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# 'Uphold peace, intensify fight against corruption'

Affirming that he had no objection to MPs' salaries as they currently stand, he stated that he wants the lawmakers to alter the 400,000/- to 700,000/- salaries paid to teachers.

By Guardian Reporters

RELIGIOUS leaders yesterday emphasised the importance of maintaining the country's peace and harmony, urging the government to heighten efforts to fight corruption.

Bishop Dr Dickson Chilongani of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika (DCT) in the Anglican Church, asked President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intensify the fight against corruption, underlining that it is still rampant especially in the judiciary.

In his Easter homily in the capital, he objected to scorning the performance of the president, asking Tanzanians to trust women in the forthcoming local government elections and the general election.

In different addresses during Easter gatherings and holy mass yesterday, a number of clerics appealed to Tanzanians to prioritise concern for others, avoiding to engage in violent actions impacting lives and social expectations.

Bishop Dr Fredrick Shoo, the former head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) said he sees great danger coming if authorities will not take vigorous

measures to address the issue of low salaries that teachers and doctors are paid.

In a sermon at the Moshi ELCT Cathedral, Kilimanjaro Region, he asked legislators to ensure that they remember the plight of teachers and doctors when campaigning for their own welfare uplift, as teachers and doctors play a vital role in raising children and assuring the wellbeing of families.

Affirming that he had no objection to MPs' salaries as they currently stand, he stated that he wants the lawmakers to alter the 400,000/- to 700,000/- salaries paid to teachers.

Noting that similarly low salaries apply to doctors, he urged leaders to stop accumulating wealth and exploiting others, insisting that Christians and Tanzanians in general use the Easter holiday "to reflect on the issue and reject the systems that cause pain."

World systems cause a lot of pain, especially those that deny life," he said, highlighting instances of deaths and brutality among family members "so the resurrection of Christ should remind us

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Worshippers of the Anglican Church denomination in Muheza township pictured yesterday heading for Easter Mass in a procession. Related pictorial spread on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

# ATCL's MAX-9 on four weekly flights to Dubai

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE newly purchased Boeing 737-MAX 9 has been put to Dar es Salaam-Dubai direct flights, making four trips a week.

Ladislav Matindi, the Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL)

managing director, told journalists yesterday that the plane, delivered five days earlier from the United States, was on its first journey yesterday at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) Terminal III around 2pm.

Noting that the launch of the destination and its frequency was in line with passenger demand, he said the aircraft holds 181 seats per flight, including 16 business class and 165 economy class seats, where arrival in Dubai takes five and a half hours.

The MAX 9 is a state-of-the-art plane considered to be exceptional in terms of convenience. It represents a significant milestone for ATCL, perfectly suited to connect to prominent markets in the near region, provided with enhanced capability and flexibility in operational networking, he said.

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Mokwena expects better Sundowns' performance in second leg

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Hemed Morocco sticks to his defence-laden pattern that could help Gamondi, too

# UN demands monitoring as 74m people face famine

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED Nations agencies are appealing for close monitoring of the drivers of food insecurity, including climate risks, and strengthening anticipatory action for disaster risk reduction as 74m people face famine in eastern Africa.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) say in a new report compiled with various other international agencies that the number of food insecure people needing humanitarian assistance in the Greater Horn of Africa

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# Samia axes Ndalichako, shifts Makonda

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has revoked the appointment of Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disability state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Prof. Joyce Ndalichako (Kasulu Urban), while making several noticeable changes in a minor cabinet reshuffle.

Zuhura Yunus, the director of presidential communications, said in a statement early yesterday

that the president has appointed Paul Makonda erstwhile CCM secretary for Ideology and Publicity, as new Arusha regional commissioner.

He replaces John Mongella who will be assigned to other duties while

Deogratius Ndejemi (Chamwino MP) to the Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability portfolio as state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), replacing Prof Ndalichako

Prior to this appointment, Ndejemi was deputy minister for Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office, the statement noted.

Evans Mtambi, outgoing Mkinga district commissioner takes over as Mara regional commissioner, replacing Said Mtanda, who shifts to Mwanza in the same position, while incumbent RC, Amos Makalala, will be reassigned.

Zainab Katimba (Special Seats) becomes deputy minister in the

President's Office (PO-RALG), while Daniel Sillo (Babat Rural) is now Home Affairs deputy minister in place of Jumanne Sagini (Butiama) who moves to Constitutional and Legal Affairs in the same position.

Maryprisca Mahundi (Special Seats) goes to Information, Communication and Information Technology from Water in the same position as deputy minister, with Kundo Mathew (Shnyanga Urban) changes places with Ma-

hundi, moving from Water to Information in the same position.

Fakii Lulandala becomes Simanjiro district commissioner, having served as CCM Youth Wing secretary general, while his colleague Gilbert Kailima goes to Mkinga as DC, leaving his post of secretary general at the CCM Parents Wing.

Cyprian Luhemeja moves from Labour, Youth, Employment and

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## 'Uphold peace, intensify fight on corruption'

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to do good acts." He appealed to the public not to remain mum in the face of violent acts but speak out in order to help eradicate such incidents, while his colleague Bishop Christian Ndosa of the ELCT Dodoma diocese urged the public to pray for President Samia and the forthcoming civic polls.

"We need to be people who care for and help one another," he said, while Bishop Jovitus Mwijage of the Bukoba Catholic Diocese tasked women to play their role of ensuring harmony in their families, and pray for the families to stand firm.

Bishop Augustino Shao of the Zanzibar Roman Catholic Diocese said it is good to develop a culture of respecting each other as community members and faith groups.

"It is important to ensure that when we eat, we should remember that there are others who are in the Holy Month of Ramadan," he told the gathering, reiterating the view that corruption was still a big challenge and now

incidents have increased with culprits not facing any consequences.

Bishop Ludovic Minde of the Moshi Catholic Diocese said that technological advancement is the primary cause of deterioration of social behaviour, impairing mental focus, proper articulation and personal progress among the youth.

These advancements have destroyed the spiritual potential of the youth while implanting secular content causing them to lose their way, he lamented.

The youth no longer have the fear of God and integrity in their lives, a situation that endangers family growth and the nation at large.

Bishop Anthony Lagwen of the Mbulu Catholic Diocese rebuked evil acts such as same sex affinities, molestation and rape as unacceptable and should be prohibited by all means.

Bishop Liberatus Sangu of the Shinyanga Catholic Diocese said that Easter is a moment of salvation, urging people to stop committing evil including abortion.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango attends Easter mass at the Catholic Church's Bikira Maria Mama wa Damu Azizi ya Yesu Kisasa Parish in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: VPO

## Samia axes Prof Joyce Ndalichako, shifts Makonda

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Persons with Disability in the Prime Minister's Office to Union and Environment in the Vice President's in the same post as permanent secretary Office, the statement indicated. Mary Manganga moves from Union and Environment (VPO) to Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability (PMO) in the same post as permanent secretary, while Dr Edwin Mhede becomes deputy permanent secretary at Livestock and Fisheries in place of Agnes Kisaka, shifting to Water in the same capacity. Dr Mhede, a seasoned economist, has chaired the board of directors of NMB Bank and was CEO

for Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART). Ex-Simanjiro DC Dr Suleiman Serera becomes deputy permanent secretary at Culture, Arts and Sports, with Nicholas Mkapa moving to Information, Communication and Information Technology in the same capacity. Selestine Kakele was appointed ambassador, leaving the post of deputy permanent secretary at Information, Communication and Information Technology, while former cabinet minister, Ambassador Dr Asha Rose Migiro joins the Planning Commission as a member.

The newly appointed officials will be sworn in on Friday at the State House in Dar es Salaam, the statement added.

## UN urges monitoring as 74m people face famine

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stood at 74m at the end of February.

In January, the number of food insecure people stood at 58.1m, with the FAO and humanitarian agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Organization for Migration, attributing the surge to conflicts in different countries in the region, and adverse weather events.

The famine-threatened countries are Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti and South Sudan, along with parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo and most of the Central African Republic, the report noted.

In Kenya over 1.5m people are food insecure, while in Sudan upwards of 177m face hunger, with South Sudan having 5.7m food insecure people, the report indicated.

Sudan's food crisis is set to deepen due to constrained food availability, interruptions in trade routes and markets, high commodity prices, livelihood disruptions, constrained humanitarian access and widespread displacement, the report said in its grim assessment.

The conflict in Sudan is having severe humanitarian implications, marked by a surge in refugee arrivals amid lim-

ited humanitarian funding for neighbouring countries like the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

"Even before the conflict, these countries were already grappling with other crises, including large numbers of displaced populations, conflict, political upheavals, hunger, and economic challenges," it highlighted.

The 2023 El Nino rains contributed to the rise in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the region, with wetter-than-normal conditions forecasted over most parts of the region.

For Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, during the 2024 March-May rainfall season the situation may not improve, it added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a dummy cheque for US\$5000 to Libya's Abdulhali Hussin Khalifa (2nd-R) for emerging first winner of the 32nd edition of the International Quran Recital Competition held in the city. Right is CRDB Bank group CEO and managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela and left is Sheikh Othman Kaporo, a member of the competition's organising committee. Photo: Correspondent Jumannie Juma

## Mathuki seeks to stall his withdrawal from EAC

NAIROBI

THE outgoing East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Peter Mathuki has asked the regional body's legal advisor for a legal opinion in regard to his invitation by Kenya's Parliament for his vetting for the position of Kenya's Ambassador to Russia.

The move has been interpreted as a plot to scuttle President William Ruto's decision to recall Mathuki from EAC for a diplomatic deploy-

ment in Moscow.

In a letter dated March 26, Mathuki wrote to EAC Counsel, Dr Anthony Kafumbe: "I am in receipt of a letter from the Clerk of the Kenya National Assembly, Ref No. NA/DDC/DIFR/2024(035), dated 25th March 2024, on the above subject to appear for vetting on 8th April 2024. This is further to the letters written by the Republic of Kenya Ref. EAC/4/CONF/2/Vol. 21(58), dated 15th and 18th March 2024 on Notice of Withdrawal of the Secretary

General and Nomination of Appointee to the Post of Secretary General."

Mathuki added: "The Notice by the Republic of Kenya is awaiting consideration by the Council of Ministers and Summit of the EAC Heads of State, and as we await the process, please provide legal advice on the above matter by close of business, 2nd April 2024."

A highly placed diplomatic official said that trying to use legal means to dodge Parliament vetting could be seen

as a direct challenge to President Ruto.

"It seems Mathuki wants EAC's legal counsel to advise him not to go for the Moscow interview on 8th April because he is still a serving Secretary General," said a source, adding, "He (Mathuki) possibly wants to use that as the excuse for dodging the interview."

The withdrawal of Mathuki came after regional lawmakers told President Ruto in Nairobi that the EAC SG had mismanaged

resources of the EAC and was involved in nepotism, claims Mathuki had previously denied.

Ruto nominated Caroline Mwendu Mueke for appointment by the Summit as the Secretary General of the East African Community. Mathuki's legal challenge also comes just a fortnight to the EAC Leaders' Summit which is expected to endorse Mueke's appointment as the new EAC SG.

In a letter dated March 28, 2024, the chairperson

of EAC Council of Ministers, Deng Alor Kuol informed regional Foreign Ministers that the chairperson of EAC, President Salva Kiir "has requested the Heads of State to hold an extra-ordinary Summit virtually on 15 April 2024 at 3:00 PM (EAT) to be preceded by the EAC Council of Ministers session virtually on the same day at 1:00 AM (EAT) to consider the appointment of Caroline Mwendu Mueke as the Secretary General of the East African Community."

## ATCL's MAX-9 on four weekly flights to Dubai

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"As part of our strategy in expanding the Wings of Kilimanjaro, we are excited to join world giants' airlines in launching the Dubai route as it was long awaited to deliver better connectivity, expand options to our passengers and provide amazing experience with great comfort during their journey as well as fantastic value for money," he explained.

"The launch of this new destination to the most populous city in the UAE and a centre for regional and international trade demonstrates our profound commitment to international markets that foster increased business and leisure travel opportunities for our customers," he further noted.

Tickets are open for booking with the fare starting from \$399 return that includes three free pieces of checked baggage allowance to all passengers, set at 23kg per bag for economy class and 30kg per bag for business class.

On board passengers will also enjoy special inflight complimentary of entertainments including WiFi, quality catering and service, he said.

ATCL currently operates commercial service with a fleet suited to connect to prominent markets in international destinations, as the fleet includes B787-8 Dreamliner planes, A220-300, B737-9 MAX, Q400 and B767-300 Freighter, he added.





Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa consoles CCM National Executive Committee member Christopher Gachuma at the funeral of his wife, Francisca Gachuma, at Surubu village in Tarime District yesterday. Photo: PMO

## Police hold three over the killing of 60-year-old man

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

POLICE in Njombe Region have arrested three people for allegedly killing Raimel Mapunda (60), a resident of Kimelemba area in Ludewa District over witchcraft claims.

Addressing a press conference here at the weekend, Njombe Regional Police Commander Mahamoud Banga said Mapunda was ambushed while leaving a local pub and was injured on the forehead and neck by a sharp object.

He alleged that the suspects killed Mapunda after accusing him of killing his own son through a road accident which occurred in Ruvuma Region recently.

"The relatives alleged that Mapunda was the direct source of the death of his son and that is why they ended up killing him as well which is against the law," he said.

In a separate incident, police have arrested four people on suspicion of being involved in the theft of grain milling machine parts stolen in different places in the region.

Commander Banga named the suspects as Betod Mtitu, a taxi driver at Mjimwema in Njombe, Emmanuel Chengula, a technician and resident of Zengerengeti in Njombe, Nassoro Chura and Omary Manga, residents of Ramadhani in Njombe.

He said according to information from law-abiding citizens, the force managed to seize 20 motors in various areas including Iringa Region as well as Wanging'ombe and Njombe districts.

Banga said after the theft, the suspects went to sell the parts while hiding others in different places.

The law enforcers also hold two people namely Nerbet Mahenge (54), a Nane Nane resident in Njombe District and Tesifora Mgaya (32), a resident of Lupande in Ludewa District for allegedly scamming people by introducing themselves as gold traders.

The suspects were found with a Toyota Carina with registration number T 461 CKA which was allegedly used to scam people.

"Many people have fallen in the hands of these people thus losing their money," he said.

## Rwanda to host this year's Africa food systems forum

KIGALI

RWANDA is in September this year set to host the Africa Food Systems Forum 2024 annual summit-the premier forum for African agriculture and food systems.

Rwandan Prime Minister Dr Édouard Ngirente said recently that the theme for this year's summit - Innovate, Accelerate and Scale: Delivering food systems transfor-

mation in a digital and climate era - underscores the urgent need to radically transform African food systems.

"This transformation should enhance local food production, bolster resilience to climate change, uplift African livelihoods, and harness the continent's potential to tackle global challenges," he said.

According to Ngirente, the theme highlights the need to pri-

oritize three key actions: innovating, accelerating, and scaling up. Regarding innovation, the 2024 Summit will shine the spotlight on innovative policy delivery mechanisms, financing initiatives, research, and business models.

"As we evolve in a digital age, the summit will showcase cutting-edge technologies and equipment to manage climate impact, digital and financing gap, food waste and

loss to name a few. Participants and delegates will have the opportunity at the Summit to network with the innovators and thought leaders driving these state-of-the-art technologies and developments," he said.

Speaking at the launch, Ngirente said, "To transform the agriculture sector into a powerful engine for economic development, our country is embracing innovation

and making evidence-based-policy decisions. In this context, the Government has focused on de-risking the sector to ensure that it becomes more profitable and attractive for the youth and private sector actors."

The AFS Forum will take place from September 2 to 6, 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda. The summit is expected to host approximately 5,000 delegates from across the

food systems eco system.

Speaking of the significance of the event, Hailemariam Desalegn, the Chair of the AFS Forum Partners group, emphasized the pivotal role of youth in accelerating the delivery of sustainable and prosperous food system.

"With an abundance of emerging African young talents, remarkable innovations, and proven practices and solutions both lo-

## Elderly WWII veterans appeal for govt support

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN soldiers who participated in the Second World War from 1939 to 1954 have appealed to the government to support them as they are old and cannot cater for themselves.

Under their association known as Tanzania Legion Club (TLC), the soldiers said that many of them live a difficult life.

TLC Chairman Hamis Kwizombe made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the election of the association's leaders which is conducted every three years.

He said that club involves children and grandchildren but it faces a lot of challenges as the elderly have been living without care for over 50 years.

"We ask the government to remember these heroes as they are the national symbols which now make many people come to Tanzania as a peaceful land," he said.

Muhando Shangazi (104), one of the veterans said they served the country with patriotism and now they have no strength or power to continue to fight for their daily bread.

"It is good if we are remembered by any support so we can make a decent living," he said.

Temeke District Commissioner Sixtus Mapunda wanted the association to protect the elders' history as it is important for younger generation to know it.

He said there are 52 elders who are still alive out of the 15,000 who participated in the war, saying they are treasures of the nation with unforgettable history.

"We have been told that in the Second World War, a total of 15000 soldiers went and those who came back were 13,000, those who are still alive are over 100 years of age, so it is better to write their history," he said.

Mapunda urged journalists to utilise their profession well and conduct interviews with the remaining heroes in order to document and honour the good work done by the elders. Charles Lubara, TLC secretary said the association's objective is to preserve the history of the soldiers for the benefit of the present and future generations.

He said they already communicated with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism which has provided them with a special plot in Dodoma to build a museum that will be used by various people to learn the history of the veterans and the country's history.



Dodoma District Muslim Council secretary Ahmed Msuri (4th-R) pictured in Dodoma city at the weekend presenting foodstuffs to Isanga Prison warden Zefania Neligwa for Ramadhan-time use by inmates at the corrective facility. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Makete District Council offices to cost 2bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Makete

A TOTAL OF 2bn/- has been allocated for the construction of Makete District Council offices in Njombe Region, it has been said.

William Makufwe, Makete District Executive Director, said in Njombe Region recently that the funds have already been released by the gov-

ernment and the construction has started. "The project is implemented by MUST contractor and as you can see, the construction equipment is here. I therefore urge the contractor to speed up the construction despite the challenge of heavy rains and complete the project so that the buildings can provide the required services," he said. In total, he said the district

received a total of 20bn/- disbursed by the government during the past three years.

Makufwe said other projects are implemented at Iwawa Secondary School where 12 classrooms are under constructed, 12 classrooms at Usililo Secondary School and Mount Chafukwe Secondary School.

"We received more than 20bn/-

from the government; we now have five health centres. I call upon parents and guardians to support the government," he said.

Dr Jonathan Kitundu, Medical Officer in charge of Makete District Hospital, said in three years, they received funds for the renovation of the hospital and construction of an emergency building.

"We have installed all equipment worth 300m/- and made major improvements in the laboratory which led to increase of revenue to 200m/- from 70m/- before," he said.

Respoka Mahenge, a pupil at Lupalilo Secondary School which underwent major improvements thanked the government for improving the school's infrastructure, adding

that their learning environment has improved and would help them perform well in their studies.

Daima Kilale, a resident of Makete District said the council has had major developments thanks to the improved infrastructure, especially at the district hospital where beds are now of good quality compared to the past.



