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Minister sets November 27 for voting in local leaders

People in various areas need to come out in large numbers to register in the voter registry to exercise their right to elect capable local leaders for a five-year term

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

LOCAL government elections will be held on Wednesday, November 27 with 18 out of the 19 registered political parties participating in an event to set the polls day here yesterday.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister President's Office (PO-RALG) announced the polls date before key stakeholders, including the main body of political parties.

He cited provisions of the 2019 Local Government Elections (Regulations), Section 4 (1-3) (Government Notices No. 571, 572, 573 and 574) of 2024, informing the public and political parties of the date of local government polls.

Voting will begin in all Mainland regions at 8:00am and close well in the night, at 10:00pm, he said, handing out guidelines and regulations for the polls to those at

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Newly appointed Attorney General Hamza Johari takes the oath of office before President Samia Suluhu Hassan at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He was until this Wednesday Director General of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority. Photo: State House

Australian climbs Kili by trekking backwards

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Moshi

AUSTRALIAN mountaineer Jamin Hepell has succeeded in breaking the world record of scaling Africa's highest peak by trekking backwards.

The 34-year-old climber from the far south managed to accomplish the feat in less than 24 hours, walking backwards from Marangu Gate to the Kibo peak, otherwise known as Uhuru summit.

Travel agents say that trekking to Kibo needs five days up to Uhuru peak, with the Aussie climber noting that he set foot on one of the most challenging adventures, attempting to break the Guinness World Record by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro backwards in under 24 hours.

Hepell spent 23 hours and 50 minutes climbing up and down Kilimanjaro, setting the pace to hear from the Guinness chroniclers, ascending the 5895 meters (19,341 feet) to the peak, avoiding to face the summit.

The earlier record was set by a South African mountaineer Jurgen Gessaud who scaled Kilimanjaro backwards in July 1997, reaching the peak after 72 hours, while his record buster recognizes the contribution of Kilimanjaro porters. That is why he undertook the trip in their honour, he

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Think outside the box, Samia tells appointees

By Getrude Mbago

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the newly appointed cabinet ministers and top ministerial officials to ensure that they work innovatively, with professionalism and common sense in executing their duties, to bring change to the country.

In remarks after swearing in newly appointed officials, including ministers, deputy ministers and permanent secretaries, she ruled out making a long speech, stressing the need to 'think outside the box' to achieve greater efficiency in the various roles.

"To enhance efficiency in the public service and produce positive outcomes it is important that you use both professionalism and common sense. Go and be innovative on your duties," she told the incoming leaders.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango urged the



Some issues need to be addressed, as concentrating the country's resources in one ministry is problematic

newly appointed top officials to live up to their oaths and work hard for elevated productivity. This needs improved cooperation with executives in their areas of work if they address the various challenges being faced, he said.

City-based political analyst Abdulkarim Atiki said that generally changes in the cabinet are meant to improve government performance, highlighting that Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi's return to Constitutional and Legal Affairs portfolio relates to his extensive experience and academic qualifications.

If Prof. Kabudi had been present before the Mbeya incident involving the Chadema party, the situation would probably not have escalated as it did since the minister would have used his legal expertise to ad-

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EAC, Kenya's private sector, explore trade harmony tools

"Such system would encourage new entrepreneurs to enter the market by providing a clear and predictable trading environment"

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African private sector needs to find common ground where safeguarding national interests aligns with promoting regional benefits, a top executive has declared.

Veronica Nduva, the East African Community (EAC) secretary general, issued this appeal in Nairobi yesterday at a round-table organised by the Kenya Private Sec-

tor Alliance (KEPSA) in an effort to drive regional economic integration.

It focuses on improving the business climate and ensuring that the private sector's voice is heard in the policymaking process, she said, underscoring the importance of public-private collaboration in achieving a more integrated and prosperous East African region.

This will facilitate easing of doing business and fostering competitiveness at the

national and regionals, or even beyond, she stated.

To reduce protectionism by EAC partner states, the private sector needs to embrace product diversification, specialisation and value addition in manufacturing and take advantage of the over 300m people regional market, she further noted.

Setting out an overview of intra-EAC trade values, she said that it had increased by 14per cent to \$12.2bn in 2023 compared to a rise of 9.2 per cent at \$10.7bn in 2022. Intra-regional stood at 13per cent of total EAC trade whereas total EAC trade grew by 2.3 per cent to

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Coastal Union embark on CAF Confederation Cup journey

MARATHON Page 19



Nothing lasts forever and the era of Manchester City is ending

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Azam FC face daunting path in CAF Champions League quest



Australian climbs Kili by trekking backwards

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declared upon descending from the top.

"Every year, thousands of climbers set out to conquer Kilimanjaro, but behind each of their successes is an unsung hero—the porter. These incredible men and women carry heavy loads, often unregulated, to make our dreams possible. But too often, their contributions are overlooked, and their treatment is far from fair," he further remarked.

"I've seen it first hand," he said, referring to the backbreaking work, the long hours, the lack of proper gear and lack of fair pay," the adventurer intimated.

One of the reasons for him to undertaking the feat was to shine a light on the people who make these adventures possible and to raise

funds for initiatives that support ethical standards for porters, he stated. "All the money raised will go directly to the Kilimanjaro Responsible Trekking Organization," he affirmed, referring to an initiative of the International Mountain Explorers Connection (IMEC) formed to improve the working conditions of the porters.

KRTO is a dedicated outfit for the proper care and treatment of porters on the mountain and enhance their life skills off their mountain activities.

While the challenge pushed the Aussie climber to his absolute limits, knowing that it's for a cause that can create real change kept him going and eventually conquered both the peak and the record breaking dream, he added.

Minister sets November 27 for voting in local leaders

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tending.

The noticeably militant Chadema boycotted that event, with John Mrema, the party's director of communication, ideology and external relations, affirming that their non-participation in the event had to do with their top officials being sick after being released from custody at the start of the week.

"The Registrar of Political Parties sent an invitation letter to the party chairman on August 13, and on that day the chairman was in custody along with the vice-chairman and the secretary-general," he said, elaborating that this invitation did not reach them. Moreover, when they were released, they were ill as they suffered injuries while in police custody, he specified.

Positions to be contested in the polls include village chairperson, village council members (mixed gender group and special seats village councillors), along with ward chairpersons.

The polls will be conducted according to the 2024 regulations for village chairperson, village council members, and ward chairpersons in all districts, he said, noting that settlements and small towns have specific provisions for electing ward chairpersons.

Street chairpersons and members of street committees (mixed gender group plus special seats group) in towns will also be elected in line with the regulations, he said.

The public has to be informed about the names and boundaries of areas for each electoral constituency, with poll administrators announcing the names and bounda-

ries of the wards in each district 72 days before the poll, he said.

These electoral constituencies will feature the context for the positions of ward, street or village chairperson, village government council members and street committee members, he said.

Appointment registrars and organizers of voter lists will be done by the polls administrator 52 days before polls day, while voter registration starts 47 days before the poll, lasting for 10 days, he said.

Where there are no public buildings, registration will take place at a location agreed upon by the assistant election administrator and leaders of participating political parties, he pointed out.

"Registration and polling stations in areas under district councils and small town authorities will be at the ward level," he said, noting that for town councils covering cities, municipalities and towns, registration and polling stations will be conducted in specified street facilities.

Individuals intending to run for a leadership position must collect the nomination form at least 26 days before the day of voting or as directed by the election administrator, and return the completed form within seven days from the start of the form collection period, he explained.

Candidates for various leadership positions must be members of political parties with permanent registration, he specified.

People in various areas need to come out in large numbers to register in the voter registry to exercise their right to elect capable local leaders for a five-year term, the minister added.

EAC, Kenya's private sector, explore trade harmony tools

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\$80.6bn in 2023 from \$78.7bn in 2022, she explained.

She observed that the EAC Customs Union has eliminated tariffs on intra-regional trade since 2005, resulting in over 60 per cent increase in intra-EAC trade, while reporting non-tariff barriers has noticeably helped to boost trade facilitation.

"With over 1,000 standards harmonized, intra-EAC trade has been significantly streamlined, ensuring consistent quality and safety of products and services," she said, pointing at EAC secretariat efforts to fast track laws and policies across the partner states to comply with the common market protocol.

KEPSA chairman Dr Jas Bedi acknowledged that as the largest economy in the EAC, Kenya has greatly benefited from regional integration. "The service sector, particularly travel and other services, has been a key driver of growth, accounting for over two-thirds of total trade in services."

However, the EAC still faces challenges in industrialization as the region remains under-industrialized due to factors like low electricity access, high costs, poor infrastructure and protectionist policies, he asserted.

"Addressing these issues is crucial for boosting competitiveness

and reducing trade deficits, and one of the things we propose is the establishment of a regional task force to identify and address these bottlenecks, with input from the private sector," he stated.

Carole Kariuki, the KEPSA CEO, said that one of the critical areas that need urgent attention is the alignment and integration of revenue collection processes among EAC member states. Currently, importers face varying requirements and levies despite sourcing from the same jurisdiction and dealing with similar products under the same harmonized system (HS) codes.

She cited the case of importers in Rwanda and Uganda often encountering discrepancies in levies for identical goods, leading to inconsistencies that hinder trade efficiency.

Establishing a single window digital platform where importers and exporters can access harmonized information and guidelines in real-time would be a significant step forward. This platform should allow for instant resolution of queries and ensure that directives from authorities are consistently applied across all member states, she emphasised.

"Such system would encourage new entrepreneurs to enter the market by providing a clear and predictable trading environment," the CEO added.



Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa is briefed on various human medicines derived from medicinal plants while on a tour of Cardenas pharmaceutical factory in Cuba's Matanzas Province yesterday. To his left is his wife, Mary Majaliwa, while to his right is the factory's general manager, Pedro Tanguero, and left is Tanzania's Ambassador to Cuba, Humphrey Polepole. Photo: PMO

Think outside the box, Samia tells appointees

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dress the issue, he remarked.

He said the incident involved complaints about constitutional matters, which the don not only understands but has significant expertise in the area.

He praised President Samia for the R4 (reconciliation, resilience, reforms and rebuilding) as essential for success as they enshrine human dignity and respect.

William Lukuvi's appointment to the Policy, Parliament and Coordination portfolio in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) arose from his being an experienced veteran.

The next legislature will have a

more vocal representation from both the ruling party and the opposition, and since he earlier supervised that ministry, he knows how to handle that role.

"We must acknowledge that whether one is from CCM or not, we have a multi-party system and his place is in Parliament," he said.

He sees the Natural Resources and Tourism portfolio as having peculiar problems for decades, even before economic reforms and multiparty shifts occurred.

"Some issues need to be addressed, as concentrating the country's resources in one ministry is problematic," he stated, affirming

that no minister will stay there for long. "Some decisions need to be streamlined. My advice to the president is to overhaul the entire natural resource management system to improve its effectiveness," he suggested.

Late Wednesday President Samia announced a fairly significant cabinet reshuffle, along with several top ministerial appointments, with Ambassador Dr Moses Kusiluka, the chief secretary, saying in a statement that the changes are aimed at increasing the efficiency of her administration.

In the changes, veteran Health minister Umyu Mwalimu gave way

to Jenista Mhagama, shifting from PMO, while Dr Pindi Chana was reassigned to Natural Resources and Tourism, replacing Angellah Kairuki, appointed presidential adviser.

Hamza Johari becomes Attorney General, elevated from the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) as director general, while Dr Ally Saleh Possi comes in as Solicitor General, lifted from Transport deputy permanent secretary.

Samwel Maneno comes in as Deputy Attorney General, replacing Ambassador Prof. Kennedy Gastorn, appointed presidential adviser on legal and contractual matters, the statement added.



Pakistan's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Siraj Ahmad Khan, and members of the board of the Welfare Association of Pakistan cut a cake in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday in celebrating their country's Independence Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwinyi applauds role of religious institutions

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has hailed development role played by religious institutions in the country by providing essential services to the people.

He said both government and religious institutions do the same thing but in different ways, thus the need to foster cooperation for the betterment of Tanzania.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks while officiating at the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG)'s National General Meeting held in Dodoma yesterday.

He specifically hailed TAG for the support to people of Zanzibar, adding that through the initiatives, many Zanzibaris now have access

to education, health and water services.

"TAG, among other religious institutions, is doing tremendous work in improving lives of people in Zanzibar and I hereby promise continued cooperation between the government and the church," he said.

During the event, TAG leadership awarded Dr Mwinyi for maintaining peace in the isles by cooperating with all religious leaders irrespective of their different faiths.

The church also recognized his efforts to expand religious, social and economic development in Zanzibar.

In his appreciation for the gesture, Dr Mwinyi noted that both mainland and isles leaders acknowledge the

role of religious institutions.

"This award is a big thing that will keep reminding me of appreciation by religious leaders who acknowledge the good work the government is doing", he said, calling on religious leaders to continue advising the government whenever need be.

He reminded religious leaders of their role to ensure unnecessary social conflicts and crimes associated with moral decay are minimized so that the government's responsibility to serve people becomes easy.

Earlier, TAG General Superintendent Dr Barnabas Mtokambali in his address applauded Dr Mwinyi for good and non-discriminatory leadership,

saying even his cabinet is comprised of ministers from different religions.

He said while Christians in Zanzibar are a minority, they have the freedom to worship and conduct other activities. He noted that Dr Mwinyi, upon taking oath of office on 3rd, November 2020, promised to steer the isles further economically, politically and socially.

"Efforts of your government and your personal initiatives are quite evident and TAG vividly sees them, thus the decision to honour you with the prestigious award," he said.

He said over 6,000 pastors of the church gathered for the national council conference that was preceded by election of national leaders.



Happy Luteganya, a community development officer with the Korogwe Town Council, sensitises teachers at Silabu Primary School in Old Korogwe ward yesterday on ways to combat sexual abuse and gender-based harassment of school children. It was all in implementation of a family-level campaign by local government staff, religious leaders and CSOs with support from USAID. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

Anticipation high as strategic Kigongo-Busisi Bridge 90pc

By Henry Mwangonde, Mwanza

THE construction of the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge is now at 90 percent and is expected to significantly enhance cargo transportation to neighbouring countries.

On Wednesday, CCM Secretary General Dr. Emanuel Nchimbi visited the project site upon entering Mwanza Region.

He expressed satisfaction with the progress, noting that the bridge will greatly benefit Lake Zone and Tanzania as a whole.

Amos Makalla, the party's Secretary for Ideology, Publicity,

and Training, said that the bridge and the MV Mwanza 'Hapa Kazi Tu' ferry are being funded through internal resources rather than loans.

"This construction is part of the government's strategy to integrate transport activities with the standard gauge railway," he said.

Makalla said that goods offloaded at the Mwanza dry port will be transported by water and road to Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The bridge is set to be the fifth longest in Africa and will connect

with the SGR. Misungwi will feature a dry port with a large train station for unloading goods. This infrastructure will enhance trade by allowing goods to be transferred to trucks bound for Rwanda and the DRC.

Makalla also said that the government has invested 24bn/- to refurbish MV Umoja, a large cargo vessel designed to carry containers.

"This vessel will transport cargo from the SGR to Uganda," he said.

Ambros Pascal from Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) Mwanza Region said that the bridge

will include six vehicle lanes and dedicated pedestrian pathways.

The final works in the project which cost 699bn/- involve connecting a two-meter section. While people are already using the bridge, vehicles have yet to do so.

The government, through TANROADS, has started planning to expand the road from Sengerema to Geita and Usagara to four lanes.

The expansion is necessary to accommodate the increased traffic from the bridge and ensure efficient transportation. The project also includes improving road markings.

Tanzania inks agreement to export honey to China

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA and China have signed a protocol to facilitate the export of honey to the Asian nation, an opportunity expected to help transform the economy and livelihoods of Tanzanian beekeepers and traders.

The protocol was signed yesterday by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism on requirements for honey export to China.

Speaking soon after signing the protocol, deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dunstan Kitandula, said the opportunity has come at the right time when the country has invested heavily in honey production.

According to him, with the protocol, the government will supervise to ensure that farmers and traders are mobilised to produce quality honey that meets international standards for them to benefit from the huge market in China.

"This journey started in 2018 when the ministry initiated communication with GACC, seeking the possibility of Tanzanian honey to get into the Chinese market. We discussed areas that could facilitate the processes including inspection, veterinary sanitary requirements and quarantine and agreed on the procedures and processes. Finally, today we have the agreed protocol on inspection, quarantine and veterinary sanitary requirements for honey to be exported," he said.

He said that the ministry will make sure that all provisions under the protocol are implemented accordingly.

Kitandula said Tanzania is among the countries with the highest potential for producing bee products. Currently, the estimated production potential of bee products is about 138,000 tonnes of honey and 9,200 tonnes of beeswax per annum. The current production stands at about 32,691 tonnes of honey and 1,907 tonnes of beeswax which is about 23.7 percent and 20.7 percent of the potential respectively.

The deputy minister appealed to more farmers to venture into the area and increase production now that the market access has been created.

He said the quality of Tanzanian honey has garnered international acclaim, enabling the country to export to different international markets.

"Our plans are to sustain this trust by making sure that we significantly increase production of bee products as well as export of quality products. To make this ambition a reality, we have designed a 10-year (2024 - 2034) Master Plan - The National Beekeeping Development Plan," he said.

"As the second leading producer of honey in Africa, after Ethiopia, Tanzania is also a significant supplier of honey to the diverse markets globally such as European and American markets as well as African and Middle Eastern markets," he said.

He said the country boasts over 48.1 million hectares of forests, including plantations, mangroves, natural forest reserves and bee reserves. These sources are rich in diverse vegetation, providing an exceptionally favourable environment for beekeeping.

The beekeeping sector in Tanzania generates an estimated \$77.5 million annually from the sales of honey and beeswax and contributes about 1 percent to the country's gross domestic product.

The sector also offers numerous benefits, including employment, pollination, medicinal uses, and biodiversity conservation. Approximately 2 million rural inhabitants living near protected areas are employed in beekeeping, contributing up to 33 percent of household incomes.

Yu Jianhua, the GACC minister and secretary, said the protocol signing initiates mass production and export of Tanzanian honey to the Chinese market.

He said China, with its vast population of 1.4 billion, is a substantial market.

"For instance, we import over 32 million tonnes of honey per year, amounting to about \$60 billion. This presents a promising opportunity for Tanzanians," he said.

Govt finalising procurement of over 100 modern buses for BRT

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is in the final stages of signing a contract for the importation of 157 buses to operate in the bus rapid transit (BRT) lanes to ease transport challenges in Dar es Salaam city.

David Kafulila, Executive Director of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the Ministry of Finance, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday while speaking to journalists from various media outlets.

Kafulila explained that the project will be executed through a PPP model.

"The primary goal is to reduce traffic congestion in Dar es Salaam. The city loses a significant amount of money due to traffic jams," he said.

He said that the buses will be of high quality, designed to encourage private vehicle owners to switch to buses for their city-center commutes, in line with practices seen in other countries.

Kafulila explained that the project will be implemented in six phases, with the current focus on finalizing discussions and preparing to sign a contract with the selected company. Once this is completed, 157 buses will be introduced and operated through a PPP.

Additionally, Kafulila said that the government was in the negotiation stages with the winning company for the construction of a toll road between Kibaha and Chalinze. This project aims to reduce traffic congestion that causes significant delays for travellers. The contract for the construction and management, in collaboration with the government, is expected to be signed soon.

He said that the new road will provide an option for fast travel

at a fee, while existing roads will remain available for regular use. The government's goal is to ensure strong connectivity between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma through these high-speed roads, benefiting both the private sector and the public.

Kafulila said that development of the roads will not negatively impact the business of the standard gauge railway. He cited research indicating that there remains a significant need for expanded road infrastructure, as rail transport alone cannot meet the growing demand.

"Studies show that the current road infrastructure meets only 30 percent of the projected needs for 2050, meaning we must expand our infrastructure by more than three times," he said.

Just a month ago, Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu detailed strategies to revitalize the struggling BRT services, including the importation of 100 buses, which are expected to arrive in the country soon.

Mchechu described the current transportation system as a "heartache" for Tanzanians and added that the government has implemented strategies to address the challenges.



The primary goal is to reduce traffic congestion in Dar es Salaam. The city loses a significant amount of money due to traffic jams



Residents of a Shinyanga suburb join members of the Fire and Rescue Force yesterday in efforts to retrieve three bodies of people killed in a crash involving two vehicles. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Guardian Reporter

VP, WEF delegation discuss how to tackle plastic menace

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has said that the government is committed to collaborating with stakeholders, the private sector and the international community to tackle the issue of plastic waste in the country.

Dr Mpango made the remarks yesterday in Dodoma when he met and held talks with a delegation from the World Economic Forum (WEF) Secretariat, led by Clemence Schmid, Director of Global Plastics Action Partnership at the WEF.

He said that experience shows that collaboration is the best way to address the issue, as plastic wastes often end up in other countries, particularly through the oceans.

Dr Mpango welcomed WEF

and its Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter to work with Tanzania on various strategies to combat plastic pollution such as building capacity of experts, facilitating advanced recycling technology and equipment, and providing financial support for projects aimed at addressing plastic waste pollution.

He said that Tanzania has been taking various steps to address plastic waste such as banning the use of plastic bags and providing education to encourage citizens to

change their behaviour regarding improper disposal of plastic waste.

Schmid praised the government for its efforts and sincere commitment to combating plastic waste.

She said that WEF delegation has observed Tanzania's genuine commitment to prioritizing environmental pollution prevention, particularly from plastic waste.

Schmid said that WEF aims to establish cooperation with the Tanzanian government with the primary goal of eliminating plastic

waste. Through this partnership, Tanzania is creating a favorable environment to engage national and international stakeholders in addressing the challenge of plastic waste.

She also mentioned that priorities in the cooperation include identifying existing challenges, connecting stakeholders, and determining how to utilise financial resources and investments to develop infrastructure that effectively manages plastic waste economically.



AFRIPRISE INVESTMENT PLC

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 6 MONTHS ENDED IN 30TH JUNE 2024

The Directors are pleased to present financial results for the first half of 2024. Compared to the same period in 2023, the company saw a 49% rise in investment income reaching TZS 3 billion, driven by higher dividend and interest income. Operating expenses increased by 5% to TZS 502 million. The company achieved a 74% rise in profit, amounting to TZS 2.5 billion. Additionally, Afriprise's assets surged by 49% to TZS 57 billion, driven by a higher fair value of equity investments.

