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Farmers and commercial agriculture



Niger generals to prosecute deposed President Bazoum for 'high treason'

NIAMEY

Niger's coup leaders that toppled Mohamed Bazoum (pictured) said late Sunday they would "prosecute" the deposed president for "high treason" and "undermining the security" of the country. The regime said it had gathered evidence that it would use "to prosecute the deposed president and his local and foreign accomplices before the competent national and international bodies for high treason and undermining the internal and external security of Niger," according to a statement read out by Colonel-Major Amadou Abdramane on national television.

Bazoum has been held in his presidential residence along with his son and wife since the day of the coup.

Military leaders said they had not taken over Bazoum's residence and that he was



After this visit, the doctor raised no problems regarding the state of health of the deposed president and members of his family

still free to communicate with the outside world. Bazoum had received regular visits from his doctor, they said.

A consultation took place on Saturday, according to an adviser to the ousted president.

"After this visit, the doctor raised no problems regarding the state of health of the deposed president and members of his family," the military added.

The ousted leader has said he was being held "hostage" without electricity and had only rice and pasta to eat.

The generals also slammed the "illegal, inhumane and humiliating sanctions" imposed by West African regional bloc ECOWAS, which has suspended financial and commercial transactions with Niger.

Niger's regime said the sanctions were depriving the country of medicines, food and electricity.

AGENCIES

Dr Slaa remanded in Dar, awaiting treason charges

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Chadema secretary general Dr Willibrod Slaa who was reported to be under police custody, is expected to appear in court anytime to face treason charges.

Dickson Matata, an advocate attached to Dr Slaa, the country's former ambassador to Sweden, said in an interview yesterday that the outspoken opposition leader was at the Oyster Bay police station remand in Kinondoni District.

"We have visited him at the police station to see if he is receiving all the required care," he said, noting that his legal team was informed that he will be presented in court tomorrow.

Chadema's Mainland vice chairman Tundu Lissu and Bishop Bandekile Mwamakula of the Moravian Church condemned the arrest of the former party presidential candidate, with the church leader claiming that the move is part of plans to control those opposing port investment plans.

Dr Slaa was reported to have been arrested on Sunday and detained at the police station, a day after advocate Boniface Mwabukusi and activist Nyagali Mpaluka alias Mdude were arrested.

They were held along with Emmanuel Masonga, the Chadema southern zone secretary, at Mikumi in Morogoro Region as they drove to Dar es Salaam, well past midnight on Saturday.

Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura said at a media briefing in Dar es Salaam on Friday that activists planning to coordinate illegal demonstrations in the wake of a negative court ruling for them will have no chance to do that.

He asked members of the public to avoid being trapped by such people in the planned demonstrations as police would not spare anyone found taking part in any illegal walk.

Meanwhile, a panel of advocates representing four citizens challenging the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) executed between Tanzania and Emirate of Dubai over sea and lake ports improvement, has filed an intention to appeal a decision

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan poses for a souvenir photo with Tanganyika Law Society officials after a meeting held at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Kilimanjaro drinking water wins 'superbrand' accolade

By Guardian Reporter

KILIMANJARO drinking water has joined the list of outstanding products in Tanzania that have earned the Superbrands East Africa award

The bottled water brand, a product

of Bonite Bottlers Ltd, joins two other members of IPP-The Guardian newspaper and ITV—who for most of the past decade have repeatedly won the prestigious accolade, the latest being last February.

Jawad Jaffer, the Superbrands East Africa project director, said at the awards

ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday that Kilimanjaro drinking water qualified for the recognition under the non-alcoholic beverages category.

This follows a consumer survey, he said, urging the winners to maintain the quality

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Dar secondary schools set to shift to boarding

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government is finalising plans to transform Form I-IV day schools in the city of Dar es Salaam to boarding schools to enable students to concentrate on their studies.

Albert Chalamila, the regional commissioner made this announcement at Azania Boys secondary school during a visit, accompanying Angella Kairuki, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office.

Asserting that this would improve performance in study and examinations, he said this initiative is intended to protect students against an often dangerous environment, including violence and domestic abuses.

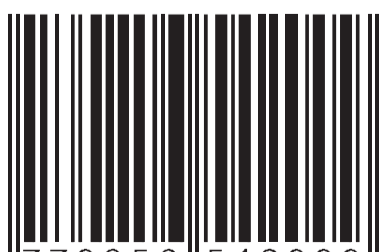
The move arises from an assessment of examination passes in the region showing that public boarding high schools were doing well in national examinations results while Form I to Form Ivo day schools were doing badly.

The minister was handing over ten

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Jawad Jaffer (L), Superbrands East Africa project director, presents an excellence certificate to Bonite Bottlers' head of sales and marketing Christopher Loiruk at a prize-giving ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Kilimanjaro Water, a product of the Moshi-based Bonite Bottlers firm, emerged top in the Non-alcoholic Beverages category of the Superbrands Awards. Photo: Correspondent



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Dr Slaa remanded in Dar, awaiting treason charges

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issued recently by the High Court of Tanzania (Mbeya-Division).

The court dismissed a petition challenging the legality of the government's ports management deal with the Emirate, thus the plaintiffs failed to void it on constitutional grounds as they demanded.

Judges at the High Court panel ruled that the constitutional case lacked merit in almost all aspects, including the petitioners' claims that the agreement contained clauses that violated Tanzania's Constitution and endangered the country's sovereignty and security.

Advocate Philipo Mwakilima,

representing lawyers Mpale Mpoki, Boniface Mwabukusi and Livino Ngalimitumba submitted an intention to appeal yesterday at the Mbeya registry.

Mwakilima said that after filling the intention that they are waiting for proceedings of the case to be prepared for them to submit an appeal.

On August 10 a three-judge High Court panel sitting in Mbeya ruled that the constitutional case was "barren of fruits" and lacked merit in almost all its aspects, including petitioners' claims that the agreement contained clauses that violated Tanzania's constitution and endangered national sovereignty and security.

Dar secondary schools set to shift to boarding

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vehicles for secondary education officers for eight district councils countrywide, to monitor education activities in the various locations.

"Since Dar es Salaam Region has many schools that are not boarding schools and the streets are rampant with challenges like vehicle congestion, it is better that students study in boarding schools," he said.

The schools will improve the task of managing the upbringing of young people and for teachers to closely coordinate their lessons, he said, handing a project document to the minister, in case there will be sponsorship from various sources.

"They should be looked at

differently in regard to our region," he said, elaborating that the region has 455 secondary schools, where 182 schools are public and 273 schools are private.

Azania Secondary school, a boarding school, showed that Form VI results scored Division I-III and there were no Division IV or zero, he said, while the minister urged education officers to properly use the vehicles to optimise school supervision.

Hai, Mtama, Songea municipality, Bukoba Rural, Monduli, Handeni, Ikungi and Sumbawanga municipal councils were handed vehicles, with two others allocated to PO-RALG head offices.

'Govt busy formulating, drafting policy to guide innovative start-ups'

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

INFORMATION, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye yesterday assured the Tanzania Startup Association (TSA) and development stakeholders that the government is formulating and drafting a policy that will guide innovative start-up companies to conduct their businesses.

Speaking during a one-day visit at TSA head office in Dar es Salaam, the minister said that processes for formulation of the policy will be complete by the end of this financial year.

Nape noted that experts are now working to make sure they have all the needed requirements to finish the first draft in which all responsible parties will sit together, go through and give recommendations before the document becomes a policy.

Nape said the government decided to have a policy that will manage innovative companies in the country, but that policy will produce a law that will lead to formulation of regulations.

"We want to have a good legal framework that enables people to benefit from their innovations and allow such innovations to be used in different platforms to facilitate development in various sectors such as health, agriculture, information technologies and financial industry," he said.

According to existing figures, TSA has attracted more than 80 million dollars of investment in the country, thus making the government prioritize creating a conducive working environment for the start-up innovators.

"There is an increase of almost 15 percent of start-up innovative companies in the country that have invented and have innovated different things that are used within and outside Tanzania. Our young people are creative and innovative but due to the lack of good legal systems, those innovations end up being hosted by other countries," said the minister.

TSA Chief Executive Officer, Zahoro Muhaji said the Tanzania start-up ecosystem status report

2022 revealed a 15 percent increase in the number of known start-ups growing from 587 to 673 in 2022, and that Dar es Salaam dominates the start-up scene with 66.56 percent of all start-ups.

He said the ICT sub-sector led the way, followed by Agritech and Fintech which comprises 25.9, 16.6 and 7.2 percent of start-up respectively.

Muhaji noted that Tanzania start-ups collectively raised \$152 million in 2019, \$96 million in 2021 and \$80.5 million in 2022 and with a notable 14.65 percent increase in job creation of 89,509 people in 2022.

He said: "We appreciate the ministry championing the establishment of the national framework for regulatory sandbox for innovative products, services, and business models. The framework has significantly streamlined operations for sector regulators like the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), enabling the regulator to provide free access to vital communications resources such as USSD short code, domains and frequencies."

Over the past year about ten start-ups have benefited from this arrangement empowering them to build up products and services that have substantially impacted the country's economy, noted Muhaji.



We want to have a good legal framework that enables people to benefit from their innovations and allow such innovations to be used in different platforms to facilitate development in various sectors such as health, agriculture, information technologies and financial industry



Vicky Yuan Zhang (L), Huawei's Vice President of Corporate Communications, briefs Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) and his delegation in Beijing yesterday on the firm's activities. The delegation's tour included discussions on investment issues. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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standard that earned them the recognition.

"To go on top is easier than staying on top," he said, noting that it requires dedication, hard work, reliability and integrity.

Christopher Loiruk, the head of sales and marketing at Bonite Bottlers, said after receiving the certificate that the success came as a result of the unique source of the product in Moshi, on the slopes of the mountain.

"It is also because of quality standards the company observes that are set both in the country

Kilimanjaro drinking water wins 'superbrand' accolade

and internationally, plus strong leadership and highly professional staff," he stated. "We have invested in plants that use modern technology to produce the highest quality product for our customers."

Other firms that acceded the Superbrands recognition and presented with certificates are Dar Ceramics Centre, GSM, NMB Bank and NIC Insurance, the only state-

owned firm featuring in the list.

Dr Elirehema Doriye, the NIC Insurance managing director, said it meant a lot for a state firm to stand out in a highly competitive sector such as insurance.

"This means we worked really hard for our efforts to be appreciated by consumers," he said, sharing the award with members of the public who hold shares in the

company.

Participation in the superbrands awards is only by invitation, and offered to the most outstanding brands in a particular field. Attaining superbrands' status strengthens a brand's position, adding prestige, reassuring consumers and suppliers that they are buying the best brand in its category, organisers noted.



National Council for Economic Empowerment executive secretary Beng'i Issa addresses journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on the achievements registered by the council and its projections for financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

PG: TPC earned 33.7bn/- in 2022/23

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Posts Corporation (TPC) has earned 33.7bn/- in 2022/2023, which is an increase of 3.4 per cent compared to the actual income generated in 2021/22 which was 32.6bn/-.

Macrice Mbodo, TPC postmaster general unveiled this yesterday when speaking at the editors' meeting about the corporation's performance for the past two years.

Mbodo said the profit before tax, TPC generated 2.08bn/- equal to an increase of 16 per cent compared to the profit generated in 2021/22 which was 1.79bn/-.

He also stated that the corporation has established the 'Posta Kiganjani' system and application for simplifying the provision of postal and business services through smart phones where this program is available through the Google Play

Store and the App Store.

"We've also managed to enable more than 1200 stores to sell various products domestically and abroad through our online store and advertise various Tanzanian attractions through special stamps of the five main attractions of Tanzania (Big Five) that we launched and put them in our online stamp store and found in all countries in the world to support our Government's efforts to attract tourists."

On the safety of customers' products, Mbodo said: "During the year 2022/2023, the corporation has continued to strengthen the protection and security of customers' assets by adding three modern cargo inspection machines as well as adding 200 modern cameras (CCTV camera) on various offices of the organisation in mainland and Zanzibar."

According to Mbodo, 200

cameras have been purchased and have been closed in various offices in the country.

On the TPC involvement in the 2022 Population and Housing Census exercise, Mbodo noted that the corporation has successfully participated in the successful population and housing census exercise by transporting and distributing all census tools and equipment throughout the country (Mainland Tanzania and the islands).

TPC has also managed to transport biological samples throughout the country from health centers to take samples and go to testing laboratories and then return the answers to the citizens who were tested on time.

"The corporation has continued to manage two one-stop-centers (Dar es Salaam and Dodoma) and established three new centers in

Tanga, Mbeya and Mwanza where through these centers, for the financial year of 2022/2023 more than 100,000 citizens have been served various services including NIDA, RITA, IMMIGRATION, TRA, BRELA, NHIF, NSSF, PSSF and, POLICE.

"In order to ensure that we meet the tastes of our customers, we have strengthened our transportation network by adding 14 vehicles by road, entering into transportation agreements with various ship and flight companies in and outside the country such as Azam link, Zan fast ferries, ATCL, and KLM."

According to him, TPC has received a total of \$120,000 from the Universal Postal Union to develop a system for sending and receiving money in and out of the country electronically (postal cash ewallet) where the construction of this system is ongoing.



Construction of a 5.2bn/- ferry meant to serve the Ijinga-Kahangara route in Magu District well under way at the Songoro Marine garage at Ilelela in Mwanza Region, as witnessed yesterday. It will have capacity for 200 passengers and ten motor vehicles weighing a combined 100 tonnes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Construction of 4 new ferries 60 pc complete'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Chief Executive of the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA), Lazaro Kilahala, has said that construction of four new ferries have now reached 60 per cent where once completed will greatly improve transport services.

The ferries include the one which will be plying between Ijinga and Kahangala in Magu District, the other one will ply between Bwiro and Bukondo in Ukerewe District, the third one will be working between Kisorya and Rugezi in Ukerewe District and that which will be plying between Nyakaliro and Kome in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region.

Speaking immediately after inspecting the ongoing construction at the weekend, the chief executive said the construction of the ferries was going well assuring residents of reliable transport services once completed.

The chief executive said that almost all the equipment that was waiting to be installed to the new ferries have already arrived at the port and the contractor has already been paid the initial payment.

"As we have seen the construction is going well, these are brand new ferries being built by our government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan, it is our belief that between this eighth month and the twelfth month, a very big step of construction will have taken place in these four ferries," Said Kilahala.

In addition, the CE who was accompanied by the manager of ferries, Engineer Vitalis Bilauri also inspected the progress of the ongoing rehabilitation of the ferries in the yard where he has said the MV Misungwi ferry which was being rehabilitated by the Songoro contractor has resumed services in the Kigongo and Busisi area.

Kilahala added that MV Ujenzi ferry has also been completed and has already been returned

to Kisorya Rugezi to continue providing services and the MV. Musoma ferry has already been tested and has been completed and has already been returned to Musoma Kinesi area to continue providing services.

The MV Mara ferry is in the final stages of its rehabilitation along with the MV. Nyerere ferry, added the chief executive while thanking the government for continuing to fund the projects," he added.

"In general, we are very grateful to our government for the great emphasis it puts on ensuring that our ferries are rehabilitated and new ones are built on time so that they can continue to improve services for our citizens," Kilahala added.

Songoro Marine Services managing director, Major Songoro thanked the government for the implementation of the projects while giving priority to local companies thus promoting employment.

Songoro said that his technicians are currently installing various systems including the hydraulic systems that are used to raise and lower the ferry ramps, plumbing systems, fire systems as well as sewage systems at the ferries.

In addition, manager of ferries has said that they will continue to supervise the contractor more closely so that he can complete the construction of the ferries on time and within the scheduled time.

The construction of the new ferries and the rehabilitation of the ferries along with its infrastructure is the implementation of the ruling-CMM election manifesto for the year 2020/2025.

"In general, we are very grateful to our government for the great emphasis it puts on ensuring that our ferries are rehabilitated and new ones are built on time so that they can continue to improve services for our citizens"

SADC's Dar Declaration to form slogan of bloc's summit on Thursday in Angola

By Guardian Reporter

THE declaration of African heads of state meeting on investment in human resources held in Dar es Salaam last month will be part of the implementation of the slogan of the 43rd of SADC heads of state and government summit to be held in Luanda, Angola, on Thursday.

The remarks were given yesterday by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Dr Stergomena Tax to the media at the sidelines of the

Luanda conference.

Dr tax said the Dar es Salaam declaration carries various issues for implementation for investment in the human resources development

These issues continued to be discussed in the 43rd SADC conference in order to make sure in implementing this year's slogan that stresses on the importance of human and financial resources for sustainable industrial development, the Dar es Salaam declaration will become part in the

implementation the slogan.

Earlier, during the opening of SADC Ministerial Council, Elias Magosi, SADC executive secretary stressed on the importance for SADC countries to remove barriers which retard the pace of integration, industrial development and the accessibility to products markets among member countries.

Removal of the barriers is claimed to make SADC region to be in the good position to attain goals stated in the 2020-2030 Plan for regional development and its 2050

Vision.

Magosi said apart from challenges facing the world including effects of climate change and the Ukraine-Russia war that have adversely affected the SADC region, the community has succeeded to enable member states to access to regional and global markets.

Countries which benefitted from the markets include Tanzania that accessed to avocado markets in China, India and South Africa.

SADC ministerial meeting is the preparation of the conference for the heads of state and governments planned for August 17.

At the ministerial meeting, DRC handed over the ministerial meeting chair to Angola.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicants: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS /NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	S.B Apartments Limited	District Application Services	1.Said Ahmed Baghozah-Tanzanian 2.Mohammed Ahmed Baghozah-Tanzanian	75 25
2.	Sifongo Freight And Logistics Company Limited	International Courier	1. Rajabu Selemani Nassor -Tanzanian 2. Heri Henerico Kazinja-Tanzanian	99 1

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the applications.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P. O Bo 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 2412009
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz

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1.	G4s Secure Solutions (TZ) Limited	International Courier	1.Yisega Yisambi-Tanzanian 2.Jackson Ernest-Tanzanian	50 50
2.	Fortune Africa Limited	District Application Services	1.Fortunatus Francis Rwechungura-Tanzanian 2.Emma Francis Rwechungura-Tanzanian	99.7 0.2

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GIZ Tanzania supports efforts to scale down human-wildlife conflicts

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in cooperation with GIZ Tanzania have introduced a strategic project to reduce challenges of human-wildlife conflicts in Lindi and Ruvuma regions.

The project surfaces in a wake of increased cases of human-wildlife conflicts in the two regions, the unwelcoming development which have so far propelled to diverse socioeconomic loss.

Speaking during the project's tailor-made inception workshop, held in Ruvuma region over the weekend, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Col Laban Thomas observed that human-wildlife conflicts have become rampant in the Ruvuma zone, especially in Namtumbo and Tunduru, as well as in Liwale District, Lindi Region.

"These conflicts endanger the lives of citizens and their properties together with food security. For example, in one year alone 2022/2023, the fierce and destructive wildlife have caused the destruction of over 1,000 acres of various crops," he said.

Apart from hailing the government of Germany for supporting the parent ministry in the initiative, he was optimistic that the project will help to eliminate the intolerable human menace in the prone areas.

Speaking on behalf of the director of the department of Wildlife, Antonia Raphael expressed that introduction of the project is part of series of efforts being undertaken by the government to curtail a negative spate of human-wildlife conflicts across the country.

For his side, the director of programme from GIZ, Jens Bruggemann said they will continue to cooperating with the government of Tanzania in the war against human-wildlife conflicts.

"The goal is to protect both, the wildlife and the communities that are dwelling in areas prone to wildlife intrusion," he stated.

Implementation of the timely initiative is a fruitful result of mutual understanding and longstanding bilateral cooperation between the government of Germany and

Tanzania.

As per the project's design, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism will implement the project in cooperation with GIZ Tanzania, whereby there will be other partners, including the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), the Tanzania Forestry Services (TFS), the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

Currently, the government is increasingly implementing the national strategy for the management of human-wildlife conflicts and important actors are helping to improve the coexistence between people and wildlife.

Among others, is the on-going strategy that incorporates a special work to identify, restore and help to protect the wildlife corridors across the country.

Last year, the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism tasked the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) to make a special survey over the number and state of the wildlife corridors across the country.

The survey managed to record a total of 61 wildlife corridors in the country, whereby at least 20 corridors were considered for major improvement and protection due to their ecological, economic, political as well as tourism potential.



These conflicts endanger the lives of citizens and their properties together with food security. For example, in one year alone 2022/2023, the fierce and destructive wildlife have caused the destruction of over 1,000 acres of various crops

NCBA Bank vows to support Z'bar growth

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IN a move set to cement a positive impact on the socio-economic landscape of Zanzibar, NCBA Bank Tanzania has reignited its commitment to strengthen its substantial contribution aimed at driving growth and development in the region.

Recognising the potential for collaboration and growth in the islands, NCBA has extended its support to Zanzibar through a range of innovative products and services designed to empower local communities and foster economic progress.

The new reinvigoration aligns with NCBA's commitment to inspiring change and enabling sustainable development in the areas it serves.

Dr Saada Mkuya, Minister of State President's Office Finance and Planning Zanzibar said: "I am thrilled to announce that we will be running new innovative initiatives that will set new standards for the tourism industry in Zanzibar."

Dr Mkuya was speaking at a customer gala dinner organised by the bank over the weekend. She applauded NCBA's resilient commitment to helping the Zanzibaris.

"I would like to commend NCBA Bank Tanzania for its significant contributions to our local economy. Through their innovative financial solutions, tailored services, and steadfast support, they have empowered individuals, businesses,

and communities in Zanzibar to reach new heights of success," she remarked.

The minister noted that fostering an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurship, they have unlocked doors of opportunity for aspiring business owners, igniting the spark of economic empowerment and transformation.

NCBA managing director and CEO Claver Serumaga said: "Our reimagined tourism services have been designed with your success in mind, tailored specifically to empower business owners in this vibrant sector."

The Director underscored recent accomplishments and achievements to drive financial inclusion in the region.

