



Mwinyi for repair of madrasas, wellbeing of religious teachers

Page 3



Credit to private sector registers growth in June, says BoT

Page 4



World coffee producers to convene in Dar

Page 6



Guardian BUSINESS Govt all set to resuscitate non-operational factories

Generative AI

Nigerians turn to AI for creativity

Beyond gorillas, more awaits tourists visiting Kigali

Page 13

Samia: Restore Ngorongoro social services



Commander-in-Chief President Samia Suluhu Hassan in a group photo yesterday with Tanzania People's Defence Force officers who had just participated in field exercises at Pongwe Msungura in Coast Region yesterday as part of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the TPDF. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the restoration of social services in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) following protests by residents.

William Lukuvi, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), made this announcement in a rally bringing people from seven wards, in the area, affirming that this is a directives from the Head of State.

The protests which lasted for five days erupted after a government notice proposed ending social services within the zone gazetted for conservation as part of the conservation area.

The plan, outlined in Government Notice 673 and officially published in the government gazette No. 32, Vol. 105 dated August 2, 2024, involved delisting 11 wards, 25 villages, and 96 sub-villages as part of a broader administrative restructuring.

The minister said that President Samia, taking note of the needs of people of Ngorongoro, had assured them that they will pursue their daily lives.

Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi,

the Legal and Constitutional Affairs minister who accompanied the PMO state minister, urged residents to remain calm and peaceful, underlining that "their rights are protected under the constitution."

"The president has sent us to assure you that nothing will happen to you, as you are the custodians of this government," he said, referring to the pursuit of relocation plans now taking two years.

It is conducted on a voluntary basis, a relocation initiative aimed at moving Ngorongoro residents to areas such as Msomera in Tanga Region for where there is room for farming, construction, health services, schooling and livestock grazing, abandoning the sensitive conservation zone for designated purposes.

A broad part of the residents describe this initiative as an eviction exercise, pointing at cuts in supplies of essential services like water and health facilities, as the notice was adamant that residents who remained in the conservation area would be

TURN TO Page 2

'Ministers must visit rural areas'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has instructed sector ministers to stop using most of their time in office and instead undertake visits to the rural areas to address problems faced by the people.

He made the remarks towards the end of a four-day working tour of the region to inspect various development projects, underlining that development projects must be completed on time and to the required standard.

Delays will result in further action, he said, urging regional and district officials to ensure that they allocate enough time to address challenges impeding implementation of various development projects, to bring relief to the people.

While in Mpwapwa District, he directed ministers for different spheres to set up

TURN TO Page 2

The CSOs Week is for all Tanzanians, from grassroots activists to national business leaders to share insights and experiences, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard in shaping the nation's future

CSOs Week focus: Vision 2050, local govt elections

By Getrude Mbago

STAKEHOLDERS from various civil society organisations (CSOs) will next month meet in Arusha to discuss strategies needed for sustainable development, with preparations for Vision 2050 taking centre stage in discussions.

Justice Rutenge, the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) executive director, said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that key areas of discussion will include efforts to mitigate the unemployment crisis in the country.

The event in the CSOs Week

will similarly focus on expanding civic space in Tanzania, chiefly on the need to enhance citizens' political efficacy and agency, he said, noting that participants will explore how to increase civic engagement in democratic governance processes.

Participation in the upcoming

civic polls will be examined at length, he said, noting that the weeklong schedule is slated for September 9 to 13, bringing together over 500 civil society organisations, private and public

TURN TO Page 2



Tanzania Coffee Board director general Primus Kimaryo (3rd-R), presses a button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch the countdown to the 21st Africa Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition scheduled for February 26 to 28, 2025. Looking on are African Fine Coffees Association board chairman Amir Hamza (5th-R) and other coffee stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

EAC urges easing up of air transport

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African Community (EAC) partner states need to expedite the signing of the EAC air transport market liberalisation) regulations as part of efforts to enhance regional integration and stimulate economic growth.

Andrea Aguer Ariki, the EAC deputy secretary general for infrastructure, productive, social and political sectors, issued this appeal at the 19th meeting of CEOs of civil aviation and airports authorities at the EAC headquarters in Arusha yesterday.

The plea comes in the wake of finishing drawing up draft regulations for a liberal format of air transport in the EAC zone, which the secretariat expects to submit to the sectoral ministerial council on transport, communication and meteorology, seeking that the rules are adopted by the member states.

TURN TO Page 2



CSOs Week in focus: Vision 2050, local govt elections

FROM PAGE 1

firms, non-state actors, faith-based organisations, foundations, trusts and representatives of special groups such as youth, women and people with disabilities.

"The CSOs Week is for all Tanzanians, from grassroots activists to national business leaders to share insights and experiences, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard in shaping the nation's future," he stated.

This is especially needed as the country prepares for Development Vision 2050, local government polls this year and general election next year, he said, underlining that the event emphasizes the importance of civic engagement in the development processes.

FCS has partnerships with a number of support organisations to improve the quality of education and digital skills for youth, women, girls and people with disabilities, he said, pointing at FCS partnership with Vodacom Tanzania Foundation.

This engagement is aimed at addressing the pressing unemployment crisis by equipping these groups with the necessary skills for the job market, while the health infrastructure and equity initiatives programme will target disparities in health services, he explained.

Marginalized communities need to receive equitable access to healthcare, he said, intimating that the CSOs' shadow Vision 2050 will be launched as an alternative National Development Vision.

It is intended to underscore the importance of enhancing the quality of life for Tanzanians, in relation to food security, healthcare, access to energy, clean water supply, housing and sustainable urban development, he specified.

"The annual event, set against the backdrop of significant global and local shifts, seeks to recalibrate its focus and methodologies," he said, explaining that the event recognises the pivotal role of democratic processes in shaping the nation's future.

He saw "the recent peaceful demonstrations" as underscoring a growing demand for transfor-

mation and active civic engagement, signalling the need to amplify voices and enhance political efficacy.

As the world approaches the midpoint of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without substantial progress, the CSO Week will provide a platform for rethinking, refocusing and recharging efforts towards sustainable development, he further noted.

"Therefore, the CSO Week 2024 theme is guided by the principles of vision, voice and value, emphasising collaboration across civil society, government and the private sector for Tanzania's progress and prosperity," the director affirmed.

Nesia Mahenge, the chairperson of the CSOs Week steering committee and CBM International country director, an organisation geared for inclusion of those living with blindness, pointed at private sector engagement as a key feature of this year's event.

Acknowledging that various organisations were supporting the activists' bonanza, she said that the civil society sector works closely with communities to implement interventions that support gender equity, the inclusion of people with disabilities, democracy, youth participation, peace, and social cohesion.

Private sector support for CSO Week reflects a commitment to social justice, sustainable development, and community empowerment, making it a strategic investment in Tanzania's future, she said.

It demonstrates a dedication to nurturing an inclusive, equitable and resilient society, thus the partnerships is crucial for addressing complex societal challenges. Private firms play a vital role in driving meaningful change and sustainable development, she said.

Focusing on delivering tangible benefits to Tanzanians, the 'value' theme seeks to identify actions that make a difference in people's lives through collective efforts. It emphasises commitment to practical outcomes that uplift and empower every citizen, the director added.



Tanzania People's Defence Force officers in jubilant mood at a brief ceremony held yesterday at Pongwe Msungura in Coast Region shortly after field exercises forming part of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the TPDF. Photo: State House

'Ministers must visit rural areas'

FROM PAGE 1

routines of visiting rural areas to tackle development challenges in those areas.

"I urge all government officials to collaborate in solving the citizens' problems rather than staying in offices waiting for reports," he said at a rally, citing example of the need for the Water permanent secretary to address water issues facing residents of the district.

It is unacceptable for Mpwap-

wa, a long-established district, to remain without water, he stated, also encouraging voters to choose leaders committed to development rather than those who are self-serving, in the upcoming local government elections.

"Let us avoid mistakes; let us elect leaders who are dedicated to development and give President Samia Suluhu Hassan another five years," he urged, indirectly focusing the general election late next year.

He similarly instructed the Natural Resources and Tourism minister along with the Lands portfolio holder to visit Mpwapwa in view of developing a land use plan for the Wota Mountain area, suffering significant environmental degradation.

Enhanced environmental conservation in the mountain range is vital as deforestation to expand farms poses a serious threat, he said, urging ministerial collaboration with the

regional secretariat to protect the mountain areas from even more severe environmental damage.

He told the rally that children of school age must be enrolled, asking parents to monitor their progress, whereas the Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Dustan Kitandula bemoaned extensive environmental damage in forest areas and in villages.

"There is severe environmental damage here in Kibakwe," he

said, highlighting the need for areas to be legally protected to ensure that residents preserve natural vegetation.

Upwards of 200 beehives will be provided to youth groups for honey production, to generate income and support environmental conservation, as the Chinese market has room for 38m tonnes of honey, the VP stated.

This presents a significant opportunity for youth to engage in beekeeping to increase their incomes, he added.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Cosato Chumi (L), who is in Tokyo to attend the two-day Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) ministerial meeting, has an audience with Japanese Foreign Affairs deputy minister Kyoto Tsuji in the Japanese capital yesterday. Photo: Foreign Affairs ministry

EAC urges easing up of air transport

FROM PAGE 1

He appealed for the signing and ratification of the regulations by the partner states, after which the partner states would negotiate regional air transport bilateral arrangements under the Multilateral Air Services Agreement, identified with the Chicago Convention of 1944 and forming part of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) institutional foundations.

Liberalising the air transport market is expected to lower air-

fares, stimulate demand for air travel, improve connectivity, increase operational efficiency, reduce flying time and support air transport capacities as part of the regional economy, he stated.

Liberalisation of air transport would not only facilitate easier movement of people and goods but also boost tourism and trade among member states, he said, insisting that an integrated air transport market is essential for the development of the region.

"By removing barriers to air

travel, we can enhance competitiveness and attract investment in the region," he said, urging that the forthcoming sectoral council meeting looks into the possibility of harmonising regulatory fees and charges within the spirit of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

They also need to designate the EAC air transport market as domestic for EAC-based registered air operators and apply charges applicable to domestic parties, thus lowering passenger tariffs.

"The cost of airfares in the re-

gion has caused a public outcry that needs to be addressed," he stated, appealing to the CEOs to implement the agreed programmes and projects within their domain.

This includes the ratification of model regulations to foster the development and integration of the civil aviation and air transport industry, also focusing on the modalities for reducing regional airfares.

The secretariat in collaboration with the partner states was drawing up possible mechanisms for lowering the cost of air-



By removing barriers to air travel, we can enhance competitiveness and attract investment in the region

fares, forming consultative committees by partner states to guide consultation exercises, depending on decisions of the sectoral council, he added.

Samia: Restore Ngorongoro social services

FROM PAGE 1

excluded from local government elections in November and the next general election.

The Maasai community in Ngorongoro organized sustained protests for several days along the Ngorongoro-Serengeti highway, demanding that the government "recognize and uphold their fundamental rights."

The protest emerged "after years of grievances related to restricted access to social services, physical harassment, and violations of land rights," local speakers intoned, with community frustration leading to setting up roadblocks on major roads at 6:00am. "For far too long, our voices have been silenced, and our rights have been trampled upon," one declared. "We don't block this main road by choice; we are forced to do it!" The group was calling for meaningful dialogue with authorities to address their grievances, appealing to the wider public to support "their fight for justice."

The government has for years excluded the building of settlements, education and health suspended social services, after noticing that population growth puts in peril the conservation area's future prospects.

In response to the protests, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) issued a statement, which quickly went viral on social media, with public relations manager Hamis Dambaya stating that tourism activities within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area remain unaffected.

"Local and foreign tourists are proceeding with their trips to experience the park's renowned attractions," he said in a statement, underlining that the government has assured the safety of all visitors amidst the protests.

The NCAAAS was monitoring social media to communicate to the international community and human rights organizations that there are no incidents of violence in the park.

Sympathetic observers said that the peaceful demonstration, aimed at demanding the recognition of traditional rights, had 'inadvertently' affected tourism.

Mwinyi for repair of madrasas, wellbeing of religious teachers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has underscored the need for the government to closely look at the poor infrastructure of madrasas and welfare of religious teachers and imams.

He made the remarks yesterday during a meeting with senior leaders and members of the Zanzibar Council of Ulama who paid a courtesy call to State House Zanzibar.

Dr Mwinyi said that the infrastructure of madrasas, and the welfare of madrasa teachers and imams in the isles needed immediate action for improvement.

He suggested that it would be beneficial for the government, in collaboration with religious institutions, to explore effective ways to address and resolve the challenges.

On the issue of moral decay in society, Dr Mwinyi commended the council for its continued efforts to educate people despite the scale of the problem.

Furthermore, he praised the council's leadership and members for their work in providing marriage

education to couples and marriage registrars in Unguja and Pemba, something which he said greatly helped reduce marital problems and conflicts.

He encouraged the council to maintain its role in promoting peace and stability by using a unified voice through their leaders, imams and politicians on their platforms to foster national unity and cohesion.

Zanzibar Mufti Sheikh Saleh Omar Kaab commended Dr Mwinyi's development efforts which he said bring hope to Zanzibaris.

He promised strong support from the council particularly in matters concerning national cohesion, peace and stability.

Sheikh Khalid Ali Mfaume, executive secretary in the Mufti's Office in Zanzibar, noted that among the council's responsibilities are advising and assisting Mufti of Zanzibar, providing education to madrasa teachers, couples, and marriage registrars, issuing certificates upon completing training and resolving various religious issues, including issuing fatwas on community challenges.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with other Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Shura Magomeni Mosque in Unguja Urban District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Govt advocates arbitration to heighten dispute resolution

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has highlighted the importance of arbitration as a more effective means of resolving disputes compared to traditional litigation, both for local and foreign investors.

Jumane Sagini, Deputy Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, made the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of the 7th Annual Arbitration Conference which brought together both local and international arbitrators.

He said this year's theme 'Navigating Complexities: Resolving Construction and International Investment Disputes' resonates profoundly in a world that increasingly relies on effective dispute resolution mechanisms to foster social, economic and political stability.

Sagini emphasized that arbitration plays a crucial role in this context, allowing parties to choose their arbitrators, customize procedures and achieve resolutions that can mend relationships and advance projects.

"We encourage stakeholders to use alternative dispute resolution to avoid delays and wastage of time in the traditional litigation. The government acknowledges the contribution of the Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators (TIArb) as a preferred dispute resolution mechanism, developing and standardizing arbitration practices and training," he said.

"TIArb facilitates efficient dispute resolution services, advocates for legal reforms and supports economic growth by fostering a robust arbitration sys-

tem," he added.

He said construction projects, whether domestic or international, are prone to disputes due to their complexity, adding that challenges such as project delays, cost overruns, compliance issues and quality concerns are common in the construction sector.

According to him, the scale and intricacy of such projects require an arbitration process that is both robust and adaptable.

"To address these complexities, we must improve our arbitration frameworks. This involves devel-

oping a pool of specialized arbitrators with the necessary technical expertise and experience to handle detailed aspects of construction disputes," he said.

He said such expertise is vital to ensure that arbitration decisions are both fair and informed by a thorough understanding of industry standards and demands.

Sagini said that international investment disputes present their own set of challenges, often involving issues related to international law, state sovereignty and treaty obligations, adding that disputes

were significant because they affect investor confidence and global economic relations.

TIArb honorary secretary Usaje Mwambene said that the institute was focused on construction because it is a fast-growing sector in the country.

He said the institute has also focused on investment to bring more confidence to international investors investing in different projects.

"At this juncture, we have focused on the construction sector because it is exponentially growing."



Industry and Trade minister Selemani Jafo (R) pictured yesterday having a word with investors when touring various industries in Tanga Region, the focus being on assessing how they were faring and the challenges they were contending with. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Minister wants investors to revitalise idle factories

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MINISTER for Industry and Trade Dr Selemani Jafo has directed investors who acquired factories during the privatisation period over 40 years ago to start developing them immediately.

According to him, some investors took factories for further development but converted them into warehouses, arguing that such practices do not benefit the national economy.

In 1986, the government embarked on its first comprehensive adjustment programme. One of the central elements of the government's reform agenda was a privatization programme. During 1994-1998, Tanzania privatized about 270 public enterprises.

He made the remarks during a visit to Tanga Region where he toured factories and engaged with traders and factory owners. The visit aimed at observing their production processes, understanding their challenges and strategising on resolving issues in collaboration with relevant institutions.

Dr Jafo said that his ministry, in collaboration with the President's Office (Planning and Investment) as well as the Treasury Registrar's Office was working to ensure that factories are revitalised and resume operations to contribute to the economy.

"In Tanga Region, some factories perform well while others do not. I am dissatisfied with those who acquired

factories during privatisation but have left them idle. Turning the factories into warehouses or using them merely as collateral for loans deprives Tanzanians of employment and results in loss of national revenue," he said.

According to him, efforts will be made to address the challenges faced and restore Tanga Region's status as an industrial hub, restoring its glory during the first phase of government.

The minister also directed the Weight and Measures Agency (WMA) to inspect all electricity meters in factories to ensure accurate readings and that producers, traders, consumers and the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) receive their due entitlements.

Regarding the issue of inadequate electricity supply, Dr Jafo noted the government was making efforts to tackle the problem.

He said that the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) was nearing completion and would lead to a significant improvement in electricity generation. During his visit, minister Jafo inspected Wilmar Tanzania Limited soap factory, AFRITEX garment factory, Tanga Fresh milk factory, Pembe Flour Mills and Kilimanjaro Cement factory.

Tanga District Commissioner Jafari Kubecha said that improvements in the business environment, including the expansion of Tanga port, were expected to rejuvenate industries and contribute to increased income in the region.

Another lot of 367 leaves Ngorongoro 'voluntarily'

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

ANOTHER group of 367 people who resided within Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) yesterday "voluntarily" left the area for Msomera Village in Tanga Region to pave way for conservation activities.

Chief conservation officer at NCAA Flora Assey presented a de-

tailed report to Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Benedict Wakulyamba during a ceremony to bid farewell to the residents.

The residents are from Olpiro, Masamburai, Kapenjiro, Naiyobi and Nainokanoka villages. They were reportedly provided with 10m/- each as compensation for their relocation.

"This amount is deposited into

their accounts one day after their arrival," she said.

The decision aims to motivate residents who voluntarily relocate to build new homes, distinct from the three-room houses provided by the government.

"Residents who continue to voluntarily relocate are doing so at a rapid pace. As of yesterday, a total of 79 households with 367 people and 995 livestock relocated to Msomera Vil-

lage in Handeni District, and to other areas of their choice," she added.

Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner Daniel Chegere said that NCAA was continuing with efforts to educate residents on the importance of voluntary leaving the conservation area.

In his remarks, the deputy PS stated that the departure of this group is part of implementation of the plan to conserve the NCAA.

He added that the relocation exercise aims to improve the living conditions of residents and provide them with economic opportunities outside the conservation area. "The decision you made today demonstrates your understanding of conservation challenges and shows your wisdom in moving to enhance your lives while preserving the unique Ngorongoro Conservation Area which is exceptional in Africa and the world," he

said. Wakulyamba emphasised the importance of adhering to relocation procedures to avoid potential challenges and ensure that residents become legal occupants of their new plots. Since the start of the process in June 2022 until this month, a total of 1,598 households with 9,618 people and 39,779 livestock have relocated to Msomera Village and other areas.



These are not would-be voters waiting for their turns to cast ballots but would-be passengers waiting for Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) transport at Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stand in Ubungu municipality yesterday – all because of a chronic shortage of buses that has, thus far, all but defied logic. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Credit to private sector registers steady growth in June, says BoT

By Guardian Reporter

CREDIT extended to Tanzania's private sector by financial institutions grew to 17.2 percent in June, this year compared to the 16.5 percent registered in the preceding month, indicating steady improvement according to Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

The BoT's monthly economic review for June however shows that the rate was lower than the 21.3 percent documented in the corresponding period in the previous year.

"The steady credit growth underscores the private sector's continued demand for financing to sustain economic activities and support investments," the BoT report says.

Money supply continued to grow, albeit at a slower pace, aligning with the current monetary policy stance.

The deceleration reflects measures taken by the bank to moderate liquidity to maintain inflation at the targeted levels.

Credit extended to agricultural activities continued to register the highest growth, trailed by manufacturing, mining and quarrying.

During the period under review, credit growth in Tanzania's agriculture sector year on year remained strong at 53.1 percent compared to 40.6 percent in the corresponding period last year.

However, on month to month,

the BoT report shows that for three consecutive months, credit growth slowed down, signalling a weakening demand for loans within the industry.

For example, last April credit growth to agriculture was strong at 60.6 percent the highest since December 2019, in May it was 55.7 percent and in June it was 53.1 percent.

The BoT attributes this credit growth to government measures aimed at improving the sector's environment and creating favourable conditions for investment.

Personal loans, largely utilised by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), remained a major driver of private sector credit growth and accounted for the largest share of total credit extended to the private sector at 37.2 percent.

In general, interest rates charged by banks on loans decreased compared to the rates recorded in the preceding month while those offered on deposits recorded a marginal increase. As a result, the spread between one-year lending and deposit interest rates continued to narrow, reaching 6.31 percentage points from 6.83 percentage points recorded in May 2024.

This performance reflects improved efficiency in the banking sector's intermediation process and an easing of credit risk in the market.

China's panda bonds billed 'reliable' financing option for Africa at summit

NAIROBI

AFRICAN countries can easily raise financing by issuing "stable and reliable" green panda bonds, an executive of China's central bank has told a summit in Nairobi, as Beijing steps up its internationalisation of the Chinese currency.

