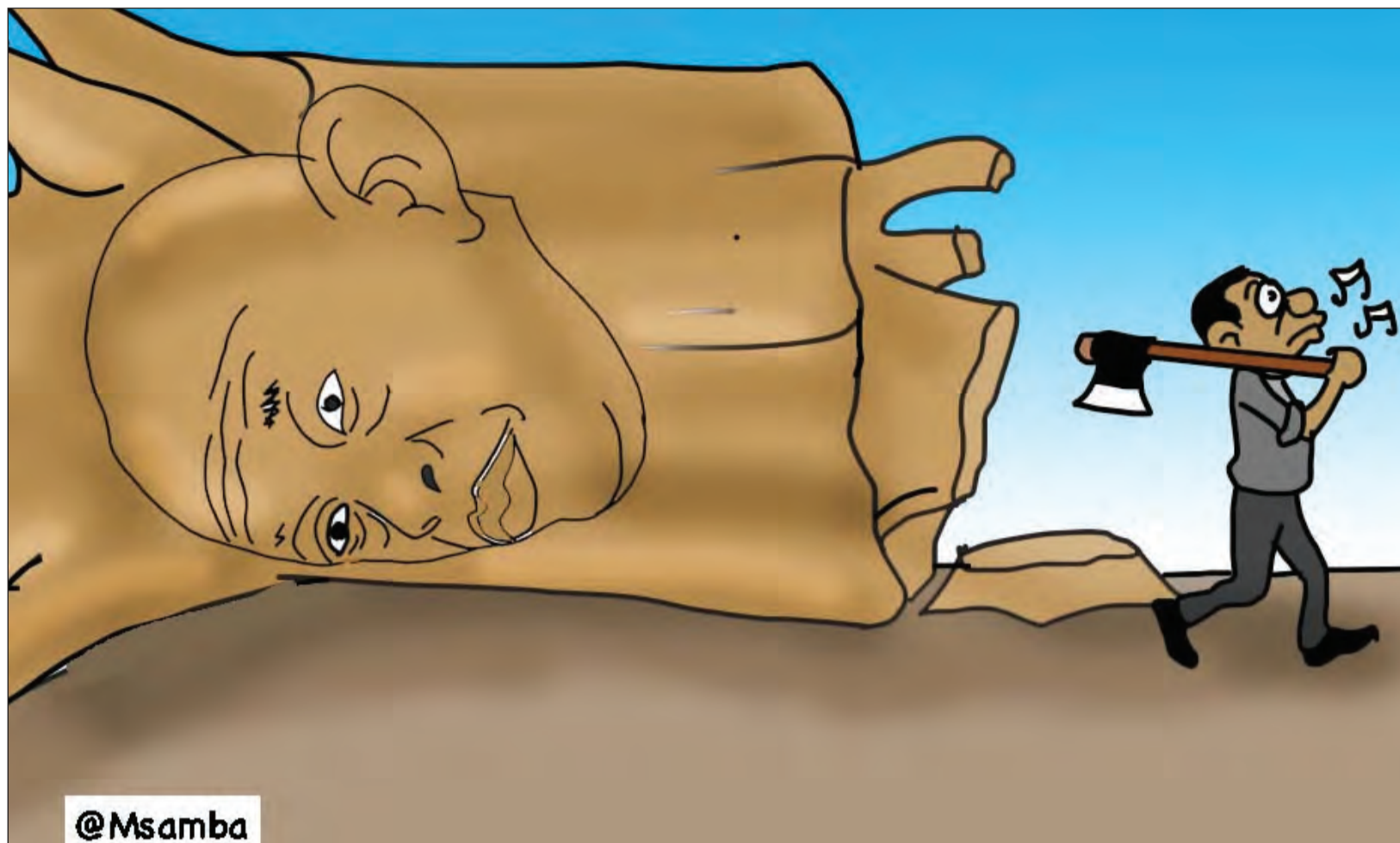
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Why print is an enduring force for advertisers

By Special Correspondent

IN a world fixated on quick wins and bottom-line results, print advertising has come to stand as a testament to brand-building despite closures of print publications and declining print sales.

Indeed, in today's digital age, it might seem like the heyday of print media is long behind us. However, while the internet and social media may have lured us away with their addictive algorithms, print is far from dead.

"People don't live digital-only lives. While online channels offer convenience, offline channels offer trust and can be more powerful in conveying an emotional message," says Kevin Huang, chief operating officer of SCMP (South China Morning Post).

Legacy publications like Vogue, Esquire, Time and The Economist still print their books every single month. And in 2024, revenue in the print newspapers and magazines market worldwide is forecasted to reach US\$11.60 billion.

Bettina Von Schlippe, publisher of Vogue in Singapore, says that print continues to be a vital revenue stream for the publication: "Despite a slight pivot towards digital channels, print advertising remains robust, bolstered by additional content offerings that enrich our readers' experience. Print's relevance persists, capturing societal trends and becoming a collector's treasure, much like cultural artifacts of popular culture."

Increasingly, in an era of information overload, print offers a sanctuary of curated content, a respite from the relentless scroll of social media.

In fact, print is seeing a resurgence in some cases as a counter-trend prioritising and championing more analogue forms of tangible media in response to the dominance of digital.

"Specifically, we are seeing print magazines become a popular platform for brands or communities to make a statement," says Agalia Tan, senior planner at We Are Social Singapore.

Tan explains: "Take for example, Metalabel, who has published The Dark Forest Anthology and thus brought together some of the most influential voices on the web and in culture to talk about how to survive in an increasingly adversarial internet."

"Unlike scrolling on a feed and reflexively liking or spending time watching content, purchasing print media is a deliberate act that signals resonance and true engagement," notes Tan.

Brand building with print advertising

Studies show that print advertising has a 70-80 per cent higher recall rate than digital advertising, with eight out of ten people trusting print advertisements the most when purchasing. So, while digital may take up the lion's share of media buyers' spend these days, it's not always the better option.

"People have been talking about the digital era for more than 30 years," says

SCMP's Huang, adding: "Today, many of our clients tell us that their effectiveness studies show that they have over-invested in digital channels - particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. Now that people are out again, they are reassessing their channel mix. Clients need to reach their audiences at the right moment with the right message, and that does not always happen online."

"Print advertising cultivates emotional resonance, reinforces brand values and creates a lasting impression that translates in to increased brand awareness, enhanced loyalty, and ultimately, a higher willingness to pay a premium," says Jordan Heathfield, VP of connections and brand experience at Assembly.

"For brands seeking to cultivate a sophisticated image, reach a discerning clientele, or simply savour the slow burn of a lasting impression - print advertisements are unmatched," Heathfield adds.

While fleeting social media posts might capture attention for a moment, a print advertisement invites a slower, more intentional form of engagement. Sure, media consumption has evolved, but that only makes the enduring power of print more potent.

"It is a statement, a deliberate choice to slow down, to engage deeply, to indulge in the artistry of storytelling and visual expression," notes Heathfield, adding: "For brands that understand this, print isn't just a channel; it's a passport to a world of influence and affluence."

In particular, this is something that luxury brands understand more than most - that print advertising isn't merely a medium but rather an extension of their brand ethos.

To that end, there is a symbiotic and unspoken agreement between luxury houses such as Chanel, Dior, Prada, Loewe and Alighieri and legacy publications like Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and Esquire.

"The media investment helps to boost the brand's editorial visibility and competitive share of voice within the publication, and editors are in turn more open to incorporating their brands and products organically in fashion shoots," says Nicole Seah, executive director of Zenith Singapore.

"Given that these publications remain a source of authority on fashion, fashion brands are well-placed when their clothing items appear ingeniously in manicured photo-shoots," adds Seah.

For the luxury sector in particular, the print market remains vibrant, where advertisers also value print's prestige for brand showcasing and image enhancement.

"The demographic engaging with print is diverse, including dedicated readers who appreciate the tactile

experience and the depth of well-curated content," says Vogue's Von Schlippe, adding: "Print maintains its social and economic relevance, consistently delivering value to both readers and advertisers."

In fact, several fashion brands still have clear performance indicators linked to print advertising. "They continue to invest because they achieve tangible returns on investment. Print's allure is not just in its nostalgia but in its unique ability to engage audiences through quality and exclusivity," notes Von Schlippe.

The 'death' of print

Yet, while a handful of legacy publications still print their books each month, the fact remains that print titles are increasingly being forced to shut down entirely or move online amid falling reader numbers and declining advertising revenue.

According to a WARC study, global publishing print advertising revenue halved in six years, collapsing from US\$75.9bn in 2016 to US\$37.3bn in 2022. In addition, print press has the lowest reach of any major channel monitored by WARC Media and GWI.

Dozens of print titles have fallen prey to collapsing revenues. Last year, popular Hong Kong lifestyle and travel magazine U Magazine axed its print version to become digital-only, but in June this year also ended its digital edition and ceased all operations.

In 2020, over 100 of News Corp's regional and community titles in Australia pulled the plug on their print editions and instead moved to digital-only formats.

Similarly, in July, Australian Community Media (ACM), the country's largest regional publisher, announced that it would cease printing weekday editions of several of its newspapers. It cited "unsustainable production costs" along with reduced funding and changing consumer habits for its decision.

"The shift from print to digital has been substantial over the past decade. Digital advertising has gained an edge by offering more precise targeting and less wastage, which is crucial in today's economic environment," says Laura Kleiman, strategic partnerships manager at Bench Media.

She elaborated: "As circulation and advertising revenues decline, many print outlets are working with reduced budgets, limiting their ability to produce the large-scale, premium editorial content that once defined them. I believe the mass-market dominance of print is likely a thing of the past."

Yelia Schnelle, senior planning director at UM Australia, meanwhile says that print media is facing

challenges owing to younger generations' preference for digital feed-based platforms.

"To thrive, print publications need to create content that is tailored to the print format rather than simply replicating digital content on paper. Ultimately, success depends on building demand for their content, regardless of the medium, within their ecosystem," adds Schnelle.

Resurgence of analogue in digital age

As the world becomes increasingly digital, the resurgence of analogue is a reminder that there is still value in the tangible. From vinyl to toys and print photography, the desire for tangible, physical objects persists with print media being no exception.

In an era of streaming and playlists, Gen Z and younger generations are flocking to record stores, drawn to the tactile experience and authenticity of vinyl. In fact, vinyl sales have seen double-digit growth for over a decade, with 41 million records sold in 2022 alone.

Vinyl sales have seen double-digit growth for over a decade, with 41 million records sold in 2022 alone.

"This resurgence of 'analogue' in a digital world mirrors the enduring appeal of print advertising," says Heathfield, adding: "It's a cultural artifact, tapping into the desire for authenticity and a sense of nostalgia digital channels cannot. This aligns with the growing trend of mindfulness and conscious consumption among younger demographics, who are seeking deeper connections with brands and experiences."

Furthermore, print aligns with the growing desire for authenticity and tangible experiences. In a world of virtual connections, the physicality of print offers a reassuring anchor, a reminder of the real world.

Looking to the future, it appears that print is not about clinging to the past but about embracing innovation.

Augmented reality, QR codes and personalised printing are just a few examples of how print is adapting to the digital age, blurring the lines between the physical and virtual worlds.

For example, with virtual reality apps, consumers can turn regular print media into moving pictures.

"Print will undoubtedly remain a force in the future, not as a relic of a bygone era, but as a dynamic medium that continues to evolve and adapt," says Heathfield, adding: "It will continue to appeal to those who crave quality, depth and a tangible connection with brands."

• Campaign Asia

By Telesphor Magobe

TANZANIA on October 17 joined other countries across the world to mark International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2024, which was released hardly two days ago, suggests that Tanzania is one of only 9 countries across the world which has experienced significant reductions in both MPI value and incidence of poverty.

"Of the 17 countries with trend data that ends in 2021/22 or later, spanning at least part of the Covid-19 pandemic, only 9 countries have experienced significant reductions in both MPI value and incidence of poverty."

Besides Tanzania, other countries are Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Kenya, Mozambique, the Philippines, and Trinidad and Tobago. This is according to a new report titled "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024: Poverty amid conflict" compiled by UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. The MPI is a key international resource that measures acute multidimensional poverty among over 100 countries across the world.

Furthermore, the report says in 86 countries, covering about 6 billion people, data from one or several periods has been harmonised to examine how poverty has evolved. "Of these countries, 76 experienced a statistically significant absolute reduction in global MPI value over at least one time period (74 countries reduced the incidence of poverty), and 20 experienced a statistically significant reduction across at least two time periods."

The report says four countries, namely the Kingdom of Eswatini, Nepal, the Philippines and Tanzania experienced a significant reduction in MPI value and incidence of poverty over three time periods.

The MPI 2024 report overlays violent conflict data with multidimensional poverty data to better understand their inter-linkages across countries and over time.

Tanzania experiences significant reduction in poverty incidence



the youth, and the continent lags behind other regions of the world with respect to social development indicators. The progress made is also threatened by rising inequalities of incomes and opportunity, particularly for the youth and women."

Moreover, the MPI 2024 says over half of the 1.1 billion poor people are children under the age of 18 (584 million). Globally, 27.9 per cent of children live in poverty compared to 13.5 per cent of adults. "[At least] 83.2 per cent of the world's 1.1 billion multidimensionally poor people live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Sub-Saharan Africa has 553 million people living in poverty, and South Asia, 402 million."

The global MPI shows who the poor are, where they live and what deprivations hold them back from achieving the wellbeing they deserve. The report shows that the largest numbers of poor people are deprived of cooking fuel, housing and sanitation. Yet, deprivations in nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling and school attendance carry a higher weight. "Examining the contribution of each indicator to MPI value takes into account both the number of deprivations and their weight."

The report concludes that addressing multidimensional poverty in conflict-affected contexts requires a comprehensive approach that integrates peace-building, humanitarian assistance and poverty alleviation to build resilience and support sustainable recovery. It says conflict affects people, especially the poorest, in myriad ways. So, if the root causes and consequences of conflict and poverty are tackled using data and deft determination, poor people can have a chance to rebuild their lives and communities.

Today's quote: "The best way to predict your future is to create it." - Abraham Lincoln.

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The Law and You



"The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) is the primary data source, but sensitivity analyses were also run using other key conflict datasets." Thus, the report finds that MPI value tends to be much higher in conflict-affected settings and in countries affected by protracted conflict, poverty reduction is reversed, stagnant or slower.

The MPI 2024 covers 112 countries across the world and 6.3 billion people, 1.1 billion people (18.3 per cent) live in acute multidimensional poverty (below \$1.25 a day). This year it has covered 1,359 subnational regions and shows that 1.1 billion of 6.3 billion people live in acute multidimensional poverty, over half of them being children.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1.1 states: "By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day". The international poverty line, which is currently \$2.15 per person per day, is the threshold that determines whether a person is living in poverty (is poor).

Article 9 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (R.E. 2005) states that "the state authority and all its agencies are obliged to direct their policies and programmes towards ensuring - (i) that the use of national wealth places emphasis on the development of the people and in particular is geared towards the eradication of poverty, ignorance and disease."

ignorance and disease."

Poverty especially in Africa is still a major problem and is essentially contributed by lack of effective leadership and the mismanagement of national resources. There are many examples to show that if African countries had effective leaders they would have made considerable progress in various sectors of the economy.

Although Agenda 63: "The Africa We Want" acknowledges progress which has been made in poverty eradication, poverty is still recognised as a major problem.

