



BUSINESS CRDB Bank share price increase further to 520/-

Marula Mining enters into commercial agreements for Tanzanian projects

PASS Trust applauded for promoting 'green' growth

Oil price climbs on tightening supply

SURVIVAL



LIONS SPARE FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY PAGE 3

ENVIRONMENT



PLANTING OF TREES AROUND KIA PAGE 4

MINING



MINERS TOLD TO USE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES PAGE 5

AGRICULTURE



RUNGWE SET PRICE FOR AVOCADOS PAGE 7

Govt adds 53bn/- to free education kitty

AGRA hails Samia for youth agro-sector drive

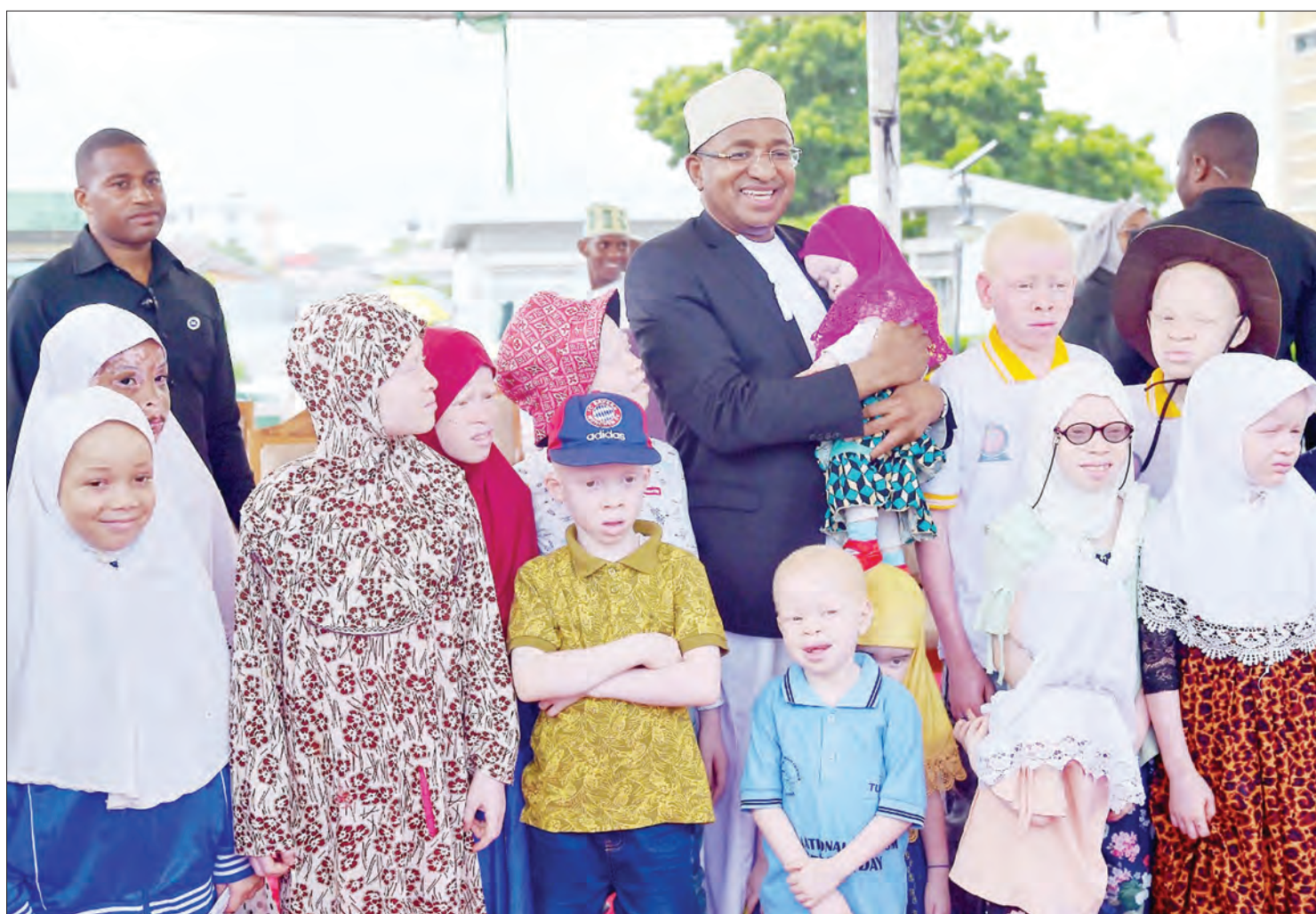
By Guardian Correspondent, Washington, D.C

THE Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for initiating the 'Building a Better Tomorrow Youth Initiative for Agribusiness' (BBT-YIA) programme, saying it's a good approach in addressing food insecurity and unemployment.

Hailemariam Dessalegn, AGRA board chairman and former Ethiopian prime minister made the remarks at a high-level discussion for African countries on food and agriculture in the US capital on Thursday. AGRA organised the meeting to take place on the sidelines of this year's annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"President Samia has done something good for the country and Africa in general towards boosting food crop production," he said, urging African countries to embrace the idea, meant to empower young people in all aspects of life through agriculture. Under the BBT programme, specially recruited youths are given up to 10 acres of land to move into crop produce, also facilitated with title deeds. The former premier said accessing sufficient food in a sustainable manner requires wide scale investments, citing the current initiative as pushing forward the country's food self-

TURN TO Page 2



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured in Unguja Island's West Urban Region yesterday holding a baby shortly after presenting an assortment of foodstuffs for iftar to special groups, including people with albinism, orphans, widows and the elderly. Photo: State House

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

UPWARDS of 399.64bn/- has been allocated to facilitate the free education policy, topping up by 53.15bn/- (15.34 per cent) from the 346.46bn/- approved in the current fiscal year.

Angela Kairuki, the Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG) state minister in the President's Office, told the legislature yesterday that out of the funds, 157.79bn/- have been allocated for primary schools and 241.85bn/- for secondary schools.

Tabling the ministry's estimates for the coming financial year, she said that the increase in allocations follows the government's inclusion of high school students in the free education programme.

The government will build classrooms at advanced level secondary schools for 47.89bn/- while refurbishing 184 schools at a cost of 37.49bn/-, she said, noting that 5.74bn/- will be used for 5,218 pit latrines at elementary schools and 5,020 toilets at 'A' level secondary schools, the last portion taking up 5.52bn/-.

In other allocative areas, efforts will be directed in curbing the outbreak of diseases with financial support from the Global Health Security Agenda and the Centres for Disease Control and preventive (CDC) based in the United States, and a vast African network, with 3.7bn/- set for the purpose.

During fiscal 2023/2024 the government will strengthen response centers in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Kagera, Kigoma, Arusha and

TURN TO Page 2

Clerics, activists revisit 'I am the State' episode

By Francis Kajubi

RELIGIOUS leaders, senior journalists and a range of activists have called for political will

favouring the drafting of a new constitution that delegates powers to citizens and public institutions.

Bishop Dr Benson Bagonza of

the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) for Karagwe

TURN TO Page 2



Bishop Dr Benson Bagonza (2nd-L) of the Karagwe (Kagera Region) Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and senior journalists (from-L) Absalom Kibanda, Jesse Kwayu and Neville Meena pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday showing copies of I AM THE STATE. The ELCT cleric had just launched the book, co-authored by the three media practitioners alongside a fourth one, Ansbert Ngurumo, who did not attend the event. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

59 YEARS of UNION SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

26TH APRIL TANGANYIKA & ZANZIBAR

The Guardian Limited, publisher of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers, invites all development supporters to send congratulatory messages on celebrating the 59th Anniversary of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

The supplement will be published on 26th April, 2023.

RITA set to strike off 700 boards of trustees

By Guardian Reporter

DEREGISTRATION looms for 743 boards of trustees which have failed to abide by a directive to review their constitutions and submit an improved version to the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA).

The registrar announced in a statement yesterday that it intends to deregister the boards in line with provisions of chapter 3, section 23(1) (d) of the Trustees Incorporation Act of 2002. This intention follows the expiry of a six-month grace period issued to the companies to observe that requirement, it said, not-

ing that the first phase of deregistering the boards will follow 30 days from the day of the statement of intention. The statement recalled that in September 2021 the registrar struck off 238 boards of trustees on

TURN TO Page 2



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Govt adds 53bn/- to free education kitty

FROM PAGE 1

Kilimanjaro, she stated. . The Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) will repair 21,109.7 kilometers through the Road Fund, building 190.13km of tarmac roads and 5,986km of roads at gravel level. A total of 107 bridges, 185 culverts and 18.44 km of rainwater drainage structures will be built with funds from the 100/- levy charged on fuel buyers per litre of diesel or petrol, the minister noted. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in the city has requested for 3.3bn/- for 20.6 kilometers of transit roads within Nyerere Road from Gongolamboto - Post Office through Sokoine Drive and Uhuru Road, from Buguruni to Kariakoo via Shaurimoyo and Lindi streets. BRT was preparing an automated fare collection system to enhance revenue collections, she affirmed. Msimbazi Creek development was allocated 47.4bn/- for bridge construction and tree planting, she said. Rashid Shangazi (Mlalo) urged the

government to prioritize civil servants' allocation to areas with serious shortages. Teachers and nurses currently volunteering at public schools and health centers need to be considered, he said, pointing at Lushoto District as facing a shortage of cadres in the two fields following the removal of 216 civil servants swept up in the fake certificates saga. Even with 97 teachers volunteering at various schools for over two years the district has a shortage of 159 secondary school teachers and 917 teachers for primary schools. Aida Kenan (Nkasi, Chadema) appealed to the government to uplift allocations for TARURA to get more rural roads built, saying the quality of roads differs with the agency building the road, if it is the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) or TARURA. The National Assembly was asked to approve 99.19bn/- for PO-RALG recurrent and development expenditure, where 38.65bn/- is meant for recurrent expenditure, chiefly salaries.



Angellah Kairuki, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), tables the Office's Budget estimates for financial year 2023/2024 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

AGRA hails Samia for youth agro-sector drive

FROM PAGE 1

sufficiency agenda. It is an important initiative and AGRA will continue to support these efforts, he emphasised. Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba expressed the government's intention to further invest in the agricultural sector, raising food stocks for local, regional and wider markets. Agricultural sector budget allocations rose from 250bn/-

yearly upwards of 950bn/- in the current fiscal year, with expectations to boost allocations geared at fulfilling the government's goals to make the sector more productive, he said. "In the next financial year we'll increase the budget again to reach more than 1trn/- to invest in the agricultural infrastructure," he specified, noting that this will increase food crops production and involve a larger part of the community.

A section of youths will be targeted by the BBT programme for provision of knowledge on agriculture, he elaborated. Frank Nyabundege, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) managing director, said that more than 500bn/- has been put to developing agriculture by empowering medium and large farmers. A number of institutions involved in agriculture were also credited, with these efforts

geared to move to a higher level with current plans, he said. Isobel Coleman, administrator for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) outlined USAID efforts for the development of agriculture and food security, as sustainable and reliable agriculture is vital for collective well-being. In the debate, African countries were asked to show political will by ensuring that agriculture is prioritized in their

national plans by investing in irrigation infrastructure from the current 10 percent of arable land to 50 percent by 2030. Speakers also listed research, availability of extension officials and reliable markets as necessary to convince young people to participate in agricultural activities. Africa has the potential to increase crop exports from \$750m to \$2bn annually, they added.



The head of the Shia Ithna'ashariyyah Community of Tanzania, Sheikh Hemed Jalala Mwakindenge (2nd-L), leads an International Quds Day walk in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The annual event is held each last Friday of the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan to express solidarity with the people of Palestine. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

RITA set to strike off 700 boards of trustees

FROM PAGE 1

account of various irregularities, like failing to provide feedback on institutions they oversee for a long time. Deregistration resulted from a RITA verification process where the boards were found liable of violating regulations of their incorporation, it said, affirming that there is need for efficient management of information on key life events for each corporate entity. The board is entrusted with incorporation of trustees, safeguarding properties of deceased persons under trust, registration of insolvency and safeguarding property for minors to enable the law to take its course. RITA was launched in June 2006, replacing the Office of the Administrator General then placed under the Attorney General's Chambers, within the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, to become an executive agency operating under the AG Chambers.

Clerics, activists revisit 'I am the State' episode

FROM PAGE 1

Diocese said at a book launch yesterday that good governance and the rule of law is part of the mental attributes of each individual regardless of their political persuasions or status in society. The book, 'I am The State-A President's Whisper from Chato', was presented at the meeting, with key discussants saying that "the country had during the government under the late President John Magufuli gone through harsh experiences that should not happen again." The bishop affirmed that one of the key lessons picked from the book is having a constitution that give powers to institutions and citizens to hold accountable top national leaders such as the President, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Attorney General for any evil deeds engineered in

their offices.

Rev. Dr Bagonza, the guest of honour at the launch, asserted that the book will trigger public debate on the misuse of public funds, the true definition of a patriot and patriotism and separation of power between the executive, the judiciary and the legislature. "I would like to urge the present government to invest in the line of good governance so that their deeds are challenged or praised when they are in office rather than gagging opponents. Neither the leaders nor the government will last forever. Governments are supposed to rule in the interest of their people," he said. Sheikh Issa Ponda, a Muslim leader and human rights defender, said that the book should be an eye opener in stimulating the struggle for a new constitution that will pose limits to impunity, favoritism and re-

gionalism in leadership.

"We had reached a stage where the country was frozen as per the president's wish. His words became the land's laws and were fully enforced no matter the implications. We need to set mechanisms that will channel leaders to govern according to the laws," he emphasised. Freeman Mbowe, the opposition Chadema national chairman, urged that embezzlement of public funds shown in the fiscal 2021/22 national audit report is the result of weak public institutions led by people having impunity in the eyes of the law. "The book reveals how public funds were misused during Magufuli's regime. He used to allocate public funds elsewhere even without the parliament's approval; as a result the misuse of such funds was nobody's business. There will come a time when taxpayers will question the legitimacy of pay-

ing tax," he declared.

He expressed the feeling that poverty among the people is an outcome of having in place a leadership system that enjoys impunity despite the law, and the remedy is setting limits on executive powers, he further noted. Senior journalists Ansbert Ngurumo, Jesse Kwayu, Absalom Kibanda and Neville Meena write in the book that Magufuli "pumped a lot of resources" to his home district, Chato, on the southern shores of Lake Victoria. The district was formed in 2013 but within five years of Magufuli's rule, it boasted of more than 20 development projects, a spirit that conflicted with the way his predecessors related to their hometowns or villages. Veteran editor and former legislator Ndimara Tegambwage edited the book, describing how Magufuli "outmaneuvered

both the parliament and the judiciary by co-opting them into his leadership in typical Machiavellian style." The authors state that Magufuli used existing undemocratic laws to muzzle outspoken civil society organizations and media outlets; including the ban on live broadcasts of parliamentary proceedings save for question-and-answer sessions. "The executive silenced everybody from the media, parliament, judiciary and citizens. He employed halfwits to keep him informed as he turned himself into the only national source of information from which the media must go to collect details on what he decides to feed the nation," an avowedly affirmative line cryptically states. The fifth phase lasted from November 5th 2015 to March 17, 2021 when then Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced his death to a stunned public close to midnight.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega addresses the 9th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt sets up centres to equip youths with new livestock, fish farming skills

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has established incubation centers to teach young people on modern livestock and fish farming skills in new drive to address youth unemployment challenge in the country.

Abdallah Ulega minister for Livestock and Fisheries revealed this yesterday in Dodoma when speaking at the 9th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC), themed: "Tanzania's Competitiveness in the African Continental Free Trade (AFCFTA): Challenges and opportunities for the Agricultural, Livestock and Fisheries sectors".

"We are grateful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for agreeing to start this program to prepare young people to do commercial breeding where this year we have established eight (8) centers to teach young people how to breed productively," he said.