"We welcome Africa to launch green bonds in China to raise stable and RMB-based financing from the Chinese market," said Ji Min, director general of the People's Bank of

China counsellor's office.

Speaking at the 2024 China-Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Summit on Wednesday, Jin described the bonds as a "reliable and predictable source of funds" and noted that Egypt last year became the first African nation to issue green panda bonds.

Facing an economic crisis and consequently fewer US dollars and other hard currencies, Egypt floated a three-year sustainability panda bond worth 3.5 billion yuan (US\$478 mil-

lion) in October.

Panda bonds - typically denominated in yuan and issued in China by non-Chinese organisations, including governments and corporations - have gained traction as traders and countries seek to diversify from an over-reliance on the US dollar.

More than 150 billion yuan worth of panda bonds were issued in China last year, with the number of issuers increasing by more than 80 per cent year on year, according to Chinese data.

Ji also told the summit that the yuan could play a bigger role in trade and cooperation between African countries and China, with opportunities for currency swaps and cross-border settlements.

Beijing has been encouraging the use of local currencies as part of its bid to de-dollarise the continent. The Bank of China said last year that its Zambian division would boost the yuan as a trading currency in Africa.

Also last year, South Africa's biggest lender, Standard Bank,

and China's largest state-owned bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, renewed a long-standing partnership that facilitates use of the Chinese currency across 15 African markets.

Use of the yuan as a trading currency has also increased dramatically in other parts of the world. More countries - including Brazil, Argentina, Iraq and Pakistan - are accepting Chinese trade payments in yuan.

Saudi Arabia is said to be con-

sidering oil trade with China using the yuan. Use of the Chinese currency has also increased dramatically in Russia-China trade, because of Western sanctions on Moscow in the wake of its invasion of Ukraine.

The Nairobi summit heard that Beijing is ready to export its financial inclusion model - which saw the creation of fintech giants such as Tencent and Ant Group - to Africa, where it could serve as a guide.

Ji said Chinese authorities gave fintech companies the

room to grow with a "tolerant, open and supportive" regulatory environment.

Africa could achieve similar success if countries accelerated digital financial inclusion through regulatory reforms that encouraged financing for small, medium and micro enterprises, as well as agribusiness, he said.

"We should go beyond large-scale projects," said Ji, referring to the need to fund more small businesses serving a broader population.

Last elephant at SA zoo free after 40 years

JOHANNESBURG

THE last elephant in South Africa's national zoo has been released back into the wild after 40 years of captivity.

The elephant, named Charlie, was captured in 1984 from Zimbabwe's Hwange national park when he was two years old.

He was taken to Boswell Wilkie Circus in South Africa and trained to perform tricks. In the early 2000s he was transferred to the country's national zoo.

In recent years, animal welfare groups have pushed for the elephant to be freed due to concern for his health.

On Tuesday, EMS Foundation, which advocates for the rights of wildlife, announced that after "a nail-biting four-hour trip to freedom" the elephant had arrived at his new home at the Shambala Private Reserve in Limpopo province.

It said the "historic event" followed years of negotiation with the South African government, after EMS Foundation and its partners provided scientific evidence to show that elephants suffer in zoos.

At the zoo, Charlie the elephant is said to have witnessed the death of four other elephants, including his own calf which was less than a month old.

In 2019, concerns were raised that the elephant was showing signs of distress common with animals in captivity.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute, which runs the zoo, denied it, saying it was behaviour learnt from years of circus life that would never be completely unlearned. EMS Foundation said this was "inaccurate."

On Tuesday, animal welfare organisation Four Paws, which collaborated with EMS Foundation, said the elephant's "retirement was an important milestone for elephant Charlie but also for better animal welfare in South Africa."

"Together with our partners, we have been working tirelessly to end the loneliness of Charlie to see him thrive in his new species appropriate home," said Josef Pfabigan, Four Paws chief executive.

The elephant's new home is a 10,000-hectare reserve with a thriving population of elephants, known to successfully reintegrate animals back into the wild.

While there, Charlie will be closely monitored by veterinary and behavioural experts.

"Our dream is that at his own pace, Charlie will learn to be the elephant he was always meant to be, and that soon, he will meet up and integrate into the existing elephant community on Shambala," EMS Foundation said.



Primus Msele, a director with a Tanga hotel, contributes to discussions at an NMB Business Club meeting, which included various businessmen in the city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Assenga

Mozambique unveils extreme weather early warning system

LILONGWE

MOZAMBIQUE is taking a leading role in a global initiative to enhance protection against increasingly severe weather-related hazards, exacerbated by climate change.

In a ministerial ceremony held in the capital, Maputo yesterday, President Filipe Nyusi unveiled an ambitious national roadmap aimed at achieving "Early Warnings for All" by the end of 2027.

The plan includes a substantial investment to improve fundamental weather and climate observations that are critical for effective early warning systems.

"Mozambique faces constant threats from disasters, especially those driven by extreme natural phenomena such as floods, cyclones, and droughts. These events often result in significant human loss and extensive damage to infrastructure and the environment," Nyusi, who serves as an African Union Champion on Disaster Risk Management, stated during the launch.

Located on Africa's south-east coast, Mozambique is frequently hit by tropical cyclones from the Indian Ocean, leading to severe coastal and inland flooding. With over 60 percent of its population living in low-

lying areas and heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture, the country faces heightened risks to both infrastructure and livelihoods. Climate change has exacerbated these challenges, leading to substantial losses and damages.

"Advance notice can significantly reduce the loss of life and mitigate harm," Nyusi emphasized. He praised the efforts of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Mozambique's National Meteorological and Hydrological Service, highlighting the critical role of early warning systems.

WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo acknowledged Mo-

zambique's progress but noted the challenges. "Mozambique has made notable strides towards Early Warnings for all, with a proven track record of saving lives.

However, Tropical Cyclone Idai in March 2019 resulted in 603 deaths and US\$ 3 billion in damages, while Tropical Cyclone Freddy in early 2023 caused 183 deaths and US\$ 176 million in economic losses," Saulo said. "Together, we can build a future where Mozambique is not only prepared for hazardous events but also resilient against them."

Mozambique's efforts are part of the broader Early Warn-

ings for All initiative, led by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Launched nationally in November 2023, the initiative is being implemented with support from the National Institute for Disaster Management, the National Institute of Meteorology, the National Communication Institute, the Mozambican Red Cross, and the UN Resident Coordinator's office.

The Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Roadmap outlines a comprehensive framework for a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, integrating weather and climate data collection, forecasting, early warning im-

provements, and climate adaptation planning.

A major challenge has been the financing and maintenance of weather observation networks. Mozambique's National Institute of Meteorology has historically depended on government budgets and international projects, but limited resources have restricted network access and upkeep.

To address this, the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) has committed US\$ 7.8 million to install six new land surface stations, upgrade 15 existing stations, and establish four upper-air stations. This investment aims to align Mo-

zambique with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) standards, enhancing weather and climate services crucial for early warnings.

"This investment is both timely and crucial," Saulo said in a video statement. "The country lost 75 percent of its monitoring stations during the 2000 floods and has been working to modernize and expand since then. SOFF's support will bolster Mozambique's One District One Weather Station initiative, improving national meteorological and hydrological services and enhancing forecasting and early warning systems."

Zanzibar sees 16pc increase in visitors in July, Italians top list

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A TOTAL of 68,223 tourists visited Zanzibar in July 2024, marking a 16.2 percent increase compared to the 58,711 visitors who arrived in July 2023.

Italy topped the list with 7,703 visitors, accounting for 11.3 percent of all visitors, followed by France with 5,442 visitors (8.0 percent).

Hassan Ameer Vuai, research and tourism officer at the Commission for Tourism, disclosed the figures yesterday here while presenting tourist arrival statistics for July this year.

He said United Kingdom (UK) was third with 5,090 visitors (7.5 percent), Germany fourth with 4,587 visitors (6.7 percent), and Poland fifth with 4,519 visitors, representing 6.6 percent.

He reported that a total of 45,293 visitors arrived from Europe, accounting for 66.4 percent, followed by Africa with 8,638 visitors or 12.7 percent. Asia was third with 8,022 visitors, representing 11.2 percent, and Oceania had 731 visitors, or 1.1 percent.

He added that 60,178 visitors,

or 88.2 percent, entered Zanzibar through airports, while 8,045 visitors, or 11.8 percent, arrived via seaport.

"Of the visitors, 34,818 (51.0 percent) were male and 33,405 (49.0 percent) were female," he said.

Additionally, he stated that 99.1 percent of the visitors came for leisure, 0.5 percent visited friends and relatives and 0.4 percent came for other reasons such as business and meetings.

Shami Chamicha, assistant manager in charge of economics at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) -Zanzibar branch, noted that the growth in the tourism sector was strengthening the isles' economy and improving the wellbeing of its residents.

Shariff Bakar Shariff, Public Relations Officer at the Zanzibar Immigration Department, reported that the department had enhanced its services, including upgrading electronic systems to facilitate easier visa applications for both residents and visitors.

He added that the improvements have helped reduce inconveniences for applicants both within and outside Zanzibar.



Prisons officers lead former police officers facing theft and other charges to the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday in connection with the case. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

World coffee producers to convene in Dar to discuss production expansion

By Correspondent Joseph Mwenda-pole

OVER 2,000 coffee producers and stakeholders from around the globe are set to gather in Dar es Salaam early next year to discuss advancements in the industry and explore ways to enhance it.

Announcing the 21st Africa Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition in Dar es Salaam yesterday,

Amir Hamza, chairman of the Board of African Fine Coffee Association (AFCA) said the meeting is scheduled to take place from February 26-28, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.

Hamza said that the conference and exhibition are the largest coffee business platforms in Africa, drawing more than 2,000 participants from both within Africa and beyond each year.

He said the event will unite coffee

producers, traders, roasters and stakeholders from the public and private sectors, including government representatives.

Hamza noted that the conference returns to Tanzania after last being held here in 2016.

He emphasised the significance of Tanzania's coffee subsector, stating that such conferences showcase the exceptional quality of African coffees and reinforce the commitment of nations to

foster growth and cooperation in the industry.

The theme of the 21st Conference is "Reviving the Increase in Value," and it will feature a roster of prominent international and regional speakers.

The exhibition will highlight recent innovations and developments in the coffee sector. Attendees can participate in workshops offering discussions, unique coffee-tasting opportuni-

ties, and special tours to learn about coffee cultivation.

Additionally, the conference will include competitions for African coffee producers and a contest for the best coffee in the region, aimed at showcasing exceptional talent and coffee products from across the continent.

Primus Kimaryo, director general of Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), described the conference as a unique opportunity for Tanzani-

an coffee farmers to present their produce and explore new markets. He noted that coffee production in Tanzania has been increasing and emphasised the potential for farmers to capitalise on improving global coffee prices.

"This event provides a platform for farmers to find new markets and enhance coffee quality. With global coffee prices improving, they should seize this opportunity to reach broader markets," he said.



Small traders wait for potential customers under the Ubungo interchange flyover in Dar es Salaam yesterday even as business is not allowed at the spot. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

AfDB to inaugurate funding for urban sanitation in Africa

STOCKHOLM

THE African Water Facility is set to launch Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative (AUSII) on the sidelines of the World Water Week from Monday to Friday next week in Stockholm, Sweden.

The facility, hosted by the African Development Bank Group, is the only project preparation and promotion facility solely dedicated to water and sanitation in Africa.

The Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative will function as a new financing window for urban sanitation within the African Water Facility, addressing the sanitation challenges in African cities.

Despite sanitation being a fundamental human right, critical to public health, environmental sustainability, and overall well-being, Africa has one of the lowest access rates in the world.

An estimated 779 million people on the continent lack basic sanitation services, 208 million still practice open defecation, and 839 million lack basic hygiene services. The African Development Bank estimates that every year, the number of people without access to urban sanitation increases by more than 10 million, due to rapid population growth.

The African Water Facility will, through the new sanitation financing window, mobilise and deploy financing, prepare bankable and investment-ready projects, and implement innovative and inclusive approaches such as the city-wide inclusive sanitation approach, which promotes tailor-made sanitation solutions for neighbourhoods and cities.

Over the next ten years, the Facility aims to provide 15 million people with safely-managed sanitation services through 50 projects, and attract \$7 billion in additional investments.

The launch is open to African water ministers, and representatives of donor institutions, observers, partners, development finance institutions, regional and river basin organisations, the private sector and media.

Fear of maize contamination in Zambia after 400 dogs die

LUSAKA

AN alarming number of 400 dogs are thought to have died over the past month in Zambia after eating contaminated maize and humans could be at risk too, the country's health minister has said.

Elijah Muchima announced that approximately half of the 25 samples taken from milling companies were found to contain exceedingly high levels of aflatoxins, a poisonous substance produced by fungi.

Maize is the staple food in Zambia and Muchima said the test results were "of great concern due to the several health im-

plications for the population."

The World Health Organization (WHO) said there was evidence aflatoxins can cause liver cancer in humans.

Authorities launched an investigation into the nation's maize supply after Diamond TV, a Zambian broadcaster, found dozens of dogs had died from aflatoxin poisoning.

It was suspected they died after eating dog food containing contaminated maize.

In their investigation, the authorities took samples from 10 milling companies that make maize-based dog food and also process the grain to make maize meal, which is consumed by humans.

The health ministry has not reported any human deaths resulting from contaminated maize. However sources at the Zambia National Public Health Institute say they are currently trying to ascertain if the spoiled grains have had an impact on the general public.

Following the authorities' investigation, "affected batches" of maize meal have been recalled and seizure notices have been issued to "affected companies," Muchima said.

He did not name these companies or any specific maize meal brands.

Prior to Diamond TV's report, only Farmfeed, a dog-food processing company, had

recalled its products.

In his press briefing on Tuesday, Muchima said climate change and the impact of Zambia's recent drought had "exacerbated the occurrence of aflatoxin this season."

Like much of southern Africa, Zambia was hit by a severe drought earlier this year. An estimated one million subsistence farmers experienced damaged crops and maize supplies in the country are still critically low.

Maize provides around 60 percent of the population's daily calorie intake, according to the US agriculture department, causing politicians and the public to worry about the contaminated batches.

"Govt says 400 dogs have died due to toxins in some brands of (maize) meal. I am a victim too. I lost over 6 big dogs over a period of 1 week," Sunday Chanda, an opposition member of parliament, wrote on social media platform X.

The government is still investigating how wide the toxic maize has spread. Listen, the bad maize meal is still out there being consumed.

Another Zambian X user questioned why the health minister had not named the maize meal brands that were being recalled.

"We have the right to know what we're feeding our families," they wrote.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses a rally at Mtondo village in Nambilanje ward, Ruangwa District, on Thursday. Photo: PMO

Botswana unveils online learning platform to modernise education

GABORONE

BOTSWANA has launched Learning Passport, an innovative online platform that aims to bridge the learning gap and transform education sector in the southern African country.

Addressing delegates and students of Mogoditshane Senior Secondary School in the national capital of Gaborone, Douglas Letsholathebe, minister for education and skills development, said the program was developed by the ministry in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Microsoft to address the country's challenges of lack of equitable access to education, particularly the use of information and communications technology as a platform for learning, especially in remote areas.

"The Botswana Learning Passport is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at providing accessible and quality education to all children and those in disadvantaged communities around the country," he said.

According to Letsholathebe, the system can hold and provide content for all curriculum subjects, including e-library services, revision materials, and learner performance tracking. It will supplement traditional classroom learning and empower students to take charge of their education, allowing them to learn at their own pace and on their own time.

Joan Matji, UNICEF representative to Botswana and the Southern African Development Community, said the Learning Passport will help bridge the digital divide by providing equitable learning opportunities to all children, regardless of their geographical location or socioeconomic background.

Thailand confirms first Asian case of 'deadlier' mpox strain

BANGKOK

THAILAND yesterday announced its first confirmed case of a new, potentially deadlier strain of Mpox - the first in Asia, and third outside of Africa.

According to Thailand's Department of Disease Control, the infected 66-year-old European man arrived in Bangkok from an unnamed African country on 14 August.

He began displaying symptoms

the next day, and immediately went to hospital. It has since been confirmed he had contracted mpox, and in particular the strain known as Clade 1b.

At least 450 people have died from mpox in an outbreak centred in the Democratic Republic of Congo which started last year.

It has since spread to a number of nearby countries - including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, all of which were previously unaffected

by mpox.

Now a more worrying strain of mpox called Clade 1b has been identified in the east of the DRC, which is being spread along the border and into neighbouring countries.

Sweden was the first place outside of the African continent to confirm a case of Clade 1b a week ago. The infected man had also recently travelled to an unnamed African country, Sweden's public health ministry said at the time. Another case was

confirmed in Pakistan.

The infection in Thailand is the first confirmed case of Clade 1b in Asia.

Mpox is transmitted through close contact, such as sex, skin-to-skin contact and talking or breathing close to another person - but it is nowhere near as infectious as other viruses like Covid and measles.

But the spread of the new variant and its high fatality rate in parts of Africa has sparked concern among

scientists, and led the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare it a public health emergency of international concern.

Outbreaks can be controlled by spreading awareness of the disease, tracking close contacts and 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.

Vaccines in Africa are in short sup-

ply, but there are plans for millions of doses to arrive in the DRC in the next week or so.

In Thailand, the Department of Disease Control has tracked down some 43 patients who were sitting in the rows near the unidentified man, and those who met him after he landed.

They will all be monitored for 21 days.

Thailand is also requiring people travelling from 42 "risk countries" to

AfriCircular innovators programme names 30 SMEs to receive financing

ABIDJAN

THE AfriCircular Innovators Programme has selected 30 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to receive financing and technical assistance to scale up circular economy initiatives.

The inaugural cohort, drawn from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Rwanda, participated in an online onboarding event recently in Abidjan.

The AfriCircular Innovators Programme, which is supported by African Development Bank (AfDB)'s Africa Circular Economy Facility (ACEF) and being implemented in partnership with the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA), aims to support innovative circular economy solutions that foster sustainable and inclusive growth.

Micro, small and medium enterprises represent 80 percent of Africa's businesses, while the circular economy in Africa has the potential to generate 11 million jobs.

The 30 selected enterprises will receive support to scale their circular initiatives within the five "big bets", the sectors identified by ACEA for their high potential in job creation and economic growth: packaging, food systems, built environment, electronics, fashion and textile.

Among the beneficiaries are enterprises developing smart energy me-

tering, reimagining the construction industry using coconut husks, transforming plastic waste into durable construction blocks, and digitalizing the collection and processing of e-waste.

Ndintambwe Feeds Limited, a Rwandan company that produces affordable animal feeds using insects and maggots as an environmentally-friendly alternative to soybean and fishmeal, is one of the selected businesses. Speaking at the event, the founder, Jean Bosco Nshutiymana said, "As an SME, we face numerous challenges. The biggest ones include limited financial capacity to fully implement our project, and the lack of required skills to sustain a profitable recycling business without harming the environment."

Koumbem Fatou Emilienne, representative of Siboré Luxury Hair, another beneficiary, said: "Joining AfriCircular's Innovators Program offers a valuable opportunity for Siboré Luxury Hair, aligned with our commitment to sustainability."

He added: "Through this programme, we will benefit from the expertise and resources needed to optimize our production processes, and reduce waste and improve energy efficiency. Financial support and access to cutting-edge technologies will strengthen our production capacity and positive environmental impact."



Riziki Pembe Juma (R), Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children minister, speaks during an inspection tour of progress in the renovation a care facility for the elderly at Sebuleni on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tech innovations offer hope for burdened African health system

NAIROBI

OVERCROWDING in African hospitals is blamed on the scarcity of health facilities and doctors, especially in rural areas.

According to the United Nations, there is only one doctor for every 5,000 people in Africa, a continent that bears 25 percent of the global disease burden. But with the number of mobile phone users on the rise, some technological innovations are helping to bridge the doctor-patient gap and expand health care cov-

erage.

Yaw Asamoah is head of MedPharma Care in Ghana. The company has developed an app that allows patients to connect face-to-face with doctors and pharmacies online so they can get medicine in their homes.

He says the system improves patients' experiences when they seek health care services.

"That's where MedPharma care comes in to see how we can digitize the whole idea of health care bringing telemed-

icine to people either [to] have e-consultation, e-prescription, get their medicine delivered to them wherever they are, either at the office or at home... do their diagnostic remotely," Asamoah said.

The World Health Organization says 57 countries are suffering from a critical shortage of health personnel, 36 of them in Africa.

The 2001 Abuja Declaration requires that African Union countries allocate 15 percent of their annual budgets to health, a requirement most governments have yet

to fulfill.

Funding and infrastructure issues have blocked millions of Africans' access to quality health care, but experts say digital tools could improve access to services in hard-to-reach areas that lack doctors.

Mountaga Keita is a Guinean-born businessman who invented three portable diagnostic terminals which can monitor a patient's temperature, blood pressure, heart function and conduct ultrasounds.

"The benefit of that is the ease it brings to doctors and

patients instead of clogging hospitals," Keita said. "Now the doctors or nurses can get to the patient collected data and send the data in a very secure manner to the hospitals, and people can analyze and bring it back to the patient."

Keita has so far deployed 40 kits to different hospitals in Guinea.

According to Keita, the diagnostic terminals have attracted the attention of other countries like Gabon, which has requested six machines.

He is in talks with the governments of Burkina Faso, Ivory

Coast, and Senegal to supply the kits there.

Keita said his technology can help solve the doctor-to-patient ratio problem and save patients money.

"With this kind of technology, all the vital signs of a patient, forward it in a very secure manner, encrypted to a specialist who is in Tunisia, who is in Kenya, who is in Tokyo, Paris to interpret and bring the result," he said.