"There are still far too many people living in abject poverty, the lack of decent jobs is pervasive, especially for

Electric motorbikes revolution: A crucial step towards zero emission

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

TANZANIA is gaining a gradual momentum in its move to curb environmental pollution by other means as it has introduced the first electric motorbike to facilitate transport industry in the country.

The age of the electric vehicles is truly in place as various automobile industrial manufacturers in the world over, are busy embarking on regular innovations to yield new products to suit international markets.

It is from this point of advancements that electric motorbikes and vehicles have come a long way in recent years taking a high pace in transport industry, growing in popularity at a global level.

There are benefits to be attained out of this since electric motorbikes are zero emission means of transport that contribute significantly less to air pollution compared to fuel or gasoline-powered motorcycles.

They are environmentally friendly than other vehicles as they run by help of electricity which is powered by lithium-ion batteries and they don't produce any kind of harmful emissions.

This makes them an ideal choice for environmentally conscious consumers seeking to minimize their carbon footprint. In addition more people are opting for these kinds of motorbikes for its cost effectiveness as compared to other means of transport.

Apart from savings, electric motorbikes are conducive to local environment and can help fight climate change and global warming if adopted on a large scale. This helps to conserve energy resources and reduces overall energy consumption.

Wherever these kinds of electric motorbikes or vehicles are used, air quality within the surroundings improves as it provides people with health benefits, especially for those who suffer from respiratory problems. Clean air means an improved quality of life.

It is from this point of view that, the government through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has licensed foreign companies to introduce electric motorbikes to operate in the country as a way to control air pollution.

Electric vehicles are becoming the norm, which means there will be more charging points, better engines, and more of a second-hand market for the vehicles making them cheaper in general.

For years to come the increased technological innovations are likely to cause pros and cons as fuel powered vehicles will even start to be phased out of business because the benefits of electric motorcycles seem to continue increasing.

Two foreign companies operating in the country have pledged a strong commitment to help raise awareness and capacity building on services being provided by Vodacom



Tanzania under Voda Boda means of transport.

The companies are the Africapital Investments Holdings Ltd which is a Turkish firm, and S.A Connect a multinational company based in the United Arab Emirates known in short as TRI.

The two foreign companies have jointly introduced electric motorbikes the first of its kind in Tanzania that aims at empowering poor people to alleviate poverty in their daily lives.

The Voda Boda initiative features electric motorbikes designed to provide an environmentally friendly, cashless and cost-effective alternative designed to adapt traditional transportation methods aimed at transforming urban transportation in Tanzania.

Head of Digital Innovation and Care at Vodacom Tanzania Goodluck Mushi said recently in Dar es Salaam that, "the available electric motorbikes will be sold to the

needy people and acquired on loan basis at a cheapest price rates".

Outlining its benefits, he said, the motorbikes would contribute to zero carbon emissions and are eco-friendly, hence cities such as Dar es Salaam which is highly congested will experience reduced traffic congestion and enhanced urban mobility.

The electric motorbikes are uniquely designed with a large battery on its bottom whereby the electricity is installed and enables it to run for 100 kilometers only, and then is recharged to make it movable. Whenever the power of electricity comes down, a driver receives a signal of notification in its speedometer gauge.

There would be no collaterals needed, except buyers would be registered in a special mobile phone code systems and issued with new SIM cards which are designed to operate and installed with app of 'Paisha' in order to be traced easily wherever they are to ensure more safety.

After having acquired the motorbike without cash in hand, drivers would be repaying their loans on daily basis at a cost of 12,000/- until the debt is cleared.

Alongside with this, drivers would also be issued with insurance known as 'Voda bima' and this would bring a great value to drivers and more safety for the passengers on board while being ferried from one point to another.

Paisha is a specific newly formed program by the telecom company whose application is a platform that offers users on-demand services wherever they are within Dar es Salaam commercial city. About 3,000 taxi drivers have been registered in this platform.

With the 'Paisha' app, one can raise up life and get services provided such as on-line transportation, food delivery, logistics, payments and daily services and other on-demand services from plumbers, electricians, carpenters, contractors and many

others alike.

The CEO of Africapital Investment, Burak Buyuksarac reaffirmed his company's commitment as an investor. He told The Guardian that they will leverage operational expertise and extensive networks of investors to ensure the project become sustainable and profitable to drivers.

CEO of S.A Connect Sharif Aidarus said his company will stand to address crucial urban mobility challenges by providing drivers with an efficient, affordable and eco-friendly transportation solution in urban centers.

Tanzania is increasingly emerging as a top choice for investors worldwide, reflecting the government's achievements in enhancing the business environment. The country stands on as a beacon for investors seeking stability and growth for East Africa, leveraging strategic geographical position and political stability to promise returns on investment.

The surge in the investment is evident in the recently concluded first quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year whereby the country has registered 256 new projects, a significant increase from 137 projects in the same period last financial year.

TIC Executive Director, Gilead Teri said recently in Dar es Salaam that, "The value of investment in quarter one reached \$ 3.9 billion (11trn/-), compared to \$2.1 billion (5.7trn/-) during the corresponding trading period of 2023/2024.

Early this year, TIC entered into a one year contract agreement with a Turkish firm, Africapital Investment Holdings Limited whereby the latter would attract capital investments with companies from Turkey and others in neighborhood to come and invest in Tanzania.

Under the agreement, a Turkish firm with a wide span knowledge of business activities in the world committed itself to increase common investment opportunities on behalf of the government to enable meet its targeted goals of economic development.

The foreign firm pledged to collaborate effectively with both international and local investors to accomplish the need by raising capitals for startups to collaborate with the initiative currently taking high pace in Tanzania.

By Andy Hirschfeld

A second Trump presidency raises concerns of migrant workers' rights

ON September 20, 2023, Rosa Sanchez went to work picking carrots at Grimmway Farms, one of the largest producers of carrots in the world, located in the Bakersfield, California, area of the United States. Unfortunately, she would not last the day. She was fatally struck by a truck in the field. She was 58 years old.

Fellow farm worker Alejandra Montoya saw the accident happen. Montoya said she was told to keep picking carrots as her colleague Sanchez's lifeless body lay there. For her, that was a reckoning moment.

"I felt a very profound lack of respect for Rosa Sanchez, who had just been killed. They had everyone else literally work around the body. That really emphasised how they really care more about the product than about the workers," Montoya said.

Originally, Montoya was afraid to speak up. She said her supervisors would often subtly threaten to turn them into immigration officials if they tried to push for better working conditions.

"They really instil fear in anyone who speaks up. Anyone who doesn't agree with the way things are, who says things to be better, they'll tell them like, 'Hey, you know, you're undocumented, you shouldn't say anything'. They'll just straight up fire them, or people will quit on their own accord because they don't want any trouble," she continued.

Over the years, Montoya has worked for Grimmway through various labour contractors, a common practice in the agricultural sector. She was working for Esparza Enterprises at the time of the accident.

Grimmway told Al Jazeera in a statement that "the allegation that Grimmway supervisors and its subcontractors threatened employees based on immigration status is false, and Grimmway has a strict policy prohibiting retaliation against any employee or contract employee that reports suspected issues about working conditions. We are shocked to learn about these false allegations for the first time."

United Farm Workers (UFW), the organisation that Montoya turned to see the options she had to speak out about her concerns without risking her livelihood, said that being on the receiving side of these threats was commonplace for migrant workers.

"It's the simple fact that a workforce that's scared of getting deported is one that won't speak up for higher wages. It's going to be less willing to unionise. It's going to be one that might stay quiet when accidents happen," UFW's communications director, Antonio De Loera-Brust, said.

Montoya is now protected from deportation through a programme put in place last year by the Department of Homeland Security for undocumented immigrants who are victims or witnesses of workplace exploitation and allows them to apply for deferred action.

"Employers who abuse their workers often say if you report me, I'll report you, and you're the one who will be deported.' What do we say to that? Not on our watch," Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, told a crowd at the United Farm Workers annual meeting in Bakersfield, California last month.

"When workers report abuses, their immigration status cannot be weaponised against them," Su added.

The programme, called Deferred Action Labor Enforcement or DALE, is what keeps Montoya safe from deportation and unafraid to speak up about the poor working conditions.

However, this could be short-lived. The looming potential of a second administration of Republican nominee Donald Trump has raised concerns about the future welfare of immigrant workers in the US.

"There is a sense of fear and terror that I and other workers feel when we hear talks of mass deportations and so on," Montoya said.

Not only does Trump want to scrap the key migration measures that protect Montoya, but he and his hardline immigration advisers want to bring back policies fostering exploitative workplace practices that disproportionately affect migrant workers.

"It will be increasingly difficult for them to kind of stand up for themselves and speak up out of fear," Nan Wu, research director for the American Immigration Council, told Al Jazeera.

Return of workplace raids

Trump and his hardline immigration ally Stephen Miller, largely considered the architect of Trump's nativist immigration policy during his 2017-2021 term, have said that



Some of the largest Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in years took place during Donald Trump's presidency in 2019.

roundups of migrants at workplaces and other public areas would return.

Some of the largest Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in years took place during Trump's presidency. In 2019, immigration officials raided seven chicken processing facilities across Mississippi in the largest workplace raid in a decade and arrested 680 people at the meat processing community in Mississippi. Of those, 300 were ultimately released but Trump still touted this as a win. He said it served as "a very good deterrent".

The Mississippi raid was one of the fourteen workplace ICE raids during Trump's administration.

Two years later, when Joe Biden became president, a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report referred to the practice of workforce raids as a way exploitative employers have used to suppress collective action for better working conditions. DHS then ended their use.

In another case, a restaurant owner in upstate New York allegedly tipped off immigration officials about the immigration status of a former worker, Xue Hui Zhang. ICE arrested him in the middle of a deposition in which he claimed that the very same employer owed him \$200,000 in back wages.

While the raids under the Trump administration were some of the biggest in US history, the strategy was not isolated to his time in office.

In 2012, a group of undocumented migrants raised concerns about workplace

safety issues and pay discrimination at All Dry Water Damage Experts, a Louisiana company tasked with cleaning up water damage after hurricanes that hit the gulf coast. The company then allegedly reported its own workers to immigration authorities.

Allegations of exploitative, misleading or low pay are a common problem, with 76 percent of immigrant workers in some past surveys reporting that they have been the victims of wage theft and 37 percent reporting earning less than minimum wage.

"All of this just gets so much worse if workers are afraid to speak up," Jayaraman added.

Trump's team said it would expedite the deportation process under an outdated law called the Alien Enemies Act which expands the ability to expel foreign nationals from a country that the US is at war with. This would essentially allow the Trump administration to deport people without due process.

The same law was invoked during World War II to imprison Japanese Americans in internment camps.

Trump has previously floated the idea of war in Mexico targeting drug cartels. UFW suggests that even the threat of such policies is enough to suppress workers.

"It is enough to scare a lot of workers into silence, into accepting bad working conditions and accepting unsafe working conditions and lower wages," UFW's De Loera-Brust said.

Trump allies cut key worker safeguards

Last year, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed a bill barring cities from crafting their own mandates. The move has been largely seen as political. Texas's major cities are mostly Democratic and in favour of regulation - a stark contrast to its far-right conservative state government.

The law negated local workplace safety mandates like water breaks that cities like Dallas and Austin required, especially in sectors like construction that have an immigrant-heavy workforce.

Such policies put workers in unsafe conditions. Opponents of the laws say that they further elevate the need for workers to advocate for better working conditions.

"It raises the stakes because people are dying because of dangerous working conditions in Texas," Chincanchan added.

Migrant workers account for a staggering 40 percent of the construction sector's workforce in the Lone Star State. While the law is in effect, it is being challenged in court on constitutional grounds.

Texas is also one of the most migrant-heavy states in the country. Its undocumented population is estimated at 1.7 million people, 85 percent of whom hail from Mexico and Central America.

Chincanchan says harsh immigration policies have deterred people from speaking out.

"They're staying silent because of the fear of the highest consequences you can think of - being separated from your family and losing your livelihood," Chincanchan con-

tinued.

This year, Florida clocked in its hottest summer on record.

The state did not have any of its own heat regulations on the books, which has shielded businesses from state-level repercussions for heat-related illnesses or deaths on their watch.

In Florida, non-citizen immigrant workers make up 22 percent of the outdoor workforce. That is almost twice as much of the demographic group's overall share of the workforce.

McNeill Labor Management, which provides agricultural workers to clients across Florida, was fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) after a migrant worker died from a heatstroke in 2023 but was not subject to any repercussions on the state level. The company has said it would contest the federal fine.

In July, OSHA proposed new rules that would mandate water and rest breaks. If the rule moves forward, it will go into effect in 2025.

If Trump is elected, it is not clear if the rule would stay in place or be enforced. During his term, Trump scaled back workplace safety inspections even as there were more workplace deaths.

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 ZAI DI 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

The ban keeping South Africa's farmers ever up

By Special Correspondent

NAMIBIA and Botswana have sparked debate within the agricultural sector by imposing a prolonged ban on imported citrus and vegetables from South Africa - a move that critics argue goes against numerous principles of regional trade agreements.

South Africa, a leading food supplier in Africa, benefits from long-term agricultural investments and exports significant quantities of vegetables, especially to the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) region, including Botswana and Namibia.

Admittedly, South Africa has benefited significantly from the African continent in its agricultural export process.

In the country's record agricultural exports of US\$13.2 billion in 2023, the African continent accounted for roughly 40 percent of this.

Botswana and Namibia - both members of the Sacu bloc encouraging free trade alongside South Africa - import a lot of produce from South Africa but implemented a ban on South African vegetable produce in December 2021, which has been in place since.

They have cited this as a way to incentivize domestic production and lower their dependence on

South African produce, which is exported to these countries in large quantities.

The two expanded the import ban by adding citrus to its list of banned fresh products from South Africa, and the "temporary" ban's end date was extended to 2025.

President of Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, recently wrote on Twitter (X) that "our ban... was a powerful move to boost our local farmers and economy [and] empowers Botswana by promoting self-sufficiency and improving livelihoods."

Botswana introduced the "Impact Accelerator Subsidy" scheme to boost local vegetable production, while Namibia has developed similar initiatives to promote local vegetable farming.

However, some argue that it conflicts with Sacu's ideals of open trade and collaboration, which have possible implications for unsettling established trading partnerships and the broader economic stability of the region.

"This action has had a financial impact on the South African farmers who have, for many years, produced for the domestic market and the region at large," said agricultural economist Wandile Sihlobo.

"These bans go against the principles of a customs union and affect the regional value chain, in which farmers and agribusinesses



in South Africa have invested heavily to ensure there is sufficient supply of food in the Sacu market," wrote agricultural economists and researchers Thabile Nkunjana and Sifiso Ntombela.

They said that while these farmer support schemes are encouraged to upscale production, "they must be implemented while open trade is retained to ensure welfare gain to consumers in Botswana and Namibia."

"Restricting trade could erode competitiveness and result in consumers in these Sacu countries paying much higher for [produce]. All Sacu countries must ensure they retain open trade practices, and the current bans instituted by Botswana and Namibia must be lifted to promote intra-African trade," added Nkunjana and Ntombela.

Senior agricultural economist at FNB, Paul Makube, labelled the

move as "totally anticompetitive and actually protectionist."

He said the reason for this is because "Botswana, for example, is not a big producer of citrus, so the landscape was not necessarily unfair in favour of South Africa because they were not producing the product South Africa was supplying."

Makube said that support for local farmers and growing the economy is commendable, but it should not disrupt market mechanisms.