He said that every year approximately 1600 young people graduate from various levels of education in veterinary colleges, but only 150 of them find a place in the formal employment system, "so the idea is to enable young people who remain outside the formal employment system to be self-employed through enrichment and sale of their livestock domestically and abroad."

"Our plans in the 2023/2024 financial year is to have 30 incubation centers that will have at least 30 young people

and make us have 900 young people who will have received training and thus help reduce the challenge of finding employment in this country," the minister said.

He added that the ministry has already looked for markets for the young people to sell livestock and their related products where in a year the young people will sell their livestock approximately four times, hence enable them to earn an income that will help them find employment after completing the training.

Ulega also added that these training centers have also been established in the fishing sector for young people to improve their fish farming and fishing skills.



We are grateful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for agreeing to start this program to prepare young people to do commercial breeding where this year we have established eight (8) centers to teach young people how to

Village in joy, disbelief as lions spare 5-year-old boy

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Manyara

RESIDENTS of Kakoi Village in Babati District, Manyara Region are in joy and disbelief after a five year-old boy who went missing in the wilderness for four days was found alive amidst a pride of lions.

Justin Kilusu, who is yet to start school, disappeared on Sunday from his home at Songembele section of his rural village while grazing livestock.

Loishiye Elias, the village chairman, told reporters here on Thursday that the boy together with other children

were grazing livestock adjacent to the Burunge Wildlife Management Area, when he mysteriously disappeared from their midst.

"We then raised an alarm around the four villages of Kakoi, Mswakini, Olasiti and Minjingu where more than 500 people headed the call. They took off to conduct a thorough search in the entire precincts for more than two days," he said.

Leteiva Lobulu, the traditional leader in Olasiti, said the boy had left other children and rushed home to take a stick, because other boys had sticks

and he also wanted one.

However, upon returning to the spot, Justine realized the other children had moved on with cattle, when he tried to locate them he got lost in the bush. Unknowingly, the little boy walked on and entered the Tarangire National Park and continued to move in search of his way home for more than two days meandering in the reserve, coming upon wild animals.

On Wednesday, April 12, rangers discovered the boy walking with difficulties before collapsing, evidently with dehydration, fatigue and hunger.

"He was discovered near Balloon Camp inside the park by rangers," the village leader stated, showing that the boy had trekked nearly 30 kilometers from the village, collapsing within the vicinity of a relaxed pride of lions.

The rangers said they spotted the boy while he was attempting to cross a nearby road leading to the camp while walking and falling several times before totally passing out.

"The boy was in a terrible condition; his entire body was infested with blood-sucking ticks," they said, highlighting that some Good Samaritans

fed the boy with porridge before rushing him to a dispensary at Tarangire.

Little Kilusu was later moved to Nkaiti Medical Center for medical examination and treatment, with his father Seimali Kilusu confirming that he was discharged from hospital on Thursday. "He is doing well currently but speaking with difficulty after this exhausting experience," he said, noting that the boy had narrated that throughout the three days he kept walking and ate nothing.

The boy said that a hyena tried to attack him in the bush but he lifted his

stick and it left him alone, also recalling having come across several types of grazing animals. He also saw many lions shortly before passing out, he said.

Chief Lobulu said the Maasai community coexists peacefully with wild animals, which may explain why the little boy managed to survive in the wilderness. He was explaining the situation to a team of journalists with the Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), who paid a visit there after news of the incident spread out.

Boeing drills students in Arusha with science, technological skills

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

OVER 100 students studying science from seven secondary schools in Arusha City Council have benefited from one-day intensive training on science, technology and innovation skills

The training was organised by US-based aircraft manufacturer-Boeing in collaboration with the Foundation For Tomorrow (TFFT) and Junior Achievement Africa.

The idea was meant to encourage the study of science, creativity in those schools and various technologies for young people. Among the students who benefited from the training were from Arusha Science School, Kilasara Secondary, Shepherd Secondary and other schools in the safari capital of Arusha.

Evelyn Kaijage, training coordinator at the Foundation For Tomorrow, said that the collaboration with Boeing is aimed at enabling young people to participate in science studies and do research and innovation that will help solve problems in Africa.

She said that the funding of Boeing and the Junior Achievement Africa (JA) will help to get a large number of female students who will like science studies which will make it possible to find experts who are experts in science mat-

ters.

Phil Mlambo, JA executive director praised the Boeing for helping science students to think creatively.

Elizabeth Cathbet, a science student from Arusha Science Secondary School said the training enabled them to gain experience and knowledge from various designers and scientists and they have increased the spirit to focus more on science and innovation.

Asimwe Elly, a student of Kilasara Secondary School also said that due to the great awareness of science issues, they have already started to design various technologies that need legal protection so that they can benefit designers.



Evelyn Kaijage, training coordinator at the Foundation For Tomorrow, said that the collaboration with Boeing is aimed at enabling young people to participate in science studies and



Junior Achievement Africa executive director Phil Mlambo (L) pictured in Arusha city on Thursday presenting certificates to students who participated in this year's Boeing Innovation camp on Thursday. The camp, which is sponsored by the Boeing Company in collaboration with The Foundation for Tomorrow, is chiefly meant to encourage youths to pursue science and innovation studies. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

MPs laud govt for assisting MSD on HIV/AIDS operations

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS has expressed satisfaction with the operations and future plans of the Medical Stores Department (MSD), calling on the government to further empower it.

Speaking after a familiarization tour at the department's zonal office in Dodoma, the lawmakers however called on the government to help solve some of the challenges facing MSD.

The committee chairperson, Stanslaus Nyongo commended

the facility and the government for ensuring availability of drugs in its outlets. "The committee has witnessed great improvement on the availability of drugs and this is what members of the public want" he said.

He cited some of the challenges that still face MSD as inappropriate staffing as it has expanded its services to production of drugs.

Nyongo also called on MSD management and the government to carry out a proper feasibility study on the expansion of services and the needed capital it requires.

The chairperson argued that

MSD has proposed a 592 bn/- budget for the expansion of services but only 92bn/- is allocated for industrial production. He said it is important to establish the amount of production the budget can achieve.

He also wanted the management to state the preparedness on how the private sector players would work together with MSD in the new plan.

The committee deputy chairperson, Festo Ndugulile on his part urged MSD to have proper mechanism of disposing expired drugs and avoid storing expired drugs

for too long.

He also pointed out at the recently released controller and auditor general (CAG)'s report that indicated that 96bn/- was spent outside the procurement plan, calling on the management to improve on this.

Ndugulile stated that according to the report, some drugs worth 292 bn/- were bought below the required system, which require drugs to be procured at least two years before expiry or 80 percent of shelf life.

"It is important to have a right format on expired drugs disposal

as this raises a lot of public attention" he said.

MSD Director General, Mavere Tukai said they would build five warehouses in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Kagera, Dodoma and Mtwara whose construction is at the procurement stage.

The move is meant to improve the performance of its services as the warehouses will increase the storage capacity taking into account that demand for drugs and medical equipment has been increasing.

The biggest facilities will be in Dares Salaam, where they will

build large and ultra-modern warehouses as it is serving almost more than 12 million people.

According to Tukai, another warehouse will be built in Mwanza, which will serve more than 11million people and another big warehouse in Dodoma.

Moreover, he said, MSD is going digital for increased efficiency and transparency, thus making it easier when it comes to tracing the stumbling blocks in their operations.

The move, he said, will make them work online and in a transparent manner, hence eliminating bureaucracy.



Jenista Mhagama (L, foreground), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), is congratulated by National Electoral Commission director Ramadhani Kailima shortly after the National Assembly passed the Budget estimates of the Prime Minister's Office for financial year 2023/2024 in Dodoma on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt firm on stern measures against embezzlers of public funds, says VP

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has vowed to take stern measures against all those who will be found to have embezzled public funds as mentioned in the latest 2021/22 Controller and Auditor General Audit Report.

Dr Philip Mpango, the Vice President issued the pledge Tuesday this week when addressing Kwimba district residents at Hungumalwa Village whilst in his visit in Mwanza Region.

He said every official is required to make sure funds submitted to his area for development projects are spent as planned and complete the projects within the time agreed.

Dr Mpango called on residents in the area to make sure they take care the projects implanted in their areas to enable them last long.

He also called on them to concentrate in profitable livestock keeping that will bring them quick financial results in order to address environmental degradation due to traditional livestock keeping practices.

Whilst in Misungwi District, the Vice President appealed to the resi-

dents to make sure to maintain the existing peace as well as adhering to Tanzania's morals in regard to the protection children against immoral behaviour.

He also called on parents and guardians to ensure their children receive education and stop them fleeing to work in mines.



Whilst in Misungwi District, the Vice President appealed to the residents to make sure to maintain the existing peace as well as adhering to Tanzania's morals in regard to the protection children against immoral behaviour.

Mbeya City residents call on govt to intervene and tame food prices

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA City residents have appealed to the government to intervene in the issue of rising prices of food and other goods including rice, maize and potatoes.

They said that as for now life is

hard for many of them as food prices have risen, the situation has given room to complaints against the government, saying it has failed to address the issue. Abdalah Omary Muhidin, a Mbeya City resident says at the beginning of March this year, maize was being sold at 20,000/- per 20kg

tin, but now the price has shot up to 25,000/- while the price for rice rose from 58,000/- to 60,000 per 20kg tin.

He said the price for Irish potatoes has also risen from 9,000/- to 12,000 per tin and appealed to the government to intervene to control the prices at the time Idd holiday is just

round the corner. "I truth, the situation in the markets is melancholic because during this time last year we used to buy maize at 15,000/- to 17,000/- per 20 kg tin, rice at between 40,000/- to 45,000/- and potatoes at between 8,000/- to 9,000/- per 20kg tin," Omary lamented. Betwel Asum-

wisye, maize trader in Mbeya said no doubt crop prices will continue going up owing to production challenges in the farms because of lack of fertiliser.

He said another problem contributing to commodities price rise stems from farmers selling raw maize from fields for roasting.

An Iwindi farmer from Mbeya rural district, Annastazia Mwalwego said the situation is also caused by farmers not planting their crops in time due to shortage of fertiliser as well as maize's high demand by traders from Dar es Salaam and other regions.

Zanzibar government will now concentrate on installing storeyed buildings for schools

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government will continue constructing modern storeyed buildings for schools to ensure a good learning environment for students and increase examinations pass levels.

This was revealed by the Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed, Suleiman Abdullah during his inspection of the three storeyed school building built by Mwinyi Building Company at Kiwani, Pemba South Region.

The Second Vice President called on the contractor to maintain trust given by the government to ensure the building is completed at high quality standard and within the time agreed in the contract.

He said the government has decided to construct a total of 21 storeyed schools this year, of which the Kiwani school is one of them.

He added that storeyed buildings for schools will solve classroom shortage challenges that have been forcing students of many streams to study in one classroom thereby creating congestion in classes. He also urged residents in the area to cooperate with the contractor of the project to enable the project to be completed in time. For his part, Eng. Farhat Masoud Ali, the project's consultant said construction work began April 5 this year and is expected to be completed at the end of the year and will incorporate 42 classrooms, 29 pit latrines, three laboratories, teachers' offices, computer room and a conference hall.



Delegation led by Sharik Choughule (R), councillor for Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni ward, makes an inspection tour of newly renovated buildings at the city's Bunge Primary School earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt to plant 1,000-plus trees near Kilimanjaro International Airport

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

THE government has launched the campaign to plant 1,000 trees around Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), implemented by Kilimanjaro Airport Development Corporation (KADCO).

Launching the Kilimanjaro

Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu said that the government will take steps to confiscate all livestock that are introduced in the environmental reserve area.

RC Babu called on district commissioners and executive directors from the region's six districts to imple-

ment in deeds the directive to plant 1.5 million trees every year.

"Since the time the government announced the campaign to plant 1.5 million trees, one would have found even an area to pass, I will come to your districts to show me the trees you have

planted, I will not close my eyes to the issue as the trees will help in fighting the effects of climate change," he said.

He praised KADCO for its initiative towards environmental preservation around the airport, saying the step will assist in fighting the ef-

fects of climate change.

He said KIA is a government property and that the livestock that will be introduced to the area will be against the country's laws.

He added that to protect the environment around the airport, the government has

also paid 11bn/- compensation as part to solve the 21-year old land conflicts pitting residents in the area and KASDCO.

For his part, KADCO Director Christen Mwakatobe said the environment condition around the airport area is not good because since 1980

the government, in collaboration with development partners (FAI and JICA) initiated a tree planting project around the airport.

He said through the campaign, KADCO has prepared a sustainable plan with the slogan "Let's make KIA green."

CRB strikes off register 500 contractors over misconduct

By Guardian Reporter

THE Contractors Registration Board (CRB) has deregistered 500 contractors after realizing that they no longer practice the profession.

CRB registrar Rhoben Nkori, said yesterday that the contractors were deregistered in 2022 after conducting an analysis of the contractors and finding out that they have not fully engaged in activities for a long time.

He said the aim of taking that step is to build confidence in the government and the board regarding performance in implementing various infrastructure projects including buildings, roads and bridges.

"For the year 2022, the board registered 1,341 contractors and made the number of those registered to 14,034, the number of registrations has increased by an average of 900 per year," said Nkori.

He added that the board conducted five training courses for contractors with the purpose of building their capacity in various areas and that 4,013 projects worth 6.1trn/- were registered.

He asked the government to increase the initial payment rate in line with the increase in the payment rate from the current 15 percent to 25 percent or more depending on the actual needs of the project in question.

Works and Transport deputy minister, Godfrey Kasekenya said

there is a shortage of machinery for the construction of infrastructure, especially roads.

He said the lack of road construction machinery has caused a delay in the completion of many projects being built in the Southern Highlands regions.

"Major construction projects are given more to foreigners than natives due to the lack of skilled construction professionals but also the lack of modern machinery to implement them," said Kasekenya.

He also instructed the board to control the wave of unscrupulous contractors who do not complete projects on time and do not consider the quality that is consistent with the value of the funds provided.

He said that doing so hinders the government's efforts in bringing development to the people due to the negligence of some contractors.

Among the contractors who participated in the consultation meeting with construction industry stakeholders, Magdalena Kagwanga asked the government to provide subsidies for the purchase of large machinery to complete construction projects.

She said that they are currently unable to complete it due to the lack of construction materials that would help the projects to be better compared to the current situation where they are unable to get action due to the problem.



Brigita Shirima (with microphone), head of Vodacom Tanzania Plc's sales for Dar es Salaam and Coast regions, speaks at yesterday's launch at Mabibo market in Dar es Salaam of the company's branding campaign dubbed 'Zaidi ya Mtandao'. Several other regions in the country witnessed a similar event simultaneously, with the firm announcing the scrapping of fees for sending and withdrawing money below 50,000/- through M-Pesa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Use alternative technologies for trees, minister urges small-scale gold miners

By Guardian Reporter

DR Selemani Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) has asked small-scale gold miners to use alternative technologies for trees in their activities to save the country's environment.

Dr Jafo made the call in Dar es Salaam

on Monday when taking part at the 45-minute program broadcasted by ITV Station.

He said that it is true that the economy derived from mining is important, but artisanal miners in different areas of the country should comply with the Environmental Law of 2004.

Dr Jafo said that there has been

damage to the environment in the areas where these activities are taking place where small miners are cutting down trees to build holes so it is time for the miners to start using steel. Along with the challenge of cutting down trees, Dr Jafo lauded the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) for actively participating in encouraging the exercise of tree

planting for small-scale miners and the public in general.

Minister Jafo also spoke on the issue of sand mining, especially in the Dar es Salaam region, where he said: "There is a challenge for miners to carry out activities without following the procedure, which causes environmental damage."

"It is true that we have a big chal-

lenge of sand mining and people leave the canyons after digging, for example in Kigamboni, they are destroying the environment, there are some people, we are thankful, they cover the holes after mining," said Dr Jafo who also is the Kisarawe MP.