"Then we know if we are supposed to spend that 45,000 euros to evacuate or if we can locally cure

the person."

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, telemedicine has grown expansively and gained attention in Africa.

Asamoah said telemedicine provides access to many doctors who specialize in different diseases, easing the burden on health care facilities.

"In a normal circumstance, if you went to a clinic in Ghana, you wanted to talk to a specialized consultant, you might probably not get either because they don't have, they haven't booked you, or they are not available," he said.

Second-largest diamond carat found in Botswana

GABORONE

THE world's second-largest diamond ever found - a rough 2,492-carat stone - has been unearthed in Botswana at a mine owned by Canadian firm Lucara Diamond.

It is the biggest find since the 3,106-carat Cullinan diamond, found in South Africa in 1905 and cut into nine separate stones, many of which are in the British Crown Jewels.

The diamond was found at Karowe mine, about 500km (300 miles) north of Botswana's capital, Gaborone.

Botswana's government said it was the largest diamond ever discovered in the southern African state.

The previous biggest discovery in Botswana was a 1,758-carat stone found at the same mine in 2019.

Botswana is one of the world's biggest producer of diamonds, accounting for about 20 percent of global production.

In a statement, Lucara said the stone was "one of the largest rough diamonds ever unearthed".

"We are ecstatic about the recovery of this extraordinary 2,492 carat diamond," said Lucara head William Lamb.

The firm did not give details of the stone's gem quality or its value.

The diamond was detected with the use of Lucara's Mega Diamond Recovery X-ray technology, said Mr Lamb.

It has been used since 2017 to detect and preserve high-value diamonds so that they do not break during ore-crushing processes, according to the Miningmx publication.

Lucara has 100 percent ownership of the mine in Karowe.

Botswana's government has proposed a law that will ask companies, once granted a license to mine, to sell a 24 percent stake to local firms if the government does not exercise its option of becoming a shareholder, Reuters news agency reported last month.



Inspector Dr Christina Onyango, training coordinator with the Ilala Regional Police Gender and Children's Desk, speaks at a capacity building seminar for police officers held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The thrust was on the importance of a campaign aimed at protecting students from gender-based violence. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

IOM seeks \$18.5million to support African migrants affected by Mpox

NAIROBI

THE United Nations migration agency has appealed for \$18.5million to provide critical healthcare services to populations at high risk of being affected by mpox in East, Horn and Southern Africa.

Amy Pope, director general of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said the funds will also be used to provide healthcare

services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in the region.

"We must act swiftly to protect those at the highest risk and to mitigate the impact of this outbreak on the region," Pope said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

She said the spread of mpox disease, which has emerged as a public health emergency of international

concern amid a surge in cross-border transmissions, is a critical concern, especially for vulnerable migrants, highly mobile populations, and displaced communities often overlooked in such crises.

The IOM said the required funds will be used to enhance the capacity to respond to the needs of migrants, IDPs, and host communities by supporting infection, prevention, and control measures, particu-

larly at borders.

The UN agency said the funding will be used to build the capacity of national healthcare workers and front-line responders and enable the identification of high-risk areas to ensure effective monitoring of the disease and reduce its spread across borders.

Mpox is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus that is spread through close con-

tact, including fever, swelling of the lymph nodes, sore throat, muscle aches, skin rash, and back pain.

The rapid spread of the new strain of the disease led the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare mpox a public health emergency of international concern on August 14.

According to the WHO, there are over 15,000 suspected cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

alone, including 537 deaths. Other cases have been confirmed in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda.

The IOM said it is concerned about migrants, IDPs, and highly mobile populations in the region, who tend to be at far greater risk of infection due to their living conditions and mobile and transitory lifestyles, which can greatly limit their access to health and medical care.



Hamisi Mkondingo (R), councillor for Kicheba ward in Muheza District, reads a report on the implementation of the CCM Election Manifesto for the 2021-2024 period at a meeting of the party's ward executive committee earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

UNICEF seeks \$16.5m for mpox response in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on yesterday appealed for \$16.5 million to scale up mpox response in East and Southern Africa.

UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa Eteva Kadilli said in a statement that the new strain of mpox is a serious threat to vulnerable children and families.

Children and vulnerable communities are on the verge of an expanding outbreak of mpox in the region as 200 confirmed cases have been detected across Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and South Africa, the statement said.

"Aside from immediate lifesaving response, risk communication efforts and cross-border collaboration, investments in overall health system strengthening, continuity of essential services and targeted focus on programs that support overall child wellbeing must be prioritized," Kadilli said.

The UN children's agency warned concerns are rising over new public health emergencies as communities grapple with other ongoing crises. It said the new variant of the mpox virus (clade 1b) has been detected in all affected countries except South Africa, which is causing concern due to its potential for wider transmission across age groups, particularly young children.

Burundi has so far confirmed more than 170 mpox cases in 26 out of the 49 districts in the country, UNICEF said.

It noted that children and adolescents below 20 years of age constitute nearly 60 percent of cases detected, with children under 5 years old comprising 21 percent of cases.

Kenya, Burundi and Uganda have been struggling with multiple emergencies including drought and floods in addition to the immediate concerns posed by the virus, UNICEF said.

The UN agency also warned concerns remain over the secondary impact of mpox outbreaks on children and adolescents, including stigma, discrimination and disruptions to schooling and learning.

"Drawing from experiences gained during responses to HIV, COVID-19 and Ebola outbreaks, there must be a collective effort to prioritize plans for supporting survivors, combating stigma and facilitating continuity of basic social services, especially learning and children's reintegration into school and community," UNICEF said.

Kenya launches framework for green justice structure

NAIROBI

THE Judiciary of Kenya has launched a strategic guiding framework to champion the integration of environmental sustainability in the country's justice system.

Chief Justice Martha Koome said the judiciary was committed to advocating for environmental sustainability in Kenyan justice system through upholding the rule of law, protecting rights, ensuring sustain-

able development and promoting ecological sustainability.

"Through this strategic guiding framework, we are affirming our renewed commitment toward integrating environmental sustainability into the functioning of our justice institutions," she said during the launch of the framework in Nairobi.

The chief justice noted that the justice sector is setting the bar high and serving as an example for other sectors to follow.

She observed that all the agencies and stakeholders in the justice system will integrate green practices into their core and operational functions by ensuring that the goal of environmental sustainability is promoted.

Koome has pledged to conduct civil and criminal justice reforms that support green justice to ensure laws and legal practices actively promote environmental sustainability.

She acknowledged that Kenya's justice system has, in the past, not always been fully conscious of the environmental impact of its operations.

"At the grassroots level, we will upscale greening interventions through court users committees, bringing environmentally conscious practices closer to the communities we serve," she added.

The strategy provides specific recommendations for the national council on

the administration of justice agencies, covering up-scaling green investigations and arrests, enhancing green prosecution, and institutionalizing environmental safeguards to resolve cases within courts.

The framework also requires justice actors to implement reforms and interventions to improve the administration and access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized people, particularly those disproportionately affected by climate change,

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**Taking A New Look
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JICA's road safety support project can help, to a point

MAKING road signs clearer and roads better, especially by widening all main roads and with clear marking to remind all attentive drivers of the middle line or speed rules is a vital priority for road transport regulatory authorities.

There is news that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Works ministry have teamed up for a project designed to enhance road safety, to establish road traffic accident databases. It also talks about improving pre-hospital care services for traffic accident victims. Its wider focus is boosting implementation capacity for comprehensive traffic safety measures, going rather wide in seeking out schools to promote safe driving behaviours, which amounts to altering cultural attitudes.

Yet the children will face unforeseen challenges when they grow up and their hopes for higher schooling vanish, or care at home that they took for granted is suddenly unassured.

Then some will taste a few substances, learn to be satisfied with a gulp or two of hard liquor in the morning, and by the time they on the road for the evening rush hour, they have forgotten the lessons.

It is true that road safety education fosters a culture of safety that individuals carry throughout their lives, contributing to safer roads over time. Similarly, communities will be involved in road safety education where local knowledge and challenges will be addressed.

However, they will not always lead to more tailored and effective safety rules, as there are contrasting user needs at work, for instance communities often push for bumps on highway and speedy, narrow urban alleys, resisted by authorities, sticking to signs.

Whether or not these limitations have to do with the tonality of donor support is another issue, but ordinarily the development partners don't offer solutions or tight project models. They take up the ideas of the host authorities and adopt what is in line with their own development support orientations just as applies here. For, instance one sees Japan in a more technical role regarding its transportation group infrastructure management department at JICA headquarters. Earlier, JICA used to build roads and bridges rather than offering equipment and user guidance for road safety techniques.

In the final analysis, road safety in our country will be improved by a series of basic modernisations, one being higher use of rapid transit for intra-city commuting and railways, rapid or ordinary, in up-country travel.

Less dense roads and diminished chaotic rush hour are likely to prune the rush by youths eager to make three trips with clients instead of two in a given hour.

When commodities for daily use are cheaper and more youths satisfied with their standing in life, hard liquors and substances will not be high up their agenda, and hopefully there will be greater easing of road traffic habits. There is a health aspect that can make a difference, as it involves promoting a well-coordinated emergency response system to ensure efficient deployment of emergency resources like ambulances.

First responders will be posted on hot spots or district level just in case something happens, but with things like pre-paid insurance being checked first, instead of guaranteed emergency treatment, problems raise.

Chinese investments essential in opening up Tanzania's economy

JUST what role a developed country can play in the development process of a lower level economy, as different from any other developed country, is largely a matter of guesswork.

Ordinarily, it appears that those with ancient ties with a developing country provide the Diaspora sort of access to large investments, which in part explains what happened when China moved to rapid industrialization in the 1980s to 2010. Its Diaspora in the United States fused with major companies to set up branches in China.

That wasn't what happened in Russia when it moved from its basic industries and advanced weapons industry in the early 1990s to encompass a wider modernisation scheme that involved dismantling the old state apparatus.

China on the contrary modified the tonality of the state to suit its new dispensation, and to some observers this has remained a lasting legacy. Those institution can only that far into capitalism.

The overly 'chummy' atmosphere that local economists and development planners find themselves in courtesy of the company of Chinese experts is not surprising. The reason for this is that there is much in common in the way China modernised and what state authorities have for decades been trying to do here.

And this is the swift improvement of infrastructure and social services pushing the public sector to co-exist with a large private sector, but on no account is the private sector overly predominant. This arrangement has worked well, but it risks faltering.

The reason is that, while China used its US Diaspora in particular to form numerous venture capital

schemes to take up most of China's coastal special economic zone, this outlook did not apply here.

Instead, Chinese cooperatives or construction groups of companies became the country's ideological Diaspora since the days of working to support the liberation movements. They worked with public organisations on wide ranging infrastructure and immovable assets construction spree, but the bell now tolls.

Instead of kicking up dust about the rate of repayment of its vast loans or investment commitments, China is 'downgrading' expectations from its earlier investments to pad its expectations there with using Africa as an emerging market capital 'renting out'. In due course, its private sector earnings in Africa - which the United States is working to catch up with - stands to augment its public sector investment expectations. That is likely to be a 'win-win' situation without debt sequestration, drying up of modernisation capital. Yet participants at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) preparatory meeting involving local and Chinese experts and diplomats have a few knots to tie up to be on a realistic plane on what lies ahead.

At the meeting, the talk focused more on a public sector sort of engagement, like some 'enhanced commitment to invest in the agricultural and industrial sectors'.

Individual Chinese investors are likely to have their ideas and, in reducing the need for vast hiring, could adopt current technologies producing lowly priced quality commodities but hardly "the surest way to employ our young people".

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Uganda coffee smallholders grapple with EU regulations on imports

By Wambi Michael

IN Kubewo village in eastern Uganda, children often go to work with their parents in the coffee gardens. Earnings from Arabica coffee are used, their parents and grandparents say, to pay for children's education and other expenses for the family.

Farming families justify the labour, saying that children are observing adults and learning from their examples. Children lend a hand in harvesting coffee and ferrying it back home.

The Global Fund to End Child Modern Slavery's 2022 report, titled Child Labor in the Coffee Industry in Eastern Uganda, found that the overall prevalence of child labour in the coffee supply chain was 48 percent-51 percent among boys and 42 percent among girls.

"The nature (activities) and extent (regularity of participation) vary depending on the stage in the supply chain and season. Boys, more than girls, participated in more physically demanding activities such as spraying, pruning, carrying, and loading and off-loading coffee," the report said, adding that a key driver of child labour was systemic poverty.

For farmers, new European Union regulations mean that this practice will have to change. In April 2024, the European Union adopted the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. It requires companies operating in the EU to consider child labour as a critical adverse impact that has to be addressed if it happens in a coffee value chain.

One of the regulatory indicators is that "child labour is not present and the employment of young workers is responsibly managed. Child labour is eliminated and children are protected. Where young workers are employed, their employment follows best practices."

Uganda is one of the coffee-producing countries that has started taking steps to comply with a related regulation, the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which will outlaw sales of products such as coffee beginning on December 30, 2024, if the coffee is linked to deforestation.

The country recently reviewed its coffee laws to provide for the registration and regulation of coffee value chain actors. In collaboration with partner organizations and the government, farmers are registered to geo-reference their gardens before December 2024. The system will enable the 'last-mile tracing' of coffee farmers.

"The biggest focus for us to be compliant with EUDR and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS-DDD) is this traceability system. The other critical issue is the sensitisation of the coffee actors," said Gerald Kyalo, Director of Development Services at the Uganda Coffee Development Authority.

The system will cost Uganda an equivalent of USD 9 million.

In April this year, Reuters reported that the EU had given Uganda a 40 million euro (USD 43 million) grant to help Africa's largest coffee exporter comply with the new EU policy that bars imports of commodities whose production resulted from forest destruction.

Kyalo told IPS that child labour in the coffee sector is complex, as it is in other coffee-producing countries.

"Labour takes maybe 50 percent of inputs in terms of funds. Therefore, family labour is always relied on and in most cases, it is children. Its parents are working with children, so it is a complex value chain," said Kyalo.

"There is a thin line between child labour and what people call training their children. This needs to be tackled and sensitisation can help us."

George Namatati, a 74-year-old peasant coffee farmer, is worried that the old systems of growing coffee using family child labour are about to collapse. He told IPS that he heard over the radio that the government would fine and jail farmers found working with children in coffee gardens.

Namatati is bitter that his government has adopted these sweeping changes.

"They are completely changing the way we farm in this area. You cannot fine me because I am working with my grandchildren. That is how we have (always) cultivated this crop," he said.

Mathias Nabutele, the chairperson and founder of the Coffee a Cup Cooperative Society, told IPS that the EUDR would change the conversation about coffee farming. Rather than change the practice, he suggested that perhaps farmers would look for new markets.

Nabutele and other coffee farmers based in the Mount Elgon area in Eastern Uganda have been promoting local consumption of Arabica coffee. He said that under the new conditions, farmers need to explore alternative markets for coffee.

"Then what are those alternative markets and what are their requirements? Because this is a very competitive world. We are also promoting domestic consumption."

But he acknowledges that EU member countries are destinations for over 60 percent of the coffee produced in Uganda.

"For the government and players in the coffee sector, they cannot afford to lose out on this very important market."

But farmer Namatati said the EU should rethink some of its policies that they keep "pushing down the throats of coffee farmers." He revealed that more young people are moving away from coffee farming. He explained to IPS that there is a risk of losing valuable knowledge, skills, and experience if it is not effectively passed down to successive generations.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines child labourers as those who "are those entering the labour market, or those taking on too much work and too many duties at too early an age." It includes labour that affects the child's access to education and play. Rosalind Kainyah, advisor and speaker on sustainability and responsible business in Africa, writes, "The EU's impending regulations on forced labour, which include child labour, could place some African businesses that export to the EU in a sticky mix of law, culture, and human rights."

While she condemned the "worst forms of child labour," saying they require urgent action, a policy position that focuses on harmful child labour rather than a blanket ban would be more productive. Instead of a complete "zero-tolerance" approach, "EU policymakers should develop a contextually sensitive understanding of child labour," she suggests, saying it is important to "understand family reliance on child labour." "The African Union, for example, prevents work that interferes with children's development, but unlike the UN and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the African Union also recognises that 'every child shall have responsibilities towards their

family and society'," Kainyah writes.

Some experts have indicated that household poverty and economic vulnerability are some of the underlying root causes of child labour in coffee value chains all over the world.

Kenneth Barigye, the Chief Executive Officer of Mountain Harvest Uganda, suggests the need to sensitise the farmers to protect their children.

"I am a parent. We all wish the best for the kids but this situation limits us. The average age of a farmer in Uganda is about 63. So chances are that this old man or woman is living with grandchildren whose parents moved to town but, because of unemployment, sent the kids home," said Barigye, whose organisation seeks to build sustainable coffee value chains in Uganda.

Barigye told IPS that the cost of producing coffee in Uganda is very high and that the biggest driver of the cost of production is labour.

"As long as the farmers are earning less than production costs, they have to keep trying to figure out how to reduce the cost of production, so they will go with the child to the garden," said Barigye.

Like Namatati, Barigye said it is from an ageing farmer that the young farmer can learn skills and agronomic coffee practices because no school trains young people in a country where agricultural extension services are lacking or are very limited.

"Eighty percent are employed in agriculture. Nevertheless, there is no formal school that trains farmers. The successful smallholder learned from their grandparents and parents. For them, it is training-it is mentorship of their children," explained Barigye, whose organisation works with 1700 coffee farmers in Uganda. He suggests that a farmer should be running a profitable business for them to generate enough money to take care of their family.

At the launch of the "Ending Child Labour in Supply Chains (CLEAR Supply Chains)" project in June this year, Wouter Cools, Project Manager Ending Child Labour in Supply Chains for the ILO, said an integrated approach to addressing child labour in supply chains was needed, involving multiple stakeholders, including UN agencies like United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), civil society, governments and the private sector.

While human rights groups welcome the EU directive, saying it will address environmental and social sustainability, small-scale coffee farmers fear they are about to suffer due to the vagaries of global trade.

Pison Kukundakwe, a coffee farmer cooperative representative, was among the farmers chosen to travel to the EU headquarters in Brussels when the regulations were under consideration.

He told IPS that there is a need to change from the current system that dictates that coffee farmers are price takers and not determinants.

Coffee is a critical part of Uganda's economy. Over 1.8 million households grow coffee, and coffee contributes nearly a third of the country's export earnings, paying for critical infrastructure like roads, hospitals, and schools.

In 2023/24, coffee exports were 6.13 million bags valued at USD 1.144 billion. This was an increase of 6.33 percent in volume and 35.29 percent in value compared to FY 2022/23, when exports were 5.8 million bags valued at USD 846 million.

Coffee is produced in diversified systems on small pieces of land with very low input use. The average coffee plot size is 0.23 ha, and 90 percent of farmers own plots of less than 0.5 ha.

"You see people working hard to produce coffee. Farmers are at the mercy of the ups and downs of the commodity. What they go through to bring coffee from the farm is never thought about," explained Kukundakwe.

By Telesphor Magobe

Right to fair and adequate compensation for compulsory land acquisition practices

LAST week, we briefly looked at upbringing, especially in relation to some parents' tendency to be harsh to their children, including using sharp remarks that belittle them, thinking it is the only way of moulding children into future responsible adults.

The parents of this kind believe and may even quote out of context some scriptural texts in support of their harshness to their children because that is how they too were brought up. Being harsh to children, including having a sharp tongue, does not mould children into responsible or better persons.

So, parents need to change and know what their children need and should respond to their children's needs in a loving and caring manner. This is what loving and caring parenthood means. If anything, harshness to one's own children is simply an expression of emotionalism and violent behaviour.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at land acquisition in Tanzania. There is ongoing debate on social media on compulsory land acquisition and whether citizens may surrender their land for development projects and be compensated later or whether they have to be compensated first after which they can relocate to another piece of land.

Some leaders tell citizens that where a development project is planned they should surrender their land for the project even if they are not compensated "because what is important to them is development." So, what does the law say where the government repossessed land for development or for any purpose?

Article 24 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005) provides for a right to own property (including land), and a right to the protection of a person's property held in accordance with the law. Furthermore, Article 24(2) states that "it shall be unlawful for any person to be deprived of his [her] property for the purposes of nationalisation or any other purposes without the authority of law which makes provision for fair and adequate compensation."

In light of this, a person's deprivation of property or



land must be done with the authority of law which provides for fair and adequate compensation.

The Land Act (R.E. 2019) provides that "all persons exercising powers under, applying or interpreting this Act, are to have regard (g) to pay full, fair and prompt compensation to any person whose right

of occupancy or recognised longstanding occupation or customary use of land is revoked or otherwise interfered with to their detriment by the State under this Act or is acquired under the Land Acquisition Act." This section is also similar to section 3(h) of the Village Land Act (R.E. 2019).

Moreover, in section 3(g)(i-vii) the law says in assessing the compensation of land acquired, the concept of opportunity is based on the market value of real property, disturbance allowance, transport allowance, loss of profit or accommodation, the cost of acquiring or getting subject land, any other cost

loss or capital expenditure incurred to the development of the subject land and charging interest at the market rate.

The Land Acquisition Act (R.E. 2019) provides in section 3 for compulsory land acquisition. "The President may, subject to the provisions of this Act, acquire any land for any estate or term where such land is required for any public purpose." The law requires that where any land is acquired by the President under section 3, the minister shall on behalf of the government pay in respect thereof, out of the money provided for the purpose by Parliament, such compensation as may be agreed upon or determined in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Section II(2) provides that "the President may, with the consent of the person entitled to compensation, make to the person entitled to compensation a grant of public land not exceeding in value the value of the land acquired, for an estate not exceeding the estate acquired and upon the same terms and conditions as the land acquired was held, so far as the same may be practicable, in lieu of or in addition to any compensation payable under this section." Section 12 provides that compensation is restricted to developed land, and not vacant ground.