He added that there are various tools available to help boost domestic production without interfering with trade and intervention in the market is warranted only in cases of unfair advantages from imports, as outlined by WTO trade remedies.

However, the ban poses a financial impact on the South African farmers who have, for many years, produced for the domestic market and the region at large.

Although Botswana for example is not a large importer of South African citrus, the ban forces producers to redirect their produce to other markets, including local which is already strained due issues with the EU for example.

Makube said that South Africa needs to rather focus on deepening integration within Africa, as outlined in the Africa Free Trade Agreement.

However, Makube said that trade bans counter the goal of deeper integration and hinder progress.

He said that appropriate response to protectionist policies is engagement and mediation rather than retaliation and that South Africa's response to import bans should be sensitive to the needs and wants of our neighbours, yet firm to protect and promote the local agricultural sector.

He emphasised the importance

of communication between Southern African countries and South Africa regarding agricultural products deemed vital for national security.

Sihlobo said that this would enable better planning for South Africa's agricultural exports and reduce dependency on its neighbours and emphasised that import bans should have time limits, allowing Botswana and Namibia to regain competitiveness.

"Yes, South Africa has dominance, but the goal should not be to overtake South Africa but to leverage its technologies and increase regional agricultural production.

"Such an approach is what President Masisi's government of Botswana and Namibian authorities should follow - regional cooperation and shared prosperity in agriculture," he added.

Research, capacity-building key to Africa's climate resilience

By Juliet Etefe

DEPUTY Director-West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi has underscored the critical role of research and capacity-building in boosting Africa's climate resilience.

Prof. Ogunjobi, who doubles as director of research at WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, stressed the need for countries in the sub-region to fund research and empower citizens to better address climate challenges.

He explained that capacity-building efforts are essential to fostering a deeper understanding of climate issues and ensuring dissemination of solutions at the grassroots level.

Prof. Ogunjobi was speaking in an interview at the final technical workshop on the WASCAL Research Action Plan 2.0 (WRAP 2.0) opening session in Accra, and also encouraged a shift in citizen perception and environmental stewardship.

"We must continue to fund research. Our countries must continue to fund research. We must continue to build capacity. It is very important for us to build capacity. For example, WASCAL has a capacity-building institution in the Gambia where we embark on climate change education. You know, you need to build capacity of people to understand this impact before they go to the end-users and educate."

"Also, citizens must take possession of our environment - we cannot continue to pollute, degrade forests or mismanage water resources," he said.

He further called on governments to introduce stricter environmental regulations to address these issues, urging citizens to be proactive in maintaining ecosys-

tems; adding that "Our actions today will shape the environment we leave for future generations. It is crucial that we protect and sustain it".

The WRAP 2.0 workshop, held as a key milestone in WASCAL's mission to become a Climate and Environmental Services Centre (CESC) for West Africa, brought together scientists, stakeholders and policymakers to reflect on the achievements of six climate-related projects.

The €3.5million projects, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), have focused on translating scientific research into practical services that benefit communities and mitigate the effects of extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and heatwaves.

Specifically, the workshop will showcase research and innovative products developed from the different projects, foster multidisciplinary knowledge and information-sharing while exchanging ideas and experiences on climate change adaptation options in West Africa.

According to Prof. Ogunjobi, research has been central to identifying solutions tailored to Africa's unique challenges.

"Our region is severely affected by extreme climate conditions, making it essential to develop early warning measures to protect livelihoods. WRAP 2.0 bridges the gap between science and community services, ensuring that actionable insights are available to citizens and policymakers," he noted.

He further explained that the research projects were developed using a bottom-up approach, with extensive engagement at the community level.

"We identified pressing climate issues such as unpredictable rainfall patterns, which impact agricultural practices. From there,



we went into the labs to run simulations and produce actionable results. These outcomes are now being shared with end-users to drive national development plans, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)."

The six projects under WRAP 2.0 focus on diverse areas such as food security, early warning systems and greenhouse gas reduction. One of the notable projects, Green Guide, addresses sustainable agricultural practices and explores ways to enhance crop yield while minimising methane emissions from rice production.

Prof. Ogunjobi highlighted the capacity-building aspect of WRAP 2.0, which has trained numerous PhD and Master's students.

"Beyond the science, it is vital to equip people with skills to understand climate impacts. WASCAL operates a climate education centre in the Gambia, where future leaders are trained to engage communities effectively.

"African problems require African solu-

tions. It is essential that governments across the region commit to funding research and enhancing capacity. Citizens must also play their part by adopting better environmental practices," he added.

The Deputy Ambassador-German Embassy, Ghana, Sivine Jansen, also added her voice to the call for concerted efforts toward addressing climate impacts while highlighting the effect of climate migration on livelihoods.

She added that short-term or mid-term solutions are needed in the region to better adapt to climate change - rehashing the need for African solutions to Africa problems.

In an address, WASCAL Executive Director Prof. Emmanuel Ramde highlighted how WRAP 2.0 - launched in 2021 - emerged from extensive consultations across 14 ECOWAS countries; saying conversations with farmers, fishermen and vulnerable communities underscored the urgent need for practical, science-based solutions to counter unpredict-

able rainfall patterns, rising sea levels and environmental degradation.

He commended the tangible results achieved by WRAP 2.0's six core projects, saying: "By translating research into actionable solutions, we create the resilience needed to safeguard West Africa's socio-ecological systems".

Prof. Ramde urged participants to build on the momentum generated by WRAP 2.0, calling for deeper collaboration among stakeholders - including policymakers, scientific institutions and governments.

He emphasised the need for sustained investment in climate research and appealed for WASCAL member-countries to remain committed to the institution's mission.

"Together, we can create the future we want for our region - a future where resilience is built into every village, every city and every ecosystem," he asserted.

By Robert Kibet

Kenya's mung bean legislation debate highlights serious farmers' vulnerability

KENYAN farmers have faced a turbulent year, caught between legislative changes and a devastating scandal. While the country's Mung Bean Bill, aiming to regulate the lucrative mung bean industry, has moved to mediation, farmers are battling the fallout from the widespread distribution of counterfeit fertilizers that have jeopardized their crop yields and livelihoods.

The Mung Bean Bill is a response to the crop's rising prominence in Kenya. Known locally as "Ndengu," mung beans have gained traction due to their drought-resistant nature and high demand in both local and international markets. This legislation seeks to create a framework for stabilizing prices, standardizing quality, and ensuring fair trade practices. However, many farmers fear the bill will add to existing bureaucratic hurdles without addressing core issues such as the recent fertilizer scandal.

Among those affected is Lucy Mutuku, a smallholder farmer from Kibwezi, a semi-arid region in Eastern Kenya. With a weathered face and hands hardened by years of labor, Mutuku stands in her field, explaining her decision to venture into mung bean farming. "It was a diversification strategy," she says, her voice carrying the resolve of someone who has seen many harvests. "Mung beans are drought-tolerant and using organic manure helps enhance soil fertility. Even with erratic rains, they provide a reliable source of protein for my family and surplus for the market."

Mutuku's journey took a dark turn when she became one of the many victims of the government's subsidized fertilizer program. "Buying synthetic fertilizer has always been expensive," she recounts, frustration lining her face. "When I heard about the government's fair-priced option, I bought it quickly. But then I realized it was fake. My crops failed, and it's disheartening because farming is my only income."

The scandal's impact has been widespread, with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) reporting that counterfeit fertilizers accounted for nearly 20 percent of agricultural inputs this season. This affected various crops, including mung beans, maize, and vegetables, devastating small-scale farmers who are now caught in a cycle of debt and uncertainty.

In Makueni County, Beatrice Mwangi, another farmer, invested heavily in mung beans, hoping for a lucrative harvest. With her eyes reflecting a mixture of hope and despair, she recalls the moment she realized the extent of the damage. "I was expecting a bumper harvest," she says, "but my crops hardly grew. When the agricultural office confirmed the fertilizer was fake, it was a blow." Now, like many others, she struggles to repay loans taken to purchase inputs, facing financial strain that threatens her family's future.

Dominic Mbithi in Kitui, one of Kenya's semi-arid lands, chose mung beans due to their low water re-



Sheba Ogalo and her husband harvest cassava on their farm in Chemelil. Facing harsh weather conditions, including drought, they have turned to cassava and other drought-resistant crops to sustain their livelihood.

quirements. Mbithi, a wiry man in his forties, employs zai pits, shallow basins that capture and conserve water. "This technique helps me maximize water use," he says, crouching beside one of his pits, examining the soil. Despite the challenges, he's managed to increase his yields and even engages in value addition by producing mung bean flour, which he sells to local schools and health centers.

Over in Taita Taveta, Joyce Mwikali transitioned from maize and sorghum to mung beans. A determined woman in her fifties, she walks through her sandy-soiled farm with a pride that belies the struggles she faces.

"Mung beans have a shorter growing season and thrive here," she explains. Through rotational farming and compost use, Mwikali has man-

aged to reduce her dependency on rain-fed agriculture. She now participates in a cooperative that helps with market access, ensuring better prices for her produce.

Michael Muriuki, farming on the eastern slopes of Mt. Kenya in Meru, utilizes drip irrigation to maintain a consistent water supply for his mung beans during dry spells. With a thoughtful demeanor, he shares how this extra income has enabled him to invest in better equipment. "Drip irrigation and integrated pest management have been game-changers for me," he says, his gaze fixed on the neatly lined plants.

In Tharaka-Nithi, Lydia Njeri began growing mung beans to combat climate change's effects on traditional crops. Using early planting and certified seeds, she has improved her household's nutrition and found a reliable market for her surplus produce.

"Selling to processors who make mung bean products like noodles and flour gives me a steady income," she notes, her expression softening as she describes the positive changes in her community.

Even though the National Assembly rejected the Mung Bill 2022, at the second reading stage proponents argue it could offer a regulatory framework to protect farmers from fraudulent agricultural inputs.

However, critics like Dr. John Mburu, an agricultural economist, caution that legislation alone is insufficient. "We need a comprehensive approach," he emphasizes, "including stricter enforcement against counterfeit products, farmer education, and better quality control infrastructure."

The bill will now proceed to mediation, according to the National Assembly.

The farmers' stories underscore the deep-seated vulnerabilities within Kenya's agricultural sector. While the Mung Bean Bill may offer a glimmer of hope, immediate action is required to strengthen regulatory oversight, enhance farmer awareness, and ensure the authenticity of agricultural inputs. The future of these farmers—and the nation's food security—depends on it.

As the debate continues, the voices of farmers like Mutuku, Mwangi, Mbithi, Mwikali, Muriuki, and Njeri must guide the development of policies that truly support and protect Kenya's agricultural community. Only then can such crises be prevented in the future.

The 2024 Mung Bean Congress, held in Bangkok,

Thailand, brought together 110 stakeholders from 23 countries. This gathering was a platform for sharing current research and discussing future priorities, including studies supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Dr. Eri Huttner, ACIAR's Research Program Manager for crops, emphasized the significant potential impact of their investment in mung bean improvement research on partner countries, highlighting the crop's growing global importance.

As the debate continues, the voices of the most affected—the farmers—mustn't be overlooked. Their firsthand experiences and insights should be at the forefront of developing policies that truly support and protect Kenya's agricultural community. This approach is essential to prevent such crises from reoccurring.

Back in 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) spearheaded this initiative, which significantly increased public awareness of pulses' nutritional and environmental advantages while emphasizing their function in sustainable food production.

Building on the success of this celebration and recognizing the potential of pulses to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Burkina Faso proposed the observance of World Pulse Day. Consequently, in 2019, the General Assembly proclaimed February 10 as World Pulse Day, further underscoring the vital role pulses play in global food security.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 187 00 -

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Yesterday's Solutions

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- Across:
- Past of ring
 - a person who sails yachts
 - a calf in kiswahili
 - Heaven in Kiswahili
 - one of the name of the third President of Kenya
 - largest state in USA
 - Native of Asia
 - an event causing sudden distress
 - aeon
- Down:
- give a new name to
 - Meat in kiswahili
 - Banjul is her Capital city
 - a fully adult male deer
 - less than eleven
 - computer assisted instruction
 - Glass in Kiswahili
 - an adult human male
 - disabled in the leg
 - location of something on the area
 - a knock out
 - a method

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.

- NOTE MANNER NOON NAMED MORON MAYOR SAD
- DETERS MONDAY NEON NANCY SCREW DEW :NSB ODE : ADO
- Felix: 0789437309 | felixmagezi@gmail.com

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BUSINESS



CEO network Ghana calls for review of business regulations

ACCRA

THE Founder of CEO Network Ghana, Ernest De-Graft Egyir, has advocated a comprehensive review of Ghana's business regulatory environment to enhance competitiveness and drive economic growth.

He said by eliminating bottlenecks and streamlining processes, Ghana could create a more vibrant and dynamic business ecosystem that would benefit both local entrepreneurs and international investors.

Ghana's business regulatory framework, like many developing countries, faces challenges including complex and time-consuming registration processes; multiple or sometimes overlapping regulatory bodies; inconsistent regulations; high compliance costs and bureaucratic red tape.

These factors have been identified as major barriers to entry for new businesses and obstacles to growth for existing ones.

At the launch of the maiden Ghana CEO Presidential Manifesto Gala Dinner in Accra yesterday, Mr Egyir said, "Ghana's business regulatory environment must undergo a comprehensive review to eliminate bottlenecks and streamline processes.

"Simplifying regulations will encourage investment and enable local businesses to thrive."

He also called for the establishment of a permanent business advisory council which would work closely with the incoming government from 2025, to provide ongoing input on policies and ensure businesses have a voice in government decisions.

The maiden Ghana CEO-Presidential Manifesto Gala Dinner slated for November 7, 2024 in Accra presents an opportunity for businesses to shape Ghana's economic and political future.

On the theme: "Reigniting the Business Economy and Social Contract for Growth: A Business Manifesto for Political Accountability and Sustainable Development," the event will feature a

dialogue between Ghana's top business leaders and political figures, to foster collaboration, drive accountability, and chart a path toward sustainable growth.

"Ghana's economic potential remains unmatched, yet challenges such as economic instability and the need for greater political transparency persist."

This Gala will aim to reset the partnership between business and political leadership through a renewed social contract based on trust, accountability and a shared vision," Mr Egyir said.

He explained that the road to sustainable development required collaboration between the private sector and political leadership.

"Together, we can create an environment where businesses thrive, governance is transparent and the economy grows for all Ghanaians," he added.

The CEO of Margins Group, Moses Baiden Jnr, said the Gala Dinner signified a beacon of progress, a call to action, and a defining moment for the business and political landscape of Ghana.

According to him, the event will provide businesses with a unique opportunity to voice their concerns and collaborate closely with the country's political leadership to chart a course towards sustainable economic progress.

"The commitments that will emerge from this platform, be it the Social Contract Signing or the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), will be vital steps toward creating an enabling environment for businesses and protecting the future of our country," he said.

"As business leaders, our role in Ghana's economic transformation is more critical than ever. We must ensure that the policies enacted reflect the realities of the business landscape and foster growth."

This event gives us the chance to make our voices heard and secure a future that works for all Ghanaians," Mr Baiden added.

Rise in crypto casinos changing sports gaming

LAGOS

If there is something you can trust the casino industry for, it should be that it is always quick to adopt new trends and emerging innovations.

So, don't be surprised that the online casino industry is at the forefront of accepting cryptocurrency payments.

The reasons for this adoption are simple: cryptocurrency payments have benefits, and the casino industry cherishes innovation. So, combining these reasons forms one of the best bonds.