# Easter as marked in Dar, Dodoma, Iringa, Muheza



St Peter's Catholic Church priest Alistair Makubi baptises a worshipper during Easter Vigil. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Father Florence Rutaiwa (holding cadle), Director of the Pastoral Department of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, places an Easter candle inside St Peter's Catholic Church in Dar es Salaam during Easter Vigil - on Saturday night. He is with Parish Priest Father Alistair Makubi (R, foreground). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Easter Vigil prayers in progress at St Peter's Catholic Church in Dar es Salaam on Saturday night. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Father Florence Rutaiwa (L), Director of the Pastoral Department of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, places an Easter candle inside St Peter's Catholic Church in Dar es Salaam during Easter Vigil - on Saturday night. He is with Parish Priest Father Alistair Makubi. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Muheza District Catholic priest Martine Kihyo performs a religious ritual in a Majengo Shimoni church during Easter Mass. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Rev John Ndimbo of ELCT's Muheza Diocese leads Easter Mass in a Muheza township church. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Congregation follow proceedings of Easter Mass at an Anglican Church Diocese of Central Tanganyika church in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Reverend Baraka Mbangula (R), Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's (ELCT) Tumaini and Mufindi Dioceses, pictured shortly after Easter Mass receiving a candle he was gifted by friends from Germany. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin





Muslim and Christian faithful come together at the weekend for iftar hosted by Dar es Salaam-based Kilimanjaro Dialogue Institute, the thrust of whose activities is on the promotion of peace and reconciliation. Photo: Correspondent Ashraki Miraji

## Humanitarian aid operations obstructed in Sudan as clashes worsen food, health crisis

KHARTOUM

HUMANITARIAN aid operations in Sudan have faced obstructions as the ongoing deadly clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continue to exacerbate the already severe food and health crisis shrouding the war-torn land.

The warring parties are exchanging accusations for impeding humanitarian relief operations. On Friday, Sudan's Foreign Ministry accused the RSF of blocking several United Nations Children's Fund trucks carrying humanitarian aid en route to El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur State.

In a statement, the ministry said that the RSF intercepted the trucks that were sent to address the food and health crisis in displacement camps, with a specific focus on combating malnutrition among the children.

According to the ministry, the RSF deployed forces near the city of Mellit to obstruct and seize humanitarian convoys along the Al-Dabba-Mellit-El Fasher route. The RSF, for its part, alleged that the SAF and allied forces were attempting to misuse humanitarian aid for the transportation of weapons and military equipment.

"We have reservations about bringing

aid into Darfur through the Al-Dabba city in northern Sudan," Imran Abdullah, a member of the advisory office of the RSF commander, said in a statement.

"The SAF and the Sudan Liberation Movement, led by the governor of Darfur Region ... sought to smuggle weapons through this route," he said.

While the SAF and the RSF were trading barbs, the displaced people in the camps in the Darfur region are facing the risk of famine due to the halt of food rations distributed by international organizations.

"Malnutrition rates are rising in the camps, threatening the lives of hundreds of thousands. Food rations provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) have stopped," Adam Rijal, spokesperson of the General Coordination for Displaced Persons and Refugees in Darfur, a voluntary body, said in a statement on Friday.

According to a recent WFP report, the vast majority of Sudanese face severe hunger due to the continued war, and that "less than five percent of Sudanese can afford a square meal a day." The United Nations estimates that half of Sudan's population, approximately 25 million people, require humanitarian aid and protection, with nearly 18 million at risk of severe food scarcity.

## 'China can help Africa achieve food security'

By Edith Mutethya, Nairobi

CHINA, which has been successful in feeding its 1.4 billion people and lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty, is expected to play a key role in helping Africa address food insecurity by engaging in intensified bilateral cooperation in agricultural technology and talent cultivation, a Kenyan professor said.

Speaking ahead of China's annual two sessions – during which its top legislative body, the National People's Congress, and its political

advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, convene in Beijing – this year, Robert Gituru, the African director of the Sino-Africa Joint Research Center at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya's capital Nairobi, said that as a developing country, China is more likely to understand the challenges that Africa faces and has solutions that are tailored to the continent's situation.

Gituru said China manufactures affordable small-scale agricultural

machinery and tools that can help Africa improve its crop yields. The country also quickly lifted a large number of its people out of poverty, an experience that could benefit the continent.

"Africa has comparatively a large amount of arable land compared to many parts of the world, including China. So, if we can import the appropriate technologies from China, Africa will be able to realize food security," Gituru said.

A wide range of issues, including agriculture and food security, are

being discussed during the two sessions. Many African people expect new momentum to be injected into the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, a major platform for Sino-Africa cooperation, as a result of the discussions, the professor said.

Gituru said such cooperation has already brought tangible results across Africa, including at his research center. Last year, the center demonstrated corn growing, and by using proper agronomic techniques from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the yields increased by 50

percent, he said.

The center also used a Chinese-made handheld planter that saves labour, makes straight rows while ploughing and does planting, seeding and field fertilization. Local farmers have shown keen interest in the device.

Gituru said China is also manufacturing a machine that could help farmers produce more nutritious feed for their livestock.

Notably, China is demonstrating how to grow value-added crops such as grapes, kiwi fruit and foxtail millet

in Africa, he said.

The professor said in addition to producing small-scale agricultural machines and tools, Chinese enterprises are keen on participating in the localized production of fertilizers. He believes this will be especially beneficial, as the lack of fertilizers is one of the leading causes of low agricultural production in Africa.

A Chinese institute that has been reclaiming the Taklimakan Desert, the largest desert in China, is passing on its skills and technology to African countries through the Great

## Ugandan farmers pay price of duty-free sugar policy

KAMPALA

THE duty-free sugar import window that some East African Community (EAC) member states enjoy to plug local sugar deficit is blamed for the sharp drop in prices in Uganda.

At the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year, the EAC Secretariat gave Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya the greenlight to import tax-free sugar to plug their domestic deficits. But the measure has sharply eaten into Uganda's regional sugar export market.

Combined, the market size for Uganda's sugar in Kenya and Tanzania is estimated at 110,000 tonnes annually, with Kenya consuming the lion's share of 90,000 tonnes.

Farmers are now feeling the heat after cane prices also dropped due to low demand at factories as a result of competition from imported sugar that has flooded the market.

In the face of the shrinking regional sugar market, Bank of Uganda statistics show that millers have suffered a significant loss of the export market share.

According to the central bank, the volume of sugar exports dropped from 229,723 tonnes in the year ending

December 31, 2022, to 99,283 tonnes in 2023. The industrial earnings also fell to their lowest – from 163.75 million to 75.79 million – during the same period.

The three main export markets are Kenya, Tanzania and Burundi, and millers say the shrinking Kenya market for Uganda's sugar is a big blow to the industry.

"Kenya is Uganda's biggest regional sugar export market, but the country currently has shifted its preference to imported duty-free sugar," Jimmy Kabeho, chairman of Uganda Sugar Manufacturers Association said.

Kabeho said when the duty-free sugar lands in Kenya, large chunks of it is smuggled through porous border points near Malaba, Busia and Lwakhakha into Uganda.

"This distorts the market, as the price of the dumped sugar is lower," he said.

Total output in 2022 reached 600,000 metric tonnes, with Kakira Sugar Ltd, the country's top producer, accounting for half the production.

The millers say domestic market sales have also been affected by the smuggled sugar, resulting in a build-up in stock.



Janeth Jackson, a teacher at Dar es Salaam's Uzuri Primary School, airs her views in the city at the weekend at a meeting on the impact of sexual violence and sexual corruption in schools and other institutions of learning. The event was organised by the Tanzania Gender Equality Organisation in collaboration with the Safe School Network. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Easter campaign seeks to save endangered African penguin

CAPETOWN

THIS Easter, in South Africa, one can buy an egg that will hatch a live penguin but not for taking home.

Since the start of the year, a South African conservation group has been incubating over 200 eggs of the endangered

African penguin that were previously rescued from two colonies.

The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) is soliciting donations to meet the cost of incubating them by inviting people to "adopt an egg." The African penguin-the only

species that breeds on the continent, and which is also found in Namibia-was once South Africa's most abundant seabird.

No longer. The population has plunged to less than 10,000 breeding pairs in 2024, according to SANCCOB resources manager, Ronnis Daniels, meaning there is only 1 percent

left of the 1 million that were in existence a century earlier.

"At the current trajectory, which is an 8 percent loss every year, we are looking at extinction by 2035," she told Reuters. "There won't be enough (for) the wild population to save itself." Threats to the birds are legion, but the main culprit is

commercial fishing, which has ravaged stocks of sardines and anchovies that the penguins depend on to live.

"That would be the top of the list," Daniels said. "The sad part is that fish is exported mostly as fishmeal."

Other threats include all the noise and pollution from the

shipping routes around South Africa, especially when the ships stop to refuel in Algoa Bay, she said.

On one day, volunteer Nicky Shadbolt was walking along an enclosure for the downy baby penguins.

"Over this time, when everybody is also thinking about

chocolates and fluffy bunnies, we would like you ... to adopt a penguin egg," she said, punctuated by baby penguin squeaks.

"It is really expensive for us to raise that little penguin from egg or all the way to maturity," she added, a process that takes four months until they are released back into the wild.





Mohamed Kombo, a project engineer with the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination, takes senior journalists from various media outlets around grain storage premises at Mtanana-Kibaigwa in Dodoma Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Villagers fell unhappy after surveyors skip disputed plots

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SOME residents of Bakima Village in Ibadakuli Ward, Shinyanga Municipality, have expressed dissatisfaction with the ongoing land surveying exercise, saying that surveyors are 'unfair'.

They aired their complaints recently when the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts Committee (PAC) visited the region to examine the execution of Land Tenure Improvement Project in Lubaga and Ibadakuli wards.

According to the residents, they have consistently been instructed to remain in their areas while waiting for experts to survey their land, but at the end of the day the officials do not show up.

Speaking on behalf of others, Joseph Komanya said many villagers spend a lot of time waiting for the experts daily thus affecting their economic activities.

"If asked, the experts reply that some plots cannot be surveyed because of existing land disputes with others owned by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi," he said.

He said they have been residing in the village for more than 30 years and expressed regret that their territories

were not surveyed instead of being informed they were invaders of a parcel of land that is owned by CCM.

According to Emmanuel Mitinje, Shinyanga Town planner, CCM provided areas for residents to dwell temporarily, but they went ahead and constructed permanent homes.

"This pushed us to stop surveying them until they settle their conflict with CCM," he said.

Japhet Hasunga, Vice Chairman of PAC, gave instructions to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development to convene with CCM and local residents in order to resolve the situation.

Hasunga also urged Shinyanga residents to have their plots surveyed and recognized, as well as have title deeds for their plots to guarantee their participation in the formalization process.

Geoffrey Pinda, Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, said that the land ownership formalization project has come to settle border and land disputes. He added that he will officially visit Shinyanga to settle all outstanding issues and enable residents to lawfully own land and receive title deeds.

## MOI seeks feedback from patients to improve services

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) has introduced a practice of call its patients and their relatives, asking for their progress an opinion about the state of service delivery at the institution.

Prof. Abel Makubi, executive director of MOI, led the inaugural exercise at the weekend by calling some

patients and asking them about their conditions, getting their opinions and advice meant to improve services.

"Today Saturday, we have decided to call our patients to ask their progress and give them the opportunity to give feedback on the state of our services so that we can improve further; we think this is the best way to engage our clients," he said.

"This is implementation of directive of the Ministry of Health to healthcare providers to improve communication with their customers and the management of MOI decided to come up with this method that allows us to reach each patient, to know their progress and opinions," he said.

He said that apart from the move, MOI has been getting feedback through listening to direct opinions

and through WhatsApp groups, weekly meetings in the patients' bay, suggestion box, phone calls and text messages.

Prof Makubi said that in general, it has helped the management to evaluate itself and improve its service customers of the institution.

Meanwhile, MOI gave Easter and Eid gifts to its 1,046 employees to motivate them to work hard and provide

better services to patients.

The gifts which are 15 kilos of rice, two litres of cooking oil and soft drinks worth 50,000/- to each were handed over to the representatives of the employees Prof Makubi at the weekend.

Speaking about the gifts, Director of Administration and Human Resources at MOI Orest Mushi, said the management decided to give incentives to its employees so that they celebrate

Easter and Eid holidays with joy.

He said the gifts were given as thanks to the staff for working with dedication, compassion, love and a sense of responsibility.

"It is the belief of MOI management that when we return to work after Easter and Eid holidays, we will increase competence and responsibility and provide better services to the people," he said.

## China, Uganda in joint pursuit of mutual development, says envoy

KAMPALA

AS China continues to pursue its path to modernization, it is determined to cooperate with other nations to build a community with a shared future, a Chinese envoy said here on Saturday.

China has been supporting Uganda's development in various fields, including trade, health and agriculture, over the last six decades, said Zhang Lizhong, Chinese ambassador to Uganda, while briefing the press and think tanks at the Chinese Embassy in Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

Zhang said within the frameworks of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China and Uganda are working toward win-win cooperation to achieve common development.

Under the BRI, China financed and constructed two hydropower plants, Karuma Hydropower Plant and Isimba Hydropower Station, that are critical to addressing Uganda's increasing energy needs, and facilitating its industrialization.

In addition to supporting energy infrastructure development, China has helped Uganda enhance its connectivity to the world through Entebbe International Airport, which has been expanded to accommodate increased passenger and cargo traffic.

Furthermore, China has played a crucial role in constructing the Entebbe-Kampala Expressway, sig-

nificantly reducing travel time between Kampala, the capital city, and Entebbe by half.

Construction of these mega energy and transport infrastructure has not only provided employment opportunities but has also facilitated the transfer of skills and knowledge, according to Zhang. Thousands of Ugandan people got jobs, and some are now engaged in private business after gaining skills from the projects. Bilateral trade continues to grow at a fast rate.

Zhang said the two countries have witnessed an increase in trade volume for seven consecutive years. Ten years ago, bilateral trade volume was around 600 million U.S. dollars and by the end of 2023, it grew to 1.3 billion dollars, of which Uganda's exports to China increased 19 percent to 70 million dollars, according to the embassy data.

"China is committed to opening its market wider for Uganda's quality products," Zhang said. He noted that during the China International Import Expo last November, Ugandan companies signed deals to supply 30 tonnes of roasted coffee and another 29 containers of green coffee beans to their Chinese counterparts.

China continues to play a leading role in investing in Uganda, especially in the areas of agro-industry, manufacturing, oil and gas, and industrial parks among others.

The embassy data show that in 2023, China's foreign direct investment in Uganda reached 55.7 million dollars.



Mohamed Makengwa (4th-R, gesturing), councillor for Songe ward in Kilindi District, briefs Kilindi district secondary education officer Ntuli Mwakabungu (3rd-R) at the weekend on progress in the ongoing implementation of a 400m/- classroom construction project at Seuta Secondary School. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

## Project builds 14 warehouses to curb aflatoxins contamination

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Initiatives for Preventing Aflatoxins Contamination (TANIPAC) project has built 14 warehouses in various councils to reduce infections in maize and peanuts value chain to increase food security in the country.

The project started in 2016 after 65 people in Dodoma and Manyara regions were admitted to hospital after eating food and a government investigation in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) found that it was contaminated with aflatoxins.

This was stated at the weekend in Dodoma Region by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Hussein Omar when speaking to editors and reporters who visited the region to see progress of projects implemented by TANIPAC.

He said the warehouses have been built in Chemba, Kiteto, Babati, Gairo, Nanyumbu, Nanyumbo, Kasulu, Kibondo, Buchosa, Itimila, Bukombe and Nzega district councils and two in Unga and Pemba.

He said the project has succeeded in strengthening regulatory and research institutions by providing them with labora-

tory equipment for sustainable control of pests in order to strengthen food safety, protect community health and contribute to the growth of the national economy through increased sales of agricultural products abroad.

He said that the project provides education to various stakeholders in maize and peanuts value chain, including 61,910 farmers, which is 103 percent of the target.

He said that farmers were trained on the best agricultural methods to control aflatoxins. Omar said 5,547 traders, processors and exporters, which is 105 percent of the government's target were also trained on

how to avoid aflatoxins in maize and peanuts.

He said the project has enabled 18 district councils in Tanzania Mainland to prepare by-laws to control aflatoxins and enabled Zanzibar authorities to prepare such laws. He said TANIPAC project is funded by jointly Tanzanian government and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Fund to Support Agriculture and Food Security Programmes (GAFSP) where the entire project costs 80bn/-.

He said that out of the funds, 18.6Bn/- has been invested in the ongoing construction of smart center for grain crops in Do-

doma Region.

Omar mentioned challenges the project faced as the outbreak of Covid-19 that affected the infrastructure design whereby after the contract was signed, the design teams failed to hold professional meetings on time which caused the work to take 12 months instead of the planned three.

He said another challenge is the war between Russia and Ukraine which he said affected the cost of construction materials where the contractors submitted requests to review prices due to increase in transportation costs.



## Food aid used as weapon of war in Sudan, say UK MPs

By James Landale, Khartoum

BRITISH MPs have warned that food aid is being used as a weapon of war in Sudan's bitter civil conflict.

Vicky Ford, the chair of parliament's all-party group on Sudan, said there was evidence both warring sides - the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces - were restricting humanitarian aid.

She was speaking after new research suggested more than 100 villages in western Sudan had been burned.

The war in Sudan has been raging for almost year and the fighting is brutal.

The Centre for Information Resilience - a government-funded research group - said that 108 villages and settlements in western Sudan had been fully or partially destroyed by fire since last April.

The UK Foreign Office said what's happening bears all the hallmarks of ethnic cleansing as black Africans are targeted by Arab militias.

There are warnings of famine with more than 20 million people needing food aid.

Ford also said sexual violence against women was widespread, with evidence that some girls were deliberately disfiguring themselves to avoid rape.

The all-party group has put out a statement calling for the international community to give more aid.

It also urged some countries - including the United Arab Emirates - to stop giving arms to the warring parties.



**The Centre for Information Resilience - a government-funded research group - said that 108 villages and settlements in western Sudan had been fully or partially destroyed by fire since last April**



Members of Kalangale Entrepreneurs group of Kileleli ward in Kishapu District pictured at the weekend showing various items, mainly rubber shoes and sandals, produced at their small factory. They said acquisition of a skin processor would help them add value to the products. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Education, child safety under threat in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE

WITH repeated school closures and mass flight, children in Haiti have been left in suffering under the shadow of the ongoing violence in the Caribbean country.

The national capital Port-au-Prince remains engulfed in violence and a political power vacuum, with gangs having a stranglehold on roads and ports in the city and tens of thousands fleeing.

According to data from the United Nations, half of the estimated 360,000 displaced people are children. Educators in Port-au-Prince

stress that the situation is taking a significant toll on the young ones' development.

"Whenever there is a protest, all schools are closed. So, for example, for this year, the kids have not been in school for three months. They started in January for two weeks and for the whole month of February there was no school because of protests," said Angie Bell, executive administrator of Bell Angelou School.

Even through the turbulence, however, determined youth in the country persist in pursuing an education. For 19-year-old Kesley

Antoine, his ambition to become a tech entrepreneur keeps him studying through it all.