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in his book "Freedom and Unity: A Selection from Writings and Speeches 1952-1965" published in 1966, advocates a right to compensation when a person's land is acquired for any purpose, including a development project. He says: "When I use my energy to clear a piece of ground...[whoever] then takes this piece of ground must pay me for adding value to it through clearing it by my own labour."

His land conception became known as "Nyerere's doctrine of land value" which was instrumental in Tanzania's land law reforms and in the judiciary in relation to adjudication on land disputes "where there was no clear written law to refer to in rewarding compensation, where the practice contravened the written law on the right to compensation, or where the written law contravened the letter and spirit of this statement" (Abdon Rwegasira, Land Law as a Human Right: A History of Land Law and Practice in Tanzania, 2012).

Rwegasira cites *Lalata Msangawale v Henry Mwalimu* [1979], *Ntyahela v Kijiji cha Ujamaa Mutala* [1987] and *Lohay Akonaay and Joseph Lohay v Attorney General* [1995], as examples of case law informed by Nyerere's doctrine of land value.

Therefore, fair, adequate and full compensation for compulsory land acquisition is required to restore land rights and interests so that a person may relocate to another piece of land, otherwise how will he or she relocate if his or her land is taken away before compensation?

Today's legal maxim: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

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The Law and You



Protecting our future: The urgent need to safeguard children against malpractices

By Adonis Byemelwa

THE safety of children in schools has become a matter of paramount importance in today's society, especially as incidents of child abuse are on the rise. Gone are the days when every adult treated someone else's child as their own. Now, children are growing up in a world where fear and mistrust are beginning to define their interactions, even with those closest to them.

Recently, horrifying incidents have left parents devastated. In Dar es Salaam, a tragedy unfolded when the parents of a six-year-old girl, a second grader at Mbagala Kuu Primary School, found themselves in tears after their child was reportedly raped and killed.

The perpetrators remain at large, while the family is left to grapple with an unimaginable loss. A parent's worst nightmare is to believe their child is safe at school, only to face such a grim reality.

Parents and guardians expect their children to be looked after on their way to school, whether on public or private transport. Yet, this trust is increasingly being shattered. The journey to school, once considered safe, has become fraught with dangers that no parent could have foreseen.

Children, who should feel secure as they embark on their school day, are now escorted by adults who themselves are often untrustworthy. Upon reaching public transportation, they are frequently told there's no

room for them, or if allowed to board, they are made to stand because they pay a lower fare than adults. Groups of children traveling together are admonished to keep quiet, as adults wish to listen to the radio or engage in conversations.

Once they arrive at school, the challenges persist. Latecomers, often delayed by public transport issues, face severe punishment, with little consideration for the difficulties they encounter during their commute. But even within the supposed sanctuary of school walls, safety is not guaranteed.

Child abuse is not confined to developing nations; even in Western countries, where child safety is expected to be paramount, instances of abuse are all too common. Professor Damiani Gabagambi, who lived and worked abroad in 2003, recounted a disturbing story of an African child who was bullied by white classmates.

They rubbed the child's hands, trying to remove his skin color, and even attempted to inspect his private parts to see if he was black all over. This traumatic experience led to a significant dispute and the eventual transfer of the child to another school. Such incidents underscore the vulnerability of children, even in environments deemed safe. These incidents of abuse highlight the deteriorating safety of children. Children, who are the nation's most valuable asset and a symbol of the country's future, must be fiercely protected. It's no wonder that during major interna-

tional events, children are often at the forefront, offering greetings and raising the soccer ball.

When the President visits another country, children are given special roles in the welcome ceremony, looking on with joy and hope. Yet, behind these ceremonial roles lies a harsh reality that children in Tanzania face every day.

The grim reality of child safety in Tanzania is reflected in the statistics. According to a 2019 UNICEF report, over 60% of children in Tanzania have experienced some form of violence, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. This staggering figure demands urgent and effective action. Children living in vulnerable environments, particularly those from poor families, are at a higher risk of abuse.

This starkly contrasts with children from wealthy families, who enjoy better security services, including private transport, security guards, and even technological devices like security cameras.

In Tanzania, the safety of children from poor families has reached a critical level. These children live in constant fear and anxiety, deprived of essential services like education and healthcare. In Dar es Salaam, for example, many children are forced to beg on the streets instead of attending school.

This leaves them exposed to severe risks, such as crossing dangerous roads without considering their safety and sometimes being victimized by adults who see them as petty



Geita policeman helps a child to tie her shoelaces.

criminals. These street children are in dire need of urgent assistance. The government, along with non-governmental organizations, must establish robust programs to ensure these children return to school and receive proper healthcare.

Society must also rethink its role in protecting these children. If livestock are given high levels of protection by being fitted with bells, then children, too, deserve to be equipped with special devices like microchips to ensure they can be easily located if lost or abused.

Police statistics from 2021 reveal an alarming increase in child abuse cases. That year alone, a total of 11,499 child abuse cases were reported, with the regions of Arusha,

Tanga, Shinyanga, Mwanza, and Ilala leading in the number of incidents. The most common offenses were rape (5,899 cases), pregnancies among students (1,677 cases), sodomy (1,114 cases), school dropouts (790 cases), and physical assault (390 cases). These numbers paint a grim picture of the state of child safety in the country.

According to the Child Act No. 21 of 2009, every child has the right to live and receive proper care, protection, and development without any form of discrimination. Children must be protected from violence and provided with a safe and peaceful learning environment.

However, the impact of child abuse on a child's health, men-

tal well-being, and economic status is profound. These effects also extend to parents, the community, and the nation as a whole, as an affected child becomes a burden to society and the government. This burden is felt across all levels of society, from the immediate family to the broader community.

Education statistics (BEST 2020) show that a total of 1,135 primary school students and 5,340 secondary school students dropped out due to pregnancy. The regions with the highest rates of teenage pregnancies in primary schools are Mwanza (98 cases), Tanga (97 cases), Ruvuma (84 cases), Geita (78 cases), and Morogoro (71 cases).

In secondary schools, Mwanza (491 cases), Morogoro (389 cases), Dodoma (381 cases), Mara (369 cases), and Ruvuma (327 cases) topped the list. These figures reveal a troubling trend that requires immediate attention and intervention.

The effects of abuse at school and home are devastating, leading many children to drop out and engage in activities that are detrimental to society. Child abuse significantly contributes to the decline in the country's economic growth and causes a shortage of the nation's workforce. In response to these challenges, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups has implemented a comprehensive strategy involving sectoral ministries and stakeholders in child protection and safety.

The government must establish and strengthen systems to protect children both in and out of school, ensuring their safety at every stage. Countries like New Zealand and Canada have made significant strides in ensuring the safety of children in schools and communities.

In New Zealand, the government has implemented a child protection system that emphasizes quality healthcare, school safety, and children's rights. Schools have strict policies to prevent abuse and harassment, and teachers receive special training to identify and address problems early.

As a result, New Zealand has significantly reduced child abuse incidents and improved children's well-being by 88%, according to a 2022 UNICEF study.

Similarly, in Canada, the government has focused on strengthening social systems to ensure that children receive quality education and healthcare without discrimination. Child protection programs are in place in schools and the community, providing children with a safe environment to learn and live.

These successes show that with robust, actionable plans, Tanzania can improve child safety and ensure that all children have access to their fundamental rights to education and healthcare, regardless of their family's economic status. This is a responsibility that falls on all of us as a society that cares about the future of our nation.

By Special Correspondents

US voters say they're ready for a woman president, but sexist attitudes still go along with opposition to Harris

SINCE President Joe Biden exited the presidential race on July 21, 2024, and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee, Harris' campaign has generated widespread enthusiasm and attention. She quickly became the official Democratic presidential nominee and erased Donald Trump's lead over Biden in national and swing-state polling.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, have also drawn tens of thousands of supporters to their recent rallies in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and Nevada.

Although things could change dramatically over the next two-plus months, there is a real possibility that the United States may finally elect its first female president.

But in polling that we conducted in August 2024, after Harris became the presumptive Democratic nominee, we found that sexism is still a powerful force in American politics.

Hope and change?

Yes, the scars of the 2016 campaign - in which sexism played a key role in Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's defeat by Trump - are still fresh for Democrats. But many hope that America has changed and has become more accepting of women in leadership roles.

Harris' gender, this argument goes, won't be a significant deterrent for voters.

On the surface, our recent nationally representative survey of 1,000 American adults supports this, with 51 percent of Americans agreeing with the statement: "America is ready for its first African American female president." Only 23 percent of Americans disagreed.

Even so, some Republicans appear to think they can win by making gender an issue in the campaign. This is apparent in the sexist rhetoric that Trump and other Republicans are using when talking about Harris.

Trump, who has a history of making sexist statements, asserted that foreign leaders would regard Harris as a "play toy," referred to her as unintelligent, and is now commenting on her appearance. Both The Associated Press and The New York Times have reported - based on unnamed sources - that Trump has also called Harris a "bitch" in private, although Trump's spokesman denied he used that term.

In a similar sexist vein, Trump allies have attempted to turn Harris' past romantic relationships into campaign issues, with one conservative commentator on Fox Business News crudely labelling Harris the "original hawk tuah girl," an obscene sexual reference.

Will such attempts to exploit sexism as an electoral strategy backfire? Or, after all these years, might it still be out of reach for a woman to overcome sexist stereotypes and win the highest office in the United States?

Understanding the importance of sexism

We are political scientists who study the role of identity in American politics and who conduct polls that explore Americans' views on gender and the extent to which sexism still pervades the nation.

We conducted two national polls this year - one in January 2024 when Biden was still in the race, and the other in August 2024, after Harris became the presumptive Democratic nominee. For each poll, we surveyed 1,000 American adults 18 and older and asked about their thoughts on the election, their policy views and their attitudes toward various groups in society.

With the change at the top of the Democratic ticket, we can better assess the impact of sexism on vote choice in the presidential election by comparing the results from January, when the race featured two male candidates, with August, when Harris entered the race.

In both surveys, we first asked respondents which candidate they would vote for if the presidential election were held today.

To measure sexism, we then asked respondents



Could Americans' sexism tank yet another woman's quest for the U.S. presidency?

whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of three statements that express prejudice, resentment and animus toward women, or what political scientists call "hostile sexism." The statements in the "hostile sexism" battery are: "Women seek to gain power by getting control over men"; "Women are too easily offended"; and "Women exaggerate problems they have at work." Greater agreement with these statements indicated more sexist views.

We also measured respondents' demographics - including age, gender, race, education and income - their political attitudes and identities, and their racial views.

Sexism mattered, even when Biden was in the race. Due in part to Trump's sexist rhetoric throughout his campaigns and presidency, sexist attitudes have become closely linked with whom individuals support for president. On average, more sexist individuals have tended to prefer Republican candidates in recent elections.

Thus, even in our January poll when Biden was the Democratic nominee, sexism was strongly correlated with support for Trump. When we examined a head-to-head matchup between Biden and Trump, the more individuals agreed with the statements measuring hostile sexism, the more likely they were to prefer Trump over Biden.

Of those who most strongly disagreed with the state-

ments measuring hostile sexism, 73 percent supported Biden, while approximately two-thirds of those scoring highest on the sexism scale supported Trump.

Taking into consideration other factors that influence support for Biden - partisanship, ideology, racial attitudes, education, economic views and so forth - we found that those with the least sexist views had an 83% chance of supporting Biden, while those with the most sexist views had a 17 percent chance of doing so.

With Harris, sexism matters more

If sexism depressed individuals' support for Biden's candidacy, does that mean Harris faces no additional penalty in terms of lost support for her candidacy? Hardly. Hostile sexism, as we measured it, costs Harris votes.

While sexism mattered in January, it mattered more in August once Harris had taken over the

Democratic ticket.

In a head-to-head matchup between Harris and Trump, 89% of those in the lowest third on the sexism scale - meaning those who disagreed most with the statements measuring hostile sexism - support Harris compared with 11% for Trump. On the other hand, only 18% of those scoring highest on sexism support Harris, versus 82% for Trump.

When we take into account other considerations that influence whether individuals prefer Harris or Trump, our findings are even more striking. The least sexist respondents have a 92% chance of saying they will vote for Harris. But the most sexist respondents have only a 4% chance of supporting her.

What this means is that, while sexist attitudes influenced individuals' presidential preferences when Biden was the Democratic presidential nominee, they have a greater effect now that Harris is the Democratic candidate.

Without sexism

Since Harris seems to be narrowly leading Trump in the polls, why should we care about the influence of hostile sexism in the election?

To answer this question, imagine a world in which hostile sexism doesn't influence attitudes toward presidential candidates who are women. Our findings imply that, in such a world, Harris' lead over Trump might be larger. Put simply, hostile sexism is helping to make the election closer than it would otherwise be.

Sexism has long played a powerful role in influencing Americans' voting behaviour and attitudes toward political issues.

Our analysis shows that people with negative attitudes toward women are much less likely to support Harris for president. Whether the Harris campaign can successfully navigate this reality is still to be determined.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Activists push for more of Marriage Act reform

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA is one of countries with the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world where almost two out of five girls are married before their 18th birthday.

According to the Demographic and Healthy Survey (2022) shows that 29 percent of women between 20-24 years were married when they were under 18 years, something which hinders development of many girls. Child marriage is driven by a number of factors including income poverty, social norms, adolescent fertility and weak legal and policy frameworks.

Activists and stakeholders including Rebeca Gyumi, the executive director of Msichana Initiative have been campaigning for the government to amend the Marriage Act, 1971 as it ruins the dignity and dreams of children and girls in the country.

Despite all the efforts, a number of young girls are still forced to marry, putting them in difficult environments which are hard for them to sail through and achieve their development goals.

Speaking at a stakeholders' meeting in Dar es Salaam recently Lucy Gidamis, senior advocacy officer at Msichana Initiative said in a bid to end child marriage in the country, the law should be amended specifically sections 13 and 17 which provides for girls to be married before the age of 18.

She said the organisation in collaboration with various stakeholders have embarked on new initiatives to push amendments of the law which include increasing

education to legislators as well as conducting discussions with the government to see the progress.

"There is no way we can work hard and make our girls free without amending this unfriendly law which hinder the development, we have embarked on a new drive dubbed: Ni ya Wabunge to increase advocacy and push for the amendment of the Act," she said.

She said child marriages often result in adverse health, economic and social consequences, catalysed by socio-economic imbalance, spousal age gap and power imbalance.

She said stakeholders recall winning cases in court in 2016 and 2019 that mandated amendments to the Marriage Act, yet no changes have been implemented.

She said by continuing to remain mum on the laws, a number of young girls also fall into the traps which kill their dreams with others taking difficult decisions of killing themselves.

"We recognize the power that stakeholders have including members of the parliament and we are sure that through them, we can make changes in the law, child marriage poses several health risks to the girls," she said.

Dr Ave Maria Semakafu, coordinator of the Tanzania Women Cross Party (TWCP) - Ulingo platform highlighted the severe health, economic and social consequences for children married at a young age, stressing the importance of amending the law to improve their protection.

"It is not just about enhancing protection; if changes are made, it will better position these children to achieve their goals, as we have seen many being forced into mar-



Rebeca Gyumi, executive director of Msichana Initiative stresses a point during a stakeholders meeting in Dar es Salaam to discuss joint efforts to end child marriage in the country.

riage and having their education cut short," she said.

Gema Akilimali, Chairperson of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) said it is high time for Tanzanians to wake up and stand for girl child through amendment of the Marriage Act.

In a landmark 2016 decision, the High court ruled these provisions unconstitutional, and directed the government to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys.

This ruling followed a legal challenge by the Msichana Initiative, an organization advocating for girls' right to education in Tanzania. Their petition argued that the Marriage Act violated

girls' fundamental rights to equality, dignity, and access to education, and contravened Tanzania's Law of the Child Act.

The government appealed against the High Court decision, but the Court of Appeal upheld the 2016 High Court ruling.

Gyumi said that as the court already ruled Sections 13 and 17 of the Marriage Act of 1971 as discriminatory and unconstitutional and outdated, it is important for the government to implement the order.

She argued against these sections on the grounds that they violate Article 12(1) of the country's Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law.

She also contended that the sections breach Article 13(1)(2) of the constitution, which protects individuals from discrimination based on gender and states that people under 18 are children and lack the capacity to make informed decisions about marriage.

Furthermore, she claimed the sections contravene Article 21(2) of the constitution by denying girls the opportunity to fully participate in determining their future and depriving them of their right to education and freedom of thought. Gyumi called on Tanzanians to jointly campaign and help fight harmful traditions which have been pulling the majority of girls into early marri-

ages and pregnancies. Late 2022, Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson proposed the adoption of 21 years as the minimum age for a girl to get married in the country.

"I think that 18 years is still unfit for a child to get married since she is still young to handle marriage duties at such an age. They should be focusing on their studies in high school," Dr Tulia said.

According to the United Nations 2021 report, more than 650 million women alive today became wives when they were children. Child marriage is a global issue fuelled by gender inequality, poverty, unfavourable social norms and insecurity.

Re-greening Africa: Land restoration to care for environment, food security

By Jason Garrett

WITH the stories we see of disasters and increasing food insecurity around the world, it would be easy to think that there is little hope for positive change for many communities. However, in my work on projects to support children and their communities to re-green their local environments, I have been privileged to see plenty of positive change. One of the most striking is that achieved through an approach known as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR).

This approach is a key part of Re-greening Africa, a collaboration of organisations aiming to restore one million hectares of degraded land across Africa. Re-greening Africa was named one of the UN World Restoration Flagships this year, celebrating projects that prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems as a part of the UN's Decade on Ecosystem, and it shows just how powerful FMNR can be in driving positive change for the environment.

We have also launched a global movement to restore one billion hectares of degraded land across the globe, working together with others to achieve this goal.

FMNR is a low-cost land restoration technique to increase food and timber production and resilience to climate extremes. In practice, FMNR involves managing the re-growth of shoots from tree stumps where trees have previously been cut down. The new shoots are pruned away to leave just four or five which can then re-grow rapidly due to the root system still in place underground from the felled tree. Regular pruning can provide a farmer with firewood or fodder for their animals, and gradually the shoots are reduced to the one strong trunk of the restored tree. The regrown shrubs and trees help restore soil structure and fertility, inhibit erosion and soil moisture evaporation, rehabilitate springs



and the water table, and increase biodiversity.

We are told in the Bible, in Leviticus 25:24, "you must provide for the redemption of the land", and FMNR and the Re-greening Africa initiative makes that the number one priority. In the twenty-first century we have come to realise the severity of the climate situation. And Christians acknowledge our sin in over-exploiting the planet's resources, not caring enough for God's creation. We have been polluting the air, rivers and seas, we have been cutting down forests and using dangerous chemicals on the land.

Across Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, and Somalia and many other countries, we are working alongside communities to restore trees,

expand existing re-greening practices, and train farmers and communities in sustainable land management techniques, with knowledge they can then pass on themselves. Agroforestry is a key part of this - the integration of trees with crops and livestock, allowing for sustainable land management solutions that work for people, regardless of their economic situations.

In fact, the original FMNR practices were pioneered by a colleague called Tony Rinaudo over 25 years ago. He worked with local farmers in Niger, implementing the approach that has been so successful that it made its way to at least 24 African countries. It's no surprise then that he was nicknamed "The Forest Maker"!

FMNR has economic, social and environmental benefits, and helps to achieve goals central to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including improving healthy lives, food security, eliminating poverty, and developing communities in a sustainable way.

We know that when the environment is cared for, this has additional benefits. Healthy environments produce food and resources, which then help communities grow in a sustainable way and ultimately improves the lives of children and their families. Through partnering in the Re-greening Africa initiative, and through promoting methods such as FMNR, households and whole communities across several African nations are increasing their resilience, setting them-

selves up for long-term success using techniques that can be passed on.

This is why it is vital to care for the environment, so we can subsequently care for the people living within it. The world's most vulnerable children are at the heart of everything we do, and we don't stop at FMNR. We try to raise the voices of children as much as possible, and so we took five children and young people to the climate change talks at COP28 last year so that they could speak to decision makers and tell their stories about how climate change has been affecting their families and communities.

Communities in the Sahel region of Mali are an excellent example of FMNR in action. One farmer, Adama, told us that his yield went from four bags of millet of 100kg each before training, to eight bags of millet, eight bags of maize and 10 bags of peanuts and beans with FMNR.

These kinds of improvements are vital to feed his family, including nine children - and it translates to tangible changes in their lives. This education can be passed on within communities as well, with Adama being a testament to the success of the methods.

With such effective results, we are excited to see more communities and landscapes benefitting from land restoration techniques and the Re-greening Africa initiative, and we will continue to work with our partners to drive positive change on the continent. It is often the most marginalised and vulnerable people around the world that bear the brunt of environmental degradation and climate change, and so we pray for justice in the provision of resources to those most impacted, and justice in addressing the causes of climate change. We will continue to work alongside communities across Africa to make this possible and thank all that have supported that work thus far.

By Anna Weekes and Natasha Joseph

Drought devastating southern Africa's crops: Why it's happening and what can be learned

SOUTHERN Africa's worst drought in years has destroyed crops of the staple food, maize, across the region. Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia have all been affected by the drought. Crop failures in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe – the largest maize producers in southern Africa – have destabilised food security in the whole region.

The situation is escalating: the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has now announced that 68 million people need urgent food aid.