He said: "Through platforms like M-Pawa, that has opened doors to financial inclusion for over seven million Tanzanians, empowering both the unbanked and transforming lives. We have also taken great pride in supporting micro and small businesses, providing them with the resources they need to flourish and contribute to the fabric of Tanzania's economy."

As a renowned financial institution with a deep commitment to responsible banking and driving financial inclusion, NCBA's robust offering hasn't gone unnoticed, picking up an award in 2022 as the best digital bank in Tanzania.

The bank anticipates further investments to catalyse progress and uplift the quality of life for its customers and the entire nation.



Halima Masoud, chairperson of education committee at Dar es Salaam's Majohe Ward Information and Knowledge Centre, pictured yesterday outlining her committee's activities at a meeting of the centre. The centre operates under the wings of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP). Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Exam cheats will end in soup, warns govt

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE government has declared that it will take stern measures against anyone found cheating in the primary school leaving examination (PSLE) expected to be held in the middle of next month.

Dar es Salaam regional education officer, Alhaj Abdul Maulid issued the warning in Dar es Salaam during the 19th graduation of Tusiime primary school of Tabata.

He said that anyone who will be found in any irregularity in the exams will not be tolerated as severe measures will be taken.

"Be a student, parent, school owner or a teacher, we will

not leave them safe, so schools need to observe procedures and regulations and avoid engaging in this habit but focus on preparing the pupils to perform well on their exams," Maulid said.

He praised Tusiime school director, Dr Albert Katagira investing heavily in education thus complementing the government's zeal of providing quality education to people.

He said the school's good academic results have been a big attraction for many parents to send their children but he asked them to pay the fees on time to enable the investor to pay the teachers.

Meanwhile, Maulid asked parents to donate food to schools

to enable students to study calmly and finally get good results in their national exams.

Alhaj Maulid commended Tusiime school for ensuring that the students get food on time, a situation that supports good academic progress and good performance in the results of the school's internal and national examinations.

In addition, he urged schools across the country to ensure that they hire counseling officers to counsel students who are subjected to acts of sexual violence.

"I congratulate Tusiime who have hired counseling officer and others across the country should follow this example because

there are many children who are subjected to acts of violence even though these incidents are not reported," said Maulid.

He said he was surprised by the way the students of the school are able to speak fluent English.

The officer reminded parents to be close and talk to their children about academic and moral development as experience shows that many parents do not have time to spend with their children.

He said there are many incidents of children being subjected to sexual violence sometimes by their close relatives and related families but since parents do not have time to spend with their children and talk about these incidents, children do not tell them the reality.



Biadia Matipa, general manager of the Masasi-Mtwara and Nanyumbu Farmers' Cooperative Association, announces the price of peas at the first auction since the crop was included in the warehouse receipt system. The auction was held at Mkululu village in Masasi District yesterday, the highest price being 2,003/- and the lowest 1,950/- per kilo. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

Meet villagers to listen to their complaints - PM

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called on public servants to serve the people befittingly in order to realise President Samia Suluhu Hassan vision in the provision of better and timely services to the people.

"The government decries deceptions, if you are a people's employee you must serve them. Officials should go to the people in villages, to listen to their

complaints, it is not right to wait until national leaders come to their areas to air complaints," he said.

Majaliwa made the remarks on Sunday as he was addressing a public meeting at Majaliwa Stadium in Tandahimba District during his visit to Mtwara Region.

He stressed on the importance of government officials to serve the people and that the government is serious in monitoring the issue.

Majaliwa also instructed Mtwara

Region's PCCB head to finalise investigations on the Mambamba health centre project to which the government provided 500m/ and still the project is yet to be completed.

He also said after concluding the investigations he should be informed of steps taken against those involved.

In regard to the availability of drugs in the district, he said the government is providing 77m/- every month, hence he does not

expect people going to health centres to miss drugs.

"Make sure you provide drugs according to the diseases inflicting the people of Tandahimba," he said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister inspected and inaugurated 797m/- Kitama ward water project and used the occasion to stress to the people to continue working together to protect water sources because once destroyed they will no longer get the vital commodity.



Commissioner General of Prisons Mzee Ramadhani Nyamka (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday receiving a report on a mental health survey in prisons in the country as conducted by a committee of the Mental Health Association of Tanzania in collaboration with Prisons experts. Presenting the report is the committee's leader, Prof Joseph Mbatia. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NEEC extends 6.1trn/- in loans to millions of SMEs

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OVER 8.6 million small and middle entrepreneurs (SMEs) have benefitted from loans valued at 6.1trn/- through funds coordinated by the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Also, by June 2023 145,245 jobs were created for Tanzanians in strategic investment projects in the local context.

Addressing reporters here yesterday on the Council's achievements on investment issues and its priorities for 2023/2024, Bengi Issa, NEEC Executive Secretary said NEEC is coordinating 72 existing funds which provide direct loans, securities and subsidies as well as investment programmes.

"By March 2023, it has been able to provide loans valued at 6.1trn/- to

8,650,257 entrepreneurs, including 4,747,321 women (52.5 per cent) and 3,902,936 men (47.5 per cent)," he said.

In regard to employment to Tanzanians in strategic projects, Issa said NEEC is coordinating employment issues in the priority sectors including drilling for oil and gas, farming, construction, industries, tourism and other cross-cutting sectors.

"By June this year, a total of 145,245 jobs were created for Tanzanians in these projects including 29,049 women (20 per cent) and 116,196 men (80 per cent)," he added.

He said more than 1,700 Tanzanian firms have benefited from receiving contracts in these projects.

In regard to the SANVN Viwanda Scheme that aims to provide opportunities for Tanzanians

to access low interest loans for establishing and developing factories especially for processing farm and livestock products, he said by June this year the programme has enabled loans to the tune of 3.83bn/- for 65 projects.

He said the projects were implemented in 13 regions including Mwanza, Arusha Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Geita, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Iringa, Njombe, Singida, Pwani and Coast.

He further said by March 2023 18 investment centres were established in Shinyanga, Geita, Singida, Rukwa, Kigoma and Dodoma regions, and added that two centres in Morogoro and Coast regions are stages to increase services to become fully enabling centres.

"These centres have been able to provide loans valued at 9.4bn/- to 4,017 entrepreneurs," he said.

Government urged to control and make public hazardous pesticides

By Getrude Mbago

THE Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA) has urged the government to put in place robust strategies to make it openly and educate the public on all banned highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).

According to the organisation, the government banned a total of 44 HHPs but the majority of stakeholders are unaware of the pesticides, something which poses a huge threat to users and the environment.

Addressing a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, AGENDA's senior programme officer, Dorah Swai making the banned pesticides publicly and greatly educating farmers and other users on them will greatly help them identify and be able to act.

She noted that highly hazardous pesticides have been recognized as an issue of concern but due to the severe adverse effects they cause to human health and the environment.

She wanted the government to put adequate investment in scaling up alternatives, especially ecological options for pest management so as to protect the sector and people's health.

"HHPs have been successfully phased out from agriculture in a number of countries without affecting agricultural productivity. National bans on HHPs are a cost-effective and affordable

intervention for reducing deaths and harm from pesticide poisoning, we need to tell Tanzanians what pesticide to buy and not to buy," she added.

Swai said that highly hazardous pesticides harm biodiversity and ecosystem services on which agricultural productivity depends and have been linked to significant declines in terrestrial insect and vertebrate species and adversely affect pollination and natural pest control.

Haji Rehani, executive secretary of AGENDA urged the government to invest and promote research and registration of non-chemical pesticides while also disseminating their information to the public so as to increase their use in agriculture.

"This will greatly enhance production of safer crop products without effects to humans and the environment as well as improving ecological agriculture and increasing the foreign market of ecologically produced products," he explained.

He noted that Tanzania has been participating in implanting the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world.

SAICM was developed by a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral preparatory committee and supports the achievement of the 2020 goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.

"SAICM's overall objective is

the achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimise significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health," he said.

Silvani Mng'anya, principal programme officer said that concerted international action is urgently needed, including through partnerships among governments, intergovernmental organisations, civil society organisations, pesticide manufacturers, farmers' organisations and agricultural workers' trade unions, to address the challenges.

"This is necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including substantially reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030," he noted.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) code of conduct (FAO and WHO in 2013) and the Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (FAO and WHO 2016) HHPs as pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.

Majaliwa urges cashewnut farmers to focus on commercial agriculture

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged cashewnut farmers to focus on commercial agriculture and stop selling raw cashews to increase income and productivity.

He said that it is high time for farmers to wake up and utilize the presence of processing factories and construct more others so as to increase the value of farm produce including cashew nuts.

Majaliwa made the call yesterday while speaking to citizens in Newala town council as part of his official tour in Mtwara Region.

He said that one kilogramme of processed cashew nuts is sold at 1,300/- while the unprocessed one (raw) is sold at 2,000/-.

"We have a huge opportunity to ensure that our crops are

processed, the government has put in a conducive environment to facilitate establishment of factories, this should be well utilized by establishing processing industries to add value to the crop and thus get higher income," he said.

The Premier urged owners of cashew nuts factories to allow farmers to go process (clean) their raw cashew nuts free of charge.

"We have witnessed the Organic Growth Limited (OGL) factory of Tandahimba allowing farmers to send their raw cashew nuts to process them, this is good and should be emulated by other industrialists," he said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister directed Mtwara regional commissioner Colonel Ahmed Abass Ahmed to supervise implementation of power supply in

Newala district which is executed by Central Electric International.

Region manager for Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), Eng. Tawakal Rwahila said the contractor was supposed to complete the electrification project in April, this year.

Eng Rwahila said the contractor won the tender to supply power in 70 villages in August 2021 but his pace is not good.

The Prime Minister also inspected progress of the construction of buildings to improve provision of health services in the Newala hospital which cost 800m/-.

He said that one kilogramme of processed cashew nuts is sold at 1,300/- while the unprocessed one (raw) is sold at 2,000/-.



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
actalliance

VACANCY

Position:	Senior Program Officer – Haydom Lutheran Hospital
Job Location:	Dar es Salaam
Reporting to:	Programme Manager
Contract Period	Initially 1 year

Background:
From 2015 Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) has been managing a Norwegian government grant for Haydom Lutheran Hospital (HLH) in Manyara Region. Currently NCA is managing the 2 years grant agreement with Norad running between 2023 - 2024. The overall goal of the grant is to sustain the quality, accessibility, and affordability of health care services to the communities served by HLH whilst supporting the hospital to transition toward institutional and financial sustainability. In addition to grants management, NCA is supporting the hospital with capacity development in the following areas: a) Hospital leadership and management, b) Health Sector Policy Advocacy, c) Hospital governance reform, d) Clinical services monitoring and e) Replication of HLH innovations in Safer Births in the catchment area, nationally and to other relevant NCA Country Programs in Africa. To deliver on these sub-project priorities, NCA facilitates support from relevant experts and networks. This includes, but is not limited to, support from Christian Social Service Commission (CSSC).

NCA is looking for a structured and result oriented person with very good programme management skills and working experience in health systems management, health financing and health facility sustainability in Tanzania. Some knowledge of social protection and gender programming is an advantage. The selected candidate will coordinate implementation of the Norad grant agreement and facilitate implementation of the sub-project agreement between HLH and NCA for the year 2023-2024.

Job description

- 1. Programme Advisor:** Provide support to HLH to secure efficient programme implementation. Review programme plans, develop proposals and budgets, and carry out project implementation support, monitoring and report writing. The focus of the programmatic intervention in 2023-2024 is in measurable enhancement of HLH financial sustainability.
- 2. Health financing advocacy:** Facilitate HLH to do effective advocacy towards Tanzanian authorities, including advising and equipping NCA with relevant information to facilitate advocacy with relevant Norwegian stakeholders.
- 3. Cooperation:** Strengthen networking and partnerships in support of HLH with relevant stakeholders including organising and participating in relevant arenas for dialogue, learning and establishing working partnerships inclusive of relevant Government of Tanzania authorities, the Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam and relevant government authorities.
- 4. Communication:** Advise HLH on communication strategy and content, particularly to enable HLH financial sustainability as well as promote visibility of HLH work and brand.
- 5. Resource Mobilisation:** Support HLH in resource mobilization efforts, locally and internationally. Including seeking opportunities through networks, forums, and collaborations, with potential partners.
- 6. Support HLH digital systems development and governance**

The selected candidate must be available for travel on short notice and travel between 70-90 days per year primarily to Haydom Lutheran Hospital in Manyara.

Qualifications and working experience

- Tanzanian national with a master's degree in health management, Business Development, Project Management, Administration, or related, relevant topics from a recognized learning institution.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant management experience from public health, or International Health NGO in Tanzania.
- Knowledge and understanding of health systems and health financing in Tanzania is a requirement. International experience and knowledge of health sector donors in Tanzania is an advantage.
- Skills in developing Funding proposals and funds raising concepts and papers
- Experience in advocacy on health or social protection policy in Tanzania
- Good knowledge of the health sector and centres of excellence, which can provide relevant capacity development, training, or support services to HLH.
- Experience with faith-based social services is an advantage.
- Excellent communication skills (oral and written, English and Swahili).
- Confident user of MS Office (incl. Excel and Power Point).
- Timely deliveries and good time management are expected.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural setting and to interrelate with relevant stakeholders both at the national and sub-national levels. Professional interaction with NCA head office in Norway and relevant country offices in Africa is expected.

Personal qualities

- Systematic, structured and result oriented
- Energetic and enterprising
- Team player with good collaboration skills with flexibility to adapt to changing environment
- Ability to train and build capacity
- Good people skills, including relationship building with donors
- The person who is to be employed has to be loyal to Norwegian Church Aid's Christian values

Duty Station and Remuneration
The duty station is Mikochehi, Dar es Salaam.

An attractive compensation package based on performance and commensurate with the responsibility will apply to the successful candidate.

How to apply:
Please submit your application to the address ncatz@nca.no. Only electronic applications are considered. In the subject line of your email, please state clearly which position you apply for. The application should consist of a brief motivation letter and CV, compiled into one document of maximum 4 pages. The document name should start with your name and include the position you apply for. Certificates are not of interest at this stage but should be brought to 2nd round of interviews. Applications failing to meet these requirements or sent to other email addresses will not be considered. If you do not hear from us, please consider your application unsuccessful. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) reserves the right not to make an appointment/contact.

Application deadline is 25th August 2023.

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Deputy PS expresses his satisfaction with EBARR project implementation

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Permanent Secretary (Environment) in the Vice President Office (VPO), Dr Switbert Mkama, has expressed his satisfaction with the supervision and implementation of the project to withstand the effects of climate change through the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EBARR) in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region.

Dr Mkama made the remarks at the weekend during his visit for inspecting milling machines, quality "borani" type of cattle breeds and the construction of water dams.

Speaking at different times during the visit, Dr Mkama called on the people in the district to take care of the projects that are implemented in the aim of environmental conservation and as measures against drought.

"I would like to tell you that these projects here and elsewhere will help you in income earning as they will enable you to conduct various activities including beekeeping thereby dissuading you from engaging yourselves in activities that destroy the environment including tree cutting and charcoal

burning," he said.

He also called on government officials and district residents to make sure all projects activities are completed come December 2023 as well as making sure the projects are sustainable to benefit future generations.

For his part, Kishapu Member of Parliament Boniface Butondo thanked the government for implementing the EBARR project, saying that it has been of great assistance to the people in the district.

He said various projects including water dams, livestock hides factories by a shoemaker group will boost livestock keeping in the district.

The MP further said sunflower oil extracting machines expected to be provided can help farmers of the crop to extract edible oil for income generation.

EBARR projects in Kishapu District cost 1.6bn/- and are implemented in Kiloleni and Muguda villages and Lagana Ward in Mihama and Beledi villages.

The EBARR projects, sponsored through Global Environmental Fund (GEF) are also being implemented in Mvomero, Simanjiro and Unguja A districts.

Call for comprehensive locally-led approach to tackle global food crisis

By Special Correspondent

THE Hunger Project (THP) an organisation committed to the sustainable end of world hunger has called for a comprehensive locally-led approach which addresses the complex issues that intersects with hunger to tackle global food crisis.

Some of the complex issues which intersect with hunger are identified as gender-equality, access to education, the digital divide, and conflict and climate action in community development.

The hunger project believes that communities have the answers to the resources needed to take action to end global food crisis and that "individuals and civil society organisations need to call on governments and the private sector to allocate meaningful resources to sustainable community-led solutions."

Tim Prewitt, president and CEO of The Hunger Project (THP), in a media engagement after the launch of the 2022 SOFI report, called for a shift in global focus toward strengthening resilience in rural communities.

Particularly among small-scale food producers who were responsible for feeding millions of people in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America and who were most impacted by shocks to global food systems.

"It's time to invest in these producers and women in particular to ensure that they are able to increase their crop yields, while preserving the natural environment for future generations," he added.

He noted that the SOFI report, "has confirmed what we have been seeing in many of the communities where we work, high prices of food, seeds and fertilisers are making nutritious diets out of reach."

Rowlands Kaotcha, vice president of programmes for Africa and Mexico said it was clear that the systems created to feed the world were not working and therefore a need to shift mind-sets around ending hunger to invest in people and in communities.

"It's time to ask ourselves if the systems created to feed our planet are working, it's very clear they are not and so we need to shift our mind-sets around ending hunger to invest in people and communities to transform these global systems that only benefit some."

This year's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, launched in July 2023 revealed that up to 783 million

people around the world were living in hunger

While this remains relatively unchanged from the previous year, factors such as conflict, poverty, climate, economic shocks and covid-19 have made it unlikely to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of ending hunger.

In Africa, the SOFI report indicates that 1 in 4 people face hunger, more than double the world average, while the majority of the people living with chronic hunger today in the world were women as 27.8 per cent of adult women face chronic food insecurity as compared to 25.4 per cent of men.

Approximately 630 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030 and nearly 148.1 million children under five years of age (22.3pc) are stunted, 45 million (6.8pc) face wasting, while 37 million (5.6pc) are overweight.

The Hunger Project firmly believes that creating sustainable, interconnected systems requires full participation from those living across rural-urban communities and the SOFI report reaffirms the importance of local leadership adding "development will only be sustainable when people have the right tools and resources to lead their own development."

The Hunger Project, a not-for profit organization has ongoing programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America where it implements programmes aimed at mobilising rural grassroots and communities to achieve sustainable progress in health, education, nutrition and family income.

In Africa the hunger project is active in Benin, Burkina-Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda and Ghana and in South Asia; it operates in Bangladesh and India.

Working across nine countries in Africa, the Hunger Project employs the epicentre strategy to support communities build a path to sustainable self-reliance by shifting the power to small scale producers and promoting community-led development, through a period of five to eight years.

The core philosophy of the epicentre strategy lies in three essential areas Start with women, mobilize everyone and engage local government and from 2008 to date, 68 epicentres have achieved self-reliance in program countries in Africa.



Jawad Jaffer (2nd-R), Superbrands East Africa project director, presents a certificate of appreciation to National Insurance Corporation officials including managing director Dr Eirehema Doriya (C) for outstanding provision of services to customers. This was at a Superbrands prize-giving ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Bank: We are going on countrywide mission to rescue teachers from dubious loaning schemes

By Marc Nkwame - Arusha

The NMB Bank is setting out on a countrywide mission to raise awareness among local teachers who of late have been falling victims to dubious loaning schemes.

The northern zone's manager of NMB Bank, Baraka Ladislaus said they are targeting to organise 30 teachers' congregations reaching out to more than 9000 teachers in over 17 regions of Tanzania within the remaining part of this year.

"Teachers are the most significant people in any society and their wellbeing are of great importance, we therefore ensure that they all get accommodated as far as loans and other financial services are concerned," said the NMB zonal manager.

Ladislaus was speaking during the special "Teachers Day," occasion organised by the NMB Bank and held at the Arusha Corridor Springs Hotel and attended by more than 200 participants.

Officially opening the "Teachers' Day," the Regional Education Officer in-charge of the profession department, Shirley Sway admitted that scrupulous loan brokers have been hounding teachers both at home and in school, draining them of their last cents in form of staggering interests.

"There are times when we get compelled to even summon the police to drive the racketeers away," Sway explained.

He lauded NMB Bank for the initiative of currently working to rescue teachers and other civil

servants from the so-called blood-draining loaning schemes through first educating them and also offering easy, cheap and more convenient alternatives.

On his part, the chief retail banking officer, Martine Massawe, explained that their teachers' reach out programme also entails promoting financial inclusion to all Tanzanians through digitalised services.

"We have specially chosen Teachers, because these are the most reliable people to carry out the message to the entire

community," he said.

"The other thing is the fact that, majority of our customers happen to be teachers who account for 80 percent of the NMB clients' base," he added.

It was also stated that NMB has also been encouraging teachers to make use of digital banking services for seamless, faster and more secure transactions.

They have also launched 'Teleza Kidijitali,' portal which is a reliable mobile payment solution containing a QR code that stores merchant information to receive payment through scanning or a LIPA number for normal feature phones.

The digital service was designed for small business due to its affordability in terms of the cost of investment and issued instantly under very minimal requirements like National Identification Number.

It targets special segments, bodaboda, machinga, local markets, tricycles (Bajaj), taxi cabs, bars, pubs and small retail shops.



Teachers are the most significant people in any society and their wellbeing are of great importance, we therefore ensure that they all get accommodated as far as loans and other financial services are concerned



Rehabilitation gets well under way yesterday on a strategic bridge along Dar es Salaam's Darajani Chang'ombe section of the Central Railway Line. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Construction sector praises govt on supervision of local content policy

By Getrude Mbago

PLAYERS in the construction sector have hailed the government for supervising the local content policy which has enabled many Tanzanian contractors to participate in various mega projects in the country.

Arnold Samugabo, director of Derm Group made the statement in Dar es Salaam at the weekend the company organised a special health bonanza as part of commemoration of its 25th anniversary.

He said that there are many mega projects that could haven't been undertaken by the locals but due to the local content policy and close supervision of the government, many are now attached to the programmes.

He said that there are many local companies which are involved in the implementation of projects such as Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), oil and gas, electrification and many others.