"The business that I want to open would be to create job opportunities for Haitian people and, yes, I want to travel to other countries so I can come back and really contribute to the development of my country with a business that would satisfy Haiti's needs," said the student.

Others have put their plans on hold. Unable to finish school due to a lack of funds, 20-year-old Iden Joseph sells homemade lunches in the market but still harbors great

er ambitions.

"If I get the opportunity I can leave, and I can come back here to my country because I like my country. But you see my country is poor, but I [would like to see them] have much opportunity," he said.

Meanwhile, maternity centers in the country have continued offering much-needed services. Haiti has the highest level of infant mortality in the Western hemisphere, so non-governmental organizations like Second Mil, which works with the Haitian Health Ministry, are vital in ensuring that newborns

can get a good start in life.

"If we can help pregnant women while they are pregnant, get good prenatal care, give birth in a safe place where their lives are spared and also their newborns have a strong start to life with things like vaccinations and breastfeeding support and nutritional support and education, then we're really giving those kids and their families a better chance of survival," said Amy Syres, program director of Second Mile Haiti.

Since the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in July 2021, gangs and criminal groups have

filled the power vacuum that was left. Haiti was scheduled to hold elections before February 7 this year but those elections failed to materialize, leading to social unrest.

Since the end of February, armed gangs have attacked public institutions including the capital's police stations, police academies, and the international airport, demanding Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry step down.

Henry announced on March 12 that he would resign once a transitional presidential council is created, according to local media.

## Uganda faces malaria fund crisis as int'l donors withdraw support

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S Ministry of Health said Friday that international donors have significantly cut funding to malaria projects in the country over global crises including conflicts and climate change.

Jimmy Opigo, head of the National Malaria Control Division at the Ministry of Health, told reporters in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, that the withdrawal of external funding will have adverse effects on malaria control and treatment costs in the East African country.

"The cost of malaria control in public health has been 95 percent donor-dependent. The funding has been allocated to mosquito nets for prevention, residual indoor spraying, test kits for malaria, and first and second-line malaria treatment in both the private and public sectors, which the donors have been subsidizing," said Opigo.

Minister of Health Ruth Aceng told a parliamentary committee Wednesday that the donors are turning their focus on global issues like conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza as well as climate change activities.

Aceng also raised concerns about Uganda's heavy reliance on donor funding for the health sector, revealing that 85 percent of the country's health budget for the financial year 2024/2025 is externally funded.

According to the World Health Organization, Uganda has one of the highest malaria incidence rates in the world, accounting for about 5 percent of all cases worldwide.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Health, out of every 10 sick people in Uganda, three have malaria. Among children under five years of age admitted to hospitals, six out of 10 have malaria and face the risk of death.



CCM Deputy Secretary General (Zanzibar) Dr Mohamed Said Dimwa (2nd-L) presents foodstuffs for Ramadhan-time iftar to senior citizen Suleiman Hamad Ussi on the sidelines of a meeting held in Zanzibar's Pangawe constituency yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## KFC Nigeria apologises after wheelchair user refused service

By Gloria Aradi, Lagos

KFC Nigeria has issued an apology after the airport authority shut one of its outlets over alleged discrimination against a disabled client.

Adebola Daniel, son of a former Nigerian state governor Gbenga Daniel, said in a post on X that he was ordered to leave a KFC outlet at Lagos

airport because of his wheelchair. The post sparked widespread outrage.

It also prompted an investigation by the federal airport authority, ending in the branch's closure.

In a long thread, Daniel described the incident, which happened on Tuesday last week, as "the worst sort of public humiliation" he had

ever experienced.

"Today I felt less than human, like a guard dog not allowed into the house. Lonely and isolated," he posted.

He alleged that the manager of the KFC outlet at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, Nigeria's busiest airport, denied him service despite multiple pleas from his wife and two

brothers, who were travelling with him. "She refused to listen to reason and stood her ground that at [KFC] Murtala Muhammed branch, wheelchairs and wheelchair users of all shapes and sizes were not permitted in the premises and we should leave immediately," he said.

In an audio clip taken after the incident, Daniel's wife

can be heard complaining to a female worker, presumably the manager, that they "could have handled the situation better".

"When you guys came in, we should have told you guys that wheelchair is not allowed... people know that wheelchair is not allowed [at KFC]," the employee replied, suggesting that the restaurant's policy

barred wheelchair users. In a post on X on Thursday, KFC Nigeria said sorry to Daniel and announced measures to address the situation, including training its employees on inclusion and empathetic customer service.

"We deeply regret the frustration and distress experienced by our guest and extend sincere apologies to those af-

ected," it said on X.

The statement followed the restaurant's closure by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and the authority's order for KFC to apologise.

FAAN also ordered the fast food chain to display a non-discrimination policy at the restaurant as a condition for reopening.



## Agriculture needs predictable markets, land collateral basis

THE National Assembly is only a day to the convening - in the national capital, Dodoma - for the 2024/2025 edition of the marathon Budget meeting.

It is said that one of the issues to be deliberated on will likely be a proposal by the government to introduce incentive packages for increased productivity in agriculture.

It is quite possible that there are areas of policy or perhaps 'reward' for productivity that the Agriculture ministry deems it appropriate to bring to light.

But that will be usable only in addition to what is envisaged in the 4Rs - what President Samia Suluhu Hassan sees as the pillars of multiparty democracy. These are reconciliation, resilience, reform and rebuilding. That essentially means that agriculture first needs to be reformed so as to be efficient and resilient especially to hazards of climate change now piling up.

There was an event that apparently isn't routine, viewed as revolving around the first-ever agro-sector financing policy in Tanzania.

The respective minister said that the government was committed to ensuring that capital was accessible to make the sector active and effective for economic growth.

That invariably meant pushing the issuance of more loans by specialised institutions like the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank, a side show from the TIB Bank which at one point had upwards of 80 per cent of its lending listed as non-performing loans.

It has long been evident that agriculture is a sphere where banks think twice before lending, mainly on account of its reliance on rain-fed farm units and lack of assured markets at predictable prices locally or regionally.

International markets have usually been relevant for cash crops

where exactly the same problem obtains, until lately with horticulture, and it is hardly stable enough for banks to start lending in substantial quantities. It is bankable individuals who receive loans rather than strategic lending to the sector, given its considerable fissures.

The scenario in which policy spin was being made was a meeting of cotton stakeholders, and this hinges on one of the spheres where farmers can definitely do much with incentives.

With ever-diminishing cotton prices owing to synthetics and full mechanisation, incentives to farm the crop hover between modest to poor, depending on the year. It is possible despair was setting in already. Meeting participants included officials from regional and district commissioners' offices in cotton farming areas, farmers, ginners operators and cotton dealers.

It was unclear if those present were actually seeking an agriculture financing policy as different from a cotton input subsidy policy or initiatives to improve the pricing expected. It appears that the minister is aware that farmers of a number of cash crops are in a similar position, and the blanket reduction by half of fertiliser prices is not enough.

The minister wants a stand-alone agriculture credit policy, while banks are said to find this far too risky. Accordingly, one finds that the cotton farmers just like those of most other cash crops, basically want to be provided with a sort of wage for farming cotton, coffee, tea, tobacco, etc.

The government has for a while been pushing for what officials describe as agribusiness, but there is no room here for easing ownership so that farms can be used as collateral for bank loans, igniting fast growth in the sector.

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## What if growth isn't the thing that takes effort?

By Sonny Hallett

A thought about trees made me smile today. I had been talking with someone about growth while a storm was wailing outside.

I glanced out of the window and could see the branches of the big sycamore in my garden whipped about by the wind. In that moment, I could vividly picture the small leaf buds on those branches, and I imagined each bud working hard to hold in its leaves against the wind and winter cold.

I could feel the potential energy, the growth stored in those buds, and this feeling, like an anticipation of a long-awaited exhale, or stretching out cramped legs after being all crunched up for too long, when the conditions are finally right for the leaves to begin: "aaah, it's finally warm enough to let my leaves out!"

People often talk about growth and change requiring effort. When people get stuck or aren't making obvious movements towards growth, society often tells them to put in more effort, work harder, change who they are.

Often we might tell ourselves that we're not doing enough, that we're bad and wrong, not trying hard enough to grow or change.

I'm not sure this is the way it has to be. Over the past few years I've gone through huge amounts of growth and change, and I've been lucky to see massive growth and change in other people.

What feels like a really important simi-

larity in a lot of this transformation is that when the conditions are right, it happens irrepressibly, unstoppably, like leaves bursting out of the buds in spring.

That's not to say that no effort was expended in the process, but I think a lot of the effort goes into protecting the parts of us that want to grow, before the growth actually happens, holding in those new leaves until it feels safe enough, finding good enough conditions.

I think a lot of us feel deep down how vulnerable young leaves, new growth, can be. It makes sense that we would want to make sure the conditions are all right.

I have spent a lot of my life not feeling safe enough to grow - in a lot of different ways. It can be exhausting holding in all that growth that desperately wants to happen, so I think I've also always been looking for the right conditions, or good enough conditions, usually without being sure what they might actually be.

I think that's probably true for most of us. We feel that powerful drive for growth and, if the conditions don't feel right, we keep looking out for when they might be.

Maybe even when it feels almost completely hopeless, a tiny part continues scanning for something that feels hopeful.

In each moment of safe-enough, however small, a leaf emerges, and

I get to breathe out a bit more. The more I can find, and feel - whether that's in my environment, my connection with nature, my sense of myself, others' love and care towards me, the more I'm able to grow.

And then sometimes conditions get rough again and I protect myself, some of the buds stay closed a little longer. Bare branches of trees covered in snow "too cold, not yet!"

I'm also not talking about safety as an absolute here - I'm not saying that people only grow when they are 'safe'. It's like... the drive to grow is so strong that as soon as there is anything like slightly better conditions - a little more nutrition in the soil, a little less wind, a little more sunlight, something can start to grow into that space and food and light.

Life seems to be good at that, and maybe our internal processes have a lot more in common with the moss on walls, with pavement plants and trees, than might seem immediately obvious.

I also think that sometimes we can get so used to having to protect our tender young leaves that even when the conditions are good, we can't quite trust it.

Sometimes I can feel the strain of the conflict between my tender leaves sensing the light and warmth outside and the scared, distrustful parts of me holding them back.

"Not yet, please don't grow, it's not

safe!" Sometimes the leaves happen anyway and it can be terrifying feeling so vulnerable. Sometimes holding back takes so much effort that I get angry and sad, and look for reasons for it's not being safe enough, or try to prove that it is.

I like this leaf imagery because I like metaphors that I can turn around in my head, see new angles, and feel things out, and I like analogies that take me outside.

As far as I know, trees don't get frustrated at themselves for their lack of growth in winter, and when the spring comes, their leaves, shoots and branches grow exactly into the shapes they need to, with the food, light, warmth and biodiverse networks they have around them. When I imagine growth being like an exhale, a release of tension, I feel like I could maybe trust a bit more the shapes that I might grow into - and the space I might take up.

I can feel the effort it takes to protect myself, and how much I've needed to, and also how much it can hurt to hold back the very core of myself.

But also, what if the conditions are better now? I'm excited to see my leaves and branches grow into the shapes they need to.

\* A medium.com dispatch. Sonny Hallett is a counsellor, trainer, artist and naturalist based in Edinburgh, UK.

## IDA's \$200m loan for railway safety, efficiency is reassuring

WHILE issues of safety or efficiency are not new with regard to the railway system, and indeed as well to the multilateral development banks offering soft loans to uplift infrastructure and managerial capacity, there is a sense of urgency at present.

That is why stakeholders will take a deep scan at the newly announced plan for making vital rectifications to Tanzania's central railway corridor with a US\$200 million loan arrangement with the International Development Association (IDA).

The issue is how far the railway will attain regional standards of safety rather than just being usable for the Tanzanian public as is usually the case.

The World Bank country office cited the area of particular interest as the Dar es Salaam to Isaka main part of the railway, which implies that it is not comprehensive coverage that is in question.

Outside the patches in Morogoro Region that are prone to disruption owing to flooding, heavy-toll accidents have occurred more inland in Dodoma Region as well as in the Wami-Ruvu section linking Coast and Tanga regions.

The Moshi-Arusha section was not being used much in the past, while the dream about an Arusha-Musoma section may have been flagged down by environmentalists.

While it is opportune that the World Bank has subscribed to a soft-loan arrangement, it is clear that a joint venture with a capable firm that would invest in a more comprehensive revamping of the railway portions would have worked better.

It would also have possibly provided greater assurance to both lo-

cal and regional business operators that it is fully reliable, whereas an extra dose of capacity improvement and limited revamping of some notorious sections aren't a huge revitalisation.

In other words, while administrators have every reason to celebrate the IDA soft loan or significant proportions, it's a substitute for a joint venture game changer.

This loan arrangement and the difference with what could have happened with a joint venture shows the limitations of putting reform philosophy into action, in the sense that public-private partnership might still not supersede loan arrangements as a preference.

There are many who trust internal ability to operate such systems and take little notice of the glaring weaknesses of the railways system as a whole and the need for its systematic revamping.

Ordinarily, something as vast as the first and now second phase of the Tanzania Intermodal and Rail Development Project could have attracted a substantial stock market bond.

That could have possibly spared the government the need to seek out as much as US\$200m for what will at best be modest improvements of infrastructure, chiefly in the form of safety and efficiency.

These components put together are tied to ownership formats determining levels of capitalisation possible, loans and even corporate ambition.

That is why the total reform effort needed to bring infrastructure and efficiency to international standards isn't something we are assured of attaining this decade.

## Health service quality a priority, not an afterthought

By Special Correspondent

COUNTRIES need to ensure continuous attention to the quality of their healthcare services, including during emergencies, contends a new collection of articles recently launched in the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

The authors call for greater investment and political attention to quality issues - not just access - as a cornerstone of universal health coverage.

The study found several common concerns about quality of care during the Covid-19 crisis, such as less family involvement and reduced emotional support for women.

It showed that in some countries, critical interventions such as foetal monitoring were reduced, while in others, women were separated from their newborn babies and/or denied a birth companion of choice.

The paper calls for health systems to ensure that quality was included in emergency response plans so as to protect people's health and rights, with a greater commitment to ongoing learning and adaptation.

A positive example is cited from Western Cape, South Africa, where regular information flows and virtual learning have helped teams address

and a contributor to the series.

"Health systems that deliver quality care continuously learn and adapt. This is fundamental to building resilience and responding to people's needs," adds Maliqi.

One article, entitled 'Prepared health systems provide quality care at all times', cites a 2020 survey of more than 1,000 maternal and newborn health workers across 71 countries.

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A positive example is cited from Western Cape, South Africa, where regular information flows and virtual learning have helped teams address

common challenges and mitigate risks.

Improving the ability to consistently provide quality care - care that is effective, safe, people-centred, timely, equitable, integrated and efficient - is fundamental to universal health coverage.

And yet, every year, an estimated eight million people in low- and middle-income countries die from conditions that would have been treatable with better healthcare provision.

Lapses in quality can also jeopardise trust and deter people from accessing critical health services, with impacts that last for years, according to the case studies cited.

Developed as a collaboration between The BMJ, WHO and the World Bank, the collection explores the emerging priorities and unfinished agenda for improving the quality of care in low and middle-income countries, providing examples from maternal, newborn and child health.

Among other topics, the papers consider engagement of various actors - such as the health workforce, private sector and communities - in delivering quality care; measurement of quality of care; as well as innova-

tions and solutions that advance quality of care.

To cite an editorial from the series, quality health services are "not a 'nice to have' or a one-off project with a start and end date but must be consistently delivered to everyone, everywhere, starting from primary health services to the highest levels of care".



**They say that even when facilities were nominally open, many provided significantly reduced services that often failed to meet patients' needs, impacting both health outcomes and patient trust**



By Marie Shaba

# Tanzania's history: The contribution of radio in motivating and unifying people

EVERY year on February 13th the world celebrates Radio Day. It's time to evaluate the development and use of this unique medium. In Tanzania we are celebrating 72 years of the broadcasting industry especially of radio.

This year Radio stakeholders including the veterans of RTD met in Dodoma to discuss ethics in the broadcasting industry. RTD veterans shared their experiences in how ethics issues were handled during their time and agreed today morals have gone down.

It was observed that the now radio presenters forget that they are part and parcel of the community; that means they have to prepare their programmes with decent language, suitable time for every programme, consider the age groups and their mission.

What image does the Radio present to audiences? Is the image respectable, does it have programmes that attract audiences, how does it use advertisements and other entertainment programmes? What about the presenters and all the support staff are they in harmony with the personality of the Station? How do they distinguish themselves from other Radio Stations and is the flavour and vibe different worth time?

All said, we should not blame the now generation, they have grown up and still live a digital age. The environment is conducive for a radio on the palm of your hand! The environment of analogue was different. The whole continent of Africa was in a liberation struggle mode.

The main goal was liberation from social oppression, freedom from economic exploitation and political subservience. We were groomed in that spirit and the radio had to present the image of an independent country and the personality of its liberated citizens. Usually, the ethical life is based on the ideology which has been accepted by the community.

Radio is sensitive ammunition like gun, it does not kill people. That why you don't hand it to lunatics! Before you give a person a radio license they have to be initiated into national ethics, how to use it so that we achieve positive results. Radio is almost an all-weather gadget; it does not matter you are in the dark or light, inside or outside, whether you have a sight disability, in the kitchen, garden or bathroom you will get instant news as it happens. I



know you also have many positive things about the everlasting radio, when you are alone in a very nostalgic mood and here is your favorite programme and presenter talk-

ing to you and touching your wounded heart!

During the 72 years the media industry has contributed in building this nation and its people. The radio has cov-

ered the whole continent with its long history and its resilient people who have undergone untold social, economic and political pain, but still laugh, sing songs and dance to sooth the hidden sorrows.

Those nations that started broadcasting before us were able to collect a lot of information about our cultural heritage. They projected theirs to control us effectively and efficiently. Their efforts to undermine us was in vain, some people made it and gave us a glimpse of the past.

What if Bi Kidude didn't celebrate Siti binti Saad how would we have known her as the first woman to record her songs for gramophones? Veterans will remember Frank and his sisters with their song full of humour and simplicity! We buried them alive! Frank died in 2017 at Lushoto where he lived; but we didn't salute him! I have touched on entertainment because it's one of the important tenets of broadcasting.

Producing a programme or music is like cooking spiced rice; many participants one presenter. Radio station is collective effort from preparation, production, presentation, transmission and feedback.

Occasionally you get those who excel like Ben Kiko; during the war with Uganda, he sent reports from the war front without fear, the whole nation was united, mobilized and motivated. We buried Ben and the others alive! It's an opportune time now to recognize RTD as the National Liberation Army.

The history of this nation can't be written without RTD. The state-owned-Tanzania Broadcasting Cooperation (TBC) will write the next chapter. Let's prepare a monument with names and pictures of all those women and men who worked there. That way we can all rest in peace!