Crypto casinos and traditional fiat currency are both online gambling platforms. They differ only in the currencies they use and how they operate. Crypto casinos accept crypto currencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin, etc., as payment methods. Fiat casinos, on the other hand, use government-issued currencies like the dollar, pound, and euro.

Although crypto and fiat currency can both be used to make payments, they are different. The table below reviews notable differences between crypto and fiat currencies.

Crypto casinos are quickly becoming a dominant force in the gambling industry. Remember, crypto is slightly different from fiat currency, and not everyone is familiar with using it as a payment method.

So, we will discuss how you can use cryptocurrency as a payment method in online casinos, focusing on its use on sports betting platforms. To start with, you first need to have a crypto wallet. This is a digital wallet you can use to store, send, and receive cryptocurrencies.

When initiating a deposit, start by accessing your cryptocurrency wallet and selecting the token you wish to use. Start by logging in to your casino profile and choosing the cryptocurrency deposit option.

This will generate a unique wallet address, which you will copy



into your wallet and use to deposit your desired amount of cryptocurrency. The transaction will then be confirmed on the blockchain, after which your deposit will reflect on your profile.

With enough crypto funds in your account, you can now wager with your cryptocurrency. Like fiat currency, you simply have to choose the amount you want to bet in cryptocurrency, and the value will be displayed in the corresponding fiat currency. For instance, if you bet 0.01 BTC on a football match, you may end up seeing the corresponding amount in USD.

Initiating a withdrawal is similar to making a deposit. You will navigate to the withdraw section on your profile and select the cryptocurrency withdrawal option. You will get a prompt to enter your personal cryptocurrency wallet address. The platform may require verification, but sometimes verification can be automated. Once the betting platform approves your withdrawal, the fund will be reflected in your crypto wallet.

Crypto casinos also offer a level of accessibility that traditional gambling establishments can't match. Many online casinos that accept cryptocurrency payments also offer special bonuses and in-

centives to players:

For instance, some platforms provide exclusive crypto deposit bonuses, higher cashback rates, and other promotions tailored for crypto users. These incentives further enhance the value of using cryptocurrency for online gambling. Below are the advantages of adopting crypto payments in the online gambling space:

Payment with cryptocurrency at online casinos can ensure your anonymity and privacy. Unlike when using traditional fiat currency, where financial institutions demand strict KYC, you can transact with cryptocurrency anonymously.

Cryptocurrency payments do not need to pass through a third party. No wonder crypto transactions are fast and more affordable. Additionally, as they are not subject to traditional banking fees, players can save money on every transaction, especially for cross-border transfers.

Cryptocurrency is hosted on decentralised blockchains, which automatically record every transaction and do not allow interference or changes. No one has a monopoly over cryptocurrency transactions, making it difficult to manipulate them or commit fraud.

Cryptocurrency is a digital currency accessible to players worldwide. Unlike traditional fiat currencies, which are spent within the confines of a particular region, cryptocurrency payments enable players to have access regardless of location. This means you can bet on platforms even if you do not live in the country where they are domiciled.

Cryptocurrencies are built on ecosystems that enable community interaction. In addition to using them to wager, you can trade the crypto coins with other players, share, and have other discussions. As such, using cryptocurrencies on a platform can enhance community building and social interaction among players.

Online casinos have moved far from the bricks-and-mortar world. In fact, the casino industry's quick adaptation to trends and technologies makes it easy for them to adopt cryptocurrency as a payment method quickly. The number of online betting platforms accepting them is only increasing by the day.

Crypto casinos are changing the way we bet on sports. As many people become familiar with blockchain technology, the adoption of crypto casinos in sports betting will likely continue to grow.



Dr Toni Aubynn (2nd left), board chairman, ARB Apex Bank, Alex Kwasi Awuah (2nd right), managing director ARB Apex Bank, and Eric Osei Bonsu (right) interact after the opening of the conference.

Rural banks urged to align plans with national financial agenda

ACCRA

The Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Elsie Addo Awadzi, has urged Rural and Community Banks (RCBs) to adopt technology and digitalisation in their operations to enable them to position themselves in the national financial inclusion agenda.

"The Bank of Ghana's 2023 FinTech Sector Report indicates that mobile money accounts have surpassed 65 million with transaction values exceeding GH¢1.9 trillion.

To position rural banking at the center of the national financial inclusion agenda, RCBs can adopt technology and digitalisation in their operations," she said in her quest to paint a picture about the value of technology and digitalisation.

In an address read on her behalf at the 23rd Annual CEOs Conference of Rural and Community Banks at Ho in the Volta Region yesterday on the theme "Positioning Rural Banks at the centre of national financial inclusion agenda", Ms Awadzi said, BoG has

emphasised digital transformation as a critical pathway for expanding rural financial services.

"Therefore, RCBs can integrate mobile banking and other digital solutions in their operations to enhance access, quality and usage of their services.

The GhanaPay initiative is a significant step in this direction, enabling RCBs to offer mobile wallets and digital payments. RCBs must capitalise on this and encourage partnerships with FinTechs through Apex Bank to innovate further," she added.

The 2nd Deputy Governor said the number and locations of RCBs across the country are essential to the economic growth of rural Ghana because the 147 RCBs and 850 outlets, serve as the primary access point for many underserved communities.

In spite of that, she said "there is still a gender gap in financial access. According to the Findex 2021 Report, women are 10 percentage points less likely to own a mobile phone compared to men, limiting their ability to ac-

cess mobile money services.

This gender disparity presents a challenge that RCBs must address by creating products and services that target women and other underserved populations.

"Therefore, RCBs must offer tailored financial products to their customers which fully meet the needs of their communities.

RCBs must go beyond offering generic products as their success hinges on understanding and catering to the unique financial needs of rural populations including farmers, small-scale traders, especially women and persons with disabilities, and local businesses," she added.

According to her, by designing tailored financial solutions specific to local income cycles, RCBs can make themselves the first point of call for customers seeking financial services adding that: "Customised products will build trust and ensure a deeper connection with their clientele."

Furthermore, Awadzi said the operations of RCBs should be made more customer cen-

tric.

She said placing the customer at the center of operations is key to the long-term success of rural banks.

"This involves focusing on personalised service, actively listening to customer feedback, and ensuring that financial solutions are accessible and beneficial. RCBs should implement customer satisfaction mechanisms that allow for continuous service improvement.

Additionally, the Bank of Ghana would encourage RCBs to focus on local outreach. RCBs have a unique mandate to serve the unbanked and underserved populations within their localities," Ms Awadzi added.

She said the focus on reaching out to the unbanked, rather than venturing into cities where they face competition from established banks, is crucial.

Managing Director of the ARB Apex Bank, Alex Kwasi Awuah, said the new frontier of revolutionising financial intermediation is

through the establishment of robust digital banking platforms.

"I am very pleased that our long-awaited Financial Sector Development Project (FSDP), which was sponsored by the Government of Ghana and the World Bank, has crystallised, making the digital banking platforms of the rural banking industry now operational.

"Currently, by signing onto our special USSD code *992#, customers of our banks can perform a host of banking services, including withdrawal of funds, transfer of funds, bill payments, and making account statement and cheque requests, amongst others, right from the comfort of their mobile phones. Additionally, the RCB Mobile Banking App is now ready to be deployed," he disclosed.

Awuah further announced that the pilot phase of the USSD platform has already enrolled 81,246 customers of RCBs and also recorded 694,221 transactions with a total value of GH¢323,179,429.80.

Company empowers Nigerian traders with low-cost forex trading margins

LAGOS

As Nigeria continues to emerge as a hub for financial innovation, more Nigerians are exploring the global forex markets.

Forex trading, or foreign exchange trading, allows individuals to trade currencies and profit from fluctuating exchange rates. However, finding a reliable and affordable forex broker is essential for success in this dynamic market. Enter FXCG, a leading forex broker committed to providing Nigerians with a low-cost, high-quality trading experience.

FXCG stands out in the world of forex trading for its user-friendly platform and dedication to helping traders at all levels. Whether you are new to the market or a seasoned trader, FXCG offers the tools and features you need to succeed. One of the key highlights of FXCG is its lowest cost

platform, making forex trading more accessible and affordable for Nigerians.

With FXCG, traders can enjoy raw spreads starting from as low as 0.0 pips, meaning the difference between the buying and selling price of a currency pair is minimised. Additionally, the low commission structure ensures that traders can maximise their profits while keeping trading costs to a minimum. This makes FXCG an ideal choice for anyone looking to enter the forex market without being burdened by high fees.

One of the reasons FXCG is recognised as a top forex broker is its use of ECN (Electronic Communication Network) trading. With ECN trading, FXCG connects traders directly to liquidity providers, such as banks and financial institutions, ensuring fast and transparent trades. This technology gives traders access to raw



spreads and allows for faster execution times, giving them a competitive edge in the market.

Nigerians can benefit from FXCG's ECN platform, which provides better pricing and lower costs. This means fewer intermediaries in the trade process, giving traders more control over their investments and

helping them optimise their strategies.

At the heart of FXCG's platform is MetaTrader 4 (MT4), a world-renowned forex trading platform known for its powerful charting tools, ease of use, and support for automated trading. Nigerian traders can download the MetaTrader 4 for

PC from FXCG's website and access advanced features such as technical analysis, custom indicators, and Expert Advisors (EAs) for automated trading.

MT4 is designed to cater to both beginner and professional traders, making it easier to analyse the markets and make informed decisions.

The platform's flexibility and accessibility ensure that traders can execute their trades seamlessly, whether they are trading on their desktop or mobile device.

FXCG is more than just a forex broker, and is a partner in your trading journey. The platform offers a forex demo account, allowing new traders to practice their strategies with virtual money before trading live. This educational approach helps traders develop their skills and confidence before committing real funds.

With the growing interest in forex trading in Nigeria, FXCG is here to provide the tools, resources, and support that traders need to thrive. Whether you're looking for low-cost trading, ECN technology, or a user-friendly platform like MetaTrader 4, FXCG is committed to empowering Nigerian traders and providing them with the best possible trading experience.



An aerial view of a wind farm in Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

China's bid to help with green transition good for the world

Guangxi

When I attended a seminar on climate change in Brussels on Tuesday morning, the biggest question on my mind was how the rising geopolitical tensions have undermined global solidarity and cooperation in the fight against climate change.

Jean-Marc Jancovici, an expert on low-carbon economy, soberly reminded the audience that global temperatures had already risen more than 1.5 degrees Celsius from the pre-industrial levels, a harsh reality that some scientists sounded the alarm in July.

While climate change is regarded the biggest threat to the planet and, therefore, humanity, the United States has over the past years tried to portray China, including China's green industry, as its biggest threat. The US has been engaging in zero-sum games by claiming China's green products pose a national security threat to the US and the rest of the world.

US President Joe Biden's announcement in May, imposing 100 percent tariff on Chinese-made electric vehicles, 50 percent on Chinese-made solar cells and 25 percent on EV batteries and parts are typical protectionist moves that hurt China's green industry, as well as US consumers by denying them affordable but quality green products.

As a result of such policies, the US' green transition will slow down and become costlier.

Similar is the case of Canada, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government blindly follows in the US' footsteps.

The European Union, too, has decided to impose tariffs up to 35.3 percent on Chinese-made EVs despite a sharply divided vote. The good news is that the EU and China are continuing their negotiations in order to find a solution and avoid a potential trade war.

A European Commission spokesperson did not directly address my questions when asked if such tariffs would slow down the EU's green transition, especially its goal of phasing out new fossil fuel cars by 2035, a big concern for many European experts.

Just last week, the European People's Party, the largest political party in the European Parliament which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen belongs to, posted a message on its website urging the EU to change its planned ban on combustion engines.

The fact that both the US and the EU have been undermining and fearmongering about Chinese-made green products is something that should be discussed at the 29th UN Climate Change Conference scheduled for Nov 11-22 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

China has demonstrated its firm determination to continue its green drive, and has achieved phenomenal success in its low carbon transition over the past more than a decade. The fruitful result is reflected in the latest report of the International Energy Agency, which was issued last week, that China will account for almost 60 percent of all renewable capacity installed worldwide between now and 2030. That would make China home to almost half of the world's total renewable power capacity by the end of this decade.

But China's potential contribution to the rest of the world in terms of renewables has been greatly hampered by the trade barriers erected by the US and some other countries.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has blamed China for so-called overcapacity, but many experts I have talked to have said that there is no such thing as "overcapacity", but "undercapacity" when it comes to meeting the huge global demand for green products.

Worse, the US' protectionist measures have hurt the limited mutual

trust that existed between the two largest economies. It is true that John Kerry and John Podesta, former and current US climate envoys, have held several talks with their Chinese counterparts. But such talks have often been marred by Washington's strategy to curtail China's economic and technological rise, particularly in the

green industry.

Sino-US cooperation led to the finalization of the historic Paris Agreement in 2015 and its signing in 2016. The US should reflect on that spirit, and immediately stop sabotaging China's green and renewable industry. Because climate change, not China, is the biggest threat to the US and the world.

China's GDP up by 4.6 pc year-on-year in Q3

GUANGDONG

China's gross domestic product grew by 4.6 percent year-on-year in the third quarter following a 4.7 percent rise in the second quarter, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Friday.

In the first three quarters, China's GDP grew by 4.8 percent after a 5 percent growth in the first half of the year, the bureau said.

The NBS said that positive factors promoting the recovery of the economy were accumulated in September, with most of the indicators in production and demand improving while boosting market expectations.

Figures released by the NBS showed China's industrial output, a gauge of activity in the manufacturing, mining and utilities sectors, grew by 5.4 percent in September from a year earlier after a 4.5 percent rise in August.

In the first three quarters, industrial output grew by 5.8 percent compared to the same period last year, while in the first half of the year, it rose by 6 percent from a year earlier.

Retail sales, a key meas-

urement of consumer spending, grew by 3.2 percent year-on-year in September, up from the 2.1 percent growth in August.

In the first three quarters, retail sales rose by 3.3 percent compared to the same period last year, while in the first half of the year, they grew by 3.7 percent from a year earlier.

In the January-September period, fixed-asset investment, a gauge of expenditures on various elements, including infrastructure, property, machinery and equipment, grew by 3.4 percent compared with a year earlier, the same as the January-August period.

The surveyed urban jobless rate came in at 5.1 percent in September from 5.3 percent in August, according to the NBS.

Despite the challenges ahead, Zou Yunhan, deputy director of the Macroeconomic Research Office at the State Information Center's Department of Economic Forecasting, said that China's economy will likely pick up in the fourth quarter, propelled by the incremental policy package.

"With the stimulus pack-

age taking effect and the continued strengthening of the endogenous driving forces, China will likely achieve the preset annual growth target this year," she said during a recent interview with China Daily.

China boosts development of low-altitude economy to promote high-quality economic development in different parts of the country.

Leveraging the layout of several industrial parks, Binzhou city of East China's Shandong province, has developed the low-altitude economy, along with the talent cultivation and R&D advantages of Shandong University of Aeronautics.

Relying on the advantages of modern manufacturing base and western vocational education base, Yongchuan district of Southwest China's Chongqing has promoted school-enterprise cooperation and the integration of industry and education in the field of low-altitude industry.

This area has developed low-altitude economic industries such as low-altitude manufacturing, low-altitude management and low-altitude application.



An experimental high-speed train running along the Longyan-Longchuan high-speed railway in south China's Guangdong province.

Affordable housing board allocates units to Kenyans

NAIROBI

The Affordable Housing agenda is a key pillar of the government's bottom-up economic transformation agenda (BETA).