The drought is driven by El Niño, an unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean that shifts weather patterns. The latest El Niño phase started globally in 2023.

The Conversation Africa has published a number of articles explaining the current drought, its connection to climate change, and what governments can do to avert hunger. Here are five essential reads.

Governments failed to prepare for this year's El Niño drought

The World Meteorological Organization warned in May 2023 that the chance of El Niño developing later in the year was increasing. This meant governments in southern Africa knew in advance that a drought was coming which would decimate crops of staple foods. But they failed to take the necessary preparatory steps.

Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi argues that governments in the region need to set up early warning systems for everyone likely to be affected by El Niño, especially farmers whose crops are at risk. To achieve this, governments and the private sector must prioritise climate action in development plans, and get weather offices up and running.

Smallholder farmers can't continue to survive on rain-fed maize

Malawi has been particularly hard hit by the drought, declaring a state of emergency in March 2024. By August 2024, Malawians in 23 of the country's 28 districts needed food aid to survive.

Maize makes up two-thirds of Malawi's national calorie intake. Nine out of 10 farming households produce maize and devote over 70% of their land to growing it. Over 90% of farming households rely solely on rain to



A farmer in Mangwe district in southwestern Zimbabwe, in the middle of his dried up crop field amid a drought, in Zimbabwe, on 22 March 2024. AP - Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi

irrigate their maize plants. This is a recipe for disaster. Joachim De Weerd, Channing Arndt, James Thurlow, Jan Duchoslav, Joseph Glauber, Liangzhi You and Weston Anderson explain why Malawi must invest in irrigation systems for farmers across the country, to reduce their dependency on rain.

The regional maize supply chain Elsewhere, Wandile Sihlobo writes that, while restricting exports might

seem like a good way for a country to keep some maize for its own citizens, it removes the incentive for production for the next year as farm-level prices are artificially depressed. Governments in southern Africa should therefore avoid export restrictions and maize price caps.

As lakes dry up, income sources dwindle

In April 2024, the government of Zimbabwe declared the El Niño drought a national disaster. Water levels dropped at Lake Kariba, which supports 100,000 people and generates most of Zimbabwe's and Zambia's electricity.

Joshua Matanzima, who grew up at Lake Kariba, explains that the drought laid waste to the local economy. Fishers could no longer catch enough to feed their families, tourist numbers decreased, residents had to walk further to fetch water, and poaching rose as people sought ways to earn money.

Solutions Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi points out that the current agrifood system has not delivered for Africa. The continent cannot continue to rely on wheat, maize and rice as its staple foods. Historically, Africa had 30,000 edible plant species, and 7,000 were traditionally cultivated or foraged for food. Many of these are hardy, drought resistant, nutritious food sources like Bambara groundnut, cowpea, pigeon pea, millet, sorghum and African leafy vegetables such as amaranth and wild mustard. Southern African governments must do more to encourage the production of these crops.

Meet three social innovators using tech to empower and educate the next generation

By Adam Gavin

SINCE 1999, International Youth Day has been observed on 12 August every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the challenges and problems facing the world's youth. This year's theme, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development," emphasizes the crucial role of digitalization in advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the valuable contributions of young people.

While the young generation possesses the passion and knowledge to drive positive change, they often lack access to the critical support and mentorship needed to turn their ideas into reality. Increasingly, the private sector is recognizing this need and stepping up to play a significant role in expanding opportunities and accelerating progress for the next generation.

In January 2024, the Global Shapers Community launched the Innovation Prize to provide young people access to specialized training, mentorship and financial support to improve their communities. In July 2024, 15 projects led by Global Shapers across the world were selected as winners and will now be able to scale their solutions.

Social innovators: Forging progress globally The State of Social Enter-



prise: A Review of Global Data 2013-2023, a Schwab Foundation's Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship report, revealed that social enterprises generate around \$2 trillion in revenue annually and employ nearly 200 million people. The same report also found that, compared to conventional businesses, social enterprises are more likely to be led by young people and women. As the 2030 deadline for the SDGs approaches, the role of young people in digital innovation is essential for addressing global issues. We want to recognize the contributions of young people as innovators, activists,

entrepreneurs and organizers who are igniting social movements and initiatives to address the issues affecting their lives and communities.

Here are three organizations in the social innovation space that are working to empower the next generation through technology:

Youth for Technology Foundation: Connecting youth and women with work

As an international citizen sector organization, Youth for Technology Foundation works in developing countries and resource-constrained communities, inspiring youth and women to create innovative

solutions to address gaps in existing silos in the community and educational systems. Since 2001, Youth for Technology Foundation's flagship programme, the YTF Academy has partnered with disadvantaged youth and women in developing nations to improve their lives and expand their economic opportunities through employment and entrepreneurship. YTF helps uplift women and young people out of poverty by accessing market demands, designing developmental programmes, providing linkages that accelerate business opportunities and administering customized training

programmes.

Since the launch of YTF Academy, 40% of graduates have gone on to be employed by small businesses, where they earn three times the average salary of a non-YTF Academy graduate. Another 38%, meanwhile, have started their own businesses, and YTF's work has inspired the creation and sustenance of over 2,100 small and medium enterprises led by youth and women in Nigeria. Njideka U. Harry, the social innovator who founded YTF, has long been outspoken about the need to ensure the technology sector continues to advance the social good – and she has

warned that, too often, the non-profit sector falls behind on the tech adoption curve.

Thaki: Repurposing tech for education

Thaki is a social impact non-profit organization that delivers learning tools to schools catering to refugee and vulnerable children in the Middle East. They collaborate with companies that donate second-hand electronic devices, mostly laptops. After the devices have been refurbished, they load them with fun, interactive offline learning content (either proprietary or open source) and distribute them to their education partners in the Middle East. Instead of ending up at the landfill, the devices are given a second life of high impact, giving children in vulnerable circumstances an education they may otherwise have missed out on.

The organization was founded in 2015 by Rudayna Abdo and aims to eliminate inequity inflicted by poverty, war and disasters. Her goal, she says, is to foster a world where everyone sustainably shares resources and helps one another with compassion and benevolence. The electronic tools and programmes Thaki offers are the key to accessing 21st-century skills. Since its founding, the organization has launched over 1330 programmes from 52 education providers, distributed hardware and content with an in-kind value of \$14 million and enabled over 30,000 students to access learning resources.

Whiz Kids Workshop: Early education in health, ethics and literacy

Whiz Kids, founded in Ethiopia in 2007 by Innovation Awardee Bruktawit Tigabu Tadesse, uses mass media such as television, radio and print to provide educational content in seven local languages, focusing on early childhood education, healthy behavior, literacy and gender equality.

Their flagship programme, Tsehai Loves Learning, reaches millions of viewers weekly, educating children aged three to eight about health, ethics and literacy. Another programme, Tibeb Girls, addresses gender-based violence and discrimination to empower teenage girls. Whiz Kids also collaborates with schools and produces educational materials for teachers, with support from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

The impact of Whiz Kids' educational materials is carefully monitored, and a study found that the Tsehai Loves Learning programme doubled children's health knowledge compared to a control group.

As a result, the programme was integrated into 400 schools, reaching over 150,000 children, and a software application was developed to monitor the integration in partnership with the local government. Since its foundation, Whiz Kids has distributed more than 250,000 books and reached over 10 million people.

RADIO One

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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAJKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAJKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAJKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAJKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 AM HIJI NAZO 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 21:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAJKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 16:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO 18:00 HRS SONGO TEN 19:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS MAMBO YA ZANGU 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHI 06:30 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 16:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO 18:00 HRS SONGO TEN 19:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS MAMBO YA ZANGU 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

BUSINESS

Govt all set to resuscitate non-operational factories



Generative AI

Nigerians turn to AI for creativity

LAGOS

New data released by Google yesterday shows that Nigerians were increasingly turning to Artificial Intelligence, AI, to enhance their creativity and boost careers.

The latest Google Search trends revealed that AI-related searches in Nigeria had surged by 130 per cent, compared to this time last year, reflecting the growing interest and curiosity around this transformative technology.

Commenting on the trends, West Africa Director at Google, Olumide Balogun, said: "AI has the potential to create opportunities, from the extraordinary to the everyday for everyone, bringing new waves of innovation, social, and economic progress.

"It's no surprise that the people of Nigeria are already looking to make the most of this transformational technology, finding ways for it to boost their career, creativity, and society."

Globally, AI is being searched more than ever before, and Nigeria is no exception.

Searches for "what is AI" in Nigeria have jumped by over 30 per cent, while "how to use AI" saw a 40 per cent increase, indicating a strong desire among Nigerians to understand and harness AI for personal and professional development. "Nigeria currently ranks as the sixth highest country in Africa and 25th globally in terms of search interest in AI.

"The data also highlighted a significant rise in searches related to using AI for creative and professional purposes. "Trending searches in Nigeria include "create a logo with AI," "create a CV with AI," "design a website with AI," and "create slides with AI," all of which have seen a phenomenal increase of over 5,000 per cent in interest since last year.

This trend underscores the growing

reliance on AI tools to streamline creative processes and enhance job-related tasks.

"Nigerians are not only interested in applying AI to their work but also in learning more about the technology itself.

"Searches for AI and courses have surged by 50 per cent, while popular questions like is AI hard to learn, how to learn AI, and how to access and learn about AI suggest a keen interest in acquiring AI skills."

In a world fastly embracing artificial intelligence (AI), chatbots have become an integral part of how we interact with technology.

From customer service to personal assistants, these AI-driven interfaces are shaping the future. The top five includes HubSpot Chatbot Builder is praised for its user-friendly interface. It's perfect for businesses and individuals who want to create effective chatbots without needing deep technical expertise.

Intercom is the go-to chatbot for users who need extensive customization options. It's particularly useful for businesses looking to tailor their customer interactions to specific needs and preferences.

Drift specializes in sales automation, making it the best choice for businesses looking to enhance their sales processes with AI. It excels at lead generation, customer engagement, and closing deals.

Salesforce Einstein is a must-have for those already using Salesforce. It seamlessly integrates with the CRM platform, providing powerful AI-driven insights and automation tailored to Salesforce's ecosystem.

WP-Chatbot is the top choice for WordPress users, offering seamless integration with the platform. It's designed to be easy to deploy, making it an excellent option for websites look-



Industry and Trade minister, Dr Selemani Jafo (right) speaks with AFRITEX Textile Mills director Pushp Vir Singh (second left) shortly after paying a visit to Tanga, the industry is not functioning for a number of years. PHOTO CHEJI BAKARI

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

INDUSTRY and Trade minister, Dr Selemani Jafo said that his ministry in collaboration with President's Office, Planning and Investment ministry and the office of treasury registrar will set proper procedures in making sure all non-functioning privatised industries in the country to be revived and developed aimed to increasing employments, national income as well as growing country's economy.

Dr Jafo said those in Tanga after toured six industries with the objective to talk with business people and industrial owners as well as seeing their operations whereby he was faced with various woes that need to be solved aimed to develop them.

He visited Tanga Fresh Milk processing factory, Wilmar Tanzania Limited soap factory, AFRITEX textile mill, Pembe Wheat Flour Mills and Kilimanjaro Cement Fac-

tory as well as Tanga Port.

Among visited industries only three factories are currently continuing with operations which are Tanga Fresh Milk processing factory, Wilmar Tanzania Limited soap factory and Kilimanjaro Cement Limited but AFRITEX and Pembe Wheat Flour Mills are not operating.

He also faced claims from industrial owners including the government's levy on cement bags, regular electricity outage that caused loss for industrial machines and some closed industries led to discontinuation of employment of at least 2,000 people.

"In Tanga region there are some industries are working well, but I'm discomforted with those privatised one and not functioning"

"My call to you, develop them for the sake of the country's economy and do not turn them as godown or assets for asking loans and leave those who depended on those indus-

tries to get employment stay jobless," stressed Dr Jafo.

Responding on challenges raised by industrial owners on electricity outage that caused loss to machines due to high voltage electrical shorts, he directed Weight and Measurements Agency (WMA) to conduct thorough inspection to all industries electric meters to ensure are working effectively purposely to get fairness between, business people, owners and TANESCO.

He further assured them of an electric challenge gradually being resolved after the government made great efforts after constructing Mega East Africa Hydro Electricity Power Plant (JNHPP).

"In collaboration with the finance ministry, Investment and Planning ministry, registrar of treasury together with sectoral institutions to make sure all raised challenges are solved aimed to revamp Tanga as an industrial region and economic hub like past early 1960s," pointed out Jafo.

For his part, Tanga district commissioner, Jafari Kubecha said due to the government continuing to improve and create a business conducive environment including modernising of Tanga port will help to unlock potential and entail other investment opportunities into the industrial sector.

Earlier, Kilimanjaro Cement Industry managing director, Andrew Dimello has appealed to the government to scrap the government levy of 1,000/- imposed on every bag of cement by explaining it costs him in operating the industry.

"I would like to ask the government to remove this levy, I have a loan that needs to be repaid, and this levy is a big burden," he said.

For his side, the Pembe Wheat Flour Mills assistant manager, Abdulla Saleh said his factory stopped doing activities due to high voltage electricity shortages that destroyed some important machines and cut off employment of almost 600 workers.

Beyond gorillas, more awaits tourists visiting Kigali

KIGALI

Volcanoes National Park is a natural forest in northwest Rwanda, home to the mountain gorillas, one of the world's most endangered species.

The place attracts a large number of tourists from various parts of the world.

According to the 2022 Rwanda Development Board (RDB) report, revenues from gorilla tourism increased from Rwf 176 billion in 2020 to Rwf 220 billion in 2021.

Although the mountain gorillas are the most famous tourist attraction at the park, there are many more activities that people can do when they visit the place.

Mountain Bisoke hike

Mount Bisoke is an extinct volcano in the Virunga mountain range. It stands at 3,711 meters with a crater lake at the summit, known as Lake Ngezi.

Hikers need about six hours to both climb the volcano and get back down to where they started.

On the day of hiking, hikers converge at the park headquarters in Kinigi at 7am for a briefing as well as getting a ranger to go with them.

Tracking golden monkeys

The golden monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis khanti*) is a subspecies of blue monkeys found only in the bamboo forests of the Virunga Volcanoes Massif in Central Africa.

The Volcanoes National Park currently has two habituated golden monkey troops that are available for visiting by tourists. The two



Some visitors pose for a group photo at Bisoke

troops comprise about 80 members.

They live in the bamboo vegetation towards the base of the volcanoes. They are very active creatures, and jump from tree to tree.

Golden monkey tracking takes place in the Volcanoes National Park where it begins at the headquarters in Kinigi at 7AM.

Mount Karisimbi Hike

Mount Karisimbi is a dormant volcano on the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

At 4,507 metres, Karisimbi is the highest of the eight major volcanic mountain ranges, which is a part of the Albertine Rift, the west-

ern branch of the East African Rift.

It has a white-capped summit which is often seen on its top. The volcano also includes Mikenko to the north, Bisoke to the east and Nyiragongo to the west.

Climbing Mount Karisimbi starts in the morning at the park headquarters in Kinigi. It takes six hours and involves navigating through the Bisoke side before reaching the first stopping place which is at an altitude of 3,700 metres.

Visiting Dian Fossey's tomb

Dian Fossey was an American primatologist and anthropologist who committed her

life to the conservation of the Mountain Gorillas by conducting an 18-year comprehensive study about the apes.

Dian was murdered in 1985 in her tent by unknown people. Fossey was buried at Kari- soke, at a site that she herself had constructed for her deceased gorilla friends.

Visiting the Dian Fossey Tomb is an activity carried out while on a tour at the Volcanoes National Park.

Visiting the Ellen DeGeneres Campus

The Ellen DeGeneres Campus is a world-class research and education centre established to carry on with Dian Fossey's legacy and advance the work of saving gorillas from extinction.

It offers immersive and educational experiences, such as watching mountain gorillas on film in the 360 degree Irmelin DiCaprio Theater.

The campus is located near Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. It is open to the public every day. Visitors can explore state-of-the-art exhibits that tell the story of over 55 years of gorilla conservation.

Touring Musanze caves

Musanze caves were formed by centuries of geologic activity centred around the volcanoes mountain range.

The two kilometres long caves are located at the heart of Volcanoes National Park on the outskirts of Musanze town.

The place has a huge number of bats residing in it. In pre-colonial times, the caves were used as a shelter during wartime for many centuries.

Iby'Iwacu cultural village

Iby'Iwacu cultural village is a community-based tourism initiative where you meet local people and get a taste of their culture and traditions.

Nightlife in Kinigi

Musanze's nightlife offers a variety of options, combining local culture, entertainment, and natural scenery. Kinigi has 27 hotels according to Tripadvisor.

Visitors can start their evening with a dinner at any restaurants and hotels in Kinigi, as they feature the views of Volcanoes National Park.

There are a variety of bars that provide live music by local artists and cater to sports enthusiasts looking to watch local and international sports on pay TV. There are also nightclubs that feature music from DJs.

Last year Musanze, the largest city in northern Rwanda, was listed by TIME as one of the top destinations to visit in the world.

The announcement was made in TIME'S collection of World's Greatest Places 2023, which features 50 extraordinary destinations around the globe that offer unique experiences to travelers.

TIME is an American news magazine based in New York City, it curates the list with an eye toward places offering new and exciting experiences so that they can be on travelers' radars over the next 12 months.

The selection of Musanze in the list is a testament to the district's impressive growth in recent years, particularly in the area of tourism.

Chinese firms listed among global top 20 auto suppliers

SHANGHAI

The three, namely CATL (7), Weichai Group (8), and HASCO (16), were the best performing supply chain companies of the country in 2023 in revenue, with the three registering supply chain revenue of 285.25 billion yuan (\$39.96 billion), 241.67 billion yuan, and 159.52 billion yuan, respectively.

The White Paper, jointly released by China Automotive News and global consultancy firm Roland Berger, announced the names of the Top 100 Global Automotive Supply Chain Companies and the Top 100 Chinese Automotive Supply Chain Companies on Thursday.

Bosch, Denso, ZF, Hyundai Mobis and Continental remained the top five supply chain companies globally in 2023, with the 4th and 5th ranked swapping places.

According to Yuan Wenbo, a partner at Roland Berger, the overall revenue of the global top 100 auto parts suppliers increased 13.2 percent on a yearly basis last year. With the recovery of investment and consumption activities, the rebound of the auto market boosted the overall profit margin of auto parts suppliers to 6.1 percent in 2023, a significant rise compared with the 5.4 percent in 2022.

Chinese auto suppliers are becoming increasingly important in today's automotive value chain. According to the White Paper, the scale and total profits of China's parts and components enterprises rebounded



rapidly in 2023. The added value of parts revenue in new energy and intelligent sectors accounted for 34 percent of the total added value, maintaining a leading position in the revenue structure. The profit growth of new energy com-

ponents accounted for 36 percent of the total added value, while the net profit of intelligent electronic parts has maintained 200 percent growth for two consecutive years, the White Paper said.

Ye Shengji, chief engineer of

the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, said at the launch ceremony of the White Paper that China's new energy and intelligent connected vehicles own development advantages globally and suggested further

strengthening the foundational technology research. He also said that enterprises should follow the trend of interdisciplinary and cross-industry integration.

The acceleration of supply chain companies seeking opportunities

abroad, as well as the promotion of green and low-carbon development of the automotive supply chain are also important, Ye added.

On the other hand, Tech heavy-weight, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, said on Friday the voluntary conversion of its secondary listing to primary listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange will become effective on Aug 28.

Alibaba said in statement it will become dual primary listed on both the Hong Kong and New York bourses, and the voluntary conversion to dual primary listing does not involve any issue of new shares and fundraising by the company.

The Hangzhou, Zhejiang province-based company has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since September 2014, marking what was at the time the largest IPO in history. It raised \$13 billion from the Hong Kong bourse via a secondary listing in November 2019. In July 2022, Alibaba applied for a primary listing in Hong Kong.

Experts said the move will allow Chinese mainland investors to trade in the tech giant's shares via the stock connect mechanism linking the Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong bourses, and inject new liquidity into the Hong Kong stock market.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DHL commits zero carbon emissions by 2050

DHL Express, the global logistical company, has expressed commitment to zero carbon emissions by 2050 in a bid to operate in a cleaner environment.

Fatima Sullivan, the DHL Regional Director for Southern and Eastern Africa affirmed in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the CEO Breakfast Roundtable that zero carbon emissions was among the company's priorities.

"Our companies operate all over the world to deliver cargo and they emit a lot of carbon. We are working to ensure that

this comes to an end by 2050," she said.

She noted that various studies and tests were being done so far on electric planes that will not emit carbon.

"It is quite an extensive study that will take time for we all know how the aviation sector is complex and sensitive," she added.

Sullivan underscored DHL's

commitment to the green agenda through which the institution will work together with local authorities to ensure environmental conservation.

"We plan to involve ourselves in different environmental conservation projects that will see us deliver our services even better," she said.

"Tanzania has great potential considering that it is one of the

five fastest growing countries in Africa and is a key player in the region hence a strategic business point," she added.

She highlighted the significance of Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) and how they play an important role in DHL's business.

CEO said her company will continue to develop SMEs by building more capacity to en-

sure they are formalized and can easily operate in and out of Tanzania

"We have a product known as SME 360, through which we will ensure these SMEs that range from among others financial to trading institutions are well looked after," she said.

The DHL Country Manager, Humphrey Pule said that they were delighted to host the CEO

Breakfast Roundtable as it has given both his company and their stakeholders a lot of insights on the business environment.

Also, to tackle some of the challenges that affect business in Tanzania among others including infrastructure and regulatory restrictions.