# Understanding the complex connection between physical and mental wellness

Alimamy Bangura

IT is impossible to overestimate the significance of preserving both physical and mental wellbeing in the fast-paced, highly stressed world of today. Although these two facets of health are frequently seen as distinct, they are really intricately linked and have a significant impact on one another. In this piece, we'll examine the complex interrelationship between mental and physical wellbeing and how addressing one may have a beneficial effect on the other.

## The story of Sarah: A tale of physical and mental transformation

Let's look at Sarah's narrative to see how physical and mental wellbeing are related. Sarah was a busy professional who worked long hours in a difficult career. Over time, she became increasingly nervous, anxious, and fatigued. Her mental health began to deteriorate, limiting her capacity to focus at work and enjoy her personal life.

Sarah one day decided to make a change. She began adding regular exercise into her regimen, mostly to improve her physical health. When she started exercising consistently, she noticed a significant improvement in her mood and mental clarity. Sarah discovered that physical activity provided her with a much-needed release from

stress and worry. Whether it was a short walk in nature or a high-intensity session at the gym, exercise became her sanctuary, helping her to relieve stress and clear her mind.

Sarah changed her nutrition as she began her fitness quest, choosing nourishing meals that powered both her body and mind. With each good choice she made, she felt empowered and in charge of her health. Sarah's physical health improved with time, as did her mental attitude. She felt happier, more confident, and prepared to face life's problems.

## The science behind the connection

Sarah's tale is not unusual; several studies have demonstrated a significant correlation between physical activity and mental health. When we exercise, our bodies produce endorphins, chemicals that work as natural mood boosters. Furthermore, physical exercise reduces stress chemicals such as cortisol and adrenaline, fostering a sensation of peace and relaxation. Furthermore, regular exercise has been related to increased cognitive function and memory. Exercise encourages the creation of new neurons and improves synaptic connections, resulting in higher mental clarity and attention

However, the link between physical and mental wellbeing goes beyond exercise alone. Nutrition is also important in maintaining both elements of health. According to research, eating fruits, vegetables, healthy grains, and lean proteins not only nourishes the body but also promotes optimal brain performance. In contrast, diets heavy in processed foods, sugar, and unhealthy fats have been related to an increased risk of depression and cognitive impairment.

## Practical recommendations

Based on the understanding of the connection between physical and mental wellness, here are some practical recommendations to help you prioritize both aspects of your health:

Include Regular Exercise As advised by medical professionals, try to get in at least 150 minutes of moderate-to-intense activity or 75 minutes of severe exercise per week. Make time for the things you like doing, like going to the gym, dancing, swimming, or doing yoga, and include them into your daily schedule. Pay Attention to Nutrition Nutrient-dense meals that promote healthy brain function and offer sustained energy may fuel your body and mind. A healthy diet should include mostly fruits,

vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and as little processed food and sugary snacks as possible.

Make sleep a priority. Getting enough sleep is crucial for maintaining good physical and mental health. To help you decompress and be ready for restorative sleep, set up a calming bedtime ritual and aim for 7-9 hours of unbroken sleep each night.

Manage your stress. Try deep breathing techniques, mindfulness meditation, or time spent in nature as beneficial stress-reduction strategies. Determine the causes of stress in your life and deal with them head-on.

Develop Social Networks. Having strong social support systems is essential for mental health. Make time for friends and family a priority, and look for opportunities to engage in deep social connections.

In conclusion it is indisputable that taking care of our bodies also takes care of our thoughts, and vice versa, when it comes to mental and physical wellbeing. Regular exercise, a healthy diet, restful sleep, stress reduction, and social interaction are all important components of a holistic approach to health that promotes both mental and physical well-being. Small adjustments may result in big improvements, as Sarah's tale demonstrates, giving us the ability to live happier, healthier lives.





# Brazil's agribusiness bill moves to block grassland protections in existing biomes

By Fernanda Wenzel

A bill framed to benefit a particular group of rural producers was morphed into a drastic change to the Brazilian Forest Code with the potential of destroying 48 million hectares (118.6 million acres) – an area twice the size of the United Kingdom – of native vegetation all over the country.

If approved, the legislation (called PL 364/2019) will allow the conversion of all non-forestry areas for activities such as agriculture, cattle ranching and tree plantations.

The bill, approved March 20 by a lower house commission, was initially proposed in 2019 by the ruralist federal deputy Alceu Moreira (MDB). It was framed to benefit farmers from a specific region of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state, who occupy mountaintop fields of the Atlantic Forest and want the region to be excluded from the more restricted environmental framework of the Atlantic Forest Law. But the supercharged ruralist caucus, which has been piling up victories during President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration, managed to twist the bill so that all "formations of predominantly non-forest native vegetation" would be considered areas of "human occupation" and therefore, open to exploitation. The only requirement is that the land had been used for any rural activity at some point before July 2008.

According to the federal deputy who proposed the change, José Mário Schreiner (MDB), the measure would "standardize understandings and avoid misinterpretations, providing legal certainty and peace of mind for producers."

The strategy of introducing controversial legislative changes into somewhat-related bills is so common in Brazil that it even has a name: jabuticaba, a native Brazil blackberry.

"It was a bit of a surprise how quickly it was voted on," Antônio Oviedo, public policy analyst at Instituto Socioambiental (ISA), a Brazilian organization that defends traditional peoples, has said. Experts say the rush favors agribusiness, which will benefit from weakening the protection of these areas, especially amid an increase in environmental surveillance in the Amazon.

"There is this interest in expanding the agricultural frontier into less conflicted areas. When close to urban centers, these areas also have real estate interests," he said.

According to SOS Mata Atlântica, a Brazilian non-profit that advocates for the Atlantic Forest, the new wording of the bill "removes all legal protection from the native grasslands of all the country's biomes," allowing it to be freely converted for activities such as agriculture, planted pastures, and mining without any limitation.

The NGO's note concluded that the Pantanal wetlands, a Natural World Heritage Site known for the richness of its wildlife, would be the most affected by the measure. The biome's natural grasslands and flooded fields, which cover 7.4 million hectares (18.3 million acres) and represent 50 percent of the Pantanal's area, would be left unprotected.

According to SOS Mata Atlântica, the bill would also impact 32 percent of the Pampa grasslands (6.3 million hectares or 15.6 million acres), 7 percent of the Cerrado, the world's most biodiverse savanna (13.9 million hectares or 34.3 million acres), and around 4 percent of the Amazon, where native grasslands are mostly concentrated in Roraima state. Despite the small percentage, it means 15 mil-



Fifty percent of the Pantanal wetlands, which are already endangered by the advance of agribusiness, would be affected by the approval of the PL 364/2019 bill.

lion hectares (37 million acres) of the Amazon, an area larger than New York state, would be impacted.

"Bill 364/2019 is the biggest of all the cattle herds against all Brazilian biomes. It frees up deforestation throughout the country to defend private interests," Malu Ribeiro, director of public policy at the SOS Mata Atlântica Foundation, wrote on Twitter (X), referring to an expression that became a synonym for environmental deregulation after former President Jair Bolsonaro's government.

"Brazil cannot sacrifice everything in the name of development at any cost," the civil society coalition Climate Observatory also tweeted. "It is a threat to a country that seeks to be a global leader in the preservation of its biomes."

## The importance of grasslands

The environmental role of native grasslands is often underestimated according to WWF-Brazil public policy specialist Clarissa Presotti. "Native grasslands are important for maintaining biodiversity, harboring a variety of species adapted to these

specific environments, such as grasses, herbaceous plants and shrubs," she said. "These areas also play an essential role in protecting the soil from erosion, recharging underground aquifers and regulating the hydrological cycle."

The Cerrado, for example, is known as Brazil's water tank since eight out of 12 of the country's major river basins and three of its aquifers rely on this biome for much of their water. Native grasslands are also great carbon storages, and their destruction may aggravate the impacts of climate change.

Oviedo noted that these areas are also essential to avoid major floods in urban areas. "When these grasslands are close to bodies of water, they dampen the floods, absorbing that pulse of flooding and gradually returning it to the river."

Not even protections provided by the Brazilian Forest Code, such as the legal reserve (a parcel of private properties that must be preserved) and the permanent preservation areas (like river banks), were spared by the bill, which doesn't impose any limit on clearance.

By stating it would overlap "conflicting provisions contained in sparse legislation, including those that refer only to part of the national territory," the new legislation also ends up with the Atlantic Forest Law, which establishes stricter rules in the country's most endangered biome.

According to SOS Mata Atlântica, precisely this protection "allowed the biome not only to achieve low levels of deforestation, which reached close to zero in some states in the years before the Bolsonaro administration, but also induced a net increase in the areas covered with remnants."

It is still uncertain whether the bill will be put to a vote in the Chamber of Deputies before going to the Senate. Civil society, however, believes it will need a lot of pressure to avoid its approval by Congress.

"As the scenario and the legislature's composition is very unfavorable to the environmental agenda, a major mobilization campaign will be needed to engage people so that they put pressure on parliamentarians to vote against the bill," said Presotti from WWF.

# 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



## Severe drought and famine in southern Africa leaves some 20 million people facing hunger

**HARARE**  
DELICATELY and with intense concentration, Zanyiwe Ncube poured her small share of precious golden cooking oil into a plastic bottle at a food aid distribution site deep in rural Zimbabwe.

Her relief at the handout paid for by the U.S. government as her southern African country deals with a severe drought was tempered when aid workers gently broke the news that this would be their last visit.

Ncube and her 7-month-old son she carried on her back were among 2,000 people who received rations of cooking oil, sorghum, peas and other supplies in the Mangwe district in southwestern Zimbabwe.

The food distribution is part of a programme funded by American aid agency USAID and rolled out by the United Nations' World Food Programme.

They're aiming to help some of the 2.7 million people in rural Zimbabwe threatened with hunger because of the drought that has enveloped large parts of southern Africa since late last year.

It has scorched the crops that tens of millions of people grow themselves and rely on to survive, helped by what should be the rainy season.

They can rely on their crops and the weather less and less.

The drought in Zimbabwe, neighbouring Zambia and Malawi has reached crisis levels.

Zambia and Malawi have declared national disasters. Zimbabwe could be on the brink of doing the same.

It has reached Botswana and Angola to the west, and Mozambique and Madagascar to the east.

A year ago, much of this region was drenched by deadly tropical storms and floods.

It is in the midst of a vicious weather cycle: Damned by too much rain, then by not enough, it's a story of the climatic extremes that scientists say are becoming more frequent and more damaging, especially for the world's most vulnerable people.

In Mangwe, the young and the old lined up for food, some with donkey carts to carry home whatever they might get, others with wheelbarrows.

Those waiting their turn sat on the dusty ground.

Ncube, 39, would normally be harvesting her crops now, food for her, her two children and a niece she also looks after.

Maybe there would even be a little extra to sell. The driest February in Zimbabwe in her lifetime, according to the World Food Programme's seasonal monitor, put an end to that.

"We have nothing in the fields, not a single grain. Everything has dried up," she said.

The United Nations Children's Fund says there are "overlapping crises" of extreme weather in eastern and southern Africa, with both regions lurching between storms and floods and heat and drought in the last year.

In southern Africa, an estimated 9 million people, half of them children, need help in Malawi.

More than 6 million in Zambia, 3 million of them children, are im-



James Tshuma, a farmer in Mangwe district in southwestern Zimbabwe, stands in the middle of his dried up crop field amid a drought in Zimbabwe

acted by the drought, UNICEF said. That's nearly half of Malawi's population and 30% of Zambia's.

While man-made climate change has spurred more erratic weather globally, there is something else parching southern Africa this year.

El Niño, the naturally occurring climatic phenomenon that warms parts of the Pacific Ocean every two to seven years, has varied effects on the world's weather.

In southern Africa, it means below-average rainfall, sometimes drought, and is being blamed for the current situation.

The impact is more severe for people like those in Mangwe, where it's notoriously arid and people grow the cereal grain sorghum and pearl millet, crops that are drought resistant and offer a chance at harvests.

This year, even they failed to withstand the conditions.

Francesca Erdelmann, the World Food Programme's country director for Zimbabwe, said last year's harvest was bad, but this season is even worse. "This is not a normal circumstance," she said.

The first few months of the year are traditionally the "lean months" when households run short as they wait for the new harvest.

However, there is little hope for replenishment this year. Multiple aid agencies warned last year of the impending disaster.

Since then, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema has said that 1 million of the 2.2 million hectares of his country's staple corn crop have been destroyed. Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera has appealed for \$200 million in humanitarian assistance.

The 2.7 million rural folk struggling in Zimbabwe is not even the full picture. A nationwide crop assessment is underway and authorities are "dreading" the results, with the number needing help likely to skyrocket, said the WFP's Erdelmann.

USAID's Famine Early Warning System estimated that 20 million people would require food relief in southern Africa in the first few months of 2024. With this year's harvest a write-off, millions in Zimbabwe, southern Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar won't be able to feed themselves well into 2025. Many just won't get that help as aid agencies also have limited resources amid a global hunger crisis and a cut in humanitarian funding by governments.

As the WFP officials made their last visit to Mangwe, Ncube was already calculating how long the food might last her.

She said she hoped it would be long enough to avert her greatest fear, that her youngest child would slip into malnutrition even before his first birthday.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS:

# Global experts urge action as Africa grapples with \$65bn timber trade deficit

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA must work to urgently address its staggering \$65 billion timber trade deficit to position forests as a critical driver for the continent's future development, global experts urge.

This deficit, accrued between 1992 and 2020, reflects the continent's imbalance between earnings from timber exports and expenditures on imports of wood-related products, they said during a panel discussion to commemorate this year's International Day of Forests

on March 21.

The experts called on development partners to support investment in Africa's timber processing capacity and a continental wood marketing information system.

The discussions, titled "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World," centered around a report released by the African Development Bank's African Natural Resources Management and Investment Centre entitled "Regional timber trade flows and trends in Africa."

The report, released in early

March, established that the majority of Africa's wood products are exported unprocessed to other continents, exacerbating the continent's trade deficit. Experts emphasized the urgency of tapping into Africa's vast forest resources to drive industrialization, boost intra-African trade, enhance government revenues, and foster private sector growth.

Léontine Kanziemo, Natural Resource Management Lead Advisor at the African Development Bank, highlighted the continent's significant forest resources, including the

Congo Basin, the world's second-largest tropical forest. Kanziemo stressed: "We need to look at forests from a development perspective and ensure that they are managed sustainably. It is important to remember that 25 percent of the world's population, or 1.6 billion people, depend on forests for their livelihoods."

Ibrahim Favada, Forest Economist and Consultant, underscored the imperative to increase intra-African trade in timber and timber products, which he noted is currently lower than 10 percent.

He proposed leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to establish regional production centers to drive industrialization in the forestry sector.

Referencing the "Integrated and sustainable development of the timber sector in the Congo Basin" report, Youssouf Koné, Regional Integration Coordinator at the African Development Bank, stressed that adopting advanced processing solutions in Africa's vast timber industry could generate 60,000 new jobs and attract private investment.

Panelists also mentioned chal-

lenges such as corruption, informal economy dominance, and illegal logging as hindering the sector's development. Labode Popoola, Executive Secretary of the African Forestry Forum, lamented the lack of integration of smallholder activities in national policies and called for stronger links between the timber industry and global markets.

They expressed concern about the lack of tools and knowledge for measuring the volume of wood and the surface area of forests. For example, there are no tree ring-dating labs to assess carbon capture capacity. As a result, pricing does not reflect the wealth and quality of African timber.

Jean Luc Namegabe Mastaki, Director for Central Africa at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, said that he ruled the predominance of the informal economy and illegal logging.

Panelists called for addressing obstacles to Africa's timber industry development, including tariff barriers, high transport costs, and travel difficulties, while highlighting the immense opportunities offered by the AfCFTA.

Jean-Guy Afrika, Acting Director of the Bank's Regional Integration Coordination Office, said that the objective of "creating a zone where goods, services, capital, and people can move freely" must be achieved. "Africa is a continent that spans 30 million km<sup>2</sup>, or three times the size of Europe, which makes integration meaningful if goods and services are to move freely", he added.

Panelists emphasized the need for roads, sea and rail links, functional customs systems, robust sectoral governance, efficient public services, capacity-building in the private sector, and investment to build human capacity.

They stressed the importance of sustainable forest management and called for a balanced approach to forest exploitation to avoid damaging ecosystems. They urged support for the establishment of a master plan for forests by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.





# FGM survivor refuses to let mutilation define her life

By Special Correspondent

**G**ROWING up in Nigeria, Valerie Lomari's grandmother was the only person who had ever shown her love.

Aged 16, she was taken by the elderly woman to another village, where she was mutilated without warning.

Now aged 52, Valerie still lives with the emotional and physical trauma from female genital mutilation (FGM) and is determined to eradicate it.

The mother-of-three helps FGM survivors in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and London.

Here, in her own words, she explains how she learned to forgive her grandmother and live without shame.

'My grandmother said we were going on holiday' When I was born in Lagos, Nigeria, my mum was only 17 and she didn't have much support. She took me to my father's family house and I was raised by my grandmother. She was old and she had a shop to run so I had to do everything in the house.

Aged 11, my grandfather died and I moved to a new city to my relative's house. I became a slave girl and I was passed around to different families. I didn't feel as if anyone truly cared about me and I missed my grandmother.

When I turned 16 she came to visit and said we were going on a holiday. I was very excited and I packed my luggage. On the way, my grandmother said we had to stop to go and see someone in this village I had never been to before.

As I walked through the gates of the house, I suddenly felt sick to my stomach. A tall, scary looking woman let us in and locked the door. I saw knives, razors and a bowl with oil laid out on the table, with two other women sitting and staring at me. I asked my grandmother why we were there. She thought it was making me clean and preparing me for marriage.

I realised what was going to happen and decided to put up a fight. I wasn't going to make it easy for them so I screamed and kicked with all my power. Before I knew it, I was on the floor and they pinned me down. I felt this intensely sharp pain and I thought I was going to die. I screamed until I couldn't scream anymore. I saw my grandmother standing in the corner and locked eyes with her. She was crying.

It's estimated one in 20 girls and women in the world have undergone some form of FGM

I felt betrayed by my grandmother. She was the only person I loved and she had let this happen to me. I was made to lay down on the floor for a couple of hours for my bleeding to stop. I would have taken my own life if I had been left alone. After two days of being in that house, my grandmother took me to where she lived



Valerie wants to share her story of female genital mutilation to encourage other victims to seek help

and I stayed there for some time, experiencing infections and multiple health concerns because of the cutting.

'I told my husband everything'

At the end of the summer, I went back to school and got into university. I kept what happened a secret because I was ashamed, I thought it was my fault. During my final year on campus, when I was 26, I met my husband Tony, who came over from London to visit his sister. I did not say much to him because I was so nervous but I told him about everything that happened to me. I wanted to push him away because I didn't think I was deserving of love, but he did not judge me.

Within a year, we got married and moved to the UK.

Even when we got married, I found it hard to speak to him, I was still so nervous. I used to talk to him from another room or I would write things down. He had to gain my trust but he believed in me more than I believed in myself.

Being intimate has always been difficult for me. My clitoris has been taken away so I don't feel anything and sometimes it makes me feel like I am not a complete woman. But I know I am blessed to be with someone I love.