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

	H1 2024 TZS '000	H1 2023 TZS '000
Income	2,899,515	1,846,331
Other operating gains (losses)	139,733	188,742
Operating expenses	(501,668)	(477,978)
Operating profit	2,537,580	1,557,095
Finance costs	(2,273)	(102,332)
	2,535,307	1,454,763
Profit for the period	2,535,307	1,454,763
Other comprehensive income:		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Fair value gain (loss) on equity instruments	6,670,642	1,724,674
Other comprehensive income for the period	6,670,642	1,724,674
Total comprehensive Income for the period	9,205,949	3,179,437
Basic earnings per share	17.38	19.94

Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2024

	H1 2024 TZS '000	H1 2023 TZS '000
Assets		
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	121,124	104,699
Investment property	221,347	221,347
Right of use assets	59,712	31,050
Intangible assets	3,040	3,000
Loans receivable	93,213	78,191
Equity investments	38,204,405	22,485,360
Investment in government securities	15,157,299	13,323,572
Other financial assets	1,255,000	350,000
Deferred tax	(1,784)	(23,890)
	55,113,356	36,573,329
Current Assets		
Trade and other receivables	158,066	174,652
Current tax receivable	414,539	347,894
Cash and cash equivalents	1,185,907	1,025,937
	1,758,512	1,548,483
Total Assets	56,871,868	38,121,812
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Share capital	12,746,812	2,167,952
Total Reserves	19,230,471	10,607,962
Retained Income	24,753,594	22,710,466
	56,730,877	35,486,380
Non-Current Liabilities		
Borrowings	-	2,157,861
	-	2,157,861
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	34,296	12,569
Borrowings-CL	-	123,971
Dividend	49,392	310,428
Lease Liability	57,303	30,603
	140,991	477,571
Total Liabilities	140,991	2,635,432
Total Equity and Liabilities	56,871,868	38,121,812

Statement of Cash Flows

	H1 2024 TZS '000	H1 2023 TZS '000
Cash flow from operating activities		
Profit before tax	2,535,307	1,454,763
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	11,758	12,560
Changes in working capital	711,577	315,485
Tax paid	(106,375)	(60,898)
Net cash (used in) from operating activities	3,152,267	1,721,910
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(23,814)	-
Movement in other financial instruments	(191,085)	(216,463)
Movement in equity investments	(6,176,723)	(1,140,156)
Movement in government securities	(119,422)	265,571
Net cash (used in) from investing activities	(6,511,044)	(1,091,048)
Cash flow from financing activities		
Movement in borrowings	(2,157,861)	(115,110)
Dividends	(2,330)	(20,000)
Net cash (used in) from financing activities	(2,160,191)	(135,110)
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash	(5,518,968)	495,752
Cash at the beginning of the period	6,704,875	530,185
Cash at the end of the period	1,185,907	1,025,937

Statement of Changes in equity

	Share capital TZS '000	Share premium TZS '000	Total share capital TZS '000	Reserve for valuation of equity investments TZS '000	Initial Public Offer Cost TZS '000	Retained earnings TZS '000	Total equity TZS '000
Previous year							
Balance as at the 1st Jan 2023	1,459,153	708,799	2,167,952	9,512,950	(629,662)	21,255,703	32,306,943
Profit for the period				1,724,674		1,454,763	1,724,674
Other comprehensive income				6,670,642		6,670,642	6,670,642
Balance as at 30th June 2023	1,459,153	708,799	2,167,952	11,237,624	(629,662)	22,710,466	35,486,380
Current period							
Balance as at the 1st January 2024	2,918,306	9,828,506	12,746,812	13,788,914	(1,229,088)	22,218,290	47,624,928
Profit for the period				6,670,642		2,535,307	2,535,307
Other comprehensive income				6,670,642		6,670,642	6,670,642
Balance as at the 30th June 2024	2,918,306	9,828,506	12,746,812	20,459,556	(1,229,088)	24,753,597	56,730,877

We, the undersigned, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the Statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards, they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signature	Date
Ms. Magdatene Mkocha Chairman		09/08/2024
Mr. Joseph Kahungwa Director		09/08/2024

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Sunflower cakes from Tanzania now enter new market in China

By Guardian Reporter

SUNFLOWER farmers in the country have been encouraged to increase cultivation due to a significant market opportunity in China.

This follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for export of sunflower oil cakes to the Asian nation.

The agreement was signed in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday by Agriculture Deputy Minister David Silinde and Yu Jianhua, minister and secretary of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Silinde said that the agreement will expand the domestic market for sunflowers since after extracting oil, farmers and traders will now have the opportunity to export sunflower oil cakes to China.

He noted that the government also works to revitalise markets in other regions globally.

Silinde further said that discussions with China have led to an agreement allowing nine Tanzanian companies to export avocados directly to China, removing the previous requirement for exporting through neighbouring countries. He said that there are still several agreements in various stages of implementation between the two governments.

Yu confirmed that a team will be sent to expedite parts of the agreement, including the shipment of pepper to China and increasing tobacco exports to the country.

Meanwhile, Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe met with Chargé d'Affaires Asim Mustafa Ali of the Republic of Sudan to discuss various aspects of agricultural

trade cooperation and strengthen bilateral ties. The meeting took place at the minister's office in Dodoma on Wednesday.

During their discussion, Ali praised Tanzania's tea and coffee products, which he said are highly regarded by Sudanese consumers.

He assured the minister of Sudan's commitment to further supporting and enhancing the existing trade partnership, which has been in place since 1970.

In response, Bashe thanked Ali for the visit and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening bilateral relationship that has been ongoing since 1962.

He added that the Ministry of Agriculture, along with relevant stakeholders, will review and explore all areas of cooperation that are mutually beneficial to both countries.



Finance ministry deputy permanent secretary Jenifa Omolo pictured in Dodoma city yesterday speaking at a training session on the improved Budget Planning and Management System (CBMS) which, alongside an evaluation of the implementation of the Government Budget for financial year 2023/2024, is meant to inform strategies to improve the preparation of plans and budgets for financial year 2025/2026. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

By Vitus Audax, Mwanza

CHIEF Government Statistician Dr Albina Chuwa has urged Tanzanians to cooperate with enumerators for the ongoing Integrated Labour Force Survey to be a success.

Dr Chuwa made the call in Mwanza yesterday while reviewing the progress of the survey which is going on in different parts of the country.

She said that across Tanzania, they expect to reach a sample of 14,500 households to gather information on employment conditions.

The main objective of the survey is to obtain estimates on various labour market indicators such as employed population, unemployed population, economically inactive population; time use and working children along with their relevant indicators to support analysis.

She said that the study is by the 1977 Constitution of the United

Chief statistician appeals for precise data in labour survey

Republic of Tanzania and the Statistics Act, Cap 351, which mandates the government to plan for the citizens' development by using statistics that meet international standards.

"This law also requires citizens to ensure they provide accurate data to enumerators regarding all activities they engage in over 24 hours each day, regardless of whether they are part of the formal employment system or private activities," she said.

Dr Aggrey Kinasha, Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) chief monitoring and evaluation officer, requested NBS to expedite the delivery of statistical reports as they are crucial for evaluating past projects and planning new initiatives.

Dr Kinasha noted that data was

currently being collected across 10 districts and three regions and the information will be instrumental in preparing new project proposals and assessing implementation of the ongoing projects.

Ilemela District Commissioner Hassan Masala said that it is the government's responsibility to ensure the task is carried out thoroughly and that leaders will continue to encourage citizens to provide accurate data for the process.

Kiseke Ward Councillor Mwevi Ramadhan said that citizens were ready and in areas where the work had already started, people provided sufficient cooperation since the exercise was part of the government's plan to improve employment conditions in the country.

Pakistani envoy optimistic about future trade, investment relations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA and Pakistan's bilateral trade is projected to surpass \$1trn/- in the next two years, with the increase attributed to a positive business partnership between the two countries.

Currently, the bilateral trade volume of between the two countries stands at \$ 301 million which is nearly 800m/-.

Siraj Ahmad Khan, Pakistani High Commissioner to Tanzania, said this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday at the celebrations of Pakistan's 78th years of independence.

He said Pakistan has come a long way since 1947, evolving into a modern, developing and progressive nation.

The envoy said since independence, Pakistan has built

enduring partnerships with many countries across the globe, Africa and Tanzania in particular.

"Concerning trade and investment, last year the trade volume crossed \$300 million from \$224 million. I hope that in the next couple of years, it will cross \$ 400 million," he said.

Apart from trade, the two countries also have substantial exchange in agriculture, textile as well as agricultural equipment and machinery.

The envoy mentioned other areas such as telecom, banking, tourism and especially medical tourism," he said.

Khan said that the opportunities are immense and the two countries are working not only to increase trade and investment but also stronger diplomatic ties.

He said Pakistan and Tanzania have, since the two countries established diplomatic relations, enjoyed good and friendly ties.

"We also enjoy good cooperation in trade and investment, defence, education, capacity building, and people-to-people contacts," he added.

Rizwan Qadri, Tanzania-Pakistan Business Council Secretary General, said the council plays a significant role of bridging the two countries since it facilitates trade and investment activities.

"We always support Pakistani businesspeople who come to Tanzania to invest in the industrial sector and we also reciprocate by inviting Tanzanians to be able to do the same to enhance our presence in Pakistan, especially in the agriculture sector," he said.



Khamis Hamza Khamis, Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), pictured in Dodoma city on Wednesday making remarks at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water and the Environment. The committee was discussing a report on the implementation of the Resolutions of the 28th Meeting of Member States of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP-28) held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Create more Kiswahili content for social media, youth urged

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIAN youth have been urged to utilise Kiswahili content on social media platforms as it is now considered a gap in what digital consumers want globally.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, Information, and Communication Technology Commission (ICTC) Director General, said this at a symposium held in Dar es Salaam yesterday dubbed 'Media Literacy and Digital Skills Initiative, including promotion of Monetization of Digital Platforms in Tanzania'.

He said with the 3.5 billion people consumers of Meta, a company that owns and operates Instagram, Facebook, Threads and WhatsApp, it is an opportunity that Tanzania and the world at large can utilise in building digital economy.

"Tanzania has a competitive advantage especially with Kiswahili being a dominant language. It is the most wanted content based on the available market. The youth should understand that such platforms are fruitful toward a competitive economy," he said.

He further reminded journalists and internet users the need to investigate information for

verification before it is sent to consumers.

Michel Toto, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Representative to Tanzania, said the organisation is fully committed to promoting major information developments in Tanzania in navigating the digital world.

"UNESCO is dedicated to the implementation of comprehensive strategies to leave no one behind to bridge the digital gender divide," he said.

According to him, using the internet or social media platforms is not about what is done daily but what is gained.

"We need education on the right use of social media. It is not enough to just consume. The question has to be on what it means to us. The internet is an extension of our daily lives. Let us engage positively to support our long-term vision of the digital world," he said.

Desmond Mushi, Public Policy Manager -East and Horn of Africa, Meta, said that their main task is to look at challenges and available opportunities to ensure that people are aware of their platforms' applicability.



Tanzania has a competitive advantage especially with Kiswahili being a dominant language. It is the most wanted content based on the available market. The youth should understand that such platforms are fruitful toward a competitive economy

KATIKA BARAZA LA ARDHI NA NYUMBA
WILAYA YA KINONDONI
MWANANYAMALA
SHAURI LA MADAI NAMBARI 284 LA 2024
JANETH PAUL RAPHAEL & 4 OTHERS... MUOMBAJI/WOMBAJI
DHIDI YA
ALLY MJINGA KALIME.....MDAIWA/WADAIWA
WITO KUITWA SHAURINI
ALLY MJINGA KALIME, POPOTE ULIPO/MLIPO
JANETH PAUL RAPHAEL & 4 OTHERS Amefungua/wamfungua shauri mbele ya baraza la ardhi na Nyumba lililopo kinondoni (Mwananyamala). Shauri husika limepangwa kutajwa/kusikilizwa tarehe 23/9/2024 saa 03:00 asubuhi mbele ya Mh. J.W. SILLAS Hivyo unamrithiwa kuhudhuria mbele ya Baraza siku hiyo bila kukosa.
Imetolewa na kutiwa saini ya Mhuri wa Baraza hili leo tarehe 13 Mwezi 08 ...2024

Court rejects plea for altercation video clip

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday rejected a request by lawyer defending accused couple Bharat Natwan (57) and Sangita Bharat (54) to witness Kiran Ratilal to submit a short video clip appearing to show her being shoved into a bucket of concrete mixture.

Natwan and Sangita Bharat who live along Mrima Street at Kisutu area in Dar es Salaam are accused

of four counts, including assault and causing grievous harm, which they allegedly committed on July 21, 2023.

The request was submitted before Senior Resident Magistrate Aaron Lyamuya by Defence lawyer Edward Chuwa on behalf of his clients when Ratilal was being cross-examined on the evidence she gave against the defendants.

Chuwa asked Ratilal who is the fourth witness in the case if it was true in her testimony where she claimed that she had a clip that

showed her being immersed in the bucket of mixed cement and glue and whether she was ready to release it but she responded that she did have it at that time.

Magistrate Lyamuya explained to Chuwa that the witness should not be asked to produce the video clip but the lawyer maintained that he wanted it to be produced as evidence.

However, senior state attorney Faraji Nguka said that they were not ready to provide that evidence, but if Chuwa want it, they would

provide as part of their defence by following procedures.

Magistrate Lyamuya explained to them that there are legal procedures for witness to provide evidence during the period of cross-examination that must be followed.

"This request has come randomly and therefore has been rejected," said Lyamuya.

After Lyamuya said this, Chuwa said that he had completed cross-examination of the witness. The case was adjourned until August 30, 2024, at 9am.

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Engineering Support Service - Civil Engineer - 01 Position Advertisement

Applicants are invited to apply for the existing position mentioned above.

Position Title: Engineering Support Services- Civil Engineer
Location: Williamson Diamonds Limited, Mwadui, Shinyanga
Grade: D3
Report: Mine operations Manager

Summary: Williamson Diamond Limited (WDL) is Tanzania's only large-scale diamond producer. The mine is an open pit operation based upon the 146-hectare Mwadui kimberlite pipe, which is one of the world's largest economic kimberlites. For over 80 years, Williamson Diamond Limited has lived side by side and co-existed peacefully with the communities around Mwadui, while implementing a wide range of development programs for the last ten years, focusing on promoting the lives and livelihoods of the communities surrounding Mwadui Mine Site.

Role Description: Manage operational, maintenance and surveillance of Nhumbu and Songwa water dams and Tailings storage facility (TSF) complete with infrastructure and contracts according to standards and guidelines as per the new laws and regulations.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Responsible to manage section safety, work plans, control costs and maintain assets at workplaces including human capital, land, facility (dams and pump stations) complete with equipment and infrastructure, PPE, tools and machinery, operational expenditure budget, and intellectual property
- Ensure compliance to All WDL policies and procedures.
- Appointed Responsible Dams Safety Engineer (RDSE) responsible to implement Water dams Management standards and guidelines on the water dams off the Mine lease at Nhumbu and Songwa and Tailings Management standards and guidelines on the Tailings storage Facility (TSF) in the Mine lease, to assure senior Management governance and to assure conformance by Water dam and TSF operators in collaboration with the Engineer of Records (EOR) who is a registered Approved Professional Person (APP) for dams.
- Implement the Water dams management standards in conjunction with Dam Safety Guidelines made under the Dam Safety Regulations GN 237 of 2013 with its amendments GN 55 of 2020 made under Part X, Sections 94 (1) and 111 (1) of the Water Resources Management Act No. 11 of 2009 to guide the development of dams for any purpose.
- Implement operations of the dams to meet the intent of design, Operations, Maintenance and Surveillance (OMS) of the dams (each Water dam and TSF) compliant to legal requirements during any phase of its life cycle from a new dam is designed and constructed, operated and ongoing construction as practicable, closed, and rehabilitated.
- Ensure update/ real-time data collection and implement analysis and monitoring obtained from dam operations and safety monitoring devices.
- Implement action plans to meet dam standards and guidelines as recommended by subordinates, Co-workers (Geotechnical Geology, and any other), Engineer of Records (EOR), and relevant authorities.
- Implement a periodic review and update of the design and OMS manuals of the dams.
- Implement a periodic review and update of the TSF closure plan during Mine Closure Plan (MCP) review.
- Implement a program for reviewing dam safety including an independent review.
- Manage operational alterations of the dam as they are identified/ considered to have potential deviation from the design intent and engage the EOR or Design team.
- Ensure periodic review, implementation and testing either as stand-alone plans or as components of site wide emergency responses plans of the emergency response plans of Water dams and Tailings management.
- Ensure to participate in or provide input to community engagement activities related to Water dams and Tailings management.
- Ensure in maintenance implementation of risk assessment (general/ mini), maintenance plans, assigned works completion, accurate work reports, quality assurance checkup, periodic and adhoc inspections, tests on specific parts and systems, and accurate record keeping.
- Ensure periodic inspections of each dam facility, equipment and infrastructure are completed.
- Maintain internal and external records related to design, construction, OMS, maintenance plans and implementations, data collection, correspondences and submitted reports.

Minimum Requirements for all applicants:

- Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Geotechnical Engineering or its equivalent.
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in a Civil or Geotechnical Engineer role within the mining industry or water dams construction project(s).
- Strong understanding of soil structural characteristics and methods of testing compaction and consolidation.
- Prior experience in maintenance management.
- Competent in Computer application.
- Excellent verbal and written communication in English and Swahili
- Possession of a valid driving license.

Other required Skills and Competencies:

- Honesty, punctuality, ability to obey orders and dedicated to any legal task.
- Ability to work in a team environment.
- Experience and development in work place.
- Independent, effective and achieves set objectives.
- Flexibility in working beyond normal working hours.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent mechanical repair skills.
- Extensive knowledge as much of aspects of plant mechanical equipment maintenance and repair.

Mode of Application

Candidates meeting the requisite qualifications should submit their applications describing how they qualify for the positions. They should also send detailed CV, copies of certificates, three referees, daytime telephone numbers and e-mail addresses before **15th September 2024** at 16:00hrs. Via the following address:

**Human Resources Manager,
Williamson Diamonds Ltd,
P. O. Box 23,
Mwadui-Shinyanga.**

Or drop the same through the following email, joseph.mokoro@petradiamonds.co.tz

Williamson Diamonds Limited supports the Mineral policy (2009) of Tanzania and is committed to ensure adequate development of local technical capacity to service the mining industry; and to employ local experts available and develop succession plans for Tanzanians to take over expatriate positions. Pre-screening, profile testing, on mine assessments, medical and security clearances form part of the minimum requirement and selection process. Short listed candidates will be required to attend a panel interview. Employment of the successful candidate is subject to passing on mine induction and the aforementioned criteria.

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GGML unveils 33/11KV substation, transitioning to national grid power

By Guardian Reporter

THE Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has inaugurated its new 33/11KV substation, marking a significant milestone in the company's transition from diesel-generated power to a more sustainable and renewable energy source generated by the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco).

The substation was launched on Tuesday by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko.

The new substation constructed at a cost of about \$ 25.8 million invested by GGML is designed to meet the growing energy demands of the company's mining operations while also providing a more stable and reliable power supply.

The infrastructure investment is expected to significantly improve the mine's operational efficiency and contribute to the long-term viability of the world-class asset of Geita Gold Mine.

Dr Biteko expressed his elation at GGML's decision to integrate Tanesco's national grid into its daily operations, reassuring all stakeholders that the national power utility firm is capable of meeting miners' electricity demands.

"GGML has made tremendous strides by incorporating the national power grid into its daily production activities. The electricity consumed by GGML each month surpasses that of five regions in the country. By supplying electricity to GGML, we will reduce their operational costs, generate more profits and contribute more towards national development," said Biteko.

Simon Shayo, Vice President of AngloGold Ashanti overseeing Sustainability and Cooperate Affairs in Africa, echoed the sentiments with anticipation that the project will be a catalyst for further development in Geita Region and Tanzania at large.

"GGML will make a 58.4 percent

savings on power generation with 92.6 percent resulting from a reduction of diesel usage for power generation which in turn derives a total reduction of about 707,644 tonnes of carbon emission. Thus, by enhancing the reliability and capacity of our power distribution network, we are laying the groundwork for sustained economic growth, industrial expansion and improved quality of life for countless individuals," he said.

"As part of GGML's ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility, the company will continue to explore innovative ways to minimize its environmental impact and contribute to the sustainable development of the host communities in which it operates. By moving away from diesel fuel, GGML aims to significantly reduce its carbon footprint, decrease operational costs and contribute to Tanzania's broader goals of promoting sustainable energy solutions."



Tanzania Bureau of Standards director general Dr Ashura Katunzi (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during the opening of the fifth phase of the national awards competitions for 2024. She is with Quality Assurance director Amina Yassin. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TBS launches Quality Awards 2024 contest

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has launched the fifth edition of national quality awards competition to recognise individuals and institutions that contribute to improving quality of products and services.

Dr Ashura Katunzi, Director General of TBS was on Wednesday joined by leaders from various sectors, traders and innovators at the launch of the Quality Awards 2024 competition in the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam.

"Today we are launching a competition that will encourage innovation and improvement of products and services across Tanzania. Through procedures established under our quality infrastructure, we aim to raise standards of what we produce and offer both within our borders and

beyond," she said.

Dr Katunzi detailed five key elements of this year's awards, each designed to recognize excellence in various fields. The first is award for the best company of the year, followed by the best product of the year, the best service of the year, and the best seller of products outside the country. The fifth and final award is reserved for an individual who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to quality.

The announcement was met with excitement, especially as Dr Katunzi recounted the success of the previous year's winners. The participants in the 2023 awards went on to compete in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Quality Awards where Tanzanian innovators did well. They secured top spots, including second place for SADC best exporter award and third place in both the

best company of the year and best service provider categories.

This year, the competition will be even more inclusive. For the first four elements, we have prepared awards in two categories—one for large companies and one for small enterprises or individual entrepreneurs. The fifth element will honour one exceptional person, whose contribution to quality has been unparalleled," she said.

"The criteria for winning are rigorous," she said. "We look at how institutions or individuals showcase quality of their products and services, their efficiency in production and overall work performance. We also consider how much they have benefited from these improvements—how their businesses have grown after raising the standards of their products or services."

Chinese medical team expands traditional medicine awareness in Namibian schools

WINDHOEK

THE 15th Chinese medical team to Namibia has continued to promote traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), with the introduction of acupuncture to learners and staff members at Amazing Kids Private School in Windhoek, Namibia.