"In the next five years, many Tanzanian contractors will be able to carry out mega projects in the country by themselves without being attended to by foreign companies as currently many of them are investing in training, improving their companies and technologies," he said.

He said the group will continue investing in innovative strategies and technology so as to bring further changes within the company and contribute to the country's development.

"We are calling for more engagement in various processes of mega projects so as to ensure that many Tanzanian contractors or companies form joint ventures to participate in the projects so as to increase expertise, technology and income as well," he added.

"We are commemorating 25

years and we have set this day to bring together our staff in a health bonanza and blood donation so as to improve relations and bring back to the community."

He said that the group has engaged in various development projects while also providing employment to Tanzanians.

"We have more than 100 employees, labourers while also supporting university graduates to conduct field practicals," he said.

Samugabo said for more than 20 years, Derm Group has been involved in many major construction and engineering projects - gaining invaluable experience and expertise, and acquiring a reputation as one of the leading electrical contractors in Tanzania.

The group also engaged in an exercise to donate blood under the health experts form the Mwananyama hospital.

The director said that blood donation was important and urged Tanzanians to create a culture of donating so as to save many people who are in hospitals fighting for life.

Loveness Sonda, blood services supervisor at Mwananyama regional referral hospital commended Derm Group for encouraging its staff to donate blood to save other people's life.

"We expect collect 70 bottles of blood today here, but our actual need at the hospital are 650 to 700 bottles per month but monthly collection is still below because we collect between 500 to 550 bottles, so there is still a gap and we are calling for the public to wake up and donate blood to support our fellow who are in need," she asserted.

She assured Tanzanians that donating blood is good and safe and does not affect someone's health, so they should stop fearing.

Youth hubs create jobs for young people in nine African countries

By Guardian Correspondent

A green transition could create 8.4 million jobs for young people by 2030 according to a recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Green jobs are described as jobs that contribute to preserving or restoring the environment.

In the lead-up to the SDG summit in September, marking the halfway point for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations (UN) is calling on young people to be better equipped to deal with these new green opportunities through skills and training programmes.

The UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has already been implementing this idea by funding youth hubs in 9 countries across Africa to give young people skills that they need to convert into sustainable jobs. These young women in Abeokuta in Nigeria are busy growing

vegetables in specially created polytunnels. They say they feel fortunate to have found a job and a steady income.

With youth unemployment rates standing at 13 per cent in Nigeria, millions of young people struggle to find work. Nearly half of Nigerians live in rural areas.

With poor job prospects in these areas, young people are high among those who migrate to already overcrowded cities in search of work. Projects like this one, that use green smart technology, are designed to create sustainable job opportunities in the countryside. The UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development or IFAD is working with local governments to fund youth hubs, which provide rural young people with on-the-job training through apprenticeships.

The agribusiness youth hubs are based on the idea that training alone cannot unlock the employment potential for young people.



Iringa Regional Road Safety Committee chairman Salim Abri (gesturing) has a word with Iringa-based journalists on Sunday at a black spot in Mufindi District known as Majinja/Changarawe. The committee was on a two-day tour of sections of the Dar es Salaam-Tunduma road, commonly known as Tanzam (Tanzania-Zambia) Highway, notorious for crashes involving motor vehicles. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Three Geita Town Council officials set to appear in court over funds embezzlement

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Geita Region expects to take to court officials of Geita Town Council for embezzling Geita Urban Constituency funds.

Addressing reporters in his office here at the weekend, PCCB head for Geita Region, Leonidas Felix named the suspects as Dorini Mushi, Geita Town supplies officer, Salima Amri, Butundwe Village executive officer and Joseph Lefa, a tenderer who are jointly allegedly to have embezzled Geita Urban Constituency funds.

Instead they also connect them to private companies and enterprises and help give them access to goods and services and training in areas such as commodity value chains and post-harvest management, which otherwise they would find difficult to access."

Youth hubs are currently operating in 9 countries across the continent including Nigeria, Algeria and Cameroon. Rahul Antao IFAD's technical specialist on Youth says the agribusiness hubs play a vital role in tackling the huge issue of mass unemployment among young people in rural areas.

He said: "So, the focus of hubs is addressing the mismatches and gaps between the supply of youth skills and the demands of labour markets. It also focuses on building the capacity of entrepreneurial youth to either start up or expand existing enterprises."

So far, the hubs have trained and found jobs for over 9000 rural youth in more than 2,255 enterprises across Africa. To meet the growing demand in green economies, the hubs invest strategically in training in digitization, green skills and renewable energies.

Felix said that through fraudulent intentions, they claimed to have delivered 3,000 bricks for classroom construction at Nyakagwe primary school while knowingly that they only delivered 1,973 bricks.

He added that in the period April - June this year, the PCCB made follow up in the implementation of 33 development projects valued at 16.8bn/- in the education, health, infrastructure and water administration.

He added that out of these projects, 12 valued at 5.6bn/- were discovered to have been doused in

corruption and steps taken.

According to him, education was provided to officials on financial management and adherence to procurement laws regarding expenditure of funds for free education by involving Geita District Executive Director.

He added that the council, and loan beneficiaries have been trained on the correct use of the loans by abiding by governing laws and regulations.

In regard to those doing business without trading licence, Felix said these were fined and told to secure licences and for guest houses

owners, instructions were given in regard to procedures to run such businesses.

He said in the period April - June this year, 51 complaints were received by the Bureau and 41 were allegations of bribery whose investigations have begun.

He said investigations on six out of 10 non-bribery complaints were completed and application for prosecution had been made.

He also said investigations on 35 complaints were continuing, six new cases were opened, while 10 cases are pending in courts and won in three cases.

Changes in climate pushing migrating birds from parched Tunisian wetlands

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TUNISIA'S lakes and coastal lagoons are parched and overheating, endangering a delicate ecosystem and disrupting the vast flocks of migrating birds that use the wetlands as a way station between Africa and Europe.

Ariana lagoon just outside the capital Tunis has been left a cracked expanse of dry mud, its small islands where birds usually nest now surrounded by sand and bereft of life after months of drought and ferocious heatwaves.

Even the nearby Sijoumi lagoon, where water has always been more reliable, is half empty, its flocks of flamingos casting a pale pink smear across a patch of wetland as Tunis

suburbs rise on the hill behind.

"This year you can feel there is an environmental catastrophe due to drought," said environmental activist Radhia Haddad, who has been visiting it since 2012. "It's the first time I've seen Sijoumi lagoon dry out in this way."

Jutting into the Mediterranean towards Sicily, Tunisia is on the main migration route for hundreds of bird species and its large wetlands are a haven for wading birds that journey north across the Sahara or south from the Arctic and northern Europe.

Last month, the temperature in Tunis topped 49 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit) on one scorching day, a sign of much hotter summers that in recent years have accompanied much drier winters as climate change

hits North Africa.

Sijoumi and dozens of other big lagoons and inland lakes ring the Tunisian coast behind the long golden beaches where European tourists fly for the summer.

Until a rare June rainstorm, Sijoumi had been mostly empty. The waders and other birds that nest amid the reeds, water and mud where wild boar forage by dawn risk losing their usual seasonal home.

"This year's long drought has significantly impacted many environmental systems, particularly wetlands," said Haddad, standing on cracked dry earth where birds usually lay their eggs on small islands in the lagoon. This year, there has been no nesting there at all, she said.

Hicham Azafzaf, the scientific coordinator of Tunisia's Bird Lovers Association, said he had never seen such dry wetlands in his 20 years of monitoring them.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax (C) attends the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers meeting in Luanda yesterday. The event precedes the bloc's 43rd Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for Thursday - also in the Angolan capital. Story on Page 11. Photo courtesy of Foreign ministry

**WE ARE
HIRING**



JOB VACANCY : PROGRAM MANAGER

We are seeking an experienced Program Manager to join our team at the Research & Training Division of Shree Hindu Mandal in order to add value and improve our operations by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to the effectiveness of Continuing Medical Education and Research processes.

Key Responsibilities:

- Identify and secure funding opportunities for research and training programs.
- Identify institutions locally & internationally and reach out to establish student exchange program, elective program and observership.
- Coordinate effectively with stakeholders at all levels of the organization.
- Ensure compliance with relevant regulatory and ethical guidelines.
- Develop and implement strategic plans and initiatives aligned with the goals of the Mandal.
- Continuously plan expansion and improvements through internal and external collaboration.
- Continuously improve the Division's programs, processes, quality and financials.
- Prepare strategic, operational and financial reports for the Division.
- Facilitate development of CME training content.

Qualification And Experience

- Medical degree such as MD or its equivalent
- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Public Health.
- Knowledge of Research Methodology including data collection, data analysis, and interpretation.
- Minimum three years' experience in a reputable institution.
- Project Management is an added advantage.
- Teaching or Training management is an added advantage.
- Familiarity with Institutional Review Board (IRB) guidelines, Good Clinical Practice (GCP) standards, Training guidelines & regulations is an added advantage.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and handle sensitive information with professionalism and integrity.
- Eligible candidates under the age of 45 years old.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES UNDER THE AGE OF 45 YEARS OLD.
Only those shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview

SEND CV, APPLICATION LETTER, ID CARD & ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS
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APPLICANTS SHOULD BE TANZANIAN CITIZENS
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Homes for homeless children ought to maintain their status

FOR some reason the northern zone regions boast the lion's share of all the country's children homes and related institutions. So far Arusha tops the list boasting around 40 such 'children care' centres operating in the region. Many children's homes need closer look and should not be illegal youth's centres.

Now, trouble is that, 26 of those 'children homes' and orphanages that are housing homeless children in Arusha operate illegally; that is they are not registered, with only 13 of them having official registrations, leaving the other 26 at the mercy of whoever runs them.

It is on record that only 99 orphanages out of 283 in the country have been licenced to care for vulnerable children. The centres accommodate some 3,958 children. The government should work on formulating guidelines for establishment and supervision of orphanages.

Siha Aids Fund has offered almost seven million shillings to help ease the suffering of orphans and vulnerable children who live in difficult conditions.

This is delightful news, to say the least. The money, the benefactors say, will be spent in supporting children who live in abject poverty and face societal stigma and loneliness. The Fund also envisages helping destitute children acquire quality education and other needs.

There is no doubt that we appreciate the role played by religious institutions and NGOs and individuals in taking care of children who live in difficult conditions.

The children include orphans. The ought to assist orphanages readily to improve living conditions

instead of rushing to close some of them down when they fail to meet standards.

Historically, an orphanage was a residential institution, or group home, devoted to the care of orphans and other children who were separated from their biological families. Examples of what would cause a child to be placed in orphanages are when the biological parents were deceased, the biological family was abusive to the child, there was substance abuse or mental illness in the biological home that was detrimental to the child, or the parents had to leave to work elsewhere and were unable or unwilling to take the child. The role of legal responsibility for the support of children whose parent(s) have died or are otherwise unable to provide care differs internationally.

Worldwide, residential institutions like orphanages can often be detrimental to the psychological development of affected children. In countries where orphanages are no longer in use, the long-term care of unwarded children by the state has been transitioned to a domestic environment, with an emphasis on replicating a family home. Many of these countries, such as the United States, utilize a system of monetary stipends paid to foster parents to incentivise and subsidise the care of state wards in private homes.

A distinction must be made between foster care and adoption, as adoption would remove the child from the care of the state and transfer the legal responsibility for that child's care to the adoptive parent completely and irrevocably, whereas in the case of foster care, the child would remain a ward of the state with the foster parent acting only as caregiver.

Close relations with China will help Tanzania accelerate industrial drive

THERE is a genuine feeling of appreciation in upper diplomatic circles in China that the current Union and Zanzibar authorities are trusted believers in a more intense cooperation level between Tanzania and China, centred on the private sector. For those used to state based construction groups, conglomerates of similar companies under one umbrella operating in many countries, the tone from Beijing was a bit new. It was a moment of celebrating China-Africa ties and some acute observation on the future outlook, where Tanzania was shining.

For once, Tanzania has always had a special place in China's relations with Africa as they have a shared vision almost all the way from close to 60 years ago. There was a time China was grouping people in villages organized by the state, and then abandoned that route, and moved into careful de-nationalisation of certain spheres of economy, more or less like ourselves. China's contentions with major economic powers mirror ours as well, on purchase of fixed property.

The current phase of China-Tanzania is one led by China in the main, and it seeks to get the right sort of partners outside, and some would hope, with Tanzania capable of rising to the occasion and becoming a role model in that sphere as well. China is seeking to steer cooperation away from conglomerates of infrastructure construction to private firms capable of doing business here as if they were in China. That means enhancing ties to close partnerships, like, say, exchanging notes on Vision 2050 to see how far it accommodates such hopes.

A keen assessment of the situation was given at a Beijing international media workshop and training

being addressed from time to time by leading Chinese diplomats and experts, by Wang Ke, the former Chinese ambassador to Tanzania. She commended the current business climate in the country as fostering the right atmosphere for enhanced investments and cooperation. It was plainly evident that top leaders on both parts of the Union value our China ties.

China-Tanzania cooperation is indeed in good shape with President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi both having visited China at different occasions for state level business and fostering partnership. There is plenty of goodwill on both sides but the big issue is win-win business ties which no longer privilege big parastatals designing construction projects and expecting Chinese firms to take tenders. Bank vaults are half closed for such ideas, where parastatals can still do business via partnerships or listing on the stock exchange.

Judging by some other indicators, it isn't exactly what is being set out in moves to revamp the way large parastatal organisations operate or public firms.

They envisage that changes are made for efficiency and profitability, falling short of inviting private equity into their capital outlays or boards. Those wishing to enhance business with Tanzania wish for more systematic change.

To wit, China's investment in Africa is increasingly sourced with the private sector, where 30,700 Chinese firms have invested \$56bn in the continent. This illustrates the way Chinese investments blend with African realities, in that we ought to treat them as next of kin; they get residence permits, buy trading space firms, form partnerships. Those who aren't government employees often wish to stay.

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By Special Correspondent

NEW policies of the two-month old Bola Tinubu administration, headlined by petrol subsidy removal and merger of the foreign exchange rates in the official and parallel markets, have aggravated hardship in the land.

As the Nigerian masses are continuously hobbled by economic headwinds, the scale of which they have not experienced before, members of the National Assembly appear only concerned about how to live comfortably in Abuja, in what ought to be a season of belt-tightening. They have approved for themselves a staggering N110 billion for this purpose, from the N819.5 billion Supplementary Appropriation they recently considered, out of which N500 billion has been earmarked for the so-called palliatives for the generally needy Nigerian.

The President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, in carefully chosen words said N70 billion will be used "to replace some of the things that are not there" in the Assembly. While the remaining N40 billion will be for the procurement of Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for the lawmakers and bullet proof cars for the principal officers of both chambers. Besides, the House of Representatives has called for an increase in the salaries and allowances of its members, even as the Federal Government is yet to approve a living minimum wage for workers, beyond rhetoric.

It, therefore, runs against the grain of morality or public service for national legislators to make such a huge fiscal accretion to themselves at the expense of Nigerians who are groaning under an economic yoke. As things stand, this cohort of legislators has given itself away as greedy and irresponsible. This is provocative and insensitive, to say the least.

Senator Adams Oshiomhole, a former governor of Edo State, inadvertently hinted at what the N70 billion will be used for, when he revealed in a television programme that members of the erstwhile Ninth assembly vandalised office equipment across the legislative chambers, which compelled him and others to improvise in the interim. Television sets, printers, computers, rugs, chairs, were carted away. Oshiomhole, a first-time senator, said "I had to use my money and someone also decided to deliver to me a printer; give me a laptop to use in my office. I had to buy the carpet and pay the cost of fixing it..." The lawmaker is not given to facetious remarks. He said it as he saw it.

For his brutal frankness, he received a parliamentary reprimand via a motion during a plenary, for which he apologised

National Assembly's obscene largesse in season of privation

just to calm frayed nerves. But the horse had already bolted from its stable. The crux of the matter is a broken national system in which properties in the offices of lawmakers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria disappeared at the end of their tenures and nobody is being held to account for such. This is shameful!

In presiding over the session during which the vexatious N110 billion was approved for himself and his colleagues in the two chambers, Akpabio could as well have explained to the public the meaning of patriotism, loyalty and devotion to the country that he rhapsodised about in his inaugural address. Decidedly, he has started on a wrong note. And it will take some extraordinary measure for him and his colleagues to convince Nigerians that they are truly representatives of the people.

New policies of the two-month old Bola Tinubu administration, headlined by petrol subsidy removal and merger of the foreign exchange rates in the official and parallel markets, have aggravated hardship in the land, devalued the naira, and accelerated the annual inflation rate to 22.79%, considered as the highest since 2005. Transport fares have increased stratospherically. As a result, most commuters in the cities trek and feel exhausted to their marrows. Food inflation was 24.82% in May, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. There is outrage in public universities with the raft of fees introduced, which is as high as N256,000 for a final year medical student.

A hostile socio-economic climate of this proportion requires a sober reflection from these lawmakers and a legislative response to mitigate it, rather than unabashed self-seeking, in terms of obscene quests for luxuries and a demand for an indecent hike in emoluments. This type of attitude underpins the popular clamour for the business of federal legislation to be made a part-time pre-occupation. In this case, only sitting allowances will need to be paid. The shocking revelation by ex-lawmaker Shehu Sani in 2018, that a senator's monthly office running cost was N13.5 million and that of a Representative, a little less, for legislative duties perfunctorily carried out, still rankles Nigerians.

This is a parliament that The Economist once described its lawmakers as the most paid in the world, when the highly-respected UK newspaper reviewed the remunerations of lawmakers across 29 countries. It put a Nigerian lawmaker's obnoxious earning at \$189,500 per annum, as against

\$105,400 for his counterpart in the UK. It did not matter then to the institution and the lawmakers that it was an embarrassment, given that Nigeria's economy was not reckoned with globally, and it is still not so, for it to then have to deal with such obscenity. If the lawmakers can gauge the public mood properly, the best they should do is to cut the salaries and allowances of members as part of their own sacrifices, against the backdrop of belt-tightening that the masses are currently subjected to. Flowing from this, the predilection for public office holders to make themselves fat cats at public expense, as the federal lawmakers' actions evince, should be resisted.

Avarice and insensitivity have no place in public service. The legislators should not be oblivious of this imperative. In other jurisdictions, this is the norm. Therefore, we urge National Assembly members to borrow a leaf from the book of their counterparts elsewhere. For instance, a few months ago, a video that went viral showed a Gambian female legislator, Touma Njie, deprecating, in the strongest of terms, a budgetary proposal to increase the salaries of lawmakers in 2023.

"I gave myself for service. I did not give myself for poor people to feed me and my family. When I saw this, I felt embarrassed...It is embarrassing for me to go back to my poor constituency and tell them that the meagre resources of this country - I'm paid that much at your expense," she exclaimed. When a similar idea was muted in the UK in 2013 for implementation in 2015, the Chairman of Labour Party, Keith Vaz, warned: "The last thing the MPs should be talking about is their own pay rise." This is the right way to go in Nigeria now.

With the lawmakers angling for more cash in their pockets while Nigerians suffer, it seems reasonable to deduce that they were the mastermind of the recent Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission's (RMFAC) 114% pay rise proposal for public office holders, which sparked a pushback from the Presidency. The down-trodden in the society, 133 million of whom are multi-dimensional poor, according to NBS data, deserve serious attention and not the comical "let the poor breathe" motion passed by the Senate last Thursday.

About 30% of the lawmakers seeking more cash from the treasury were part of the Ninth Assembly that shared N40 billion as severance perks in June. About 14 of the senators are ex-governors, who also collect humongous pensions;

own mansions built for them in their home states and Abuja; ride SUVs and have house helps all at the expense of their states. The Senate President leads the pack. Yet, states are wallowing in unpaid pensions and gratuities, even salaries, of workers, while 96% of national revenue is used to service debts standing at over N82 trillion.

That the economy is haemorrhaging must sink into the ears of these lawmakers and they should play a crucial role to rescue it from the cliff. Consequently, the Speaker of the House, Yusuf Abbas, should void his increment of House Committees from the 110 of the Ninth assembly to a present 134. They serve no purposes beyond being areas of influence and enrichment for a coterie of lawmakers who helped to elect him as Speaker. Invariably, this will increase the operational costs of running the committees, as evident in the buses usually procured for each, for the so-called oversight duties, and cars each member still collects to boot.

Nigerians have had enough of these shenanigans by their parliamentarians. If the oversight activities of these assemblies were executed the way they should have been in the past, the national treasury would not have been taken as spoils of war, the way it is in the country. There is a \$62 billion Supreme Court judgement debt of Joint Venture profits yet uncollected since 2017. The lawmakers closed their eyes to the punitive measures that should have been taken against the criminal-minded state officials that are refusing to act in the national interest. Further to this is the \$17 billion worth of crude oil revenue theft, with paper trails at home and abroad and already verified, that the Muhammadu Buhari regime vowed to collect, which strangely it did not. The official silence on these debts is curious.

The Nigerian Extractive Transparency Initiative (NIETI) says the country lost \$46.16 billion to oil theft between 2009 and 2020 and the current House has identified \$9 billion unremitted fines against oil companies for gas flaring. Yet, Senate and House Committees on Petroleum, Gas, the NNPC and Finance have existed since 1999. PREMIUM TIMES dares to say that these leakages and gaping holes in the system persist because of the transactional oversight of the federal legislature. By acting as a leech to the treasury, amid an economy in a seeming state of emergency, the Tenth National Assembly deserves all the flaks it is getting and closer scrutiny.

Let's end the wrangling and make the most of Dar's main bus terminal

By Adonis Byemelwa

WHEN it was launched in February 2021, the state-of-the-art Magufuli Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam was billed as a facility of its kind in East Africa and was expected to recoup the cost its construction which was pegged at over 50bn/- within a short period of time.

But controversies came after another as bus operators, authorities and passengers are embroiled in a major tussle over the use of the facility located at Mbezi Luis in the outskirts of the sprawling city.

The Tanzania Bus Owners Association (Taboa), Ubungo Municipal Council and travellers have openly differed on whether the facility has the capacity to accommodate loading and unloading passengers of more than 300 buses.