However, Dr Jafo has clarified that any mining operation must obtain an Environmental Impact Assess-

ment (EIA) permit from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

"Some people are destroying the banks of rivers by digging sand without following the procedure, now they need to form groups and be given an official procedure to clean the rivers to avoid damaging the environment," he explained.



Dr Rozalia Rwegasira (2nd-L), Morogoro Region's assistant administrative secretary (Economy and Production), presents a clove tree seedling to Fatma Kambi of Kinole ward on Thursday for planting near water sources in an effort to preserve the environment and safeguard water sources. It was one of 20,000 seedlings provided by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Second right is Happiness Minja, a sustainable development programme officer with WWF-Africa. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

Court sets free former Jatu Limited chief executive officer Peter Gasaya

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Kisumu Magistrate Court yesterday set free former Jatu Plc Limited chief executive officer Peter Gasaya who is alleged to have illegally obtained money from the company's Saccos worth 5.1bn/-.

Senior State Attorney Grace Mwanga told the Court when the case was brought for preliminary hearing that the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has no intention to continue with the case.

Mwanga told the Court that DPP's decision is in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) no. 9 (I).

It was after the incident when Kisumu Principal Resident Magistrate, Mary Mrio told the Court that the accused has been set free, adding though that the Court has a mandate to re-arrest the accused.

On the defence side, the case was presented by Nafikile Mwambona and Kung'e Wabeyo from the beginning.

During the first preliminary hearing the defence side requested the Court to review bail terms whereby the prosecution side adjourned the case to have a room to discuss whether it has a mandate to review bail terms.

Gasaya and his lawyers were given bail terms of submitting or depositing to court 2.6bn/- or property equivalent to the amount but he did not fulfill the request for another date to submit the requirements.

Gasaya is being accused of obtaining 5.1bn/- by false pretense from Jatu Plc Saccos for the purpose of getting profits, something he knew wasn't true.

Bail conditions were presented to Kisumu Principal Magistrate Mary Mrio on 02 January this year when the case was brought to court for presenting bail terms

Mrio told the accused that he can also submit immovable property worth 2.6bn/-.

Also, the accused was told to have two sureties with introduction letters and identity card and must present bond with the said amount.

After failing to submit the said bail conditions, the accused was taken to remand for another mention.

Reading the charges, State Attorney Tumaini Mafuru claimed that between 01 January 2020 and 31 December 2022 the accused, when he was Jatu Plc Ltd CEO, obtained money from Jatu Plc Ltd Saccos.

Z'bar CCM-NEC secretary to advise govt to boost CCM elders' pensions

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE Secretary to the special National Executive Committee of the ruling CCM in Zanzibar, Mbeto Khamis says the party will advise the government to increase pension rate for people over 70 years of age.

Khamis made the remarks during his ongoing visit to wish CCM elders and those who are ill by giving them food items for the iftar as assistance during the holy month of Ramadhan.

He said CCM elders are supposed to lead respectful lives as they had offered themselves in founding the nation and successive Zanzibar governments.

He explained that CCM's aims and priorities is to make sure every citizen gets quality social services, especially those with special needs, including elders, many of whom no longer have strength to fend for themselves.

He also said that the basis of Zanzibar elders' pension is to pay them 20,000/- per

month, a policy passed in 2014, as part of the national economic growth plan and alleviate poverty.

He added that the plan is envisaged to spend 435m- per month, or 5.22bn/- per year.

He said it should be kept in mind that Zanzibar continues to break records for being the first country in east Africa to have the elders' pension plan and sixth in Africa after Mauritius, South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana.

For his part, CCM secretary for Amani district, Veronica Ndaru thanked the party for its various visits to console its elders, the step she said enhances love and solidarity between the party and members of the community in general.

Speaking at different times, some of the elders commended CCM and stressed that officials should protect and implement Section 5 of the 1977 CCM Constitution, 2022 edition that directs for the party victory at every election.

The Secretary CCM special National Executive Committee (CCM-NEC) donated various items for iftar including wheat flour, edible oil, macaroni, rice and sugar to elders of the party's in Amani District in Unguja.

The elders include Haji Ali Haji, Ramadhani Suleiman Nzori, Rehema Mwyni Aboubakar, Wahida Haji Jecha, Mtumwa Haji Harufu (Bi.Buku), Mohamed Haji Khatib (Chibadi), Msim Hamad Buhet and Omar Seif Omar.

Mbeya police holding man of 30 for alleged murder of step child

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya region is holding Zawadi Nzunje (30), resident of Igalako Village, Mbarali District, in the region for the alleged murder of his step child, Meshack Mlawa after she allegedly hit him with a heavy object on the head and fled to unknown destination.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Benjamin Kuzaga yesterday confirmed the incident, saying that earlier, on April 2 this year the suspect disappeared from his home with the child and on April 4 occurrence was reported at Igrusi Police Station.

He explained that following the incident, the police mounted a hunt for the suspect and were able to apprehend her and initial investigations showed that the cause of the incident was a conflict pitting the suspect and his wife that created hatred and anger against the child, hence he planned to kill the child as a revenge for an ex-wife.

"We were able to arrest the suspect in Igrusi area donning Muslim gear and entered a mosque for prayers pretending his was a Muslim," said RPC Kuzaga.

He advised married couples to resolve their differences by involving close relatives or religious leaders.

Meanwhile, the police, in the period beginning April 1 to April 11 this year, mounted crackdowns and patrols in various areas of Mbeya Region and were able to net 44 suspects of various crimes, 541 men and three women.

Among those arrested included suspects of murder, armed robberies, house breaking and stealing, cattle rustlers and illicit drugs trafficking.

RPC Kuzaga explained two suspects are detained for armed robbery incidents at Mt. Msangamwelu area along Mbeya- Mkwajuni road in Chunya District.

He said they allegedly committed the crime on March 23 in the evening with four other people wielding various weapons.

"They placed logs along the road and stopped two vehicles that were carrying various goods for traders, and robbed them of some of the goods valued at 11m/- including mobile phones and fled the scene, but two of them have been arrested," he said.



Stellah Mbuya (L), a facilitator with a Femina Hip project dubbed 'Ujana Salama', introduces some of 180 youths from six wards in Muheza District who attended training on Wednesday on ways to combat gender-based violence. Photo: Correspondent Steven Williams

Dar wants banned plastic bags out of market outlets

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AUTHORITIES in Dar es Salaam are set to carryout crackdown on producers and distributors of banned plastic bags used as packaging in the country's commercial capital market outlets.

Amos Makala, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner announced this yesterday during a meeting organized by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) for all municipalities in Dar es Salaam.

The meeting also involved the

owners of entertainment venues, bars, market leaders, producers and users of plastic bags that are used as packaging for various products in the country.

"After this meeting we expect to start the crackdown all dealers who are involved in the banned plastic bags in the city's market outlets," he said, calling all local government leaders from the grassroots levels to effectively take part in the operation.

The RC also lauded NEMC for organizing the meeting, which he described as important as it has in-

involved executives of various levels in the region who are close to the markets.

"When you invited me to participate, I quickly agreed because it is part of my job and NEMC and I have worked a lot to deal with these plastic bags, so I expect this session will bring us big changes in this region of Dar es Salaam," he said. "We started meeting with the religious leaders at Kijitonyama last year and I discussed with them about the effects of noise pollution and there are basic things we agreed on where we came from

where we are now and where we are going, we received various challenges which were partly contributed by the local and ward officials of the Municipality who provide illegal permits to business people," he said.

He said that there are special areas that have been set aside for housing, but some officials have been changing the use and issuing permits for people to do business and build houses of worship, a situation that has been causing complaints from people surrounding those areas.

"I am grateful that NEMC director has set aside another day to meet with religious leaders to discuss what we are discussing today, the noise in the streets has become a real challenge and I receive many messages from other people who are sending me voice messages saying that the music is being played in their neighborhood and they are asking for help because they do not sleep," he said.

He said the owners of bars and entertainment venues have made investments but must follow the rules and regulations set by ensuring the level of noise and vibrations they

produce has been verified by NEMC.

"Don't just give yourself pleasure and cause trouble to other people, for example your neighbor lives with his family, you enjoy making money with your customers but you cause great inconvenience to the neighbors, that's why there is a level of vibration that is acceptable according to the law," he said.

Dr. Samuel Gwamaka, director general of NEMC said the council has been receiving many complaints about noise pollution in bars and entertainment halls from various places.

City Mayor scolds parents over children upbringing

By Correspondent Cynthia Mwilezi, Arusha

ARUSHA City Mayor Maxmillan Iranqhe has lashed out at parents who abandon children and evade their upbringing responsibilities as they increase the number of street children living in difficult surroundings.

The Mayor gave the remarks here on Wednesday during the commemoration of Street Children Day organised by Amani Street Children Centre at Kaloleni in the municipality.

"These children did not decide to be in the streets or doing difficult jobs outside their abilities, but both parents agreed among themselves to bring these children as children's upbringing is the responsibility of every parent," he said and he warned all those evading such responsibility to stop the habit.

"These children face many challenges, they come across evil deeds without knowing who to disclose them to, we must ask ourselves without standing up ourselves as parents, we should not depend on the government alone to take care of these children, it is the responsibility of every stakeholder," Mayor Iranqhe said.

The coordinator of the Amani Street Children Centre Naomi Kimaro said the centre has been serving the children of two categories - street children and those children who need safe custody.

She said in regard to the second category, the centre has been rescuing children taken to police desks, and the community development department including good citizens, they upkeep them for six months and then reunite them with their families.

"Here at the centre we have the capacity to take care of 22 children, we stay with them while we make follow ups on their families, and even if they are united with their families we keep on monitoring them," she added.

She added that last year they rescued 126 street children and provided them with education and then were united with their families whereas 96 children rescued from police desks were also united with their families.

Naomi also called on the government to set aside budgets for children living in the streets to enable them get free important necessities, as well as for holding parents accountable in the children's upbringing.



KCB Bank Tanzania customers have iftar the bank hosted in Zanzibar on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Vodacom launches incentive programme for its freelancers

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania Plc has launched a special incentive program for its freelancers where they will reward its top agents with generous prizes, including a full-paid trip to South Africa at the end of the year.

Linda Riwa, Vodacom Tanzania commercial business director said that recognizing the significant contribution of their agents and to encourage their performance, they have decided to introduce a special incentive program for them that

will enable them to earn various rewards based on their appraisals.

"We take pride in continuing to be the leading technology and communication company through digital innovation that benefits the Tanzanian community nationwide. Today, we are pleased to introduce our new program called 'Vodacom Stars', which aims to benefit our registration freelancers as a way of expressing our gratitude for being part of the Vodacom family, and to empower them economically, as Vodacom is more than just a net-

work," said Riwa. Riwa stated that through this new program for freelancers in Tanzania, agents will have the opportunity to win generous prizes, including an all-expenses-paid trip to South Africa sponsored by Vodacom Tanzania.

Other prizes include motorcycles, bicycles, music speakers, health insurance, gas cookers, televisions, mobile phones, and mattresses.

In order to increase their chances of winning these prizes, they will need to demonstrate diligence by registering as

many new customers as possible to join Vodacom's Super Network.

She also added that in addition to winning trips and other prizes, these registration agents will continue to receive various bonuses such as cash and instant data bundles every time they achieve their daily targets, discounted prices on starter packs, as well as instant M-Pesa bonuses when newly connected customers purchase data bundles using M-Pesa. The total value of all the prizes and bonuses is over 2bn/-.

Ezekiel Nungwi, Vodacom's lake zone regional manager said: "To ensure that our registration agents reach customers and deliver positive updates about Vodacom's network, we will engage in various activities in different regions of the country.

These activities include using vehicles with loudspeakers for promotion, visiting agents and business owners, as well as directly engaging with customers on the streets to educate them about our services and products and connect them so they can benefit from them."

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SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

There was a time World Bank, IMF sought for ideal formulas

OUTGOING World Bank president David Malpass had a hearty conversation with Finance and Planning minister Mwigulu Nchemba, lately partly reflecting what is happening in Tanzania and to an extent, as a parting conversation. One thing is that this happened on April 13, which is birthday of founder president Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, an important figure in shaping attitudes of the Bretton Woods institutions during the 1990s in particular. It wasn't an overnight matter as Nyerere fired the first salvo in that direction in January 1981, four years before exiting that office.

In what was a customary meeting with heads of diplomatic missions at the start of the year, Mwalimu issued a formulation that became a landmark the world over in discussing IMF and World Bank policies on developing countries. It was a clash of views where the traditional format largely gave in to this campaign from Africa and the 'Third World' as a whole, soon picked by academic radicals. It led to the softening of those institutions into the sort of pleasant organisations they are today.

Mwalimu said on that day that the IMF had to stick to the motto of its name, that is, an international monetary fund. It was thus meant to assist countries that are in need, basically in balance of payments problems, but instead the IMF was seeking to become an 'international ministry of finance,' setting out policies that countries ought to follow. It was a rebuke to the IMF and the World Bank that they ignore sovereignty in standing "conditionality," policy compliance meant to access loans.

Gradually 'conditionality' was toned down and Mwalimu's followers in the South-South Founda-

tion eventually saw to it that deciding or intensely cutting public expenditure in education, health and civil service employment as a standard IMF policy format was abandoned. The World Bank had to abandon its demand for privatisation of public enterprises, and in Tanzania this was during the second phase presidency, 'improved' during the later period and thus substantially failed.

So, when the global lender's outgoing CEO tells the minister that more efforts are needed in protecting private sector investments as a pillar for economic growth in Tanzania, one has a series of questions to sort out in mind. How far is the current level of 'protection' adequate, and isn't it typical of the World Bank and IMF to appeal for 'more' efforts without setting out benchmarks? Is it really effective?

That is where the shoe pinches, as Mwalimu and others believed that it is up to developing countries themselves to figure out what efforts are needed and whether the policies are effective or not. Mwalimu insisted that this was a prerogative of sovereign countries to decide, not to sing a policy chorus from the Bretton Woods organisations. It made sense, but its real impact is to leave Africa in poverty more or less permanently, as they don't have the psychological energy it needs to make profound changes to the order of things in the various countries; it's freedom itself.

The impact of Mwalimu's intervention is that we have to find out what is best for us, not say IMF and World Bank want us to do it. As it is the case with democracy, often it needs a push from outside for any development to be attained. Fate can at times help out but usually we see plenty of suffering as countries stick to traditions.

Closely knit milestones: Nyerere's birthday, deaths of Sheikh Karume, Edward Sokoine

WE usually don't notice that the birthday of the country's founder president, Julius Nyerere falls on the next day from a grim anniversary - that of the death of the country's second prime minister, Edward Moringe Sokoine. Nyerere's birthday falls on April 13, while Sokoine's death anniversary is on April 12. He was the second top ranking national leader to die in office, after Sheikh Abeid Karume, the founder president of Zanzibar, whose anniversary falls exactly a week earlier.

Towards the end of his long stewardship at the State House, Nyerere allowed the wind of change to take place, and at times against his better judgment, regretting what happened later. President Nyerere appointed Sokoine on February 5, 1977 to the post of prime minister - a bombshell in a country used to just two people at the helm - Nyerere and veteran premier, Rashidi Kawawa. 1976 had been a mixed year, both of a good coffee global prices and substantial foreign exchange earnings, against chaotic administration where orders (from the premier in particular, reacting to gaps in supplies of commodities, etc) were paralyzing the work of the government.

In that case Sokoine entered the premiership for the first time early 1977 on the background of excess initiative on the part of the former prime minister, and his own style was that of firm intervention to get things going. But as there were bottlenecks arising from supply shortages in many things given the foreign exchange controls and lack of private investment in many areas, he couldn't achieve so much. The government sought an IMF loan to cater for a balance of payments deficit, and a kind of 'glasnost' error came in, where IMF wanted freeing of imports to a consid-

erable extent, which actually ruined the savings in forex earned from coffee surpluses.