Li Bangwei, head of the 15th Chinese medical team, held an engaging lecture detailing acupuncture, a technique involving the insertion of needles at specific points on the body to promote healing. The presentation covered the history of acupuncture, its various uses and the specific points targeted during treatment.

Acupuncture, which has been practised in China for more than 2,000 years, aims to stimulate the body's natural healing process, said

Li.

The lecture was supported by a video from Richard Kamwi, Namibia's former minister of health and social services who has extensive interactions with the Chinese people as well as the country itself. In the video, Kamwi discussed the benefits of acupuncture and urged the attendees to consider it a viable alternative for maintaining health.

Meanwhile, the lecture extended to a more hands-on approach, as the participants experienced the practice personally.

Jon Vreis, a staff member at the school who undertook an acupuncture session during the lecture, said that he found the therapy very intriguing.

"The explanations given to me are very thoughtful. Doctor Li explained very well what the uses

of acupuncture are. I'm very fearful of needles and I never thought I'd have this experience, but I decided to challenge myself," he said.

He said the acupuncture was not as painful as he had expected. As the session went on, he found it very relaxing. He plans to revisit the medical team soon because he has been dealing with health issues since COVID-19 and the acupuncture has already made a difference.

Other participants in the lecture also joined the session, believing that consistently being acupunctured would yield desirable health results.

Acupuncture is currently one of the several traditional Chinese therapy techniques practised in Namibia, with a bulk of sessions conducted at the TCM Clinic located at the Katutura State Hospital in Windhoek.

Over 200 diagnosed with cataract at free eye camp

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 295 people in Dar es Salaam have been diagnosed with cataract cases during a three-day free eye screening camp held at the Mnazi Mmoja grounds.

Mohammadraza Dewji, Khoja Shia Community Chairman, unveiled this in the city on Tuesday when wrapping up the camp, stating that the identified cases were out of 5,818 people who attended the screening.

He said that 2,469 people were given reading glasses and 2,945 were given eye drops.

"We also collected 2,816 units of blood and conducted 2,102 health screenings and consultations," he said.

Dewji said that 56 cases were recorded and scheduled for long-term follow-up and major surgeries, hinting that a total of 5,000 people were informed on mental health challenges.

"A total of 1,382 individuals underwent cancer screening and 29 of them were found with symptoms," he said, noting that other tests, including ultrasound, unveiled over 70 cases of the disease.

Emphasis was also made on provision of mental health education, where residents were educated on how to recognise and address the growing health challenge whose symptoms include stress, anxiety and depression.

"Provided education aimed at enabling people to understand how to take care of themselves and how

to seek assistance when needed," he said.

The screening was accompanied by several counselling sessions that were conducted alongside different educational programmes as well as guidance provision on mental health management using scientific and spiritual methods.

The camp's chief health practitioner, Dr Amir Khanji, said mental health was an often-overlooked issue, especially in the communities, urging people living with relatives suffering from mental health challenges to increase intimacy with them to better understand the problems they go through.

"Non-communicable diseases are mainly lifestyle challenges arising from how people live, eat, and relate. High consumption of sugary foods, fatty and unbalanced diets as well as inactivity exacerbate the challenge," he said.

Dr Khanji advised people working in various settings and environments to appropriately use protective gear to prevent themselves from work-related illnesses.



We also collected 2,816 units of blood and conducted 2,102 health screenings and consultations

WHO categorises mpox global health emergency

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the mpox outbreak in parts of Africa a public health emergency of international concern.

The highly contagious disease - formerly known as monkeypox - has killed at least 450 people during an initial outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It has now spread across parts of central and east Africa, and scientists are concerned about how fast a new variant of the disease is spreading and its high fatality rate.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the potential for further spread within Africa and beyond "is very worrying."

"A co-ordinated international response is essential to stop this outbreak and save lives," he said.

Mpox is transmitted through close contact, such as sex, skin-to-skin contact and talking or breathing close to another person.

It causes flu-like symptoms, skin lesions and can be fatal, with four in 100 cases leading to death.

Outbreaks can be controlled by preventing infections with vaccines, though these are usually only available for people at risk or those who have been in close contact with an infected person.

A previous mpox public health emergency, declared in 2022, was caused by the relatively mild Clade 2. However, this time it is the far more deadly Clade 1 - which has killed up to 10 percent of those getting sick in previous outbreaks - that is surging.

There was a change in the virus around September last year. Mutations led to an offshoot - called Clade 1b - that has since spread rapidly. This new variant has been labelled "the most dangerous yet" by one scientist.

Since the start of the year, there have been more than 13,700 cases of mpox in the DR Congo, with at least 450 deaths.

It has since been detected in other African countries - including Burundi, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Rwanda.

It is hoped the declaration of mpox as a public health emergency will lead to research, funding, and the introduction of other international public health measures being accelerated.

Dr Josie Golding, from the Wellcome Trust, said it was a "strong signal", while Emory University's Dr Boghuma Titanji said the move "underscores the gravity of the crisis."

Prof Trudie Lang, the director of the Global Health Network at the University of Oxford, said it was "important and timely", but added that the emergence of a new strain meant there were "many unknowns that need to be addressed."

In July 2022 the milder Clade 2 strain of mpox spread to nearly 100 countries, including some in Europe and Asia.

It spread rapidly, and there were more than 87,000 cases and 140 deaths reported during that outbreak, according to a WHO count.

Although anyone can catch monkeypox, the outbreak was largely concentrated among men who had sex with men.

That outbreak was brought under control by vaccinating vulnerable groups.

On Tuesday, scientists from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention declared a public health emergency.

The head of the organisation, Jean Kaseya, warned that this current outbreak could spiral out of control if immediate steps were not taken to contain it.

"We must be proactive and aggressive in our efforts to contain and eliminate this threat," he said.



A previous mpox public health emergency, declared in 2022, was caused by the relatively mild Clade 2. However, this time it is the far more deadly Clade 1 - which has killed up to 10 percent of those getting sick in previous outbreaks - that is surging



Godfrey Mnzava, leader of this year's edition of the cross-country Uhuru Torch Race, plants a tree at Ng'wang'osha Primary School in Shinyanga District on Wednesday shortly after launching an environment club. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

EACOP in drive to support Project-affected households

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has established 'enterprise development programme' to support households affected by the project in areas it passes through from Hoima in Uganda to the Port of Tanga.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Jean Lennox, EACOP land and social manager in Tanzania, said that the pipeline has been implementing the Livelihood Restoration Programme (LRP) aimed at restoring the livelihoods of Project Affected Households (PAHs) to pre-project levels since 2021.

She said that to achieve this objective, EACOP has also developed

eight Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), each including a LRP. "Within the LRP, eight Livelihood Restoration Activities (LRA) have been identified for project affected areas, Project Pipeline Land (PPL), and Project Affected Households (PAHs)," she said.

The activities include land preparation and planting of replacement agricultural land, maize improvement programme, crop diversification, poultry production programme, livestock improved husbandry programme, improved beekeeping practices, enterprise development and household budgeting and money management training.

Lennox said that EACOP recently

launched implementation of LRA 7, starting with a pilot phase in Kagera Region (Misenyi and Muleba districts). This initial phase targets 798 PAHs.

She said that the overarching goal of LRA 7 is to stimulate establishment and growth of business enterprises by supporting 8,971 households in enterprise development. This initiative focuses on 453 priority areas and involves 8,518 households along the pipeline route across eight regions namely Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara, and Tanga.

The programme includes comprehensive capacity and needs assessments, addressing challenges

hindering enterprise development, and integrating with existing and future interventions. The aim is to enable PAHs to effectively manage their livelihood strategies as businesses, promoting sustainable economic growth.

The implementation of LRA 7 will be coordinated with ongoing LRAs to maximize benefits and value for PAHs and their household livelihood activities.

EACOP is governed by its shareholders agreement in which Total Energies (62 percent), Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC - 15 percent), Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC - 15 percent) and CNOOC (8 percent) are shareholders.



Zanzibar's Tourism and Antiquities minister, Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga (R), has a word with Tigo-Zantel director Aziz Said Ali at yesterday's launch of the Zanzibar International Marathon. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

SA varsity's relationship with Chinese counterpart bears fruit

JOHANNESBURG

THE relationship between South Africa's Durban University of Technology (DUT) and China's Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University (FAFU) is bearing fruit and benefiting the local community with knowledge and skills, said a senior DUT official.

Alan Khan, DUT's senior director of corporate affairs, made the remarks yesterday. More than 11 years ago, DUT signed an agreement with the FAFU to share skills and knowledge.

"At the DUT, we have seen the benefit of this partnership with China. This partnership has created fantastic opportunities for the DUT

staff and students," said Khan. "It has helped promote people-to-people and cultural exchange, research, entrepreneurship, and engagement."

He explained that in 2021, the DUT Confucius Institute (DUT CI) developed a model featuring "Chinese+" vocational skills training which serves as a "one-stop" service center, offering language courses, cultural experiences, and support for technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, aligning with local needs.

In September 2023, the DUT CI launched the China-South Africa Juncao demonstration center project, to promote cooperation between Fujian Province and

KwaZulu-Natal Province in "Chinese+" agriculture skill training and local community poverty alleviation, said Khan.

DUT is "actively involved in fostering academic and cultural exchanges" with China, via the DUT CI and FAFU, declared Khan, who said DUT has "several partnerships and collaborative projects" with Chinese universities and research institutes that aim to enhance research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and academic excellence.

Khan also noted that DUT and its Confucius Institute closely work with Chinese enterprises, both in South Africa and in China, to develop innovative collaboration

models to cultivate local talent by providing internship opportunities and skill training programmes, thereby supporting local economic development.

Ashraf Patel, senior researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue, a South Africa-based think tank, suggested that South African universities should emulate China by having some specialised universities focusing on agriculture and other faculties.

He added that South African universities should sign memoranda of understanding with Chinese counterparts and engage in fruitful exchange of knowledge, skills, students' exchanges, and exchanges in academics.

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Customer care training for bus crew a tolerable inconvenience

IMPROVING the conditions of doing business is becoming a see-saw tussle between policy-makers in the central government and a plethora of regulators, the pendulum this time having swung in the direction of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

The agency has announced that it will stop the operations of any long-distance bus operators who will not have sent their bus crew for customer care training before the end of this year.

We are told that those targeted for the brush-up will have to undergo a week-long seminar and get certificates in order to be identified and registered by the regulator.

The idea is to lift bus crew operators to formal sector employees, hired not because they are level-headed and good mannered but because they have been through seven days of training at approved technical institutions.

This way, the regulator is effectively moving bus operation from being part of informal sector engagement where competition for drivers and luggage handlers or ticket attendants by and large determines the usable wage but LATRA instructions.

The idea that these types of hiring now become part of the formal sector is singularly targeted at raising internal revenues by the regulator, legitimised by co-opting at least two technical institutions - for vocational and business training.

It is clothed as essential for the public interest in that the measure ushers in safety and comfort - as if the buses will be changed.

From the start of next year, LATRA is expected to enforce strict rules prohibiting the use of unregistered staff for long-distance transportation services.

But the question rises as to whether one-week training makes

someone a different person from what he or she was before and if an employee can't do without a week's training and remain as efficient.

The sole basis for that initiative appears to be Regulation 17 of the LATRA 2020 guidelines on driver certification and the registration of commercial vehicle staff. This requires that working with a commercial transport vehicle demands registration - not for skills but formality's sake.

While the government has scrapped dozens of nuisance levies and taxes, where for decades there was a training levy for industries and a health conditions inspection levy, other regulators are pushing in the opposite direction.

It will be a matter of live and live seeing how enforcement of the regulations will go down with bus operators by the New Year, as it is another of those issues that would usually lead to business stoppages.

If that will not be the case, perhaps an explanation is for leniency to be the rule as many such documents could be paid for and stamped either in the relevant training units or in LATRA offices.

What will not be easy to pay for and stamp is the idea of formalising the profession and ascertaining actual employment of transport staff, as this would normally alter the costing structure.

That this will improve accountability in service delivery and foster a sense of unity among the staff might prove little more than conjecture.

In part, that will be because operators will not be raising fares as that might work to their disadvantage, so they will instead hire fewer such people. Then LATRA might come up with a speed bus format to remove private upcountry buses, that amounting to pre-emptive nationalisation. Let's give ourselves time to see how things will actually play out.

This China-Africa learning event by academics could be rewarding

SOME unpredictable gatherings come up in the nick of time when something massive is indeed happening, with such consultations helping to unlock a riddle relating to a rise in havoc or chaos in African economies and the continent's political landscape.

Those who have been friends some major power don't have much to show for, as major economic powers have their ways of offering psychological support to a range of allies. Stability is different.

At the same time, sharp contentions posing challenges on societies or specifically on public authorities may need a brainstorming session that is candid and realistic enough to start figuring out some solutions.

Such events don't have to be arranged for the purpose of playing that role. However, when the situation so demands, academics will at any moment they find themselves engaged in issues having a bearing on the situation will not shy away but take it up.

Democracy is not about how fixed ideas line up in battle to see who wins or loses in the following general election but rather what new idea can fix things.

Situations where a new idea is available and helps to change things do not come up every other day. Understandably, when a section of observers heard that academics from Uganda's Makerere University and several Chinese institutions were attending a two-day conference on enhancing cultural exchange and mutual

understanding between China and Africa, mild expectation came up.

While the situation in East Africa or other areas wasn't exactly on the agenda, many people wish to hear if any initiatives tied with some aspects of tradition or modernity could help out. For instance, just what is Generation Z, be it here or in China?

While the basic media source of the idea of Generation Z seems to be in music, it was chiefly with Chinese apps like TikTok that massive demonstrations were organised in our neighbourhood.

The technology platform, rather than political parties, leads to another brain teaser - as to what is 'generational politics' and what sort of constitutional format can be used in that direction.

Yet it appears to have some clout, and in South Asia a government has recently collapsed after some 400 people were killed in student riots - a variation of Generation Z politics. They want change, but have no real ideology.

Organisers of the conference were gathered around the Confucius Institute which has a presence in a good number of African universities, but so that such exchanges and cultural presence aren't sterile, we need to ask where Confucius now comes in.

The question appears to be better handled in Chinese praxis than in what they say outwards or in their exchanges with African academics. The point is that the Chinese have learned over the past 70 years to reform before the streets explode - even though with qualified success.



WFP in Gaza: 'We need a long ceasefire that leads to peace so we can operate'

ROME

CORINNE Fleischer, WFP's regional director for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe, describes Gaza as "a terrible situation getting worse." Over the past two weeks, 21 United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) food distribution points have been closed under evacuation orders.

"UNRWA says that 86% of the Strip is under an evacuation order," she says on a video call from her office in Cairo. Fleischer visited the enclave in July. "2 million people are crammed into 14% of the territory."

Despite Immense Challenges, WFP Continues to Assist Gazans

With continuous evacuation orders forcing WFP to uproot food distribution sites, precise targeting of the most vulnerable groups becomes challenging. We provide ready-to-eat food, hot meals and nutrition support to breastfeeding women and small children.

"We support partners in almost 80 kitchens, where they cook meals, pack and distribute them to people in camps," Fleischer explains. She previously visited Gaza last December. "Then, it was really about how do we bring food in - that's still very much the case," she says. "Now, at least we have a dedicated WFP operation on the ground." Our main accomplishment? "We have helped prevent full-scale famine from happening," she says.

There are currently nearly 500,000 people at IPC5/Catastrophe, the highest grade of food insecurity on the global standard for measuring food insecurity - down from 1.1 million people earlier this year.

Fleischer is keen to highlight the positive impacts of humanitarian supplies making it through. "Right now, we don't bring enough food into Gaza," she says. "We don't bring in what we plan for the month because we don't have enough crossing points open. We need all the crossings open and at full capacity."

"Operations are super complicated," Fleischer says. "We work in a war zone. Roads are destroyed. We are waiting hours at checkpoints for green lights to move."

WFP, she stresses, also works to support the wider humanitarian community. "We are leading the Logistics Cluster (the interagency coordination mechanism) and supporting partners to bring in their



goods through the Jordan corridor. We are receiving their goods in the north at the Zikim crossing point. We're helping them in Kerem Shalom. So, of course, we're helping with fuel supplies too."

Nowhere Is Safe in Gaza

"Gazans cannot get out, and they're asking to get out," Fleischer says. "They're beyond exhausted. There is no space - one makeshift tent after the other up to the sea. Streets are teeming with people." Meanwhile, the breakdown of sewage systems, lack of water and waste management means diseases, such as Hepatitis A which is spreading among children, are allowed to fester.

Children eat fortified biscuits from WFP at a makeshift camp in southern Gaza.

"We are lucky that nothing has happened to our amazing staff - more than 200 UNRWA staff have been killed," she says. "That is not acceptable." She adds: "We have amazing security officers who advise management on which risks to avoid, so that we can stay and do our work safely and families can access our assistance safely. But the risks are high. Very high. We have bullets close to our convoys.

We're there repairing roads. We're there moving with our trucks. We're there reaching people. And it's very dangerous."

On the path to recovery, the private sector has a role to play, says Fleischer - take the reopening of shops. "If you think of a lifeline, of hope, or a sense of normalcy, it's surely when the staple bread is back in the market," she says of bakeries that have reopened with WFP support. "Bakeries need wheat flour; they need yeast, and diesel too - and that's where we come in."

High Prices Keep Basic Foods Out of Reach for Most Gazans

In the south of Gaza, "basic food items are slowly re-emerging in food markets. You can actually find vegetables, fruits in the markets but because prices are high, they remain out of reach for most," she says. "And in any case, people don't have cash. There are no jobs. Even our own staff tell us, 'We have a salary, but we can't access cash.'"

Fleischer is keen for humanitarian efforts to reach a stage where people "stop eating things they have been eating for the past nine months" - to diversify diets heavily dependent on canned food (provided by WFP) and whatever people can get their

hands on. "This level of destruction I've never seen."

Fleischer's biggest fear for Gaza is "that there is no end to this [war]. That we continue with ever less space for the people who already have nowhere to go back to. Even if they moved back to the north, where could they go?"

"Everything is flattened. There are no homes, it's all destroyed. We need a long ceasefire that leads to peace so we can operate."

Fleischer, who has served with WFP in Syria and Sudan's Darfur Region, adds: "This level of destruction I've never seen. Hospitals and clinics are destroyed, food processing plants are destroyed. Everything is destroyed."

Yet, "There is this never-give-up attitude from the people, from the families we serve," she says. "I can't believe children still run to you and laugh with you. They probably see in us hope that there will be an end to all this - a sign they are not forgotten."

This story originally appeared on WFP's Stories on August 8, 2024 and was written by the WFP Editorial Team.

IPS UN Bureau

Empowering women for a green future: AFPPD conference tackles climate change and gender equality

ISLAMABAD

Robust data collection, integrated policies, and an accelerated push towards a green economy with a gender focus topped the agenda at a conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, that brought together policymakers, experts, and advocates from across the Asia-Pacific region.

The conference, with the theme Gender Empowerment for a Green Economy, focused on critical issues at the intersection of gender equality, climate change, and sustainable development. Held on August 12 and 13, 2024, it was convened by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD).

Participants called for immediate action to empower women and ensure their active participation in sustainable development efforts across the region, especially since the conference coincided with the 30th anniversary of the Cairo Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, set the tone for the event by highlighting Pakistan's ongoing efforts to integrate gender perspectives into national climate policies.

"As parliamentarians, we hold the power to shape policies and laws that can drive gender equality and environmental sustainability. We must advocate for and enact legislation that ensures women have equal access to opportunities in the green economy, whether it be in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, or ecosystem management," Alam said.

The Secretary General of AFPPD, Dr. Jett Sirathranont, emphasized that gender equality is not merely a fundamental human right but a crucial element for creating a positive and sustainable society. He noted that traditional stereotypes continue to perpetuate inequalities and stressed the importance of placing women at the center of efforts to develop a more inclusive and sustainable economy.

Toshiko Abe, MP and State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan, emphasized the AFPPD's role. She said the organization plays a crucial role in addressing gender issues, particularly in countries where women's equality is lagging. She commended the collective efforts of Asian countries towards a gendered green economy.

However, Latika Maskey Pradhan, Deputy Representative of UNFPA Pakistan, warned that the full potential of women remains untapped, constrained by social norms, discriminatory practices, and limited access to resources and decision-making spaces.

In an interview with IPS, Pradhan further highlighted three key areas that the UN is focusing on at the grassroots level to change societal mindsets:

Investing in women's education and skills development: Recognizing the importance of equipping women with the necessary education and skills to thrive in various sectors.

Reproductive health and rights: Emphasizing that access to reproductive health and rights is integral to achieving gender equality and empowering women.

Supporting women's entrepreneurship and leadership: Advocating for the economic empowerment of women by providing opportunities for entrepreneurship and leadership roles.

Tabinda Sarosh, interim Chief Executive Officer of Pathfinder International, highlighted the impacts of climate change-related disasters. In 2022, severe flooding in Pakistan resulted in the displacement of 625,000 pregnant women. In a single month, around 70,000 of them gave birth in camps, where delivery conditions are often unsafe.

Gender and Equality Intertwined

The keynote address, delivered by Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, underscored the importance of the event at the highest levels of government.

"The theme, 'Gender Empowerment for a Green Economy,' is both timely and essential for our collective future. As parliamentarians, we must recognize that gender equality and environmental sustainability are deeply intertwined goals; the success of one depends on the other," Sadiq said.

Fauzia Waqar, Federal Ombudsman



Secretary General of AFPPD, Dr. Jett Sirathranont, addresses a conference with the theme Gender Empowerment for a Green Economy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Credit: AFPPD

Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH), agreed, saying "Improvement in policies needs to be gender-affirmative, focusing on recruitment, retention, and the provision of basic facilities for women."

Accountability was crucial. "There needs to be a national survey for the well-being of women, but currently, the baseline data is not available," said Saliha Ramay from UNFPA. These insights underscore the need for continued efforts to promote gender equality.

One of the conference's highlights was the session on women's role in global crises, particularly focusing on climate change and security. Parliamentarians from Cambodia and the Maldives, along with representatives from international organizations, shared their perspectives on how women are uniquely positioned to lead in climate action and peace-building efforts.

Poverty, Gender and Climate Action

Ly Kimlieng, MP from Cambodia, highlighted the intersection of poverty and gender issues, stating, "Gender-responsive climate action is needed as Cambodia works with agriculture and technology to create solutions and remove gender biases."