The Affordable Housing agenda is anchored in the Affordable Housing Act, which President William Ruto assented to on March 2024.

Over the next four years, the government has planned over 730,062 affordable housing units, with already 112,405 completed and ongoing. This puts it to a total project pipeline of 842,467 affordable housing units.

According to Habitat, the housing deficit in Kenya stood at 2 million in 2012 and continues to grow at the rate of over 250,000 units a year. There is a proliferation of informal settlements in urban areas with 60 per cent of the population living in informal settlements.

With over 300,000 Kenyans estimated to have registered for affordable housing units, several Kenyans have been questioning the procedure used by the government to allocate houses.

There are four categories of affordable housing units which include: Social housing unit: A house targeted at a person whose monthly income is below Ksh20,000;

Affordable middle-class housing unit: A house targeted at a person whose monthly income is over Ksh149,000; Affordable housing unit: A house targeted at a person whose monthly income is between Ksh20,000 and Ksh149,000;

Rural affordable housing unit: A house targeted at a person living in any area which is not an urban area. All Kenyans over the age of 18 are eligible for allocation of one housing unit if they provide proof of the requisite deposit and meet the criteria set in the regulations.

Potential house owners are required to make an application to the Affordable Housing Board with the relevant documents attached. In allocating the affordable housing units, the Board will give preference to marginalized persons, vulnerable groups, youth, women and persons with disabilities. Eligible persons may make voluntary savings to raise a deposit for an affordable housing unit.

The Affordable Housing Fund's administrator will open separate bank accounts for depositing the voluntary amounts and issue an account number to individuals contributing voluntary funds. Any interest accrued will be credited to the same account. Anyone who makes voluntary contributions but is not allocated an affordable housing unit may opt to withdraw their savings with accrued interest after giving a 90-day written notice.

Alternatively, they may apply to the Board for issuance of an affordable mortgage to develop a rural affordable housing unit. The savings and can be made locally.

Upon approval by the Cabinet Secretary (Housing), the Board shall

transfer ownership to a qualified applicant upon payment of the full purchase price and issuance of a certificate proving consent from the Board.

Owners are however restricted from the onward sale of the affordable housing units without prior consent of the Board.

Kenyans seeking to get housing units must have an eCitizen account. They can register through the Boma Yangu web portal or via the *832# USSD. Those seeking to register must be Kenyans above 18 years of age with a valid national identity card.

During registration, one will be required to submit personal details and housing preferences. Once registered, the details will be verified by the relevant government agencies.

To activate the account, the potential owner will be required to save a minimum of Ksh200. After activation, they can save any amount at any time, as many times as they wish through the various payment options available.

Registered and saving members can view all the available projects on Boma Yangu, add those they like to their wishlist and select a preferred unit

Selecting a preferred unit will show how much deposit they'd need to save to be eligible for allocation - which is 10 per cent of the unit value.

Once projects are completed, the allocation process will begin. Registered members will be notified when the allocation process starts.

Members will be asked to select a unit and notified of the amount they need to have saved to be eligible for allocation.

"The allocation process for homes will be done through a fair and transparent process," the government says through Boma Yangu.

The initial eligibility for allocation will depend on several factors such as when a member reached the amount of deposit required, family status and other social factors, as well as the demand across various housing categories.

Those who do not get an allocation in the first instance will be put on a waiting list to ensure they have priority in subsequent allocations.

Over Ksh4.4 billion has been ring-fenced for the Jua Kali and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Affordable Housing Programme projects in the country. This was announced by Government Spokesperson Isaac Mwaura on September 5, 2024.

According to Mwaura, will be paid to these MSMEs to construct, among other items, steel doors, windows, balustrades and curtain rods, and provide landscaping services to enable them to earn a livelihood.

In what would be a booster to local manufacturers and hustlers working therein, the State Department for Housing and Settlement has identified over 169 components that can be made locally.

"The State Department for Housing and Settlement has engaged the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) within a framework where they will supply interior furnishing items,



such as tiles, directly to spur growth in the sector and promote the "Buy Kenya Build Kenya" initiative. At the same time, the State Department has established a working relationship with artisans in the Jua Kali sector, who are organized in groups and associations, to supply doors and windows for housing projects," Mwaura stated.

The government has launched an escalated construction program that aims to increase the number of plumbers, masons, carpenters, and

other assorted casual jobs on construction sites by over 50,000 opportunities.

It is also expected that over 10,000 professional interns will be hired in the next year, starting with 3,360 who will join the ongoing projects in the coming weeks. Under this program, young university graduates will be hired through a job placement program.

In a bid to eradicate slums while simultaneously providing a decent and dignified home for Kenyans of

all walks of life, the government has a target of constructing 250,000 affordable housing units annually to address urban and rural housing shortages.

"More than 60 per cent of urban Kenyans live in slums and other low-quality housing without adequate sanitation, undermining their dignity and exposing them to health hazards. This is attributable to the country's rapid urbanization rate, which oscillates at 4.4 per cent, translating to an equivalent of 500,000 new city

dwellers a year, making housing supply a challenge and a moving target for the Government," Mwaura said.

According to the government, the Affordable Housing Programme will create quality jobs directly in the construction sector for the approximately 100,000 young people who graduate from TVETs every year, and indirectly through the production of building products.

"This commitment seeks to increase the supply of new housing to 250,000 per annum and change the percentage of affordable housing supply from the prevailing 2 per cent to 50 per cent by structuring affordable long-term housing finance schemes, including a National Housing Fund and Cooperative Social Housing Schemes, to guarantee the offtake of houses from developers," Mwaura says.

"It further aims at strengthening the Jua Kali industry's capacity to produce high-quality construction materials while giving developers incentives to build more affordable housing units."

The country harbours

more than 1,100 informal settlements, with 65 per cent of Kenyans in urban areas living in slums. Additionally, many of them live in rentals not by choice but because they cannot afford to own a home.

Currently, an estimated 160,000 youth and women are employed in ongoing projects across the country.

"The target is to create over 1 million jobs through the Affordable Housing Program for plumbers, electricians, masons, and stone cutters at the quarry, and across the building and construction industry as the Government continues to roll out this initiative," Mwaura adds.

Cumulatively, there are about 100,000 housing units at various stages of construction across the country. An additional 700,000 housing units are in the pipeline, including 40,299 social housing units advertised on June 25, 2024, by the State Department for Housing and Urban Development. These units will also benefit residents who were relocated from flood-prone areas along the Nairobi River.

SATURDAY 19 Oct			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	8:55 Habari za saa
6:00	Kumekucha	6:40 Habari	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
7:00	HABARI	7:30 Habari	9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:30 Watoto wetu	9:55 Habari za saa
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:00 Shika Bamba 5	10:55 Habari za saa
10:05	Mjuzi Zaidi	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:00 ITV Top Ten rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:00 Habari za saa
12:50	Art and lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu	12:55 Habari za saa
13:20	Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	14:20 Soap rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	16:10 Social Climate	16:30 Hapa na Pale
16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	16:30 Shamsam za Pwani	16:55 Habari za saa
17:00	Shamsam za Pwani	17:30 Hapa na Pale	17:55 Habari za saa
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:25 DW: Afrimax
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	18:55 Shika Bamba	18:55 Kipindi maalum: TBS
19:30	Jungu kuu	20:00 Shika Bamba	19:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
20:00	HABARI	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu	19:30 Mjuzi Zaidi
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23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV
00:30	Al Jazeera		
SUNDAY 20 Oct			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	8:55 Habari za saa
6:00	Kumekucha	6:40 Habari	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
7:00	HABARI	7:30 Habari	9:30 Soap: Laws of love
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:30 Watoto wetu	9:55 Habari za saa
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:00 Shika Bamba	10:55 Habari za saa
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MONDAY 21 Oct			
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	HABARI	8:55 Habari za saa
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
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7:00	HABARI	7:30 Habari	9:55 Habari za saa
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WORLD

Rwanda's Marburg cases decline but mpox spreading in Africa, health officials say

DAKAR

RWANDA'S outbreak of the deadly Marburg virus is easing after vaccinations of the most vulnerable people including healthcare workers, but mpox cases are still spreading to new African countries, Rwanda's health minister and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's head said on Thursday.

In early October, Rwanda began administering vaccine doses against the Marburg virus to combat an outbreak of the Ebola-like disease in the east African country.

New infections have now reduced by more than 50 percent compared with the first two weeks, health minister Sabin Nsanzimana said, adding that the country had experienced consecutive days without new cases or deaths and that most people were recovering in treatment centres.

"Overall, the trend is very encouraging, very positive, both on the new infections declining significantly, and also the mortality reducing," Nsanzimana told reporters in an online briefing.

The minister said the latest numbers



A woman infected with Mpox poses for a photograph at the Kamenge University Hospital's Mpox treatment center in Bujumbura on Aug 22, 2024. AFP

showed 62 confirmed cases of the viral hemorrhagic fever and 15 deaths. He said that 38 people had recovered from the disease and nine were still under treatment.

Meanwhile, the mpox outbreak that the World Health Organization has declared a public health emergency of international concern continued to spread on the continent, Jean Kaseya, director general of Africa CDC, told the same briefing.

The number of affected countries rose from six member states of the African Union in April to 18 in October, Kaseya said.

"We don't want to see all African countries being affected. This is why

we need to intensify our effort," he said.

Africa has seen more than 42,000 suspected mpox cases including 1,100 deaths so far this year, according to Africa CDC data.

Kaseya said that while over \$800 million have been pledged for the agency's fight against mpox, donors are slow to translate these promises into money and vaccines needed to accelerate the response.

"We want now to see concrete action on the ground to stop this outbreak... We cannot continue like that. We need to save lives of people, we need to give future to our continent."

Agencies

True sovereignty and reliable partners: what Putin said at BRICS Business Forum

MOSCOW

FURTHER growth of BRICS will depend less and less on external influence, this is true sovereignty, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the BRICS Business Forum.

He added that Russia is redirecting transport flows to reliable foreign partners.

TASS has compiled the key statements of the head of state.

On sovereignty

External influence will have less and less impact on the future growth of the BRICS: "This is essentially economic sovereignty, a partnership of self-sufficient economies, which multiplies their potential and opens up new opportunities."

On role of BRICS

The share of the BRICS countries in the global GDP already exceeds that of the G7 and continues to grow: "The countries



that are part of our association are, in fact, the drivers of global economic growth. And it is in BRICS that the main increase in global GDP will be generated in the foreseeable future."

BRICS plays a prominent role in the global economy not only of today. "It is quite obvious that this role will increase in the future as well."

The new BRICS Development Bank should become one of the main investors in major technological and infrastructure projects in the region and the Global South: "And we will develop it, of course, without

opposing anyone, it is just an independent structure. We will develop its capabilities."

On cooperation

Russia is rapidly redirecting transport flows to "reliable foreign partners."

The Northern Sea Route and the North-South Corridor are designed to provide short, profitable trade routes, linking major industrial, agricultural and power hubs with consumer markets. Road and rail access to seaports is being developed: "In turn, the North-South transport corridor connects Russian ports on the northern seas and the Baltic Sea with terminals on the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean coasts. This is also the key to increasing cargo traffic between the Eurasian and African continents."

Russia is "as open as possible for mutually beneficial business cooperation", it creates favorable conditions for business.

Realizing the potential of BRICS "will bring maximum benefits" to countries, businesses and all citizens: "The work of BRICS is not directed against anyone. It is aimed at only one common goal: the sustainable development and prosperity of our countries and peoples."

Agencies

At 10-year mark, US and allies weigh future of Islamic State mission

BRUSSELS

TEN years to the day after the formal launch of the US-led operation against the Islamic State, the United States and its NATO allies gathered in Brussels on Thursday to discuss the future of a mission facing increasing headwinds.

Niger kicked out the US military from its counter-terrorism base in West Africa this summer. Afghanistan has been largely off-limits since the Taliban's 2021 takeover. And Iraq wants the Pentagon to start reducing its personnel and end coalition operations there.

At the same time, American officials warn the global threat from Islamic State is growing in Africa and elsewhere, even as public attention has shifted to Ukraine conflict and expanding conflicts in the Middle East.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who helped launch the US-led coalition against Islamic State a decade ago as a four-star general, cautioned allies at NATO head-

quarters in Brussels that Islamic State was still a threat that required international attention.

"But as we do so, we must not lose sight of the threat that ISIS still poses."

Attacks in Russia, Iran

At the height of its powers, Islamic State claimed control over swathes of the combined territories of Iraq and Syria. Its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared his cross-border caliphate from the pulpit of Iraq's historic al-Nuri mosque in 2014 and vowed to rule it.

Although territorially defeated in Syria five years ago, and seven years ago in Iraq, Islamic State has managed some high-profile attacks while trying to rebuild.

Most recently, those include an assault on a Russian concert hall in March that killed at least 143 people and two explosions in the Iranian city of Kerman in January that killed nearly 100 people.

A 19-year-old Austrian suspected of masterminding a planned suicide attack

on a Taylor Swift concert in August had vowed allegiance to the Islamic State militant group's leader.

"It is a threat that is evolving," NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said at the talks.

"There is an increase in lone-wolf attacks. Terrorists are increasingly using new technologies and the epicenter is moving southwards into the Sahel, a region which is now accounting for almost half of all deaths from terrorism."

In Africa, jihadist groups with links to al Qaeda or Islamic State have killed thousands of civilians and displaced millions in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Experts say these conflicts in the Sahel are contributing to a sharp rise in migration towards Europe at a time when anti-immigrant far-right parties are on the rise and some EU states are tightening their borders.

"There's been deliberate efforts (by Islamic State) to try to diversify not only their leadership but some of their com-

bat power to Africa, to Central Asia," a senior US defense official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the US strategy was to ensure the Sahel-based threat doesn't spread south to Ghana, Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo and other countries in coastal West Africa.

It will not be easy. The United States is searching for a Plan B in West Africa after Niger's ruling junta in April ordered the US to withdraw its nearly 1,000 military personnel.

In Iraq, an agreement between Washington and Baghdad will see the US-led coalition's military mission end by September 2025, as Iraq turns to more traditional bilateral security partnerships.

The US defense official said the details were being worked out but "all expectations are the footprint will shrink" over the next year. But it is unclear what kind of US presence will remain in Iraq to support operations in Syria, which will continue.

Indian Naval Ship INS Suvarna visits Tanzania

INDIAN Naval Ship Suvarna is scheduled to make a port call at Dar es Salaam from 19 to 21 October 2024 for Operational Turn Around. This is the second time this year that an Indian Naval Ship will be exercising and carrying out joint exercises with the Tanzanian Navy.

The last port call by INS Tir in March 2024 saw the two strategic partner navies undertaking harbour and sea phase of various maritime exercises as part of the second edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania series including joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol.

Considering the strong and cordial relationship between both the maritime nations that has further strengthened with the State Visit of H.E. Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of United Republic of Tanzania to India in October 2023, the port call by INS Suvarna at Dar es Salaam will see personnel from both navies engaging in a wide range of professional interactions, deck visits and sports exchanges, aimed at enhancing the defence cooperation and mutual understanding.

On 19 October 2024, the ship will host a deck reception and hand over an Integrated Weapon Training Simulator (IWTS) to TPDF for setting up at Infantry School Arusha, thereby enhancing the simulator based training effort of TPDF. On

20 October 2024, both Indian and TPDF Navy personnel will participate in sports fixture and play a Volley Ball match and on 21 October 2024, jointly participate in an EEZ Surveillance exercise. The ship will also be open for visit by Tanzanian school children on 19 and 20 October 2024.