As Sokoine stayed out of the cabinet for disease and perhaps some study outside, late 1980, the 'business as usual' format came back amid supply bottlenecks and far reaching shortages. Nyerere invited an economics professor to take over Planning, but the country had failed to recover from the effects of the war, no investment boost arose from the huge demand for goods and services as fixed assets could not be bought or sold. Acute shortages fomented an army coup plot.

Nyerere reappointed Sokoine, to an eventful and short second tenure, while the first tenure has largely been erased from public memory. Right from the word go he was going to put his mark on the job, announcing a five point plan of the new CCM government in January 1983 as he took office. Nyerere soon stepped in, stopped the drive, aware the economy would grind to a halt. He didn't quite say so but remarked "I am the driver, I know where there are potholes." It was to reassert his role as president, more than to criticise the premier.

But by this time bureaucracy was immersed in soul searching as to who would take over from Nyerere, who had declared in 1980 it was his last term. Confusion on the union started at that point (early 1983) after Isles President Aboud Jumbe failed to obtain assurances from Nyerere that he would work to ensure he succeeds him. It was clear Sokoine was the most important other leader apart from Nyerere, so when he met his death in a road crash on April 12 1984, the rumour wheel set in.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

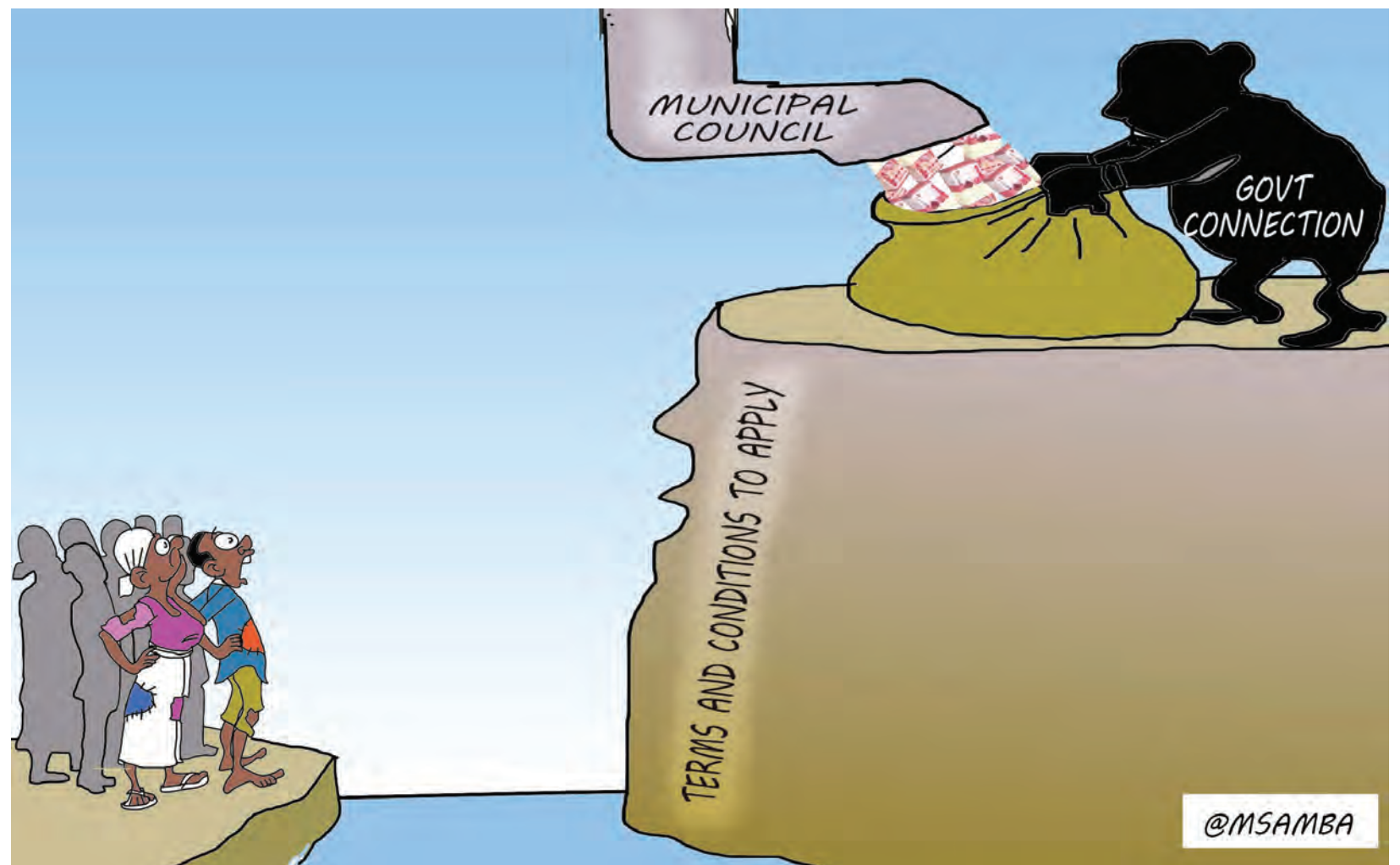
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The mining recovers from one of its most difficult periods in decades

MARKET volatility and a downturn in commodity prices have created a new normal where cost cuts, automation and operational efficiency are vitally important.

The industry specific issues related to regulation, geopolitical risk, legal limits on natural resource use, shareholder activism and public scrutiny have created additional challenges.

According to the Third National Five-Year Development Plan III, the mining sector has placed Tanzania in the higher ranks among African economies in terms of FDI attraction and non-oil economies.

Tanzania is endowed with a variety of industrial minerals and precious

metals, including iron ore, soda ash, coal, clay soil, uranium, gold, diamond and tanzanite, a rare gemstone so far worldwide found only in Tanzania thus it seeks to promote natural resources-based industrialisation.

Some of the key intervention areas in mining sector include strengthening the management and control of large-scale and medium scale mining, empower small-scale miners,

including youths and women to participate in feasible mining activities by licensing areas with basic geological information, necessary training on productive mining, technologies and equipment and mining business through STAMICO.

Others are strengthening the Mining Commission, Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST), Tanzania Gemological Centre (TGC) and Tanzania Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TEITI), promote mineral value addition and beneficiation, identify, promote and facilitate extraction of rare minerals and strengthen Corporation and mineral markets, demonstration centres and centres of excellence.

While we believe that demand for minerals will grow in the coming years, there are several trends that will determine which types of mining companies will prevail in the future. There are seven drivers that we believe will shape the mining and metals sector.

Demand for most minerals is projected to be high in order to achieve the energy transition. While fossil fuels have helped to improve living standards around the world since

the 18th century, their associated greenhouse gas emissions have led to global warming. In order to avoid catastrophic consequences for the planet, countries must decarbonise their energy systems by the middle of this century.

Given that low-emission energy and transportation systems are more mineral-intensive than their fossil fuel-based counterparts, the transition provides a great opportunity for the mining sector.

At the same time, the mining sector will have to reduce its own emissions. Mining companies that power their operations with renewable energy, operate electric or hydrogen-powered truck fleets and integrate recycling in their value chains will be best placed to sell low-carbon premium minerals.

Companies will need to venture into frontier mining areas. As world-class mineral resources in low-risk areas become exhausted, mining companies must either master new technologies for extraction and processing, or venture into frontier areas where extraction has not previously been eco-

nomic viable.

Automation and digitalisation will result in more targeted and efficient mining, which could further be enhanced through technological breakthroughs in areas such as in-situ leaching (a mining process used to recover minerals such as copper and uranium through boreholes drilled into a deposit), block caving (an underground mining method that uses gravity to exploit ore bodies located at depth) or bio mining (a technique for extracting metals from ores and other solid materials typically using prokaryotes or fungi).

Mining jurisdictions with higher perceived risks may see increasing levels of interest from investors. In the search for high-grade ore deposits, deep sea and asteroid mining will be increasingly explored by governments and companies.

While these technologies will open up new ways for mining companies to optimize the valorization of existing resources or allow access to new ones, they are uncharted territory in terms of business models, processes, and potential social and environmental externalities.

Incessant market fires and the way forward

By Jaji Abdulganiyu

THE sands of history have impressions of hazardous fire footprints in very copious measures and with each experience comes records of organic, economic and social losses.

It is pertinent to note the obvious fact that firefighters risk their lives almost always to prevent these from happening by protecting lives and property. This is what actually informs the mandate of the Federal Fire Service which is to ensure safety of lives and property by extinguishment, control and prevention of fire outbreak through Regulation, Training, Enforcement, Public Enlightenment Programmes and impact reduction during emergencies through adequate preparedness.

When I assumed office, I made it one of my top priorities to carry out enlightenment campaigns to public spaces across the 36 states of the Federation, including the FCT, which I have already begun because I believe that fire prevention is easier, safer and cheaper than firefighting. So far, we have been on national television and many radio stations through our public relations creative channels back-to-back, running our enlightenment campaigns through interviews.

The Inspection Investigation and Enforcement department has also taken the campaign to the grass-root practically, carrying out drills and lecturing the general public in public places e.g., markets, malls, etc. The schools' outreach and education unit in collaboration with Secondary School Education Board, too has been running the "catch them young" campaign in secondary schools to intimate and prep the

younger minds about fire prevention and fire protection. The NYSC is also not left out, because the collaboration the Federal Fire Service has with it is working out a more efficient and effective feat towards raising a society of well enlightened and responsible young adults about fire safety. The list is longer but for considered constraints, I will rather we paused.

Verified statistics shows on good authority that in recent times, Nigeria, as a country has suffered incessant fire and related disasters resulting from a few major causes. Some of the fires on record are the Singer Market fire in Kano, Monday Market fire in Maiduguri, Tejuosho Market fire in Yaba, Ajegunle Spare Parts Market in Lagos State, Onitsha Drug Market fire, all of which occurred within the space of just five months.

This is highly lamentable and I commensurate deeply with victims of such hazards hoping they are able to recover and find some respite from well-meaning individuals, family and friends. It is not uncommon to find arsonists as brains behind some of these fires and where it is so, it is condemnable and I am sure the law shall catch up with those who may still be on the run as some have been used as deterrents in previous cases.

With the exception of arson, fires in the market place are largely as a result of human error or carelessness. To be very specific, poor housekeeping/handling of electronic and electrical devices is the number one cause of fire hazards. It will be wise to note and be cautious of this because ignoring this point has led to colossal damage of property and in many cases loss of human lives. The engagement of quacks in the installation and maintenance of electrical fittings, gadgets or devices; overload of sockets;

leaving electrical appliances plugged in and unattended after close of work; unapproved building plans and lack of examination and proper supervision before, during and after any building construction, etc., are the most likely reasons for incessant fire outbreaks in market places based on experience and statistics.

The design of our markets was originally at least near perfect and allowed access roads for cars to drive through, but the abuse of infrastructure have resized the allowable space for firefighting trucks to drive through or manoeuvre. This poses another big challenge to a quick firefighting response. Only a few traders and shop owners are enlightened and cultured enough to appreciate the importance of obtaining and installing fire protection devices like hydrant, water sprinkler systems, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, fire blankets, etc. Hence, the need to continually enlighten them to build and develop a safety culture.

In the near future, collaborations shall be worked out between the Service and the market associations in providing a functional fire station domiciled in the premises with a firefighting truck or at least rapid response trucks that would be manned by our men.

I appeal to the private sector and state governments, area councils and market associations to ensure that these fire stations are built to standard and operated based on globally acceptable standard. The Federal Fire Service is willing to train the market security guards as fire wardens at the National Fire Academy so that first aid firefighting can be learnt and prep them for eventualities relating to fire hazards.

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The impact of Mwalimu's intervention is that we have to find out what is best for us, not say IMF and World Bank want us to do it. As it is the case with democracy, often it needs a push from outside for any development to be attained. Fate can at times help out but usually we see plenty of suffering as countries stick to traditions.

Closely knit milestones: Nyerere's birthday, deaths of Sheikh Karume, Edward Sokoine

WE usually don't notice that the birthday of the country's founder president, Julius Nyerere falls on the next day from a grim anniversary - that of the death of the country's second prime minister, Edward Moringe Sokoine. Nyerere's birthday falls on April 13, while Sokoine's death anniversary is on April 12. He was the second top ranking national leader to die in office, after Sheikh Abeid Karume, the founder president of Zanzibar, whose anniversary falls exactly a week earlier.

Towards the end of his long stewardship at the State House, Nyerere allowed the wind of change to take place, and at times against his better judgment, regretting what happened later. President Nyerere appointed Sokoine on February 5, 1977 to the post of prime minister - a bombshell in a country used to just two people at the helm - Nyerere and veteran premier, Rashidi Kawawa. 1976 had been a mixed year, both of a good coffee global prices and substantial foreign exchange earnings, against chaotic administration where orders (from the premier in particular, reacting to gaps in supplies of commodities, etc) were paralyzing the work of the government.

In that case Sokoine entered the premiership for the first time early 1977 on the background of excess initiative on the part of the former prime minister, and his own style was that of firm intervention to get things going. But as there were bottlenecks arising from supply shortages in many things given the foreign exchange controls and lack of private investment in many areas, he couldn't achieve so much. The government sought an IMF loan to cater for a balance of payments deficit, and a kind of 'glasnost' error came in, where IMF wanted freeing of imports to a consid-

erable extent, which actually ruined the savings in forex earned from coffee surpluses.

As Sokoine stayed out of the cabinet for disease and perhaps some study outside, late 1980, the 'business as usual' format came back amid supply bottlenecks and far reaching shortages. Nyerere invited an economics professor to take over Planning, but the country had failed to recover from the effects of the war, no investment boost arose from the huge demand for goods and services as fixed assets could not be bought or sold. Acute shortages fomented an army coup plot.

Nyerere reappointed Sokoine, to an eventful and short second tenure, while the first tenure has largely been erased from public memory. Right from the word go he was going to put his mark on the job, announcing a five point plan of the new CCM government in January 1983 as he took office. Nyerere soon stepped in, stopped the drive, aware the economy would grind to a halt. He didn't quite say so but remarked "I am the driver, I know where there are potholes." It was to reassert his role as president, more than to criticise the premier.

But by this time bureaucracy was immersed in soul searching as to who would take over from Nyerere, who had declared in 1980 it was his last term. Confusion on the union started at that point (early 1983) after Isles President Aboud Jumbe failed to obtain assurances from Nyerere that he would work to ensure he succeeds him. It was clear Sokoine was the most important other leader apart from Nyerere, so when he met his death in a road crash on April 12 1984, the rumour wheel set in.