Ensuring community involvement was crucial. Lydia Saloucou, President of Pathfinder International's Africa Region, told the conference: "We need to protect our next generation by collaborating with the community and affected populations to find solutions."

Women's role in climate change mitigation, adaptation and agriculture shouldn't be underestimated said Dr. Anara Naeem, MP from the Maldives.

"Women's role is invaluable in climate adaptation, with their crucial

involvement in food production and capacity building."

Guncha Annageldieva, YPEER International Coordinator from Turkmenistan, called for integrating sexual and reproductive health into climate discourse, stating, "Investing in sexual and reproductive health within climate action empowers women and prevents future disaster management costs."

Women Key to Sustainable Development

Presentations from Indonesian parliamentarians, youth representatives, and economic experts highlighted the importance of investing in women's economic empowerment as a key driver of sustainable development.

Jasmin Sri Wulan Sutomo, an MP from Indonesia, pointed out the ongoing challenges despite the country's significant economic progress. She noted, "Women's labor participation remains stagnant due to factors like the wage gap, unplanned pregnancies, and old informal labor practices."

Jayaa Jaggi, Advocacy Manager at YPEER Pakistan, highlighted the disparity in Pakistan, noting that the gap for women is vast and young minority women have limited exposure to education and economic opportunities.

A presentation by Durre Nayab from UNFPA & PIDE addressed the demographic dividend and gender perspective through National Transfer Accounts, revealing that "women are more involved in unpaid labor while men predominantly work in the paid economy," stressing the need to recognize women's contributions beyond market-based work.

A crucial session emphasized the need for gender-responsive policies to empower women to address climate change. Policymakers and experts discussed specific risks faced

by women and girls, advocating for enhanced investment in women's capabilities and private sector engagement to support a transition to green and blue economies.

Women's Role in Strong Climate Policies Lauded

Dr. AbdelHady El Kasbey, an MP from Egypt, highlighted the importance of women's leadership in environmental policies, stating, "Countries with more women in parliament often see stronger national climate change policies adopted, leading to lower emissions and more equitable governance of natural resources."

He stressed the need for gender-responsive financing, noting that despite billions of dollars invested in environmental issues, "less than 1% of this market aligns with women's empowerment goals."

Mr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, called for gender-segregated data to support gender-responsive policies, emphasizing, "Decision-makers can utilize the power of women as agents of change to adopt pro-environmental practices and turn challenges around for us." He highlighted the need for a credible baseline to empower women to address the effects of climate change.

Climate-Resilient Healthcare Systems

The spotlight then turned to healthcare systems that are both climate-resilient and equitable. Experts presented strategies for ensuring that health systems can withstand the impacts of climate change while providing accessible care to all, particularly women and marginalized communities.

Zeeshan Salahuddin, MP from Tabadlab, highlighted the overlooked impacts of climate-induced

events, stressing the importance of integrating climate considerations into national policies. He remarked, "To address these issues, there is a need to strengthen provincial departments, improve climate health financing, and explore climate debt swaps to alleviate financial and climate burdens."

Islamabad Declaration

The conference concluded with the adoption of the Islamabad Declaration, reaffirming the commitment of participating nations and organizations to advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and climate action. The declaration outlined key commitments, including reaffirming support for the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledging the severe impacts of climate change on vulnerable countries, and emphasizing the importance of building resilience through investments in emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

As the conference ended, participants left with a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to addressing the interconnected challenges of gender inequality and climate change. The event served as a powerful reminder that empowering women is not just a matter of social justice, but a critical strategy for building a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Note: The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) in Pakistan organized the meeting. It was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

IPS UN Bureau Report



Delegates at the AFPPD conference on Gender Empowerment for a Green Economy in Islamabad. Credit: AFPPD

Mexico struggles to cut emissions from its ports

By Emilio Godoy, La Paz

THE port of Pichilingue, in northwestern Mexico, faces challenges in decarbonising its activities, as do other maritime infrastructures in the country, while its polluting emissions are increasing.

The port, on the Pacific coast, has docks for ferries and merchant ships, and offers services such as drinking water, food, fuel, electricity and garbage collection, to serve ships arriving from other parts of Mexico, the United States and Asia.

This facility, owned by the Administración Portuaria Integral (API) of Baja California Sur, a peninsular state in the northwestern corner of the country, is expanding to accommodate more ships, passengers and cargo, as are other Mexican ports along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

Also, La Paz, the state capital, is under pressure to control its port activity, so the regional API is transferring to Pichilingue what it can no longer do in La Paz, such as cruise ship arrivals. Its location also facilitates its integration into a northwest circuit in the transport between Mexico and neighbouring United States.

The environmental situation of the ports requires measures, while Mexico is barely on the way to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, generated by human activities and causing global warming.

Experts acknowledged progress in containing these emissions, but warned of the need to design comprehensive policies that include ports and maritime transport.

"Small efforts are being made in the right direction. There are initial actions that can help, such as energy efficiency measures and changing light bulbs. But a port cannot be separated from shipping," said Kristina Abhold, an expert with the non-governmental Global Maritime Forum.

The 36 ports of the 17 administrations of the National Port System, administered by the Ministry of the Navy (Semar), emitted 1.33 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent in 2022, almost double the level of 2021.

More ships, more CO2

Maritime trade has grown in Mexico since then, and probably so have GHG emissions.

Emissions from its customers' activities, known as Scope 3 (A3), doubled in 2022 compared to the previous year.

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol standards, the most widely used in the world, classify emissions coming from energy an industry consumes (A1) and from energy it purchases from others (A2).

A1 emissions rose 38 %, while A2 emissions rose 12 %.

As for cargo, the port of Manzanillo, located in the western state of Colima, the largest in the country and a leader



Manoeuvres in the port of Veracruz, in the south-eastern state of the same name and Mexico's third largest. Large port facilities in the country have taken some measures to reduce pollution from their activities, but they are not enough to have clean and sustainable ports.

in container movement, received the most between January and April this year and released 30 % more emissions into the atmosphere in 2022.

The measurements involve the activity of cargo ships, vessels parked at the port, cargo handling equipment, locomotives and cargo trucks, as well as the operation of terminals, operators, service providers, shipping lines, shipping and customs agents, and road and rail transport companies.

Port sustainability includes consideration of environmental, economic and social aspects, such as pollution, dredging of nearby areas, return on investment and job creation.

Shipping represents the second mode of transport for foreign trade in Mexico. The National Port System, with 103 ports, handled 90.86 million tonnes of cargo in the first four months of this year, almost 3 % less than in the same period of 2023.

In the opinion of Tania Miranda, Director of Environment and Climate Change Programme of the non-governmental Institute of the Americas (IOA), the steps taken are still incipient.

"We are in our infancy. It's a process that has been going on for a short time in one of the industries that is most behind in the process, and it's a difficult sector to do it. Investing in this type of project has

been difficult," she told IPS from the U.S. city of San Diego, which borders Mexico's northern border.

Even so, "in the last two years efforts have been made, there was progress in inventories, there were investments in digitalisation of operations, which can lead to a reduction in emissions," she emphasized.

The largest Mexican ports have taken environmental measures, but they are insufficient to address the problem.

Manzanillo and Ensenada, the fifth largest port but the second busiest, located in Baja California and a logistics hub between Asia and the United States, have master port development programmes where environmental impact is not mentioned.

Moreover, no Mexican - or Latin American - port appears on the project map of the World Ports Sustainability Programme that covers the largest such facilities on the planet. The country also lacks a clean marine fuel refining project.

For Carlos Martner, coordinator of Integrated Transport and Logistics of the governmental Mexican Institute of Transport, some ports, especially the larger ones, have made more progress.

"The issue is coming on strong and there will be more and more demands to improve processes. But a comprehensive policy is needed that

encompasses the ports," he said.

The national strategy sees a 25 % reduction of emissions by 2030 and of 45 % by 2050, but only proposes general measures, such as planning resilient infrastructure, harmonising management and planning instruments like concession titles, master development programmes and operating rules, as well as identifying, describing and programming the application of low-emission energy policies.

Semar has also identified and is to implement measures such as the development of green shipping corridors, energy efficiency, resilient infrastructure planning, and optimisation of traceability and waste utilisation.

However, Mexico did not sign up to the Clydebank Declaration for Green Shipping Corridors in November 2021 during the Glasgow climate summit, which aims to create at least six low-emission corridors by 2025 and which only 24 countries have signed.

Mexico must also meet the goals of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to lower CO2 emissions for all international shipping by at least 40 % by 2030, compared to 2008 levels.

The IMO also sets the adoption of zero or near-zero emission energy sources, fuels and/or technologies at 5 %, with a target of 10 %, of the en-

ergy used by international shipping by 2030.

Abhold, from the Global Maritime Forum, proposed electric shipping to reduce emissions. "This decarbonises both sides of the chain and a port fee including externalities can be charged, as other ports do. But a comprehensive policy with clear goals is needed. There is a lack of signals from the government and incentives," she stressed.

Miranda, from the IOA, said that substantial investment and coordination between government agencies in the sector at all port levels is necessary.

"The document will not achieve anything by itself. There are legal, fiscal and operational issues. I would love to see transversality with the treasury, the environmental sector. Without including ships, Mexico's progress will be very poor. There is a dissociation between port management and maritime transport," she stressed.

The expert Martner foresaw international pressure for the creation of green shipping corridors.

"They can be developed in the ports bordering the United States. For example, cruise ships can transit that lane. There is great pressure there to improve water quality, emissions, waste treatment. It's a long road, but action has already been taken," he said.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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Despair as sea slowly swallows Kenyan beauty spot

By Special Correspondent,

Nairobi

WHEN Roberto Macri built his luxury hotel in the Kenyan coastal village of Kipini, it was about 100m (330ft) away from the beautiful waters of the Indian Ocean.

For nearly two decades his business thrived as tourists arrived in droves to enjoy the pristine beach and sunny weather.

The Tana Lodge Hotel, which was built on top of sand dunes, offered a spectacular view of the ocean.

But in 2014 people started to notice a change. The sea level had begun to rise and within five years, the hotel's nine guest cottages had been swallowed by the sea - one after the other.

"The ocean changed steadily and started encroaching the hotel. The last standing cottage was gulped by the sea in 2019, marking the end of my glorious hotel," said Italian businessman Macri.

Now other residents of Kipini village, whose houses are located further back from the hotel, are facing the same prospect.

Kipini - built at the mouth of Kenya's longest waterway, the Tana River, which flows into the Indian Ocean - is among several coastal villages that are slowly disappearing.

"The ocean advances every day and our houses are becoming weaker. We are afraid and distressed



but there is nothing much we can do," Saida Idris, a community leader said.

She said several people had died and an unknown number were missing after being swept away by the rise in sea levels, coupled with strong winds and heavy tides, especially at night.

The depletion of mangrove forests along the shoreline - the coast's main line of defence against erosion - is to blame.

Mangrove forests are full of salt-tolerant trees and shrubs that prevent sea water from advancing into farmlands by stabilising soil that otherwise could be washed away.

The cause of their disappearance appears to be a combination of deforestation by locals wanting coveted hard wood - and rising sea water as a result of climate change, which scientists feel is the major factor.

"The shoreline in Kipini is very

exposed to the effects of strong winds that strengthen the ocean waves," George Odera, a scientist with Fauna and Flora, a nature conservancy group, explained.

Kipini, with its welcoming palm trees and smells of spice and barbecuing seafood, evokes what every Kenyan pictures of laid-back coastal life.

But this idyll is under threat as the seawater levels continue to rise.

According to Omar Halki, a local administrator, nearly 10km (6.2 miles) of what used to be dry land have been swallowed by the sea in the last 10 years.

"It's just a matter of time before the whole region goes under water," he said.

Kipini has a population of about 4,000 people and residents told the BBC they could no longer dig or build strong foundations for their homes because of the rising sea levels.

Some in Kipini estimate that more than 1,000 people have relocated to other villages over the last decade.

Most of the wells or boreholes that used to give them fresh water have now turned saline, forcing them to look for alternative sources of drinking water.

The increasing salinity in groundwater has also severely affected farming.

Crabs and prawns, which have also served as a source of livelihood for locals, are now scarce as their breeding grounds are within the mangrove swamps.

The rising waters have affected almost all facets of life, including how people are buried.

"Graves are shallow because if we dig the recommended six feet, the dead will be buried in water," one resident told the BBC.

Kipini is within Tana River county, which is facing multiple climate emergencies - from severe

drought and water shortages in some places to flooding in others.

It is the county's first recorded instance of a village being overtaken by rising sea levels.

But some locals say the geography of the coast has always changed - pointing to how the small fishing community of nearby Ungwana Bay was swept away years ago.

Others say the Tana River could be changing its course.

"Our forefathers showed us where the original waterway used to pass," resident Rishadi Badi told the BBC, explaining that he was told the river used to pass through Kipini generations ago.

But Odera, who studies the calamity facing Kipini, puts the blame squarely on climate change.

"What is happening in Kipini is not history, it is a recent occurrence and the bitter truth is, it is not getting better," he said.

Local authorities want to build a sea wall along the 72km (45-mile) coastline to save the village from further intrusion by the ocean.

Although the authorities acknowledge the situation is dire, the wall project is yet to start because of a lack of funds, says Mwanajuma Hiribae, a senior land official in the county.

"The seawater intrusion is a deeper problem affecting about 15 other villages and the county government alone cannot undertake to solve it," she said.

Although she said the UN Environment Programme and UN Habitat had expressed support for the wall project.

Similar walls have been built at the historical sites such as Fort Jesus in Mombasa and Vasco Da Gama Pillar in Malindi after the rise in seawater threatened these tourist attractions.

But climate experts say building a wall in Kipini is a "mechanistic solution", and there needs to be conservation initiatives, like the restoration of mangrove forests.

"The sea is not something that

the government will just wake up and stop. We need to help our communities to adapt and become more resilient to these climatic changes," Odera said.

Locals say that they feel like they are temporary visitors in their own homes, walking to the shore every day to check how far the ocean has moved.

"If no help comes within three years, the entire Kipini region will be swallowed by the ocean," Halki said.

For Macri, the whole situation has been devastating and he has now moved to the coastal town of Malindi town, 170km (100 miles) from Kipini.

"The area was like gold - a calm village with beautiful sand dunes surrounded by coconut trees and historical buildings just next to the beach," he said.

All that remains of his \$460,000 investment is what used to be the manager's house, standing less than 50m from the sea and awaiting its fate.

Out of the 10 acres (four hectares) on which the hotel stood on, four are fully submerged.

Macri is holding on to his remaining six acres hoping to return and invest again once the ocean has been stopped from encroaching on to land.

His former managing director, Joseph Gachango, is equally bereft.

"It broke my heart to see the hotel that used to attract guests from as far as Italy wiped out with about 50 workers losing their jobs," he said.

Initiative to spur financial inclusion launched in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

IN a move geared towards promoting financial inclusion, NBC has launched a service that allows customers without a bank account to transfer money using only their national IDs.

Dubbed 'NBC Wakala Pesa', the innovative product is part of the bank's unwavering commitment to empowering underserved communities across Tanzania.

The product's launch event took place at the bank's chief agent office in Manzese area, Dar es Salaam, attended by a host of NBC officials, showcasing the efficiency and ease of the new service. Among the key speakers were bank's director of retail banking, Eli-bariki Masuke, along with the bank's agency banking manager, Jacquiline Sindano, and the bank's chief agent, Frank Maningi, who shared their insights on the transformative impact of the new initiative.

"At NBC, we recognize that access to financial services is a fundamental right for all Tanzanians, regardless of their socioeconomic status," said Masuke.

"Our agency banking service is designed to break down the barriers that have long excluded millions of our fellow citizens from the formal financial system."

According to Masuke, the 'NBC Wakala Pesa' service allows customers to deposit, withdraw, and transfer funds through designated NBC agents, without the need for a traditional bank account, just by using their national IDs and the Zanzibar Residency ID for those staying in the Isles.

He said the revolutionary approach simplifies the process, empowering even the most marginalized members of society to participate in the financial ecosystem.

"The launch of this service is a testament to NBC's unwavering commitment to financial inclusion," added Sindano. "By leveraging our extensive network of agents across the country, we are bringing banking services directly to the doorsteps of those who have been historically underserved."

During the launch event, customers had the opportunity to experience the service first hand, expressing their enthusiasm and appreciation for the new-found convenience.

"I've always been hesitant to open a bank account due to the complicated procedures," said Fatuma Ally, a Dar es Salaam resident. "But with this agency banking service, I can now manage my finances with ease and without the burden of maintaining a traditional



account."

Frank Maningi, the bank's senior agent, highlighted the transformative potential of the initiative. "This service is a game-changer for our community. It provides a safe and accessible avenue for people to participate in the formal financial system, empowering them to save, transact, and plan for their future with confidence."

The launch of the 'NBC Wakala

Pesa' banking service marks a significant milestone in the country's financial inclusion landscape. By removing the barriers to entry and leveraging its extensive agent network, the bank is spearheading a movement to ensure that every Tanzanian, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to access and benefit from the formal financial system.

Rwandan student's ambition to advance African agriculture

HEFEI

INSPIRED by the late legendary Chinese scientist Yuan Longping, known as the "father of hybrid rice," Rwandan Gatera is determined to contribute to solving Africa's food problem.

"I want to be Africa's Yuan Longping," said the 31-year-old doctoral student at Anhui Agricultural University in eastern Anhui Province.

"In China, people have easy access to crops like rice, corn and sweet potato, but crops are expensive in Rwanda," said Gatera, adding that he aims to develop more heat-resistant varieties for his motherland, a landlocked African country struggling with food shortages.

According to the 2024 edition of United Nations' "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report, one in five people in Africa may have faced hunger in 2023.

In order to achieve his ambitious goal, Gatera concentrates on learning food crop cultivation techniques in China.

Despite the lingering scorching heat at the beginning of autumn, Gatera remains busy working in a 1,333-square-meter cornfield affiliated to the university, trying to cultivate heat-resistant varieties.

As a vital crop in Rwanda,

corn has long suffered from outdated varieties and technologies, which affects its processing as well. Despite these challenges, Gatera's agricultural dreams remain strong.

In the 1960s, China began researching hybrid rice to address severe food shortages and increase food yields. Yuan, who developed the world's first hybrid rice in the 1970s, set multiple world records for hybrid rice yields, making significant contributions to food security in China and globally.

Today, China grows more than 17 million hectares of hybrid rice. Dozens of countries around the world have conducted research and demonstration planting of hybrid rice, with an annual planting area of nearly 8 million hectares abroad.

Gatera said that the miracle of hybrid rice motivated him to further his study in China, where cultivation technology is world-leading. China is willing to share with those in need. "I want to make crops more affordable and accessible to every Rwandan, just like Yuan Longping."

In 2019, Gatera received a scholarship from the Chinese government and came to Anhui Agricultural University for his master's and doctoral studies.

"Almost every day he im-

merses himself in laboratories, therefore, he made rapid progress. He can now even guide younger students in research projects," said Song Youhong, Gatera's doctoral supervisor, who has mentored over 10 foreign students in the past decade, and most of them are from African countries.

"After completing their studies in China, African students often return to promote food security in their home countries," Song added.

Talent cultivation is just one aspect of the constant agricultural exchanges between China and African countries.

By the end of 2023, China had set up 24 agricultural demonstration centers in Africa. By introducing over 300 advanced agricultural technologies, the average yield of local crops has increased by 30 percent to 60 percent, benefiting more than 1 million African farming households.

"I want to establish an agricultural research institute in Rwanda to develop high-yield corn varieties and train more agricultural professionals," Gatera said.

"China's development shows us that poverty and backwardness can be overcome. Hopefully, one day, Africa will achieve food self-sufficiency and abundant harvests," Gatera said.

Freedom of press in jeopardy with Journalists in crossfire in Kenyan protests

NAIROBI

In the heart of Nairobi, as tear gas clouded the streets, the line between journalists and protesters blurred in the eyes of Kenyan law enforcement. A wave of anti-government protests, ignited by opposition to a proposed finance bill, has spiraled into violence, with journalists increasingly caught in the crossfire between police and protesters.

On March 27, 2024, as opposition leader Raila Odinga's convoy wound through Nairobi, reporters and photographers followed closely, documenting the unrest against President William Ruto's administration. Despite having their press credentials on display, they encountered hostility rather than protection. Outside Langata Police Station, officers deliberately targeted journalists from The Standard Group with tear gas canisters, even after they had identified themselves.

This violent crackdown wasn't confined to Nairobi. Across Kenya, journalists have faced brutal assaults, arbitrary arrests, and the destruction of their equipment. Despite having clearly visible press credentials, a police officer shot Catherine Kariuki, a female journalist from the Rift Valley, in the leg in Nakuru. The incident, captured on camera, left no doubt about its deliberate nature. The Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ) swiftly condemned the attack, demanding a thorough investigation and accountability.

The grim reality is that Kenya, ranked 102nd on the World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), is witnessing a severe erosion of media freedoms. Despite the country's diverse media landscape, many outlets are under the control of politicians or people who are closely associated with the government, which fosters a culture of fear and self-censorship.

As protests continue, so too does the violence against those tasked with documenting them.

"We are opposed to media censorship and the government's attempts to dictate what should be aired. Media freedom is guaranteed under the constitution, but the government is increasingly interfering," says Zubeidah Koome, president of the Kenya Editors' Guild.

The case of Catherine Kariuki, who remains without justice despite clear evidence, has become emblematic of the broader crisis. RSF has referred the matter to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), but the lack of response has only deepened concerns about accountability.

The threats to press freedom in Kenya extend beyond physical violence. Reports have surfaced of government threats to shut down the Kenyan Television Network (KTN) after it aired footage of protesters storming Parliament. The channel eventually ceased operations, citing financial strain amid the ongoing economic crisis. Insiders, however, suggest that senior officials from the Com-



Catherine Wanjeri Kariuki, a TV and radio reporter based in Nakuru, Kenya, at a police station. A police officer shot her in the leg despite her visible press credentials. The incident was reported to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). Credit: Robert Kibet/IPS

munications Authority ordered television signal carriers to switch off KTN in a blatant attempt to suppress media coverage.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) joined KUJ in condemning these actions, labeling them a disgraceful attempt to stifle press freedom and deny Kenyan citizens access to information. IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger urged the Kenyan government to investigate the brutalization of journalists and hold those responsible accountable.

Parliamentary reporter Elizabeth Mutuku echoed these concerns, recounting the fear she and her colleagues felt after being labeled criminals for simply doing their jobs.