INS Suvarna (P52) is a Sukanya class patrol vessel of the Indian Navy. The ship was commissioned on 04 Apr 91 and displaces 2080 tonnes with a length of 101 metres.

The ship is equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors and can carry multi-role helicopters. Incidentally, on 19 April 2021, INS Suvarna, while on a surveillance patrol in the Arabian Sea, seized narcotics worth 360 million USD being transported on a fishing vessel.

The ship is currently being commanded by Commander Lalit Yadav and is manned by a crew of 10 officers and 127 sailors.

PM Modi to visit Russia next week to attend BRICS Summit in Kazan

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin from October 22-23 to attend the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan.



The BRICS Summit in Kazan is being held under the chairmanship of Russia, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). During his visit, PM Modi is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders in Kazan.

The MEA said, "The Summit, themed 'Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security,' will provide an important platform for leaders to discuss key global issues."

It further said, "The Summit will offer a valuable opportunity to assess the progress of initiatives launched by BRICS and to identify potential areas for future collaboration."

The leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St Petersburg in Russia in 2006. After a series of high-level meetings, the first BRIC summit was held in Russia's Yekaterinburg in 2009.

BRIC group was renamed as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September 2010.

BRICS is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising 41 per cent of the world population, having 24 per cent of the world GDP and over 16 per cent share in the world trade.

Earlier in September, Russian President Vladimir Putin extended an invitation to PM Modi, proposing a bilateral meeting on October 22, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan. During the invitation, Putin also referred to PM Modi as a "good friend."

The remarks by Putin came while he met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting. Putin had a meeting with Doval at the Constantine Palace in Russia's St. Petersburg.

Quoting President Putin, the Kremlin in a statement said, "We will be expecting Mr Modi in Kazan. I also suggest holding a bilateral meeting there on October 22 in order to close the books on our joint work in implementing the agreements reached during his visit to Moscow and outline some prospects for the near future."

"Please extend my warmest regards and best wishes to Mr Modi, my good friend," the statement added. ANI

OECD-backed group calls for global pact to solve water crisis

SINGAPORE

COUNTRIES need a new international pact to fix a mounting water crisis that could cut economic growth by at least 8 percent and put half the world's food supplies at risk by 2050, an OECD-backed commission said on Thursday.

Climate change, destructive land use and chronic mismanagement has put the global water cycle under "unprecedented stress", said the Global Commission on the

Economics of Water (GCEW), a two-year research initiative set up by the Netherlands in 2022.

Densely populated regions like northwestern India and southern and eastern Europe are especially vulnerable to water shortages, it said.

Governments must work together to create incentives to transform how water is consumed and ensure that investment in vital infrastructure reaches the right places, GCEW said in its final report.

"We are going to have to set

common goals for water sustainability," said Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, GCEW co-chair.

"Ultimately, it will require a global water pact. It is going to take several years to get there, but we are going to start that process," he said at a briefing ahead of the report's launch.

The report said global water supplies can no longer be counted on, partly as a result of shifting rainfall patterns, with each 1 degree Celsius of warming estimated to in-

crease atmospheric moisture retention by 7 percent.

"For the first time, we are actually changing the very source of all freshwater - namely precipitation," said Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and another commission co-chair.

As well as "blue water" in rivers and lakes, the commission looked at "green water" contained in soils and plant life. After evaporating, green water provides around half

of global rainfall in a process known as "atmospheric rivers".

Rising temperatures have created a vicious cycle, with lower soil moisture worsening droughts and wildfires and causing more degradation and biodiversity loss, further disrupting those atmospheric river flows, the commission said.

Regions relying on high levels of irrigation could suffer from water storage capacity declines. On current trends, global cereal production

could fall by as much as 23 percent.

Financing mechanisms are required to encourage investment in water infrastructure, especially in more vulnerable countries, and banks should also make lending conditional on protecting water supplies, the report said.

Global efforts are also needed to price water correctly and "redeploy" an estimated \$600 billion in annual agriculture subsidies that encourage overconsumption and the planting of water-

intensive crops in unsuitable regions, said Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organization and another GCEW co-chair.

While multilateral cooperation is needed to address threats to global water supplies, growing shortages could aggravate geopolitical tensions, said Genevieve Donnellon-May, a researcher at the Oxford Global Society think tank, who studies water politics.

Agencies

In China's far west, a Silk Road trade hub awakens to tunes of times

KASHGAR, Xinjiang

IT WAS 11 p.m. in Kashgar, a remote desert oasis city in northwest China, but there were few signs of the nightlife winding down.

In the city's old town, shops, food stands and art studios were still bustling with activity. Electric mini-buses carried tourists through a maze of crisscrossing alleys, lined with traditional mud-brick houses.

Deep in a back alley, traditional Uyghur dance music blared out. A group of foreigners got off their mini-bus and joined the crowd in an open-air pub.

Omani media executive Fadi Kattar took to the dance floor, where three young Uyghur children wowed the audience with their spontaneous dance moves. There was cheering, clapping and laughter.

"It was wonderful," said Kattar, who is with Muscat Media Group, adding that he liked the nightlife in Kashgar, where traditional music resembled that back home in the Middle East.

With Kattar were over two dozen journalists and media leaders from countries as diverse as France, Qatar, Indonesia, Mongolia, El Salvador and Equatorial Guinea. As participants in the 6th World Media Summit, held in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region this week, they were invited to travel to places around the vast region.

Kattar and his group were particularly enticed by the rich culture of the 2,000-year-old Kashgar, once a trading hub on the ancient Silk Road.

The old town, home to 40,000 people and a top tourist spot since 2015, is a must-see for its traditional Uyghur architecture and culture. The government spent several years and a combined sum of 7 billion



An attendee of the 6th World Media Summit makes purchase at the cross-border e-commerce import and export commodities exhibition and trading center in Kashgar Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Oct. 15, 2024. (Xinhua/Ding Lei)

yuan (about 1 billion U.S. dollars) reinforcing the houses and giving the whole area a facelift.

Wensel Mavara, chairperson of the board of the Namibia Daily News, highlighted the preservation of local culture, which "gives this place a uniqueness that attracts tourists."

More importantly, the project has provided residents with tap water, heating systems, and commercial spaces, while also reinforcing the buildings to withstand strong earthquakes, he added.

Drawing on his experience in Nepal, Kishor Shrestha, chief editor of Jana Aastha National Weekly, emphasized that renovation of this sort is vital for people living in earthquake-prone areas.

"The renovation helped preserve our culture, and enabled locals like me to venture into new business," said Salamatul Kari, a 34-year-old

Uyghur woman who was the first in the old town to turn her family houses into a hostel and a parlor providing dance performances for tourists.

Kashgar has experienced a tourism boom in recent years, with more Chinese and international visitors venturing into this part of the country to explore its diverse geography and rich cultural heritage.

According to government statistics, in the first eight months of this year, about 88,800 foreigners visited the city and nearby counties that constitute the prefecture of Kashgar.

REVIVE ANCIENT TRADING HUB

Taking the overseas media group around shops selling silk, pottery, spices, fur and carpets, tour guide Nurnigar Dolkun said these goods consti-

tuted the bulk of the caravan trade along the ancient Silk Road.

As the ancient Silk Road declined after the 15th century, following the Age of Discovery, the old trading hubs were left for centuries to wither in the dust of history.

In 2013, China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Part of its goal was to revive the ancient Silk Road. This has given Kashgar a chance to thrive once more, bearing in mind its proximity to Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The same year, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was launched as a flagship project of the BRI, connecting Kashgar with Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the coast of the Indian Ocean.

In terms of trade, Kashgar is part of the China (Xinjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone, giving it preferential policies on par with two dozen free-trade zones that represent China's top trading regions, including Shanghai, Fujian, and Guangdong.

Kashgar's free-trade zone was the very first stop for the overseas media group on its visit to the city on Tuesday. There, they learned about the planning and industrial layouts of the zone.

Waref Kumayha, president of the Silk Road Institute for Studies and Research in Lebanon, was keen to learn about issues like tax reductions for foreign investments and investment criteria for foreign businesses.

He nodded in delight after hearing that income tax for companies in the zone would be exempted or halved and there is no minimum investment requirement for foreign businesses. "Government policy support is crucial for a place's economic development," he said.

"We welcome friends from all over the world to invest in Kashgar," said Liu Guo, a local official in charge of investment pro-

motion.

This year, a Kyrgyz logistics company began to operate in the zone. Officials said efforts are being made to further accelerate the logistics of China-Kyrgyzstan cross-border trade.

According to Liu, Kashgar is trying to build a commodity processing and distribution hub linking China to the markets in Central Asia and South Asia.

Calling the free-trade zone in Kashgar a major and significant project, Salah Eddin Elzein, advisor to the director general of Al Jazeera Media Network, said that it not only enhances economic development in the region, but also benefits the entire country of China and the neighboring nations linked through various ports.

The rapid development of Kashgar relies not only on favorable free-trade policies, but also on substantial infrastructure development, the media leaders observed.

Kashgar is re-positioning itself as a transportation hub in China's far west, they were told. Flights from Pakistan can bring frozen seafood from the Indian Ocean directly to the tables of people in Xinjiang. Chinese electric vehicles are being exported to BRI partner countries through Kashgar.

Kashgar was designated as the starting point of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. Construction is expected to finish in a couple of years' time.

"A more open and vibrant economy of Kashgar not only promotes China's development but also offers broader cooperation opportunities for foreign enterprises," said Khaled Moussa, managing editor of the Muscat Media Group.

The essence of China's BRI, Moussa said, is that "it benefits all."

Hezbollah says it will escalate war with Israel after Hamas leader killed

JERUSALEM/CAIRO

LEBANON'S Hezbollah militant group said on Friday it was moving to a new and escalating phase in its war against Israel while Iran said "the spirit of resistance will be strengthened" after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

Sinwar, a mastermind of the Oct 7, 2023, attack that triggered the Gaza war, was killed during an operation by Israeli soldiers in the Palestinian enclave on Wednesday, a pivotal event in the year-long conflict.

Despite Western hopes of a ceasefire, Sinwar's death could dial up hostilities in the Middle East where the prospect of an even wider conflict has grown.

Israel has launched a ground campaign in Lebanon over the past month and is now planning a response to an Oct 1 missile attack carried out by Iran, ally of Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

But the demise of the man who planned the attack last year in which fighters killed 1,200 people in Israel and cap-



Yahya Sinwar, head of Hamas in Gaza, delivers a speech during a hall on the seaside of Gaza City, on April 30, 2022. (PHOTO / AP)

tured more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies, could also help push forward stalled efforts to end the war in which Israel has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities.

US President Joe Biden, who spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by phone to congratulate him, said Sinwar's death provided a chance

for the conflict in Gaza to finally end and for Israeli hostages to be brought home.

The US wants to kick-start talks on a proposal to achieve a ceasefire and secure the release of hostages, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said, calling Sinwar the "chief obstacle" to ending the war.

Hezbollah was also defiant, announc-

ing "the transition to a new and escalating phase in the confrontation with Israel".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken held separate phone calls on Thursday with leaders in Saudi Arabia and Qatar aimed at ending the conflict in the Middle East, the State Department said.

Agencies

What moments captured on phones in Xinjiang impressed foreign participants of WMS?

BEIJING

THE 6th World Media Summit (WMS) opened on Monday morning in Urumqi, capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Themed "Artificial Intelligence and Media Transformation," the summit gathered over 500 participants from

106 countries and regions, including representatives of 208 mainstream media outlets, government agencies, and international organizations.

During the participants' stay in Xinjiang, what moments captured by their phones impressed them? Follow Xinhua correspondent Wang Yijie to find out the answer.



Guests attend the plenary session of the 6th World Media Summit in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Oct. 14, 2024. Xinhua

Port strikes reveal longstanding US plight on industry upgrade

NEW YORK

AS U.S. port workers and operators representing big companies reached tentative deals on wage raises, a massive strike involving workers on the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts has ended, but the legal tussle is far from over, and automation is expected to become the next sticking point.

Labor unions, for fear that workers' jobs would be replaced by machines, have long resisted port automation through strikes and other measures. Operators, on the other hand, are worried that labor disputes will further push up operating costs, hoping to reduce their dependence on labor and promote automation. Against the background of entanglement between the two sides, U.S. ports have missed the opportunity for technological innovation, resulting in a widening gap in operational efficiency

compared with other countries, while the massive strikes have caused huge losses to the supply chain and the U.S. economy.

COSTS VS LIVELIHOOD

The long-standing labor disputes at U.S. ports have primarily revolved around two key issues: wage levels and port automation. For dockworkers and unions, wages are essential for their livelihoods, while automation poses a threat to job security. As a result, major technological upgrades in U.S. ports have often sparked intense labor conflicts. A notable example dates back to the 1950s when cargo handling was labor-intensive, time-consuming, and fraught with risks. Unions held significant influence over port operations, and employers were frequently compelled to pay high wages to avoid strikes. This dynamic only began

to change with the advent of containerization, which drastically reduced both loading time and labor demand.

Malcom McLean, the inventor of the modern shipping container, said that in 1956, the labor cost to load a medium-sized ship was 5.83 U.S. dollars per ton. With the introduction of containers, this cost plummeted to just 16 cents per ton, with most of the savings coming from reduced labor expenses.

Driven by the need to cut costs, port operators, often representing large corporations, have consistently pushed for technological upgrades and automation. As containerization spread, the number of dockworkers steadily declined, intensifying the conflict between cost-cutting measures and job security. In the most recent labor disputes at U.S. ports, labor unions have not

only demanded wage increases but also called for a "total ban on automation," including semi-automation that could reduce or replace manual labor.

Earlier this month, the International Longshoremen's Association reached a tentative agreement with the United States Maritime Alliance, which represents the port operators, to suspend the strike. The agreement includes a 62-percent wage increase for workers but leaves unresolved the contentious issue of banning automated machinery, which will be a key focus in the next round of negotiations.

INNOVATION VS CONVENTION

The recent strike has further exposed the level of port automation in the United States. The Wall Street Journal used "bad" to describe the operational ef-

iciency of American ports, and economists have deemed American ports to be "backward." The World Bank's Container Port Performance Index 2023 shows that there is not a single U.S. port in the top 50 in terms of port efficiency.

The Charleston port in South Carolina was the highest-ranked U.S. port, only coming in at 53rd place. Many experts believe that automation can help U.S. ports improve efficiency, security and solve supply chain problems.

However, such an upgrade has faced many obstacles. Labor unions believe that technological progress may threaten workers' jobs. For instance, ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach handle as much as 40 percent of the nation's imports and exports. However, about five percent of 13,000 jobs were replaced due to increased automation.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) said in a recent opinion piece that port workers "don't want any technological advances that would make loading and unloading ships faster, safer and more efficient - e.g., smarter cranes, gates, and container-moving trucks that require fewer workers to operate."

"In other words, they want higher pay with no productivity gains, which is unsustainable in a competitive global economy," it added. In fact, concerns over replacing workers with technology have existed since the Industrial Revolution, while "the fight against productivity is a losing battle," said the WSJ.

The labor entanglement put both sides in trouble: U.S. ports have failed to realize automation, lagging behind in terms of overall level of port technology; yet dockworkers, who fiercely

defended their jobs, cannot stop the inevitable trend of technological upgrading.