Unfortunately we suffered multiple miscarriages as a result of infections and they took me back to my childhood and my pain. After the fifth one, my husband persuaded me to go to the doctor, but I was terrified to let anyone examine me. I even thought I might get arrested. But my GP was so supportive and signposted me to an FGM specialist.

I am so thankful that we went on to have three amazing children together, two girls and a boy. The births were so painful though and for the first week or so I was unable to bond with the children because I was nursing the wounds.

After having my third child, I found the courage to talk to my grandmother about what had happened. I booked a flight and went back home. I told her everything I had been through and she broke down. I understand now that she did it out of love, she thought it was what was best for me. She asked me to speak out about it and make sure people know the truth. That was the birth of my advocacy.

I started to tell people about what happened to me and other women confided in me that they had also gone through this. Five years ago, I decided to set up Women of Grace, an organisation that supports FGM survivors, and we have helped 168 of them so far. We host peer support groups, we create safe spaces and we send women for counselling. We educate families and I speak in schools about the dangers of FGM. It is a violation and needs to be stopped through education. Children need to know that their bodies belong to them.

I faced resistance at the start because the village where I live in Essex is predominantly white. FGM mainly affects migrant communities in the UK, but it can also affect people who have lived here for years. The problem has got worse here since the pandemic. It's often done by a loved one, behind closed doors. They think it's normal and it's part of their culture or tradition. There's a lot of shame and stigma and many girls don't want to talk negatively about their family or their community. I have printed leaflets about FGM in different languages so I can reach out to women in all communities.

I am proud to be an ambassador for Healthwatch Essex, a group that aims to educate others about living with trauma. I recently gave a speech about FGM at a United Nations conference in New York. I thought to myself about the days when I was younger, being a slave girl, then to find myself in New York, talking in front of so many people. I was very tearful, knowing I could use my pain and my voice to help others.

A lot of things were taken away from me and I lived in pain, shame and loneliness for a very long time. FGM is a life sentence and I am still living with the physical and emotional trauma. But I refuse to let it define me. I am strong and I am loved and I won't stop telling my story until this barbaric practice no longer exists.



**Aged 11, my grandfather died and I moved to a new city to my relative's house. I became a slave girl and I was passed around to different families. I didn't feel as if anyone truly cared about me and I missed my grandmother**

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 89 -

Crossword grid with clues: 1. Water in Swahili, 5. moving at a low speed, 8. become more successful than, 10. a person or thing that loses, 11. a friendly form of address in India, 12. a pioneer of the American animation, 14. icon, 17. at a lower level than, 21. on a line at right angles to a ship's or an aircraft's length, 22. her mother city is called Mexicocity, 23. Steal in Swahili, 24. a south American plant related to wood sorrel, cultivated in Peru for its edible tubers.

Word search grid with words: DEPORTEE, ENROL, OLEATE, OLIVE, OYO : SEE, TIPSTER, HOT: USE, VOTE, HERERO, HOME, UTTERER, EVE, HOD: SLY, ASTERN, TREYS.

Yesterday's solution grid with words: DOME, ADAGE, GUARDIAN, OVEN, GAD, FEU, VEAL, ENDOW, OGRESS, W, ERNIE, GEY, SHIRT, W, IVY, ODOR, OWNER, I, O, LACE, PEA, MAGNAITE, MORACLE, V, ASS, E, A, N, UGANDAN, A, TITILE.



Valerie and her husband Tony have had three children, but they experienced multiple miscarriages as a result of the FGM causing infections

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME: 05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I, 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC, 06.30 AM NIPASHE, 06.50 AM MATANGAZO, 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN, 07.10 AM MATANGAZO, 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI, 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI, 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II, 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI, 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III, 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA, 09.00 AM HABARA, 09.20 AM BRAND TALK, 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF, 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS, 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO, 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN, 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS, 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW, 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF, 16.03 HRS HOJA YA LEO, 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC, 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO, 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN, 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI, 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF, 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI, 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO).



## BUSINESS

## KQ, Precision Air want rivalry rules waiver extension



NAIROBI

Kenya Airways (KQ) has applied for an extension of a special exemption granted two years, allowing for the creation and sharing of revenues on routes serviced in a joint venture pact with Tanzania's Precision Air.

The Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK), in its latest report for the financial year to June 2023, said that the application is under review.

"The airlines applied for exemptions on coordination on a number of aspects of the services offered, including reciprocal code-sharing, alignment and coordination of management activities and pricing of ticket fares," said CAK. In 2018, the two competing airlines sought an exemption from CAK because, under the JV, they would share sensitive information contrary to provisions of section 21(3) of the Competition Act. This allowed them reciprocal code-sharing on the routes operated by the two airlines.

The deal also enables the two airlines to coordinate their network activities, align fares on the JV routes, coordinate management of revenue on the routes, and coordinate marketing and sales.

CAK granted KQ and Precision a four-year exemption to extend their JV until April 11, 2022. KQ owns a 41.23 percent stake in Precision Air Services which it acquired in 2003.

KQ flies to more than 42 destinations across the world, while Precision offers scheduled and chartered air passenger and cargo transportation services with domestic flights within Tanzania and regional flights to Nairobi and Moroni.

CAK says that the two airlines had earlier reached out to it requesting an advisory opinion on whether they could extend the JV agreement exemption upon its expiry.

According to unaudited financial statements, Kenya Airways narrowed its net loss by 40.6 percent to Sh22.6 billion in the year ended December, helped by a surge in revenues.

The company had made a net loss of Sh38.2 billion the year before. Kenya Airways grew its sales 52.8 percent to Sh178.4 billion as it rebuilt its route network and capacity from the depths of the Covid-19 pandemic that disrupted the global aviation sector.

KQ, as the carrier is known by its international code, recorded an improvement in operational results which were however wiped out by losses on foreign exchange and early lease terminations.

The airline posted an operating profit of Sh10.5 billion, reversing an operating loss of Sh5.6 billion a year earlier.

This reflected the faster growth in revenue compared to operating costs which increased 37.2 percent to Sh167.9 billion.

## EQUITIES: Foreign investors record 21bn/- net selloff in Q1

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign investors recorded a net selloff of 21.8bn/- on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) during the first quarter of this year, which was seven times of the value recorded during similar quarter of last year.

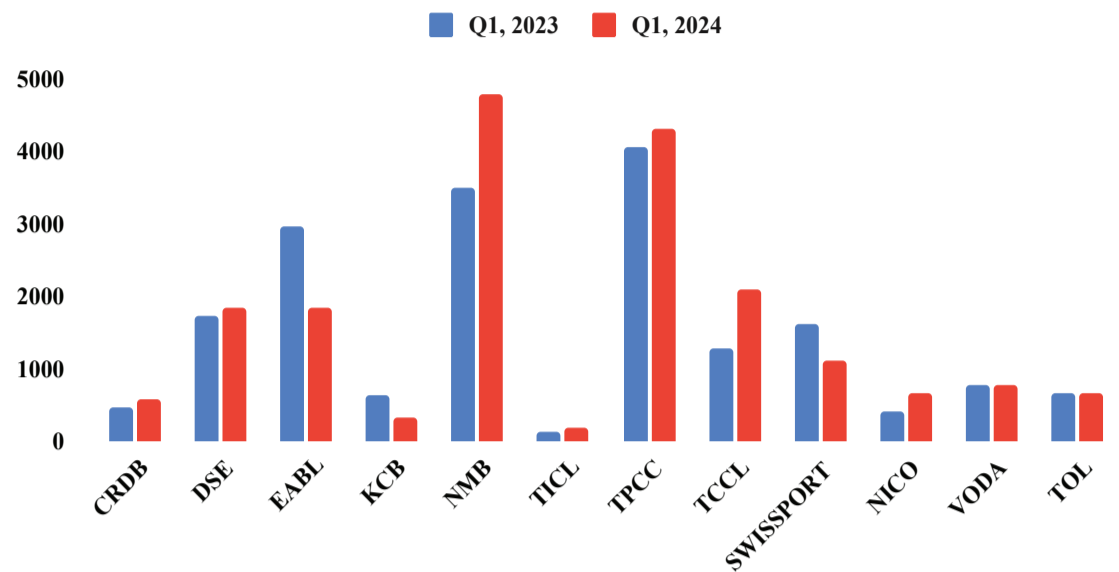
The market report summary shows that the turnover from share sold by foreign investor during the first three months of this year amounted to 26.1bn/-, which is equivalent to 45.49 percent of total value of shares sold, against buying value of 4.3bn/- of 7.61 percent.

During the first quarter of last year, foreigners sold shares valued 6.5bn/- which was equivalent to 67.79 percent of total value of shares sold, while the buying value amounted to 3.4bn/- equivalent to 82.88 percent of total value of shares bought.

Market analyst expect increased shares sell among foreign investors, specifically dormant blue chip counters, and gaining buying trends among active counters.

"We expect an increased involvement of buying shares among foreign investors during the next quarter as many are targeting dividends announcements in April and May," said an analyst who spoke with The Guardian

Share prices of selected listed companies on DSE in Q1, 2023 and Q1, 2024



Source: DSE

over the weekend.

According to the market report, a total turnover of 57.6bn/- was recorded during the first quarter of this year, which is 250 percent of the turnover recorded during the first quarter of last year.

Local investors dominated both market activities, after recording 54.51 percent of total value of shares sold and 92.39 percent of total value of shares bought.

Total market capitalization declined by 800bn/- during the reviewed period, as it closed at 14.9trn/-, compared to 15.7trn/- recorded during the end of the first quarter of last year due to decrease of

share prices for both locally listed and cross listed companies.

Counters which recorded an increase of share prices include CRDB Bank, which closed at 570/- at the end of the first quarter of this year, the historical high, compared to 475/- recorded at the end of the first quarter of last year, DSE Plc from 1,720/- to 1,840/-, NMB Bank which its share jumped to 4,780/- from 3,500/- and Tanga Cement (TCCL) which closed at 2,100/- from 1,280/-.

Other gained counters include TOL Gases, which its share increased to 660/- from 650/-, Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC), which closed

at 4,300/- from 4,060/-, NICO from 400/- to 650/-, NMG from 280/- to 310/- and TCCIA Investment company, which gained to 195/- from 140/-.

The market reports show counters which their share prices declined include East Africa Breweries Limited (from 1,840/- from 2,970/-), Mkombozi Commercial Bank (from 780/- to 630/-), DCB (from 170/- to 130/-), Maendeleo Bank Plc (from 395/- to 305/-), JATU (from 290/- to 265/-) Jubilee Holdings Limited (from 3,120/- to 2,980/-, KCB Bank from 620/- to 315/- and Swissport from 1,620/- to 1,100/-.

However, the reports shows the share prices of

Precision Air (PA), Kenya Airways (KA), Swala, Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC), Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL), Vodacom Tanzania (VODA) Uchumi Supermarket Limited ((USL), TATEPA and Yetu Microfinance counters remained unchanged during the reviewed period.

According to the report summaries, Tanzania Share Index (TS) closed at 4,462.29 points during the end of the first quarter of this year, an increase from 4,091.56 points recorded during the end of the first quarter of last year while the DSEI declined to 1,790.24 points compared to 1,888.79 points respectively.

## Milk production volume reaches 3.6bn litres by 2023

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has successfully managed to increase milk production volume from 2.2billion litres during 2020/21 to at least 3.6 billion litres during 2022/23.

This development has been achieved through effective role played by the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), according to the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the parent ministry, Professor Daniel Mushi.

He unveiled the development in his remarks to open a special meeting tailored for the rolling out of copies of School Milk Feeding Program (SMFP) documents.

Held over the weekend in Dodoma Capital City, the gathering went in tandem with official handing over of the special booths which will be used to roll out milk services in schools in the envisaged program.

In his speech, Prof Mushi informed that great efforts have so far been made by the government to ensure for increased production, processing and availability of livestock products in the country, including milk.

"These efforts, also incorporated fruitful working initiatives



Deputy Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Prof Daniel Mushi speaks during special meeting tailored for the rolling out of copies of School Milk Feeding Program (SMFP) documents, held over the weekend in Dodoma Capital City. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

by the parent ministry and TDB to introduce best crossbred dairy cows to the dairy farmers across the country" he informed.

And he added that through the constructive strategies, there was a purchase of a total of 3,160 foundation stock cows, as well as introduction of improved bulls at the various state-owned livestock farms across the country, the development which played notable role in help heightening milk production.

"And through the period, much efforts were done to improve the

country's livestock ecotypes," he added.

Speaking earlier, the Registrar of the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), Dr. George Msalya expressed that process for development of the school milk feeding program had involved a range of key stakeholders for getting proper experience and other necessary inputs.

Patrick Codjia, Head of Nutrition, United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) said implementation of the envisaged program, school milk feeding program, was a vital move to en-

sure for effective utilisation of the country's livestock-related products, being with an eye to improve the state of nutrition across the country.

Expecting to gobble up to 15bn/- in order to run for at least five years, the healthful program targets to benefit students within a total of 500 schools across the country, and for both purposes, improving their (students) health and cognitive levels.

The plan, among others is to commence with at least 100 schools in the period of 2023/2024 while other 100 schools will be added every year for the five consecutive years of the implementation and schools covered is expected to increase from 125 to 625 schools by 2027, with the targeted beneficiaries students are those aged between 4 to 19 years.

Stakeholders involved in the development of the Action Plan for Implementation of School Milk Program in Tanzania (2023-2028) include the President Office, (Regional Authority and Local Government), Prime Minister's office, ministry of education, ministry of health, Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

## Big oil criticised for falling short of net-zero goals

By Irina

Climate Action 100+, a lobby group comprising many of the world's biggest asset managers, has criticized Big Oil majors for falling short of a set of criteria devised to assess a company's preparedness for a net-zero world.

The finding, as detailed in a recent Reuters report, is hardly a surprise since it has been a while since anyone involved in the transition push had a good word to say about the oil industry.

However, the timing of this latest attack on the oil industry is notable. Climate Action

100+ is slamming oil and gas producers for doing what they do as more signs emerge that the transition away from oil and gas will be a lot more challenging than hoped.

Climate Action 100+ used a rating framework designed by the Transition Pathway Initiative Centre, an entity of the London School of Economics to rate the 10 biggest public oil and gas companies in Europe and North America. It found that, overall, those companies only met 19 percent of the requirements set out in the framework for net-zero preparedness.

The ratings were done in three segments, namely Disclosure, Alignment, and Climate

Solutions. The best performer was TotalEnergies, which scored high on Disclosure, which refers to how open a company is about its operations, and on Climate Solutions, which covers investments in alternative energy. Like the rest of the companies analyzed, however, even TotalEnergies rated low on Alignment, which refers to the amount of oil and gas each company produces.

Climate Action 100+ essentially criticized Big Oil for producing too much oil and gas, for not reporting enough about its operations, and for not investing enough in alternative energy. None of these criticisms are new, and none of them are going away.

But they are coming at the industry at a time when physical demand for oil and gas is shattering forecasts of peak oil and gas. With them, the health of demand for oil and gas is also shattering the argument that a transition away from hydrocarbons is both possible and possible fast.

Artificial intelligence is a pertinent example. Big Tech is in a rush to expand on its AI capabilities and sell them to everyone they work with.

But there is a problem. AI data centers are even more power hungry than non-AI data centers. This means that AI is driving a surge in electricity demand, and even staunch

advocates of the transition, such as Ernest Moniz, are admitting that this demand cannot be met without hydrocarbons.

"We're not going to build 100 gigawatts of new renewables in a few years. You're kind of stuck," Moniz said recently, as quoted by the Wall Street Journal in an article detailing the dilemma of AI developers: growth versus the emissions footprint of the energy used to power that growth.

There is also the question of energy security. It may have disappeared from news headlines, but it is as pressing as it was two years ago.



# Investing in women is good for business development

By Lilian Makau

In honour of Women's Month, it's important to better understand the role of women, not only in society but in the sustainable growth and development of our country. Women represent 51 percent of the labour force in Tanzania and their participation is essential in building an inclusive society and the growth of the economy.

The expansion of women's economic opportunities has contributed to Tanzania's sustained growth over the past 20 years, which culminated in its transition from low-income to lower-middle-income status in 2020. Women are often at the forefront of community-building efforts, building investments in their families and communities. Investing in women creates a ripple effect that extends far beyond the confines of the marketplace. While there have been significant efforts to empower

women within the country, there is still more to be done to enhance women's ability to realise their full economic potential.

Businesses play a vital role in contributing towards bridging the gender gap. One of the most crucial ways in which businesses can support women's empowerment is by ensuring equal opportunities within their organizations. According to Morgan Stanley Capital International, strong female leadership generates a return on equity of 10.1 percent per annum as compared to 7.4 percent for businesses without strong female leadership. This speaks to the importance of diversity and inclusion in corporate leadership, not just as a matter of social justice, but as a sound business strategy. Companies that embrace gender diversity at the top levels are not only more profitable but also more innovative and resilient in the face of challenges.

At Standard Chartered, di-



iversity and inclusion are an important facet of our culture. Currently, 56 percent of our staff are women, with an increasing number of women

successfully transitioning to management roles and board seats. Additionally, the bank has instituted policies and initiatives to improve the work-

place environment for women.

To support female employees, the bank enhanced its benefits package, notably increasing maternity leave from 84 to 140 days, eliminating the three-year waiting period for additional births, and ensuring that performance evaluations do not penalize employees on maternity leave. Further, the Bank is also upholds fair par structures; minimizing the gender pay gap-a fundamental component of our commitment to promoting equality.

Furthermore, the Enhancing Youth Entrepreneurship and Employability (EYEE) programme was funded by the Standard Chartered Foundation and delivered by VSO. It is part of Futuremakers by Standard Chartered, our global youth economic empowerment initiative to support disadvantaged young people, especially women and people with disabilities, to learn, earn, and grow. Through EYEE, we reached 567 women repre-

sented 61 percent of the total beneficiaries. The beneficiaries of this project mainly youth between the ages of 18 to 35 were equipped with entrepreneurship, technical, and professional employability skills. These efforts have not only created employment opportunities but have also fostered economic independence among women, contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the nation.

We also support women through our GOAL programme; which is funded by Standard Chartered Foundation and delivered by BRAC. It is part of Futuremakers by Standard Chartered geared towards promoting financial freedom for women aged 15 to 24 years from low-income families. The project implemented in Kibaha district, Pwani Region is expected to reach 612 women directly in 2024. The programme aims to create financial freedom for the women and reduce

dependence on their families. GOAL leverages on sports and games to address different issues in the community. This project enables women to be equipped with knowledge and awareness on gender issues and health related topics so as to reduce teenage pregnancy. This not only alters the trajectory of individual lives but also paves the way for a more inclusive and equitable society.

The journey towards a truly inclusive economy is a shared responsibility. Standard Chartered has taken a commendable step in the right direction. Now, it's time for the entire Tanzanian business community to embrace diversity and unlock the full potential of its talented women. Together, we can build a more prosperous and equitable future for Tanzania, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

**Lilian Makau (pictured) is the Head of Human Resources, at Standard Chartered Bank.**

## Kikwete urges financial sector to adhere on professionalism

By Guardian Reporter

Former President Jakaya Kikwete has urged financial institutions to adhere to professionalism to increase productivity in promoting investment and economic growth in various sectors, including business.