"Our greatest mistake that day was showing Kenyans exactly what transpired. Some of us were labeled as criminals, and we were told that investigations are ongoing. We're left wondering what investigations they're conducting," Mutuku said.

Freedom of the press is enshrined in Kenya's 2010 constitution, yet over 20 acts and laws regulating journalism challenge the basic principles of press freedom. The 2018 Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, for example, prescribes up to 10 years in

prison and a fine of Ksh 40,000 for disseminating information deemed to be fake news likely to incite violence.

Amnesty International, in its 2024 State of Media Freedom analysis, highlighted that the intentional disruption of internet connectivity and the enactment of stringent security laws are part of a broader strategy to silence the media and control the flow of information. Despite earlier assurances, internet access was temporarily disrupted nationwide during the protests, depriving millions of Kenyans of real-time information about the unfolding events.

The threats against journalists in Kenya mirror the challenges faced by their counterparts in neighboring East African countries, where journalists are subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, beatings, arbitrary arrests, and prosecution. For instance, in February of last year, a Mogadishu court sentenced journalist Abdalle Ahmed Mumin to two months in prison for allegedly disobeying government orders.

In Ethiopia, Amnesty International reports that ongoing conflicts have led to the detention of at least nine journalists since August 2023, with five still in custody.

Three of these journalists are facing terrorism charges that could carry the death penalty if they are convicted.

Dinah Ondari, a safety specialist with the Media Council of Kenya, questioned how the agency responsible for protecting press freedom could be violating it. "It's disheartening to see the frustrations journalists undergo. In Kenya, as a journalist, every time you express yourself, you watch over your shoulder to see who is targeting or following you," remarked Zubeidah Koome.

Among those who were targeted were Joe Muhia and Iddi Ali Juma of the Associated Press (AP), who were arrested and later released after being assaulted. In an incident captured on video, Standard Group video editor Justice Mwangi Macharia was arrested and violently hauled out of a moving police motor vehicle, sustaining physical injuries.

Nation Media Group's Taifa Leo reporter Sammy Kimatu was also thrown out of a moving police Land Rover and sustained injuries. Maureen Murethi (NTV) was also hospitalized after police aimed a canister at her as she covered the protests as well as the shooting of a female journalist, Catherine Wanjeri, in Nakuru, Rift

Valley.

As Kenya teeters on the brink, the international community watches closely. Will the country uphold its democratic values, or will it succumb to the darkness of repression? The answer may well determine the future of press freedom in Kenya.

One notable incident was the mysterious assassination of renowned Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif in 2022 in Nairobi. Kenyan police fired multiple shots at Sharif's vehicle, killing him. Last month, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) welcomed the Kenyan High Court's ruling that the 2022 killing of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif was unlawful. Angela Quintal, head of CPJ's Africa program, noted in New York that while the "verdict marks an important step towards ending impunity in this case, Kenyan authorities should ensure that genuine justice is achieved by prosecuting those responsible for Arshad's fatal shooting."

During this year's World Press Freedom Day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned of the escalating dangers journalists face globally. In his address, he described journalism as an increasingly dangerous profession, with dozens of journalists covering risky themes having been killed in recent decades, and in the vast majority of cases, no one has been held accountable.

David Omwoyo, CEO of the Media Council of Kenya, addressed a recent government and media leaders' roundtable, emphasizing the need for a critical space for media freedom and democracy. "We need to stop branding the media as anti-government. The media should play its rightful role within the prescribed standards. Anyone fighting the media is out of order, given the critical place of media in democracy and governance," Omwoyo stated.

Zubeidah Koome further called for an end to attacks against the media. "We remain relentless in our call to end the vio-

lence and threats against journalists. However, no substantial progress has been made, and the violence targeting the media continues to escalate. We hope that appropriate action will be taken against those attacking journalists. At the same time, the media industry must align ethical conduct with the current times."

Erick Oduor, Secretary General of the Kenya Union of Journalists, emphasized the need for all stakeholders to engage collectively in seeking solutions to the challenges facing the media industry, especially during these critical times in Kenya.

"Regrettably, the ongoing events in our media space continue to impact Kenya's World Press Freedom ranking. As media industry players, we are ready to engage with the government at all levels," he told IPS.

"The unfortunate events remind us that members of the National Police Service remain the weak link in Kenya's quest for freedom of expression and freedom of the media, as espoused in our Constitution. We call on the Inspector General of Police to rein in on his officers by ensuring that journalists are protected and not targeted for harassment while performing their duties in any working environment," said Omwoyo in a statement, hinting that so far, 24 cases of harassment against journalists during recent protests have been documented.

The International Press Institute (IPI), in its findings, reported that it had documented four cases of journalists killed in Sudan as of June 2024, with the killings carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The journalists named by IPI include Muawiya Abdel Razek, who was killed in Khartoum along with his three siblings. Others include Makawi Mohamed Ahmed, Alaadin Ali Mohamed, and freelance journalist Ibrahim Abdul-lah.

IPS UN Bureau Report

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 152 -

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

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14. Un able to see
15. the longest river in Africa
17. a type of lamp
22. limbs on which we walk
23. procedure in which fluid is injected into the rectum
24. an enemy in Kiswahili
25. plural form of mouse
26. a state of conflict
- DOWN:**
1. rounded summit of a hill
2. over a certain age limit
3. refuse to admit the truth
4. the body's recognizable structures
5. river in Kiswahili
6. an edible-kidney shaped seed
8. claim that someone has done something wrong
9. a Polynesian garland of flowers
10. either of two 13th century Icelandic books
14. bliny
16. gastrointestinal atony
18. agar-agar
19. hem
20. hindmost part of an animal
20. attempt to find
22. of less than average height

- ACROSS:**
1. Capital city of Tanzania
7. done or shown openly
8. on the leeward side of a ship
11. Palace of Buganda kingdom
12. show the way to a destination
13. the first surviving Chinese dictionary

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- 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.
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| SERENE | BIBLE | SOME |
| OROMO | VOTE | CADET |
| ALA | OPENER | BOOK |
| AD REM | ROSE | BREED |
| EVEREST | | |

Yesterday's solution

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AFRICA BECOMES NEXT GLOBAL MANUFACTURING POWERHOUSE

By Guardian Reporter

Africa is rapidly positioning itself as a key player in the global manufacturing landscape, offering unprecedented opportunities for growth and investment.

With manufacturing contributing over 10.5 percent to the continent's GDP, Africa is on the cusp of a manufacturing revolution, driven by dynamic economies such as South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt.

According to recent report, Africa's manufacturing sector is witnessing robust growth, with top-performing nations like South Africa, which leads the continent, followed by Nigeria and Egypt, making significant strides in industries including automotive, textiles, and consumer goods.

The continent's increasing focus on industrialization, coupled with favourable policies and emerging trade agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), is creating an ideal environment for businesses seeking to expand their global footprint.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the continent are at the forefront of this transformation.

Notably, Ethiopia's Hawassa Industrial Park has become a magnet for foreign direct investment, particularly in the textile and apparel industries, while Tanzania has developed number of Special



Economic Zones (SEZ), targeting export markets.

Likewise, Morocco and South Africa's burgeoning automotive sectors, which together produce nearly 1 million vehicles annually, highlight Africa's growing significance in global supply chains.

According to reports, South Africa is the largest manufacturing hub on the continent, contributing approximately 13 percent of its GDP from the sector.

Nigeria follows, where manufacturing contributes around 8.7 percent of GDP, heavily driven by food, beverages, and tobacco

industries.

Egypt is another key player, with manufacturing contributing 16.7 percent to its GDP, driven by textiles, chemicals, and consumer goods.

Investments in renewable energy and green manufacturing are gaining momentum, with countries like South Africa leading initiatives to reduce carbon footprints in manufacturing.

These efforts not only align with global sustainability trends but also make Africa an attractive destination for eco-conscious investors.

Africa's youthful and rapidly

growing population represents a vast workforce and a burgeoning consumer market, making it an ideal location for manufacturing investments.

With foreign direct investment in the sector on the rise, particularly in high-growth areas like automotive, textiles, and food processing, now is the time to seize the opportunity.

Africa's manufacturing sector is poised for exponential growth, and the world is taking notice.

As the continent embraces industrialisation and innovation, it is set to become a global manu-

facturing powerhouse.

Companies and investors are encouraged to be part of Africa's industrial renaissance, driving the future of manufacturing on the continent.

These critical issues of manufacturing growth and potential will take center stage at the upcoming Manufacturing Indaba Conference and Exhibition.

This premier event, set to take place from the 22 - 23 October 2024 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, will bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and investors to discuss the future of manufacturing in Africa.

However, according to Global Africa Network, several challenges continue to impede the sector's expansion across the continent including insufficient infrastructure, lack of access to finance, skills gap, trade barriers, political instability and technological innovations.

GAN says limited access to affordable finance restricts manufacturers from investing in modern technology, expanding operations, and enhancing productivity.

The lack of financing options, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), stifles innovation and hinders business growth.

The manufacturing sector also demands a skilled workforce proficient in modern manufacturing

techniques and technologies.

However, a prevalent skills gap across Africa hinders industry growth, as educational systems often fail to provide relevant training and technical skills.

GA notes that Non-tariff barriers, trade restrictions, and complex customs procedures obstruct intra-regional trade and hinder the development of regional value chains. Simplifying trade procedures and reducing tariffs within regional blocs can stimulate manufacturing activities and improve market access.

Political instability, conflicts, and security challenges in certain regions disrupt manufacturing operations, deter foreign investment, and undermine supply chain reliability as they pose a threat to production, infrastructure, and investor confidence.

Cumbersome regulatory processes, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and corruption hinder business operations and deter foreign investment were also being identified as challenge facing the growth manufacturing in Africa.

Addressing these challenges, GAN says Africa requires collaborative efforts from governments, private sector stakeholders, and development partners.

The Current Path forecast is for a steady increase in the size of Africa's service sector to 58 percent in 2043, with manufacturing increasing to 22 percent and agriculture declining to 6 percent.

All is set for African property investment summit next month

CAPE TOWN

The Africa Property Investment (API) Summit, the continent's premier real estate gathering, returns here for its 15th edition on 19 and 20 September 2024.

Under the theme, 'IMPACT', this year's summit will explore how effective strategy and execution are key to real estate success in today's shifting African landscape.

The 15th annual API Summit 2024 will bring together over 550 delegates from more than 30 African and international countries, drawing representatives from Africa's leading banks, pioneering listed funds, institutional investors, developers, operators, and other key stakeholders under one roof to shape the agenda for the continent's real estate landscape.

In a market being reshaped by environmental, social and governance (ESG) requirements, focusing on impact and genuine demand positions real estate developers and investors for long-term success. Impactful assets can transform communities and countries by optimising space usage and driving business growth and foreign direct investment (FDI).

While AI, monetary policy, climate action, and diversification remain important considerations, those prioritising demand and impact will be the ultimate long-term winners.

As the gathering point for regional and global participants from every facet of the real estate value chain, the two-day power-packed summit will serve as a platform for over 100 distinguished speakers.

The Summit will feature the

Africa PropTech Forum and API Hospitality Forums, promising an exciting blend of networking, insights, and rich first-hand experiences.

In addition, exclusive networking events, comprising the API Summit Cocktail Party and API Awards, API Networking and IFC EDGE Champions Dinner, together with site tours of iconic Cape Town projects, will provide ample opportunities to foster meaningful, long-lasting professional connections.

Previously held in Johannesburg, the API Summit's move to Cape Town highlights the city's rising status as a hub for real estate innovation and investment for global real estate players.

Murray Anderson-Ogle, API Summit Organiser, says: "We are thrilled to bring the API Summit to Cape Town, a city that epitomises growth, innovation and excellence in Africa. This year's theme, IMPACT, is a nod to the importance of both strategy and execution in driving meaningful change in the real estate, hotel and PropTech sectors."

Niyi Adeleye, Head of Real Estate Finance - Africa Regions, Standard Bank Group, adds: "The real estate sector remains an important contributor to the development of the African continent, improving quality of life and providing opportunities to deploy ESG initiatives. As Standard Bank Group, Africa is our home, and we drive her growth. Supporting the API Summit aligns with our commitment to enhancing the relevance of this sector and attracting increased participation from both domestic and international capital sources."



(L-R): Mark Elliott, Division President, Africa, Mastercard; Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General, ICT Commission; Elsie Wachira-Kaguru, Director, Account Management, East Africa, Mastercard; Sadiki Nyanzowa, Ag. Director, Financial Deepening and Inclusion, Bank of Tanzania; and Shehryar Ali, SVP and Country Manager for East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands, Mastercard pose on a group photo at the inaugural Mastercard Tanzania Industry Forum held this week in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BoT official emphasizes financial inclusion in emerging payments

By Guardian Reporter

The acting director, financial deepening and inclusion, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Sadiki Nyanzowa has emphasized the increasing importance of inclusion and emerging payments in Tanzania's growing digital economy

Nyanzowa said this in inaugural remarks when he represented the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) during the fintech industry forum hosted by Mastercard on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam, which brought together key stakeholders and thought leaders in the fintech industry to explore the dynamic financial and technology landscape and foster impactful collaborations in Tanzania.

He underscored the importance of public-private collaborations and emerging technologies like blockchain and AI in creating an in-

clusive economy, with a particular focus on women and youth.

Fintech companies have revolutionized payments with innovative solutions like mobile payments, digital wallets and blockchain transactions, enhancing financial accessibility and empowering unbanked populations.

Mastercard's collaborations and advanced technology solutions are integral to these efforts, ensuring secure, seamless payment experiences that bolster financial inclusion and economic participation in Tanzania.

A standout session at the forum was the 'Bridging the gap: Financial inclusion driving economic empowerment' panel which brought together industry and government leaders to discuss the pivotal role of technology in expanding access to financial services.

The panel focused on initiatives

supporting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME), collaborative programs, innovations in mobile money for underserved communities, and regulatory efforts promoting inclusion.

The event concluded with a session titled 'Fly me to the earth: Combating payment scams' addressing key cybersecurity issues in Tanzania's payment industry.

The panellists explored factors behind persistent data breaches, such as inadequate investment, skill shortages, and insider risks, and discussed the dual role of AI in cybersecurity, weighing its benefits against potential vulnerabilities.

They highlighted the importance of addressing legacy systems, compliance issues, skill gaps, and budget constraints to build a resilient digital economy.

Tanzania's economy has shown resilience, with real GDP growth

projected to reach 5.7percent in 2024.

The World Bank report shows that despite global economic challenges, the services sector, particularly financial and insurance services, has been a significant contributor to Tanzania's economic expansion.

"The Tanzania Industry Forum has highlighted Mastercard's commitment to driving digital transformation and economic empowerment in Tanzania. By convening industry leaders and innovators, we did not only create a collaborative environment to address the current challenges but also paving the way for a future where every Tanzanian has access to secure and seamless financial services. Our goal is to leverage our technology and local collaborations to create a robust financial ecosystem that drives sustainable growth and prosperity for all," said Mark Elliott, Division President, Africa, Mastercard.

Shehryar Ali, Senior Vice President and Country Manager for East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands at Mastercard, emphasized the event's role in fostering collaboration to achieve sustained economic development.

"This forum is a vital step towards building a strong, inclusive financial ecosystem in Tanzania. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and fostering strategic collaborations, we aim to create secure and accessible payment ecosystem that empowers underserved and unbanked communities across Africa," said Ali.

The Mastercard Tanzania Industry Forum showcased the company's strategic efforts to build a secure and inclusive financial ecosystem in Tanzania.

Through innovative digital solutions and strategic local collaborations, the company is dedicated to providing secure, accessible payment systems that empower underserved and unbanked communities across the continent and align with its global mission of bringing one billion people into the digital economy by 2025.

BENEFITS OF INSURANCE COVERAGE IN AN INCREASING CYBER THREATS

Cyber-security is become a major concern for many kinds of organisations. No matter how sophisticated an organisation's cybersecurity measures are, there is always a chance that a staff member could be the target of a social engineering attacks.

Because of the dependence on technology, responding to a cyber incident within an organisation can be extremely expensive.

Analyzing cyber risk and deciding how to react are key components of organisational cybersecurity. Residual risk is what is left over after an organisation analyzing and responds to a cyber issue. We transfer residual risk to a third party like an insurance provider for a fee, rather than having the organisation ignores it.

Cybersecurity insurance is a specific kind of insurance coverage that is designed to protect individuals and organisational information assets from reputations damage, customer trust, financial losses and other attack-related expenses resulting from cyber-related incidents. Any losses an organisation or individual suffers as a result of a cyberattack will be covered by cybersecurity insurance. In the event of a cyberattack, the majority of cyber insurance policies pay for the expenses of replacing lost, damaged, or stolen data in addition to reputational damages. The insur-

ance company bears the financial responsibility in the event that an organisation follows the cybersecurity guidelines outlined in the policy and is compromised by cyberattack.

Additionally, the costs of notifying the public about data breaches, public relations campaigns, data recovery fee and paying ransom for ransomware attacks are covered by cybersecurity insurance, along with legal bills and settlements related to cyber disasters.

The insurance business needs to employ cybersecurity experts in order to guarantee that the organisation purchasing cybersecurity insurance conforms to all regulatory criteria established by the board of relevant government authorities.

Before offering cybersecurity insurance to an organisation, compliance is the primary consideration for the majority of insurance companies worldwide. Organisations that wish to be eligible for cybersecurity insurance must first evaluate their information assets to identify risks and vulnerabilities, and then put cybersecurity solutions in place to guard against those threats.

Given the indicators that many organisations are discovering that cybersecurity protection technologies like firewalls and anti-spam software alone are not enough,



By Ibrahim Sultan

Cyber Security Consultant.

there is little question about the importance of cybersecurity insurance.

It is important to recognize that any organisation that uses technology and deals with sensitive data, such customer information and financial transactions, is susceptible to cyber threats.

To lower the risk of a cyberattack, you should evaluate, implement, and purchase cybersecurity insurance.

The size of your organisation, the kinds of data you gather and store, and the possible severity of cyberattacks are some of the variables that affect how much your cybersecurity insurance will cost.

Does the requirement for cybersecurity

measures need to be replaced by cybersecurity insurance?

No organisation, regardless of size, is immune to cyberattacks; those with inadequate security defenses are the targets of these attacks. Cybersecurity insurance should only be regarded as a means of reducing the possible damage that could result from a cyberattack; it is inappropriate to regard it as a strategy for mitigating cyberattacks or as a part of cyber risk management.

Firstly, cybersecurity insurance will not pay for problems that could have been avoided or brought on by carelessness, poor management configuration, inside

attacks, preexisting vulnerabilities, technologies system improvements or human error.

Secondly, as security procedures and technologies adopted within the organisation are required by cybersecurity insurance and are meant to be part of the risk management plan, cybersecurity insurance should not be viewed as a mitigation of cyberattacks.

Last but not least, I'm not sure whether Tanzania has any insurance companies that provide cybersecurity insurance; if we do, there aren't many.

As far as I'm aware, just a small number of insurance companies provide blanket cover for fraud related to cyber risk in banks and other financial institutions.

I sent out a challenge to Tanzanian insurance providers to consider offering cybersecurity insurance as a possible new line of business.

In order to offer organisation cybersecurity insurance policies that are practical and attainable, they also need to keep working on cybersecurity insurance and figuring out how to run and market that product responsibly.

Ibrahim Sultan is cyber security consultant. He can be reached through email address: sultibra@gmail.com

NANENANE EXPO 2024:

A pinnacle of success for farmers, livestock stakeholders

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE annual agricultural week, popularly known as 'Nane-Nane' held at national level in Dodoma Region, celebrated the great strides made by farmers in the field with the support of innovative technology.

With the theme "Choose Good Leaders for Local Government for Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries", this year's celebration in Dodoma gave room for stakeholders to showcase the latest advancements and innovations in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.

The Expo has also provided more collaboration across agriculture market facilitators and at was a pinnacle of success for the farmers and stakeholders in the country and beyond.

However, the government's decision to shift the venue from Mbeya and decided to let Dodoma host the farmers' annual event, was much to the naysayers' disappointment.

Some even argued that when it comes to issues related to agriculture, Dodoma, a renowned semi-arid precinct should be the last region to be considered to host the national agricultural expo.

But the runaway success of Nane-Nane 2024 in Dodoma would later be regarded by many as the climax of the show wasn't even a national event but developed into an international expo.

Hosted at the Nanenane ground in Nzuguni areas at the fringe of Dodoma Capital City, the visionary gathering for the country's 31st agricultural transformation festival witnessed more than what was expected, in terms of the number of the participants stakeholders, indigenous visitors and foreigners, as well as business transactions.

For this year, the historical event provided a potential podium to celebrate diverse achievements attained in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sectors across the country, rooted focus on enhancing international visibility, promoting economic growth, and fostering global partnerships.

It suffices to say it was a coincidence, the launching of the meaningful Agro-Expo surfaced along with that of the eagerly-awaited 258.2 km Morogoro - Dodoma electric train services on the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)



President Samia Suluhu Hassan admires tomatoes during the Nane Nane show in Dodoma. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

line, connecting Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Dodoma regions thus enabled the event's well-wishers from the country's business capital and Morogoro to travel faster to Dodoma, apart from those jetted in through airplanes.

Attracted at least 524 exhibitors from different institutions from the public and private sectors, alongside over 300 entrepreneurs in diverse businesses, the staged against the Nanenane exhibition ground in Nzuguni, Dodoma from the 1st to the 8th, showcased the best agricultural, livestock, and fisheries sectors, and in its further reward.

The show created an interim high business season for the traders in the central zone who pocketed lucrative incomes through marketing different items, as well as rolling out social services.

Food and beverage vendors were in top business season, whereby the hotel and guest house owners received customers in surpassed their accommodations capacity, pushing the region's revenue collections to new heights.

Transportation operators, including bodaboda and commuter buses, were busy helping facilitate the transportation services to and from the exhibitions' grounds the development which blessed the fuel refill stations to receive good profits.

Dodoma region is famous for the harbouring population of goats and cows, and thus during the exhibitions, the majority of the attendees got ample opportunity to buy and enjoy roasted meats, made available at the well-established open-air booths installed at the backside of the Nanenane grounds.

The traders in the sale of brand new and used clothes and shoes 'Mitumba' weren't behind; they got opportunities to market their items to a success level, as well as those selling different household utensils.

At the exhibitors' booths, the participat-

ing institutions and business companies offered their services at promotional prices thus attracting hundreds of residents who were thronged to seek the relevant services and different items.