SHORT-TERM IMPACTS VS LONG-TERM LOSSES

Is the contradiction between technological advancement and job positions truly unsolvable? Many experts believe that innovation can enhance efficiency while expanding the overall economic pie, compensating for job losses and benefiting relevant parties. However, in the recent U.S. port strike, many only focused on the short-term negative impacts of automation, failing to see the value of technological progress. "I find it very short-sighted of the dockworkers, or any workers, to be pushing against automation if you can instead find a way that the gains get shared."

Xinhua

The Guardian

SPORT



Simba's AFCON stars boost confidence ahead of high-stakes derby clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA are pleased to report that several of their international players gained valuable playing time in recent AFCON qualifiers, enhancing their fitness levels ahead of today's highly anticipated clash against arch-rivals Young Africans at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Simba's Ally Salim, Kibu Denis, and Mohamed Hussein represented Tanzania in their Group H double-header against DR Congo, while Steven Mukwala featured for Uganda Cranes in their encounter against South Sudan. Additionally, Moussa Camara played two matches for Guinea against Ethiopia.

Simba SC's Media and Information Manager, Ahmed Ally (pictured), emphasized how these international appearances have sharpened the players ahead of the critical fixture against Young Africans.

The derby presents Simba with a chance to reclaim dominance in Tanzanian football after losing the league title to their fierce rivals for the past three seasons.

Ally expressed confidence in the players' motivation to reverse their recent record against Young Africans, having lost three of their last four meetings.

"It's crucial for our players who were on international duty to recognize the significance of the experience they've gained. Their match fitness and competitive edge will benefit both the team and coach Fadlu Davids as we prepare for this pivotal clash," Ally said.

"This derby holds immense importance for Tanzanian football. I encourage both Simba and Young Africans fans to fill the stadium and create a thrilling atmosphere. Our goal is to elevate this derby to the level of top African rivalries, such as those in Cairo, Casablanca, and Soweto. Fan support is key in making that a reality."

Simba's preparations have been smooth, with all players resuming training on Thursday. Defender Abdul-

razak Hamza, who sustained a hamstring injury while on international duty, has recovered and rejoined the squad, offering a timely boost for Coach Davids.

With the derby considered a crucial marker in Simba's pursuit of the Premier League title, Ally acknowledged the challenge posed by Young Africans, who have been crowned champions for three consecutive seasons. However, he stressed that Simba's ambition is to reclaim their place at the top of Tanzanian football.

"Losing to Young Africans in the Community Shield was a setback, but we are determined to rectify that. The derby is more than just another game - it's a key moment in our title quest," Ally added.

Simba are urging their fan base to create an electrifying atmosphere at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, where home-field advantage could prove decisive. With a passionate crowd behind them, Simba hope to gain the upper hand in this fiercely contested rivalry.

For Simba, a victory over Young Africans would not only restore bragging rights but also send a powerful message to the rest of the league.

The derby serves as a litmus test for their title ambitions, with a win potentially setting them on course for championship success.

Young Africans, bolstered by a strong and balanced squad, will be formidable opponents. However, Simba believe that with focus, determination, and their international stars back in form, they are capable of securing the win and reasserting their dominance in Tanzanian football.

As anticipation builds ahead of the sold-out clash, both teams know that the outcome could have a significant impact on the remainder of the season. A win for Simba would not only boost morale but could also alter the trajectory of the title race.

Football fans across the country will be glued to the action, as Simba and Young Africans battle for supremacy in one of Africa's most iconic rivalries.

Tanzanian football attendance decline: Is poor crowd management to blame?



Various seats were spotted empty during the Tanzania vs DR Congo's AFCON Group H qualifier at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo. Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE recent Tanzania vs. DR Congo AFCON qualifier, where Taifa Stars suffered a 2-0 defeat on Tuesday, starkly contrasted with the high-energy Simba vs. Young Africans clashes. While the latter consistently attracts massive crowds, the Taifa Stars match saw a disappointing turnout, leaving the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium noticeably empty.

This sparse attendance stood in sharp contrast to the packed stadium during Tanzania's 3-0 victory over Uganda, which secured their qualification for the 2019 AFCON. The stark difference between the two events raises questions about the current state of fan culture in Tanzanian football.

Several factors contribute to this discrepancy. One major concern is the fear of violence and disorder that has become associated with attending matches.

Reports of fans being beaten, harassed, and even chased by security dogs have deterred many from attending games. The lack of effective security and crowd management creates a hostile environment, discouraging fans from supporting their national team.

Logistical challenges further compound the problem. Long queues, limited ticketing options, and incidents of fans being denied entry despite holding valid tickets have made attending matches a frustrating

experience.

These inconveniences have led many fans to reconsider whether it's worth going to the stadium at all.

Simba vs. Young Africans matches are exceptions to this trend, largely because of the unique atmosphere and the significance of this historic rivalry. The festive nature and high stakes of these encounters draw large crowds. However, even these derbies are not immune to issues of safety and security.

The upcoming Dar Derby will once again highlight the stark contrast between fan experiences in Tanzania and those in more developed football cultures.

In countries with better infrastructure, having a ticket guarantees entry to the stadium, but in Tanzania, the real challenge is actually getting in, regardless of whether you have a ticket.

Stadium entry procedures in Tanzania are often chaotic and inefficient. Most fans enter through a limited number of gates on the west side of the stadium, leading to overcrowding, long delays, and confusion.

This differs significantly from the well-organized processes seen in developed countries, where tickets correspond to specific gates and seats, ensuring a smoother experience for fans.

Crowd management remains a significant issue at Tanzanian stadiums. At the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, for example,

too few gates are open to accommodate the large number of fans, leading to lengthy and frustrating wait times.

In contrast, major football events in Europe and parts of Africa allow fans to enter stadiums at their leisure, often enjoying food, drinks, and entertainment outside before kick-off.

Inside Tanzanian stadiums, the atmosphere is often tense and chaotic, with fans pushing and shoving to gain entry. This is a far cry from the relaxed and enjoyable experiences offered by better-managed venues.

The requirement for fans to arrive hours before kick-off adds to the frustration, especially given the lack of adequate facilities or pre-match entertainment.

This troubling trend has long-term consequences, especially for younger fans. Children who encounter the challenges and dangers of attending matches are less likely to return as adults, contributing to the ongoing decline in match-day attendance.

Stadium infrastructure and crowd management have not improved, and the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, despite its status as the national stadium, suffers from outdated facilities and insufficient security measures.

As a result, attending matches is often an unpleasant and, at times, dangerous experience.

The reliance on loudspeakers and marketing gimmicks to

attract fans to matches further highlights the struggles facing Tanzanian football. In the past, iconic players like Zamoyoni Mogella and the passion for the game were enough to fill stadiums without elaborate promotions.

Today, however, the competition from television broadcasts and foreign leagues has forced clubs and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to adopt more aggressive marketing strategies.

Even the much-hyped Simba vs. Young Africans derbies now require significant promotion to draw fans, a sign of declining interest in domestic football.

Despite marketing efforts, the underlying issues of safety, convenience, and fan experience remain unaddressed.

Flooding stadiums at noon as an attempt to create a festive atmosphere misses the mark. Rooted in fear and outdated practices, this approach does little to enhance the fan experience. Instead, authorities must recognize the need for better crowd management, security measures, and a more fan-friendly environment.

Fortunately, some Tanzanian football officials have had the opportunity to observe how football matches are managed in other countries, where proper crowd control creates a positive and enjoyable fan experience.

It is puzzling why these lessons have yet to be implemented in Tanzania to improve the match-day experience.

Nepotism debates surrounding LeBron and Bronny James stem from a longstanding stigma in America

By ALANISTHAMES

LeBRON James stood on the court next to his son Bronny and couldn't help but glance over at him to take in the moment. The duo wore matching Los Angeles Lakers jerseys with "James" and "James Jr." embroidered in big purple letters on their backs.

"It was like the matrix or something," LeBron said afterward. "It just didn't feel real."

The Lakers helped the 39-year-old James realize a yearslong dream of playing alongside his son when they drafted Bronny with the 55th overall pick in June, making way for them to become first father-son pair to play in an NBA

game together in a preseason matchup on Oct. 6.

Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka has described the draft pick as "magical," while his organization has drawn criticisms about whether Bronny would have earned the opportunity if his father wasn't one of the game's greatest players. Those objections - albeit met with widespread excitement for the James family - reignited conversations about nepotism in sports and how powerful figures leverage their influence, while underscoring the stigma around kids following in the footsteps of a successful parent or family member.

"There's always going to be people who are saying that things are nepotism," said Alice Leppert, an associate professor of

media and communication studies at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania. "There's going to be some cynical assumption that strings were pulled and basically that things are not fair."

That's often based on people's desire to believe in a meritocracy, Leppert said, referring to the system where someone gains status or rewards based on his or her abilities, not wealth or social status.

"In general, we don't live in a meritocracy," Leppert added. "We want to live in a meritocracy, and that's why we get these sorts of debates."

For centuries, children born into rich and powerful families have inherited businesses, stardom and endless resources for success - a conspicuous

display of power in Hollywood, politics and sports.

Critics of nepotism argue that those without the same access to resources - i.e. producers and directors in the entertainment industry, scouts and training facilities in sports - are left at a significant disadvantage when it comes to opportunities.

Others question why a practice so ingrained in society is being even being mentioned.

"I don't want to hear these charges, people talking about nepotism," former ESPN NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski said during the NBA draft. "The NBA is full of nepotism. The ownership level, front offices, coaching. I don't want to hear it all of a sudden because Bronny James' fa-

ther plays for the Lakers. It is rampant in this league."

There have been about 100 instances in NBA history of players joining the league after their fathers played. Those young men stepped into the league after the father's career ended, but they include Stephen and Dell Curry, Kobe and Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, Bill and Luke Walton, among others.

Ken Griffey Sr. and Ken Griffey Jr. played together with the Seattle Mariners during parts of the 1990 and 1991 MLB seasons. Hockey great Gordie Howe played with sons Marty and Mark for the Houston Aeros in the WHA and the New England/Hartford Whalers in the WHA and NHL.

How Inter Miami built, and Lionel Messi wooed, the greatest MLS team ever

By Henry Bushnell

THE planning began when “Lionel Messi to Inter Miami” was still just a dream, an internet rumor discredited by insiders but sustained by a billionaire’s belief.

In the fall of 2022, as MLS clubs set out to build their 2023 rosters, Jorge Mas, Inter’s managing owner, was scheming. He’d been courting Messi ever since 2019, forging relationships with Messi’s entourage, planting seeds.

By Year 4 of the pursuit, he was in Messi’s suite at the World Cup final, and “consistent in his confidence that this is gonna happen,” Inter Miami sporting director Chris Henderson says.

So, as chief soccer officers around the league were chasing stars in early 2023, and filling salary cap space to improve their teams, Miami ... wasn’t. Some of its off-season moves puzzled observers.

Designated Players left and weren’t really replaced. Pundits glanced at the remains, and (correctly) predicted that Inter would sink from sixth place in 2022 toward the bottom of the Eastern Conference in 2023.

But, “you know,” Henderson says now, “we had a plan.”

They were saving and making room for Messi – but also for a dozen other players who’d supplement the GOAT, and who, a year later, would propel Inter Miami to perhaps the greatest MLS season ever.

With Decision Day near, they stand on the rim of history, two

points shy of the regular-season points record with one game to go. If they win it – on Saturday at home vs. New England (6:07 p.m. ET, AppleTV+) – they’ll finish on 74 points, an unprecedented haul in a league whose restrictive rules usually produce parity.

And if they do, Messi will be the primary reason. Equally remarkable and influential, though, is their record without him. The Herons, as Inter is nicknamed, took 32 points from 15 matches with Messi absent – or 2.13 points per game, nearly identical to their average in the 18 matches Messi has played.

They’ve been the league’s top team, with and without the GOAT, because they executed the plan, and assembled a peerless roster. It was a years-long process that required collaboration between ownership, executives and coaches, plus at least six other departments within the club.

And, of course, it required Messi, whose god-like pull made recruitment “much easier,” Henderson told Yahoo Sports in a phone interview.

Once Messi committed to Miami, up popped dozens of international players who, as Henderson says, “just want[ed] to come and play with him.”

“Miami makes room for Messi

The process dates to 2021, when Henderson, an MLS lifer, took charge of Inter’s sporting department after 13 years in Seattle.

It accelerated in 2022 and 2023, as the end of Messi’s contract with



A few months after Lionel Messi’s arrival in Florida, Inter Miami lifted the club’s first trophy in August 2023 with a win in the Leagues Cup final. (Agencies)

Paris Saint-Germain neared. The possibility of luring him to Miami “affected all of our thought process in building and planning the team,” Henderson says.

Messi had options – including PSG, Barcelona and Saudi Arabia – but Inter had only one: to construct a squad with a Messi-sized hole, one that could, in the dream scenario, be transformed almost overnight.

That meant, for example, acquiring Spanish playmaker Alejandro Pozuelo in July 2022, then letting his contract expire to free up a Designated Player (DP) slot.

(Each MLS club is permitted to pay three DPs an uncapped salary that, no matter how lucrative, only counts \$683,750 toward the cap. The rule, created to accommodate David Beckham in 2007, allowed Inter to afford Messi.)

Miami entered 2023 with only one true DP. Its second and third, forward Leonardo Campana and midfielder Gregore, were what Henderson calls “TAM-able.” Their relatively modest

salaries gave Inter the flexibility to “buy down” their cap hits and make room for a new DP, if necessary.

To do that, an MLS club must tap into its pool of “allocation money.” (TAM is short for one type, Targeted Allocation Money.) Miami had already stockpiled significant sums, despite sanctions stemming from a cheating scandal.

Then, in April 2023, it traded midfielder Bryce Duke and forward Ariel Lassiter to Montreal for defender Kamal Miller and, most importantly, \$1.3 million in allocation money.

“And those were hard moves,” Henderson says. “Those were guys everyone liked, and they were good players. But ... as we got closer to summer of ‘23, we had to figure out ways that we could make room and maximize the summer transfer window.”

They made room for Messi by “buying down” Campana. They made room for the first of three Messi friends, Sergio Busquets, by parting ways with DP attacker

Rodolfo Pizarro.

The second of three, Jordi Alba, took a sizable pay cut to join his former FC Barcelona teammates; Alba’s \$1.5 million annual salary – as reported by the MLS Players Association – was close to the max allowable under the league’s byzantine roster rules for a non-DP.

In December, Luis Suarez took a similar deal. And in January, amid unsubstantiated skepticism that Miami might be skirting rules, the superstar assembled.

“Young legs’ leap at chance to play alongside Messi

Before Messi even arrived, though, in June 2023, Henderson and incoming head coach Tata Martino knew they’d have to supplement those aging stars with “some young legs,” as Henderson says.

They met frequently to discuss how they’d reshape a then-last-place roster. They needed “guys that can get around,” Henderson explains, but also ones with “technical quality that is a high enough level, that can combine and

make the right movements, and complement all of [Messi’s and Busquets’] strengths.”

Fortunately, in addition to the DP slots, Miami had left room for “Under-22 Initiative” signings. Each MLS club can sign up to three young players whose non-DP salaries and transfer fees hit the cap at a hugely discounted rate of \$150,000 or \$200,000. Miami, as of June 2023, had zero such players.

So they turned to their “shadow teams” – internal lists of 3-5 players at each position, players who’ve been identified by scouts and data analysts, or offered by agents and other clubs, and whose skill sets align with Inter Miami’s wants and needs.