Speaking at a brief iftar event organized by NBC Bank for its customers in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Kikwete used NBC as a significant example to demonstrate the strength of the institutions, which, in addition to increasing lending rates and providing various services to customers, have also been able to generate significant profits and thus continue to strengthen themselves.

"When I give congratulations and thanks, I mean it sincerely because many financial institution reforms took place when I was Minister of Finance, so I know well where we are now and where we came from. Today, when I see banks announcing billions of shillings in profit, it proves that the reforms we implemented at that time have been successful," stated

Kikwete, citing NBC Bank, which made a profit of 122 billion shillings last year, as an example.

Using more examples and historical context, Kikwete explained how customers faced difficulties in accessing financial services at the institutions before the government intervened and took various measures, including closing and restructuring the ownership and management structure of some banks.

"All those challenges are now history. All I wanted to share with you is, financial sector is the lifeblood of the economy. If the sector falters, it will cause the economy to decline. Therefore, I congratulate NBC and all other institutions for continuing to provide services professionally while also strengthening their capital," he added.

Commenting on the bank's iftar events for its customers in various locations across the country, Kikwete stated that such events increase trust among the bank's customers, as it is evidence that the relationship between the bank and the customer extends beyond business



NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (R) presents a gift to former president Jakaya Kikwete during iftar at the bank hosted for its customers in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

and also touches on their faith.

"Iftar events like these make your customers feel good because we see that we are being served by a bank that also val-

ues our spiritual interests," he added.

Theobald Sabi, bank's managing director stated that the move has been a tradition of the

bank for the past 15 years, aiming to join and unite with its customers as a way of showing solidarity during the holy month of Ramadan.

He emphasized that the bank respects the holy month of Ramadan because it is when individuals draw closer to their Creator through fasting and prayer.

"This month also reminds us to do what is good in front of our God. Since NBC is always close to the faith of its customers, we decided to organize these iftar events to join our fellow Muslims in achieving that," Sabi said.

Sabi also highlighted the bank's special service, "La Riba," which is designed for customers who adhere to the Islamic faith, following the principles of the religion regarding financial matters and the view of the religion on interest.

"NBC is the first major bank to establish banking services based on Islamic legal principles through La Riba Banking, including savings and business accounts for individuals, entrepreneurs, and large businesses. The bank also offers a special fixed deposit account that follows the principle of "Mudharaba." Additionally, through La Riba, we provide loan services to large and medium-sized traders, small-scale entrepreneurs, and public and private-sector employees," explained Sabi.

The iftar event was attended by various guests, including government officials, religious leaders led by the Chief Sheikh of Dar es Salaam, Sheikh Walid Alhad Omar, political party leaders, customers, agents, and employees of the bank.



Anisa Nkulo (2nd L), Route Marketing Consultancy director, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam on the alleged illegal rebranding of a local motorcycle wholesaler company 'SANLG World Investment Ltd'. Second right is Bahari Leo, SANLG Project Manager. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke.



Head of KCB Bank's sharia compliance banking services (Sahi) Amour Muro (C) speaks during the first conference of Ramadan Hay-atul Ulamaa by the organization of Muslim Scholars Tanzania to discussing issues pertaining to Islamic finance. Left is the Rashid Rashid Head of Islamic Banking at CRDB Bank, Ally Mohamed from NBC (2nd L) and Jamal Juma, Products development & sharia compliance Manager (3rd L). The conference was held recently Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Motorcycle dealer seeks to fight brand piracy

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

In order to ensure a positive and efficient business environment in the country, a local motorcycle wholesaler company has raised concerns over prevailing brand piracy and a note on strict legal actions to be taken upon the act.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam over the week-

**“We are commonly known as SANLG World Investment Ltd the actual owners of the trademark as officially registered by Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA)**

end, Anisa Nkulo, Route Marketing Consultancy director

said there have been prevailing situation of some people

rebranding SANLG contrary to the overall business legal procedures and principles.

"We are commonly known as SANLG World Investment Ltd the actual owners of the trademark as officially registered by Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

Nkulo said the original motorcycles belonging to the company have the brand name

at the front edge of the vehicle while fake ones have a plastic label.

However, Nkulo has urged Tanzanians to report people that they might find engaging in selling or using fake SANLG motorcycles of which if the person reported is found guilty, the informer will be given a special gift of thanks.

"We call upon Tanzanians to

report on the matter in circumstances where they will meet with whoever that will be rebranding SANLG motorcycles or on the other hand using the fake brand. If the information will be proved beyond doubt that the accused person committed the crime on aspects of sales, address, name of the company, address, full names likewise the Tax Identification

Number (TIN), we will offer a total amount of 200,000/- as a job well done appreciation," she said. Bahari Leo, SANLG Project Manager said there are a lot of negative impacts upon the fraud hence urging people to stop using the fake brands as they are indirectly limiting the firms profit that they produce to benefit the users.



# Hedge funds bet on Europe for next stock rally

By Sagarika Jaisinghani & Michael Msika

Investors are betting that Europe will drive the next leg of the global equity rally, broadening their playbooks as a more expensive US market evokes memories of the dot-com bubble.

Hedge funds are now the most exposed they have ever been to European stocks relative to a global benchmark, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. data. Mutual funds have also amped up allocations to the region's equities by the most since June 2020, a recent survey by Bank of America Corp. showed.

The prospect of "Europe's outperformance against US stocks certainly has legs," Paul Brain, deputy chief investment officer of multi-asset at Newton Investment Management, said in an interview in London. "US big tech seems fully priced and may run into headwinds from competition and regulation after the recent rally."

Euro area shares have risen by around 4 percent in March, outpacing their US peers, and investors expect them to keep climbing if a rebound in economic growth revitalizes corporate profits. That's as the artificial intelligence fervor gripping the US market makes the fortunes of the S&P 500 Index increasingly reliant on a group of



relatively expensive tech stocks. Hedge funds' allocation to Europe versus the MSCI All-Country World Index reached 5.8% overweight last week, the highest level on record, according to the Goldman Sachs data.

Despite Europe's gains this month, its benchmark Stoxx 600 Index still looks cheap. Its forward 12-month price-to-earnings ratio of about 14 is only slightly higher than its long-term average, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Even excluding richly valued tech stocks, the S&P 500 is in expensive territory.

Europe's heavier weighting in

more cyclical sectors could work in its favor as economies such as Germany and the UK look set to undergo a prolonged recession and global growth picks up. Any easing in interest rates could also help.

"As interest rates come down and we get this soft landing, the opportunity for broadening out into some more cyclical parts of the market is improving," Goldman Sachs' Peter Oppenheimer said on Bloomberg TV. Tech stocks will perform well, but the strategist sees "better relative valuation opportunities outside the US."

A drastic reduction in short positioning also shows sentiment toward European stocks is improving, according to S&P Global. Estimated short positions on the region were cut to less than 0.2% of total market capitalization at the end of last year, the lowest level in at least a decade, and have remained near that level since.

BlackRock Inc.'s EMEA iShares team including Karim Chedid and Laura Cooper are seeing signs that funds from clients are making their way back to Europe.

"We've leaned into Europe from a tactical momentum perspective," they said in an inter-

view. "We're seeing some flows coming back, including from US investors, so we've been warming up."

The BlackRock team remains overweight US stocks on a longer-term outlook, betting on more gains related to artificial intelligence. Other market participants are convinced of a sustained rally in US stocks as they expect large-cap names to continue to deliver on earnings growth.

Going by track record, European equities have been underperforming their US peers relentlessly since the aftermath of the global financial crisis, with brief periods of relative recovery. The last significant episode of outperformance lasted about four months, between October 2022 and March 2023, and saw the Stoxx 600 beating the S&P 500 by more than 12 percentage points over that period.

The US is also expected to see strong earnings growth this year. Analysts see profits at S&P 500 firms rising 8.3 percent in 2024, while Stoxx 600 earnings are projected to grow 4%, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Intelligence.

Still, this offers room to catch up, said Nicolas Simar, a senior equity fund manager at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. "There could be some interesting opportunities in the European market," he said.

# Swatch buyers in China hesitate on higher prices

ZURICH

The Chinese market is likely to be difficult until the end of the year with consumers hesitating over higher prices, the chief executive of Swiss watchmaker Swatch Group was quoted as saying in a newspaper interview.

Swatch CEO Nick Hayek told the Neue Zuercher Zeitung that China still has great potential, but consumers are waiting a long time before making purchases.

"They have also become more price sensitive, because in many areas there have been excessive price increases. I expect the Chinese market to remain difficult until the year's end," Hayek said in the interview published at the weekend.

Swatch makes high-end Omega, Tissot and Longines watches as well the eponymous mass-market plastic models. Hayek, whose family controls 43 percent of Swatch's voting shares, was asked whether he would like to delist the firm.

"That would surely be best for the long-term development of the company. But unfortunately, going private isn't possible without getting massively into debt," said Hayek, whose sister Nayla is chair of Swatch. "And we don't like debts at all."

The paper also asked the CEO whether his nephew, Marc Hayek, who is due to be voted on to the company's board in May, would eventually replace him as chief executive.

"We know Marc is committed to the company, is passionate, does very good work and represents our corporate culture. But whether he really wants to run this company at some point or has other priorities is another question."

"My sister and I won't order him to take over at any rate," he said. "That's his decision."



# CBK plans Sh65 billion from the reopened bonds

NAIROBI

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is seeking to raise a total of Sh65 billion from a reopened two-year bond and the tap sale of five-year and 10-year bonds, with the sale of latter two securities to be conducted on a first-come-first-served basis.

The two-year paper, expected to raise Sh40 billion, will be on sale until April 17. The paper was first sold last year when it settled at an interest rate of 16.97 percent.

The auction of the five- and 10-year bonds, expected to raise Sh25 billion, will be closed on April 4 or earlier upon hitting the target, whichever comes first.

For the two bonds, the government's fiscal agent will be seeking part of the Sh37.1 billion that it rejected when they were sold earlier this month when investors sought higher interest rates.

The two securities are being offered with the same returns obtained in the recent auction, giving investors another opportunity to participate at a time when there are wide expectations that interest rates have peaked and could decline going forward.

Total investor bids from the papers' recent auction reached Sh59.7 billion but the CBK accepted only Sh22.6 billion, rejecting Sh37.1 billion as investors sought higher returns than those signalled by the institution.

Investors bid Sh23.8 billion on the 10 year paper at an average of 17.75 percent despite the CBK publishing guidance of a 16 percent return on the security which was the first long term paper to be sold in more than a year.

Only Sh4.8 billion of bids on security were accepted at an average rate of 16.5 percent.

The five-year bond attracted bids of Sh35.8 billion at an average rate of 18.59 percent. The CBK took Sh17.7 billion of the offers at a slightly lower rate of 18.41 percent.

Investors participating in the tap sale will take the same returns adjusted for accrued interest since the bonds' auction on March 25.

The CBK has stepped up its rejection of expensive investor bids in recent weeks as it seeks to put brakes on the significant growth in interest rates over the past year with the view of driving down government debt service costs.

Interest rates on new treasuries hit a high of 18.46 percent last month when the 8.5-year infrastructure bond - which will partial redemptions along the way - was auctioned at an interest rate of 18.46 percent.

The apex bank is expected to find impetus in its quest from the reduced Eurobond maturity risks where investors had attached a higher risk premium on securities issued by the government over default concerns.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



## ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 30 March	SUNDAY 31 March	MONDAY 1 April
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Soap rpt: Uzalo
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka	6:00 HABARI
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	6:40 Kumeleka
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	7:00 HABARI
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu	7:30 HABARI
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	8:00 Kumeleka Michozo
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	8:30 Kumeleka Michozo
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	9:00 Kumeleka Michozo
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	9:30 Soap: Laws of love
12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	10:30 Soap: Laws of love
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	11:00 Soap: Laws of love
14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	11:30 Soap: Laws of love
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	12:00 Soap: Laws of love
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	12:30 Soap: Laws of love
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	13:00 Soap: Laws of love
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	13:30 Soap: Laws of love
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	14:00 Soap: Laws of love
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	14:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	15:00 Soap: Laws of love
21:05 Slay Queen	21:05 Slay Queen	15:30 Soap: Laws of love
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	16:00 Soap: Laws of love
22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	16:30 Soap: Laws of love
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	17:00 Soap: Laws of love
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	17:30 Soap: Laws of love
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	18:00 Soap: Laws of love

TUESDAY 2 April	WEDNESDAY 3 April	THURSDAY 4 April
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Slay Queen	21:05 Slay Queen	21:05 Slay Queen
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 5 April	SATURDAY 6 April	SUNDAY 7 April
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumeleka
6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka	7:00 Habari
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and lifestyle
12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe
14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Jungu kuu
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	21:05 Slay Queen
21:05 Slay Queen	21:05 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	

MONDAY 8 April	TUESDAY 9 April	WEDNESDAY 10 April
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Slay Queen	21:05 Slay Queen	21:05 Slay Queen
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 11 April	FRIDAY 12 April	SATURDAY 13 April
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumeleka
6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka	7:00 Habari
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and lifestyle
12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe
14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:50 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Jungu kuu
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	21:05 Slay Queen
21:05 Slay Queen	21:05 Slay Queen	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	

SUNDAY 14 April	MONDAY 15 April	TUESDAY 16 April
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka	6:40 Kumeleka
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle	12:50 Art and lifestyle



## WORLD

## UN chief calls for global action to combat waste crisis

## UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday called for worldwide efforts to tackle the waste crisis.

In a video message for the International Day of Zero Waste, which falls on March 30 annually, the UN chief highlighted the perilous state of the planet.

"Our planet is drowning under a torrent of trash," Guterres said, painting a dire picture of the environmental degradation caused by humanity's overconsumption and waste production. With "more than 2 billion tons of municipal solid waste" produced every year, the

consequences are devastating for the earth's climate, ecosystems and human health. He emphasized the urgency of addressing overconsumption, stating "overconsumption is killing us. Humanity needs an intervention."

Guterres praised the efforts of the Advisory Board on Zero Waste for its role in uniting various stakeholders around the mission of achieving zero waste.

To combat this crisis, the top UN official outlined a multifaceted approach. "Businesses must rethink their products to minimize wasteful packaging and maximize longevity and lifecycle," he said, urging a shift toward sustain-



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on maintenance of international peace and security, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, March 18, 2024, at UN headquarters. AP

able production practices. Consumers are also called upon to "think twice about the goods and products they purchase, and recycle or reuse wherever possible."

Guterres underscored the importance of government action in fostering circular economies that prioritize "reuse, remanufacturing, recovery, and waste prevention."

He pointed out the need for modern waste-management programs that can significantly mitigate the im-

pacts of resource depletion.

"On this Zero Waste Day, let's pledge to end the destructive cycle of waste, once and for all," said Guterres, urging global citizens to commit to sustainable practices that protect the planet for future generations.

On Dec 14, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its 77th session to proclaim March 30 as International Day of Zero Waste to be observed annually.

Xinhua

## Istanbul voters prioritise quake preparedness ahead of polls

## ISTANBUL

AS Istanbul gears up for Sunday's local elections, the focus of many voters remains fixed on the city's readiness to withstand earthquakes, spurred by memories of last year's catastrophic tremor in southern Türkiye.

In February last year, a devastating earthquake hit southern Türkiye, killing 55,000 people and displacing millions more. The catastrophe heightened concerns in Istanbul, a city long warned by experts to be vulnerable to a powerful earthquake due to its location at the western terminus of the North Anatolian Fault Line.

Bingül Albay, 68, an Istanbul resident, voiced her apprehension over the city's vulnerability to major earthquakes and believed that the measures implemented in this regard were inadequate.

"The matter of urban transformation and readiness for a potential earthquake is the foremost concern for Istanbul," she said, expressing hope that the incoming mayor would promptly and decisively address these issues.

Necip Varan, a resident of the Ortakoy neighborhood on the European side, also voiced his doubts regarding the structural resilience of buildings in his area.

"My home is situated on Dereboyu (Stream Bank) Street, which suggests the presence of a waterway beneath," Varan told Xinhua while actively participating in the election campaign for the candidate from the Workers' Party of Türkiye.

"In the case of an earthquake, will we be able to survive under these buildings?" he said, emphasizing his expectation for the incoming mayor to address this pressing question.

To calm the concerns of residents, the city government initiated a scanning program to test the strength of the buildings.

Ekrem Imamoglu, the current mayor representing the Republican People's Party (CHP), disclosed on his website that municipal teams have conducted earthquake risk analyses on over 100,000 buildings since the deadly earthquake.

The mayor stated that the municipality had evacuated and demolished nearly 1,600 buildings, completing 16 projects totaling 10,039 units.

Meanwhile, Imamoglu's main rival, Murat Kurum, the candidate of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), has pledged to kickstart the transformation of 650,000 houses if elected to office.

Gungor Ugrac, an electoral worker at the AKP election tent in the Besiktas district, said Kurum's electoral teams had prepared a highly detailed brochure outlining his plans for earthquake preparedness in the event of his victory in the elections.

"Young people and families may cast their votes for the candidate who presents robust earthquake preparedness projects," he told Xinhua.

Aysel Kaynar, an official at the CHP's election tent in Besiktas, emphasized that people are primarily concerned about Imamoglu's plans and initiatives regarding earthquakes.

"The zoning procedures are straightforward, and permits are issued promptly. Those interested in renovating their buildings can proceed without delay," Kaynar said when explaining the procedures involved in transforming old buildings.

On March 31, an estimated 11.3 million people are anticipated to vote in Istanbul. The election is expected to be highly competitive between candidates from the AKP and CHP.



Supporters of Justice and Development (AK) Party attend an election campaign rally in Istanbul on March 24, 2024, ahead of the March 31 municipal elections. AFP

## Second shipment of aid for Gaza leaves Cyprus port

## NICOSIA / WASHINGTON / GAZA / RAMALLAH

A SHIPMENT of about 875 tons of food aid for Gaza residents left port early on Saturday afternoon, semi-state Cyprus News Agency reported.

It said that the food, mostly flour, rice and sugar, was loaded aboard three vessels and one platform which were already outside the port and were heading to Gaza.

This is the second aid shipment of aid to Gaza from Larnaca since the Amalthea marine aid corridor was initiated on March 12. The aid will be unloaded at a makeshift pier constructed on the Gaza coast with rubble from bombed-out buildings.

Deputy government spokesman Yiannis Antoniou said ahead of the departure of the vessels that the cargo had already been inspected by the authorities of Cyprus, and necessary inspections had been carried out by the Israelis.

Under an agreement reached with Israel for the lifting of the 2007 sea blockade of Gaza, Israeli security agents were given the right to inspect aid items before loading at Larnaca port.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Thursday that more than 1.1 million people in the Gaza Strip are facing "an extreme level of food insecurity," as Israel prevents aid from entering the enclave.

Also on Thursday, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague ordered Israel to do whatever is necessary to ensure that basic aid reaches the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip.

Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage in southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 were taken hostage.

The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 32,705, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said on Saturday.

In a press statement, the ministry said that during the past 24 hours, the Israeli army killed 82 people and wounded 98 others in the Palestinian coastal enclave.

This brings the total death toll to 32,705 and injuries to 75,190, since the Israel-Hamas conflict broke out in, according to the ministry.