"I have been visiting Nanenane exhibitions here for many years now, but this is the first time to witness a well-organized and attractive exhibition ever before," said Patrick James, the 83-year-old resident of Ihumwa, Dodoma region.

A bodaboda holder and driver, Paul Eliamini, a resident of Nkuhungu was part of those who benefited highly from the event for the grand celebration of the country's agricultural heritage and future at the Nanenane Agricultural International Expo 2024.

A bodaboda holder, Paul Eliamini, a resident of Nkuhungu was part of those who benefited highly from the event for the grand celebration of the country's agricultural heritage and future.

"I normally used to fetch between 15,000/- and 20,000/- in profit per day, but the exhibition has enabled me to pocket a high profit to the tune of 30,000 and 50,000 per day, I think the government should continue to stage this event here to assist us making profits," he appreciated.

And amid the event's economic achievement were the cooking gas cylinder companies' sellers.

For patriotic reasons to help the government achieve its vision to have the majority of Tanzanians refraining from the use of environmentally unfriendly charcoal and firewood, some of the companies decided to market the gas cylinders at half-prices, making hundreds of attendees to buy the crucial cooking facilities.

The high transactions that cropped up during the eight consecutive days of Tanzania's Best Agricultural International Expo literally signalled the sober manner in which the government in Dodoma has

managed to collect sounding taxes, hence fattening the country's state coffer, among others.

For the farmers, the Expo triggered the everlasting advantage following the country's reputable agro machinery company, Agricom Africa Limited announcing plans on installing the multibillion farming implements assembling plant at the Nanenane ground in Dodoma, the robust project which has started to take good shape.

The envisaged facility, according to Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe will be marketing key agro merchandise to the farmers in the central zone corridor, and from other regions across the country.

And in efforts to cement the government's zeal to strengthen the agricultural sector, Agricom Africa Limited handed over various modern agricultural equipment and tools purchased by the government through the Ministry of Agriculture, worth 44.63bn/-.

The development is part of the efforts by the government to achieve the Agenda 10/30 on 'Agriculture is Business', aiming to improve agriculture in the country by providing farmers with better tools that increase efficiency and productivity.

The development is projected to play a meaningful role in help developing the agricultural sector, contributing to the growth of the national economy and strengthening food security in the country.

In his remarks during the opening of the crowd-puller event, Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe unveiled that the government has set aside a total of 40bn/- to erect an ultramodern agricultural city in the area, Nanenane ground, to incorporate internal roads, perimeter wall, special modern exhibition areas, conference halls, water systems, demonstration farms to be used throughout the year to train farmers, as well as special centres for dissemination of agricultural and livestock keeping technologies.

Bashe underscores the government's commitment to providing high-quality facilities for the Nane Nane exhibition, ensuring it meets international standards.

And in her remarks to wind-up this year's exhibitions, President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan said that Dodoma will host the event for three consecutive years.

Meanwhile, in her remarks, Dodoma regional commissioner (RC) Rosemary Senyamule, apart from airing appreciation for the capital city being the host of the event, said the region was ready to continue hosting the crucial exhibitions in the future.

She hailed President Samia for supporting the region to implement an array of key agricultural projects, including those on irrigation schemes.

"We're so proud of our government for dishing out over 1bn/- for facilitating the implementation of various projects on irrigation scheme in Dodoma region, the

development which has so far played a major role to help curtailing effects of drought towards the sector which employ at least 72 per cent of the population in Dodoma region," she said.

In June this year, the Ministry of Agriculture announced that Dodoma would host the 2024 event, emphasizing the importance of the event in promoting agricultural development and fostering regional cooperation.

Being a quick response to the announcement, the office of the Dodoma regional commissioner launched a special task force for the effective preparations ahead to host the international agricultural gala.

Thus, in a wider perspective, the successes attained from this year's Nanenane Agricultural International Expo were much banked on the impressive role played by the office of Dodoma regional commissioner in cooperation with the ministry of Agriculture and other key stakeholders in the relevant sectors.

Among the vital preparations, was the online professional coordination which helped to register over 500 exhibitions from within, and outside the country who participated in the event, including the crops, livestock, and fisheries producers and processors, companies and institutions dealing with agricultural inputs, providers of agricultural machinery and equipment, sector ministries and other government ministries.

Others were governmental and non-governmental institutions, Parliamentary and diplomatic delegates, Development partners, Financial and Education institutions, Health institutions, and Telecommunication companies, to mention but a few.

The event also saw comprehensive support services to help facilitate a comfortable and secure stay for all attendees, these included Health Services (First aid and emergency), and medical services, including ambulances.

Together with that, the Expo website provided a curated list of hotels and lodges available in Dodoma Capital City, the development which gave participants in good opportunity to find suitable lodging options to fit various preferences and budgets.

Security was the central concern, whereby the government in the region ensured maximum safety for all participants, with stringent security measures across the event locations.

Exploring Dodoma and beyond was another crush aspect that the event's organizers managed to accomplish, giving the participants chances to explore Tanzania's cultural and natural wonders.

CONSTRUCTION

BEIJING

Chinese steelmakers slashed output last month as woeful demand forced steep cuts on an industry contending with a collapse in margins.

Steel production in July plunged about 9 percent on both the month and the year to 82.94 million tons, the lowest figure reported in 2024, according to the statistics bureau on Thursday.

That leaves the total over the first seven months at 613.72 million tons, 2.2 percent off last year's pace.

The protracted downturn in the real estate market and shrinking factory activity have pushed domestic prices sharply lower, and inflamed trade tensions by unleashing a flood of Chinese metal onto world markets. The nation's top steelmaker warned on Wednesday that the industry is facing a crisis more severe than the downturns of 2008 and 2015.

"Output usually falls during the summer demand lull, constrained by heat and rains, but July's plunge is steeper-than-expected," said Xu Xiangchun, an analyst with Mysteel Global, who expects production to drop further in August.

"Market sentiment is really bearish," he said. "Mills are losing money across the industry, but steel prices are not showing signs

CHINA SLASHES STEEL PRODUCTION AS INDUSTRY RINGS ALARM ON DEMAND



of stabilizing."

There's been little respite from the bad news emanating from the property sector.

Construction starts are the steel market's main pillar of demand, but new home sales are in a prolonged funk and foreclosures are mounting, offering few incentives for developers to build afresh.

Home prices continued to fall in July, albeit at a slightly slower pace, the statistics bureau said.

At the same time, the government has been unwilling to offset the weakness by ramping up spending on infrastructure, which has helped rescue the market during previous downturns.

The upshot is that Chinese

steel consumption may contract as much as 3 percent in 2024 following a similar decline last year, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

Stricter quality requirements on some products, including rebar used in construction, has probably amplified the cuts to production. The new government standards come into ef-

fect on Sept. 25, incentivizing mills to limit output and clear stockpiles of older material before it becomes obsolete.

The steel industry has been plagued by overcapacity for years.

In an effort to rein in emissions, Beijing has been trying to cap production at or below the previous year's level after output ballooned in 2020 to well over 1 billion tons.

That task is likely to be easier this year as supply discipline is forced on mills looking to buttress their margins. It could also offer some relief to the countries grappling with the impact of cheap Chinese exports on their domestic markets.

China's oil refiners face a similar set of challenges from slowing growth, the property crisis and Beijing's pivot from the old economy to the new.

The industry's first-half profits dropped over 90 percent and segments from plastics to diesel and gasoline are all struggling as demand weakens and the switch to clean energy gathers steam.

That's pressured refining rates, with output dropping 6.1 percent year-on-year to 59.06 million tons

in July.

Thermal power dropped for a third consecutive month, falling 4.9 percent in July, as heavy rains lifted the contribution from hydroelectricity.

Growth in wind and solar output slowed. Solar cell production fell for a second month after a plunge in prices below cost forced more factories to halt operations.

Aluminum output hit a record for a third straight month after smelters ramped up production in hydro-rich Yunnan province and new capacity was added in Inner Mongolia.

Coal and natural gas production rose to meet peak summer demand. China's mission to cut its dependence on imports also saw crude oil output increase.

Iron ore hit the lowest level since 2022 on concern that global supply is running ahead of demand, with China's steelmakers mired in a crisis and cutting output just as major miners boost exports.

China's economy failed to pick up and unemployment rose for the first time since February, as slow consumption and disappointing investment drag on growth.

Three Chinese steelmakers, including Baoshan Iron & Steel, were put on a downside 30-day catalyst watch by Citigroup, which is concerned about declining prices and potentially weaker-than-expected performance in the third quarter.

By Guardian Correspondent

Geita Gold Mine has inaugurated its new 33/11KV substation marking a significant milestone in the company's transition from diesel-generated power to a more sustainable and renewable energy sources generated by the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO)

The substation was inaugurated on Tuesday by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Dr Doto Mashaka Biteko.

The new substation constructed at a cost of about \$25.8 million invested by GGML is designed to meet the growing energy demands of GGML's mining operations while also providing a more stable and reliable power supply.

This infrastructure investment is expected to significantly improve the mine's operational efficiency and contribute to the long-term viability of the world-class asset of Geita Gold Mine.

In his address, Dr Biteko expressed his elation at GGML's decision to integrate TANESCO's national grid into its daily operations, reassuring all stakeholders that TANESCO is more than capable of meeting GGML's electricity demands.

"GGML has made tremendous strides by incorporating the National Power Grid into its daily production activities. The electricity consumed by GGML each month surpasses that of five re-

GGM switches off diesel engines, connects to national grid power



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Mashaka Biteko is briefed on GGML's 33/11KV Substation in the control and switch yard room during the inauguration event. Others are Abrahamu Nzowa - GGML Electrical Engineer 2, Eng. Seif Maftah - GGML Principal Reliability Engineer, Constantine Kanyasu - Geita Urban Constituency MP, and Martin Shigella - Geita's Regional Commissioner. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

gions in the country. By supplying electricity to GGML, we will reduce their operational costs, generate greater profits, and contribute more towards National Development," said Biteko.

Simon Shayo, Vice President of Anglo-Gold Ashanti overseeing Sustainability and Cooperate Affairs in Africa, echoed these sentiments with anticipation that this project will be a catalyst for further development in Geita and Tanzania at large.

"GGML will make a 58.4 percent savings on power generation with 92.6 percent resulting from reduction of diesel usage for power generation which in turn derives a total reduction of about 707.644 tonnes of carbon emission. Thus, by enhancing the reliability and capacity of our power distribution network, we are laying the groundwork for sustained economic growth, industrial expansion, and improved quality of life for countless individuals."

As part of GGML's ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility, the company will continue to explore innovative ways to minimize its environmental impact and contribute to the sustainable development of the host communities in which it operates.

By moving away from diesel fuel, GGML says it aims to significantly reduce its carbon footprint, decrease operational costs, and contribute to Tanzania's broader goals of promoting sustainable energy solutions.

DP World's half-year profits fall about 60pc

DUBAI

Dubai-based port operator DP World reported Thursday its half-year profits fell by nearly 60 percent, in part over the ongoing attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels over the Israel-Hamas war that have affected shipping through the Red Sea.

DP World reported profits of \$265 million this year, down from \$651 million the same time last year. DP World Group's chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, acknowledged that the Red Sea disruptions affected the firm's revenues.

"The year 2024 has been marked by a deteriorating geopolitical environment and disruptions to global supply chains due to the Red Sea crisis," he said in a statement included in the results. "While the near-term trading outlook remains uncertain due to macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds, the resilient financial performance of the first half ... positions us well to deliver stable full year adjusted" profits.

Bin Sulayem did not elaborate on what specific effects the Houthi attacks had been having on DP World, a government-owned shipper that in recent years removed itself from the Nasdaq Dubai stock exchange.

The Houthis since November have been targeting shipping through the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The assaults have disrupted the \$1 trillion of goods that flow annually through the region, while also sparking the most intense combat the U.S. Navy has seen since World War II.

The rebels maintain that their attacks target ships linked to Israel, the United States or the U.K. as part of a campaign they say seeks to force an end to the war. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict.

Shippers have begun going around the Cape of Good Hope off Southern Africa to avoid the Red Sea entirely. The rerouting has affected shipping through Dubai's Jebel Ali Port, the home of DP World and the world's largest manmade harbor.

DP World already had faced challenges through the coronavirus pandemic, but the Houthi attacks have seen it affected while the long-haul carrier Emirates, another Dubai government-owned entity, have soared.

Bank unveils achievement in 27 years of operations

By Frank Monyo

Exim Bank Tanzania proudly marks its 27th anniversary, a significant milestone in the bank's journey of growth, innovation, and customer-focused service.

With the theme "27 Years of Prioritizing You," Exim Bank reflects on its achievements and sets the stage for continued success in the years ahead.

Speaking at the anniversary event, Jaffari Matundu, CEO of Exim Bank Tanzania, highlighted the bank's remarkable progress since its inception in 1997.

"Twenty-seven years ago, we embarked on a mission to transform banking in Tanzania, and today, we stand as one of the leading financial service providers in the region. Our presence extends beyond Tanzania, with branches in the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, and Uganda," Matundu stated.

Exim Bank's commitment to innovation has been a driving force behind its success. Recently honored as the "Most Innovative Banking Brand, Tanzania - 2024" by the International Business Magazine Awards, Exim Bank has continually introduced cutting-edge solutions to enhance customer experience.



Exim Bank CEO, Jaffari Matundu, speaks at the bank's 27th anniversary during a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The bank's recent upgrade to its Core Banking System (CBS) is a testament to this commit-

ment, improving transaction speed, accuracy, and overall customer service.

In 2023, Exim Bank achieved significant financial growth, with a Profit Before Tax of 91.5bn/-, Customer Deposits reaching 2.4trn/-, and Total Assets surpassing 3trn/-.

These achievements reflect the dedication of the bank's team and the trust placed in Exim Bank by its customers.

Looking Exim Bank aims to continue growing, expanding our reach and impact across Tanzania and beyond.

"We will keep innovating, find-

ing new ways to serve our customers better and contribute to the development of the financial sector. We are committed to improving our operational efficiency, customer service, and product offerings, ensuring that Exim Bank remains at the forefront of banking in Tanzania," added Matundu.

Stanley Kafu, Head of Marketing and Communications at Exim Bank, reflects on their journey, "We take immense pride in our dedicated team and the valued customers we serve. It's deeply fulfilling to know that we're contributing to the growth and improvement of lives across Tanzania."

As Exim Bank celebrates this milestone, Matundu expressed gratitude to the bank's customers, shareholders, staff, and partners. "Your unwavering support has been key to our success. We are committed to continuing our journey of excellence, innovation, and growth, ensuring that Exim Bank remains at the forefront of banking in Tanzania," he concluded.

WORLD

WHO declares mpox public health emergency of global concern

GENEVA

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern. This comes amid a rapid surge in spread of the disease in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and its detection in neighbouring countries as well.

The Director General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (pictured), said, that a public health emergency of international concern is the highest level of alarm under international health law.

"Today, the Emergency Committee met and advised me that, in its view, the situation constitutes a public health emergency of international concern. I have accepted that advice. A public health emergency of international concern is the highest level of alarm under international health law," Tedros said in a media briefing on the outcome of the mpox Emergency Committee meeting.

"The Emergency Committee's advice to me, and that of the @AfricaCDC, which yesterday declared a public health emergency of regional security, are aligned," he added.

The mpox has been detected in 10 African nations this year, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said last week.

Citing the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Al Jazeera reported that over 96 per cent of the cases are located in the DRC.

"The detection and rapid spread of a new clade of mpox in eastern DRC, its detection in neighbouring countries that had not previously reported mpox, and the potential for further spread within Africa and beyond are very worrying," Tedros said.

He underlined that, in order to contain the outbreak, a coordinated international response is necessary.

"In addition to other outbreaks of other clades of mpox in other parts of Africa, it's clear that a coordinated international response is essential to stop these outbreaks and save lives," Tedros stated.

The WHO chief highlighted that the global health body has been working on the outbreak of mpox in Africa and raising the alarm regarding the same.

Tedros recalled the announcement of convening an emergency committee he made last week to evaluate the surge in cases of mpox in Congo.

He further went on to say that the WHO is 'working on ground' with the 'affected countries', and also those at risk of containing the mpox outbreaks, by supporting laboratories



to sequence viral samples.

"WHO is on the ground, working with the affected countries, and others at risk, through our country and regional offices...For example, we are providing machines to analyse blood samples and confirm cases of mpox. We're supporting laboratories to sequence viral samples, we're on the ground supporting case investigation, contact tracing, risk communication and community engagement," the WHO Chief said.

"We're training health workers and supporting clinicians to provide appropriate care; We're supporting countries to access vaccines and develop the strategies to roll them out; And much more," he further added.

Tedros said that WHO has developed a regional response plan, which requires USD 15 million at an initial stage.

"We have released USD 1.45 million from the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies, and we plan to release more in the coming days. We are also appealing to donors to fund the rest of the response plan," he announced.

"WHO is committed in the days and weeks ahead to coordinate the global response, working closely with each of the affected countries, and leveraging our on-the-ground presence, to prevent transmission, treat those infected, and save lives. I thank the Emergency Committee for its work and advice," he added.

The cases of mpox have surged in the Central African nation since last September. A strain of the virus has now been detected in its neighbouring countries.

The WHO declared mpox, also known as monkeypox, a global emergency in 2022 after it spread to more than 70 countries.

ANI

West 'deaf, blind' to Ukraine's attacks on civilians – envoy

MOSCOW

THE collective West is deaf and blind when it comes to the crimes of the Kiev regime in the Ukrainian conflict zone, but it sees everything crystal clear regarding the humanitarian situation, Russian Foreign Ministry Ambassador-at-Large Rodion Miroshnik said at a briefing.

"If we diagnosed them, then blindness and deafness would be the verdict. The West's selective vision shows up, however, when talking about the humanitarian situation on the battlefield," the ambassador (pictured) said.

Miroshnik recalled that the day before, the Russian delegation in the UN Security Council held an Arria formula meeting, which considered Kiev's crimes along the line of engagement and border regions.

The Westerners, in addressing the meeting, "borrowed from their trusty playbook which they receive from some kind of command center," the diplomat noted.

He stressed that the playbook goes something like this: "we do not know what is going on there, we do not want to know, but Russia is guilty, and you can't say otherwise." Russia is then forced to assert that creating some kind of "fictional world of its own" does not lead to the peaceful resolution of any crises, including the Ukrainian conflict, Miroshnik added.

According to the diplomat, it is "very hard" to swallow this most inappropriate reaction from the West to the recent terrorist attack on the Kursk Region as well as all other crimes by the Kiev regime.

African scholars call for shift to realise green revolution

NAIROBI

THE attainment of the green revolution in Africa could become a reality soon once countries adopt new farming technologies, innovations, adequate financing and enhanced market linkages, scholars said Wednesday at a forum in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) have convened the Africa-China-CIMMYT Science Forum that runs on Aug. 13-16.

More than 100 participants, including policymakers, scientists and industry executives from China and 12 African countries, are attending the four-day forum themed "Transforming Agrifood Systems in Africa through Scientific Innovations and Partnerships."

"Blessings Chinsinga, a professor of development studies at the University of Malawi, said Africa has no choice but to shift to capital- and technology-intensive farming systems to feed a growing population."

As a continent, we need a green revolution. Now we have the benefit of learning from previous mistakes, and we just need to do things differently," Chinsinga said on the sidelines of the forum.

The African continent should establish functional markets, enhance adoption of appropriate technologies by smallholder farmers, and ease access to inputs like improved seeds to boost crop yield, Chinsinga said. In addition, the continent must invest in vibrant seed systems, tackle the fragmentation of arable land, and align priorities of the political and technocratic class as a means to boost agricultural productivity, according to Chinsinga.

Tariro Gwandu, the head of the Agronomy Research Institute at the Department of Research and Specialist Services in Zimbabwe, stressed that Africa should leverage its youthful workforce and digital platforms, revamp irrigation infrastructure, and act on climate change to achieve a green revolution.

"As a soil scientist, I also believe that investing in soil health is very important if we are to achieve the green revolution," Gwandu said. She called for the involvement of women and youth in agriculture, who form the bulk of the sector's workforce, to accelerate food systems transformation on the continent and tackle the endemic hunger and malnutrition crisis.

Gwandu suggested that governments should align their agricultural policies with Agenda 2063 (African Union's 50-year continental development blueprint) and other continents' socioeconomic blueprints in their quest for a home-grown green revolution that promises food security, ecological integrity, and improved rural incomes.

Fekadu Gurmu, the director for Crops Research at Ethiopia's Institute for Agricultural Research, said Africa can harness its wealth of crop diversity and embark on cluster farming to achieve food and nutrition security.

Gurmu suggested the continent should borrow best practices from countries like China that are advanced in mechanized agriculture as it forges a future characterized by resilient and sustainable food systems.

Xinhua

Uganda garbage landslide death toll rises to 26, 39 missing

KAMPALA

THE death toll from a landslide at a vast garbage dump in Uganda's capital Kampala last week has risen to 26, while 39 people remain missing, police said on Wednesday.

Late on Friday a mountain of garbage collapsed at a landfill site on the outskirts of Kampala, burying dozens of homes as people slept.

As of Sunday the death toll stood at 21.

Police said more bodies had been recovered since the weekend and they had been able to estimate the number of

people missing by interviewing survivors.

Those missing include 35 local residents and four garbage collectors, police said in a statement, adding excavation work was continuing to try to retrieve those who were missing and presumed dead. The landslide followed torrential rains that have battered parts of the East African country in recent weeks, triggering extensive flooding and damage.

Residents near the landfill, which has for decades served as Kampala's only waste dump, have long complained of hazardous waste polluting



Onlookers watch as workers search for survivors at the site of a collapsed landfill in Kampala, Uganda, on Sunday. AP

the environment and posing a danger.

Similar tragedies elsewhere

in Africa from poorly managed mountains of municipal

trash include a 2017 incident

in Ethiopia in which at least 115 people were killed.

Agencies

Kiev's attack on Kursk Region failed to divert Russian forces from Donbass – diplomat

MOSCOW

UKRAINE'S attacks on Russia's Kursk Region failed to achieve the goal of diverting Russian forces from Donbass and Slobozhanshchina, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

"Zelensky's regime has not achieved its main goal - to distract Russian armed forces from Donbass and Slobozhanshchina. At present, Ukrainian militants who havemade an incursion into the territory of the Kursk Region are being decisively pushed back by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation," she said in the statement on the Foreign Ministry's website.