This is because authorities have insisted that passengers should only be picked and dropped at the facility, meaning that private stations developed and maintained by operators should close, the position which bus owners disagree with.

Dar-es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has been up in arms against users of the facility for what he termed as not abiding by the set city regulations.

Speaking recently, Chalamila said the government had already injected over 50bn/- in construction of the facility but operators and travellers seem to bend the set rules which see the government recording unnecessary losses.

In one of his tours of the terminal the new RC blamed bus operators for not using the terminal according to the set regulations which he said aim at boosting government coffers.

Chalamila said the government has no plans to set up special stations elsewhere because the terminal is adequate enough to cater for small-scale businesses and bus operators' needs, explaining that the upper area receives 1,180 cars and there is an overnight parking lot that can stand over 300 vehicles, insisting that there was no point seeing buses operating away from the facility.

Economists have pointed out that Ubungo Municipal Council misses out on revenue as many buses snub the new facility for pecking and dropping of passengers and luggage thus threatening the perceived potential of the project.

But bus operators and of course, travellers say having some buses operating outside the terminal aims at moving services closer to customers who live in other parts of the city that are far from Mbezi Luis.

Other people even argue that the defunct Ubungo Bus Terminal was at a more convenient centre for all buses to start and end their trips as well as the availability of all commuter buses that ply



A common scene at Dar es Salaam state-of-the-art Magufuli Bus Terminal

routes heading to all corners of the city.

Nevertheless, new approaches to development planning have emerged in debates on sustainable and people-centered development, especially on the proper use of the terminal.

The important questions are: sustainable for whom and for what? What does people-centered development really mean? Sustainable development should not be understood as sustained profits for private and public sector interests at the expense of the people, especially women, the underprivileged and indigenous communities.

People-centered development should be pegged on the needs and rights of the people, with accountability to the poorest, the most powerless and the indigenous communities.

Ethics which puts respect for life and the intrinsic worth of all human

beings foremost is central to this development of thinking and practice. It requires the democratisation of decision-making and the articulation of people's voices at all levels and within all structures of the government.

At the same time, it should encourage the fullest participation of the people in conceptualizing their development needs and in development decision-making with regard to the control and use of scarce resources.

As Chalamila makes good points in the name of increasing revenues from the terminal, it compels me to think even further and ask myself whether the feasibility study done before embarking on the project observed the SWOT analysis namely Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

Apparently, the government has enough technocrats who know even more than the rest of us but when

the majority complains or voices are too loud, there is need to look at the matter at hand.

Yes, the authorities should bank on the stance that the government was satisfied before the start of the construction, thus compelling every bus to carry out its activities from there and not otherwise but are all members of the public feeling at ease with the decision?

Think of a traveller from Vikindu planning to catch up the Mwanza Bus early in the morning. They are supposed to either dig deeper into their pockets for a guest house or wake up earlier than usual. But what does the government lose if a bus operator can pick such passenger at Mbagala before proceeding to the main terminal?

Some buses have their own private stations that are close to the residences, but they also reduce the inconvenience of boarding public transport or hiring cars to Mbezi

Luis which is far from many suburbs.

City authorities want bus operators to use vans or mini-buses to bring travellers from across the Dar es Salaam and Coast Region to the Magufuli Bus Terminal in compliance with the set government plans.

Then another question comes up: what kind of training in patriotism had bus operators passed to so love their new bus terminal that they can even think of other means for compliance purposes?

Even amongst city fathers, people don't speak the same language. I say there is a lack of common tone because Chalamila questioned the integrity of police for failing to act on drivers who snub the Magufuli Bus Terminal.

Adonis Byemelwa is international relations expert, teacher and writer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at [HYPERLINK "mailto:adonisbyeme@yahoo.com"](mailto:adonisbyeme@yahoo.com) adonisbyeme@yahoo.com

With quality education, youth can be empowered to save our planet

By Yasmine Sherif

TO save our people and our planet from the life-threatening risks of the climate crisis, we must invest in the education of today's youth. They will be the climate activists, climate scientists, climate innovators, game-changers and leaders of the 21st century green economy.

On International Youth Day, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and our global partners urge world leaders in the public and private sectors to ensure today's youth have the green skills they need to save our planet. The climate-change challenges and the detrimental impact are enormous - severely affecting the planet, as well as basic services and our very survival.

According to the recent position paper by the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO): "Addressing the climate, environment, and biodiversity crises in and through girls' education", the climate crisis is impacting the education of 40 million children every year. "Education is an assumed, but hugely undervalued, component of responses to climate change impacts, and efforts to mitigate and adapt to them. It is essential for reducing vulnerability, improving communities' resilience and adaptive capacity, identifying innovations, and for empowering individuals to be part of the solution to climate and environmental change," states the position paper.

Recent global estimates from Education Cannot Wait (ECW) - the United Nations global fund for education in emergencies & protracted crises - indicate that the number of crisis-impacted children who urgently need education support has spiked by as much as 25 million over the past year.

According to the new ECW Global Estimate Study: "Climate change interacts with underlying crisis drivers to increase crisis severity and worsen education outcomes. For example, droughts in East Africa deplete livelihoods, boost displacement, and undermine food security, worsening access to education and learning and accelerating protection needs."

As we ramp up efforts to deliver on the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals at this year's SDG Summit and Climate Talks (COP28), we must ensure that quality education, as a critical response to climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience - especially for children and adolescents caught in emergencies - is inserted into the climate agenda, funding decisions and global policy. Because, climate change is not a stand-alone sector. It impedes and prevents the education of 224 million children and youth today, and their ability to survive and protect our planet tomorrow.



On International Youth Day, ECW and global partners urge world leaders in the public and private sectors to ensure today's youth have the green skills needed to save our planet. IPS

As we build toward COP28, ECW will work closely with the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund and other multilateral and bilateral funds - along with the private sector - to develop solution-oriented and actionable commitments to ensure that education in emergencies both responds to immediate crises, while also equip-

ping communities with the knowledge and skills they need to adapt, mitigate, and build resilience in the face of an uncertain future.

For today's youth, this means ensuring they receive a quality education in some of the highest-risk climate disaster areas on the globe. It also means to empower them with the knowledge and skills they

need to develop, access and advance the green economy, and have the capacity to lead and make sustainable decisions for their communities and countries.

Youth are the human power of a green economy and of climate action and climate resilience. Financial investments in climate change mean financial investments in the education of 224 million

children and adolescents. Empowered with an education, they will save their communities, their countries and our planet. If not them, who? Without them, how?

**IPS UN Bureau
This was International Youth Day Statement by ECW Executive Director Yasmine Sherif.**

Political will and investment will score the goal for zero hunger

By Busani Bafana

A world free from hunger is possible, but it demands political will, investment, and effective policies to transform agriculture and rural development, says Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

More than 800 million people in the world went to bed hungry in 2022, and 3.1 billion others could not afford to eat a healthy diet in 2021, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s latest State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World report.

IFAD described the startling SOFI report as "a wake-up call for the fight against hunger," noting that massive investment in rural development and small-scale agriculture will win the war on hunger.

"Every year, the hunger and food insecurity numbers remind us of this dark reality: Not only are we not reaching our targets – we are moving farther away," Lario told IPS in an interview via email.



IFAD says investing in smallholder farmers is key to tackling food insecurity or severe food and nutritional insecurity. CREDIT: Busani Bafana/IPS

Enough food but hunger for decisive action

According to the SOFI, hunger numbers stalled between 2021 and 2022, but there were 122 million more hungry people in 2022 than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sustainable Development Goal #2 is the zero-hunger goal of the United Nations. It aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030 by ensuring all people – especially children and the more vulnerable – have access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round. But is the zero-hunger goal realistic, given that the number of hungry people globally is rising despite advances in technology to boost food production and productivity?

"In a world of plenty, where inequalities are increasing, zero hunger is the only objective to have," Lario

said. "Ending hunger is feasible. It is a matter of political will, adequate investments, and policies." Commenting on the SOFI report, Danielle Nierenberg, President of the Food Tank, said world leaders were failing to prioritize the needs of millions of people around the globe in creating better food and nutrition security.

"If we leave people behind because there is something going on in the world, whether there is conflict in Russia against Ukraine or inflation across the globe ... If we do not protect and nourish those who are most in need, we are setting ourselves up for disaster," Nierenberg told IPS in an interview.

"Hungry people tend to be angry people

for obvious reasons ... What we need is better political will and active policymakers to really solve this with the help of communities, nonprofits and research institutions who have been leading the charge against hunger."

Reacting to the SOFI report, Oxfam, a global charity focusing on the alleviation of global poverty, said it was unforgivable for governments to watch billions of people going hungry in a world of plenty.

"Solutions to end world hunger exist, but they require bold and united political action," said Hanna Saarinen, Oxfam International Food Policy Lead, in a statement, calling on governments to support small-scale food producers and promote especially the rights of

women farmers, who are key in the fight against global hunger.

Lario said in Africa, conflicts, poverty, lack of infrastructure and access to energy, and poor access to education and vocational training, combined with high population growth, were converging to worsen the challenge of food and nutrition insecurity.

However, this did not mean that hunger cannot be overcome as the African continent had many assets to boost food security, including land, natural resources, and the dynamism of its youth, said Lario.

Invest in rural development and small-scale agriculture

Asked what needs to be done to win the war against hunger and undernutrition on the back of many countries which put more money into funding war than food security.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia as well as the tension in East Asia, have driven increased global military spending by 3.7 percent in real terms in 2022, to a record high of USD 2 240 billion, according to new data on global military spending published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

"Governments need to understand that hunger and poverty fuel conflicts, migration and ultimately instability," Lario told IPS, noting that the Ukraine war and the dependency of many countries on food imports has led to the recognition of the importance of food

sovereignty and food security for national security.

"To win the war on hunger, we need to massively scale up our investments in rural development and small-scale agriculture," said Lario. Lario is convinced that investing in agriculture is three times more effective at reducing poverty than investing in any other sector. Agriculture remains the backbone of many African economies.

Financial support for agriculture has been stagnant at just 4-6 percent of total Overseas Development Aid (ODA) for at least two decades. IFAD notes that agriculture ODA fell to USD 9.9 billion in 2021, far below what is needed.

Very few African governments have invested 10 percent of their budget in agriculture as per the Malabo Declaration of 2014. Besides, small-scale farmers receive less than 2 percent of global climate finance despite being major food providers, Lario said.

IFAD estimates that up to USD 400 billion would be needed annually until 2030 to build sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems.

"We need to tackle the root causes of hunger and rural poverty," he said, adding that "Inaction will be expensive. Every USD 1 spent on resilience now saves up to USD 10 in emergency aid in the future."

IPS UN Bureau Report

Requiem for the UN Security Council: Towards a UN charter review conference

By Tim Murithi

THE world's institutions are ill-prepared and poorly designed to effectively address global challenges such as major power conflicts, pandemics, the climate catastrophe, refugee crises, violent extremism, illicit profiteering from natural resources, and the regulation of artificial intelligence systems.

In particular, the United Nations, which was created to address the problems of the world in 1945, is no longer fit for purpose. The multilateral organization has outlived its usefulness; there is an urgent need to design a global institution that is reflective of the twenty-first century.

The UN was created with a recognition of the limitations of the League of Nations in mind. In particular, the League was unable to prevent the conquest of Europe by Nazi Germany and the Japanese invasion of China.

History is repeating itself in the form of the powerful Permanent Five (P5) members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) repeatedly ignoring the legal provisions of the UN Charter and weakening the legitimacy of this international institution, by invading countries in contravention of international law.

The dysfunctionality of the UNSC was exposed once more on February 24, 2022, when Russia was simultaneously chairing the Presidency of the Council and launch-

ing an illegal invasion of Ukraine. This war is impeding global stability. Ukrainians suffer the most from this conflict, which also inflicts great damage to Global South countries' economies and human security.

Yet, other major conflicts are also looming, for example between the United States and China over Taiwan, and it is unlikely that the planet can endure another full-blown major-power war.

A confrontation between two nuclear weapons-bearing permanent members of the UNSC would leave us all in an extremely precarious state of affairs, but there are currently no effective mechanisms to constrain the UNSC's permanent members' actions.

The founders of the UN recognized that the moment would arrive when it became imperative to transform the organization, and they included a practical mechanism to review the body's Charter.

According to Article 109 (1), a UN Charter Review Conference should have been convened 10 years after the signing of the document. Today, it could be initiated by a majority vote of the members of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and by a vote of any seven members of the UNSC, according to Article 109 (3).

This provision means that the P5 members cannot veto any proposed UN Charter Review Conference. In practice, a dozen or more UN member states drawn from different continents would need to create a

"Coalition of the Willing" within the UNGA, which would have to draft a Resolution to trigger and launch a UN Charter Review Conference.

Such a Review Conference could, through the collective decision of the members of the UNGA, identify the key issues that need to be addressed, including reform of the UNSC. The Review Conference could also adopt a recommendation to substantially alter the UN Charter and introduce completely new provisions, including even a change in the name of the institution.

More than 60 percent of the issues discussed by the UNSC are focused on Africa, yet the continent does not have any representation among the P5 members of the Council.

Given the fact that the P5 can veto all manner of decisions before the Council, it is a travesty of justice at its most basic level that African countries can only participate in key deliberations and decision-making processes as non-permanent members of the Council.

UNSC negotiations and decision-making processes are, in effect, the highest manifestation of unfairness in the international system. If achieving fairness in negotiations among states is the preferred route to global legitimacy, then a fundamental transformation of the UNSC and the elimination of the veto for the P5 is a necessary pre-requisite action.



A UN Security Council meeting in progress. Credit: United Nation

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IPS UN Bureau

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

Owls are great tourist attraction in Amani Nature Forest Reserve

By Guardian Correspondent, Muheza

DIFFERENT to the built up customs in some communities that connect owls with superstitious beliefs, in Amani Nature Forest Reserve in Muheza District, Tanga Region owls have become great attraction for tourists.

Edgar Apolinary, an owl researcher from Nature Tanzania, an NGO dealing in the protection of birds and the environment says owls have many benefits especially to farmers by picking destructive insects in their farms, including mice.

The researcher opposes beliefs held by some people who hold that the bird is associated with bad things including bad luck and associated with superstition.

He said in the Forest Reserve owls have become great attractions to tourists and researchers and have raised the number of tourists and foreign currency earnings.

He said owls are different to other birds because they are mostly nocturnal and even tourists are forced to visit the reserve during the night to view the birds.

Addressing journalists from the Journalists Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) who visited the Reserve under 'USAID Tuhifadhi Masisili' project, Habib Chando, resident of Magoda village that is entirely sur-

rounded by the forest said more education is needed for the community on the importance of birds including owls because many view them in the negative light.

"Personally I see owls just like other birds and this is owing to the education I received from Nature Tanzania and we are collaborating with fellow villagers and the government in protecting birds, including owls," Chando said.

Amani Natural forest Reserve Acting Conservator, Alphonse Nyalulu said the reserve receives many tourists as it has many tourist attractions including owl viewing tourism and water falls.

He added from 2007/2008 to 2022/2023 financial year, the reserve earned more than 538m/- from 14,096 tourists it received, including those eager to view owls.

He added that they have modern equipment which they use to guide tourists in the reserve by calling owls which the tourist can carry them and take selfies with and release them thereafter.

Other tourist attractions available at the reserve includes, nature trail walks, hiking, nature photography, camping, filming, picnic site, observation of butterflies, primates, reptiles, and chameleons.

For his part, JET Managing Director, John Chikomo said journalists have big opportunity to inform the



public on the importance of forests including their fauna including birds.

He said the fauna helps in protecting the ecosys-

tem as well as to raise the nation's income from the tourism sector.

He said the aim of their visit is to view the Am-

ani-Nilo wildlife corridor because the corridor is among important wildlife corridors for the protection of the country's biodiversity.

Banana farmers receive free tariban plantlets for adoption and scaling

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AFTER great effort put into the official release in 2021 and multiplication of the four new, improved hybrids of the important staple cooking banana, "matooke", commonly known as tariban, the new hybrids planting materials have finally reached the smallholder farmers across the country to improve the banana production and improve farmer's livelihoods in Tanzania.

The newly released varieties—tariban 1, tariban 2, tariban 3, and tariban 4—were distributed by Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in regions of Morogoro, Mbeya, Bukoba, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and other parts of Tanzania, including Zanzibar, Simiyu, Tanga, Dodoma, and Dar es Salaam.

Establishing tariban varieties has brought hope in transforming banana production and enhancing the growth of the agriculture sector. "Over 28,280 banana plantlets have been multiplied with the assistance of Aarti Mahajan of MEDA and Vishnuvardhan Banda of IITA and distributed to farmers in the promotion of the varieties during the field days in banana-producing regions across Tanzania," said Fatuma Kirua, Research Officer from TARI Tenggeru.

TARI banana lead Dr Mpoki Shimwale and his IITA-CGIAR counterpart, Dr Rony Swennen, noted that efforts made in setting up demonstration plots across diverse regions to showcase and support the best agronomical practices in banana cultivation, including the utilization of released varieties. Farmers and extension officers have actively participated, gaining hands-on experiences and practical knowledge to enhance their skills and expertise.

On the other hand, the beneficiaries now have aspirations from the hybrids; they have brought new hope and confidence to increase productivity and improve livelihoods through new market opportunities seen from the improved banana.

These hybrids are resistant to

important pests and diseases ravaging the current varieties that millions of farmers across the country are growing and, as such, herald an exciting era for banana cultivation in the country. The distribution efforts are ongoing, and the team aims to distribute free plantlets to smallholder farmers during the upcoming national agricultural show (Nanene), which will hold across the country.

The new matooke hybrids were first developed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO) of Uganda and named NARITAs. They were later tested in Tanzania by the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) and its partners—IITA, NARO, and Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT—to identify those most suited to Tanzanian fields and farmers.

IITA, TARI, and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology have also developed high-yielding and resistant Mchare bananas, which are currently undergoing testing. "These hybrids will pass through the same rigorous testing, and we hope that these new banana hybrids will also be accepted soon," says IITA banana breeder Dr Allan Brown.



The distribution efforts are ongoing, and the team aims to distribute free plantlets to smallholder farmers during the upcoming national agricultural show (Nanene), which will hold across the country



Dr Emmanuel Mgonja (R), manager at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute at Ifakara presents tariban plantlet to banana farmers in Morogoro Region.

Angola takes over SADC council of ministers chair

LUANDA

ANGOLA has taken over the rotating presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC),

which is taking place here, focusing on human and financial capital. This is the third time that Angola assumes the rotating presidency of the organisation, a position it already held in 2002-2003 and 2011-2012,

respectively.

The handover ceremony took place ahead of the 43rd Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government slated for 17 August, under the motto: "Human and financial capital:

The main factors for the sustainable industrialization of the region.

The ceremony was chaired by the minister of Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of

Congo, Antipas Mbusa Nyamwisi. In his speech, the Angolan top diplomat Tété António said the organisation's objective is to alleviate and eradicate poverty, raise the population's living standards, promote pro-

ductive employment, sustainably manage natural resources and improve complementarity between strategies national and regional agenda.

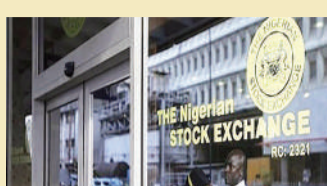
The meeting of the Council of Ministers takes place behind

closed doors, and is expected to analyse issues related to financial support, legal instruments of cooperation in the region, as well as the evaluation of the implementation of the SADC restructuring process.



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Kenya-Tanzania 'trade war' cuts imports 30pc

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Agency pleads for govt intervention in reducing grain post-harvest losses

By Beatrice Philemon

EXPORTERS have called upon the Ministry of Agriculture to chip-in with smallholder farmers' training programmes on how to preserve grains and pulses after harvest to prevent aflatoxin and reduce post-harvest losses.

Bundala Maziku, Jaribu Investment Group, managing director gave the plea recently during the three-day Afro World -Agri Food Conference, Exhibition and Awards that took place in Dar es Salaam featuring potential grain buyers, economists, experts and investors from Asia, Africa, Europe and USA.

The training can lead to helping farmers into harvesting quality soya beans, chick peas, sesame, pigeon peas, and cashewnuts which has huge market potential in China, Vietnam, Saud Arabia, India, South Africa, and Dubai.

"Farmers should be trained on how to dry their produce to the recommended moisture content for storage purpose, how to use proper technologies to store their grains and pulses;

Farmers should also be sensitized not to add any pesticide when they store their produce, store their produce in a dry place to reduce post-harvest losses and prevent aflatoxins," he said.

However, he said the government should support smallholder farmers to build modern storage facilities to enable them store grains to meet international market standards.

He emphasized that farmers should be sensitized on the effect of aflatoxin to human health so that they take precautions that would enable them win regional markets, exports to different countries across the world.

"As exporters, we need government intervention because it is very easy for them to obtain experts who can train smallholder farmers on those issues," he said.

The experts have visited in several regions in the country buying grains for export and learnt that right now farmers in rural areas still use traditional storage facilities that contribute to massive quantities of food losses especially in grains and pulses.

"We have decided to participate in this event to showcase what we offer in agricultural produce and look for new international markets in Asia, USA and Europe," he said.

So far the company has been able to export their agricultural produce that includes red beans, green beans, cashew, sesame, soya beans and peas in Vietnam, Myanmar, China, India, and Dubai.

"As we all know the European, Indian including other international markets are quality sensitive, we are very



Smallholder farmers work on a paddy farm.

glad to secure a big market for pulses we buy from small holders in Tanzania;

We are calling upon the government to help smallholders to build modern storage facilities and training on how to preserve their crops after harvesting to enable Tanzanian exporters tap European, Asian and USA."

Tanzania is rich to organic pulses or legumes

that can be exported in different areas across the world.

"Awareness should be given first priority because many people including farmers who produce food for human and animal consumption are not aware of aflatoxin and the effect it has on their life," he said.

He called on Tanzania smallholder farmers to

cultivate sesame, chick peas, soya beans and pigeon peas that have huge markets in China and India to raise their income and benefit from what they grow.