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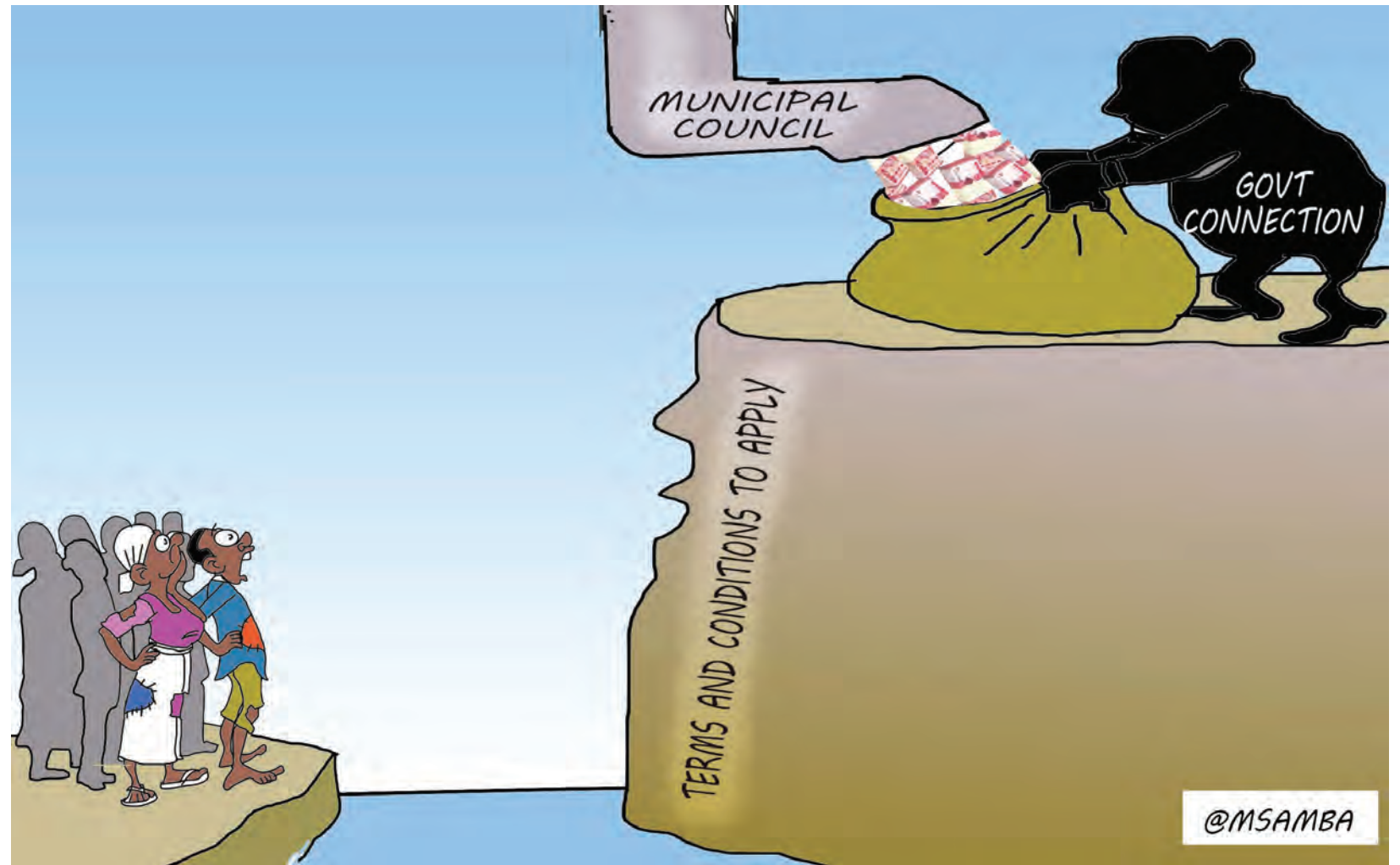
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Here's how media can best engage audiences on climate change issues

By Marina Cemaj Hochstein and Taylor Dibbert

CLIMATE change is a growing crisis that journalists are covering with increasing urgency. Yet, little attention has been paid to how readers understand and react to its coverage.

In a recent webinar, the ICFJ Pamela Howard Forum on Global Crisis Reporting dove into a report by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the UK's University of Oxford that looks at how readers access climate change news, the people they trust and how the readers feel about the issue.

During the webinar, Oxford research fellow Dr Waqas Ejaz presented findings from eight different markets and over 8,000 participants from the US, the UK, Brazil, Germany, India, Pakistan and Japan.

There are several key takeaways, one being that climate change news is in the news.

The study found that most respondents have access to climate change news. Across all countries included in the study, 51 per cent of respondents say they saw the news regarding climate change within the last week.

The media in which audiences view climate change news vary across countries: France and Germany mainly get their news from television, while Pakistan and Brazil rely on online sources, for instance.

However, over one-third of respondents say they get their news elsewhere, which includes academic journals, documentaries and blogs.

Accordingly, Ejaz says that journalists should be creative in the ways they present their work - and understand that consumers are not necessarily relying on traditional channels for climate information.

Two: When it comes to the type of media being consumed, age differences are important. Climate change is seen as a problem for future generations. Worryingly, it appears that young people consume climate change news less frequently than older audiences.

The study also found that, reflecting patterns seen in general news consumption, older people use traditional media while younger people get most of their information online.

Three: Scientists are great sources. Scientists were the most recalled and trusted information sources by audiences across all eight studied markets. Meanwhile, politicians



and political parties are some of the least trusted sources.

The study found that right-wing respondents tend to trust their politicians more, while left-wing respondents in the US, the UK, India and Brazil trust politicians the least. Generally speaking, those on the political left tend to also have a lot of trust in environmental activists.

According to the study, news media tends to fall in the middle of the reader-trust spectrum - meaning that, while news sources are not distrusted, there is still more that journalists can do to build trust regarding climate change coverage.

Four: Public perceptions matter. One of the most important things that journalists need to be aware of when writing climate stories is how they are viewed in the eyes of the public.

Journalists are in charge of educating the public about what climate change is, what is causing it and how it impacts the reader.

Ejaz goes on to note that stories about the climate crisis have to worry and concern the reader, while not over sensationalising coverage and making the reader become news avoidant.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism's study found that around 50 per cent of the public says that politicians and the public are doing too little while activists and scientists are seen as doing just enough.

Readers also say that when reading the stories, they felt concerned, worried and informed. While these emotions might sound negative, though, Ejaz stresses that these emotions are warranted owing to the scale and severity of the crisis. Only 26 per cent of respondents said they felt indifferent.

Meanwhile, reading climate

change news can also help audiences feel empowered, as more than 70 per cent of readers in India and Pakistan reported in the study.

Additionally, journalists can help the reader know what they can do in response by connecting ideas or information to action. Those who read climate change news more frequently likewise report feeling more empowered than those who read it less frequently.

Five: The market for news is crowded. While climate change news is becoming more important and prevalent, it still competes for attention with kitchen table issues like the economy and politics. For all eight markets, the biggest concern reported was the rising cost of living and inflation, not climate change.

The good news is that, while climate change has historically been considered a partisan issue, the latest study offers a different view. Most respondents, even on the political right, said they are worried about climate change and view it as an issue.

According to the report, the US sees the biggest difference between the left and right in seeing climate change as an issue in comparison to other countries.

Six: Readers are less informed about plans to combat climate change. The good news is that people are well-served by news media, and most people follow and trust the news with regard to climate change.

However, journalists can do more to serve readers better. As previously mentioned, not all sources are equal, and stories benefit from quoting scientists in particular as they are highly trusted and can lead to more credibility for a story.

Meanwhile, even as readers tend to report that they are aware of cli-

mate change and the link between greenhouse gases and climate change, they also say that they know less about what governments, politicians and communities are doing to combat climate change.

Ejaz contends that journalists should highlight policy initiatives more in their stories and cover what is being done to combat the crisis. This serves the purpose of ensuring that stories are not so negative and that they don't push readers towards avoiding this coverage.

Perhaps most importantly, climate change is no longer a separate beat and reporting on it can be found across journalism. "Economic news is climate news, health news is also climate news," Ejaz said.

Ejaz stressed that there should be a concerted effort to direct resources into making climate change a mainstream beat, especially in lower-income countries at the forefront of climate change.

"There has to be some sort of sense of urgency among people which can only be instilled through covering the topic widely, and not just back page, that's not going to get the level of attention that may be needed for them," he said.

When it comes to the way journalists cover climate change, there are clearly some bright spots. Nevertheless, journalists across the globe can and should do more to strengthen their coverage on an issue that will become increasingly important in the years ahead.

* A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists, where Marina Cemaj Hochstein is a programmes intern and Taylor Dibbert a programme manager.

HOTUBA YA WAZIRI WA NCHI, OFISI YA RAIS TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA, MHESHIMIWA ANGELLAH JASMINE KAIRUKI (MB), AKIWASILISHA BUNGENI MAKADIRIO YAMAPATO NA MATUMIZI KWA MWAKA WA FEDHA WA 2023/24



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CRDB Bank share prices increase further to 520/-

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank share price has continued to increase at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) after closing at the historical record of 520/- on Thursday this week, from 500/- recorded during the opening day of this week.

The market report shows CRDB Bank was the only stock which recorded the share price gains on Thursday's close, which also resulted into an increase of the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) by 7.95 points to 4,121.97 points.

CRDB Bank Plc, the seventh largest listed at the DSE with the market capitalization of 1.3trn/-, was also top mover on Thursday's close, after transacting 466,973 shares valued 241.1mn/- at a weighted average price of 515/- per share in 29 deals.

Analysts say the ongoing increased of the CRDB Bank Plc share price results from its strong financial performances recorded not only in 2022, but also during the last five years.

According to the bank's audited finan-



CRDB Bank headquarters in Dar es Salaam. File Photo

cial statement for 2022 published this week, profit after tax growth of 31 percent to 351.4bn/- last year, up from 268.2bn/- in 2021.

The bank also announced the end of its five-year strategic plan (2017-2022), which resulted into the growth of its net profit by 875pc in the period of 5 years.

"We are thrilled to have achieved such a significant milestone," said Abdulmajid Nsekele, the bank's managing director and Group Chief Executive Officer

(CEO). "Our customers, partners, employees, and government have been the cornerstone of our success, and we are grateful for their unwavering support."

According to the Bank's statement, as of December last year, the Bank balance sheet stood at 11.6trn/- in 2022. This was an increase of 97.2 percent growth, compared with total assets amounting 5.9trn/- recorded in 2017.

According to Frederick Nshekanabo, the

Bank's Chief Financial Officer, the credit reforms implemented over the past five years have significantly boosted the loan book and resulted in a robust portfolio.

Net loans and advances increased by 138 percent to 6.9trn/- in FY 2022, up from 2.9trn/- in 2017. Furthermore, the Bank's NPL ratio has declined from 13 percent in 2017 to a healthy 2.8 percent, indicating successful credit risk management.

Customer deposits surged by 91 percent to reach 8.2trn/- during FY 2022 from 4.3trn/- in 2017.

Meanwhile, the DSE recorded a total turnover of 265.45mn/- on Thursday, following the transactions of 494,714 shares traded in 41 deals.

The second top mover, behind CRDB Bank was NICO, which transacted 14,441 shares valued 5.79mn/- traded in three deals with price ranging from 400/- and 405/- per share.

The third top mover was Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL) which transacted 10,000 shares valued 10mn/- in four deals, at a price of 1,000/- per share.

Other active counter during the reviewed day was NMB Bank which recorded a turnover of 5.1mn/- following the transaction of 1,500 shares traded in one deal at a price of 3,340/- per share.

Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC) recorded a turnover of 3.2mn/-, following the transaction of 800 shares in three deals at a price ranging from 4,000/- and 4,100/- per share.



Marula continues to grow its assets and further expand its footprint in the critical metals sector

Marula Mining enters into commercial agreements for Tanzanian projects

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

Africa-focused mining and development company Marula Mining has entered into commercial agreement with Takela Mining Tanzania on both the Kinusi copper project and the Nyorinyori graphite project, and with Kusini Gateway Industrial Park (KGIP) on the Bagamoyo graphite project.

These commercial agreements replace the binding heads of agreements with Takela that were announced on October 4, 2022, and February 20 in respect of the 75 percent commercial interest in Kinusi and on February 17 in respect of the 75 percent commercial interest in Nyorinyori and the binding heads of agreement with KGIP announced on November 30, 2022, in respect of the 73 percent interest in Bagamoyo.

The terms and obligations of Marula's investment in each of these projects, including timelines and milestones to advance the projects through to development and the consideration that is due on each key technical milestone being achieved, are set out within the commercial agreements, according to a statement issued by Marula this week.

The commercial agreements have been entered into on the same commercial terms and conditions and obligations as those previously agreed to in the binding term sheets signed between the parties.

"I am delighted to confirm that the formal legal documentation

on our investment in each of our three Tanzanian projects has now been completed and the commercial agreements have been signed by all parties. This is another positive development for Marula and for our mining and development activities," comments Marula CEO Jason Brewer.

"We are excited to continue the advancement of Kinusi, Nyorinyori and Bagamoyo and it is pleasing to see what we have achieved at these projects in recent months. I look forward to updating our shareholders and stakeholders alike, on our progress on the projects."

He said Marula continues to grow its assets and further expand its footprint in the critical metals sector, outlining our commitment to supporting the global transition to clean energy.

"Tanzania is an exciting jurisdiction to be working in, and we are extremely pleased to be working alongside both Takela and KGIP," he said.

"This is an important milestone for both KGIP and Marula. We are pleased with the developments at Bagamoyo thus far, and especially the recent news on the two major graphite prospects that were observed during the Phase 1 programme of exploration," said KGIP COO Saeed Cabdella.

"We value this partnership with Marula and look forward to the next phase of work at Bagamoyo and also exploring other opportunities with the Marula team here in Tanzania."

PASS Trust applauded for promoting 'green' growth

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

Iringa Regional Commissioner, Halima Omari Dendego has commended the Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust for promoting inclusive green growth, which has stimulated sustainable agriculture.

"I congratulate PASS Trust for being innovative and establishing the agenda of inclusive green growth, which actually stimulates sustainable economic development and increasing agricultural," she said.

Dendego said programme enables farmers to fully engage in commercial agriculture, ensuring sustainable incomes to farmers.

The Danish government finances PASS Trust to facilitate access to financial services, modern farming tools and business development to agriculture entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

This support has therefore helped individuals, groups and companies involved in agribusiness.

On Wednesday, PASS Trust held a consultation meeting with various stakeholders in the agricultural sector to encourage production based on inclusive green growth to increase agricultural productivity.

The meeting held at the Gen-



Iringa Regional Commissioner Halima Dendego (C) attending a consultation meeting with various stakeholders in the agricultural sector to encourage production based on inclusive green growth to increase agricultural productivity. Left is the Executive Director of PASS Trust, Yohane Kaduma. (Photo by Friday Simbaya)

tle Hill hall in Iringa region, among other things, discussed ways to speed up and strengthen Sustainable Green Growth Agenda for sustainable agriculture that will meet subsistence, commercial and food security needs.

According to the PASS Trust, sustainable food security will be achieved through sustainable agricultural revolution based on the principles of inclusive Green Growth.

Speaking at the meeting, the Executive Director of PASS Trust, Yohane Ibrahim Kaduma said, "PASS Trust has a made great contributions in stimulat-

ing and facilitating the growth of agriculture in Tanzania, while giving priority to youth and women where we give them credit guarantees and business development services so that to achieve their goals".

Elaborating on the involvement of other agricultural stakeholders in the meeting, Director Kaduma added: "We believe in cooperation with other organizations that serve the agricultural sector, that is why we have invited other stakeholders in the sector to discuss and identify various ways that can help the agricultural sector through the Inclusive Green Growth

agenda which aims to encourage agricultural growth with respect for the conservation of the natural environment".

PASS Trust was established in 2000 as an organization that aims to facilitate investment and growth in agribusiness and related sectors.

PASS provides services in Tanzania in six regional offices including the southern highlands region (Mbeya), the central and eastern region (Singida), the western region (Tabora), the southern region (Ruvuma), the North (Arusha), Lake Region (Mwanza) and Head Office Dar es Salaam.

Oil price climbs on tightening supply

SINGAPORE

Oil prices rose on Friday on worries over tightening supply, with the market looking ahead to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) monthly report later in the day to clarify the global demand outlook.

Brent crude futures climbed 36 cents, or 0.42 percent, to \$86.45 per barrel by 0600 GMT.

West Texas Intermediate crude futures (WTI) rose 43 cents, or 0.52 percent, to \$82.59 a barrel.

Both benchmarks fell more than 1 percent in the previous session.

"Russian exports are showing signs of weakening as production is reported to have been curtailed by 700,000 barrels per day (bpd)," said analysts from ANZ Bank in a client note.

Investors are also focused on the IEA's monthly oil market report to be released later on Friday. The possibility that the agency might downgrade the global demand outlook over faltering macroeconomic growth is helping to cap prices.