"The criminal regime of the expired [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky continues to demonstrate its true neo-Nazi nature to the whole world," Zakharova said, referring the Ukrainian terrorist attack on the Kursk Region.



"As the situation in Donbass is dire for Ukrainian forces, the Ukrainian government ordered a terrorist attack on the territories of the Kursk Region that are close to the border."

"Kiev didn't make it a secret that they intended this step to improve their own negotiating positions in the

future, which Mikhail Podolyak, an adviser to the chief of staff at Zelensky's office, stated on August 8 without any hesitation."

"Ukrainian Banderite armed formations indiscriminately fire on civilians as they are trying to evacuate from dangerous areas, shell residential buildings and civilian infrastructure, and engage in outright looting," the spokeswoman went on to say. "Captured Ukrainian fighters admit that they received a command that, if civilians put up any resistance, they should mercilessly shoot everyone on the spot."

Zakharova said all these facts, including the fact that Ukrainian forces are attacking Russian territory with the complicity of their NATO patrons, "fully confirm the relevance of the goals and objectives of the special military operation to de-Nazify and demilitarize Ukraine, which will definitely be accomplished."

She expressed confidence that "the Kiev regime of usurpers, which is rotten from within, is held in place solely with money from the West." She said its collapse is "only a matter of time."

Kursk Region situation

Ukrainian forces started a major attack on the Kursk Region on August 6. Missile attack alerts have been issued repeatedly in the region since then. The attack killed 12 civilians and wounded 121 others, including 10 children, the latest data show. Hospitals have admitted 69 people. Of them, 17 are in serious condition.

More than 120,000 people left the Kursk Region areas close to the Ukrainian border, or were evacuated. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, Ukraine has lost up to 2,030 servicemen, 35 tanks and 31 armored personnel carriers since the start of fighting in the Kursk area.

UNICEF: Nearly 500 mln children spend over half year in extremely hot temperatures

UNITED NATIONS

ALMOST 500 million children, mainly in West and Central Africa, spend more than half the year in temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Wednesday.

According to a new UNICEF analysis, one in five children, or 466 million, lives in areas that experience at least double the number of extremely hot days every year compared to just six decades ago.

"Children are not little adults," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Their bodies are far more vulnerable to extreme heat.

Young bodies heat up faster, and cool down more slowly. Extreme heat is especially risky for babies due to their faster heart rate, so rising temperatures are even more alarming for children."

She said that governments must act to get rising temperatures under control. As governments are currently drafting their national climate action plans, they can do so with the ambition and knowledge that today's children and future generations will have to live in the world they leave behind.

In the analysis, the 1960s were compared with a 2020-2024 average. The results provided a stark warning

about the speed and scale at which extremely hot days -- measured as more than 35 degrees Celsius -- are increasing for almost 500 million children worldwide, many without the infrastructure or services to endure.

The analysis also examined country-level data and found that in 16 countries, children now experience more than a month of additional sweltering days compared to six decades ago. In South Sudan, for example, children live through a yearly average of 165 extremely hot days this decade compared to 110 days in the 1960s, while Paraguay jumped to 71 days from 36.

The analysis showed that globally, children in West and Central Africa face the highest exposure to scorching days and the most significant increases over time.

UNICEF said it meant that 123 million children, or 39 percent of children in West and Central Africa, now experience an average of more than one-third of the year, or at least 95 days, in temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius, reaching as many as 212 days in Mali, 202 days in Niger, 198 days in Senegal, and 195 days in Sudan.

The fund said that in Latin America and the Caribbean, almost 48 million children live in areas expe-

riencing twice the number of extremely hot days.

"The hottest summer days now seem normal," said Russell. "Extreme heat is increasing, disrupting children's health, well-being and daily routines."

UNICEF said that heat stress within the body, caused by exposure to extreme heat, poses unique threats to the health and well-being of children and pregnant women, mainly if cooling interventions are not available. It is linked to pregnancy complications such as gestational chronic diseases and adverse birth outcomes including stillbirth, low birth weight, and preterm birth.

The fund also said excess levels of heat stress contribute to child malnutrition, non-communicable diseases such as heat-related illnesses and leave children more vulnerable to infectious diseases that spread in high temperatures such as malaria and dengue. Evidence shows that it also impacts neurodevelopment, mental health, and well-being.

UNICEF called on leaders, governments and the private sector to deliver urgent and bold climate action to uphold the right of every child to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Agencies

Australia churns out new jobs even as unemployment rises

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN employment sped past forecasts in July, yet the jobless rate ticked higher to a 2-1/2 year high as worker participation hit a record in a sign labor demand remains solid despite high borrowing costs.

The strong report supports the Reserve Bank of Australia's assessment that interest rate cuts would be some months off. Markets pared back the chance for an interest rate cut in November to 45 percent, down from 55 percent before the release.

The local dollar perked up 0.2 percent to \$0.6610 while three-year bond futures trimmed earlier gains to be flat at 96.51.

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on Thursday showed net employment rose 58,200 in July from June, when they jumped 52,200. That was well above market forecasts for a 20,000 rise.

Full-time employment surged 60,500, for a third month of strong gains.

The jobless rate, however, ticked up to 4.2 percent, the highest since early 2022 and above forecasts of 4.1 percent, but that was due to more people looking for work. The participation rate rose to an all-time high of 67.1 percent.

"The employment and participation measures remain historically high while unemployment and underemployment measures remain historically low, compared with what we saw before the pandemic," said Kate Lamb, ABS head of labor statistics.

"This suggests the labor market remains quite tight."

The Reserve Bank of Australia has held its policy steady since November, judging the current cash rate of 4.35 percent - up from the 0.1 percent during the pandemic - is restrictive enough to bring inflation to its target band of 2-3 percent while preserving employment gains.

However, it assessed that the labor market was still running a little tight, one

reason that underlying inflation, which was at 3.9 percent last quarter, is only expected to return to the target band by the end of 2025.

Indeed, the July report showed employment rose 3.2 percent from a year ago, around twice the pre-pandemic average. The workforce rose 82,100 in July with the annual growth at 3.8 percent.

Even hours worked rebounded for the second month, up 0.4 percent in July, buckling the recent declining trend.

The RBA has all but ruled out a near-term rate cut. Analysts say it would take a sharp deterioration in the labor market, with falling employment and fast rising jobless rates, for policymakers to cut by Christmas.

Data showed job vacancies continued to fall from elevated levels and wage growth slowed to a one-year low last quarter, although it remained elevated.

"This data flies in the face of our dovish expectations," said Krishna Bhimavarapu, APAC economist at State Street Global Advisors.

"With inflation coming down and the unemployment rate rising, the RBA may be less compelled to consider another hike, but nonetheless may hold the cash rate at 4.35 percent longer than we expect."



Indeed, the July report showed employment rose 3.2 percent from a year ago, around twice the pre-pandemic average. The workforce rose 82,100 in July with the annual growth at 3.8 percent

Small commodity hub fuels China-Africa trade

HANGZHOU

AT Yiwu FINDER Import and Export Co., Ltd. in Yiwu City, east China's Zhejiang Province, Ai Bin busily loads two containers bound for Zambia and Ethiopia with various products, including small welding machines, tile cutters and pliers.

"Africa is our main market and currently we ship out containers almost daily," said Ai, the company's sales department manager.

With an abundant variety of commodities, convenient and fast logistics, and a good business environment, Yiwu is often referred to as "the world's supermarket."

China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, with bilateral trade reaching a record 282.1 billion U.S. dollars in 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Thanks to growing China-Africa trade relations, the city's exports to Africa make up about one twelfth of China's total exports to the region in 2023, while its imports from Africa are increasing.

In the first half of this year, Yiwu's imports and exports to Africa reached 57.83 billion yuan, up 17.1 percent year on year.

"As Africa undergoes industrialization and urbanization, many countries and regions require an extensive supply of construction and agricultural equipment, presenting significant business opportunities," said Deng Chaofeng, general manager of Zhejiang International Trade Supply Chain Service Co., Ltd. "We rely on cost-effective products and good after-sales service to attract more customers," Deng added.

Currently, over 560,000 overseas merchants make purchases in Yiwu each year, with African traders representing more than 10 percent of that number.

Additionally, over 3,000 merchants from Africa reside in Yiwu. Tirera Sourakhata, originally from Senegal, is one of them. After living in Yiwu for 21 years, he even speaks Mandarin with a strong Yiwu accent.

"I source various daily necessities from



Tirera Sourakhata, a merchant from Senegal, introduces his products in Yiwu City, east China's Zhejiang Province on Monday. Xinhua

Yiwu and even purchase relatively affordable new energy vehicles for my clients from Africa. The products are highly popular with local governments and businesses," said Sourakhata.

To help Yiwu businesses better engage in international trade, the city has innovatively created a digital trade platform accessible via www.chinagoods.com, assisting merchants in building overseas networks and connecting with global trade partners.

The platform can even leverage AI technology to help business owners create and enhance product videos and translate Chinese versions into 36 languages.

"With the platform, our exports to the African market increased by over 30 percent last year," said Tao Juying, an executive of Zhejiang Yilingnuo Technology Co., Ltd., adding that the cutting-edge technology allows the company to

reach more customers.

"Today, African countries are seeking higher-quality Chinese products to replace old ones and meet consumers' demand for niche products, creating vast market potential. We are very optimistic about the future of China-Africa trade cooperation," said Huang Junqiao, an official with the commerce bureau of Yiwu.

Xinhua

Xi says China ready to work with Brazil to promote building of China-Brazil community with shared future

BEIJING,

CHINA is ready to work with Brazil to take the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties as a new starting point to jointly promote the building of a China-Brazil community with a shared future, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday.

Xi made the remarks in his congratulatory message to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the

two countries.

China and Brazil, both major developing countries and key emerging markets, are like-minded good friends and partners that join hands and move forward together, Xi said.

Over the past half century since the establishment of diplomatic relations, regardless of changes in the international landscape, the relationship between the two countries has maintained stable development, with increasingly

prominent, comprehensive and strategic global influence, he said.

While promoting the development and revitalization of their respective nations, China and Brazil have also played significant roles in contributing to world peace, stability, and prosperity, he added.

Xi emphasized that during Lula's successful visit to China last year, the two sides reached a significant consensus on piloting and opening a new future for China-Brazil relations in the new era.

China is ready to take the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relationship with Brazil as a new starting point to continuously strengthen the alignment of development strategies between the two countries, deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields, add new dimensions of the era to the China-Brazil relationship, and work together to promote the building of a China-Brazil community with a shared future, he said.

Xinhua

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2024:

PM Modi seeks youth from non-political families to join politics, fight nepotism

NEW DELHI

IN a broadside against the culture of nepotism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech spoke of a "political landscape free of dynastic rule" as he gave a call to induct those with no political legacy in their families into the country's political system.

While addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Thursday, the Prime Minister spoke about inducting one lakh youth who have no political legacy into the political system stating that the mission was aimed at fighting the "evils of nepotism and casteism" and inducting fresh blood into India's polity.

"India's democracy is being undermined by the ills of 'Parivarvad' and 'Jaativad'. It's essential to free our political landscape from the grip of dynastic rule! Our mission is to empower a new generation of leaders - one lakh young individuals who don't have any political legacy in their families," the PM said.

"We want to see young people without any family connections in politics step forward, lead, and represent the people," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister also made an indirect attack on the opposition and said that though

the country is moving forward with a single resolution some people cannot "tolerate" the progress.

"We are moving forward with the same resolution but there are some people who cannot tolerate progress or think of India's progress unless it benefits them. They want anarchy. The country needs to protect itself from this handful of pessimistic people," PM Modi said.

He also highlighted the reforms undertaken by the central government in the past 10 years and said that this has increased self-confidence in the youth and their desire to take giant leaps. "People waited for reforms, we got an opportunity and we implemented major reforms. Our commitment to reform is not restricted to editorials, our reforms are not for small praise it is for making the country strong. There are now many avenues open for our youngsters. The youth now does not want to walk slowly they want to jump to achieve new things, and they want to take giant leaps. This is a golden era for India," PM Modi said.

"We should not let this opportunity go. We will then achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat by 2047," he said.

The Prime Minister also urged the country



to work towards a developed nation to be achieved by 2047. He said that 40 crore Indians showed strength and courage to drive away the British decades ago.

PM Modi said that while the country is faced with challenges both external and internal, more such challenges are bound to come. "I want to say to such forces that India's development will not pose a threat to anyone. The world should not worry seeing India's development," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the country's progress should never come at the expense of others. "War is not our road. We are the country of Buddha. Despite all the challenges, we must move ahead. Can anyone imagine people condoning corruption openly? Those who are trying to condone corruption are a concern," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also pushed

for major reforms in the farm sector and emphasised on efforts to make the lives of farmers better.

The Prime Minister commended the farmers for choosing organic farming and added that India can become the organic food basket of the world as it moves towards Viksit Bharat.

"We need to reform the farm sector. Today we are giving easy loans, tech, and valuation of produce. We are grateful to farmers for choosing organic farming. This time in the budget we have made a huge provision with huge schemes to promote natural farming. Today, if any food basket of organic food can be created for the world, then it can be my country, which can be made by our farmers. We can become the organic food basket of the world. We must strive to make lives of farmers better," he said.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the reforms undertaken by the central government in the past 10 years and said that this has increased self-confidence in the youth and their desire to take giant leaps. He said that after independence, there was an atmosphere of status quo in the country that needed to be broken.

"People waited for reforms, we got an opportunity and we imple-

mented major reforms. Our commitment to reform is not restricted to editorials, our reforms are not for small praise it is for making the country strong. This has resulted in a rise in self-confidence. There are now many avenues open for our youngsters. The youth now does not want to walk slowly they want to jump to achieve new things, and they want to take giant leaps," the Prime Minister said.

"This is a golden era for India," PM Modi said. "We should not let this opportunity go. We will then achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat by 2047," he said.

The Prime Minister also urged the country to work towards the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. He said that decades ago, 40 crore Indians showed strength and courage to drive away the British.

"Before Independence, 40 crore Indians showed courage, dedication and bravery and moved with one motto, and broke the shackles of colonial rule despite all adversaries.

Their only goal was freedom. If 40 crore Indians could do this, then 140 crore Indians of my family can do wonders if they take one pledge then despite all challenges we can make a Viksit Bharat by 2047," PM Modi said.

ANI

Third edition of Global South Summit to be held on Aug 17

NEW DELHI

INDIA will host the 3rd edition of the Voice of Global South Summit on August 17 as an extension of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', and is underpinned by India's philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a release on Wednesday.

The summit envisages bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues, it added.

As per the MEA release, the 3rd VOGSS, with the overarching theme of "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future", will act as a platform to expand discussions held in the previous Summits on a range of complex challenges that continue to affect the world, such as conflicts, food and energy security crises, climate change - all of which disproportionately affect developing countries in a severe manner. At the Summit, the countries of the Global South would continue deliberations on challenges, priorities, and solutions for the Global South, particularly in the developmental domain.

The 3rd VOGSS will be held in virtual format and is structured into Leaders' Session and Ministerial sessions. The inaugural session would be at Head of State / Government level and will be hosted by Prime Minister Modi. The theme of the Inaugural Leaders' Session is the same as the overarching theme of the Summit, i.e., "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future".

In addition, there will be 10 Ministerial Sessions.

Foreign Ministers' Session on "Charting a Unique Paradigm for Global South", Health Ministers' Session on "One World-One Health", Youth Ministers' Session on "Youth Engagement for a Better Future", Commerce/Trade Ministers' Session on "Trade for Development-Perspectives from Global South", Information & Technology Ministers' Session on "DPIs for Development- A Global South Approach", Finance Ministers' Session on "People-Centric Approach to Global Finance", 2nd Foreign Ministers' Session on "Global South and Global Governance", Energy Ministers' Session on "Sustainable Energy Solutions for a Sustainable Future", Education Ministers' Session on "Prioritising Human Resource Development: A Global South Perspective", Environment Ministers' Session on "Pathways for Progress- A Global South Perspective on Mitigating Climate Change"

India hosted the 1st Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) on January 12-13, 2023, and the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit on November 17, 2023, both in virtual format. ANI

Russia attaches great importance to strategic partnership relations with India, says Putin

MOSCOW

MOSCOW attaches great importance to the relations of a particularly privileged strategic partnership with New Delhi and intends to further develop ties, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a statement on India's Independence Day.

"We attach great importance to the relations of a particularly privileged strategic partnership with India. I am confident that the consistent implementation of the agreements reached following our recent talks in Moscow will contribute to the further development of multifaceted Russian-Indian cooperation," Putin pointed out in a statement addressed to Indian President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the Russian president, this undoubtedly meets the interests of the friendly peoples of the two countries and is in line with the consolidation of security and international stability.

Putin extended his heartfelt con-

gratulations to Droupadi Murmu and Narendra Modi on the occasion of India's Independence Day. "For 77 years of independent development, your country has achieved universally recognized successes in socio-economic, scientific, technological and many other spheres and gained high prestige in the world arena," the Russian leader said.

He wished the Indian president and prime minister good health and success, and all citizens of the country happiness and prosperity. Agencies



Singida Black Stars prepare for Premier League opener against Ken Gold FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Black Stars are cautiously optimistic as they prepare to face newcomers Ken Gold FC in their opening Premier League match on Sunday at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

Recognizing the challenges ahead, the team departed from Singida yesterday for an intensified training camp to bolster their chances for a successful season.

The team has undergone a rigorous five to six-week pre-season and is eager to put their preparations to the test.

Head coach Patrick Aussems believes his players are in top physical condition and are raring to go.

"We've had a productive pre-season, and the players are excited to get started. Everyone is fit and ready to give their best. We know the opening game is always challenging, but we're prepared for it," Aussems said.

While acknowledging the difficulty of the opening fixture, Aussems emphasized the importance of thorough preparation and fitness.

"We're fully aware that this will be a tough match, so we must prepare diligently and ensure the team is fit and ready to compete. I am confident in the squad we have assembled to achieve great things in the league. As for the level of fitness of the players so far, as a coach, I am pleased," Aussems added.

The CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup and various friendly matches have provided valuable insights into the team's strengths, weaknesses, and individual player dynamics.

Aussems and the club have significantly bolstered their squad with eleven foreign players: Mohamed Kamara, Benjamin Tanimu, Ibrahim Moro, Emmanuel Kayekheh, Anthony Tra bi tra, Arthur Bada, Joseph Guede, Marouf Tchakei, Elvis Rupia, Victorien Adebayor, and Mohamed Camara.

These new additions are expected to form a formidable combination with the existing and incoming local talent.

Issa Rashid and Israel Mwenda

are set to join the local roster, while the club spokesperson, Hassan Masanza, confirmed that Victorien Adebayor will join the squad at a later date.

"As previously announced at the Singida Big Day Festival, our new signings, Victorien Adebayo and Rashid, have arrived and will soon begin training with the rest of the team.

"Both players will be part of our squad for the upcoming 2024/2025 season. Coach Aussems is assembling a strong team for the competition. Our first league match is on August 18 against Ken Gold in Mbeya," Masanza said.

Ken Gold FC, the Mbeya-based team, secured the 2023/24 Championship League silverware with 70 points, three points ahead of Pamba FC, which also attained direct promotion to the top flight.

The club has a challenging start to the new campaign, with away matches against Simba SC at KMC Stadium and Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium.

Despite finishing seventh in the previous season, Singida Black Stars made significant strides with strategic signings during the January transfer window. However, the club sacked coach Mecky Mexime, who later joined Dodoma Jiji FC.

Building on their participation in the CAF Confederation Cup last season, Singida Black Stars are determined to replicate their performance and aim for another successful continental campaign.

“

We're fully aware that this will be a tough match, so we must prepare diligently and ensure the team is fit and ready to compete. I am confident in the squad we have assembled to achieve great things in the league. As for the level of fitness of the players so far, as a coach, I am pleased

Azam FC face daunting path in CAF Champions League quest

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC face one of the toughest challenges among Tanzanian teams in the upcoming CAF Champions League as they prepare to navigate a difficult route to the group stage.

Drawn from pot three, Azam must first overcome Rwandan champions APR FC in the first preliminary round to keep their continental dream alive.

Azam will host APR FC at their Chamazi home ground on Sunday before heading to Kigali for the return leg.

If they emerge victorious, they will then face either Zanzibar's JKU or Egyptian giants Pyramids FC for a place in the 2024/25 CAF Champions League group stage.

Last season, Azam suffered a heartbreaking early exit in the CAF Confederation Cup, eliminated by Ethiopian side Bahir Dar Kenema in the first round.

That defeat left the club's supporters, management, and technical bench devastated. To avoid a similar fate, Azam will need to bring their best game against APR.

APR, like Azam, endured a disappointing 2023/24 CAF Champions League campaign, bowing out in the second round after a crushing 6-1 defeat by Pyramids.

Determined to bounce back,



Azam FC squad.

the Rwandan side has bolstered their squad with several new signings, including Ghanaian duo Richmond Lamptey and Dauda Yussif, Malian striker Mamadou Sy, and local talents Frodouard Mugiraneza, Gilbert Byiringiro, and Olivier Dushimimana.

APR FC chairman, Col Richard Karasira, has emphasized the club's goal of building a strong team capable of competing against Africa's elite clubs.

Their performance in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup hints that the upcoming two-legged tie could be a tough battle for both teams.

However, Azam coach Yous-

souph Dabo remains optimistic despite the challenge. Reflecting on last season's failure, he believes his team has learned valuable lessons and is better prepared this time.

"It will be a tough match because APR is not a small team. It is a big team in Rwanda with 22 titles. As I said to my players, we have ambitions in this competition, but we also need to be humble because last season we lost against Bahir Dar," Dabo said.

"This season, we have a better chance. Last season was the beginning, and now we already have one season with the players, and most of them un-

derstand our game. I think we will be ready and have a better chance."

Should Azam overcome APR FC, they are likely to face the formidable Pyramids FC, currently leading the Egyptian Premier League.

Known for their big spending in the transfer market, Pyramids would present a significant challenge for the Tanzanian side.

For Azam, failure to qualify for the group stage again would be a massive disappointment. Coach Dabo is aware that another early exit could test the patience of the Chamazi hierarchy.

The Senegalese tactician has already faced pressure, losing two major pre-season games, including the Community Shield final against Young Africans.

The early arrival of new signings, including Ivorian duo Franck Tiesse and Yoro Mamadou Diaby, Colombian midfielder Ever Meza, and striker Jhonier Blanco, signals the management's commitment to supporting Dabo.

However, that support comes with high expectations, and both the management and supporters will be demanding positive results.