On Saturday night, at least 12 Palestinians were killed and 30 injured by Israeli bombing on those who were responsible for securing aid in Gaza City, according to Palestine TV.

Medical teams struggled to transport the casualties, with some still lying on the ground awaiting assistance, security sources told Xinhua.

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has not commented on



Zhang Jun (center, front), China's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), speaks at a Security Council meeting on the Ukraine crisis, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Feb 23, 2024. XINHUA

the incident.

## More bombs, fighter jets

The US government has authorized the transfer of bombs and fighter jets worth billions of US dollars to Israel, despite an increasing rift between the White House and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government over a potential ground operation by the Israeli military in Rafah, according to US media.

The new arms packages include more than 1,800 MK84 2,000-pound bombs and 500 MK82 500-pound bombs, according to Pentagon and State Department officials who spoke to The Washington Post on condition of anonymity, as recent authorizations have not been disclosed publicly.

Israel's extensive use of 2,000-pound bombs, heavy ammunition capable of killing or wounding people more than 100 meters away, in Gaza raids is linked with heavy civilian casualties, CNN reported.

Israel is facing strong international flak over its continued bombing campaign and ground offensive in Gaza. Regional coun-

tries and humanitarian organizations have warned of the disastrous consequences of Israel's planned ground operation in Rafah, where more than 1.4 million Palestinians live, including 1.3 million refugees from the northern regions.

Despite international pressure, Netanyahu's government canceled on Monday a scheduled delegation visit to Washington for talks on a possible alternative to a ground offensive by the Israeli military in Rafah, citing the US abstention at the UN Security Council voting for a resolution that calls for an immediate ceasefire during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

In Cairo, the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, and France met on Saturday to discuss joint efforts at resolving the humanitarian crisis in the besieged Gaza Strip and finding a lasting solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and his Jordanian and French counterparts, Ayman Safadi and Stephane Sejourne, called for "an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the

Gaza Strip and the release of all hostages and detainees," according to a joint statement released by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

They also warned against "the horrific consequences of the humanitarian situation, the famine and the collapse of the health system in the Gaza Strip," stressing their opposition to any attempts of forcible transfer and displacement of the Palestinian people.

The three foreign ministers demanded Israel "lift all obstacles and allow and facilitate the use of all land crossing" to expand humanitarian aid delivery to the people of the war-torn enclave.

## West Bank shooting

Also on Saturday, the Israeli army killed a Palestinian teenager, and wounded two others in the West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian medical sources said.

The sources, who require anonymity, told Xinhua that 13-year-old Mutasim Abu Abed was hit by live bullets in the town of Qabatiya, south of Jenin.

The sources added that the two injured people, one in serious condition, had been transferred to Al-Razi Hospital in Jenin.

ON March 20, China sent a new relay satellite into space to provide Earth-Moon communications services.

The relay satellite dubbed Queqiao-2, or Magpie Bridge-2, was launched by the Long March-8 Y3 carrier rocket from the Wenchang Space Launch Site in south China's Hainan province at 8:31 a.m. Beijing Time.

"As a 'key link' in the implementation of the fourth phase of China's lunar exploration program, the Queqiao-2 relay satellite will serve as a communications hub," according to Ge Ping, deputy director of the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

The fourth phase of China's lunar exploration program,

## New journey begins for fourth phase of China's lunar exploration programme

reportedly approved for implementation in December 2021, consists of four missions: Chang'e-4, Chang'e-6, Chang'e-7, and Chang'e-8. Among them, Chang'e-4 was launched in December 2018, achieving the first-ever soft landing and roving exploration on the far side of the moon in the world. Chang'e-6 is scheduled for launch in the first half of this year, while Chang'e-7 and Chang'e-8 will form the basic model of a lunar research station and carry out tasks including exploration of the lunar environment.

Why is it necessary to launch the Queqiao-2 relay satellite?

Experts explained that since the moon always has one side

facing away from the Earth, probes landing on the far side of the moon are blocked by the moon itself, making it impossible to directly communicate and transmit data with the measurement-control system on Earth. In this case, a relay satellite is needed to bridge the information connection between ground stations and the lunar probe.

China launched the first relay satellite Queqiao in 2018 to transmit signals between ground stations and the Chang'e-4 probe that landed on the far side of the moon. So far, the Queqiao has been in orbit for many years and has exceeded its designed lifespan. "The landing and sample

collection sites of the fourth phase of China's lunar exploration program are mainly in the lunar south pole region or on the far side of the moon.

Therefore, a relay satellite with broader functionality and higher performance is needed to establish a new 'relay communications station' between the moon and Earth to overcome communications and data transmission challenges," Ge said.

Compared with the first Queqiao relay satellite, the Queqiao-2 relay satellite boasts more technological innovations, a broader range of technical capabilities, enhanced functionalities, more complex interfaces, higher

development complexity, and a longer mission time span. Besides serving Earth-Moon communications, it also carries multiple scientific payloads and will conduct scientific exploration missions.

According to the CNSA, in addition to the fourth phase of China's lunar exploration program, the Queqiao-2 can also provide Earth-Moon communications services for future domestic and international lunar exploration missions.

When it comes to the Chang'e-6 set to return samples from the far side of the moon, experts said that all 10 lunar sample return missions conducted by humans

by far have taken place on the near side of the moon. The far side of the moon is generally older than the near side and contains the Aitken Basin, one of the three major lunar terranes, making it highly valuable for scientific research.

The pre-selected landing area for the Chang'e-6 mission is the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon, thus enabling the probe to discover and collect lunar samples from different regions and ages to help humans learn more about the moon.

Following the successful mission of the Chang'e-6, scientists will conduct systematic and long-term research

on the lunar samples from the far side of the moon, analyzing the structure, physical properties, and material composition of the lunar regolith to deepen human understanding of the moon's origin and evolutionary history.

Currently, a new wave of lunar exploration is sweeping across the world, with major spacefaring nations actively engaging in lunar exploration activities.

Ge noted that China has always been attaching importance to international cooperation in its lunar exploration program, and China's door is always open for collaborative efforts, which have been proven by many vivid examples and win-win results in previous lunar exploration missions. **People's Daily**



## Reinvestigation: What, if anything, has the US gained from its trade war with China?

BEIJING

THOUGH clashing in many ways, the current U.S. administration and its Republican predecessor have one thing in common: the trade war against China.

As recently as February, U.S. utility company Duke Energy, under pressure from Congress, reportedly planned to remove Chinese battery giant CATL from a Marine Corps base over "national security concerns," a well-remembered pretext of the Joe Biden administration to contain China – from discriminatory policies like the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act, to tariffs, export controls and investment reviews, to name but a few. It's a continuation of the policies spearheaded by Donald Trump, Biden's predecessor.

Since March 2018, Trump has imposed tariffs on Chinese imports valued at 370 billion U.S. dollars, and restricted Chinese investment. Amid the escalating trade frictions, he also included Huawei and its 114 affiliates in a blacklist of entities in May 2019. Since the two presidents still seem to believe America's economy is too reliant on China, has their country gained anything from the years-long trade war? And what does this mean for China?

### CHINESE IMPORTS STILL HUGE, BUT ON LONGER ROUTE

One of the key considerations behind the trade war, as Trump has claimed, was to reduce the country's trade deficit and dependence on Chinese goods. Even if one agrees with Trump's logic, his policy does not work.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. goods trade deficit stood at 1.06 trillion dollars in 2023, far higher than that before the trade war, with its trade deficit with Mexico rising by nearly 17 percent year on year.

Economists have said that the U.S. trade deficit stems from inner problems such as insufficient savings, which are not likely to be cured by outward actions. In essence, Trump's deficit rhetoric could be a fallacy.

"Many economists and trade experts do not believe that trade deficits hurt the economy, and warn against trying to 'win' the trade relationship with particular countries," and there is substantial debate over how much of the trade deficit is caused by foreign governments, wrote James McBride and Andrew Chatzky from the think tank the Council on Foreign Relations.

What's more, despite U.S. "de-coupling" attempts, trade



Krimson Clover's CEO and founder Rhonda Swenson shows a jacket made in China in Boulder, Colorado, the United States, Sept. 12, 2019. Krimson Clover, a small, boutique women's clothing business located on the foothills of the U.S. state of Colorado's Rocky Mountains, was losing revenue due to the U.S.-China trade war. Xinhua

links between China and the United States remain tight, though masked by politicians' talks, according to an analysis by The Economist. Direct trade has fallen and the United States is seeking "friendshoring" countries to shift its production away from China, but these countries often "act as something akin to packaging hubs for goods made with Chinese inputs that are destined for America's shores."

That has complicated global supply chains and raised costs. Researchers at the Bank for International Settlements said in a paper released in October 2023 that cross-border supplier networks – especially those involving China and the United States – have lengthened since 2021 but not become denser.

"In other words, the average number of suppliers per customer hasn't increased. More circuitous supply chains with the same number of suppliers smacks of increased complexity and reduced transparency – but not necessarily more resilience," said a Wall Street Journal article, citing the

paper. To his fellow Americans, Trump also pledged to bring back manufacturing and jobs, which has failed, too. The tariffs that Trump placed on foreign metals, washing machines and an array of goods from China starting in 2018 have neither raised nor lowered the overall number of jobs in the affected industries, showed a recent working paper by authors from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

University of Zurich, Harvard University and World Bank. Even worse, the tariffs incited other countries to impose retaliatory tariffs on American products, making them more expensive to sell overseas, which in turn had a negative effect on American jobs, said the paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Regarding agriculture, the trade war has led to "a decline in U.S. farm exports, farm jobs, and jobs in farm regions," devastating U.S. farmers, particularly in the Midwest and Deep South, said an article by Christina Pazzanese published on March 13 in The

Harvard Gazette. Tariffs on Chinese imports have also caused high prices of related U.S. goods, and ensuing hiking inflation, a major challenge facing the U.S. economy in recent years. Over the past four years, grocery prices have jumped by 25 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### UNDERMINED GLOBAL TRADE RULES

The trade war also has its global spillover, as the U.S. unilateral and protectionist impositions, which were solely based on U.S. domestic law and bypassed the World Trade Organization's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism, have damaged the international multilateral trading system.

Since 2017 when Trump, an "America First" advocate, was sworn in, the United States has been eroding the WTO's principles. In 2019, the United States blocked the selection of judges of the WTO's Appellate Body, suspending the multilateral trade arbitration body, which exposed the system to a grave threat.

The "Section 301 investigation," which originated from the Cold War era and Trump initiated against China to start the trade war, is notorious in international trade history. In September 2020, a WTO panel ruled that the Section 301 tariffs violated WTO rules.

However, the Biden administration has still acted against globalization, frequently restricting the export of high-tech products and equipment, citing "national security." In the latest development, the United States has launched an investigation into Chinese-made vehicles that use "connected" car technology.

Now, as Biden and Trump have both clinched presidential nominations, U.S. politicians are hyping trade bullying policies as campaign bids, which has cast more uncertainty on global trade and the economy. Trump said that if elected, he would raise tariffs on Chinese imports to 60 percent, or even higher.

Xinhua

Police arrest 16 protestors calling for Netanyahu's resignation, hostage release

TEL AVIV

THE Israeli police arrested 16 people in Tel Aviv who were holding large protests demanding the release of hostages from Hamas captivity in Gaza and the removal of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, CNN reported.

The police said in a statement on Friday that the protestors were arrested for "disruption of traffic and road blockages."

The police have also imposed an additional nine fines totalling 1,000 shekels (USD 270) for creating disturbances and blocking traffic.

"There were large numbers of protestors who disrupted public order by igniting fires, toppling police barriers, obstructing roads, and scuffling with law enforcement: 16 disorderly individuals were arrested and 9 citations of 1000 shekels (USD 270) were written for disruption of traffic and road blockages," the statement read.

CNN reported citing a video from the spot showing police using a water cannon to disperse protestors on the Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv and arresting at least one person, who was taken into a police vehicle.

The footage shows a number of protesters standing in front of the water cannon, chanting: "We will not give up until things get better."

Israel Police encouraged protestors in Tel Aviv to obey the law and avoid violent protests in a separate statement released on Saturday and posted on X.

Police add that all roads have been opened as the demonstrations have concluded, Times of Israel reported.

ANI

## Belt and Road archaeological cooperation fosters closer friendship among civilisations

Since China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, it has deepened exchanges and cooperation with Belt and Road partner countries across various fields over the past 10-plus years, including archaeology.

Chinese archaeological institutions have carried out 44 joint archaeological projects in 24 countries. In Belt and Road partner countries, Chinese archaeologists have been working at excavation sites, collaborating with local experts and scholars. With professionalism and outstanding techniques, they have yielded bountiful archaeological findings.

Besides, cooperation has also deepened in areas like cultural relic exhibitions, joint application for World Heritage sites, historical site preservation and restoration, as well as science talent cultivation. While disseminating Chinese archaeological techniques and philosophies, the Sino-foreign joint archaeological mechanism has also bridged cultural exchanges between China and other nations.

Blessed with abundant rainfall, lush vegetation, and beautiful sceneries, the Fergana Valley in the upper reaches of the Syr Darya River was a crucial juncture along the ancient Silk Road, establishing Uzbekistan's pivotal role in the exchange between Eastern and Western civilizations.

"The China-Uzbekistan joint archaeological studies aim to unravel the early urbanization process in the Fergana Valley," said Liu Tao, a researcher at the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Among more than 20 ancient urban sites in the Fergana Valley, the Mingtape archaeological site at the southern end of the valley has garnered significant attention. Since 2012, joint archaeological teams from China and Uzbekistan have conducted eight excavations at the site.

Adhering to the idea of great site archaeology, the Chinese team established a comprehensive digital platform based on topographical surveys. Additionally, it has



Ding Yan, a researcher with the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, works at the Rahat site in Kazakhstan.

methodically advanced excavations of the cultural layer and archaeological remains at the site.

The Rahat site, located in Kazakhstan, once thrived on the Silk Road at the northern foot of the Tianshan Mountains. Since 2017, a joint Chinese-Kazakh archaeological team has conducted multiple excavations there, aiming at uncovering the site's layout and chronological development.

"The herders here have been making a living from pasture husbandry for generations. The site we excavated was likely a winter-spring encampment where ancient nomads settled," said Ding Yan, a researcher with the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology.

Joint archaeological efforts have revived the former glory of the ancient al Serrian port in Saudi Arabia. A joint archaeological team comprised of members of China National Center of Underwater Cultural Heritage and archeologists from Saudi Arabia conducted two excavations at the site in 2018 and 2019.

The team uncovered extensive remains of large architectural structures and two orderly arranged large cemeteries, as well as vestiges of what is suspected to be a coastal freight yard, which vividly revealed the busyness of this once prosperous ancient maritime port.

"Numerous archaeological evidence from the Middle East indicates that as early as the Tang Dynasty (618-907), China had likely entered a ceramic trade boom with the Middle

East, including the Red Sea area," said Jiang Bo, Chinese leader of the joint archaeological team and professor at the Institute of Cultural Heritage, Shandong University.

Chinese archaeological techniques have played a vital role in Sino-foreign joint archaeological excavations. During a China-Saudi Arabia joint archaeological project, traditional Chinese ink rubbing technique for inscriptions stood out. The ink rubbings produced by Chinese team members helped decipher inscriptions that had become blurred by wind and sand erosion.

At the excavation site, Chinese archaeologist Liang Guoqing was often surrounded by Saudi colleagues eager to learn the Chinese techniques.

"Through the application of this technique, we were able to gain crucial insights that furthered our understanding of the site's chronology and its trade context. Under Liang's hands-on guidance, we gradually mastered the ink rubbing technique. I hope to apply it at more archaeological sites in Saudi Arabia," said a Saudi archaeologist.

During an interview with People's Daily, several Chinese experts unanimously mentioned their experience of gaining renewed appreciation for the Chinese culture as well as foreign cultures, which has led to a deeper understanding of the historical interactions between China and foreign countries.

Chinese and foreign members of joint archaeological teams have fostered profound friendships, and they would also learn each

other's languages and cultures, said Jiang.

"Through archaeological work, we hope to demonstrate the long history of mutual learning between Chinese and Arabian civilizations, awakening this shared memory of humanity," He noted.

"Prioritizing science and nurturing everlasting friendship" has always been the maxim upheld by Ding and his team members. Driven by the archaeologists, the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology has maintained close collaborative ties with universities, research institutes, and museums in Kazakhstan, expanding the "circle of friends" for cultural exchange.

Today, generations of Chinese archaeologists, with their expertise and a friendly approach, are not only working to complete their archaeological missions, but also disseminating the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit.

People's Daily

## Somalia's parliament gives nod to historic constitutional amendments

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S constitution underwent historical changes following a parliamentary vote on Saturday. Among the notable adjustments is the empowerment of the country's president with the authority to appoint and dismiss a prime minister, Voice of Africa reported.

After weeks of intense deliberation, the bicameral federal parliament of Somalia ratified amendments to the initial four chapters of the nation's provisional constitution.

During a joint session held in Mogadishu, legislators deliberated on each chapter individually before casting their votes on the comprehensive amendments proposed by the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission (ICRIC), according to Voice of Africa.

Speaker of the Lower House, Sheikh Adan Mohamed Nur Madobe, announced a substantial majority in favour of amending the constitution.

"A total of 212 members of the Lower House and 42 members of the Upper House supported the amendments, with no abstentions or rejections. Therefore, the amendment has been approved with a unanimous vote," declared Madobe. Hussein Idow, chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee, elucidated that three provisions concerning religion in the draft would undergo further scrutiny.

"The decision to postpone the religion provisions aims to ensure their alignment with the principles and values cherished by the Somali people," Idow remarked.

"The provisional constitution has been under review for nearly a decade. Since 2012, three parliaments have attempted to amend it, but significant progress in finalising the review was made in late 2023. We extend our gratitude to the 11th parliament of Somalia for boldly undertaking these amendments," added Idow.

A pivotal amendment in the ratified draft delineates the establishment of a president and a prime minister for Somalia. Under this provision, the president is granted the authority to appoint and remove the prime minister from office, thus replacing the previous requirement for the prime minister to secure a vote of confidence from parliament, thereby introducing more flexibility

in the executive branch.

Somalia's political landscape has been marked by discord between presidents and prime ministers, stemming from a complex interplay of historical, regional, clan-based, and ideological factors.

Since the inception of the presidential office in 1960, Somalia has witnessed nine official presidents. The recent four presidents, including the incumbent in his first term, have exercised the prerogative to dismiss a prime minister with parliamentary support.

Central to these disputes is the distribution of power and resources among various clans and regions within Somalia.

Constitutional experts assert that the perennial power struggles between the top offices are fundamentally rooted in the constitutional delineation of their roles.

Among the proposed amendments was a provision advocating for a presidential system where the president assumes both the roles of head of state and head of government, with ceremonial duties delegated to a vice president. However, this provision was omitted during parliamentary review.

The amended constitution stipulates a five-year term of office for government constitutional bodies and refers to regional state presidents as leaders. Additionally, it envisions the presence of three political parties, fostering a multi-party system.

Nevertheless, some political stakeholders, including former Somali Presidents Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo and Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, along with leaders from the Puntland state, vehemently opposed this amendment, citing concerns regarding the lack of consensus among political actors.