A report from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) released on Thursday pointed to downside

risks in summer demand, citing a weaker growth backdrop, tighter monetary policy and instability in the global financial sector. Chinese trade data on Thursday, however, showed that crude imports by the world's second-largest oil consumer rose 22.5 percent year-on-year in March, stoking bullish sentiment regarding China's economic recovery. "Despite renewed

economic pressures in the U.S. and Europe, global demand for mobility fuels has increased 2.2 million bpd during the reference week ending April 8, compared to year-ago levels," JP Morgan analysts said in a client note.

A rebound in China along with other Asia countries accounted for two-thirds of global mobility fuel demand growth, the analysts said.

Friday morning's marginally higher levels come at the end of a week in which both benchmarks reached their highest levels in more than two months on decelerating US inflation data and a weakening dollar.

WTI has jumped 2 percent so far this week and Brent is 1.3 percent higher, with both heading for a fourth straight week of gains.

Muslim's Holy Month sours over foods prices spiral

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

Muslims in the country have encountered with hard time this year, as they observe the Holy Month of Ramadan, following the skyrocketing of food commodities prices, specifically those used in preparing Iftar meals.

The survey carried out by The Guardian in various suburban within main business centres in the Dar es Salaam reveals that, shoppers have to dig deeper into their pockets in order to afford food crops for preparing an evening iftar meals.

A round survey carried out early this week at Buguruni, Ilala, Temeke, Mwananyamala, Tandale and Gongo la Mboto local markets witnessed a strange phenomenon under which most petty traders are conducting their businesses to would be customers.

A spot check can reveal that, although there are plenty of foods used to prepare iftar meals which have flooded most markets, but these are sold at a high price rates in their makeshifts.

Some have been spread on the ground along street pavements in unhygienic manner, and this is against restricted orders by health experts of municipal council's authorities.

These includes sweet potatoes,



Piles of cassava and water melons spread on the ground close to a commuter bus stand at Mombasa in Dar es Salaam's Ilala municipality. Photo by Emmanuel Onyango

cassava, bananas and other merchandises alike including water melon fruits which by no means, have to be afforded by Muslim believers who have fasted at this time of holy month of Ramadan which is going on its third week.

Such products are being transported from upcountry regions such as Coast, Morogoro and Tanga regions and are sold at relatively high price rates which is not affordable by many at between 1,000/- and 2,000/- depending on the size of a heap of each item displayed.

But despite of their abundance, price quotations are very high that common buyers are lamenting but have no option other than buying in order to accomplish their needs at this period as potential buyers are observing the month of fasting.

Speaking with this writer, one buyer at Mombasa bus stage at Ukonga ward who was adorned in Muslim attire, Halima Hamisi groaned over the prices as she went along the street looking for better food crop to buy saying that is very high and hardly could afford the

quantity needed in order to suffice the number of her family members.

According to her, she laments as she has to meet with other additional daily expenses such as paying fares for her two children studying in secondary schools, leave alone three others who are at primary level who need the same financial support for their school expenses.

Another buyer was Mohammed Abdul who has two wives noted that, has to spend about 15,000 on daily basis in order to cater for the need of the entire family members,

found it so difficult to meet the required expenses for the whole family.

A spot check by this writer witnessed most petty traders who have the tendency of clogging commuter bus stands most of which are close to the said markets and have occupied the narrow congested spaces earlier restricted for access by municipal councils.

Others have almost blocked important passages designed for pedestrians as most agricultural food crops are displayed on the ground for sale and exposed in unhygienic condition which poses health hazards to potential buyers.

Under this scenario, thus it has rendered some difficulties in movements of both goods and people around and the situation is more aggravated especially during evening pick hours.

Scores of interviewed traders of such products said that, "lack of spaces forces them to spread down their products close to commuter bus stands in order to get customers with ease".

On their part, interviewed petty traders defended themselves saying that, "high surge of food prices is due to high cost of transport from upcountry regions from where most of them are exported".

"Cost of transport has exacerbated high prices an aspect that have to increase the rate in order to com-

pensate a certain percentage to fill their profit margin, says Athumani Mgassa who is trading at Mombasa market in Ukonga ward.

In addition, have blamed the district authorities of high road toll and levy charged while transporting their commodities to Dar es Salaam city saying that have used the advantage of a religious fasting.

Statistics by Muslim Council of Tanzania popularly known by its acronym in Kiswahili as 'BAKWATA' shows that, Dar es Salaam commercial city is having more Muslim believers than any other cities and towns in the country.

This is one such aspect that makes scores of petty traders to be optimistic of selling their food products used for Iftar meals so as to feed needy people in the entire city at this time when Muslim believers are observing the holy month of Ramadan.

This is a one month period which is among the five pillars of Islamic religion to be observed by its believers according to the concentrated holy book of Koran.

Other pillars according to Koran are restricted to regular prayers, offering sacrifices, attendance to the holy city of Mecca for hijah and the last one is Shaada meaning a belief in one God called 'Allah' and these must be observed by every Moslem believer in the world.

AfDB to support Burundi in developing key sectors

BUJUMBURA

The African Development Bank Group will mobilise close to \$4 million to help Burundi urgently procure over 3,000 tons of fertilizer over the upcoming agricultural season.

The support will enable the country to procure fertilizer for the first phase of the season, which begins in May. The country's needs for the entire season are estimated at 145,000 tons.

Burundi's Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Audace Niyonzima requested this support on behalf of President Évariste Ndayishimiye during a meeting with the African Development Bank head in Abidjan recently.

The bank's Group President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina said the bank will use two existing projects from its current portfolio in Burundi to help meet the immediate needs of the first phase.

The African Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism, a special fund managed by the African Development Bank, also represents an opportunity that will be explored for subsequent phases, Adesina said.

The Bank will also support Burundi's efforts to explore fertilizer procurement opportunities with other international agencies such as the World Food Programme.

Adesina encouraged the Burundian government to pursue reforms in the fertilizer sector. He suggested the establishment of an electronic wallet (e-wallet) for greater



AfDB will support Burundi's efforts to explore fertilizer procurement ahead of next farming season

transparency in the process of distributing fertilizer to beneficiaries.

The meeting focused on concrete concerns and was a continuation of discussions between Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye and Dr. Adesina at the last Dakar 2 summit on food sovereignty and resilience in January 2023.

President Adesina reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to support the government in its efforts to mobilize resources for Burundi's Food and Agriculture Delivery Compact concluded at the Dakar 2 Summit which amounts to \$200 million over five years. Discussions to fund the compact are underway

with other key partners, including the Netherlands, the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

To this end, the Bank has mobilised about \$1.3 million to finance technical studies for the establishment of agro-processing zones and irrigated areas in Karusi and Cibitoke.

The Burundian minister also requested participation in the bank's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa or AFAWA initiative, for youth and women in his country.

In response to this request, the Bank Group has committed to strengthening

the liquidity of Burundi's Youth Investment Bank (YIB) and its Women's Development and Investment Bank (WDIB) to the tune of about \$5.3 million.

Adesina explained that the Bank is moving towards the establishment of youth investment banks across the continent.

During the meeting the parties also discussed regional integration.

Adesina said the Bank plans to invest about \$100 million in the construction of the Uvinza-Musongati-Gitega section of the Tanzania-Burundi-Democratic Republic of Congo railway, between Tanzania and Burundi.

The project will be presented to the Board of Directors in September 2023.

Adesina assured the Burundian government of the Bank's support to other partners to mobilize the remaining funds for the construction of the Tanzania-Burundi railway section which requires \$1.4 billion of which about \$645.76 million is being mobilized.

Niyonzima, who is also the Bank Group Governor for Burundi, was accompanied by Sanctus Niragira, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

The visit to the headquarters of the pan-African development institution highlights the Bank's ongoing relationship with its member countries and its role as the premier multilateral development finance institution in Africa.

Sanlam cuts loss to Sh54m on lower costs

NAIROBI

Sanlam Kenya has cut the net loss for the financial year ended December by 90 percent on improved performance from the short-term business that includes motor and medical covers.

The insurer's net loss narrowed to Sh54.07 million from Sh542.36 million posted in the previous year, helped by reduced expenses in the general business – also called short-term insurance.

Net loss in the general insurance narrowed from Sh500.9 million to Sh151.66 million, helping the group in cutting losses. This was despite the life insurance business posting a drop in net profit from Sh641.99 million to Sh608.6 million.

The latest performance marks the third straight year for Sanlam Kenya to be in losses. The last net profit came in 2019 when it closed the year with Sh114.4 million.

"The board of directors is focused on building a resilient business going forward. A competitive customer value proposition, innovation, talent management and sustainability will continue informing the group's strategy in the future," said the firm.

Investors will have to endure the ninth straight year without dividends in light of the loss. Sanlam Kenya's last dividend came in 2013 at Sh4.50 per share amounting to Sh432 million as net earnings hit Sh1.25 billion.

Sanlam shareholders have also seen their wealth in the Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm eroded from Sh8.64 billion in 2013 to the current valuation of Sh1.18 billion.

The group's accumulated losses have now hit Sh1.15 billion from the previous year's Sh998 million.

In the year ended December, Sanlam General's total income had fallen from Sh3.48 billion to Sh3.17 billion as gross written premiums fell by about a third to Sh3.3 billion.

The general business, however, managed to cut the losses due to a 22 percent or Sh902 million fall in total expenses to Sh3.24 billion. The cut in costs was helped by a 52 percent fall in operating expenses from Sh1.03 billion to Sh488 million.

Sanlam, which in late 2019 announced voluntary early retirement, has not disclosed the reason behind the fall in costs.

Sanlam Life posted a drop in net earned premium from Sh7.37 billion to Sh6.35 billion, contributing to a 12.5 percent fall in total revenue to Sh7.78 billion.

However, a drop in net benefits and claims paid from Sh6.1 billion to Sh5.12 billion and a 13.5 percent fall in total expenses to Sh6.88 billion helped Sanlam Life to soften the fall in net profit.

Mkomazi National Park sees rise in tourists

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

VISITORS at Mkomazi National Park have nearly doubled to 7,000 from September 2022 to March 2023, compared with 3,070 tourists recorded between September 2021 and March 2022.

In July 2022, the park which is vital sanctuary for two highly endangered species including charismatic black rhino and sociable African wild dog recorded 1,870 tourists while in August 2022 it received 1,212 tourists.

Same district commissioner in Kilimanjaro region Kasilda Mgeni said such achievements are the impacts of Royal Tour initiative by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

DC Kasilda made such revelation before journalists during her trip to the National Park located within Same district with the aims of promoting domestic tourism.

She explained that the creativity made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan of composing the Royal Tour film with the intention to promote attractions and making them known worldwide as well



Rhinos at Mkomazi National Park

as promoting both domestic and international tourism into cultural and safari tourism helped to boost tourists arrivals.

She stated that also the renovation and improvement of park's infrastructures like building of the park's administration block, improvement of 140 kilometre stretch road and airstrip financed by the Covid-19 funds and mobile phones transactions levies, have enabled the park to

achieve that milestone prosperous for being easily accessible by tourists.

She however, emphasized Tanzania to spend their annual vacations and weekend holidays visiting the park to see touristic attractions uniqueness available into that second largest trans-boundary ecosystem in East Africa like endemic flora and fauna such as beautiful birds, big five, wild dogs and black rhinos notably

for leisure and increasing government incomes through tourism sector.

Earlier, Mkomazi National Park Tourism Officer Happiness Kiemi thanked sixth government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for giving the park fraction of Covid -19 funds, noting have spent on upgrading park's infrastructures which is now providing the quality services to tourists.

She mentioned some park's improved developments including construction of main entrance gate, 140 kilometre road stretch and airstrip that provided opportunities for private planes charters carry tourists to direct landing and take-off on the park.

Mkomazi National Park is a magnificent, 3,245 square kilometre national park in northern Tanzania.

The name was derived from Pare tribe's word for "scoop of water" meaning little water as the area is too dry especially during the dry season.

Mkomazi is the southern tip of the Sahel zone. It is a classic dry-country reserve of grey-green nyika bush, ancient baobab trees and isolated rocky hills.

WORLD

No shield for Trump in rape accuser's case as court declines to rule

NEW YORK

A Washington, DC, appeals court on Thursday declined to shield Donald Trump from the first of two civil defamation lawsuits by E. Jean Carroll, a writer who said the former US president raped her nearly three decades ago.

The district's highest local court, the Court of Appeals, said it did not have enough facts to decide whether Trump deserved immunity, after he accused the former Elle magazine columnist in June 2019 of lying about the alleged encounter.

A ruling that Trump was acting as president, and not in his personal capacity, would have immunized him and doomed Carroll's first lawsuit because the government could substitute itself as the defendant, and the government cannot be sued for defamation.

The court sent the case back to the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan, which had last September asked the Washington court for guidance on local law.

Lawyers for Carroll had no immediate comment.

Alina Habba, a lawyer for Trump, said in an email: "We are confident that the Second Circuit will rule in President Trump's favor and dismiss Ms. Carroll's case."

Thursday's decision does not affect Carroll's second lawsuit, where an April 25 trial is scheduled in Manhattan federal court.

That case also includes a battery claim under a New York law that lets sexual abuse survivors sue their alleged attackers even if statutes of limitations have run out.

No trial delay

Trump wants to postpone the trial at least until May 23, saying "prejudicial media coverage" of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's recent criminal case against him would leave that case "top of mind" for most prospective jurors.

His lawyers said a delay was also needed after they belatedly learned from Carroll's legal team that Reid Hoffman, the billionaire co-founder of LinkedIn and a prominent Democratic donor, was footing some of her legal bills.



Former US President Donald Trump (third from left) appears in court for his arraignment, April 4, 2023, in New York. (PHOTO / AP)

They said that raised the question of whether Carroll sued Trump, a Republican, to advance a political agenda.

In an order late Thursday, US District Judge Lewis Kaplan in Manhattan refused to delay the trial, but said Trump could gather more information about Hoffman's role and Carroll's understanding of it.

The judge did not address whether Bragg's case jeopardized Trump's right to a fair trial in Carroll's case.

Carroll, 79, has long accused Trump of stalling in buying a gift for another woman, but later "maneuvered" her into and sexually assaulted her in a dressing room.

Carroll has said Trump asked for her help in buying a gift for another woman, but later "maneuvered" her into and sexually assaulted her in a dressing room.

Carroll has said Trump asked for her help in buying a gift for another woman, but later "maneuvered" her into and sexually assaulted her in a dressing room.

'Fact-intensive question'

After Carroll described the incident in a June 2019 New York magazine excerpt from her memoir, Trump told a reporter at the White House that he did not know Carroll, that "she's not my type," and that she concocted the rape claim to sell her book.

He largely repeated his denial in October 2022, when he called the rape claim a "hoax," "lie," "con job" and "complete scam" on his Truth Social media platform.

The Washington appeals court said that in deciding whether people act in the scope of their employment, the district generally looks to whether they are motivated by a purpose to serve their employer around the time they acted.

Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby said determining what was on Trump's mind when he first talked about Carroll was a "fact-intensive question" that "cannot be resolved as a matter of law in either party's favor on the record before us."

At trial, Carroll is expected to introduce testimony from two women who have said Trump sexually assaulted them, and a 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape of Trump making vulgar comments about women that threatened to upend his 2016 White House run.

On April 4, Trump pleaded not guilty to 34 felony charges of falsifying business records in an indictment filed by Bragg, related to a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels. The case is Trump et al v. Carroll, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, No. 22-SP-0745.

Agencies

Huawei calls for a 'non-stop' digital future for Africa's banking industry

CAPE TOWN

HUAWEI has announced its 'Non Stop Banking' initiative. Unveiled at the Huawei Intelligent Finance Summit for Africa 2023, the initiative calls for hand-in-hand collaboration between the ICT and banking industries and facilitate a digital future of 'non-stop' services, 'non-stop' development, and 'non-stop' innovation.

In a keynote speech announcing the initiative, Leo Chen, president of Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa Region spoke about why going digital has become such a major imperative for the banking industry.