In line with processes that Henderson began sculpting in 2021, they had, for example, already scouted and vetted Diego Gómez, a then-20-year-old midfielder showing promise at Paraguayan club Libertad – where Martino had coached, twice, in the early 2000s.

“We brought him to Tata,” Henderson says. “Tata made a phone call right away.” And Inter was prepared to pounce, with a \$3 million transfer fee. Fifteen months later, Gomez is the U-22 player of the year, and off to Brighton in the English Premier League for an eight-figure fee this coming winter.

Miami was still, in many ways, hindered by MLS rules, which are more financially restrictive than those of any other major men’s sports league, and more so than other soccer leagues

around the globe.

They limit the American league’s ability to attract or afford players like Gómez, or 20-year-old Argentine attacker Facundo Fariás, or teenage Argentine defender Tomás Avilés, or 21-year-old Argentine midfielder Federico Redondo, among the highest-rated youngsters in South America.

Miami, however, had a pitch that no other MLS club ever had: Messi.

“I think it would’ve been harder to get Redondo [without Messi],” Henderson acknowledges. “Having a chance to play with Leo Messi really helped in that. ... I can name like seven guys, 10 guys [on Inter’s current roster]” who came to Miami in part because they wanted to play with Messi.

And there were many more worldwide. The sporting department’s task was to suss out which ones would come to work; and which ones, on the other hand, might come as fanboys.

“Inter Miami’s rebuild drives historic season

As they were clearing space for more than a dozen new players – by buying out a backup goalkeeper and striker, transferring Gregore and midfielder Jean Mota, and trading three defenders, including Miller and former captain DeAndre Yedlin – Inter Miami’s architects were also vetting their targets.

There were calls to acquaintances and family members, coaches and teammates and the players themselves.

Some key questions, Henderson says, were: “Do they have the character to step on the

field, and train, and play, with some of the greatest players who ever played?”

... Are they gonna be fans out there, or are they gonna actually come and make an impact?”

“You need to have a character that’s strong enough,” he adds, “and be able to stand on your own two feet, when one of the older players is getting on you because you lost the ball with no pressure.”

There were also cultural considerations. Adjusting to a new league and foreign country as a teen or young adult can be difficult.

But Miami is bubbling with Latin influence; and Inter’s coaching staff and key players communicate almost exclusively in Spanish. That, for the dozen Hispanic players who’ve followed Messi to Miami, has helped ease the transition.

So, too, have the professionalism and leadership of Messi, Busquets, Suarez and Alba. “They come into training,” Henderson says, “and they don’t want to waste time, they want to get out and work hard.”

The result has been a season for the ages. After a rocky start, the Herons are 18W-6D-2L since the start of April. They won eight of nine MLS games while Messi was away at the Copa América, then injured.

They clinched the Supporters’ Shield, the regular-season title, with a win at defending champion Columbus earlier this month. Next up, before the playoffs, is the final lap of a run at history.

*yahoo/sports

By Jamie Braidwood

THE race for the most assists across a single Premier League season is weird and unpredictable, often influenced by factors outside the control of its competitors. It is also a record that has stood for more than 20 years, or since Thierry Henry notched his 20th assist of the 2002-03 season. Since then, only Kevin De Bruyne has matched Henry’s figure over 38 games, in 2019-20, but it has been threatened on an almost annual basis over the past two decades.

This year, the immediate frontrunner, flying out of the starting blocks, is Bukayo Saka, who has seven assists through the first seven matches of the Premier League season. Saka has made an exceptional start. He is two assists away from equalling his tally last season, and has already drawn level with his total from 2021-22, a campaign where he made 36 starts and featured in every game.

Saka’s two assists in Arsenal’s 3-1 win over Southampton suggested an attacker continuing to add new tools to his game; as well as his goals and near-constant threat on the wing, Saka’s set-piece delivery is now up there with the best in the division, while the 23-year-old has unlocked the devastating back-post cross after

Can Bukayo Saka break the Premier League’s weirdest record?



Arsenal’s Bukayo Saka is averaging an assist a game to start the Premier League season (Getty)

cutting inside, a weapon he used to set up Gabriel Martinelli in the comeback against Southampton.

As a complete wide forward and set-piece taker for a title-contending team, who rarely misses a match, Saka may soon find that the assist record is within sight. He is already a third of the way there, after all, less than a quarter of the way through the season. Even if Saka’s current trajectory drops off slightly, the manner of his opening spell for Arsenal suggests he could challenge it.

Saka, though, is not the first player whose assist numbers have skyrocketed through the first couple of months of the season. In fact, it has become normal for one of the Premier League’s leading attackers to start the campaign by striking a rich vein of creative form. De Bruyne in 2022 started the season with nine assists in nine matches. Mohamed Salah reached nine in 15 in 2021. The year before, Harry Kane was 10 in 11. Go back further, and Mesut Ozil was 15 in 17 in 2015, Cesc Fàbregas 13 in 18 in 2014.

Between them all, some of the best creative players in Premier League history made it through the first half of the season and entered December racking up assists at a rate that made

Henry’s record look precarious. At points, Henry’s 20 assists appeared to be such an achievable target that it was at risk of being obliterated completely, in the same manner as Erling Haaland and the single-season scoring record.

But, as you have been warned, the race for the Premier League assist record is strange and susceptible to volatile change. If the campaigns of those who have recorded the most Premier League assists each season were all lined up on the start line, like at the 800m finals at the Olympics, what you would see is a blur of astonishingly quick first laps followed by a series of collapses after the sound of the halfway bell. Almost every year, the pace of the first lap is unsustainable. Often, the challenges

of football’s schedule have their impact, as matches pile up and fatigue or injuries contribute to a loss of form. De Bruyne and Salah, for instance, saw their fast starts broken up by long spells without recording an assist before and after the mid-season World Cup and Africa Cup of Nations respectively. In some cases, opposing teams took greater efforts to shut down particular threats, such as Kane’s partnership with Son Heung-min, whom the England captain assisted seven times in the first six games of the season.

In other examples, the plateaus can seem inexplicable. The 2015-16 season will forever be remembered in English football as the year Leicester City won the league but for Arsenal

fans, it is the campaign they wasted a golden opportunity to reclaim the title. Their slump over the second half of the campaign was mirrored by Ozil’s dramatic flatlining, with just two assists recorded between the

start of January and the end of April after reaching the new year on 15.

Ozil, though, largely continued to create chances at a similar rate. The German finished short of the Premier League assist mark that year but still holds the record for most chances created in a single season, with 146. Perhaps the more significant drop-off that year came from striker Olivier Giroud, who went 15 matches in a row without scoring in the Premier League.

If there is an element of randomness at play, the seasons of the two holders of the assist record could be instructive. De Bruyne and Henry finished with 20 assists and PFA Player of the Year accolades in 2020 and 2003 respec-

tively, while playing for the team that finished runner-up in the league. Both also had remarkable bursts towards the end of the season. For De Bruyne, his numbers recovered from a winter slump after the Premier League was suspended by Covid. Once the league returned, two months later, and with the title already won by Liverpool, De Bruyne finished the year with four assists in six games, the record equalled.

Henry’s 20-assist season is even more spectacular once you consider that the French forward also scored 24 goals, and was playing at a time where assist numbers were not fixated upon like they are now, a fascination sparked by the rise of FPL (Fantasy Premier League). For

Henry, it was the sheer satisfaction of selflessly setting up a teammate that motivated his eight assists over the final four games of the season. Henry was also in a battle with Manchester United’s Ruud van Nistelrooy for the Premier League Golden Boot going into the final two games but continued to provide for his teammates when he could have gone for goal himself.

As the Frenchman later told The Guardian: “To me, the most beautiful thing is making the pass when you are in a position to score yourself. You know you’re good enough to score, but you give the ball. You share.” And perhaps, as Saka prepares to continue his opening lap of this Premier League, that is the most valuable advice to follow.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Inter Miami built, and Lionel Messi wooed, the greatest MLS team ever

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Dauids: 'Form goes out the window' ahead of derby showdown with Yanga



Simba are riding a five-match unbeaten streak in the Premier League, their most recent result being a 2-2 draw against Coastal Union on October 4.

The Reds currently sit second on the league table with 13 points from five matches, having won four and drawn one.

Young Africans, meanwhile, are in excellent form, having won 10 consecutive matches across all competitions.

Their victories include wins over teams like Pamba Jiji, KMC FC, and KenGold in the Premier League, as well as triumphs in the CAF Champions League preliminary rounds against CBE SA and Vital'0.

Despite sitting in fourth place on the league table with 12 points, Young Africans have a perfect record, having won all four of their matches. Their recent success in continental competitions also underscores the depth and quality within their squad.

Today's derby will undoubtedly be a key fixture in the title race, with both clubs eager to assert their dominance.

While Simba will look to maintain their unbeaten run and climb to the top of the table, Young Africans will aim to extend their winning streak and gain ground on their rivals.

As fans flock to the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, all eyes will be on the pitch as two of Tanzania's football powerhouses clash in what promises to be an enthralling encounter.

With pride, bragging rights, and crucial points at stake, the Dar es Salaam Derby will once again capture the imagination of football lovers across the country.



Yanga's past victories are irrelevant in derby, warns Gamondi

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi has warned that their recent dominance over arch-rivals Simba will not guarantee success in their upcoming clash, emphasizing that past victories hold no weight in the latest instalment of the Dar Derby.

The much-anticipated match will take place this afternoon at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, with Simba hosting Young Africans in the NBC Premier League.

Simba enter the derby sitting second in the league table with 13 points from five matches, while reigning champions Young Africans are in fourth place with 12 points, trailing the early leaders, Singida Black Stars, by four points.

Despite their current standing, Young Africans are looking to maintain their flawless start to the 2024/25 Premier League season.

They have won all four of their opening matches - against KMC, Ken Gold, Kagera Sugar, and Pamba Jiji - making them the only team with a 100% winning record thus far.

The defending champions have extended their unbeaten league run to 14 matches and are riding an 11-game winning streak. However, this weekend's derby promises to be their toughest challenge yet.

In the broader context, Young Africans are coming into this game after securing 20 consecutive wins across all competitions, showcasing their formidable form.

While the squad could be missing Ibrahim 'Bacca' Hamad due to injury, Gamondi's side remains in excellent shape heading into their showdown with Simba.

Ahead of the derby, Gamondi (pictured) acknowledged the challenges of preparation, particularly because the match follows immediately after the FIFA international break.

"We are very happy to be back in the NBC Premier League, especially with this derby being such a big game between the two top teams in Tanzania. We are calm and eagerly awaiting this moment tomorrow," said Gamondi.

"We have prepared as well as possible. But you know, after the FIFA date, it is always complicated because we have many players on national duty.

"Some arrived yesterday, and others only today. So, we couldn't prepare in the best way possible, but with the help of AVIC (the training facility), we've done our best."

Despite the magnitude of the match, Gamondi insisted that their approach remains consistent.

"I always say there is no special preparation - it's the same. We stick to our style, our work, and we continue that way. Yes, it is a big game, but at the end of the day, it's three points, and we need to prepare to win the game," he added.

While Young Africans have emerged victorious in the last three derbies, Gamondi downplayed any notion of an easy win, emphasizing that every game is unique.

"I don't think too much about history. The past is the past. You need to evaluate each game on its own merits. Every game is different," he said.

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club and Young Africans SC are set to renew their fierce rivalry today in the NBC Premier League Dar es Salaam Derby at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The highly anticipated match will kick off at 5:00 PM East Africa Time, promising a thrilling spectacle between two of Tanzania's football giants.

Speaking ahead of the derby, Simba head coach Fadlu Dauids (pictured) acknowledged the strength and consistency of their rivals.

He praised Young Africans' remarkable achievements over the past three years, during which they secured three consecutive league titles - a testa-

ment to their cohesion and quality.

"Young Africans could not have won the league three years in a row if they weren't a good side," Dauids said.

"They are a team that has been together for three years now. They've won the league three times, so although we respect them, we have analyzed them in detail. We know exactly how they are going to approach the game."

Despite Young Africans' dominance, Dauids remains confident in Simba's preparations. He emphasized that derby matches often defy form and history, making today's encounter a fresh challenge for both sides.

"In a derby, form and history - everything goes out the window. The best team will win on the day," he stated. "We have to stick to our plan,

stick to our strategy, and approach the match the way we intend to."

Dauids further expressed belief in his team's potential, highlighting their progress despite being only 15 weeks into his project at Simba.

"It's going to be a tough match, and we respect them as a team, but we have to put our chest out and assert our dominance because we are a big club as well," he added. "We are bold every day in realizing the potential within our squad."

Simba and Young Africans are meeting just two months after their last encounter in the Community Shield, where Young Africans emerged victorious with a narrow 1-0 win.

Both teams come into the derby in strong form, adding extra intrigue to an already heated rivalry.

SUA girls excel in 2024 Chanzo Cricket Bonanza in Morogoro

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

MOROGORO junior cricket side from SUA Primary School triumphed in the 2024 Chanzo Cricket Bonanza's girls' category in the region recently.

It turned out to be an incredible weekend of cricket at the SUA ground located in Morogoro municipality, as revealed by a Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) official.

The official added there were 20 boys' teams and 20 girls' teams from various schools putting on a fantastic display of talent and passion at the bonanza.

The boys' category witnessed Misufini A Primary School's squad beating the rest of the contenders to the silverware and SUA Primary School's team finishing as runner-up.

The girls' category came to an end with Kauzeni Primary School's team settling for the runner-up place, losing the title to the industrious SUA Primary School team.

The winners and runners-up, the official revealed, proudly took home prizes comprising stationery and books.

He said TCA congratulates all participating teams for



Junior female cricketers forming one of the participating teams in the 2024 Chanzo Cricket Bonanza in Gairo, Morogoro pose for a photo upon the conclusion of the bonanza held in the district early this month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

their amazing efforts.

He stressed that the national cricket governing body is continuing to support and inspire the future cricket stars of Tanzania.

The association's official also revealed the 2024 Chanzo Cricket Bonanza was hosted at the Gairo Center in Gairo District, Morogoro.

The association coordinated the bonanza bringing to-

gether 20 boys' squads and 20 girls' teams from 13 schools.

All junior cricketers featured in the showdown with great energy and enthusiasm.

The youthful cricket stars that turned up for the day put on a spectacular show.

The bonanza's winners walked away with awards, ranging from stationery to books.

The association expressed

its regard to all teams, players, and supporters for their participation and passion.

The TCA official noted that Arusha hosted a similar Chanzo Cricket Bonanza recently.

Arusha Primary School turned out to be the venue for the festival, with 20 boys' teams and 20 girls' teams featuring in the program.

Emaoi Boys had the last laugh in the boys' category,

beating Makumbusho Boys to the silverware.

The girls' showdown witnessed the Sanawari Girls lifting the title and the Themí Girls taking the runner-up place.

The TCA official noted that it will, in coordination with cricket stakeholders, keep on building and motivating the next generation of cricket domestically.

Chanzo Cricket is a junior development program organized by TCA, geared towards unearthing and developing talents in the game.

The TCA development committee annually organizes the modified game for juniors, also popularly known as the 'Chanzo Cricket' festival.

In the 'Chanzo' Cricket festival, which brings together primary schools, the participants take part in cricket using a softball.

The association is working hard to see to it that all regions participate successfully in the program.

The best junior cricketers are thereafter selected for national junior teams that feature in various qualifying tournaments organized by the ICC.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WE ALWAYS ASK 'WHERE DO YOU LIVE!' BUT IT'S ACTUALLY 'WHERE DO YOU SLEEP'!