"We look forward to hosting more of these forums in the future as they are important to business," he said.

The event brought together top CEOs and some of DHL's partners who operate in the country.

Nigeria's petroleum imports sources revealed

LAGOS

Several developments have questioned the federal government's intention toward commencing oil production in the 650,000 barrels per day (BPD) Dangote refinery in Lagos in recent weeks. These developments are tied to the supply of crude oil to the refinery plant and the sale of refined products with regard to the wide exchange rate gap that exists between the naira and the dollar.

Some regulatory bodies have issued several statements that question the full capacity of the refinery, but according to Dangote and policy experts, this sends a wrong signal to the international markets and crude oil dealers, especially on the premise that Nigeria does not have a functioning refinery despite having crude oil as its essential minimal resource.

The ineffectiveness of these refineries means that Nigeria drills out crude oil and exports it to countries with functioning refineries, which are being sold back to the country in various refined petrochemicals. This whole process denies the country from making sufficient revenue from crude oil availability as most of its revenue is used to subsidise the cost of fuel when it is imported.

Another separate development was the controversial acquisition of a blending plant in Malta by Onado Plac, one of Nigeria's independent oil and gas companies. This came after Dangote had inferred that some Nigerians, including officials of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) own and operate an oil blending plant in Malta.

However, Ripples Metics gathered data from the National Bureau of Statistics to



identify countries where Nigeria imported petroleum from in 2023.

Nigeria's annual total trade stood at N71.88 trillion as of the end of 2023. This is an import amounting to N35.92 trillion and exports of N35.96 trillion, representing a trade surplus of N400 billion, according to the National Bureau of Statistics report on Foreign Trade in Goods.

The data showed that 33.94 percent of the total imports were mineral products (where refined petroleum products are included) amounting to N12.19 trillion. With crude oil taking a major share in Nigeria's importation for the year, the data revealed that these refined products came from 20 countries.

The first five countries according to Ripples Metics findings are, Belgium (\$5.38 billion), India (\$2.52 billion), Netherlands (\$2.43 billion), Malta (\$2.08 billion) and Russia (\$1.1 billion).

Others are Saudi Arabia with \$1.09 billion, South Korea with \$1.03 billion, Norway with \$758.3 million, Oman with \$433.58 mil-

lion, Turkey with \$301.55 million, France with \$288.06 million, USA with \$280.14 million, Latvia with \$212.23 million, Malaysia with \$193.13 million and Spain with \$177.21 million.

The countries with the least crude oil imports were Togo (\$109.3 million), Tunisia (\$104.35 million), Italy (\$75.65 million), Brazil (\$72.73 million), and Cyprus (\$69.5 million).

Other African countries on the list include Côte D'Ivoire with \$24.84 million, Egypt with \$4.76 million, South Africa with \$414,000, Ghana with \$128,000, Niger with \$122,000 and Namibia with \$6,000.

Further checks showed that between April 2023 and March 2024, under President Bola Tinubu's first year in office, Nigeria generated a total trade value of N85.69 trillion, with an import value of N37.03 trillion and an export value of M48.65 trillion.

However, crude oil producers in Nigeria have kicked against being forced to sell their products to Dangote Refinery and other local refineries, saying it negates

the willing-buyer, willing-seller framework.

The oil producers, under the aegis of the Independent Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG) rather urged the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited to re-direct its allocated crude oil volumes to Dangote refinery and other local refineries to mitigate the current crude supply shortage being experienced by the local refiners that is impacting local product availability in many parts of Nigeria.

According to a letter by the Chairman of IPPG, Abdulrazak Isa dated August 16, 2024, and addressed to the Chief Executive of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Gbenga Komolafe, the group kicked against being forced to sell to Dangote Refinery and other local refineries, saying it could jeopardise the existing commercial agreements, economic interests, and business models of each segment of the oil and gas sector.

He expressed confidence that an amicable solution could be reached by all stakeholders.

He added that some of them had also received allocation letters from NUPRC for the supply of specific volumes of crude oil to the domestic market for the second half of 2024, expressing concerns about its potential implications for the economy, especially the foreign exchange earnings through royalties and taxes.

"While we fully support and commend the efforts of Nigerian entrepreneurs to enhance domestic refining capacity, it is important that no private sector business is unduly pressured into arrangements that may effectively subsidise another within the oil and gas value chain under any guise whatsoever.

"Under this willing-buyer, willing-seller framework, it is essential for refiners to negotiate and execute long-term crude oil Sales and Purchase Agreements with producers and their marketing agents.

These agreements should follow industry best practices, with typical tenures ranging from one to five years," the IPPG chairman said.

"The group further noted, "We understand that the current allocation methodology appears to be based on a matrix of production forecasts by producers, issued technical allowable rates as well as crude oil requirements of domestic refineries, rather than actual local consumption needs. This raises significant concerns as it suggests that allocations are being determined based on the demands of refiners, which may exceed what is needed for domestic consumption.

"Such an approach could lead to inefficiencies and unfairly disadvantage for the producers.

"Therefore, refineries with excess capacity beyond local consumption mustn't exploit the Domestic Crude Oil Supply Obligations to the detriment of oil producers and other stakeholders, including the Government."

He further advised that NNPC should utilise its allocated 445,000 barrels per day intervention crude oil volume to salvage the current situation as it did in many instances in the past.

Isa said some IPPG members already owned and/or were supplying crude oil to local refineries.

He insisted that NNPC was in a good position to mitigate the current crude supply shortfall faced by local refiners by leveraging its statutory crude allocation to meet local domestic consumption.

"Historically, NNPC has always had an intervention crude oil volume (445,000bpd) meant to satisfy the nation's domestic consumption. This volume has always been used under various swap mechanisms to import refined products for domestic consumption.

"Since there is now domestic refining capacity to meet consumption, this dedicated volume should be reserved for all domestic refineries under a price hedge mechanism that can be provided by a suitable financial institution such as Afrexim Bank," he stated.

Isa, however, maintained that "Any national production above this allocated volume should be treated strictly as export volumes, adhering to the willing-buyer, willing-seller framework of the international market especially since the refiners will need to export excess products that surpass domestic demand, thus boosting FX (foreign exchange) earnings."

Rwanda to host first-ever regional schools' festival

KIGALI
Rwanda will host a regional festival which will showcase a variety of educational curricula, offering students, educators, and parents an opportunity to explore the services available in the region, from December 6-8.

This festival, the first of its kind to be hosted by Rwanda, will bring together participants from more than 80 schools from Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya.

It will provide a platform for the participants to showcase their educational programs and compete in various activities, according to the organisers.

Organised in collaboration with Flavours of Kigali Events, SACEL, and the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), the festival aims to highlight Rwanda's growing role as an educational hub in East Africa.

The festival will also feature a rich program of student performances, curriculum displays, and opportunities for parents to learn more about the educational options available to their children.

"This festival will not only showcase Rwanda's diverse educational offerings but also give schools from Uganda and Kenya a platform to highlight what makes their curricula unique," Sarah Yesehak, CEO of Flavours of Kigali Events, told journalists on Thursday, August 22.

"Rwanda is becoming a hub for education, and we want to show the world that we have everything needed to provide top-quality education for both locals and foreigners," she added.

Yesehak noted the importance of demonstrating that Rwanda could offer quality education found in other countries.

"Many foreigners, and even some Rwandans, are sending their students abroad to places like Uganda and Kenya. We want to show them that they can find the same quality education right here in Rwanda," she said.

A variety of activities and competitions are planned, including spelling bees, debate competitions, and robotics exhibitions.

These events are designed to let students demonstrate the skills they have acquired through their respective curricula.

Another organiser, Brian Ombem, emphasised the importance of making the schools' festival an annual event.

He said the event will be a platform for networking, idea-sharing, and marketing for educational institutions.

"Rwanda has a lot to offer, not just to its citizens but also to the world," Ombem said.

"This festival is about showing that Rwanda is the best place for anyone interested in quality education, whether they are local or from abroad," he said.

Ombem also noted that many parents are searching for the right school for their children but lack the necessary information.

"This festival will provide them with the information they need, making it easier for them to choose the best educational path for their kids," he added.

The organisers want the

Schools' Festival of Rwanda to be a leading event in the region.

Ombem said that all public and private schools, regardless of the level of education, are invited to participate.

On the other hand, University of Rwanda's College of Education, from May 13 to May 15, 2024, is hosting the 2nd International Conference on Re-shaping Education for Sustainable Development. The inaugural conference was held in 2023.

The event, organised by the University of Rwanda College of Education (URCE) in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation through the Leaders in Teaching (LIT) Programme, brings together educational researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers worldwide to discuss and exchange insights on shaping the education landscape in the 21st Century.

Under the theme 'Re-examining Quality Education and Professionalism in the 21st Century', participants will delve into crucial topics such as enhancing education quality through policy, leadership, and management, teacher professional development, industry-academia collaboration, educational technology, pedagogical innovations, inclusive education, adult literacy, early childhood education, languages and social sciences education, and STEM, among others.

According to researchers, re-shaping education is integral to sustainable development.

"The conference is a platform to share experiences and to collect ideas that will help us to innovate our practices. The last conference helped us to get insights on how we can embark on reviewing our education programmes so that we can improve. When we improve our programmes, in the end, we improve the quality of the graduates," said Florien Nsanganwimana, Principal of UR - College of Education.

He mentioned positive outcomes from the previous conference, such as content and structure.

"We have been able to shift from a three-year to a four-year programme to improve the practical skills that our teachers, and our students need. Now within the new programmes, students will have more time to practice in school, which was not possible in the previous programme," he said.

Furthermore, he said, the College of Education has integrated ICT and enhanced English language proficiency among students.

"We are attracting different partners and practitioners. As far as English proficiency is concerned, we have already started, since last year, working with the British Council. With the integration of ICT, we are working with the Digital Skills Foundation. We thank Mastercard Foundation for providing financial support," he said.

Nsanganwimana noted that there are still some challenges, such as accommodating the growing student population.

"That is why when we reflect on how to improve quality, we have to look at the current pedagogies that we apply while teaching or supporting learning



Sarah Yesehak, CEO of Flavours of Kigali Events, addresses journalists.

and see how we can adjust with the class size. There is a problem with learning space including other facilities that are insufficient in case of big enrolment.

"We are embarking on blended

learning and teaching by including more online sessions because when students have computers, they can be reached anywhere," he said.

He added that with Artificial Intelligence (AI) dominating all sectors,

educators must update their skills to meet 21st-century educational requirements.

Researchers who were funded under the Leaders in Teaching (LIT) programme

are also exhibiting their projects at the conference.

The programme builds the capacity of academic staff and pre-service teachers in ICT, and Rwanda's competence-based curriculum and research.

It provides opportunities for pre-service teachers to put theory into practice and strengthen the integration of ICT in teaching and learning. And for academic staff to enhance their research skills through training, academic exchange, and opportunities to undertake research through competitive research funding.

At least 18 research projects including completed and ongoing projects have been supported.

Three research projects have been completed, nine research grant proposals are currently under review and six projects' implementations are ongoing.

According to Marie Claire Uwera, an assistant lecturer at the University of Rwanda, College of Education, reshaping education requires sharing expertise and experience among universities around the world.

"Researchers from different institutes are providing input for what we should do to reshape education, how we deliver, how we serve learn-

ers and align it with what is needed in the labour market by considering the necessary skills needed in the 21st Century. Lecturers need regular training to update ourselves so we get a package for the learners," she said.

She added that even though technology such as Artificial Intelligence is helpful, learners should think critically instead of copying and pasting.

Prof. Wenceslas Nzabirirwa, Professor of Teacher Education at the University of Rwanda-College of Education, reiterated that lecturers need upgraded laboratories and ICT equipment to improve teaching and learning.

"Research projects are presented during the conference and the participants exchange solutions needed to improve education," he said.

Didas Kayihura Muganga, the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Rwanda, said: "Such international conferences help us to examine ourselves and compare how we are performing to other universities and researchers in Africa, Europe, America, and other continents so that we identify gaps and where to improve."

He said the current review should prioritise updating teachers' skills to meet the evolving demands of 21st-century education.

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 24 Aug	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:05 Shika Bamba 5 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Art and Lifestyle 13:20 Shamba lulu 13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Hapa na Pale 18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt 19:00 Jungu kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo 21:35 Supa Min Jackpot 21:45 Art and Lifestyle 22:15 ITV Top 10 23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt 00:30 Al Jazeera	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top Ten rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu Kuu 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:40 Art and Lifestyle 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle 14:20 Soap rpt: Haikufuma 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru: 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 Music: The 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CAPITAL

Sat 24 Aug
08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Jagina rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Aljazeera
14:30 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon RPT
17:15 Eco@Africa
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism
20:30 Tomorrow Today

WORLD

Kamala Harris formally accepts Democrats' nomination for president

CHICAGO

Vice-President Kamala Harris formally accepted the Democratic nomination for president on Thursday with a rousing call to end the war in Gaza and to fight tyranny around the world, drawing a sharp contrast with Republican Donald Trump.

"In the enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny, I know where I stand and I know where the United States belongs," Harris said, accusing Trump of bowing down to dictators.

On the final, and most anticipated, night of the four-day Chicago convention, Harris, 59, promised to chart a "New Way Forward" as she and Trump, 78, enter the final 11 weeks of the razor-close campaign.

Harris emerged as the Democratic candidate little more than a month ago when allies of President Joe Biden, 81, forced him to quit the race.

It was a forceful speech for a candidate who, during her brief campaign, had yet to articulate much of her vision for the country and faced a stream of personal attacks from Trump, who mocked her Black and South Asian heritage and called her weak on the foreign stage.

The speech laid out some broad policy principles, foreign and domestic, but left unsaid specific details which in weeks to come she could be pressured to provide.

After days of protests from Palestinian supporters who were disappointed at not getting a speaking spot at the convention, Harris delivered a pledge to secure Israel, bring the hostages home from Gaza and end the war in the Palestinian enclave.

"Now is the time to get a hostage deal and a ceasefire deal done," she said to cheers. "And let me be clear, I will always

stand up for Israel's right to defend itself and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself."

"What has happened in Gaza over the past 10 months is devastating. So many innocent lives lost, desperate hungry people fleeing for safety over and over again. The scale of suffering is heartbreaking," she said.

"President Biden and I are working to end this war such that Israel is secure, the hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends and the Palestinian people can realize their right to dignity, security, freedom and self-determination."

In some of her strongest foreign policy statements to date, Harris said she would take whatever action was necessary to defend US interests against Iran and would not cozy up to tyrants and dictators.

She said such leaders, including North Korea's Kim Jong-un, "are rooting for Trump".

She vowed to stand with Ukraine in its war against Russia and with NATO allies.

Harris would be first female US president

If successful, Harris stands to make history as the first woman elected US president.

She described the Nov 5 election as a "precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past. A chance to chart a New Way Forward."

Harris drew a series of contrasts with Trump, accusing him of not fighting for the middle class, planning to enact a tax hike through his tariff proposals, and having set in motion the end of a constitutional right to abortion with his picks for the

torically. "If Resolution 2735 is not being implemented, let's pass a new document, which would send an unequivocal message to the 'spoilers' that they will definitely bear the consequences of what they are doing. And let us provide our resolution with a toolbox that would help stop violence, regardless of the whims of any party to the conflict."

In his opinion, "it is precisely the manic desire of the United States to 'monopolize' the Middle East peace process and to reshape it according to 'patterns' suited to Israel that led to the dramatic consequences that we are witnessing today."

"It is also needless to say, that such a



US Vice-President and 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris waves as she leaves the stage on the fourth and last day of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois, on Thursday. AFP

US Supreme Court.

Harris noted the Supreme Court's recent ruling about presidential immunity and the risks that would engender if Trump gained power again.

"Just imagine Donald Trump with no guard rails," she said.

Trump, who had promised to respond to Harris' speech in real time, posted a series of messages on Truth Social as she spoke about him, including: "She stands for Incompetence and Weakness - Our Country is being laughed at all over the World!" and "She will never be respected by the Tyrants of the World!"

Final night

Chicago's United Center brimmed with energy - and people. The arena's 23,500 seats were filled and arena staff briefly blocked more people from entering the facility, saying the city's fire marshal declared the building at capacity.

After Harris ended her speech, 100,000 balloons descended on the crowd, a convention official said. Inflating them took 75 volunteers, 30 staff members and a dozen unionized stage hands.

Biden called Harris to wish her luck before her speech, a White House spokesperson said.

On Thursday night, Harris said she

will pass a middle tax cut that will benefit more than 100 million Americans.

She discussed her plans to fight for abortion rights, voting rights legislation, boost the housing supply and ban what she has called "price gouging" by grocers. Her campaign has also proposed raising the corporate tax rate from 21 percent to 28 percent.

Before the speech, thousands of Palestinian supporters once again gathered to protest US support for Israel as it wages war in Gaza. The issue is one of the most divisive among Democrats and got little attention at the convention, which could hurt Democrats at the polls.

Delegates from the Uncommitted National Movement, which mobilized nearly 750,000 voters to withhold support for Biden during the presidential primaries, entered the venue linking arms and took their seats. Members spent Wednesday night on the sidewalk outside the convention to protest the DNC's rejection of their request for a Palestinian speaker.

Harris has raised a record-breaking \$500 million in a month and narrowed the gap or taken the lead against Trump in many opinion polls of battleground states. Nationwide, she leads Trump 46.6 percent to 43.8 percent, according to a compilation of polls by FiveThirtyEight.

Agencies

Russia proposes to adopt new UN Security Council resolution on Middle East - mission to UN

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA proposes to the members of the UN Security Council to draft and adopt a new document on the Middle East settlement that will make it possible to stop the violence in the Gaza Strip, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyanskiy said.

"How much longer are we going to remain idle, while American would-be mediators continue putting on a show and feeding us empty promises that their diplomatic efforts "on the ground" will bring speedy results?" he asked rhetorically.

"If Resolution 2735 is not being implemented, let's pass a new document, which would send an unequivocal message to the 'spoilers' that they will definitely bear the consequences of what they are doing. And let us provide our resolution with a toolbox that would help stop violence, regardless of the whims of any party to the conflict."

In his opinion, "it is precisely the manic desire of the United States to 'monopolize' the Middle East peace process and to reshape it according to 'patterns' suited to Israel that led to the dramatic consequences that we are witnessing today."

"It is also needless to say, that such a



situation undermines the credibility of the UN Security Council, which since last October has been unable to pass any effective decisions, which are needed not only for a just settlement of the Palestinian issue in line with our relevant resolutions, but also for preventing a region-wide war in the Middle East," the Russian diplomat added.

The UN Security Council voted to pass a US-sponsored draft resolution in support of the proposal for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas on June 10. The 15-member Security Council adopted the resolution, which goes under the number of 2735, in a 14-0 vote, with Russia abstaining, citing the draft's numerous flaws.

Agencies

Attack on Kursk Region a priori cancels possibility of talks with Kiev - Russian MFA

MOSCOW

UKRAINE'S attack on the Kursk Region a priori reduces to nothing the chances of any negotiations with the current regime in Kiev, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has told a news briefing.

"The Kiev regime is looking for an excuse for its terrorist raid on the Kursk Region and coming up with pseudo-arguments, ever more ridiculous ones.

They are trying to cover up all the horrors that the Ukrainian military is committing with far-fetched rhetoric," Zakharova noted. "At first, the functionaries on Bankovaya Street



(where the Ukrainian presidential administration is located - TASS)

were talking about some task to strengthen the negotiating positions of the Kiev regime. In the meantime, the question that they apparently leave unanswered is who will agree to negotiate with them after their atrocities and terror against civilians, civilians, civilian infrastructure and peaceful facilities."

"The Ukrainian military's attempt to invade our territory - I should emphasize once again what was said by the Russian leadership - a priori cancels the possibility of any negotiations with the bandit junta," Zakharova stressed.

She also recalled Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's remarks

about "Ukraine's aim to create a buffer zone in this Russian region."

"None of the Western journalists - American, British, German, Italian or French ones - have tried to find out how the two aims can be combined: a buffer zone or the task of strengthening negotiating positions," Zakharova noted.

"Apparently, Zelensky's aim is to use such appeals to the people to raise his plummeting rating, to prove his pseudo-legitimacy, and to attract even funding from the Western donors," she stated. "Of course, this entire criminal scheme of the Kiev regime was obviously doomed to fail from the outset."

Agencies

IAEA chief may visit Kursk nuclear power plant early next week - Russian diplomat

VIENNA/MOSCOW/KYIV

THE head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Thursday that he will visit the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) next week to assess the situation after Russia informed the agency of attempted attacks on the facility earlier in the day.



IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi said in a statement that he will assess the situation on site and discuss modalities for further activities needed to evaluate the nuclear safety and security conditions of the Kursk NPP during his upcoming visit.

According to the statement, the United Nations nuclear watchdog was informed by Russia earlier on Thursday that "the remains of a drone were found within the territory of the Kursk NPP" and that "the drone was suppressed in the early morning" of that day.

"The drone fragments were reported to have been located roughly 100 meters from the plant's spent fuel nuclear storage facility," the statement read.

Grossi warned that military activities near a nuclear power plant pose a serious risk to nuclear safety and security.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has launched an attack on a railway ferry with fuel tanks in Russia's Black Sea port of Kavkaz, resulting in a fire, local authorities said.

The area of the fire and information about any victims are being clarified, the operational headquarters of the Krasnodar region said on Telegram.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine. Also on Thursday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region, which borders Russia, the presidential press service said.

During his trip, Zelensky visited the Sumy border area and held a meeting with the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Oleksandr Syrsky and Sumy regional governor Volodymyr Artyukh.