India pledges to honour its relationship with Tanzania

By Francis Kajubi

INDIA has pledged to continue honouring its long standing diplomatic and economic relationship with Tanzania as the two countries come together in promoting and facilitating local golf players.

Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, High Commissioner of India to Tanzania made the pledge on Saturday during the celebration of the second India-Tanzania Golf tournament held at Gymkhana Golf Club course in Dar es Salaam.

He said the Indian high commission is exhilarated to rekindle the India-Tanzania Friendship Cup for yet another year of camaraderie, spirited competition, and communal harmony.

"Its wonderful seeing India and Tanzania relations have grown to this extent of sharing sports experiences on top of bilateral relations," he said.

According to him, this year's event was poised to elevate the excitement even further, boasting an array of engagements tailored to golfers across proficiency spectrums.

Pradhan asserted that hosting the game was a friendly way of cementing relations between the two countries, further describing the match as having been played by experienced people.

Information, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye who graced the event as guest of honor called upon the locals to effectively promote the game as it is for football, basketball and kickboxing.

Nape issued the statement during the Tanzania-India Golf tournament event held at Gymkhana Golf Club course in Dar es Salaam over the weekend that was also attended by the India High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan.



Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology

"Kenya has about 30 parliamentarians and Uganda about 50 playing golf and in Tanzania, we are only two. We must set a pace so that our people fully take part in it," he said.

According to him, golf can be good for people's health. He suggested that walking an average course for a round of golf can be between five to seven kilometres.

He said if someone walks 18 holes three to five times a week, he said, he or she is likely to get an optimal amount of endurance exercise for their health.

The minister said that the deep-seated belief that golf is for some rich people should be discarded because it is a friendly competition against friends.

"It challenges both your mind and body and allows you to look inward and work towards improvement. Whether you shoot a 72 or 144, there's nothing like spending a couple hours, or

even an afternoon, out on the golf course," he said.

He defended that despite the fact that the efforts to promote and propagate sports and games are the primary responsibility of the Ministry for Culture, Arts and Sports; his ministry has a significant role to play by making sure all media feature sports and games in their programming.

"In all these years since independence, people have perceived golf as the sport for the well-off people. Professionally speaking golf usually takes 3-5 hours to golf 18 holes. Playing in a foursome with inexperienced players can take up to 6 hours," he remarked.

He emphasized that if the media are determined to propagate golf they can encourage many people, including children, to participate and change peoples' thinking that the game is for the old-aged people only.

Superbrands lauds NIC for superb contribution to insurance industry

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Insurance Company (NIC), a leading Tanzania's insurance entity, has finally obtained a Superbrands distinguished recognition for offering esteemed services.

The prestigious recognition serves as a testament to NIC's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and the delivery of top-tier insurance products and services to the people of Tanzania.

Superbrands' endorsement of NIC signifies the company's dedication to upholding the highest standards of quality, customer experience, and professionalism.

The recognition is further not just a celebration of NIC's achievements, but a reflection of the tireless efforts and collective contributions of its dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders.

NIC Insurance has established itself as a market leader in the insurance sector, catering to the diverse needs of its customers by offering a wide range of insurance solutions that safeguard lives, assets, and businesses.

With this Superbrands recognition, NIC's position as the most trusted and sustainable insurance provider is further solidified, highlighting its commit-

ment to ensuring the financial security and peace of mind of its valued clients.

Dr. Elirehema Doriye, NIC managing director expressed his gratitude for this remarkable achievement, stating: "We are deeply honored to receive this certificate of recognition from Superbrands;

This acknowledgment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of every individual at NIC, and it fuels our commitment to continuously elevate the standards of the insurance industry in Tanzania."

NIC's dedication to excellence extends beyond its core operations. The company is fully committed to positively impacting the local community and contributing to the socio-economic development of Tanzania. With this Superbrands endorsement, NIC is inspired to set even higher benchmarks, embracing innovation and technology to enhance customer experiences and drive industry progress.

As NIC moves forward, it embraces the responsibility that comes with this recognition and pledges to continue delivering exceptional service, fostering innovation, and contributing positively to the growth and prosperity of Tanzania.



Superbrands' endorsement of NIC signifies the company's dedication to upholding the highest standards of quality, customer experience, and professionalism

Superbrands

MasterCard eyes MTN's \$5.2bn fintech business

CAPE TOWN

MASTERCARD will acquire a minority stake in MTN Group's fintech division based on a cash and debt-free enterprise valuation of approximately US\$5.2 billion.

Africa's largest provider of telecom services announced today that MTN and MasterCard have signed a memorandum of understanding, and that a definitive investment agreement is expected to be reached in the near future.

According to MTN Group CEO, Ralph Mupita, the conclusion of the investment will be subject to customary due diligence conditions.

Today, MTN Group released its interim financial results for the six-month period that ended in June.

MTN says it reached an agreement with MasterCard during the period for a minority investment to support the acceleration of its payments and remittances verticals.

According to Mupita, the commercial agreements executed with Mastercard will support the growth and profitability of MTN's fintech services, such as payments, remittances, and the development of technology infrastructure.

He says: "As a globally recognised brand and a leading international payment systems company, Mastercard will enable Mobile Money (MoMo) consumers to pay globally and MoMo businesses to digitise their payments and accept payments beyond MoMo users. This will enable Group Fintech customers to participate in the global economy."

The transaction comes as MTN Group is expanding its fintech business, putting the telecom company on a solid footing, as it prepares to separate its financial services division.

In the last six months, Mupita says fintech revenue grew by 21.7

percent year-over-year (YoY), primarily due to growth in the wallet (+20.7 percent), payment and e-commerce (+54.9 percent), and remittance (+78.9 percent) industries.

"We are pleased with the sequential recovery and trajectory of our fintech revenue, which grew by 25.4 percent in Q2 versus 17.4 percent in Q1. We obtained a PSB licence for our Cameroon operations in the second quarter, allowing us to expand our advanced product offerings," says Mupita.

According to Mupita, MTN's active MoMo users were flat in the current reporting period at 60.5 million due to the effects of the cash shortages in the first quarter and a strategic shift in focus to wallet consumers in Nigeria; as well as a user base clean up in Côte d'Ivoire.

However, he states: "The growth of our overall fintech ecosystem remained robust with a 37.3 percent increase in transaction volumes to 8.3 billion transactions and a 61.6 percent increase in transaction value to US\$135.2 billion."

"Work is well advanced on structurally separating the fintech business from the GSM business. Fintech generated a consolidated EBITDA margin of 37.6 percent in H1 23 as a result of its past achievements and business expansion."

"This metric accounts for current opex (including head office costs) and excludes intercompany transactions."

"As previously indicated, we anticipate Group Fintech will generate an EBITDA margin in the mid-30 percent range once all intercompany agreements have been implemented."

"Given the low capex intensity of the business, the operating free cash flow (OpFCF) economics of fintech are very attractive. The fintech division reported an H1 OpFCF margin of approximately 37.0 percent on a consolidated basis."

As the Group expands its financial services, the telecoms company announced today that its super app platform Ayoba has amassed 28.3 million monthly active users in just six months.

The leading markets for Ayoba are Nigeria with 7.2 million users, Côte d'Ivoire (2.8 million), Cameroon (2.6 million), and Ghana (2.5 million).

Ayoba's development coincides with the rise of super apps in Africa, which are attempting to capture the continent's unbanked population.

As telcos seek to diversify their revenue streams beyond the traditional telephony and data, financial services have emerged as a crucial boon.

MTN, Vodacom, Orange, and Safaricom, among others, have made significant inroads in the market.



MTN group president and CEO Ralph Mupita

"We have built an MAU (monthly active user) base of 7.3 million in countries where MTN does not have GSM operations, demonstrating the scope of the messaging platform to scale as an OTT (over-the-top player)," says Ralph Mupita, MTN Group CEO.

He adds: "Our growth was driven by improved user experience, most notably the introduction of an expanded and improved music service."

"In addition to its communication and social features, Ayoba continues to provide local and global content (music, games, channels, and micro applications) that is relevant and useful. Ayoba has also launched early monetisation proof-of-concept initiatives, such as display advertisements and premium sales."

Turning to the growth of other MTN platforms, Mupita reports that digital revenue increased by 8.0% year-over-year (YoY) to R1.8 billion, as Nigeria continued to grow revenues by more than 50%, partially offsetting slowing performances in South Africa and Ghana.

He says, MTN's Digital Services business is concentrating on expanding its portfolio through partnerships with Amazon Prime Video and Apple Music in Nigeria and Disney+ in South Africa.

During the six-month period, enterprise revenue grew by 24.8% YoY, supported by double-digit growth in four of MTN's top six markets and facilitated by the Group's platform transformation strategy centred on converged services solutions.

Mupita says: "MTN SA, which delivered growth of 9.3%, benefited from strong data product propositions as well as distribution channel expansion. MTN Nigeria's enterprise revenue increased by 49.4%, led by mobile and fixed connectivity services and supported by the addition of new customers across all segments."

"We saw growth in data and connectivity services in other critical markets, including MTN Ghana and MTN Côte d'Ivoire, as our customers shifted to hybrid work styles as a result of digital transformation initiatives."

Similarly, he says wholesale revenue increased by 32.3%, with a solid national roaming performance in MTN SA.

"Revenue from Cell C was up strongly, while the multi-year Telkom roaming deal continued to gain traction with roaming revenues growing consistently," says Mupita

Stock market records marginal gain

LAGOS

THE Nigerian stock market last week recorded marginal gain fueled by MTN Nigeria Plc and other banking stocks.

This is coming as investors continued to reposition their portfolios based on the assessment of some companies' half year 2023, H1'23, earnings report.

Precisely, the Nigeria Exchange Limited, NGX, All-Share Index, ASI, recorded a 0.2 percent gain to close at 65,325.37 points from 65,198.08 points the previous week.

Another stock market gauge, NGX market capitalization, rose by N93 billion to close at N35.572 trillion from N35.479 trillion the previous week.

Consequently, the Month-to-Date, MtD, and Year-to-Date, YTD, returns were slightly higher at +1.5 percent and +27.5 percent, respectively.

Elsewhere, weak activity levels persisted on the bourse, as the trading volume and value decreased by 32.4 percent Week-on-Week, WoW, and 15.3 percent WoW, respectively.

From a sectoral viewpoint, the Banking Index went up by 1.3 percent and Insurance Index, 0.7 percent while the Consumer Goods Index down by 0.9 percent, Industrial Goods Index 0.4 percent and Oil and Gas Index 0.3 percent.

Reacting on the market performance and outlook, analysts at Cordros Research stated: "We expect market performance to remain mixed in the week ahead as investors rebalance their portfolios based on an assessment of corporate earnings released thus far for H1'23."

"Nevertheless, we expect earnings from the Tier-1 banks in the coming week(s) to spur positive market sentiments, especially given the anticipation of interim dividends."

"Overall, we reiterate the need for positioning in only fundamentally sound stocks as the weak macro environment remains a significant headwind for corporate earnings."

In their own comment, analysts at Investdata Consulting said: "We expect mixed sentiments on bargain hunting, in the midst of expected positive news, while investors digest corporate earnings ahead of July inflation data and First-tier banks earnings reports."

"However, pullbacks are creating buying opportunities amidst economic reforms of the government, just as more policy pronouncements and economic managers hit the ground running, a situation expected to offer investment direction eventually."

"Also, more Q2 earnings reports are expected to confirm the real state of the company performance and attract liquidity in the midst of markdown dates and the release of remaining audited accounts."

"We note that discerning investors have continued to target fundamentally sound companies and defensive stocks to protect their portfolios."

On the other fresh development, there are strong indications that pump price of petrol is expected to record another round of increases, the third within 10 weeks as oil marketers hint that the landing cost of petrol has risen month-on-month, MoM, by 37.4 percent to N632.17 per litre in July 2023, from N460 per litre in June 2023.

The landing cost excludes other additional costs which includes deport related charges, transportation logistics and marketers' margin, which would combine to bring delivery at filling stations at nearly N700/litre.

Sources around oil marketers told Financial Vanguard that the landing cost for August is expected to rise further as the factors that propelled the rise in July figures have worsened as at last week.

Giving further insight, they said foreign exchange has been a major concern where scarcity has persisted while exchange rate has also

continued to deteriorate.

As at last weekend Naira had depreciated by about 6.5 percent in the official market and 25 percent in the parallel market since the last pump price raise.

The marketers also noted that cost of fuel import is rising in response to the recent rises in price of crude oil in the international market.

A transactional analysis of a major operator, sighted by Financial Vanguard last weekend showed that marketers were paying N604.14 per litre as total direct cost.

A breakdown shows product cost per liter at N578.46, freight (Lome-Lagos) at N10.37, port charges at N7.37, NMDPRA levy of N4.47, storage cost at N2.58, Marine insurance cost at N0.47, fendering cost at N0.36 and "others" at N0.05 as well as a finance cost amounting to N28.04.

Specifically, the transactional analysis put the landing cost of 28,000 metric tons of imported petrol at over \$25 million, including total product cost, total direct cost, total finance cost, capable of generating more than N22 billion as sales revenue, indicating a loss of over N1.6 billion.

As a result of this development, the marketers said it would be unprofitable to import at current pump price, while the government has not guaranteed a free float of pump prices.

Consequently, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC, has remained the only importer aside the minor private importation recorded last month.

The situation appears worsening as Nigeria's crude oil output is now declining threatening the capacity to import refined products.

In its August 2023 Monthly Oil Market Report, MOMR, obtained by Financial Vanguard, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, noted the dwindling output of many nations, adding that Nigeria's oil production dropped on a year-on-year, YoY, basis by 6.5 percent to 1.26 million barrels per day, bpd in July 2023, from 1.2 million bpd recorded in the corresponding period of 2022.

It also noted that on a month-on-month, MoM basis, the nation's output dropped by 3.0 percent to 1.26 million bpd in July 2023, from 1.3 million bpd in June 2023.

Experts give insight

Commenting on the oil price situation in a telephone interview with Financial Vanguard, weekend, the National Operations Controller, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, IPMAN, Mike Osatuyi, said: "It is good because the high crude oil prices mean additional revenue to the federal government. The revenue would likely be used to fund projects and programmes because the government is no more involved in the payment of fuel subsidy."

He, however, added: "But Nigerians will have to pay more for fuel, which prices have been deregulated. The prices are currently high, but we are optimistic that the prices will fall as a result of competition in future."

The Managing Director of a major operator, who pleaded anonymity, said the instability and volatility being experienced now in the downstream sector have discouraged, not only importation, but also massive investment expected of a deregulated market.

He urged President Bola Tinubu to intervene in the management of the nation's foreign exchange in order to rescue deregulation and the nation's downstream sector from confusion, stagnation and eventual collapse.

He stated: "We have gotten to a point where President Bola Tinubu's intervention is inevitable. Even if we have the resources to import, we cannot be very sure at what price the product would be sold. So, it is better to hold on and see the way things would unfold in the coming months."

Liquid introduces the Gaborone Metro ring

GABORONE

LIQUID Intelligent Technologies has introduced the Gaborone Metro Ring, a secure communications network for Botswana's local enterprises.

According to Liquid, the Metro Ring will be implemented in two phases, with the first phase aiming to benefit hundreds of businesses and the second phase incorporating additional connections.

Increased access to high-speed fibre connectivity, according

to the company owned by Cassava Tech, is essential for enhancing not only telecommunication services for businesses and individuals, but also substantial social and economic benefits.

The Metro Ring, according to Liquid, is a significant achievement in the telecommunication infrastructure of Gaborone, demonstrating the successful collaboration between the public and private sectors to advance technology for

Botswana's benefit.

Odirile Tamajobe, managing director of Liquid Intelligent Technologies Botswana, explains, "The launch of the first phase will reduce tariffs for local and international data products, making them more accessible to small and medium businesses that were previously at a disadvantage compared to the larger enterprises."

Tamajobe continues, "This initiative is a significant step towards Botswana realising its potential as one of

Africa's expanding economic hubs. The completion of the first phase demonstrates Liquid's dedication to meeting the increasing demand for connectivity and aligns with our vision of a digitally connected Botswana where no one is left behind."

According to Liquid, the initiative also supports the government's strategic plan, Botswana Vision 2036, which aims to raise the country's economic status from upper-middle-income to high-income within the next thirteen years.

"It serves as a prime example of progress towards Botswana's ambitious goals through technological development," the company explains.

CURRENT NEWS



Rwandan firms to import sugar duty-free

KIGALI

IN a move aimed at bolstering local industries and promoting economic growth, the government has authorized 35 domestic manufacturers to import over 213,000 tonnes of sugar for industrial purposes without incurring import duties in the current fiscal year.

The initiative, outlined in the East African Community (EAC) Gazette issued on August 4, offers a vital boost to these approved manufacturers, fostering increased production and competitiveness.

The 35 companies listed in the Gazette include prominent names like Gisagara Agro Business Industries Ltd, Inyange Industries, Rugali Agro Processing, Masaka Creamery Ltd, Blessed Dairies Ltd, ADMA International Ltd, Skol Brewery Ltd, Mukamira Dairy, Sina Gerard, Rwanda Banana Wine Ltd, BRALIRWA, CETRAF, Sky Drop Industries Ltd, and Africa Improved Foods Ltd.

Varying quantities of sugar have been granted import privileges, with allocations ranging from three tonnes to a substantial 60,000 tonnes, tailored to meet the production needs of each manufacturer.

Primarily earmarked for the creation of beverages such as soft drinks and beer, as well as various food products for the local market, this strategic import initiative aligns with Rwanda's broader economic vision. The government had initially planned to impose a 25 percent import duty rate on sugar for the ongoing financial year. However, this recent development underscores the government's commitment to stimulating domestic industrial growth.

Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Uziel Ndagijimana, explained that the decision to grant duty-free import privileges was part of Rwanda's comprehensive tax proposal to the EAC Partner States. The proposal encompasses a stay of application scheme, involving preferential import duty treatment to ensure essential goods' affordability for citizens, and a duty remission scheme designed exclusively for local manu-



Workers on duty at Inyange Industries in Kigali.

facturers.

This innovative scheme provides preferential tariff rates on production inputs, effectively lowering production costs, enhancing price competitiveness, and attracting investments.

Minister Ndagijimana highlighted the scheme's transparency, with regular quarterly submissions outlining beneficiaries and quantities of products to the Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) and subsequently to the EAC. The scheme's flexibility enables new applicants to join the list of beneficiaries during each quarter.

Nonetheless, the privilege of duty remission is not without its conditions. Products manufactured using the imported sugar and sold in other EAC Partner States will incur duties, levies, and additional charges as stipulated by the EAC Common External Tariff.

The Finance Minister emphasized that although the standard EAC import duty rate for sugar stands at 100 percent, Rwanda applies a more favorable stance by levying a 25 percent rate on sugar for normal consumption and a zero percent rate on sugar earmarked for industrial use.

While these measures entail a temporary loss in import duty revenues, the resultant benefits in terms of domestic industrial growth, job creation, increased tax revenue, and enhanced consumer pricing dynamics more than justify the forgone tax income.

The East African Community (EAC) secretariat has issued the approved measures on import duty rates in the EAC Common External Tariff (EAC CET), which indicate different rates for given products, based on the priorities of each Partner State. They were published in the EAC Gazette on June 30, and are expected to be applicable for the current fiscal year which runs from July 1 to June 30, 2024.

According to a legal notice in the Gazette, the measures on customs duty rates on the items in

question were approved by the EAC Council of Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Council under relevant provisions of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union.

Article 12 (1) of the Protocol provides that the EAC Partner States hereby establish a three-band common external tariff with a minimum rate of 0 per cent, a middle rate of 10 per cent and a maximum rate of 25 per cent in respect of all products imported into the Community.

Again, the same article provides that the Council may review the common external tariff structure and approve measures designed to remedy any adverse effects which any of the Partner States may experience by reason of the implementation of this part of the Protocol or, in exceptional circumstances, to safeguard Community interests.

The following are approved measures on import duty rates in the EAC CET, for 10 of the products in question.

Uganda and Rwanda are set to stay (suspend) application of EAC CET rate and apply a duty rate of zero per cent for one year. The same applies to electric motorcycles.

Normally, such vehicles attract a rate of 25 per cent under the EAC Common External tariff.

However, Kenya will suspend the application of the 25 per cent rate and instead, apply a duty rate of 35 per cent on electric and hybrid vehicles, according to the publication.

Mobile phones

In the current fiscal year, Uganda is suspending the application of the normal zero per cent rate to impose a duty rate of 10 per cent mobile phones; while Kenya is applying a duty rate of 25 per cent.

Inputs for the assembly/manufacture of mobile phones Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda granted a remission of duty to apply a duty rate of zero per cent for one year for the manufacture of mobile phones.

Kenya-Tanzania 'trade war' cuts imports 30pc

NAIROBI

KENYA'S imports from neighbouring Tanzania have slumped at the sharpest pace in seven years in a period renewed trade tiffs saw Nairobi bypass Dar es Salaam to buy more from as far as Egypt.

Official trade statistics show expenditure on goods trucked from Tanzania in six months through June plunged by nearly a third on the back of restrictions on cereal exports to Kenya.

Tanzania imposed new guidelines on trade in grains between the country and its partners in the East African Community bloc in the review period, rules which largely restricted the importation of maize into Kenya.

Data collated by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) indicate the value of Kenya's goods imports from Tanzania plunged 31.12 percent year-on-year to Sh18.68 billion in the January-June period.

The drop from Sh27.12 billion – a record-high in the half-year period – in a similar period in the prior year was the fastest since 2016.

At the time, imports for the first half of the year had fallen 36.99 percent to Sh6.06 billion at the height of feuds between Nairobi and the administration of former Tanzanian leader John Magufuli (deceased).

The thawing of trade relations between the two biggest economies in the seven-nation EAC bloc during the reign of former President Uhuru Kenyatta and his counterpart Samia Suluhu had pushed Tanzania to become the second-largest source market on the continent after South Africa.