Not only does it make it easier for banks to broaden their customer base, he said, it also saves operational costs, allows them to develop new products, and deepen the customer relationship, thus generating revenues for banks.

In Africa, he added, there's an even greater imperative for banks to embrace digitization, as it allows for greater financial inclusion.

While Chen lauded the innovative work done by many African banks in embracing digitization, he pointed out that all players in the industry need to go further if they're to embrace the 'non-stop' approach that will characterise the future of banking.

Huawei has already served more than 2500 financial customers in over 60 countries and regions, including 50 of the world's top 100 banks. Numerous Huawei technologies, Chen said, are helpful on this front.

Over the years, it has provided the foundation and backbone for the digitalization of the banking industry in Africa by supporting the construction of the continent's ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity in rural areas. Its extensive focus on research and development (R&D), meanwhile, means that it's well-poised to help the industry shape its future too.

From a technical perspective, he pointed to Huawei's strength in storage, fibre optic networks, IP networks and data communication, which enable 'multi-domain collaboration' solutions for banks.

For example, its 'storage and optical connection coordination (SOCC)' solutions can reduce system switchover time from two minutes to two seconds after a network breakdown, ensuring zero transaction interruptions.

The multilayer ransomware protection (MRP) technology, meanwhile, can provide 6-layer protections, from storage, to network, to applications and other layers. It enables a reliable and secure 'end-to-end' protection to the whole system.

Finally, Huawei's intelligent network O&M solutions enable faults to be detected in one minute, diagnosed in three minutes, and rectified in five minutes.

Huawei Cloud, the world's fastest-growing major cloud service provider, can additionally support the hybrid multi-cloud service required by banks. Huawei's digital energy solutions, meanwhile, can help to provide an uninterrupted and green power supply for the banking sector. This effectively addresses power deficit issues and supports 'non-stop' banking.

That kind of technological innovation will be important because, as Jason Cao, CEO of Huawei Global Digital Finance pointed out, financial services are becoming mobile and intelligent at a blistering pace.

"The financial industry should pay acute attention to users and their demands, embracing changes," he said. "Huawei is dedicated to helping its African financial customers address challenges and accelerate changes across six fields: shifting from transaction to digital engagement, cloud-native and agile businesses, data democratization, secure and reliable infrastructure, hybrid multi-cloud and Lego-style modular services, and automated and predictable operation."

"In this way, Huawei will facilitate financial digitalization and innovatively improve productivity in Africa. Revolving around stability, agility, and intelligence, Huawei aims to build 'non-stop' financial services, and achieve 'non-stop' development alongside 'non-stop' innovation," he added.

Beyond technology, Huawei issued a call for all parties in the industry to come together and build more robust ICT infrastructure, facilitate more measures and policies to encourage digital finance innovation, cultivate a sound innovative ecosystem, and train more digital talent for the industry.

Huawei is particularly active on the last two points. Huawei Cloud's Spark programme, for example, has pledged to assist 1 000 SMEs over the next three years. And having already trained more than 80 000 digital talents in Africa, it has launched the 'LEAP' digital talent training programme in Sub-Saharan Africa region, aiming to train another 100 000 people in the next three years.

The Huawei Intelligent Finance Summit for Africa 2023 brought together more than 200 attendees, including key industry opinion leaders, as well as executives from major banks across Africa.

Agencies

IMF official: China's fiscal policy helps fight climate change

BEIJING

China's climate policy in recent years has been very successful, attesting to the positive role of fiscal policy in the country's structural transformation, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) senior official has said.

"If I were to give you my top measure or measures taken in China in the recent past, with the fiscal repercussions that I believe have been very successful, I would single out climate," Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF's fiscal affairs department, told Xinhua in a virtual interview earlier this week, during the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings.

Gaspar noted that in 2021, China introduced an emissions trading scheme that "rapidly became the largest carbon market in the world."

"That's a very good example of using the market mechanism to serve climate change mitigation, Gaspar said. "That's something the IMF has been advocating for individual countries, and also for the world."

The IMF official said the measure is "a very important contribution of China to fighting climate change at the global level." He added that the IMF believes that a minimum carbon tax could be a good part of a global deal.

Another aspect that also reflects the role of fiscal policy in China, Gaspar said, is the increase of renewables in the production of energy.

According to the International Energy Agency, China is on

track to reach in 2025 its goals for 2030 in terms of the share of renewables in the production of energy.

Noting that the increase in the share of China in world GDP reflects "quite an impressive growth performance" in the last 45 years or so, the IMF official said the main challenge for China right now is the transition in its growth model - the rebalancing of growth from investment to consumption, from exports to domestic demand.

"As China's weight (in global GDP) increases, the need to rely on its own endogenous domestic dynamism increases," said Gaspar.

"Fiscal policy can help and should help this transition by, for example, offering more generous social safety nets that will provide incentives for Chinese households to reduce elevated precautionary savings," he said.

In its newly released Fiscal Monitor, the IMF said following 2020's historic surge in global public debt to nearly 100 percent of global GDP because of economic contraction and massive government support, fiscal deficits have since declined.

In the last two years, global debt posted the steepest decline in decades and accounted for 92 percent of GDP at the end of last year, which is still about 8 percentage points above pre-pandemic projections.

"Many of these countries are now revisiting their framework of rules, institutions, in order to go back to fiscal discipline. That



Vitor Gaspar, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s fiscal affairs department, speaks at a press briefing in Washington, DC, the United States, on April 12, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

is a very good sign of returning to normal," Gaspar told Xinhua.

The IMF official considers it a priority to reduce debt vulnerabilities and rebuild fiscal buffers over time, noting that about 60 percent of low-income countries are in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress, compared with roughly 25 percent a decade ago.

As low-income countries face particularly severe challenges, international cooperation is "crucial" to helping these countries resolve unsustainable debt burdens in an orderly and timely manner, Gaspar said.

Rising interest rates have pushed up debt servicing costs around the world, the latest Fiscal Monitor noted. In 2020, in-

terest expenditures in the fiscal budget is about 2 percent of GDP, and that number is expected to reach 2.7 percent for the average of 2025-2028.

Gaspar urged fiscal policymakers to adopt tighter fiscal policies to help central banks fight inflation and promote financial stability.

"The reason we emphasize fiscal tightening right now is because it would decrease the interest rate level that monetary policy would have to put in place to bring inflation back to target in a timely way," said Gaspar.

Meanwhile, the IMF argued that tighter fiscal policies require "better targeted safety nets to protect the most vulnerable

households," including addressing food insecurity, while containing overall spending growth.

The reversal in the progress towards the global eradication of poverty is a problem highlighted by the Fiscal Monitor, which deems poverty the most salient of all sustainable development goals.

"One of the crucial fruits of the very fast growth of China in the last 45 years was the lifting of literally hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. And that's a very good example of how development helps eradicate poverty," said the IMF official.

Gaspar noted that the global progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals had already slowed down before the pandemic, and the pandemic made prospects worse and made action to progress towards the sustainable development goals "even more urgent."

The reversal in the progress towards global poverty eradication partly results from insufficient financing capacity and fiscal capacity, Gaspar said, arguing for the urgency of improving the access to financial resources for low-income countries.

Additionally, the IMF official called on policymakers to reinforce fiscal capacity through building tax capacity in these countries, stressing the complementarity between efforts at the global and at the national level.

Xinhua

China, France forge ahead against all odds to achieve steady, sustained development of bilateral relations

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron paid a state visit to China from April 5 to 7 at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The two heads of state had in-depth and high-quality exchanges over the two days in Beijing and Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province, which enhanced mutual understanding and mutual trust, and set the course for future cooperation between the two sides at the bilateral and international levels.

China and France are permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, major countries with a tradition of independence, and firm advocates for a multi-polar world and for greater democracy in international relations. The two heads of state, maintaining

close strategic communication, will not only elevate the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership to a new height, but also inject fresh impetus into China-EU relations and more stability and certainty to the volatile world.

France is the first major Western power to establish official diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Guided by the founding spirit of China-France diplomatic relations as "independence, mutual understanding, foresight, mutual benefit and win-win outcomes," China-France relations have been a pacesetter in China's relations with major Western countries.

Stability is a defining feature and valued asset of China-France relations. The two sides have worked together to main-

tain a positive and sound growth momentum in their bilateral ties over the recent years. The two sides have maintained high-frequency and high-quality strategic communication in a hybrid format.

During Macron's state visit to China, the two countries agreed to hold a new round of meetings under the three high-level mechanisms on strategic, economic and financial, and people-to-people dialogues within this year, and resume offline exchanges between legislatures and militaries as soon as possible.

The two sides reiterated mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and core interests, and will promote China-France comprehensive strategic partnership to a higher

level.

China and France share extensive common interests and see high complementarity. They have kept to the right direction of free trade and economic globalization, significantly enhancing the resilience and vitality of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The two-way trade volume and mutual direct investment have grown steadily, cooperation on large projects has further deepened, and cooperation in emerging areas such as green consumption, green energy and scientific and technological innovation has continuously expanded.

China supports French enterprises' efforts in playing a greater role in the Chinese market by making effective use of such major opening-up platforms as

the China International Import Expo, the China International Fair for Trade in Services, and the China International Consumer Products Expo.

France clearly opposes decoupling and severing supply chains, and hopes to build more stable and open supply chains.

The two heads of state witnessed the signing of a series of important bilateral agreements, which demonstrated the joint ambition of China and France to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation. Business cooperation between China and France has not only boosted the economic development and improved people's well-being of the two countries, but also helped foster greater confidence in and stabilized the expectation

of the world economic recovery.

China and France are representatives of Eastern and Western civilizations, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges remain important support for the development of bilateral relations.

Having tea by the water, Xi and Macron enjoyed the view and discussed the past and present at the Pine Garden in Guangzhou. It pictured the exchanges and mutual learning between the Chinese and French civilizations.

To protect and promote cultural diversity worldwide, China and France support the deepening of cooperation in the creation and utilization of cultural works and will work actively to resume their cooperation on culture and tourism.

People's Daily

Macron's contested pension law faces crunch constitutional test

PARIS

ARMED police were deployed outside France's Constitutional Council on Friday ahead of its key ruling on whether the government's plans to lift the retirement age, which have spurred huge protests, are in line with constitutional rules.

President Emmanuel Macron says the French must work longer or else the pension budget will fall billions of euros into the red each year by the end of the decade. But the pension system is a cornerstone of France's cherished social protection model and trade unions say the money can be found elsewhere, including by taxing the rich more heavily.

Macron made a pension system overhaul a flagship reform of his second term in office. At stake for the president are not just financial gains but his reformist credentials.

Macron's opponents took the reform to the Constitutional Council on the grounds it was tacked onto a social security budget bill, which curtailed parliamentary debate, and was then forced through without a final vote in parliament.

Government insiders and constitu-

tional experts expect the Council will say the government's actions were in line with the constitution and approve raising the legal retirement age by two years to 64, perhaps with some minor caveats. Macron and his government hope such an outcome would discourage further trade union-led protests, which have at times turned violent.

"The country must continue to move forward, work, and face the challenges that await us," Macron said during a state visit to the Netherlands.

Hardline unions and the opposition warn they will not back down even if it gets the Council's approval.

Macron must withdraw this bill "or he won't be able to rule this country," the new head of the CGT union, Sophie Binet, said on Thursday, warning of more industrial action.

'Sword of Damocles'

The legislation foresees that the increased legal retirement age will be implemented gradually, with the age lifted by three months each year starting from this September, until 2030.

From 2027, most workers will have to make social security contributions over 43 years rather than 42 years in order to draw a full pension. This



A French gendarme stands guard as a security perimeter is established around France's constitutional council on the day of a ruling from France's Constitutional Council on a contested pension reform pushed by the French government, in Paris yesterday. (PHOTO / AFP)

was already foreseen in a 2014 reform but Macron is accelerating the pace of transition. "We still hope that someone in a high place will decide to abandon this law, sit around a table and look at pension funding differently," 52-year-old postal service worker Francis Bourget said at a protest in Paris on Thursday.

The Constitutional Council will also rule on opposition calls for a citizens' referendum. It's a long shot for Macron's opponents but could still dog the government for months, while the opposition tries to gather the nearly five million signatures it would need to push this through. "It would place a sword of Damocles (above our heads) for nine

months. It wouldn't be easy, but we wouldn't be paralyzed like we have been during the last few weeks," one government source said.

A source close to Macron said the government was likely to enact swiftly the pension reform legislation, possibly early next week, if it gets the Council's green light.

The Council's ruling was expected around 1630 GMT.

Constitutional experts say it is unlikely the entire reform will be invalidated. More likely is that some measures designed to boost employment for older workers are struck down on the grounds that they do not belong in legislation tacked onto a social security budget bill.

Political observers say the widespread discontent over the government's reform could have longer-term repercussions, including a possible boost for the far right.

"I'm not that optimistic about the Constitutional Council's decision," far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who opposes the pension legislation, said earlier this week. "But what do you want me to do? Burn cars? We'll just tell the French: Vote for the National Rally." **Agencies**

Pakistan hopes to seal key IMF bailout agreement soon

KARACHI

PAKISTAN'S debt continues to be sustainable, International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday, after the government reiterated it had completed all requirements to receive a critical bailout from the IMF.

Pakistan has less than a month's worth of foreign exchange reserves and is awaiting a bailout package of \$1.1 billion from the IMF that has been delayed since November over issues related to fiscal policy adjustments.

The funds, which can only be released after signing a staff level agreement (SLA), are part of a \$6.5 billion bailout package the IMF approved in 2019, which analysts say is critical for Pakistan to avert defaulting on external payment obligations.

Pakistan's finance ministry on Thursday said IMF deputy managing director Antoinette Moniso Sayeh was confident of signing the staff level agreement very soon.

Asked what Pakistan needed to do to avoid reaching the unsustainable debt positions faced

by countries like Sri Lanka, Georgieva said: "We are not there yet, and it is better not to get there."

She said the lender has been working very hard with the authorities in Pakistan within the context of the current program to make sure the country has the policy framework in place to prevent reaching the point of unsustainable debt.

"My hope is that with the goodwill of everyone, and the implementation of what has been already agreed by the Pakistan authorities, we can complete our current program successfully," Georgieva told reporters at a briefing in Washington.

The fund is also in talks asking friendly countries of Pakistan to provide financial assurances so it can complete the programme, she said.

Pakistan is required to give an assurance that its balance of payments deficit is fully financed for the fiscal year ending in June to unlock the next tranche of IMF funding.

Pakistan's government reiterated on Thursday it has completed all requirements to receive the critical bailout money from the fund following a meeting with Sayeh.

Agencies

Why more developing countries are saying no to US hegemony

BEIJING

MANY recent media reports focus on one fact: The international community, especially developing countries, are more and more vocal in their criticism of the hegemonic and selfish behavior of the United States.

A peaceful and stable international environment -- the biggest aspiration for developing countries -- is a precondition for national development.

However, it is made out of reach by the United States -- the biggest peacebreaker and troublemaker in today's world. Countries like Iraq and Afghanistan are still trapped in turmoil because of the wars launched by the United States there.

As for the Ukraine crisis, the United States is constantly fanning the flame and hindering other countries from promoting talks for peace.

Leaders of many developing countries believe that by prolonging the crisis, the United States is exacerbating the Ukrainians' suffering, and impeding the resolution of other pressing issues facing the international community.

"We don't want to go on discussing who will

be the winner or the loser of a war," said Colombian Vice President Francia Marquez. "We are all losers and, in the end, it is humankind that loses everything." U.S. hegemony has damaged all economies in the world, especially the developing ones with a relatively weak development foundation.

Over the years, the United States has arbitrarily imposed sanctions on other countries, erected tariff barriers, and disrupted global industrial chains and supply chains. After the escalation of the Ukraine crisis,

U.S.-led Western countries launched severe sanctions against Russia, resulting in a spike of prices of global food, energy and other commodities, which overwhelmed developing countries.