Syrsky said at the meeting that Ukrainian forces took control of another settlement in Russia's western Kursk region and captured more Russian soldiers.

For his part, Artyukh said that shelling of the Sumy region from barrel weapons and the number of civilian casualties in the area have decreased since the start of Ukraine's operation in the Kursk region.

During the meeting, the parties discussed coordinating actions between the Ukrainian military, police and the State Service for Emergencies in the border areas, and the organization of humanitarian convoys to the Kursk region.

Ukraine started a military operation in the Kursk region on Aug 6. Syrsky said earlier that Ukraine had taken control of more than 90 settlements in the conflict-hit region.

The Sumy region borders Russia's Kursk and Belgorod regions in the east and Bryansk region in the north.

US, India sign pact for reciprocal priority support to promote national defence

WASHINGTON

THE United States (US) and India have signed an agreement to provide reciprocal priority support for goods and services that promote national defence. The arrangement will enable both countries to acquire the industrial resources they need from one another to resolve unanticipated supply chain disruptions to meet national security needs.

"Two important documents have been signed in Washington DC as Raksha Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh's visit to the United States begins. Senior defence officials from both the sides concluded the Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA), and Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers," RMO India took to X to post.

The Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) was signed by Vic Ramdass, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Industrial Base Policy, on behalf of the United States, and Samir Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisitions), on behalf of the Indian Ministry of Defence.

India is the 18th SOSA partner of the US after Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

"This Security of Supply Arrangement represents a pivotal moment in the US - India Major Defence Partner relationship and will be a key factor in strengthening the US-India Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)," said Ramdass.

ANI

China achieves remarkable results in protection, management of world natural heritage

THE world's cultural and natural heritage is an important outcome of the development of human civilization and natural evolution.

The recently held 46th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO included China's cultural heritage nomination: the Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital on the World Heritage List. It also included two natural heritage nominations, respectively Badain Jaran Desert - Towers of Sand and Lakes, and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast

of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase II).

To date, there are 59 sites of world heritage in China, including 15 natural sites and four mixed cultural and natural heritage sites. The country ranks first in the world in terms of the number of natural heritage sites.

The inclusion exactly mirrored China's unremitting efforts to protect and inherit cultural and natural heritage, conserve ecology and build itself into a beautiful country.

For some time, China has placed unprecedented emphasis on ecological conservation.

The nature reserves system with national parks being the main component has been continuously improved, providing a solid institutional guarantee for the protection of world natural heritage and mixed cultural and natural heritage.

At present, China's world natural heritage sites and mixed cultural and natural heritage sites cover an area of 79,000 square kilometers, including over 100 protected natural areas such as national parks, nature reserves and various types of natural parks. The country has put important ecological systems and

natural heritage under effective protection, demonstrating to the world its relentless efforts and responsibility in protecting the nature and human civilization.

In recent years, China has witnessed a large number of outstanding cases of ecological conservation and management.

Huangshan Mountain in east China's Anhui province has innovatively introduced a rotating closure system and a paid rescue system. The Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries in southwest China's Sichuan province has implemented a development

model that calls for joint efforts from relevant enterprises, cooperatives, farmers and research bases, actively exploring sustainable development for communities within heritage sites.

Shandong province's Taishan Mountain has built a comprehensive intelligent protection and management system. Wuyi Mountain in southeast China's Fujian province has established a two-tier national park management system of "management bureau - management station." The Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas has completely banned all prospect-

ing and mining rights within the heritage site and buffer zones.

Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area in Sichuan province has made clonal propagation research of endangered orchid species its flagship scientific project. Mount Fanjing in southwest China's Guizhou province has implemented a conservation program for gray snub-nosed monkeys.

According to the World Heritage Outlook released by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2020, for 63 percent of all natural heritage sites and mixed cultural and

natural heritage sites in the world, the conservation outlook is either "good" or "good with some concerns," while the figure stands at 89 percent in China. For seven percent of these sites, the outlook is assessed as "critical," and none of them is in China.

This indicates that China has not only met international standards but also clearly surpassed the global average in the conservation of natural heritage sites and mixed cultural and natural heritage sites, demonstrating outstanding conservation achievements.

People's Daily

African farmer reaps benefits of China's Juncao tech

UNITED NATIONS

AFTER completing his university studies in 2017, Nyambo Obed, who is from Rwanda, benefited from Chinese farming technology.

While unemployed, he took a training course on agriculture featuring Juncao technology, which was organized by the China-United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund.

In five years, Obed became a farmer employing dozens of people and producing a wide range of products, including food, animal feed and fertilizer.

"Juncao technology has not only changed my life, but has also made me a champion in my village, helping others out of poverty. Thanks to it, I am now able to support the livelihoods of dozens of families on my own," Obed told Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN, when Fu visited his farm in Rwanda.

Juncao technology is an agricultural invention using chopped grass as a substrate for growing edible and medicinal mushrooms. Invented in the 1980s by Lin Zhanxi from China's Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, the technology has benefited more than 100 countries, including Rwanda, according to Xinhua News Agency.

"Today, I can proudly say that my mushroom business has enabled me to create jobs for over 20 people in my community, helping them lift themselves out of poverty," he told The New Times, a Rwandan news agency.

Two weeks ago, Fu traveled with senior UN Secretariat officials and Lin to visit farms using Juncao technology in Rwanda and Tanzania.

The technology "symbolizes the suc-



Fu Cong (front, second from right), China's permanent representative to the United Nations, visits on August 2024 a farm in Rwanda using China's Juncao technology. CHINA DAILY

cessful practices explored by the Chinese people in the course of poverty reduction and eradication and epitomizes China's practical actions to support the realization of sustainable development in the Global South," Fu said at a UN Security Council meeting on Wednesday.

The farming technology has been promoted and adopted in 107 countries

around the globe, bringing hope for tackling problems of poverty, food security and employment, Fu noted.

"China is ready to work with the international community to help more developing countries realize independent development," he added.

Juncao technology is one of the priority projects carried out under the China-

United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund. Established in 2015, the fund has so far supported about 150 projects in the Global South.

Fu called the fund an "important support for the UN in promoting the sustainable development agenda and maintaining international peace and security".

China upholds fairness, justice, promotes world multipolarity

By He Yin

IN today's turbulent world, power politics and bullying practices are causing severe harm, and the international security landscape is fraught with chaos. As a responsible major country, China always upholds fairness and justice.

Upholding fairness and justice has been a fine tradition and unwavering commitment of Chinese diplomacy. From putting forth the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence over 70 years ago to actively advancing the building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind in the new era, China has taken concrete actions to contribute its strength in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development.

In developing international relations, China is committed to equality among all countries, big or small, and adheres to the principle of combining justice with interests while prioritizing justice. China does not seek major-power competition or geopolitical spheres of influence. It does not interfere in the

internal affairs of other countries or force them to take sides.

Faced with surging hegemonism and power politics, China has always been defending justice. It has resolutely pushed back against a handful of countries' attempts to dominate international affairs, demanded increased representation and voice of developing countries in the global governance system, supported addressing the historical injustices done to African countries as a priority, and urged the lifting of all illegal unilateral sanctions. With these efforts, China has firmly upheld the common and legitimate rights and interests of developing countries, and made the international order more just and equitable.

Defending justice in defiance of hegemonic power is certainly also about safeguarding China's sovereignty, national dignity and territorial integrity. In the face of external interference and provocation, China fought back resolutely and forcefully. In response to various acts of unjustified suppression, China took legitimate and reasonable countermeasures.

In international affairs, China consistently upholds fairness and justice while seeking solutions to pressing issues, in an effort to promote equity and justice, and contribute to lasting peace and stability.

On May 30, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. He stressed that China firmly supports the establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. It supports Palestine's full membership in the UN, and

supports a more broad-based, authoritative and effective international peace conference.

Leaders of countries attending the opening ceremony highly appreciated China's fair and just stance on the Palestinian question. They expressed willingness to work closely with China to help ease tensions and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

On July 4, Xi delivered a speech when attending the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus" meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, where he called for building a common home of fairness and justice. The SCO Summit has issued the Astana Declaration and the SCO initiative on world unity for justice, harmony and development. It was a strong message of the new era, one that calls for solidarity, cooperation and justice rather than division, confrontation, and hegemonism.

China unites with the Global South on the basis of equality, openness, transparency and inclusiveness, strengthening the power of fairness and justice in the international community. As an important member of the Global South, China forms its stance based on the merits of each issue when handling international affairs, abides by the basic norms of international relations, and safeguards the legitimate rights and interests of all countries, especially developing countries.

China supports deepening cooperation under the expanded BRICS and the SCO, and supports Brazil and Peru in holding the G20 Leaders' Summit and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting respectively to jointly create a shining "South moment" in global governance.

China is accelerating the implementation of the eight initiatives to better support Global South cooperation, working to ensure the success of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) that will be held in Beijing from September 4 to 6, developing the "five cooperation frameworks" with Arab states, upgrading its relations with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and deepening cooperation with Pacific island countries. China will stay committed to the development and revitalization of the Global South.

Promoting world multipolarity and greater democracy in international relations is part and parcel of upholding fairness and justice. China advocates an equal and orderly multipolar world, which means every country can find its place in a multipolar system and play its due role pursuant to international law.

China advocates that the multipolar world should be equal, that is, to insist on the equality of all countries, oppose hegemony and power politics, oppose the monopoly of a few countries in international affairs, and effectively promote greater democracy in international relations.

China believes that multipolarity should be a historical process in which countries choose solidarity over division, communication over confrontation, cooperation over conflict, and win-win results over lose-lose situations.

People's Daily

Macron meets French party leaders to try to name a prime minister

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron began meeting party leaders from across France's political spectrum on Friday with the aim, nearly seven weeks after inconclusive parliamentary elections, to finally give the country a new prime minister.

Whoever Macron (pictured) names will face a tough job, with parliamentary approval of the 2025 budget one of many challenges at a time when France is under pressure from the European Commission and bond markets to reduce its deficit.

Who will become prime minister - and whether they can get a hung parliament to back any reforms - is still very much an open question, with no sign yet of any broader coalition that would have a stable majority.

Macron's gamble to call the snap parliamentary election backfired, with his centrist coalition losing dozens of seats in the June 30 and July 7 ballots, which delivered a hung parliament.

Outgoing Prime Minister Gabriel Attal's government steered France through the Paris Olympics in a caretaker role. But the break is over, and Macron will appoint a prime minister after these talks, which will continue on Monday, his office said.

They have not said exactly when that appointment would come. "We've come to offer a solution



of stability. We are united," Lucie Castets, a little known 37-year-old senior civil servant and the left's candidate for prime minister, said as the Socialists, hard-left France Unbowed, Greens and Communists arrived together to speak with Macron.

The left wing's alliance, the New Popular Front (NFP), topped the vote. But Macron has so far ignored Castets' candidacy, pointing out that despite coming first, the left are far from an absolute majority in parliament.

Instead, he has called for leaders to strike deals beyond party lines to form a government that would have a solid majority. "Faced with this parliament of minority (parties), there is a need for political leaders to get along with each other," an official in Macron's Elysee office said. The election "forces everyone to change tack and enter into a coalition logic."

Communist party leader Fabien Roussel, whose party also belongs to the NFP alliance, said on Friday that not appointing Castets would trigger a severe crisis - and that the left could leave the talks if Macron made clear he would not choose Castets.

People's Daily

Belt and Road cooperation brings tangible benefits to Panama

ON the vast Pacific Ocean, container ship Jasmine owned by China's COSCO Shipping Lines was braving the winds and waves.

Upon arriving in Panama city, the ship slowly docked at the Port of Colon, close to the terminus of the Panama Canal on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

There, the containers carried by the ship were transferred to an overseas warehouse built by China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited (hereafter referred to as "China COSCO Shipping"), the parent company of COSCO Shipping Lines, and then distributed to merchants in Latin America and the Caribbean before reaching hundreds of thousands of consumers in the region.

This full-process comprehensive logistics service developed by China COSCO

Shipping combines shipping, warehousing and customs clearance. It has made significant contributions to Panama's employment and shipping industry.

The Colon Free Zone (CFZ) in Panama, one of the world's busiest FTZs, is located at the Atlantic gateway to the Panama Canal. It boasts an advantageous maritime location and many tax incentives. Re-export trade is its core business.

In October 2020, China COSCO Shipping set up an overseas warehouse in CFZ, covering more than 20,000 square meters, to better leverage the CFZ's geographical advantage and the company's shipping line strengths, in response to the growing needs of Chinese companies operating in Latin America.

Wang Zhen, deputy general manager of COSCO Shipping

Lines (Panama) Inc., said that the overseas warehouse not only helps remove logistics bottlenecks in Latin America, but reduces overall transportation costs and makes industrial and supply chains stable and unimpeded.

According to Wang, cargos are kept in the warehouse for quick dispatch and delivery to buyers from Latin America and the Caribbean.

"Cargo traders had to invest a large amount of money in advance, which could only be regained once all the goods were sold. Prolonged shipping time could inevitably lead to significant financial strain," said Guo Jialun, logistics manager of COSCO Shipping Lines (Panama) Inc.

By reducing delivery times, the warehouse has helped relieve cash flow pressures and has received high appraisals from buyers in Latin America

and the Caribbean, Guo added.

"I feel a strong sense of satisfaction every time I think about how we are moving these cargos to other countries and ensuring their safe and efficient delivery to businesses and consumers," said warehouse supervisor Carlos Bandini of COSCO Shipping Lines (Panama) Inc.

Bandini has been working at the warehouse for more than two years. "The warehouse can secure punctual delivery of goods and achieve considerable cost reductions by implementing streamlined management techniques and adopting the latest technologies," said Bandini.

China COSCO Shipping employed a number of local workers at its office and terminals in Panama city. The overseas warehouse in the CFZ alone has created nearly

100 jobs for local residents.

The company is an active supporter of the development of Panama's shipping industry. It has offered different types of vessel console simulators for local maritime colleges, and worked with these colleges and relevant organizations to provide internships for students.

On the campus of International Maritime University of Panama, there is a building donated by China COSCO Shipping. The university's simulator and application technology center is also equipped with devices aided by the company.

Panama's connectivity to the rest of the world is the country's core competitiveness, said Giovanni Bruno Ferrari, general manager of the CFZ.

"More and more Chinese companies are doing busi-

ness in Panama, which is further enhancing such competitiveness," said Ferrari.

According to statistics from the Panama Canal Authority, in the fiscal year of 2023, the Panama Canal saw more than 25 million tons of cargo originating from China and over 39 million tons destined for China, totaling more than 64 million tons, which account for a substantial 22.7 percent of the canal's total traffic of the year.

Ferrari said China has long been the largest commodity supplier of the CFZ and the second-largest user of the Panama Canal. The large number of Chinese commodities shipped to Latin America and the Caribbean via the CFZ not only facilitate the development of the CFZ itself, but also play an important role in maintaining unimpeded global trade and stabilizing

the global supply chain.

Panama is the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to sign a memorandum of understanding with China on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation. The two countries have agreed to take the opportunity of aligning the BRI with the National Logistics Strategy of Panama 2030, to strive for more highlights of bilateral cooperation.

Panamanian economist Eddie Tapiero said that Panama, as an international shipping center and regional aviation, logistic and financial hubs, enjoys natural advantages in Belt and Road cooperation. The country will leverage its geographical advantage and play a positive role in deepening Latin America-China cooperation, Tapiero added.

People's Daily



Keegan Bradley of the United States plays his shot from the second tee during the first round of the BMW Championship at Castle Pines Golf Club on Aug. 22, 2024 in Castle Rock, Colo. AP

Keegan Bradley goes from last man in to leading BMW Championship

CASTLE ROCK, Colo.

KEEGAN Bradley went from a bundle of nerves waiting to see if he would advance in the PGA Tour postseason to a blissful day of birdies in mile-high air Thursday that led to a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead in the BMW Championship.

Bradley, the newly appointed U.S. Ryder Cup captain, was the last man to get in the 50-man field at Castle Pines and he had to sweat it out Sunday. He was in his hotel room with the TV going, the FedEx Cup standings on another screen and his phone buzzing.

"One of the toughest afternoons of my PGA Tour career," Bradley said. "It was really brutal. It's such a relief to be here. I just felt a lot calmer today. But I played really, really well."

It showed on a course that could dole out punishment without a moment's notice. Bradley missed only two fairways and two greens, took advantage of the par 5s and made it look relatively easy on the 8,130-yard course, the longest in PGA Tour history.

The opening round was halted for just over three hours because of thunderstorms, a common occurrence in the late afternoon when The International was held at Castle Pines during its two decades on the PGA Tour schedule.

Hideki Matsuyama, the winner in the playoff opener last week, was at 5 under when play was stopped. He returned to his approach on the 18th to 2 feet. He missed the birdie putt and had to settle for a 67.

Rory McIlroy was just settling over a 20-foot par putt on the 18th when he heard the horn to stop play, smiled and marked his ball. Three hours and two putts later, he had a 70.

Adam Scott, among two players who were at Castle Pines during its two-decade run on the PGA Tour, made a long par-saving putt on the 18th for a 68 and was joined by Sungjae Im, Alex Noren and Corey Conners.

Double major winner Xander Schauffele opened with a 69 while playing alongside Scottie Scheffler, who worked through some mild soreness in his back for a 71. Scheffler is assured of being the No. 1 seed at the Tour Championship next week unless Schauffele were to win.

It's all about numbers at Castle Pines, and that's not just the math required to figure out how far the ball is going in elevation at 6,300 feet above sea level. The simple math is take 10% off the yardage, simple enough except

when a pond is guarding the front of the green.

The other number is 30, the players who advance to East Lake next week to compete for the \$25 million FedEx Cup title. The higher the seed, the better the chance.

Bradley had reason to think he could join them the way he played, even with three rounds to go. The key was getting to the BMW Championship, which allows him to plan a schedule that will put him in the same place as players aspiring to be on the Ryder Cup team.

"I want to be out there with the guys on the Ryder Cup team," he said. "I want to be playing with them, on the range with them, in the locker room, in the tournament. It was really important for me to be in this top 50."

It was a good start for Noren, who has never been to the Tour Championship and is No. 45 in the FedEx Cup. Ditto for Scott at No. 41.

The Australian's experience at Castle Pines is a little overrated. Scott was a 20-year-old who received a sponsor exemption in 2000 to play his first regular PGA Tour event. He remembered a few of the holes, the elevation changes, the tough walk and the beauty.

"I remember being around all the players that I'd looked up to my entire childhood and feeling really not prepared for it, to be perfectly honest," he said. "But it gave me inspiration to get better and work on my game and make sure I'm good enough to be out here."

Scheffler stretched his neck to the side a few times, but then on the 17th he appeared to grab his lower back on a long iron shot to the par 5. His last two full shots looked fine, as did so much of the rest of his round. Scheffler said it was nothing to be alarmed about.

"I woke up just a little sore this morning, I had trouble kind of loosening it up," he said. "I was laboring most of the day to get through the ball. On 17, I was trying to hit a high draw, and that's a shot where I've really got to use a big turn, big motion. Really just felt it a little bit. But other than that, all good."

Scheffler had a neck issue at The Players Championship and nearly withdrew in the middle of the second round. Two days later, he rallied from five shots behind to win. And the he won the Masters three weeks later.

"He was stiff at the Masters, at The Players and had to get worked on all those times," Schauffele said. "I guess it's a bad sign for everyone else."

Yanga's talisman Aziz Ki aims for greater heights in CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

STEPHANE Aziz Ki, the standout forward for Young Africans, is determined to surpass his previous achievements in the CAF Champions League this season.

Last season, Aziz Ki (pictured) played a crucial role in leading Young Africans to the quarterfinals of the competition, attracting attention from top clubs across Africa. Despite interest from other teams, the Burkinabe international remains committed to the Tanzanian giants.

In the Premier League, he scored 21 goals and provided eight assists, earning the league MVP award. He is now eager to guide Young Africans to greater success on the continental stage.

He has shared his thoughts on the club's ambitions, the influence of coach Miguel Gamondi, and the factors contributing to the team's recent success.

Young Africans have entered the new CAF Champions League season with high expectations, eager to build on last year's impressive performance, which saw them reach the quarterfinals.

The team's return to the competition after a 24-year absence was a remarkable achievement, setting the stage for a promising campaign. Aziz Ki expressed his satisfaction with the team's progress, emphasizing the importance of approaching every match with a final-like intensity.

"It's always our goal to be at the top. We have to approach every game with the utmost



determination and play at a high level from start to finish. The first match was a great start, but we know there's still a long way to go," said Aziz Ki.

"Honestly, the goal is to be better than the day before. The team wants to do better than the last game. We want to prove ourselves because the coach has done his best to prepare us in training sessions. It's always important to have the support of your fans, and the team has to play well all the time to make them happy in return," he added.

Aziz Ki also praised Gamondi for transforming the team's

mentality and pushing them to strive for greatness.

"Gamondi has ignited a fire within our team, transforming our mentality and pushing us to strive for greatness," he said.

The coach's demanding style has not only elevated individual performances but has also fostered a collective desire to dominate every game. Aziz Ki stated that the team is aiming high in this year's CAF Champions League, determined to make a significant impact on the continental stage.

"The objective for the season is clear: to go far. By that, I mean a minimum of reaching

the semi-finals. That is what everyone is working towards. We have to be ready to play every game like a final if we want to be regarded as the best in Africa," said Aziz Ki.

Despite his rise to prominence last season, Aziz Ki remains humble, attributing his success to the unwavering support of his teammates.

"The team has been my foundation. They've provided me with everything I need to succeed. That's why I'm not focused on individual glory. My priority is the team's success. I can't achieve anything alone. While I won't claim to be the best, I'm determined to contribute my best to a team that's already exceptional," he noted.