But the sharp drop in the value of imports through the Namanga border has seen Tanzania drop from second to fourth-largest source market for Kenya in Africa having been



President William Ruto (left) and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

overtaken by Egypt and Uganda.

The CBK data, sourced from the Kenya Revenue Authority, show imports from Egypt increased 5.21 percent to Sh23.75 billion in the review period, while Uganda's rose 10.57 percent to Sh18.99 billion.

It was the first time that Kenyan traders spent more on goods from Uganda than Tanzania since the first half of 2019.

Tanzania introduced fresh guidelines on maize imports, which saw more than 200 trucks from Kenya blocked for days at the Namanga and Holili borders, prompting the intervention of President William Ruto.

The measures were part of export restrictions which Dar es Salaam started enforcing from last year to ensure food security in a trading bloc which perennially experiences a deficit in maize, a staple.

The new rules required traders to open and register offices in Dar es Salaam for purposes of getting licences to export maize and other grains as well as tax clearance certificates.

The measures were viewed as contrary to the EAC Common Market Protocol which allows free movement of goods, services, capital and labour within the bloc.

Tanzania's Deputy Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade Exaud Kigahle told Parliament late June

that the measures were helping Tanzania to "fight exploitation that farmers have experienced for years by middlemen and dishonest traders who have been purchasing crops to farmers at low prices."

Tanzania is a major exporter of maize and rice not only to Kenya but other EAC bloc members such as DR Congo, Burundi and South Sudan.

Data from the Eastern Africa Grain Council show imports from Tanzania nearly grew five-fold last year to 469,474 tonnes from 98,000 tonnes in 2020.

The rules, however, prompted Kenyan maize millers to look for other sources of the staple grain, including Zambia.

Kenya has been experiencing a steady decline in maize production, from 42 million bags in 2020 to 36 million bags in 2021, due to poor rainfall and the high cost of inputs.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the national annual maize requirement is 52 million bags, which includes other uses such as the manufacture of livestock feeds, stock retained as seeds and the manufacture of other products.

This comes at a time when the Kenya shilling has lost nearly 20 percent of its value against regional currencies, weakening its dominant position in the region in a trend that is serving pain to traders importing goods from Uganda and Tanzania.

SoftwareOne names a new business development lead

CAPE TOWN

MAKHOSINI Dlamini has been appointed as business development executive for South Africa and Africa, by SoftwareOne.

In his role at SoftwareOne, Dlamini will be supported by Marilyn Moodley, country leader and local director for South Africa and Africa, as well as a sales team consisting of Kyasha Wardman, Thiren Reddy, Calvin Kodisang, and Navi Pillay.

Commenting on Dlamini's appointment, Moodley says: "With a commendable track record, I am confident that Dlamini will play a key role in propelling SoftwareOne to new heights."

Dlamini has over 16 years of experience in ICT, including 11 years at Microsoft, where he held several positions, including service delivery manager, account technology strategist, and account executive, and was involved in various projects such as UNISA's migration to Microsoft AD/Exchange and the adoption of the AD/Exchange platform by the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

In addition, Dlamini has experience with Oracle, having managed sales in several SADC countries prior to joining SoftwareOne from Vodacom, where he was responsible for Microsoft cloud sales.

Dlamini says: "Our approach begins by delving into their core business objectives and challenges, allowing us to tailor technology to facilitate their growth. It's not merely about technology; it's about understanding and resonating with the intricacies of each business."

According to him, many clients recognise the need to migrate to the cloud, but face budgetary constraints.

He says migration to the cloud is a complex and resource-intensive endeavour that necessitates the reconstruction of workloads and applications.

Dlamini asserts that it is more crucial than ever for businesses to realise the value of technology in the face of persistent global economic constraints.



Makhosini Dlamini

Rwanda's consumer price growth down to 11.9 per cent last month

KIGALI

RWANDA witnessed a deceleration in consumer price growth in July, with a rise of 11.9 percent, down from the 13.7 percent recorded in June.

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISIR) reported that the rate of increase in food prices has been gradually slowing down, falling from over 20% during 2022.

Sustaining this trend, the Central Bank remains optimistic that inflation will continue to decline and align with the target range of 2 percent to 8 percent by the close of 2023.

Data from NISIR shows that prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages experienced a 23.9 percent increase in July, a decrease from June's 26.2 percent. Prices for bread and cereals surged by 11.3 percent, meat by 13.1 percent, milk, cheese, and eggs by 20.7 percent, and vegetables by 43 percent.

Costs pertaining to housing, water, electricity, gas, and fuels rose by 3.3 percent, transportation by 5.8 percent, while the hospitality sector experienced an 8.6 percent price hike.

Beyond external factors, the observed price surges are mainly attributed to a slump in domestic agricultural production, making staple foods less affordable for consumers.

Despite the challenges posed by adverse weather conditions and the subsequent dip in agricultural output, the economy is expected to maintain its growth trajectory. The gradual reduction in commodity price acceleration is a testament to the government's implementation of various measures aimed at achieving economic stability.

According to Professor Herman Musahara, an economics analyst, a cautious outlook is needed as the current figure still stands in double digits, well above the country's desired target of below 10 percent and ideally 8 percent.

"Should we manage to bring down this overlying inflation to below 10 percent by the fourth quarter of 2023, it would signify significant progress. Tackling imported inflation, particularly from input costs, holds critical importance due to ongoing global disruptions in supply chains."

He further advocated for ongoing diversification of grain sources, petroleum products, cooking oil, and efforts to enhance the new agricultural season to temper domestic food prices.

This is happening when the National Bank of Rwanda has increased its lending rate by 50 basis points from 6.5 percent to 7 percent in efforts to tame the persistently high prices.

This decision was announced during the quarterly Monetary Policy Committee and Financial Stability Statement pronouncement in February.

The local outlet had an exclusive interview with the Central Bank's Chief Economist Thierry Kalisa, on what it means for the economy and other key changes expected this year.

Kalisa said the increase stated in February, August, and November 2022 with a total of 200 basis points. Now, the bank is forecasting a decline in inflation because of lower pressures from international prices such as fuel and food and also because of an anticipated good agricultural production.

However, he said, pressures are still there in the first half of the year. Yes, inflation is slightly reducing but still higher than the band we have (between 2 and 8 percent). That's why the MPC took the decision to continue tightening the rate with an objection to bring inflation as quickly as possible.

WORLD

Niger coup leaders willing to resolve standoff with ECOWAS

NIAMEY

COUP leaders in Niger have said that they are willing to resolve a standoff with West Africa's regional bloc through diplomacy, Al Jazeera reported citing a group of senior Nigerian Islamic scholars who have held a meeting with army leaders in Niamey.

The visit comes at a time when the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is considering its options to restore civilian rule in Niger, including potential military intervention. ECOWAS' decision comes after Niger President Mohamed Bazoum was ousted in a coup d'état by the presidential guard.

ECOWAS Chairman and Nigerian President Bola Tinubu gave approval to delegation of Islamic scholars' visit to Niamey, who had vowed to promote dialogue.

The meeting between Islamic scholars and Niger's military government leader General Abdourahamane Tchiani lasted

several hours, Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau, who led the delegation, said, according to Al Jazeera report.

Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau said, "He said their doors were open to explore diplomacy and peace in resolving the matter. Reportedly, General Abdourahamane Tchiani stressed on historic ties between Niger and Nigeria and said that the two nations "were not only neighbours but brothers and sisters who should resolve issues amicably."

Military leaders have issued no statement on the meeting. The coup leaders previous rebuffs of diplomatic efforts by ECOWAS, US and others had raised concerns over further conflict in the Sahel region of Africa, Al Jazeera reported.

For now, ECOWAS is pursuing efforts for further negotiations with Niger military leaders. On Saturday, ECOWAS parliament said it will ask Tinubu, who holds the revolving chairmanship, for allowing them to travel to Niger, according to bloc's spokesperson.

Meanwhile, Mali, Burkina Faso, and



Members of the Niger Municipal Police corp dance and sing as artists perform during a concert in support to Niger's National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) at the General Seyni Kountche Stadium in Niamey on Sunday. (PHOTO / AFP)

Guinea have expressed support for Niger's new military authorities. On Saturday, General Abdourahamane Tchiani sent a delegation to Guinea's capital Conakry to thank country's leaders for their support.

At the meeting, Guinea's interim President Mamady Doumbouya said that they are "Pan-African" and stressed that they will always support their people when they face problems, according to Al Jazeera report.

On August 10, West African leaders ordered the "immediate activation" and the "deployment" of a regional standby force to restore constitutional order in the coup-hit Niger, CNN reported.

Leaders from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held a meeting in Nigeria's Abuja after the expiration of the

one-week ultimatum they gave to Niger's military junta.

ECOWAS leaders called for a deployment "to restore constitutional order in the Republic of Niger," Omar Aliou Touray, President of the ECOWAS Commission, said in a statement.

The statement stressed a "determination to keep all options on the table for the peaceful resolution of the crisis," according to CNN. After the coup, ECOWAS announced sanctions and gave an ultimatum to Niger's ruling military junta to stand down within a week or face a potential military intervention.

The deadline on August 6 expired without any change in the political situation. ECOWAS leaders have said their preference is to find a diplomatic solution to the situation and would dispatch troops as a last resort. **ANI**

Biden's policy only delays Ukraine's defeat – Bolton

NEW YORK

THE policy of US President Joe Biden's administration in relation to Ukraine just postpones Kiev's defeat, former National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump John Bolton wrote in an article published on The Wall Street Journal's website.

According to Bolton, "Ukraine's offensive failures and Russia's defensive successes share a common cause: the slow, faltering, nonstrategic supply of military assistance by the West."

The serial debates over whether to supply this or that weapons system, the perpetual fear that Russia will escalate to war against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and occasional Kremlin nuclear saber-rattling have instilled a paralyzing caution in Western capitals.

Although the UK under Boris Johnson wasn't deterred, NATO has seemed unwilling to fulfill its commitment to restore Ukraine's full sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"This hesitancy is a product of successful deterrence by the Kremlin, not American strategic necessity," he noted. "Far from being inevitable, the Ukrainians' inability to achieve major advances is the natural result of a U.S. strategy aimed only at staving off Russian conquest," according to him.

As for sanctions, Bolton believes, "The West - particularly Washington - also needs to rethink sanctions policy radically."

Theories about price caps on Russian oil have failed, and Western sanctions generally remain piecemeal and seriously underenforced. These defects aren't confined to the Ukraine conflict and should prompt NATO institutionally to review how it conducts enforcement.

Proclaiming sanctions is great PR, but enforcement is hard, tedious and necessarily done clandestinely where possible. The US and its allies need a massive overhaul and upgrade of our sanction-enforcement instruments, procedures and personnel."

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the Ukrainian army has been making fruitless offensive attempts since June 4.

According to the ministry, the Armed Forces of Ukraine lost around 43,000 personnel and 5,000 weapons, including 26 planes and 25 Leopard tanks, in two months. Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized that Ukrainian troops are not succeeding in any direction. **Agencies**

Banning education of girls in Afghanistan is 'Gender apartheid' - former UK Premier

KABUL

FORMER United Kingdom Prime Minister Gordon Brown called the treatment of Afghan women and girls "gender apartheid" and urged the American government and the UK government to impose sanctions on the Taliban, people directly responsible for such policies, TOLO News reported.

He criticized the restriction on Afghan women and called it a flagrant abuse of human rights and "systematic."

Following the continuous restrictions on Afghan women, the former United Kingdom Prime Minister Gordon Brown (pictured) criticized the restriction on Afghan women and called it a flagrant abuse of human rights and "systematic," TOLO reported.

Commenting on the current situation in Afghanistan, Brown said, "Everybody I think who studies knows that there is nothing in Islam that says that girls' education should be banned... and it's gender persecution and gender apartheid."

Brown, on CNN, urged the International Criminal Court to look specifically at the violation of the girls and women's rights in Afghanistan. He further said that the American government and the UK government must impose sanctions on the people, directly responsible for such policies, TOLO News reported.

"I am proposing that the international criminal court look specifically at the violation of the rights of girls and women in Afghanistan, and I believe that governments like the American government and the UK government must impose sanctions on those people who are directly responsible for this policy," Gordon Brown added.

However, the Taliban replied to Gordon Brown's statements and said that the British have committed the most human rights violations in Afghanistan, reported TOLO News.

The spokesman of the Taliban denied the claims of human rights violations, especially women's rights in the country and further highlighted that the rights of women in the nation are secured based on Islamic Sharia, according to TOLO News. **ANI**



Israel's Netanyahu cools censure of protesting reservists

JERUSALEM

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has offered Israeli military reservists protesting against his judicial overhaul plan a nominal olive branch, cooling his earlier censure of them as concerns for the country's war-readiness mount.

Protest leaders say thousands of reservists have stopped reporting for duty. Among them are hundreds of air force pilots or navigators whose absence from weekly refresher flights means that by next month they may no longer qualify for combat.

As Israel faces potential flare-ups with Iran, Lebanon and the Palestinians, Netanyahu raged, in a cabinet recording leaked to a TV

station on July 12, against what he deemed "insubordination" that threatened military capabilities.

The protesters have bristled at the term, noting that many of the reservists are designated as volunteers and arguing that their no-shows were a last resort to defend Israeli democracy.

Convening the top brass for consultations on the crisis late on Sunday, Netanyahu changed his language somewhat, saying in a statement he "utterly rejected the phenomenon of conditional reserve duty".

"Brothers in Arms", a reservist protester group, seemed unmoved by the gesture, accusing Netanyahu of playing down risks to military readiness.

The seeping of the reform fu-



re into the armed forces, which Israelis long viewed as an apolitical melting pot, could be exacerbated by an unprecedented showdown among branches of government next month.

The Supreme Court will on Sept 12 hear arguments against

a bill limiting some of its powers to void government decisions, which was ratified in a parliament controlled by Netanyahu's religious-nationalist coalition.

'Limited' impact

Netanyahu has been hazy on whether he would heed a ruling against the law. He has argued that the court meddles in his mandate and reminded the military that, in a democracy, it is subordinate to the elected government.

Such debating was akin to "dancing on the deck of the Titanic", Amos Gilad, a retired Israeli military intelligence general and regional analyst, told Army Radio on Monday, referring to perceptions of the country as vulnerable to its foes. **Agencies**

S. Korean activists urge calling off military exercises with US

SEOUL

A group of South Korean peace activists yesterday urged calling off the country's joint military exercises with the United States scheduled to be held later this month.

"The Korean Peninsula is now again at the crossroads of war and peace. The stop of South Korea-US joint military exercises could be a decisive step in preventing war and opening a door to dialogue again," the Korea Peace Appeal, which organized the peace rally, said in a statement.

The activists shouted for peace during the rally, staged in front of the presidential office in Seoul, where the defense ministry is also headquartered.

"This extremely dangerous show of force, which raises a possibility for military conflict,

will just end up in a disaster," said the Korea Peace Appeal, which is composed of hundreds of civic and religious groups in South Korea as well as dozens of overseas anti-war groups.

The organizer called on the governments of South Korea and the United States to ease military tensions and make all-out efforts to prevent armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

The Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) exercise between the two allies, a summertime joint military exercise involving large-scale field maneuvers, was slated to be held from Aug 21 to 31, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

The annually held military exercises this year will reportedly involve about 30 field maneuvers, compared to 13 conducted last year.



Protesters stage a rally to oppose the planned joint military exercises between the US and South Korea, in front of the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea, Aug 14, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

India praises Kuwait's stand of neutrality in region

KUWAIT CITY

THE Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, Adarsh Swaika, has affirmed the depth of the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, according to Al-Qabas Daily.

Praising Kuwait's pivotal role in various regional issues earlier this week, the Indian envoy to the Gulf nation said Kuwait has followed a policy of neutrality in the region and has played an important role in the issues related to countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

It is implementing a number of social and economic development projects in many developing countries, especially through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and is at the forefront of countries in providing humanitarian aid around the world, something that is highly appreciated by the international community, Al-Qabas Daily quoted the Indian envoy as saying in its report.

The ambassador said, "We look forward to high-level visits from both sides to strengthen these historical relations between our two countries

due to their importance in providing an opportunity to reach mutual understandings and agreements on important issues."

On the date of the joint committee meeting between the two countries, he said the date and place have not yet been decided as it will depend on the visit of any of the foreign ministers of the two countries, Al-Qabas Daily reported.

Ambassador Swaika also dwelt on the steady bilateral consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries, such as those held in New Delhi during the first week of

May after a gap of almost four years, and the first multilateral consultations between India, Kuwait and the United Nations in the first week of June in Kuwait, the daily reported.

On the corporation between the two countries on the security front, the Indian envoy said, "The defence and security relations have so far been limited to training and medical cooperation. Four Indian ships visited Kuwait in July and October of last year. An Indian warship (ANS Visakhapatnam guided missile destroyer) is expected to visit Kuwait in August."

"Commercially, there is growth in economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. Our bilateral trade amounting to USD 13.8 billion for the period 2022-2023 recorded its highest levels ever, with an increase of 12.8 per cent on an annual basis. The main potential area of cooperation is in the field of Kuwaiti investments in India, which provides an attractive investment and financial climate," he noted further. Underlining the significant contribution of the Indian community to bolstering the Kuwaiti economy, Ambassador Swaika said

the bilateral memorandum of understanding regarding domestic workers was signed in June 2021, Al-Qabas Daily reported.

A decree was issued by the Kuwaiti side in April 2022 to implement the MoU, which contains provisions enumerating the legal rights and obligations of both the employer and the employee. Therefore it is important to adhere to these provisions for both parties, the report noted. The proper implementation of the MoU by both sides could lead to resolving most of the problems, the report stated, adding

that the embassy has been keen to disseminate information related to legal immigration procedures so that Indians, who intend to come to work in Kuwait, do not fall into the hands of illegal sponsors.

The ambassador stressed the keenness of the Union government to work on developing skills among its citizens to enhance their employability in the international labour market, by establishing training programs and cooperating with the private sector to identify and enhance the required skills, Al-Qabas Daily reported. **ANI**

ICRC sows seeds of hope for conflict-affected young farmers in Cameroon

YAOUNDE

BOUKARA Abba, a smallholder farmer in the Mozogo locality of Cameroon's Far North region, looked happily at his flourishing maize and okra which he planned to harvest next month.

It was a couple of minutes after mid-day as it drizzled on Abba's approximately three-hectare farm. The 31-year-old is one of several young people who have found fortune in agriculture in the volatile region.

Since 2014, a wide area of the region is suffering from the fighting between Boko Haram, the terrorist group, and government forces. Many communities in the region have faced renewed violence in recent months.

The armed conflict and worsening humanitarian crises have left the region's agriculture sector struggling as more than half of the displaced persons come from agricultural backgrounds.

Some of them were reported to have one meal a day with children and women suffering the most.

Thanks to an agricultural program by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), however, the displaced persons are now earning a living through farming. "There was no one to give us seeds before the Red Cross

arrived," said Abba who hosts 20 displaced people in his house.

So far this year, the ICRC initiative has assisted 26,000 displaced people, returnees and host communities with agricultural inputs and cash to increase their crop production, said ICRC agricultural engineer Nouratou Boubou Hadja.

"We assist them with maize, okra, sorghum and cowpea seeds. We give fertilizer to families affected by the conflict and in homes, young people are the most active in the production chain. When we identify a household, it is generally young people who work on the farm," said Hadja who had come to supervise Abba's farming activities.

"The objective is to improve agricultural production of these vulnerable families and after the production, they can now eat and sell their products to take care of other needs such as health needs or the education of children. It is a revenue-generating activity for these families."

For Abba, the agricultural program has lifted young people out of poverty and unemployment. "Everything has changed. Production has increased. As a young man, we were unemployed. Today ICRC came (and helped us) and now we are living our lives," said the



A family has millet couscous with okra sauce together in Kerawa, Far North region, Cameroon, Aug. 7, 2023. Xinhua

father of three. For Gui Daidi who was displaced from Zeleved village, there is never a question that his six children would have to get their hands dirty and learn how to grow their own food. "The ICRC program has helped young people to stay away from crime and trouble."

No other job could provide the same security as farming because people will always have to eat so there is always money to be made," said the 57-year-old who now lives in Mozogo with his family.

In Kerawa, a locality in the region that shares a porous border with Nigeria and is notorious for constant Boko Haram raids, Hadja Cheripou gets set to prepare the evening meal.

The 57-year-old fled to settle in Kerawa during the heat of the conflict to restart her life. She said that before now, the community leader and some good people

in the locality were assisting her and her 13 children with food and other daily needs. Now with the good harvest she got from the seeds and cash assistance, she is able to take care of her family.

"My children and I now have enough to eat. Life is better now," she said. "We had nothing. My children and grandchildren now feed well," said 54-year-old Wandala Hoda whose 22 children are now all farmers. The agricultural partnership between the Cameroonian government and ICRC has made farming profitable and cool for young people and the region safer, said Simplice Sadou, Far North regional chief of agriculture and rural development. "Since this partnership started two years ago with ICRC, we've had a good quantity of quality seeds that are produced in the region," Sadou said.

"Seed industry is very important. We have many young people in the industry and this partnership has increased their capacity and today, in all the zones where the partnership is operational, there is an increase in revenue because of the quality of the seeds." As the world commemorates International Youth Day on Aug. 12, young people affected by the armed conflict in the region now find a sense of purpose in the valuable farming skills they have brought to their new communities.

Agencies

Army 2023 forum's expositions begin work outside Moscow

PATRIOT PARK

THE Army 2023 international military-technical forum's expositions have begun their work near Moscow, a TASS correspondent reported from the scene.

This year, the international arms show's expositions located on an area of about 300,000 square meters feature about 28,000 military and dual-purpose exhibits.

Russia's Defense Ministry has announced that contracts worth over 433 billion rubles (about \$4.3 billion) are expected to be inked at the Army 2023 forum.

The forum is running simultaneously with the 11th Moscow conference on international security. The program includes the issues of global stability amid an emerging multi-polar world, interaction between defense ministries of various countries and military aspects of regional security in Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

Also, the second international anti-fascist congress will run on the territory of Belarus and at the Patriot Congress and Exhibition Center near Moscow.