Azam's journey in the CAF Champions League begins now, and the stakes could not be higher.



Jakaya M. Kikwete Sports Park youth soccer team players pictured on Wednesday during a training session at the center's grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TPDF outfit clinches Black Mambaz hockey tournament title



Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) hockey squad.

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA People's Defense Force (TPDF)'s hockey team has won the second edition of the Black Mambaz competition, walloping Moshi Khalsa 2-0 in the final that took place at the Lugalo venue in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The four-day showdown, which got underway last Thursday and climaxed on Sunday, was organized by the Dar es Salaam-based Black Mambaz outfit under the auspices of the Tanzania Hockey Association (THA), seeking to improve the standard of hockey domestically.

The final had the army-owned TPDF Club - a prominent hockey side domestically - confront-

ing the current national hockey champions.

It culminated with the TPDF Club's members covering every blade of the grass in their pursuit of the silverware, making short work of the equally well-drilled Moshi Khalsa.

Moshi Khalsa had secured qualification for the final emphatically, trouncing Ngome 3-0 in the last four phase's match.

Tournament organizers, Black Mambaz, were TPDF's opponent in the last four, which culminated with the army club garnering a comfortable 2-0 win over the former.

A total of 13 squads took part in the second edition of the showdown, with all ties being played at the Lugalo hockey venue.

The national hockey governing body's Chair-

man, Kaushik Doshi, stated the showdown was scheduled to end Sunday, adding participating outfits in the men's category, which totaled eight, were put into groups A and B.

Group A consisted of hosts Black Mambaz, JMK Park, Ngome, and Zanzibar's Nyuki, while Group B was made up of TPDF, KMKM (Zanzibar), Moshi Khalsa (Kilimanjaro), and Twende Boys.

Doshi further stated the women's category of the competition involved five outfits. They are regular campaigners - Twende Ladies and TPDF - and youthful squads of Buza Girls, Black Mambaz Ladies, and Majani ya Chai.

The THA boss, moreover, remarked that the women's category had participating outfits playing five-a-side clashes.

A trophy, a goal and 'no limit' - Madrid's Mbappe era begins

By Steven Sutcliffe

KYLIAN Mbappe said there is "no limit" to what he and Real Madrid can achieve together after he scored on his debut against Atalanta to help the club win a record sixth Uefa Super Cup.

The France captain completed a long-awaited move years in the making when he joined Real this summer after a trophy-laden spell at Paris St-Germain.

And despite having resumed training just over a week ago, it took PSG's record goalscorer just under 70 minutes to lay down his first marker of intent for the new season, with a clinical finish to ensure a triumphant start and more silverware for his new employers.

"It was a great night - I've been waiting for this moment for a long time," Mbappe told Movistar, in fluent Spanish.

"To play with this shirt, with this badge, for these fans, it's a gift for me."

With Vinicius Jr, Jude Bellingham, Rodrygo and Endrick also at manager Carlo Ancelotti's disposal, the addition of Mbappe - arguably the best attacking player in the world - has only strengthened the current European and Spanish champions.

And as they head into the new campaign, Mbappe stressed they are capable of great things.

"We are at Real Madrid, we have no limit. If I can score 50, then 50, but the most important thing is winning and improving as a team, because we will win as a team," Mbappe added.

England midfielder Bellingham, who played a starring role in Real's victory over the Serie A side and laid on a goal for his new team-mate, added: "He's just one of those players, he's brilliant."

"So sharp. So much technical quality. A great team-mate as well. He works for the team, like the rest of the lads. Credit to him, and he deserves it tonight."

Speaking to TNT Sports, Ancelotti added: "Mbappe did really well. He adapted well to the team. He combined well with Vinicius Jr and with Bellingham."

"Of course, we have a lot of quality, but we have to play together and we did that tonight."

"Mbappe's switch allows Bellingham to flourish. The TNT pundits watching Mbappe make his Real bow were equally effusive in their praise of the 25-year-old, who received an ovation when he was withdrawn late in the game.

"Mbappe getting his goal is what all Real Madrid fans wanted," said former England and Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand.

"They have added arguably the best player in the world to this team. Because they have so much youth, there is a hunger. They are adding players with hunger. Mbappe has to prove himself now - no matter how good he has been he hasn't done it here. There is so much to prove for a lot of these players."

With Mbappe switching to the left after the break and Vinicius Jr roaming more centrally, it also allowed Bellingham to surge forward effectively and take control of the game for Real against a tiring Atalanta.

"Bellingham was absolutely phenomenal in the number eight position. His influence was magnificent," added Ferdinand.

"They look like a team of mates, and that doesn't bode well for everyone else. Teams will have to double up on Mbappe and Vinicius Jr, which gives Bellingham more space. He looked like the big kid in the playground today."

Former England and Bayern Munich midfielder Owen Hargreaves added: "With Jude and Vinicius Jr, Real Madrid had too much depth in the second half."

"Ancelotti is the perfect manager, a players' manager, adding Mbappe to that mix to go with Endrick, who will be an amazing young player. This group of players is absolutely exceptional."

BBC

Bellingham hails Mbappe's underrated quality as Real Madrid clinch Super Cup glory

By Jack Rathborn

JUDE Bellingham hailed Kylian Mbappe after the French forward scored on his competitive debut to help Real Madrid beat Atalanta 2-0 to win the Uefa Super Cup.

Mbappe signed for the European champions on a free transfer after letting his Paris Saint-Germain contract expire.

And Mbappe made an immediate impact in white, putting the game away in Warsaw with a powerful finish after being found by Jude Bellingham's pass. Carlo Ancelotti's side went ahead thanks to Federico Valverde and Bellingham was quick to heap praise on Mbappe's immediate impact for his new club.

"I think so yeah he's just one of those players isn't he? He's brilliant," Bellingham said. "So sharp, so much technical quality and a great teammate as well."

THE INDEPENDENT

Nothing lasts forever and now the era of Manchester City is ending

By Richard Jolly

JURGEN Klopp's departure means Pep Guardiola - la stands alone. Only one manager who has won the Premier League still plies his trade in it and it is Manchester City's serial champion.

Last season rendered Guardiola a history-maker in a new respect, the first manager to win four consecutive English titles. With Klopp gone, in a sense, he has eliminated the opposition. In another, he remains a marked man. "Everyone wants the crown that we have worn for four years," he warned last week.

Guardiola's capacity to create teams that can win both week in, week out and year in, year out adds to City's powers of intimidation. They have a proven ability to reel off 12 or 15 straight victories. They could become the first English club to register five straight league titles, feats that have occurred in the recent past in France, Italy and Germany, but never here.

Klopp's resignation removed one rival. Arsenal have got ever closer but the season probably starts with the expectation that it will end with City celebrating again.

And yet there are reasons to wonder if an era will end, if City will be deposed. One lies in the footballing courts, with City's increasingly infamous 115 charges due to finally be heard with the eventual verdict likely to come this season. If it is a safe assumption it will not satisfy everyone, it has the possibility to transform the footballing landscape and to bring City's era of domination to an abrupt end.

They, it is worth noting, have long maintained their innocence. Should they be found guilty of some, let alone all, of the charges, there are a range of punishments; some could be so swingeing that retaining the title becomes improbable or impossible. Relegation would reshape the Premier League; even a sizeable points deduction would create a void, a vacancy for others.

But there is also a question whether City will be deposed on the pitch; if others simply procure more points, if they regress. One way would be if Guardiola goes. He has said he is nearer the end than the start. He is in the final year of his contract, though has been before and has re-signed



Man City's dominance in the Premier League has reached unprecedented levels. (PA Wire)

to extend his stay. He has a club built around him and has tied himself closer to it with his vehement defence of their actions, though none of the alleged wrongdoing in the 115 charges is by him.

When Klopp had a contract to 2026, there was a theory he would get an opportunity simply by outlasting Guardiola. Now that might be Mikel Arteta's aim. There is a logic to assuming any successor, no matter how good, would be some kind of a downgrade.

But there are other grounds to wonder if a golden age could be ending. Guardiola's is not the only contract expiring in 2025: Kevin de

Bruyne's does, too, and with a greater likelihood, arguably the greatest player in City's history will leave. Certainly the Belgian is unique in his creativity; he looks irreplaceable. He is part of a growing contingent of thirty-somethings.

Kyle Walker has age-defying pace but showed signs of decline in Euro 2024. Bernardo Silva is the distance runner supreme but is in his fourth decade, too. So are John Stones, Ederson and Mateo Kovacic, while Nathan Ake will join them this season. That the goalkeeper was tempted by a summer move to Saudi Arabia may be instructive; perhaps he felt he had won all there was to win at City.

City already had the eighth-oldest average side in the Premier League last year and the major summer departure, Julian Alvarez, was one of the younger figures. The counter-argument is that Rico Lewis, Oscar Bobb and James McAtee showed youthful talent in the Community Shield, that Savinho is a 20-year-old signing, that Phil Foden, at 24, gravitated to world-class level last season and Erling Haaland, the same age, is a peerless goal machine. There is the makings of another side, of a future beyond De Bruyne and Walker and Silva.

Certainly City can project an air of business as usual: of not panicking about the charges, of planning for the long term. But there is also a strange passiveness: in the Guardiola years they have not bought for the sake of it and have purchased fewer players than many other clubs, let alone Chelsea, but a reluctance to pay beyond their valuation of players, the manager's preference to work with a smaller squad and a fixture list crowded still further by the Club World Cup could leave a club with a lone recruit this year looking short-staffed.

Rodri has shouldered a huge workload in recent seasons and City have no other specialist defensive midfielder; should the Spaniard break down, they may regret not activating Bruno Guimaraes' £100m release clause at Newcastle. City can find ways of coping without Alvarez in midfield but his sale to Atletico Madrid means that Haaland is now the lone out-and-out centre-forward.

City have excelled in finding ways to win without players, both when Haaland and De Bruyne were injured last season and following the departures of Riyad Mahrez and Ilkay Gundogan, but there could come a point when there is an absentee too many or too many cases of ageing. Or just when City slip a little as someone else improves.

It might not happen yet. But if part of Guardiola's skill is to create an impression of permanent domination, and a fifth consecutive title would underline that, the reality is that eras end. City's might this year, or next; it may last for several more seasons. But, their rivals can console themselves, nothing lasts forever.

THE INDEPENDENT

It's time for Arsenal to deliver - and one uncomfortable question holds the key

By Karl Matchett

GRADUAL progress, incremental improvement. Arsenal have been on a serious upward trajectory over the past few seasons, and now there's only one place left to go. Of course, that final step is always the most difficult, yet it is also the end ambition, the goal, the whole point of a new direction, new investment and new reason for optimism.

Mikel Arteta - like most bosses who go up against Pep Guardiola-led teams - remains unproven in that most important context. If last year was about showcasing they could stay the course and be in a genuine title fight into the final week or two of the season, then 2024/25 must be about underlining the reasons why Arsenal can take the final step - and, of course, about actually taking it.

Two points off the title as they were last year feels close, and yet... it never feels that close to Manchester City, somehow. This is after all a team who have twice won the league recently by single-point margins, have hit record tallies along the way and have become experts in seeing out the season.

If you're behind them by a point, or four, with seven or eight games to go and win the rest of your matches... you probably finish a point, or four, behind them. To win the English title, rivals have two options:

be damn near perfect, or wait for City's fairly minor slip-ups and be ready and in place to have a merely exceptional season themselves.

Let's put that into context for Arsenal. The Gunners were largely very good last year, won 28 of 38 games and claimed 89 points. It wasn't their best-ever season; their record points haul for a single top-flight season is 90. They achieved that over two decades ago, in 2003/2004.

Had they managed to equal that for the past eight years in a row, including last season - so adding another point to their tally and being consistently as good as the best, brief peak they've ever had - they would still have claimed only two more Premier League titles: Covid-restricted 20/21 by four points and 22/23 by a single one. Given City won the latter at a canter and took only one point from the final six after the league was sewn up, it's probably fair to suggest 90 wouldn't have been enough then either, had that scenario actually unfolded.

Equally notable is that 90 points wouldn't have even seen a team finish as runners-up on two occasions in that timeframe. The goalposts have very much been moved, from needing to be excellent to needing to be elite.

For Arsenal, that means they need to have a historic season just to be in the conversation at

this point.

Yet it's arguable that Arsenal have been active enough in improving the team over the past half-decade for that to be the expectation at this point.

Five full seasons should be yielding significant success, not just growth. Arteta, the manager-not-head-coach, cannot suggest he hasn't had the backing.

Since the start of 2020/21 - so Arteta's first full season as boss, following five football months plus the Covid gap in charge - Arsenal have reportedly spent around £650m on new signings. As the club have long been at pains to point out, he's heavily involved in the decisions of who and how much, when it comes to additions.

They've recouped somewhere around £152m in the same timeframe - four full campaigns and this ongoing

summer transfer window - including loan fees, judging by the same source in terms of valuations. Even if there are discrepancies along the way in how much was actually paid or received for any particular player, the numbers are fairly enormous: around half a billion spent, net. The return on that so far is one FA Cup.

It was won in front of no fans, too, before all that spending started - the delayed 2020 FA Cup final. In other words, with Unai Emery's team.

While it is absolutely undeniable that the Gunners have improved, are in a much better place with squad depth, have brought long-term quality players to the side and have a clear potential team for the next three or four years, it's equally true that after such rebuilding - in time as well as financial terms - the club will be, must

be, expecting a more significant return.

The Premier League title and the Champions League trophy are the ones that matter, of course. They are also extremely difficult to win.

Consider: if Man City have an average season for themselves in points terms, that's 91 - a new Arsenal best, remember - just to match them. Yes, last season was merely average for that side: 638 points won over the last seven years, averaging out to 91.1 each term. We often hear managers or players speak in clichés about "adding five per cent" to their game; if Man City add a single victory to their 24/25 tally, Arsenal will literally need to be seven per cent better across the board than they were last season.

All of that begs the uncomfortable question of whether the current manager is the one who

can do so. And that's an important consideration heading into this term in particular. Given Man City are unlikely to implode by any significant margin, and that Arsenal have not added with regards to match-winners in the off-season, improvement on their part will need to come from increased or improved coaching, cohesion, familiarity.

It means Arteta - and his staff - need to find the gains, the percentages of improvement, to go yet another step beyond their recent best, and into all-time territory: either way beyond the 90-point marker, or becoming champions of Europe. Neither are easy things to achieve. They are not supposed to be.

But it's time for this manager, with the squad he has built, to prove he is the one capable of at long last doing so.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Nothing lasts forever and the era of Manchester City is ending

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Coastal Union embark on CAF Confederation Cup journey



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

COASTAL Union FC have embarked on a significant journey as they prepare to face AS Bravo of Angola in the preliminary stage of the CAF Confederation Cup.

A squad of 22 players, along with the entire technical bench, departed on Wednesday, with high hopes of securing a favorable result in the first leg of the competition.

The match, scheduled for tomorrow, will take place at Tundavala Stadium in Lubango, Angola, and Coastal Union's head coach, David Ouma (pictured), has expressed confidence in his

team's readiness to compete on foreign soil.

"We are prepared, and I'm pleased with the team's commitment. The players have shown significant improvement, especially in our last two matches," Ouma stated.

Despite a recent loss in one of their preparatory matches, Ouma remains optimistic. He acknowledged that mistakes were made but emphasized that his players have made strides in following instructions and improving their performances. He believes these improve-

ments will be crucial against AS Bravo.

"In our next game, the players executed the game plan better. Although we didn't secure a win, we didn't perform poorly either," Ouma continued. "I expect us to be even stronger against AS Bravo on Saturday. It's advantageous that we're starting away. Our approach will be to respect our opponents and aim for a positive result that will put us in a strong position for the return leg at home."

One key player making the

trip is the team's first-choice goalkeeper, Ley Matampi, who was absent during the pre-season preparations.

Ouma addressed concerns regarding Matampi's absence, explaining that it was due to a delay in joining the team. However, the Kenyan coach confirmed that Matampi has now resumed training and is fully integrated with the squad.

"Matampi is with us and has begun training. He's one of the players traveling with the team," Ouma reassured.

Matampi's inclusion is expected to bolster the team's defense as they aim to keep a clean sheet in Angola.

Coastal Union's strategy revolves around securing a good result away from home, allowing them to finish the job in the return leg at home, which is scheduled between August 23 and 25. The winners of this tie will advance to the next stage of the tournament, where they will face FC Lupopo from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition to their CAF Confederation Cup campaign, Coastal Union are also gearing up for the Premier League season. Their

domestic season will kick off on August 16, marking the beginning of a grueling schedule.

Coastal Union's first five fixtures in the league have been confirmed. On August 29, they will face KMC FC at the KMC Complex, followed by an away game against JKT Tanzania FC on September 25.

Coastal Union will then take on Mashujaa FC on October 21, before facing Namungo FC and Azam FC in subsequent rounds.

With both continental and domestic challenges ahead, Coastal Union's squad will need to maintain their focus and resilience. The team's dual objective - progressing in the CAF Confederation Cup and making a strong start in the Premier League - requires a well-coordinated effort from both players and the technical team.

Coach Ouma's leadership will be crucial as Coastal Union navigate this demanding period. His emphasis on learning from past mistakes and building on recent improvements reflects a strategic approach aimed at ensuring the team's success on all fronts.



Simba confirm signing of Cameroonian striker Lionel Ateba

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC have officially confirmed the signing of Cameroonian striker Lionel Ateba, who is set to make his debut in the club's opening match of the 2024/2025 NBC Premier League against Tabora United at KMC Stadium this Sunday.

The Msimbazi giants secured Ateba's services on a two-year contract after the forward spent only six months with Algerian side USM Alger.

Simba reportedly paid a transfer fee of \$200,000 to bring the striker to Dar es Salaam, aligning with head coach Fadlu Davids' plans to strengthen the team's attacking options.

Simba's information and communication manager, Ahmed Ally, confirmed that Ateba (pictured) will join the squad in time for the first match of the season.

"Ateba will arrive to start the first game of the season after having a full pre-season training camp with USMA. His fitness will be valuable to the club from the very first match," Ally stated.

The club has been actively looking to reinforce its attacking department, and the move follows extensive discussions between Davids and the management.

"Coach Davids is confident in the goalkeeping, defense, and midfield areas. However, he expressed the need to boost our attack. With Freddy Kouablan, Steven Mukwala, and Valentino Mashaka already on the roster, we believe Ateba will provide the additional firepower needed," Ally explained.

Ateba's addition comes after previous attempts to sign other strikers, including Ricky Banda from Red Arrows and Ethiopian forward Abubekir Nasir from Mamelodi Sundowns, fell through.

Ateba's desire to play as a regular center forward rather than in a supporting role, as he did at USM Alger, helped finalize the deal.

The Cameroonian international has an impressive resume, having played for top clubs in his home country, such as Coton Sport, PWD Bameinda, and Dynamo Douala.

He was also part of the Cameroon squad for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, although he did not feature in the tournament.

Since joining USMA in January, Ateba has made 12 appearances in the Algerian Ligue 1, scoring once and providing two assists.

In the CAF Confederation Cup, he scored three goals in seven matches, and in the Coupe d'Algerie, he contributed two goals and two assists in four games.

With the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) limiting foreign players to a maximum of 12, Simba are expected to make some squad adjustments.

The expected departures of Kouablan and another foreign player, Ayoub Lakred, will accommodate Ateba's inclusion, bringing the squad in line with the TFF regulations.

Ateba's arrival is highly anticipated as Simba aim to solidify their attacking prowess for the upcoming season. Fans will be eager to see how the Cameroonian striker will impact the club's quest for success both domestically and in continental competitions.

Pamba, Prisons kick off 2024/25 NBC Premier League season

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2024/25 NBC Premier League season will officially kick off with an exciting match as Pamba Jiji welcome Tanzania Prisons to CCM Kirumba Stadium in the afternoon opener.

Pamba Jiji, returning to the top flight after 23 years, will play back-to-back home games to start their season.

They will face Dodoma Jiji in their second match on August 24, before heading to Azam FC for their first away game in October.

Coached by Goran Kopunovic, Pamba Jiji have made significant changes to their squad after gaining promotion. The team signed 18 new players as part of a major overhaul, bringing in experienced talents to strengthen their lineup.

Among the notable new signings is George Mpole, who was the NBC Premier League top scorer in the 2021/22 season, beating out Fiston Mayele.

Mpole, who last played for Congolese side FC Saint-Eloi Lupopo, has also played for Geita Gold, Mbeya City, and Polisi Tanzania. He was officially unveiled during a vibrant event on Saturday.

Other new recruits include defender Ally Ramadhan from Mashujaa, striker Eric Okutu from Tabora United, defender Kenneth Kunambi from Ihefu, midfielder Paulin Kasindi from Coastal Union, center back Samson Madeleke from Mashujaa, and defender Justine Omary from Dodoma Jiji.

The club also brought in Ayinde Yusuf, Christopher Oruchum, Emmanuel Boateng, Saleh Masoud, John Nakibinge, Ibrahim Abdallah, Alain Mukeya, Frank Ng'amba, and former Tanzania Prisons first-choice goalkeeper Yona Amos.

Coach Kopunovic has expressed confidence ahead of Pamba Jiji's much-anticipated first match in the top tier after more than two decades.

"We are at home, and of course, we are looking to take our chances and have a good game. Performance is always important, and after the game, we'll talk about the results."

"The first game is always very dangerous, but I am confident. I can promise our fans that on Friday, we will put

up a strong fight," Kopunovic said.

Pamba Jiji wrapped up their pre-season preparations with a 1-1 draw against Aigle Noir on Saturday, during a lively event known as 'Pamba Day.'

Tanzania Prisons, who finished ninth last season with seven wins, 13 draws, and ten losses from 30 matches, are entering their 13th consecutive season in the top flight.

The Mbeya-based team is now under coach Mbwana Makata, who guided

Pamba to promotion before switching sides to take over Prisons.

While Prisons' squad remains largely intact, they have seen a few departures and new arrivals, including the loss of first-choice goalkeeper Yona Amos and left full-back Ibrahim Abraham to Pamba Jiji.

As both teams prepare for the season opener, all eyes will be on Pamba Jiji to see how they fare in their long-awaited return to the NBC Premier League.



Lumumba Primary School pupils training to play hockey at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

TO WHAT USE IS YOUR TIMETABLE?
YOUR BUSES NEVER KEEP TIME.

WELL, HOW WOULD YOU KNOW,
THEY WERE LATE IF IT WASN'T
FOR THE TIMETABLE?