Today, Young Africans face Vital'O FC in the second leg of the CAF Champions League preliminary stage at Azam Complex. In the first leg, the Tanzanian side secured a commanding 4-0 victory over the Burundian Primus League representatives.

As Young Africans look ahead to the next phase of the competition, their dominant performance against Vital'O highlights their potential to make a deep run in the CAF Champions League this season.

The aggregate winner between Young Africans and Vital'O FC will face either SC Villa of Uganda or Ethiopia's Commercial Bank in the next round.

The victor of the second preliminary round will advance to the lucrative group stages of Africa's premier club competition, scheduled to take place between October and December.



The coordinator of the Ulinzi Cup tournament, Sophia Wakati (2nd L), speaks with players from Majengo FC and Chote FC before their match at Ziwani Pongwe grounds in Tanga on Thursday. Chote FC emerged victorious with a 1-0 win. The tournament is organized by the Tanga Police. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT OSCAR ASSENGA

Pamba bidding to secure first topflight victory in 23 years against Dodoma

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

PAMBA Jiji and Dodoma Jiji are both aiming to secure their first wins of the 2024/25 Premier League season as they face off at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza this afternoon.

Hosts Pamba Jiji earned their first point of the season with a goalless draw against Tanzania Prisons, while Dodoma Jiji began their campaign with a narrow 1-0 defeat to Mashujaa FC last weekend.

Pamba Jiji's return to the Premier League after 23 years highlighted the challenges of top-flight football.

Having gained promotion by finishing second in the Championship last season with a record of 20 wins, seven draws, and three losses, the team is eager to establish itself in the division.

Despite the honor of opening the new Premier League season at home, Pamba faced multiple challenges, including the absence of their new foreign players due to registration delays.

Head coach Goran Kopunovic expressed his frustration after what he called "the worst way" to start the season but remains optimistic about the positives his team showed in their open-

ing match.

The Serbian coach is now focused on the upcoming challenge against Dodoma Jiji.

A significant task for Kopunovic this week has been integrating 18 new signings into his first-team squad.

Ten of these new players started in the match against Tanzania Prisons, while five others were on the bench, highlighting the need for cohesion within the team.

Dodoma Jiji, who narrowly avoided relegation last season by finishing just one point above the drop zone, hope to steer clear of another relegation

battle this year.

However, their season did not start as planned, with a loss in their opening game.

Head coach Mecky Mexime will be relieved to have a full squad available for today's game, with no injuries or suspensions affecting his lineup.

He will also be able to call upon Kenyan center-back Joash Onyango, who recently joined from Ifeju, to bolster their defense.

As both teams seek their first victory of the season, today's match is crucial for setting the tone for the rest of their campaign.

Cash-strapped Barcelona sheds players one year after their arrival

BARCELONA, Spain

IF trying to compete with Real Madrid and newly arrived Kylian Mbappé wasn't daunting enough, now Hansi Flick's Barcelona squad is being thinned out by departures.

Barcelona looks set to lose both Ilkay Gundogan and Vitor Roque in the coming days – or even hours – with both players reportedly close to exits.

Gundogan appears set on returning to Manchester City a year after the midfielder left the serial winners to start a new chapter in Spain. That could be cut short because of Barcelona's need to trim its salary burden, leaving the team without one of its top playmakers from last season.

Roque is also reportedly close to leaving on loan for Real Betis, although Portugal's Sporting has apparently made inquiries. The young Brazilian forward cost Barcelona a 30-million-euro (\$33-million) transfer last summer. He arrived in the winter transfer market but never earned consistent playing minutes despite the significant investment made to sign him. When their exits are made official, it will confirm that the club's efforts last summer to strengthen the squad turned out to be makeshift moves.

Last summer, Barcelona maintained the quality of a squad that lost veteran leaders Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba without spending much money. Gundogan and former Athletic Bilbao defender Inigo Martínez arrived as free agents, Oriol Romeu's move from Girona cost a reported 4 million euros, and João Félix and João Cancelo both arrived on loan deals from Atletico Madrid and Manchester City, respectively.

But a year later only Martínez appears set to continue with the team that finished last season without a title and the departure of coach Xavi Hernández, who was pushed out after he publicly complained that the club's lack of money would make it hard to compete with Madrid or the other top European clubs.

Barcelona has locked up the arrival of Spain midfielder Dani Olmo from Leipzig, but it has yet to meet the financial requirements of the Spanish league necessary to register him to play.

AP

Gundogan photographed in Manchester for secret meeting with Guardiola after arriving from Barcelona

LONDON

MANCHESTER City's second summer signing for their first-team squad, Ilkay Gundogan, has been photographed departing a secret meeting with Pep Guardiola.

The German midfielder landed in Manchester on a private jet from Barcelona on Wednesday evening, having brought an end to his one-year stay at the Catalan giants due to a change in direction from the club.

As the La Liga side continue to battle with precarious and significant financial problems, and struggle with the registration of new signing Dani Olmo from RB Leipzig in a €60 million deal, the club decided to save on the salary of Ilkay Gundogan.

Given the urgency of the matter, Barca permitted the player to also leave the club on a free transfer, with Manchester City moving swiftly to beat competition from clubs in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

With only the signing of various pieces of documentation and media duties remaining for the player at the City Football Academy on Thursday, Manchester City's latest summer recruit has already been spotted meeting with key figures in the city centre.

As per photographers on the ground detailing information for The Sun newspaper, German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan was spotted leaving a meeting with Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola just hours after touching down from Barcelona.

The report details that the iconic Manchester City pair held a 50-minute meeting at Catalan restaurant, TAST in Manchester, which is part-owned by the Etihad Stadium tactician alongside other club colleagues.

Along with the Manchester City manager, it is also understood that City Football Group Chief Executive Officer, Ferran Soriano was in attendance at the meeting to welcome Ilkay Gundogan back to the football club.

Sporting director Txiki Begiristain - who is being widely credited for the negotiations over personal terms - was also present, and both men are expected to welcome the player back to the training centre on Thursday.

It remains to be seen whether Gundogan will be in contention for Manchester City in their next Premier League match, as they welcome Ipswich Town to the Etihad Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

AGENCIES

Leverkusen to retain title or will Bayern bounce back?

By Constantin Eckner

BAYER Leverkusen's record-breaking title win last season was a breath of fresh air for the Bundesliga.

The fact Bayern Munich's seemingly iron grip on the trophy was finally broken raises hopes the upcoming campaign and following years in Germany will be competitive.

However, despite their struggles last year, Bayern go into the 2024-25 season - which kicks off on Friday with Leverkusen at Borussia Mönchengladbach - as favourites once again.

The record 33-times champions, who had won 11 titles in a row before Leverkusen's historic unbeaten league campaign, have made some significant changes, including hiring Vincent Kompany as their new manager.

While the former Burnley boss may not have the typical track record of a Bayern manager, he has impressed in his first weeks in charge.

His possession-based brand of football, which was evident during his time at Anderlecht and his first year with Burnley in the Championship, suits Bayern and their identity well.

Plus, Kompany has had the joy of welcoming a few major signings during the summer - most notably Michael Olise and Joao Palhinha. Interestingly, Palhinha was the player Kompany's predecessor Thomas Tuchel desper-



Bayern Leverkusen won the league and cup double last season (Getty Images)

ately wanted last season before a proposed deal with Fulham fell through.

Palhinha has now been signed as the Bavarians' holding midfielder and looks set to be the most dominant player in front of Bayern's backline since Javi Martínez a decade ago.

*Will Leverkusen's late heroics continue?

One player who might not end up at Bayern before the summer transfer window closes is Jonathan Tah.

The 28-year-old German international was on the verge of moving from Leverkusen a couple of weeks ago, but the two clubs have not managed to reach a deal.

Even though Tah's contract expires in 2025, Leverkusen are loathe to lose their defensive leader.

To this point, the reigning champions have been able to keep all their key players from last season.

Leverkusen's core group - including Florian Wirtz, Granit Xhaka, Jeremie Frimpong and Alex Grimaldo - have all decided to stay and attempt to defend the title under the tutelage of Xabi Alonso.

In fact, Leverkusen have been able to strengthen their squad. Midfielder Aleix Garcia, signed from Girona, looks to be Xhaka's new midfield partner, while defender Jeanuel Belocian and winger Martin Terrier have been brought in to give Alonso even more options.

Leverkusen showed one of their main characteristics at the weekend against VfB Stuttgart in the German Super Cup, managing to score a last-gasp equaliser despite being a man down.

Leverkusen eventually beat Stuttgart on penalties to secure the first piece of silverware of the 2024-25 campaign.

But it is unlikely Alonso's players can achieve

as many last-minute wins as last season - having scored at least 17 goals in the 90th minute or later across all competitions.

The prospect of at least some drop-off in performance is likely, but that does not necessarily mean Leverkusen will be unable to challenge Bayern and others.

Alonso's side did, after all, finish 18 points above third-placed Bayern in 2023-24 and 17 points ahead of runners-up Stuttgart.

*Can Sahin get new look Dortmund to gel?

In the slipstream of Bayern and Leverkusen are two other teams with ambitions of competing for the German championship.

The first is Borussia Dortmund, now coached by Nuri Sahin following the departure of Edin Terzic.

Dortmund reached the Champions League final under Terzic last season, but club power-

brokers were concerned about the lack of overall progress.

Dortmund ended the season fifth in the Bundesliga - 27 points behind Leverkusen - and only reached this year's Champions League because of the altered format, which granted the German league five spots.

Sahin is even less experienced than Kompany and Alonso, but the general hope is the former Liverpool midfielder could improve Dortmund's possession game to dominate play like Bayern and Leverkusen.

Dortmund were even more active in the transfer market, signing Germany internationals Pascal Gross, Waldemar Anton and Maximilian Beier, while Man City's Yan Couto and Serhou Guirassy from Stuttgart also arrived.

Guirassy was second in the Bundesliga scor-

ing charts behind Harry Kane last season and has essentially pushed Niclas Fullkrug, who has joined West Ham, out of the door.

It is up to Sahin to put the pieces together effectively. Unlike Terzic, the new manager cannot count on moments of brilliance from a few attacking players, especially now Jadon Sancho has left the club once again.

*Leipzig with an outsiders' chance

The fourth Bundesliga contenders in 2024-25 look to be RB Leipzig.

Despite losing Dani Olmo, manager Marco Rose has a familiar group of core players, including Xavi Simons who has remained on loan from Paris St-Germain for another year.

The biggest headache for the 47-year-old manager might be his midfield injury woes, as Xaver Schlager and Assan Ouedraogo will miss the start of the season - with the former being out for a considerable amount of time.

But regardless of that, Leipzig boast an outsiders' chance of challenging at the summit during the upcoming campaign.

Leverkusen's stunning triumph last season ended Bayern's Bundesliga monopoly. And the league could be set for another exciting title race with multiple teams, charismatic managers and talented players.

It is truly a breath of fresh air.

BBC

'Anything can happen' - 42 players, but do Chelsea have a plan?

By Nizaar Kinsella

CHELSEA'S oversized squad has been the subject of criticism and led to them being accused of "recruiting badly" by pundits.

There are 42 first-team players listed on the club website but many have not been seen in training, with manager Enzo Maresca fielding questions about their futures throughout his two-month spell at Stamford Bridge.

He left Raheem Sterling, arguably the club's most famous player, out of his first Premier League squad in the 2-0 home defeat by Manchester City on Sunday.

England midfielder Conor Gallagher has left for Atletico Madrid - in an unpopular move with some sections of the fanbase - with fellow home-grown star Armando Broja set to join Ipswich in a loan move with an obligation to buy.

A whole host of other players are facing uncertain futures including defenders Ben Chilwell, Axel Disasi and Trevoh Chalobah, and midfielder Carney Chukwuemeka.

Disasi returned to face Servette in their 2-0 win in the Uefa Conference League play-off first leg at Stamford Bridge, but the rest remain out in the cold.

Noni Madueke scored Chelsea's second goal of the night but has also been linked with a move to Newcastle.

"The reality is until the transfer window is closed anything can happen," said Maresca. "But for sure, Noni is the type of player I like."

Meanwhile, Chelsea have still been the most active Premier League team in the transfer window, signing 11 players, with a £45m move for Joao Felix from Atletico Madrid the latest.

It has left them open to criticism from some fans and sections of the media for stockpiling players, not having a plan and too easily discarding academy talent.

Much of that criticism is directed at chairman Todd Boehly, despite co-owner Behdad Eghbali actually being the most influential member of the American consortium that purchased the club in 2022.

*What is the plan at Chelsea?

Chelsea are, to an extent, stockpiling players.

They have spent £1.5bn on young stars from across the world and built a first-team squad that does need slimming down.

There have been between 22 and 28 senior players in Maresca's group during pre-season, and several will need to leave.

Sterling and Chilwell have been offered to clubs, Chalobah is widely known to be available for sale and talks are ongoing to send Romelu Lukaku and Chukwuemeka to Napoli.

All six overseas loan spots will be filled by the

end of the summer. It is likely three players will join partner club Strasbourg in France, and others will go out on loan within English football.

The idea is to reduce the wage bill and sign younger players before they become stars, saving Chelsea money but hedging their bets across multiple youngsters in the hope some become superstars.

The long contracts allow Chelsea to keep their wage bill down, spread the cost of the transfer over a long period and when contract renewal talks come up, it gives them increased leverage - as players could get left with take-it-or-leave-it offers, with the club able to extend negotiations over a longer period.

Chelsea claim to have reduced their wage bill by more than 50% under the new Boehly and Eghbali-led ownership

group.

It is hard to independently verify that figure without the data being released but, of the contracts we do know about, it appears the wages are below market rate for many players.

Before midfielder Cole Palmer's contract renewal, he was known to be on less than £100,000 a week, British transfer-record midfielder Moises Caicedo is on £150,000 a week, according to comments made by his agent last season, and Ukraine winger Mykhailo Mudryk is known to be on £97,000 a week despite costing an initial £62m.

If prospects do not become stars, Chelsea believe there will be a market to sell them while they are on comparatively low wages.

*How is the oversized squad managed?

Maresca clarified he had "21 or 22 players"

in the training ground during his pre-match news conference before Thursday's Conference League play-off against Servette.

There are then a further "15 players" training in a group which is colloquially being called the "bomb squad" by some national newspapers, but internally is known as the 'loan group'.

This loan group is led by loan technical coach Carlo Cudicini, with coach Ed Brand acting as his assistant.

They use the first-team facilities but train at a different time to the first team to ensure they do not impact on Maresca's core group.

It has helped Maresca keep his first-team squad in more of a bubble, to avoid being around too many disgruntled players.

Midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall was asked by BBC Sport

whether the squad are affected by the noise around too many players. "We are in a bubble," he said. "You can't let that sort of thing affect you. We just go out every day and train as well as we can, getting ready for the matches."

"Everything that happens outside is not up to us. We have one job and that is it."

Kepa Arrizabalaga, Lucas Bergstrom, Chalobah, Chilwell, Tino Anjorin, Alex Matos, Harvey Vale, Angelo Gabriel, Broja, Lukaku, Sterling, Deivid Washington and David Datro Fofana are among those believed to be part of the loan group.

*A financially risky strategy?

According to research by Sky Sports, based on data from Transfermarkt, Chelsea players have a combined 191 years left on their contracts. BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



**Leverkusen to retain title
or will Bayern bounce
back?**

PAGE 19

Yanga out to complete job against Vital'O in CAF Champions League



has been in excellent form, winning six of their seven matches, including pre-season friendlies, and scoring 15 goals along the way.

Their only setback was a 2-1 defeat to German Bundesliga side FC Augsburg in South Africa.

Despite their strong first-leg performance, Gamondi (pictured) insists that his team is determined to avoid complacency.

"We had a good week of training, preparing in the best way possible for this round, and hopefully, we can achieve a good result," Gamondi said.

"In football, nothing is certain until the referee blows the final whistle. We are in a comfortable position, but we don't allow ourselves to be in a comfort zone. For us, that doesn't exist. We need to play every game with full commitment and give 100%."

Gamondi also emphasized

his team's strong defensive record.

"I don't comment on other teams. I focus on my own. If you look at last season's stats, we didn't concede many goals. We were the best defensive team in the Tanzanian Premier League, and we also conceded very few in the Champions League.

"We are a well-balanced team and dangerous in attack, creating many chances while making it difficult for opponents to score against us. However, every game is different, and we are determined to progress without conceding," he added.

Last season, Young Africans were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the prestigious competition after a goalless draw against Mamelodi Sundowns, with the South African side advancing to the semi-finals after winning on penalties.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans will enjoy home advantage once again when they face Burundi champions Vital'O in their CAF Champions League second-leg preliminary round clash at the Chamazi Complex this evening.

The Tanzanian representatives started their CAF Champions League qualifying campaign with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Vital'O last weekend.

Goals from Prince Dube,

Clatous Chama, Clement Mzize, and Stephane Azizi Ki put Young Africans in a commanding position ahead of the second leg.

The Premier League

champions aim to continue their impressive start to the season as they seek to secure a place in the second preliminary round.

Miguel Gamondi's side



Coastal Union part ways with Ouma ahead of CAF Confederation Cup clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COASTAL Union have terminated the contract of head coach David Ouma just two days before their crucial CAF Confederation Cup match against Bravos Do Maquis.

The decision to part ways with Ouma (pictured) comes after a disappointing 3-0 defeat in the first leg, which did not sit well with the club's leadership.

Ouma's absence from training yesterday morning added fuel to speculation about his future at the club. In his absence, the team continued their preparations for the return fixture against Bravos Do Maquis under interim coach Ngawina Ngawina, assisted by Joseph Lazaro.

Ouma's tenure at Coastal Union was cut short due to undisclosed differences with the club, despite his efforts to prepare the team for the upcoming match.

His dismissal follows the team's underwhelming performance in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup, where they were eliminated at the group stage with a record of one win, one loss, and one draw.

Coastal Union secured fourth place in the recently concluded Mainland Premier League, earning them a spot in the 2024/25 CAF Confederation Cup. This marks their return to international competition since their participation in the 1989 African Cup Winners' Cup, where they were eliminated in the first round.

The competition later merged with the CAF Cup to form the current CAF Confederation Cup in 2004.

Domestically, Coastal Union also participated in the Community Shield tournament this season. However, they suffered a heavy 5-2 defeat to Azam FC in the semi-finals and subsequently lost 1-0 to Simba SC in the third-place match.

Reports indicate that Ouma's removal could be primarily due to his strong leadership style and his refusal to compromise on his coaching duties. His insistence on maintaining autonomy reportedly clashed with the expectations of certain club officials.

Additionally, his rejection of specific players proposed by the club's leadership is said to have contributed to the tensions that ultimately led to his dismissal.

Ouma attributed Coastal Union's defeat in the first leg against Bravos Do Maquis to the absence of key players like Maabad Maulid and Key Matampi, believing their participation would have significantly impacted the team's performance.

Ouma joined Coastal Union in November 2023 after leaving his role as technical director at Sofapaka, the 2009 Kenyan Premier League champions.

He played a significant role in Coastal Union's return to continental football after a more than two-decade hiatus, following their strong fourth-place finish last season.

To prepare for the tournament, Ouma focused on bolstering the Coastal Union squad through strategic signings. However, due to their continental commitments, the team has yet to play a league match in the new Tanzanian season.

As Coastal Union face a critical match against Bravos Do Maquis, they do so with a new coach at the helm, hoping to overcome the odds and advance in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Azam hunting for Champions League qualification in Kigali

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

LEADING by one goal from last week's first leg, Azam FC will visit Rwandan champions APR FC at Kigali Pele Stadium this afternoon as they conclude their CAF Champions League qualifying tie.

The victory in Dar es Salaam has put Azam within reach of a place in the playoffs.

If Youssouf Dabo's side can overcome APR, they will face either Egyptian giants Pyramids or Zanzibar's JKU for a spot in the CAF Champions League group stage.

Pyramids seem almost certain to advance to the next round after a commanding 6-0 win over Zanzibar champions JKU in the first leg.

After failing to progress past the first preliminary round last time, Azam are more determined than ever to advance and qualify for the CAF Champions League group stage for the first time in their history.

Dabo is confident his team has the quality needed to move past the Rwandan champions.

"We achieved our target in the first leg, which was to win, although the margin was narrow. We know in the second leg in Kigali, APR will come at us from the start, so we need to be prepared defensively and capitalize on our chances," said Dabo.

"APR is a team that doesn't concede many goals because they are well-organized defensively, but now they are in a situation where they need to play more offensively. Of course, when you play that way, you leave space, and we will see how they manage that situation.

"We also need to be strong mentally and continue playing our football because we have enough quality to win in Rwanda," he added.

Dabo will be counting on the form of forwards Feisal Salum, Jhonier

Blanco, Franck Tiesse, and Gibril Sillah.

He will also rely on a solid defensive line featuring goalkeeper Mohamed Mustafa, Lusajo Mwaikenda, Pascal Msindo, Yannick Bangala, and Yeison Fuentes David to keep APR's strikers at bay.

Like Azam, APR have never qualified for the CAF Champions League group stage, but they are eager to earn a spot among Africa's elite this season.

With the aggregate lead standing at just 1-0 in favor of Azam, APR are still very much in contention for the CAF

Champions League group stage.

The Rwandan side has not yet started their local league campaign, but they recently reached the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup final last month, showcasing their competitive form.



Vijana basketball team players pictured during a training session at the Jakaya M. Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.
PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO
APPLY MAKE-UPS?

TO ACHIEVE A 3-D
EFFECT ON MY FACE