In addition to a plenary meeting, there are plans to hold a workshop titled: "Nazism in Ukraine: A View Through the Prism of the Special Military Operation."

The Army 2023 international military-technical forum is running at the Patriot Congress and Exhibition Center, the Alabino training ground and the Kubinka airfield outside Moscow on August 14-20.

About 1,500 leading Russian defense enterprises and 85 foreign companies and businesses from seven countries are participating in the forum's expositions and business program.

The forum has been organized by the Russian Defense Ministry. TASS is the forum's strategic media partner.

Agencies

New Zealand removes final COVID-19 restrictions

WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND'S government will lift all remaining COVID-19 requirements from midnight Tuesday, bringing an end to some of the toughest COVID-19 pandemic rules in the world more than three years after they were put in place.

Minister of Health Ayesha Verrall said in a statement on Monday that from Tuesday people will no longer have to wear a face mask in health care facilities or isolate for seven days after contracting the virus.

"While our case numbers will continue to fluctuate, we have not seen the dramatic peaks that characterized COVID-19 rates last year.

This, paired with the population's immunity levels, means Cabinet and I are advised we're positioned to safely remove the remaining COVID-19 requirements," Verrall said.

Most of the restrictions were removed last year as vaccination rates reached high levels and the country's hospitals successfully navigated a winter without being overwhelmed.

The decision to remove the requirements comes just two months out from a closely contested election.

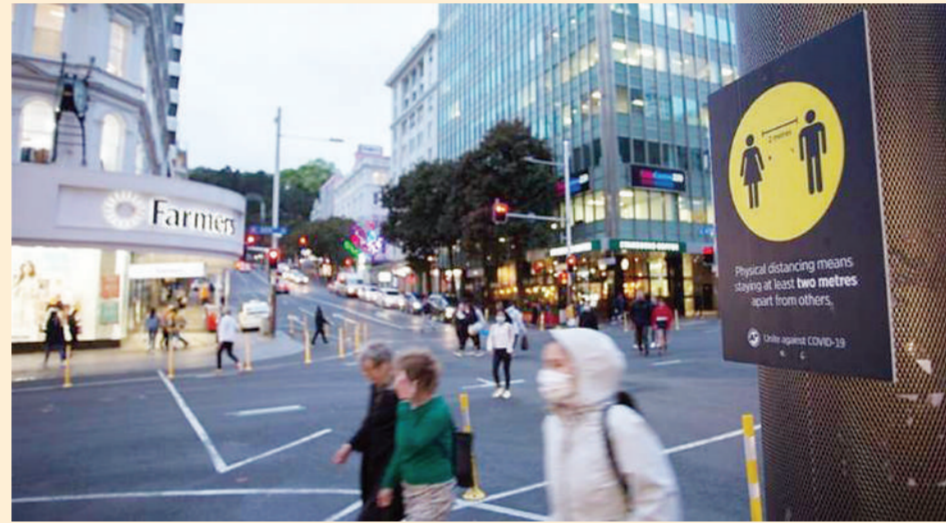
While the New Zealand government's handling of the pandemic was globally recognized for keeping infection and death

rates at low levels, domestically it faced criticism for the extended lockdowns, school closures, and closed borders.

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said the formal end of restrictions was a "significant milestone."

"I believe that New Zealanders can be enormously proud of what we achieved together. We stayed home, we made sacrifices, we got vaccinated and there is absolutely no question that we saved lives," he told his weekly press conference.

While no longer mandatory, the Minister of Health still recommends that people stay home for five days if they're unwell or have tested positive. Agencies



People walk past a sign reminding people to keep physical distance in Auckland, New Zealand, Sept 24, 2020. File photo

Shaanxi province takes multifaceted measures to promote cultural inheritance

SHAANXI province in northwest China enjoys a long history and rich cultural heritage. In recent years, Shaanxi has made great efforts to promote cultural inheritance through strengthening cultural heritage preservation, leveraging technology, and facilitating cultural exchanges.

This allows Shaanxi's profound history and traditions to harmoniously coexist with openness, inclusiveness and modernity.

The Shaanxi Archaeology Museum, with its Tang Dynasty (618-907) styled architecture and garden-like layout, is drawing crowds of archaeology enthusiasts from near and far, exuding grandeur and grace.

"The construction of this archaeology-themed museum took 10 years. It exhibits over 5,000 cultural relics, with each carrying the genes and codes of civilization, as well as the wisdom of ancient people. They are priceless treasures," said Sun Zhouyong, curator of the museum and head of the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology.

Improving its capability in museum construction, Shaanxi province has taken huge efforts to protect historical and cultural relics.

Shaanxi province has over 350 museums, averaging one museum for every 100,000 residents, far exceeding the national average. These institutions have become vital windows into the province's achievements in cultural relics preservation.

In the province, people can seek the earliest bronze ware engraved with Chinese characters "zhong guo," which means China, at



A child visits the Datang Everbright City scenic area in northwest China's Shaanxi province. (Photo by Hou Guojie/People's Daily Online)

the Baoji Bronze Ware Museum. They can also see how relics are unearthed and repaired at the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, and catch a glimpse of the splendor of the Tang dynasty at the Shaanxi History Museum.

Shaanxi province attaches high importance to archaeological studies along the Silk Road. It is constantly enhancing its archaeological capability and discipline construction.

Professor Wang Jianxin of Shaanxi's Northwest University, who is the first Chinese scholar to conduct archaeological investigation in Central Asia, finally unearthed the remains of the Yuezhi Culture and the Kangju Kingdom recorded in the Records of the Historian and the Book of Han after more than 20 years of efforts, making important contributions to archaeological studies along the Silk Road.

Chinese scholars, represented by archaeologists from the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, the Northwest University and other institutions have established profound friendship with their counterparts in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan during joint archaeological investigations, sharing with the latter the Chinese experiences of pro-

tecting and studying major heritage sites accumulated this century.

Shaanxi, which houses over 110 universities and more than 1,500 scientific research institutions, boasts formidable strength in scientific research. Its innovation capability, driven by a huge talent base, is breathing new life into its cultural riches - from heritage sites standing on the vast land, to scripts penned in ancient texts, and to treasures collected by museums.

Datang Everbright City scenic area, a tourist landmark of Xi'an, Shaanxi province featuring a grand street with characteristics of the Tang Dynasty, launched an augmented reality (AR) project this year, which enables tourists to see virtual objects in the real-world environment and thus offers them an immersive experience.

Wearing a pair of AR goggles, tourists will be able to see carps leaping into the sky, blossoming fireworks, the magnificent Hanyuan Hall of the Daming Palace, the route of Tang Dynasty Buddhist monk Xuanzang's journey to the west, etc.

At the Xi'an Museum, information about over 100,000 ancient books in its collection has been digitized and recorded in virtual space, including details on authors, graphic

designs and copyrights. Visitors to the Shaanxi History Museum can easily view every intricate detail of the museum's Tang Dynasty murals on their phones by simply scanning a QR code, thanks to the implementation of high-resolution image capture and virtual display technologies.

So far, digitalization is being widely promoted at general museums, libraries, local chronicles museums, archives, galleries and cultural centers in Shaanxi province.

The China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone, which was established seven years ago, has accelerated the development of the province's cultural services and trade, and facilitated the mutual understanding and recognition among different cultures.

A series of cultural performances as well as art and cultural festivals of Shaanxi province have been staged overseas, bringing local intangible cultural heritage items to foreign audiences, including the Hancheng drum, Ansai folk paper-cutting, Chinese New Year wood painting, opera masks and shadow play. They have fully demonstrated the unique charm of the Chinese culture.

Besides, Shaanxi's capital city Xi'an has held the Silk Road International Arts Festival attracting artists from over 100 countries and regions, as well as the Silk Road International Film Festival that gathers global directors, writers and actors and discusses the innovation and mutual learning in the sphere of the film industry.

People's Daily

GCC food security renews focus after UAE's rice export ban

HONG KONG

THE United Arab Emirates' four-month ban on rice exports and re-exports will have ripple effects on distribution networks for the vital food grain, and underscores the need to strengthen resiliency, and food and nutrition security in the Middle East region, experts said.

Meanwhile, the move could drive a realignment of trade dynamics, opening opportunities for other rice exporters to close the supply gap through market penetration and development, they said, also noting the possibility that the rice curbs could prompt consumers to look at alternative grains.

Victor Afari-Sefa, director of the Enabling Systems Transformation Program at The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, or ICRISAT, said the UAE ban "has profound implications and opportunities across the Middle East region".

Supply chain disruptions are likely to ripple through established rice distribution networks, potentially leading to shortages and price fluctuations in the Middle East, highlighting the pressing need for the region to prioritize domestic food production and invest in agricultural food self-sufficiency to ensure long-term food, as well as nutrition, security, he told China Daily.

ICRISAT, which is headquartered in Hyderabad, India, announced in June a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Saudi Arabia to enhance the productivity of millet and sesame crops in Saudi Arabia.

Afari-Sefa said the UAE ban "catalyzes a broader conversation about trade diplomacy, sustainable food practices, and the critical importance of fortifying regional food supply chains for improved nutrition of the populace".

The UAE last month announced a four-month ban on rice exports and re-exports, with effect from July 28, covering the free zones in the UAE and all rice varieties. Companies that wish to export or re-export must apply for an export permit.

The UAE export halt came after India - which accounts for 40 percent of global rice exports - announced earlier in July that it was suspending the exportation of non-basmati rice, citing significant crop damage due to heavy monsoon rains, and price rise in the domestic market.

"There is a clear incentive for Middle Eastern nations to channel efforts into bolstering local agricultural sectors, cultivating rice and other staple foods, particularly, micronutrient dense types, where comparative advantage opportunities can be developed in the long term," said Afari-Sefa.

"This could mitigate reliance on imports, enhance food and nutrition security, and stimulate economic growth."

Afari-Sefa added that the ban "might prompt a shift in consumer behavior, encouraging exploration of alternative grains and driving demand for diversified food options, including fortified nutriceals such as millets, quinoa and, to some extent, pulses (grain legumes)".

The UAE's move is seen impacting some import-reliant countries, like Zimbabwe, Benin, and Somalia, which are dealing with their own food security challenges.

Deniz Istikbal, an economics researcher at the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, a think tank based in Ankara, Turkey, told China Daily that even before the ban, many countries have already been experiencing food inflation, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

He is optimistic that the impact could be managed and would allow policymakers to develop some solutions to block an increase in food prices, as they "are afraid of political and economic instability" and because the world economy "is not ready for another rise in food prices".

Anis Khayati, an economics professor at the College of Business Administration at the University of Bahrain, noted that most Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries had announced that they would not be affected by any crisis related to the global shortage of rice, because they possess sufficient stocks of the grain, in addition to not consuming a large amount of the type that India has banned from exporting.

"However, white rice is usually bought by people with limited income, and their proportion is not small in most GCC countries," Khayati said.

"Also, white rice is vital in some African countries such as Sudan, Djibouti and Ethiopia, and the UAE decision will clearly induce higher prices, (which) will increase inflationary pressures and cause a deterioration in consumers' condition in Africa," he said.

SPORT



Players making Lions B's cricket squad pose for a photo shortly after defeating Estim A in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B League quarterfinal tie which took place last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

Lions B outfit sails through to 2023 DC Division B League semis

By Guardian Reporter

THE battle for silverware in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B League has gathered pace, as Lions B cricketers have made it to the semi-finals with a six-wicket victory over Estim A in a quarterfinal game that took place at Annadil Burhani oval last weekend.

Lions B cricketers will, in the semi-finals, face ALAF Aces B cricketers that defeated Karibu Tanzanite DCC (KTDC) in the earlier quarterfinal clash of the 30-over formatted tournament played at the same ground.

Atif Salim, Lions Cricket Club's Chairman, said after his squad's victory: "It's a huge moment of pride as Estim A is a very good team and had put up a very good (figure) on the board."

"We didn't particularly have the best of starts as we lost our three key batsmen very early in the game but the 100-run partnership between Umar Shaikh and John David was extremely key to this win and credit to the boys," the Lions Cricket

Club leader noted.

"Umar was just one run shy of a century and finishing not out but it was nothing less than a 100 runs," Salim added.

Lions B squad, according to Salim, was also without its skipper Mubin Haroon, given the cricketer is out of the country.

The official revealed the responsibility for that matter fell on vice-captain Hasham Ahmed who teamed up with other senior cricketers in the Lions B squad to lead the team to victory.

"We are very proud that we can put in many youngsters in the longer format of the game and will keep backing the youths as they are the ones that are the leaders of the club tomorrow," Salim pointed out.

The Lions Cricket Club official added: "We want to thank our title sponsor, Libya Apartments, and our co-sponsors- GP, FLTC Construction, Motor36.com, I&M Auto Parts, AMB Limited, Riyakh Logistics, RAK Energies, and AR Technologies."

Estim A cricketers had the opportunity to start batting in the quarterfinal tie, amassing 156/9 in the scheduled 30 overs.

Mahendra Kerai made his way back two runs short of a half-century- which was so far the notable contribution in the team's innings- with the cricketer having cracked four fours and two sixes.

There were moreover two-digit contributions from fellow top-order cricketers, Ashvin Pindoria (19 runs), Faraji Athumani (16 runs), Rohit Kansara (15 runs), Kishor Dhanji Pindoria (15 runs), and Bhimji Vekariya (12 runs).

The top-order cricketers' exploits were the only positive aspect of Estim A's game, with quick dismissals of fellow batsmen thwarting their efforts to post a bigger total.

Abdullah Imtiyaz was the cricketer with the most wickets when Lions B fielded, in which the performer ended with three wickets, leaving 39 runs in six overs.

Lions B's experienced cricketer, Abdulsamad Ahmed (a wicket), and Hasham Ahmed- who also took a wicket- sought to frustrate Estim A's efforts to post a challenging total.

Needing 157 runs to garner victory, Lions B cricketers gallantly got down to a successful chase, posting 162/4 in 23.3 overs.

Promising cricketer, Shaikh, put his prowess to show to make his way back one run short of a century as Lions B confidently reached the target set up by Estim A.

Even though Estim A's Bhavik Bhudia (2-29 in six overs) and Harnish Hirani (2-18 in two overs) had good bowling spells, their efforts to contain Lions B's batting unit went down the drain.

In his six overs, Bhudia ended with a 4.83 economy rate, whereas Hirani posted a 9.00 economy rate in his two-over stint.

ALAF Aces B cricketers make it to 2023 DC Division B League last four

By Guardian Reporter

HAMZA Ally put in a scintillating batting performance to catapult ALAF Aces B to 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B League's semi-finals, with the squad commanding a 110-run victory over Karibu Tanzanite DCC in the quarterfinal encounter last weekend.

ALAF Aces B's top-order cricketers were impressive at the crease and their contributions were instrumental in the team's victory and qualification for the tournament's last-four round.

Having taken the crease first, ALAF Aces B cricketers made the most of their innings, having amassed 205/9 in the allotted 30 overs.

Jaffari Kanyita and Ally, who recently played for Tanzania's U-19 cricket team in the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifiers, played an impactful game to win last weekend's encounter for ALAF Aces B.

After the early dismissal

of experienced all-rounder Bhavesh Govind, two youthful cricketers, Ally and Kanyita, stepped up to have ALAF Aces B finishing its innings with a convincing total.

Ally, deployed at number, was the most impressive cricketer in the innings, surpassing a half-century mark to post 59 runs for the batting squad.

In his impressive innings, Ally nailed three fours and a six and saw to it Govind's early exit was hardly felt.

Ally, consequently, scored two consecutive half-centuries as the promising cricketer had earlier scored a half-century when his club took on Aga Khan SC B in the league's clash to knock the latter out of the event.

Kanyita that had opened the innings with Govind did his best to see to it ALAF Aces B is in control of the innings- having been two runs short of a half-century.

In the opening cricketer's equally great knocks, the player



ALAF Aces B outfit's cricketer, Hamza Ally.

ended with six fours and six.

There was another significant showing by top-order cricketer, Imtiyaz Yusuf, as the performer chipped in with 21 runs (one four and a six) for ALAF Aces B.

Experienced player, Ajith Shetty, and youthful cricketer, Ayoub Hamisi, ensured ALAF Aces B add more runs as Shetty notched 22 runs and Hamisi ended with 15 runs.

Middle-order player, Raza Baloch, was one run short of a two-digit figure in what turned out to be a vain attempt to boost ALAF Aces B's efforts to record a bigger figure.

Jatin Prajapati and Nitesh Shetty wrapped up ALAF Aces B's innings with bats in hand, in which Prajapati made his way back with five runs not out, and Shetty notched one run not out.

Sajad Ratansi was the most impressive bowler when Tanzanite DCC fielded, given the cricketer ended with 4-35 in six overs.

Although his fellow bowlers,

SPORTS

Community Shield whets our appetite for the new season

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AFTER what seemed like an interminable period, local football fans must doubtlessly be overjoyed as a brand new season of top-flight football is upon us.

Indeed, in a marked departure from the past, the traditional curtain-raiser to the new season, the Community Shield, this time around featured four teams battling for the crown instead of the usual two.

As expected, the two old foes, Simba SC and Yanga both advanced to the final after disposing of Singida Fountain Gate FC and Azam FC in their respective semi-finals.

And, in the thrilling final, the two archrivals served up an edge-of-the-seat nail-biter that had fans collectively holding their breath in an enthralling match that had to be decided by a penalty shootout.

With both sets of fans being on tenterhooks throughout the nervy shootout, it would be Simba SC that emerged as the victors in a dramatic 3-1 triumph.

Thus, having put down a marker about their intentions in the new season, it remains to be seen whether Simba SC will be able to topple Yanga from the apex of domestic football in the new league campaign.

Moving on, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, I would still nevertheless like to shine a light on the worrying pace of our Olympic Games preparations, which is a matter of grave importance.

Indeed, with the upcoming Olympic Games slated to begin in July next year in the romantic capital of the globe Paris, it is evident that we are slowly running out of time to ideally prepare for world sport's greatest spectacle.

In the past, we would routinely bury our heads in the sand and blissfully avoid preparing intensely for the Olympics, only to engage in hurried and last-gasp exertions to ready ourselves for the quadrennial Games.

However, in recent years, we have admirably changed our modus operandi and engaged in timely efforts to prepare for gargantuan sporting events.

This is why it has been so difficult to stomach our laxity regarding our Olympic Games preparations thus far this year.

Having said that, though, it is hoped that we will soon get our act together and begin



Yanga's midfielder, Max Mpia Nzengeli (R), negotiates his way past Simba SC's right-back, Shomari Kapombe, when the outfits met in a 2023/24 Community Shield tournament's trophy clash played in Tanga last weekend. Simba SC defeated Yanga 3-1 in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

fast-moving preparations for the sport's biggest showpiece event as the clock is ticking.

Let us now turn our attention to that monumental fiesta of rugby, the Rugby World Cup, which is scheduled to commence later this year in the host country France.

The Springboks (South Africa's nickname) will confidently head into the competition as the defending champions after having memorably sealed victory at the last Rugby World Cup four years ago in 2019.

Despite that, South Africans are presently fretting over the fitness of their talismanic skipper Siya Kolisi, who has been racing against time to fully recover from a knee injury ahead of the start of the championship.

But concerns over Kolisi's fitness are unfortunately not the only huge challenge on South Africa's plate.

Indeed, the Boks will have to contend with an in-form Irish side, the ever-competitive Wallabies (Australia's nickname), and, of course, the perpetual heavyweights the All Blacks (New Zealand), who are widely regarded as the sport's greatest team.

Not to be outdone, the hosts France will be eager to turn

the page and usher in a new era of trophy-winning glory after having reached the final of the Rugby World Cup three times in the past and lost on all occasions.

The country that created the sport, England, cannot be ruled out either even though they have been going through a particularly tricky transition following the appointment of a new coach in Steve Borthwick.

Thus, with everything to play for, the stage seems set then for what should be an incredibly entertaining Rugby World Cup.

Tabora United FC eyes reinforcement ahead of 2023/24 NBC Premier League kickoff

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

NEWLY-promoted NBC Premier League outfit, Tabora United FC, has stepped up preparation for the showdown via roping in former Mbeya City FC goalkeeper, Ibrahim Isihaka.

The goalkeeper's recruitment, according to Tabora United FC, seeks to make sure the club is in great shape and performs well in the top flight.

Apart from Isihaka, the club is in the final stage of hiring former Young African SC (Yanga)'s Competitions Director, Thabit Kandoro, as the former's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Tabora United FC was formerly known

as Kitayosce FC when the side was battling it out in the 2022/23 Championship League.

It won promotion to the 2023/24 NBC Premier League based on the squad's stellar campaign in the second tier of the domestic tournaments, making it to the top flight with JKT Tanzania and Kigoma-based Mashujaa FC.

Tabora United FC's secretary-general Adam Simba confirmed the information, saying that both are potential to the club on the pitch and in management.

Simba noted: "Kandoro will be instrumental in our team (s pursuit of success), he is an experienced person in soccer management and competitions,

once he joins us, we expect to achieve our goals."

"Isihaka's registration will meet our target- bringing more competition and challenging other NBC Premier League teams," the official pointed out.

He further affirmed that Kandoro is already in Tabora Municipal concluding the deal with the club's management.

Another Tabora United FC's reliable source, who opted for anonymity, disclosed: "I would like to say that only a few steps remain for both parties to ink the deal, he (Kandoro) is hard working and experienced... when he was at Yanga serving as the Director of Competitions, he impressed us."

Junaid Usman and Meet Jetha, fought hard having ended with two wickets apiece, their efforts to contain ALAF Aces B hit a snag.

Ratansi executed three wickets and one no-ball in his six overs to record the 5.83 economy rate, Usman conceded 27 runs (that included one wide) in the four overs to make his way back with the 6.75 economy rate.

Jetha leaked 32 runs (which included three wides) in his six overs, posting the 5.33 economy rate.

Needing 206 runs to come out with a win, Karibu Tanzanite DCC lost steam in the chase as the cricketers notched 95/9 in 30 overs.