In a separate statement issued on Saturday, a coalition of influential politicians, including former prime ministers Hassan Ali Khaire and Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, criticised President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for his role in steering the approval of the amendment.

"The president has led the nation down a perilous path, plunging it into turmoil and political uncertainty, jeopardising state-building efforts by pushing for the parliament's approval of controversial provisions in the constitution," the statement lamented, as reported by Voice of Africa.

ANI







## 'It's all over': Bayern Munich defeat now sends Leverkusen 13 points clear

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich lost 2-0 to Borussia Dortmund on Saturday, their first home "Der Klassiker" loss in a decade, allowing Bayer Leverkusen, who came back to win 2-1 over Hoffenheim, to go 13 points clear with seven games remaining.

Leverkusen's victory put the onus on Bayern in Saturday's late match, but the German champions lost at home with Dortmund scoring goals in each half through Munich-born Karim Adeyemi and defender Julian Ryerson.

Harry Kane had the ball in the net in the dying stages to give Bayern hope of a comeback, but the England captain's goal was struck off for offside.

Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel sent "congratulations to Leverkusen".

Asked if the title race was over, Tuchel replied "of course", saying "it's self-evident, clear".

Bayern defender Joshua Kimmich was livid and publicly criticised his team.

"I wonder how we can put in such a performance in a game like this. It's completely incomprehensible.

"In the second half you had the feeling that nothing was at stake, it was like a friendly. We need to go home and question ourselves."

Dortmund's first league win in Munich in 3,641 days, dating back to 2014 when Jurgen Klopp was in the dugout, took them three points clear of RB Leipzig and back into fourth place with the battle for the Champions League intensifying.

The win in Munich "took too long" said Dortmund coach Edin Terzic.

"We had a bit of luck, but we worked hard for it," Terzic told Sky.

Earlier on Saturday, Maximilian Baier gave Hoffenheim a 1-0 lead at Leverkusen.

But with this season's unbeaten record in serious danger a day after Xabi Alonso pledged to stay on as coach for another year, the league leaders hit back.

Robert Andrich levelled in the 88th minute before an injury-time Patrik Schick volley sealed another remarkable comeback win.

Leverkusen's late win continued their record of victories in the dying moments this season.

Alonso's side have scored late to beat Augsburg, Leipzig, Stuttgart in the German Cup and Qarabag twice against in the Europa League.

"I was always optimistic," Alonso told reporters. "We said at half-time that one goal is important. Everything can change in one moment.

"We have a winner's mentality -- we built that for ourselves this season."

- Alonso 'not going anywhere' -

"We kept fighting and kept believing until the end," Leverkusen goalscorer Andrich said to Sky.

"I had no doubt we'd score at least one today. I knew eventually one of our shots had to go in."

The midfielder, who stood alongside his coach as the team celebrated in front of the home fans after the match, said Alonso told the players on Friday he would stay beyond the season.

"He said he wasn't going anywhere -- he said he'd stay here.

"The timing he chose was very good. Now we can keep pushing and hopefully achieve something great this season."

Dortmund's win meant RB Leipzig's bid for a Champions League spot took a hit, after the German Cup holders played out a scoreless draw at home against lowly Mainz despite dominating possession and territory.

The home side were twice denied in the opening half, with an eighth-minute handball penalty overturned by VAR and a Lois Openda goal chalked off for offside.

"I can't hear another word about expected goals -- we just didn't take our chances," lamented Leipzig's David Raum.

Champions League regulars for the past decade, RB Leipzig and Dortmund face off in the league in late April at the Red Bull Arena.

New Wolfsburg manager Ralph Hasenhuettl, the former Southampton coach, claimed victory in his first match in charge, 2-0 at Werder Bremen.

Bremen were reduced to 10 men just before half time following a last-man foul from Anthony Jung. Maxence Lacroix put the Wolves in front shortly afterwards.

Lacroix was sent off in the second half, but Wolfsburg's Lovro Majer scored to seal the win.

Freiburg took a step towards European qualification in long-serving coach Christian Streich's final season at the club with a 3-0 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The Black Forest side were in full control against struggling Gladbach, Michael Gregoritsch, Merlin Roehl and Ritsu Doan all scoring goals.

Union Berlin held Eintracht Frankfurt to a 0-0 away draw, picking up a valuable point to go nine clear of the relegation spots.

AFP

# Manchester Utd held by Brentford as Tottenham, Villa win in top four chase

LONDON

MANCHESTER United lost ground in the battle for a place in next season's Champions League after a dramatic finale in a 1-1 draw at Brentford on Saturday, as Son Heung-min fired Tottenham to a 2-1 win over Luton.

Aston Villa remain in fourth after a 2-0 win over Wolves, three points ahead of Tottenham, but now enjoy an 11-point cushion over United, who were lucky to escape west London with a point.

Mason Mount's first goal for the Red Devils in the 96th minute looked set to snatch victory for Erik ten Hag's men despite being thoroughly outplayed.

However, Brentford hit back three minutes later through Kristoffer Ajer to register just their second point in seven games.

"We were winning in the end, maybe it wasn't deserved, but then you have to take the three points," said Ten Hag. "It is very disappointing to draw the game."

Spurs have now come from behind to win in four of their last five home games and needed another second-half turnaround after Tahith Chong's strike put Luton into a shock lead after just three minutes.



Kristoffer Ajer (second right) scored on the 99th-minute for Brentford three minutes after Mason Mount (right) had given the visitors the lead - PA

An Ange Postecoglou half-time substitution again made an impact for Tottenham as Brennan Johnson's cross was turned into his own net by Issa Kabore just six minutes after the Welsh international's introduction.

Son had missed a number of chances earlier in the game but finally got some fortune when his deflected effort trickled past Thomas Kaminski for his 15th goal of the season.

"Until the end I was getting frustrated but I wanted to stay calm as captain," said Son.

"We don't want it to always end like this, it could be nicer when we have it (won) earlier."

Tottenham's victory briefly took them into fourth, but Villa responded as goals from Moussa Diaby and Ezri Konsa gave them the bragging rights from a Midlands derby.

- Chelsea 'upset' Pochettino -

Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino was met with another backlash at Stamford Bridge after his side failed to make the most of an extra man for the entire second half and drew 2-2 against second-bottom Burnley.

The Blues appeared on course to cruise to victory after Lorenz Assignon was harshly sent off for pulling down Mykhailo Mudryk inside the area.

Burnley boss Vincent Kompany was also shown a red card for taking his protests too far.

Cole Palmer coolly chipped in the resulting penalty, but the 10 men levelled two minutes into the second half thanks to Josh Cullen's super finish from outside the box.

Raheem Sterling had been booed off in Chelsea's FA Cup quarter-final win over Leicester a fortnight ago but thought he had set up the winner in style with a flick that Palmer stroked into the far corner.

Chelsea, though, failed to hold out again as Dara O'Shea headed in a corner nine minutes from time.

"Today we didn't show the capacity, the energy, the hunger that is the minimum to compete in the Premier League," said Pochettino.

"In the defensive phase we conceded too much. That is why I am so upset and disappointed."

- Newcastle fightback - Newcastle closed to within one point of West Ham in seventh after a remarkable fightback to win 4-3 at St. James' Park.

Goals from Michail Antonio, Mohammed Kudus and Jarrod Bowen wiped out the advantage given to Newcastle by Alexander Isak's early penalty.

However, a second

Isak spot-kick 13 minutes from time sparked the turnaround before substitute Harvey Barnes struck twice to send Eddie Howe scurrying down the touchline in celebration.

"A lot of emotions in that game, we were swinging all over the place," said Howe.

"The last 10 minutes was amazing to be part of."

Everton's winless run stretched to a club record 12 Premier League games after a 2-1 defeat at Bournemouth to leave the Toffees still perilously placed just three points above the relegation zone.

Nottingham Forest edged out of the bottom three, above Luton on goal difference, as Chris Wood salvaged a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace.

Bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United were denied just their fourth win of the season after conceding twice late on to draw 3-3 with Fulham.

All of the three title challengers were expected to be in action later yesterday.

Liverpool had the chance to go top when they were to host Brighton before Manchester City and Arsenal kick-off at the Etihad in a clash of huge significance in the title race.

AFP

## Abject Manchester Utd escape with draw despite conceding 31 shots to Brentford

By Joel Mians

THERE have been some dramatic late wins in the history of Manchester United but few that would have been quite so undeserved as this one, denied to them in the 99th minute by a remarkable Brentford equaliser that again turned an evening on its head.

When Kristoffer Ajer scored from close range deep into injury time he was not simply grabbing a point from nowhere but securing for Brentford the very least they deserved. They should have won this game - and yet with seven minutes of time added on it very much looked like they were about to lose it.

United seemed to have stolen it from under Brentford's noses. An insipid performance from Erik ten Hag's team in an engrossing game in which Brentford had somehow failed to score.

With six minutes of the nine allotted to play at the end of the regulation 90 minutes, United at last launched an attack worthy of the name. It was led by Casemiro, who found Antony out wide and then later kept his head as the ball popped loose from a challenge to play in Mason Mount.

That it was Mount was remarkable itself. The £55 million man had

not played any Premier League minutes since Nov 11, and yet here he was, a second half substitute sent on with Casemiro, as Ten Hag tried to inject some urgency into his side.

Once a fixture of the England team, Mount is barely in consideration for this summer's Euros after all those injury problems. He did take his chance beautifully, switching the ball from right to left and stroking his shot past Mark Flekken.

For the United support, ground down by another performance of baffling mediocrity, following that astonishing FA Cup tie against Liverpool, this was an unexpected gift. Perhaps, they might have thought, these are simply the kind of things that happen to clubs like theirs.

Even with an expected goals metric in this game of 0.5 and an expectation of disappointment that felt as high as it ever does. Yet somehow United seemed to have plundered something.

Ten Hag would later say that his team came second in terms of aggression and initiative, although he hung on to those two minutes when - through Mount - his team somehow led this game.

The United manager was defensive afterwards, acknowledging what was undoubtedly a

very poor performance but concurring from it a crumb of comfort that his team had almost won. Yet the two do not align - performances such as these for United are not the anomalies that the team has to ride out. They feel like regular occurrences.

To put the scale of this Brentford performance in perspective, they had 13 attempts on target when they beat United 4-0 in the same fixture in August last season. By the end of 103 minutes on this evening they had managed 31 and it was only Ajer who had managed to score.

Those 31 attempts on goal from Brentford are more than they have managed in a single game for seven years. The 85 touches they had in United's penalty area were two short of the Premier League record.

"I almost lost faith in the football god," Thomas Frank would say later, "but he gave a bit back." His team had been excellent. Before the Ajer goal, Andre Onana's bar was struck twice, and the post once.

Ivan Toney made the goal for Ajer and the Brentford captain was the game's outstanding player. He had most of the United defence crowded around him in those dying seconds and still found the space to cut the ball back into the path of Ajer.

Frank said that the performance had even been an improvement on last season's 4-0 win - especially with his entire first-choice back four missing through injury. He was only able to summon Bryan Mbeumo from the bench but his contribution in the second half was significant. He had replaced Yoane Wissa, who had been irrepressible in the first half. Along with Toney, the three were much superior to United's attacking trio.

Both United's first choice centre-halves, Raphael Varane and then Victor Lindelof, came off injured. United lost ground on Tottenham, now eight points ahead of them in fifth - likely the last of the Champions League places. As a contrast from that mighty FA

Cup performance it could not have been more stark.

Ten Hag's two wingers Marcus Rashford and Alejandro Garnacho looked lost and were substituted in the second half. Rashford could barely bring himself to take on an opponent.

Garnacho disappeared straight down the tunnel when he was replaced. Kobbie Mainoo started in midfield, and looked one of the more assured performers, yet that says much about United that they were once again reliant upon the teenager.

Wissa hunted possession and his glorious first-time pass to Toney had created the chance for a shot that hit the United post. Mathias Jorgensen - aka Zanka - had hit the bar with a back-post header.

In the second half Mbeumo electrified Brentford. His pass to Toney created a goal that was fractionally offside. Then Mbeumo hit the bar. But it was nothing compared to the finale when Mount thought he had won it and Brentford came back one more time.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Man U held by Brentford as Tottenham, Villa win in top four chase**

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## Benchikha dismayed by defeat to Al Ahly, focuses on finishing

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a stunning turn of events, Simba SC suffered a 1-0 defeat to Al Ahly in the first leg of the CAF Champions League quarterfinal that took place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

With the second leg set to take place in Cairo, Egypt on April 5, Simba SC faces a daunting task as they strive to overcome the deficit and advance in the tournament.

Simba SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha blamed his team's shortcomings on a lack of top-class players, following their defeat to Al Ahly in the CAF Champions League quarterfinal first leg last Friday.

Playing in front of a packed Mkapa Stadium, Simba SC fell short 1-0 against the Egyptian giants. Benchikha, speaking after the match, pointed to a clear difference in quality between the two sides.

"When you create more than six chances in the opponent's box, you need players who can capitalize on those opportunities," Benchikha lamented.

The Algerian noted: "Look at our counterparts at Al Ahly, they have players like Mahmoud Kahraba and Anthony Modeste who can convert those chances."

Despite the loss, Benchikha praised his team's effort, stating: "I'm disappointed with the result, but technically, I'm happy with how my team played."

The gaffer said: "Our positioning, passing, and transitions were good, but as I said, it's unacceptable to miss more than five clear chances against a team like Al Ahly. We need to address this finishing issue."

Looking ahead to the second leg on April 5 in Egypt, Benchikha emphasized his team's determination.

The gaffer insisted: "We're ready for the second leg," he declared. "We have nothing to lose. We'll go for the win, but we'll need to be very cautious as it's a crucial away match."

The coach reiterated the limitations imposed by his squad's lack of depth, admitting: "The absence of top-tier players is a challenge. Even when I made substitutions, I wasn't able to get the desired impact, unlike our opponents."

The first leg serves as the opening act, with the fate of who progresses to the next stage hinging on the second leg scheduled for April 5 in Egypt.

Simba SC will need to find their scoring touch and potentially address weaknesses in their squad if they are to overcome the mighty Al Ahly and advance in the CAF Champions League.

This defeat marked the first loss for Simba SC to Al Ahly at home since their encounters in CAF inter-club showdowns matches began in 1985.

While the team faces a challenging road ahead in their quest to reach the semi-finals, they are determined to seek redemption in Cairo, where they must secure a victory by more than one goal to advance.

Historical records reveal Simba's struggle to secure victories away from home against Al Ahly, with no wins in their past four encounters dating back to 1985.

Despite facing formidable opposition and individual talents within the Egyptian squad, Benchikha draws inspiration from past victories, including a 1-0 triumph against Al Ahly in the CAF Super Cup with USM Alger before joining Simba SC.

Al Ahly boasts an impressive home record, having remained undefeated in all competitions since May of 2023.

The only blemish on this record was a 1-0 defeat against USM Alger in the CAF Super Cup match, which was technically a home game for Al Ahly despite being played at King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, due to logistical reasons for international games, leagues, and cups.

While Simba SC acknowledges the daunting task ahead and the superior quality of their opponents, Benchikha's confidence remains unshaken.

His experience and previous successes against Al Ahly instill hope and determination within the team as they prepare for the crucial rematch, eager to defy the odds and secure a place in the next round of the CAF Champions League.

# Gamondi praises Yanga's performance in CAF CL last eight vs Mamelodi



Yanga's Maxi Nzengeli (C) negotiates his way past Mamelodi Sundowns' players when the sides took on each other in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal first-leg clash in Dar es Salaam on Saturday, culminating in a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC's head coach Miguel Gamondi praised the performance shown by his side as it shared the spoils with Mamelodi Sundowns in a goalless draw at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

Visitors Mamelodi Sundowns dominated possession without really troubling the Young Africans SC's back-line and goalkeeper Djigui Diarra in the first leg of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal.

Speaking after the game, Gamondi heaped praises on his players for showcasing a splendid performance against what he called the best team in Africa.

"I wish we won the game but I am very proud of the boys. We had a fantastic game against the best team in Africa," Gamondi pointed out.

"We went toe to toe and I think we created more chances than them. I think 'Wananchi' must be proud of what the boys did inside the pitch," Gamondi disclosed.

He noted: "It was a tactical battle. They know us, they've been here, they follow us personally. They know everything, and I tried to change many things to adapt to them. Tactically we played very well but you know Sundowns have that power, all the resources to do that in professional football."

The coach revealed: "I think we did very well. I spoke with the assistant coach Manqoba Mngqithi and he was impressed with our football. Sometimes we watch only the results but you must see the process as well."

"We are far away, my caution was experience, a team with that experience they had seven play in the African Cup of Nations."

"We had players who have not played a lot like Jonas Mkude, Dickson Job playing right back and he was fantastic. I can't mention all the players, they were all good. Don't forget we missed Pacome, Aucho, and Yao who are part of the backbone for us," the Argentine added.

The tactician disclosed: "I am very happy because this is the type of foot-

ball we like to play and I think it is very good for Tanzania because the whole African continent is talking about and a lot of people are saying Sundowns and Yanga are the best teams who play football. We need to be proud of this."

Gamondi remarked: "I regret the missed chances but we learn. We are alive and 'Wananchi' must be sure that we are going there to fight, we don't give up, never."

With the spoils being shared in Dar es Salaam, it is all to play for when the two sides meet again at Pretoria's Loftus Versfeld Stadium for the second leg next weekend.

## Mokwena expects Sundowns' better performance in second leg



Mamelodi Sundowns head coach, Rhulani Mokwena.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC was pegged back by Mamelodi Sundowns as the spoils were shared in the first leg of their CAF Champions League last-eight tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The game played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Saturday evening ended in a goalless draw.

It is anyone's tie to snatch when Sundowns hosts the second leg in South Africa on Friday.

Sundowns head coach Rhulani Mokwena was not pleased with plenty of aspects of his side in a game

where they controlled proceedings for the most part without being exceptional.

Mokwena felt Sundowns lost too many duels and rued the lack of calmness in the final third insisting they could have done better.

"In the first half, we struggled with a little bit of gaining control of the game. We lacked a little bit of compactness and couldn't get the foot on the ball and play with a bit more control and dominate the game. We lost too many duels and second balls," the gaffer disclosed.

"We looked a little bit better in the second half. I think we played with a little bit more intensity and then tried to go forward. We played against a good team, we knew it was going to be difficult," Mokwena revealed.

"Regardless of whatever was going to be the score line we knew we were going to have to win in Pretoria and I think it remains the same," the tactician noted.

The South African coach was pleased with how they contained Young Africans SC's attack, restricting them to a couple of half chances.

Mokwena stated: "Yanga is a good side, I thought we defended well for most parts of the game and to keep off an attack with Musonda, Mzize, and Aziz Ki and to not give them many chances is good but we could have done more to create chances. The final pass didn't come but alright let's see how we go and try to improve in the second leg."

"We can play better, we can do better and we can use the ball better. Even if we had won I would still say to you it is only halftime and we have to play better in the second leg and try to win," the gaffer noted.

The aggregate winner of this clash will go on to face the victor of the stage's other clash between Tunisia's Espérance and Ivorian outfit ASEC Mimosas in the semi-finals set for late April.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