They sought to bounce back after experiencing an early setback brought about by the early exit of opener, Faisal Gothey, given Hiren Sharma, Adil Kassam, and Meet Jetha boosted the team's figure with solid knocks.

Sharma was at the end of it all the cricketer with the most

runs in Karibu Tanzanite DCC's chase- posting 30 runs which consisted of a boundary.

Kassam (14 runs), Jetha (13 runs), and Moez Imtiaz (11 runs) were the other cricketers with two-digit figures.

Imtiaz had Karibu Tanzanite DCC seeking to keep alive hopes of mounting a successful chase with his two-digit figures after the side had experienced three early dismissals midway through the innings.

There was however little the rest of the cricketers could do to turn their fortunes around, as they made their way back within short stints.

ALAF Aces B's bowlers Ally Hassan, Nitesh Shetty, Imran Khan, and Prajapati dashed away Karibu Tanzanite DCC's hopes having notched two wickets each.

The Player of the Match prize was won by Ally based on his impressive innings which was pivotal to ALAF Aces B's triumph.

Chelsea and Liverpool serve up entertaining glimpse of football without defensive midfielders

By Richard Jolly

IF only there were two Moises Caicedos. Chelsea and Liverpool have a shared willingness to pay in excess of £100m and if the battle for his services will be conducted off the field, his suitors showed why each wants him by providing a glimpse of the holes in their midfields.

Yet, with the expensive Ecuadorian lingering in limbo, the absence of a specialist defensive midfielder on either side added to the entertainment.

In a fixture where Claude Makelele and Javier Mascherano used to prowl, snuffing out danger, in a meeting of teams whose previous four clashes had ended goalless, 1-1 felt a deceptive scoreline.

Each had a goal disallowed by the most fractional of offsides. It could have been 2-2, perhaps 3-3.

None of which brought the statement result either required to consign last season's underachievement - grievous in Chelsea's case, mitigated in Liverpool's - to the past.

But Mauricio Pochettino's reign at Stamford Bridge began with early evidence it will be better than Graham Potter's failed project and Frank Lampard's second coming, and not merely because it could scarcely be any worse.

Chelsea lacked spirit last season and mustered a response here. They were too ponderous last year and played with more pace now.

Chelsea rediscovered some ambition and excitement, their costly hotch-potch of a team resembling strangers at times, but a work in progress at others.

After a disaster of a season comes one with Disasi and if Axel Disasi's surname felt too close to the bone for Chelsea in the Todd Boehly era and the French defender was perhaps culpable for Luis Diaz's opener, he scored an equaliser and the first goal of Pochettino's tenure.

The Argentinian named four debutants in the starting 11 which, given the speed of the revolving door at Stamford Bridge and only three of them are summer signings, felt a small number though perhaps the more telling statistic was that only three of his substitutes had prior Premier League experience.

The newness extends beyond the names and faces, however: the new vice-captain Ben Chilwell was given a more advanced role on the left wing.

In the space of two minutes, he set up Disasi's goal and celebrated what he thought was a swift second: like Mohamed Salah 10 minutes earlier, he was then thwarted by VAR.

Nicolas Jackson's bow was eclectic and electric, containing a caution, a moment where he handled and could have conceded a penalty and a skied miss, but also a burst of pace and low drive that might have yielded a winner.

Robert Sanchez, parachuted in as Kepa Arrizabalaga could strangely

be loaned out, was at least blameless when beaten. Levi Colwill, pitched into a duel with Salah as he operated largely as a left-back, however, was tormented.

For Liverpool, the element of the new was confined to a midfield lacking their - and Chelsea's targets - Caicedo and Romeo Lavia and the six summer departures. The new occupant of the No 10 shirt was at the base of the midfield.

Alexis Mac Allister brought constructive passing, flanked by Dominik Szoboszlai and Cody Gakpo in an attack-minded line-up. With the Dutchman in a deeper role, Jurgen Klopp fielded four players who are forwards by trade.

His side were muted in the second half, when only Virgil van Dijk, with an audacious curler, came close to a winner, but threatened to dominate for a 20-minute spell before the break when overloading with attackers meant they promised to run riot.

They led from a swift, devastating break; Mac Allister's incisive pass showed the creativity he brings at the base of the midfield, Salah jinked against a backtracking Colwill and bent a pass. Luis Diaz slid in to score.

Even as Salah lost his record of scoring on every opening weekend of the Premier League season for Liverpool, he came agonisingly close to extending it.

The Egyptian curled a shot against the bar and dinked one over Sanchez; the finish was as precise as Trent Alexander-Arnold's defence-splitting pass, a goal was awarded and replays showed Salah was fractionally offside.

Chelsea capitalised on the reprieve. Disasi reacted quicker than Alexander-Arnold when, after Liverpool cleared a corner, Chilwell headed the ball back into the box.

Chilwell thought he had added a goal to his assist, rounding Alisson to slot in, but a second goal was chalked off for offside. But Liverpool's new vice-captain was again caught unaware: Alexander-Arnold's defensive deficiencies remain an issue.

But there was a point when they were camouflaged as Liverpool had the cohesion and the chemistry. Chelsea, though, had an answer. They were prompted by Enzo Fernandez - if he had seeded the £107m defensive midfielder when signed, the Argentinian excelled as a prompter and a passer while, played out of position, Conor Gallagher did some of the donkey work behind him.

Pochettino gave Klopp a big hug before and afterwards, the second perhaps tinged with relief that Chelsea had shown more mettle than they did in much of last season.

But there is still a glaring gap in each side: while the points were shared, Caicedo cannot be and a defensive midfielder is needed in both London and Liverpool.

THE INDEPENDENT



Moises Caicedo

'Bring it on': Australia, England primed for blockbuster World Cup clash

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA and England clash in the Women's World Cup semi-finals tomorrow in Sydney in the latest installment of a long-standing sporting rivalry between the countries.

Co-hosts Australia have the nation behind them for the first World Cup semi-final in their history and Stadium Australia will be heaving with an anticipated crowd of about 80,000.

Their heart-stopping penalty shootout win over France in the quarter-finals on Saturday was one of the most-viewed television sporting events in Australia in almost two decades.

But England are the European champions and will be favourites to reach the final of the World Cup for the first time, even if they must face down a hostile crowd.

It was put to England's Dutch coach Sarina Wiegman that she probably did not fully appreciate the enormity of a match between Australia and England.

"It's going to be really big," she said, with Spain or Sweden awaiting the winner. "But now I've had a couple of questions about that so it's probably going to be bigger than I imagined now. I'll talk to my players and staff and see what that rivalry is."

The storied sporting rivalry between Australia and England has already witnessed several episodes this year.

Australia won both the men's and women's Ashes cricket series. Australia's netball team then rubbed salt in English wounds by beating them in the recent World Cup final. England football captain Millie Bright understands how much it means to fans of both countries.

"I don't think you can't look forward to that game," she told reporters after England came back from a goal down to defeat Colombia 2-1 in the quarter-finals. This is the biggest tournament in the women's game to date so what a game to be a part of."

She added: "We're not just coming here to compete, we're coming here to get the job done and we've shown that in our mentality and character in every single game."

Team-mate Lauren Hemp, who scored the equaliser against Colombia, said: "Australia, bring it on. It's going to be a packed stadium with so many Australian fans, but we know if we play at our best we are unstoppable."

England will again be without the banned Lauren James, but they did not miss her in a convincing perfor-



England are relishing their Women's World Cup semi-final against Australia. Agencies

mance against Colombia in front of a crowd roaring on the South Americans.

Perfectly primed - England may be ranked six places above the Matildas in the FIFA rankings but the home side are riding on a wave of excitement and acclaim.

They have used the support to lift them in difficult moments and will be banking on more of the same at the imposing Stadium Australia.

They also go into the game after defeating England 2-0 away in an April friendly, ending the Lionesses' proud 30-match unbeaten run.

Australia also have striker and skipper Sam Kerr back in the frame after a calf injury.

Coach Tony Gustavsson's biggest decision will be whether to start the prolific Chelsea forward.

He has named an unchanged side in their last three games, but Kerr played 65 minutes against France and it looks increasingly likely she will play a full part.

"What's good is that we have continuity in what we're doing," said Gustavsson. "We have a clear playing style, so we don't really need to train to be tactically prepared."

"It's more about making sure we're mentally and physically prepared for the semi-final. These players are on a mission."

Vice-captain Steph Catley said they were "just primed for this moment".

"We've got a perfect little balance of a core group that understand the gravity of the situations and a small group of younger players who might not understand the gravity, which is kind of bliss," she told reporters.

"You've got their confidence and their flair, and then we've got mature (players) bringing an understanding to moments like that."

Meanwhile, Mackenzie Arnold wasn't even Australia's first-choice goalkeeper until recently, but is now being hailed as a national hero and stands in England's way in their Women's World Cup semi-final tomorrow.

Arnold played a central role in the penalty drama on Saturday which sent co-hosts Australia into the last four of the World Cup for the first time. She saved three penalty kicks - and missed one of her own - to help propel the Matildas to a thrilling 7-6 shootout win over France in the quarter-finals.

It has been a whirlwind few months for the 29-year-old.

The West Ham United stopper has been part of the Matildas set-up for more than a decade but she was third choice for much of the time, spending the 2015 and 2019 World Cups on the bench.

It is only this year that Arnold finally became coach Tony Gustavsson's first-choice between the posts.

The past few months have been significant in another way for Arnold off the pitch.

In April she posted a video on Instagram of herself collecting some hearing aids.

"Those closest to me know how long I've avoided this day, but here's a little glimpse of a life-changing day for me," she wrote.

Arnold does not wear hearing aids during games because she would be "fiddling with them too much" and has said that not wearing them "is still quite normal for me, doesn't affect me too much".

But she told Optus Sport ahead of the World Cup: "It's still a whole different world when I put my hearing aids in. It's like, 'What have I been missing out on for 25 years?'"

- 'A cult hero' -

Cortnee Vine held her nerve to score the winning penalty in front of 50,000 in Brisbane on Saturday and set up a date with European champions England in Sydney.

But it was Arnold who scooped the player of the match award and shared the headlines with Vine in Australia, where the team's exploits are now daily front- and back-page news.

National broadcaster ABC called Arnold "a cult hero" and The Sydney Morning Herald said she was "a national hero".

Reflecting her sudden rise to national acclaim, the newspaper ran a story headlined, "Who is Mackenzie Arnold? Meet the goalkeeper with nerves of steel who sent the Matildas to the semi-finals."

The Australian players sang Arnold's name in the dressing room afterwards and vice-skipper Steph Catley said: "She's incredible. She did something so special tonight."

Arnold started her career in Australian women's football, before a move to Norway in 2018. There was an unsuccessful stint at Chicago Red Stars, followed by the move to West Ham in 2020.

Her spot-kick may have crashed off a post against France, but it was not a surprise to see her take a penalty - she is adept with her feet, once coming on as midfielder for West Ham in an FA Cup game.

Arnold came to the World Cup off the back of a successful season in the Women's Super League, making more saves than any other goalkeeper in the WSL.

England warning - Following her display on Saturday, which included keeping France scoreless over 120 minutes to force the penalty shootout, Arnold said she was not even feeling 100 percent.

Looking a little glassy-eyed, she told reporters who swarmed around her: "I haven't been too well in the last couple of weeks. I'm still getting over that - hence the eyes. This isn't tears yet."

Arnold put her penalty-saving heroics down to instinct more than anything else.

"We do have a little bit of research obviously that goes on behind the scenes, and communication with coaches as well," she said. "I think I just tend to stay a little bit calm, but I wouldn't say I read it too well. It's gut instinct that I just go with."

It has worked for Arnold in the past - she once saved two penalties in one game against Manchester City.

England have been warned.

Spain 'goosebumps' on eve of historic first World Cup semi-final

AUCKLAND

SPAIN's first Women's World Cup semi-final in their history today is reward for years of sacrifice, veteran forward Jennifer Hermoso says, admitting to "goosebumps" at the thought of reaching the final.

Opponents Sweden are regulars at this stage of the World Cup - without ever going on to lift the trophy - but for Spain they are into uncharted waters.

"If you don't feel any nerves before a game like this then something is not right," the 33-year-old Hermoso said on the eve of the semi-final in Auckland.

"It gives you goosebumps thinking about how close we are to the final, but first of all we have the game tomorrow and Spain will come out more determined than ever."

Hermoso, who plays her club football in Mexico, has been representing her country for more than a decade and won her 100th cap earlier in the tournament.

"Tomorrow's game is the consequence of millions of training sessions, of so many moments we have been through, of spending time far from our families and loved ones, of so much sacrifice," she said.

"We have worked so hard to get here and I just want to enjoy it. I want the whole team to enjoy it and for the whole of Spain to be behind us."

Spain and Sweden drew 1-1 in a

friendly last October, just after 15 Spanish players told their federation they no longer wished to be considered for selection in protest at coach Jorge Vilda.

Vilda survived the rebellion and brought three of the rebels with him to the World Cup.

"We have a (federation) president who reacted bravely, who backed me and my staff," he said on Monday.

"Now there is unity in the squad, everyone is getting on, they are ambitious and trying to enjoy every day."

One of the players who returned to the squad is midfielder Aitana Bonmati and she has been one of the standouts at the tournament.

Sweden coach Peter Gerhardsson believes it would be a mistake to focus too closely on trying to stop

the Barcelona playmaker.

"The difficulty with Spain is that they have so many skilled players, whereas other teams might have just one or two stars, so that means making sure we mark them is very important," he said.

- Swedes bank on experience -

Sweden captain Kosovare Asllani believes her team's far greater experience of going far at major tournaments will give them the edge at Eden Park.

The Swedes have become regulars in the latter stages at recent competitions, having reached the last four at the 2019 World Cup and at last year's European Championship.

They also made the final at the Tokyo Olympics before losing to Canada.

"We have the benefit of experi-

ence," Asllani said.

"We have gone far in the last few tournaments but I am particularly pleased with the way we have done it this time."

"We have won our matches in different ways and it shows the strength of this team."

Sweden reached a third semi-final in the last four World Cups by winning all three group games, ousting holders the United States on penalties and then beating Japan 2-1 in the last eight.

"Experience could be the key, but we are just raring to go and really looking forward to the game," said Asllani.

"As far as I am concerned, now it is just about spreading the calm and enjoying the moment."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Bring it on': Australia, England primed for blockbuster World Cup clash

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Some of Barrick-North Mara Gold Mine Company's staff in a group photo after finishing the 2023 CRDB Marathon held in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dodoma Jiji FC and Coastal Union seek positive start

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

DODOMA Jiji FC and Coastal Union will aim to move on from a tough campaign in the NBC Premier League last time out with the two clubs set to clash in this season's opening day of action at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma this evening.

For the second season in a row, both finished in the bottom half of the league with survival only confirmed on the last day of the campaign.

Hosts Dodoma Jiji FC under head coach Melis Medo will look to make a strong impression from the start to avoid a repeat of last season which witnessed the side failing to win the first four opening games including a 3-1 opening day home loss to Mbeya City FC.

The squad has been boosted with the addition of at least five new faces including striker Meshack Abraham signed from Kagera Sugar and winger Iddy Kipagwile from relegated Polisi Tanzania.

As for Coastal Union, after last season's struggles, there have been wholesale changes to the side's technical bench and the playing unit.

Former Young Africans SC and Polisi Tanzania head coach Mwinyi Zahera has been tasked with Coastal Union's rebuilding process.

Comoros goalkeeper Mahamoud Mrovili, Ugandan defender Joseph Zziwa, Burundian fullback Emery Nimubona, and Benin midfielder Djibril Naim Olatoundji were released immediately after the league ended.

Yussuf Kisongo and striker Yusuf Athumani, who was signed on loan from Young Africans SC, were also deemed surplus to requirements.

The team was also hit hard by the exit of players who have got better offers from other NBC Premier League clubs.

The trio of Mtenje Albano, Gustapha Simon, and Zziwa joined Dodoma Jiji FC while Hamad Majimengi crossed over to Namungo FC.

To fill the required gaps, Zahera had to contend with doing trials for both locals and foreigners.

Midfielder Ibrahim Ajibu has joined Coastal Union as a free agent, having been released by Singida Fountain Gate FC, while Haji Ugando and Juma Mahadhi have rejoined the club.

Attacking midfielder Lucas Kikoti joins the Tanga outfit from Namungo FC, as is the case with Abdulswamad Kassim from Ruvu Shooting, to make up a decent set of signings for Zahera's side.

Despite all, Zahera and his charges will go into the match with confidence after winning two of their three pre-season preparations games.

They lost 1-0 to Kenya Premier League side, Bandari FC, before winning against Singida Fountain Gate FC and Kenya Premier League outfit, Tusker FC.

The last time Coastal Union and Dodoma Jiji FC met was in April, the match ended in a 1-1 draw that day.

In the last six meetings between the two teams, Dodoma Jiji FC has won twice, there have been three draws, and Coastal Union has won once.

Gamondi urges Yanga to be more clinical



Yanga's winger, Ducapele Moloko (L), challenges Simba SC's center-back, Che Fondoh Malone, as the two teams locked horns in a 2023/24 Community Shield tournament's trophy duel held in Tanga last weekend. Simba SC defeated Yanga 3-1 in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi believes his side's performance in the 2023/24 Community Shield defeat to Simba SC was good but admitted they need to be more clinical to win games.

A cagey Community Shield trophy match between last season's top two in the NBC Premier League, Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, and Simba SC, was settled by penalties after the 90 minutes finished goalless.

Simba SC prevailed 3-1 from the spot after the club's goalie Ally Salim saved spot kicks taken by Yanga's Kouassi Attohoulou, Khalid Aucho, and Pacome Zouzoua.

Speaking after the game, though, Gamondi said that, barring showing a little more of a killer instinct, there is little more he could have asked of his troops.

"I think we were the better team, we dominated and created chances,

even in the second half Simba SC only kicked long balls. I think even physically we were better but we missed the shooting," the Argentinian gaffer noted.

The coach stated: "We didn't shoot to win, we had the chance to kill the game twice but we didn't... it is a lesson."

Gamondi, who replaced Belgo-Tunisian Nasreddine Nabi almost two months ago, added: "I am satisfied with the performance but we need to continue to work hard... it is very sad to lose on penalties."

The Argentine voiced his frustration saying his team deserved to win as they dominated the game only to be let down by his strikers' poor finishing. Gamondi added that his opponents did not create anything.

"Simba SC is a big team with good players. In the first half we missed two or three clear chances, in the second half as well," Gamondi noted.

The gaffer stated: "We need to be clinical. The most important thing is we created and Simba SC didn't create clear goal-scoring chances."

"I am sorry for the fans because I think we deserve to win the Community Shield but football is all about putting the ball in

the net," he pointed out.

Next up, Yanga begins the club's NBC Premier League title defense against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC next week.

They will, before that, have a 2023/24 CAF Champions League First Preliminary round assignment against AS Djibouti Telecom in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Gamondi's counterpart, Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' of Simba SC, emphasized derby dynamics but was quick to congratulate his goalkeeper Salim for saving three penalties.

The gaffer noted: "A derby is a derby, anything is possible, too much stress when the two teams play, we attacked in the second half but in the second half I changed our systems and players."

The Brazilian said: "I think we played well in the second half, stayed more with the ball because we made positive changes."

"Congratulations to my goalkeeper and goalkeeping coach too. Ally (Salim) is not experienced, he is young but last season he supported the club in CAF Champions League and Premier League," Oliveira added.

Ihefu SC hosts Geita Gold FC in season opening encounter

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

IHEFU SC and Geita Gold FC kick off their respective 2023/24 NBC Premier League campaigns with a meeting at Highland Estates Stadium, Mbarali in the afternoon.

It will be the first game of the season in the league with an early kick-off slated for 4 pm.

The hosts are preparing for just the third top-flight participation, and, although they claimed a top-half position last term, their main focus will once again be avoiding relegation to the Championship League.

They have been very active in the transfer market once more during the off-season, bringing in Victor Akpan, Charles Ilanfy, Haroun Mandanda, Issa Rashid, and Nassor Saadun.

The list moreover has Vedastus Mwihambi, Mpoki Mwakinyuke, Kenneth Kunambi, and Rajabu Athumani.

Other arrivals include Moubarack Hamza, Ismail Mgunda, Shaban Msala, Geoffrey Manyasi, Paul Godfrey, and Ezekia Mwashilindi.

However, they have also lost a lot of footballers, including stars like Adam Omary, Obrey Chirwa, and Yacouba Songne, apart from seeing loanees like Nigerian midfielder, Nelson Okwa, depart.

Interestingly, Ihefu SC has lost the squad's opening league game in each of the last two seasons. In 2020/21 the squad lost to Simba SC and, last season, the club suffered another home loss to Ruvu Shooting.

The home side has not reported any injury concerns ahead of this match, meaning that head coach Zubeir Katwila could have a full complement of players to choose from.

On the flip side, Geita Gold FC went into the season on the back of a successful 2021/22 campaign, which saw the club finish fourth in the table, to earn a ticket for CAF Confederation Cup.

However, they lost 11 of their 30 league matches while claiming nine wins and 10 draws to collect 37 points last season as they finished seventh.

They are coming into their clash against Ihefu SC having held their pre-season camp in Morogoro where they played friendly matches against Mtibwa Sugar, Kilombero Stars, Dodoma Jiji FC, and Fountain Gate FC.

They have been active in the transfer market to bolster the squad with the addition of six players.

Erick Johora, Abeid Athuman, Mwaita Gereza, Carlos Kirenge, Tariq Seif, and George Sangija are the new signings so far.

There have also been several departures, so there will be a fresh look to the squad this season under head coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco' who replaced Felix Minziro.

In head-to-head records, this will be the third top-flight game between the two sides.

Geita Gold FC beat Ihefu SC 1-0 at Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School's ground in November last year before the Zubeir Katwila-coached men gained their revenge with a 3-1 victory in the reverse fixture played in Mbarali in June.

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kili Za Wana
13:55 Dondao Za Michezo
14:00 5SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondao Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kili Za Wana
18:30 #HASTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 Club Bangers

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