The United States is playing camp confrontation, undermining international cooperation.

However, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries have made it clear that they do not want to be forced to "choose sides" between China and the United States.

In the name of promoting "democracy" around the world, the United States is actually harming the interests of many developing countries. **Xinhua**

A touch of nostalgia in a beautiful China

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has participated in the activity in Beijing every year since he became the general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee in 2012. Xi said he also participated in tree-planting activities during his work in Fujian, Zhejiang and Shanghai.

The Chinese leadership has always placed huge importance on tree planting, as it symbolizes the revitalization of the nation, sustainable development and inheritance of the Chinese civilization.

In China, there's a special holiday in spring - the National Tree Planting Day. Thousands of years ago, ancient Chinese people had the tradition of sticking willow branches on their homes during the Qingming Festival. Emperor Shun, a chief of a tribal alliance in the late primitive society of China and regarded as one of the ancestors of the Chinese nation, had appointed a minister in charge of forestry affairs nationwide. Almost every dynasty in Chinese history had taken measures to protect forests and award people for tree planting.

Sun Yat-sen, the late statesman who led a revolution that ended imperial rule in China, was one of the earliest advocates for tree planting in modern China. On March 12, 1925, Sun passed away. In order to memorize the renowned statesman, the tradition of tree planting has been kept on in the country to date.

China marked its 45th National Tree Planting Day this year. China is scheduled to plant at least 100 million mu (6.67 million hectares) of forests and grasslands this year.

Between 1982 and 2021, Chinese people voluntarily planted approximately 78.1 billion trees across the country. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, China has planted 1.02 billion mu of trees. The country's forest coverage now stands at 24.02 percent, up from 21.63 percent a decade ago.

Xi called nationwide tree-planting campaigns an active practice to advance afforestation and build a beautiful China. China has achieved prominent results in promoting holistic conservation and systematic governance of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands and deserts and in launching its large-scale greening campaign, creating a beautiful homeland with blue skies, green lands, and clean waters.

China plays a unique role in forest conservation and the prevention of deforestation. According to statistics, China has increased more than 22 million hectares of forest area in the past 10 years, ranking first globally with a contribution of a quarter of the world's new forest area.

Erik Solheim, former executive director of the UN Envi-



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (C), plants a tree during a voluntary tree planting activity in Beijing, capital of China, April 4, 2023. Xi and other leaders, including Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi, and Han Zheng, planted trees with local people at a city park in the eastern district of Chaoyang in the spring shower. [Xinhua/Ju Peng]

ronment Programme, said in a recent article that generation after generation, strenuous, smart efforts were put into the forestation process in China in these past decades, and the Chinese people have written numerous stories that have made history.

Tree planting carries the love of the Chinese people for future generations and hometowns. During the tree-planting activity on April 4, Xi told students present to encourage their future generations to plant trees when they become parents one day.

Acacia and persimmon trees, begonia, pomegranate trees and jujubes are always seen in traditional courtyard houses in the Chinese capital. Xi recollected his memories of the city when he grew up in Beijing, saying he often thinks about trees when it comes to nostalgia.

Afforestation has become a spiritual connotation of China that has been passed on from generation to generation, arousing people's awareness for environmental protection and nurturing the country's green development philosophy. Through tree planting, China has optimized its environment,

greened its mountains and kept people's nostalgia, laying a solid foundation for achieving sustainable development and inheriting the Chinese civilization.

Tree planting is a tradition, an obligation and a lifestyle of the Chinese people. Let's take proactive steps--from planting trees to ensuring our homeland has lucid waters and lush mountains, which are our invaluable assets--and draw a new picture of our beautiful China.

People's Daily



China marked its 45th National Tree Planting Day this year. China is scheduled to plant at least 100 million mu (6.67 million hectares) of forests and grasslands this year

Istanbul package agreements

MOSCOW

WE noted the latest press release from the UN Secretariat on the Black Sea Grain Initiative for the export of Ukrainian food, which once again distorts data and facts.

In this regard, we have to clarify the real state of affairs both with the implementation of the Black Sea Initiative and with the Russia-UN Memorandum on promoting domestic agricultural exports. These documents, as is known, are interconnected parts of the package proposed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The UN press release addresses the failure to carry out inspections at the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in Istanbul for the first time since the initiative launched.

It must be noted that neither Kiev's continued blocking of ammonia supplies, also prescribed in the agreements, nor the lack of any progress in the implementation of the Russia-UN Memorandum has ever caused the UN Secretariat to make a public response.

About the inspections. Today, 28 ships carrying more than 1 million tonnes of food are awaiting inspection in Turkish territorial waters. However, the UN staff at the JCC, which is responsible for the inspection plan, has refused to draw up such a schedule, trying to support the Ukrainians' demands for the registration of ships engaged in the initiative.

In its turn, the situation around the registration of dry cargo is even more complicated. First, the Ukrainians drove ships into Turkish waters strictly for their selfish purposes, regardless of either the procedure of their inclusion in the initiative envisaged in the rules, or the requirements for screening. At the same time, Russia was accused of provoking traffic jams and creating artificial ship congestion.

Then the administration of the Ukrainian ports realised that they could also make money off the order of passing ships, and began to take bribes from ship-owners to fast-track registration. This corruption story was widely covered even in the Ukrainian media.

In these conditions, as well as due to a significant increase in supplies for rich countries (more than 40 percent went to the EU alone) amid a reduction of the share for countries in need (down to 2.6 percent), which runs counter to the initially declared humanitarian goals of the initiative, the Russian delegation proposed to include the list of ships carrying food for African countries and/or those in line since January in the Ukrainian registration.

This, however, drew an antagonistic reaction from the Ukrainians, who did not want to lose a source of additional illegal income and cancelled all applications on April 5 (which was not mentioned in the UN press release). Thus, as a result of the actions of the Ukrainians themselves and the UN members, the registration and inspection of ships stalled.

In general, we note that, despite all the grandiloquent statements made about global food security and assistance to countries in need, the Black Sea Grain Initiative has served Kiev's commercial exports exclusively in the interests of Western countries. The UN World Food Programme's share of humanitarian de-

New member Finland to take part in NATO's nuclear planning

HELSINKI

NATO's new member Finland will participate in the Western military alliance's nuclear planning and support operations, the Finnish defense ministry said on Thursday, although it has decided not to allow any nuclear arms on its soil.

In a historic security policy U-turn after decades of military non-alignment, Finland became NATO's 31st member on April 4.

When joining, the Finnish government decided Finland would not permit the stationing of nuclear weapons on its territory but did not set other restrictions for the Nordic country's membership.

In practice, Finland will take part in the work of NATO's nuclear planning group, which reviews and sets the alliance's nuclear policy, and could join support functions for NATO nuclear operations outside its own territory, Director General of Defence Policy Janne Kuusela told Reuters.

"Nuclear weapons have a very central role in the deterrence and defense built by NATO. We, too, will enjoy the protection from them and therefore it is a positive matter for Finland to participate in full in different ways and by no means shut itself out of it," Kuusela said.

Among NATO members, only France has opted out from participating in the nuclear planning group, opting to reserve decision-making around its own nuclear weapons to itself.

"These activities are led by the nuclear powers," Kuusela said, referring to the United States and Britain, which both have their own nuclear arsenal and who lead the work of NATO's nuclear planning group.



liveries (543,928 tonnes) looks ludicrous compared with the total volume of food exports (277 million tonnes). But Kiev is trying to use even these deliveries for political purposes, such as advertising its Grain from Ukraine pseudo-humanitarian campaign.

In addition to this, UN representatives like to cite FAO indicators, saying that world food prices have fallen (not by 20.5 percent but by 18.6 percent since March 2022), though they keep silent about the fact that prices, especially for wheat, remain too high and unaffordable for many consumers. One of the reasons for this is that 70 percent of Ukrainian exports are fodder corn and fodder crops.

They also forget to say that normalising the supply of Russian crops (70 percent wheat), as well as fertilisers, which are key to the future harvest, would also help solve this problem.

However, even the free delivery of our fertilisers to the poorest countries meets many obstacles and delays: so far, the shipment to Malawi remains the only released consignment (20,000 out of the 262,000 tonnes blocked in the ports of Latvia, Estonia, Belgium and the Netherlands).

The removal of obstacles to Russian agricultural exports was supposed to take place as part of the Russia-UN Memorandum, which the UN did not even mention this time. Such silence is not only a clear indicator of the UN Secretariat's attitude to the package Antonio Guterres proposed, but also of the absence of any practical results regarding the Memorandum.

In this context, Russia reaffirms its position that there can be no discussion of the Black Sea Grain Initiative after May 18 without any progress regarding the five systematic problems (reconnecting Rosselkhozbank to SWIFT; resuming supplies of agricultural machinery, spare parts and maintenance service; lifting restrictions on insurance and reinsurance, plus unblocking access to ports; restoring the work of the Tolyatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline; and unblocking foreign assets and accounts of Russian companies related to the production and transportation of food and fertilisers).

Agencies



Dar es Salaam tennis player, Julius Felix, hits a shot at a training that was held at Kijitonyama courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Medo calls for solidarity among Dodoma Jiji FC stakeholders

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA Jiji FC's head coach Melis Medo has asked for unity and solidarity from government leaders and various sports stakeholders in Dodoma to save the club from succumbing to relegation to next season's Championship League.

The outfit is among six teams that are at risk of being relegated to the Championship League, as the team has amassed 28 points from 26 matches played.

Dodoma Jiji FC battled to a 1-1 draw with Coastal Union in this season's NBC Premier League clash at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Sunday as the former kept their survival hopes in jeopardy.

The tactician pointed out that the 11th place his club is now positioned is not very safe for it, so the club needs to win the remaining five games to scale up the league's table.

Medo revealed: "If you look at our trend in the league, we scored goals in each of our last five matches, but we don't score a lot while allowing too many goals, we believe we have players that can enable us to survive relegation but we need the 12th player, fans."

"I and my colleagues on the technical bench are doing our job, as is the

case with players."

"Leaders have to maintain unity and solidarity between the sports stakeholders and Dodoma residents to support their team, if they are present in the region, they have to come to the venue in large numbers to motivate players," Medo noted.

The coach was adamant that he needs to have the squad winning four games out of the remaining five games to keep the club in a safe place.

According to Medo, he believes that with the efforts they are putting in preparing the team, combined with unity and solidarity showcased by the region's residents, the team will not be relegated.

Medo stated that he realizes that the competition is strong at the moment but if there is a regional campaign in the remaining matches, there is no opposing team that will win in Dodoma as Dodoma Jiji FC aims to finish the season impressively.

Dodoma Jiji FC will take part in one home fixture in their last four league fixtures for the 2022/23 season.

It will entertain Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipal Council FC before coming up against Yanga, Namungo FC, and Ruvu Shooting in away fixtures.

Azam FC should shrug off modest outfit mentality

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COACH Antonio Conte, who recently parted ways with English Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur, had brought about discussion after pointing fingers at the club's players and leaders in front of the press and was, the following day, fired.

Conte issued the criticism immediately after the club's 3-3 away draw with Southampton on March 18, 2023.

"The situation we have been living in for the last month is not so good," he said to a sports journalist.

"And I'm not used to seeing this type of situation. I see a lot of selfish players and I don't see a team."

"I'm really upset," he separately told BBC's Match Of The Day program. "This is not the first time. I think today I can tell you this is unacceptable."

"When you are winning 3-1, 15 minutes to go, and I think you have to win. Instead, we once again showed our instability."

"We lost the characteristics of last season. Last season, we built something important. I don't want to speak about the tactical aspect, or the technical aspect, (but) about the spirit of the team. Now, at this moment, I think we are not a team."

"I don't see the sense of responsibility of the players. Now, it's difficult (to change that), because we are working one and a half years with this group of players."

"I repeat, to move in the right direction, I think we are going behind. I see a lot of negative situations, a lot of selfish situations that I don't like."

"They don't want to play under pressure, they don't have pressure. Because it's simple. The story of Tottenham is the same for almost 20 years now, there is an investor but they have never won anything. Do you know why?"

The last time Tottenham won any title was in 2008 when they won the Carabao Cup. If a football follower wants to know when Tottenham last lifted a Premier League title, then it was before Tanganyika's independence.

Conte revealed the problem



Ihefu SC's winger, Rashid Juma (R), challenges Azam FC's attacker, Abdulhamis Suleiman, when the two clubs took on each other in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League encounter which took place at Highland Estate Stadium in Mbeya on March 13. Ihefu SC cruised to 1-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

is that Tottenham has no competitive spirit. The outfit is just disappointed, no one believes that their club can win something.

In Tanzania, this is the situation that beleaguers Mainland Tanzania Premier League side, Azam FC.

If a domestic soccer follower sees Azam FC play, he/she cannot ascertain whether the squad's players are playing to win something, except for its displays in ties against Simba SC and Yanga.

Azam FC rarely shows hunger when the team locks horns with mid-table teams.

They are not competitive, they are not enjoying the game, and they are not motivated. In other words, they hardly play under pressure.

Until December last year, Azam FC was challenging Yanga at the top of this season's NBC Premier League, interchanging positions with the latter after every matchday.

However, since Azam FC is

not under pressure from either the outfit's owner or its fans, the squad is lately sitting fourth, 18 points behind the leader, Yanga, and the points gap can increase.

Antonio Conte was talking about Tottenham Hotspur but his message is also directed to Chamazi-based Azam FC. If Azam FC is leading 3-0 in a clash, the outfit's supporters should hardly celebrate until the game ends, given it might end in a draw.

If Azam FC concedes a goal in the first minute of a match, the squad is likely not to draw level until the match is over. Azam FC players are very weak mentally, that is, they are not competitors at all.

They make careless mistakes that see them either concede goals or miss clear goals. A large percentage of the goals that Azam FC fails to score do not come about due to tactical failure but individual mistakes committed by players.

When players make a lot of mistakes on the field, their

minds are in a completely different place, they are not on the field. It is just like a driver who drives a car while his mind is not on the road, he will only cause an accident.

That is what Conte was complaining about his players. He noted the players make mistakes on the field and then the blame goes to the coaches, who end up being fired.

The coach noted: "The player's mistake on the field is considered to be the club's and the coach's fault, and that is the case with all coaches who were here. I have seen the coaches that Tottenham have had on the bench." "You destroy the image of the coach to hide the deficiency every time."

This is what is going on at Azam FC. Since the team was promoted to the Premier League in 2008, there is one season, 2011/12, in which the squad's head coach Stewart Hall started the season and finished it.

There though is no other coach that started a season and ended it while heading Azam FC's technical bench.

It is not possible that the coach is always the problem, the players are also responsible. They hardly know what motivates them, and they hardly know how to play under pressure.

This is something that players inherit from each other. A new player may come with a desire to win but, when he finds his teammates have no ambition, it changes the whole complexion.

Last season, Zimbabwean forward Prince Dube ended the season with one goal for Azam FC.

Is Dube, a striker who scored 14 league goals when the footballer joined Azam FC in 2020, now the one to finish the whole season with one goal?

A soccer supporter can hardly believe it, in the 2021/22 season Dube scored only one goal in more than 18 matches.

Azam FC's leaders need to be creative about the issue to change its footballers' attitudes, otherwise, the squad will be like Tottenham Hotspur, staying more than 15 years without clinching a major tournament trophy.

All-female dance music troupe backs fight against sexual violence

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM-based all-female dance music band operating under the supervision of the Tanzania Dance Music Association (CHAMUDATA) has composed a song that promotes the fight against sexual violence.

Deborah Nyangi, CHAMUDATA's Women's Chairperson, said in Dar es Salaam recently the song is titled 'Tanzania Bila Ukatili Wa Kijinsia Inawezekana'.

"We have decided to use art to provide education about sexual violence, as there are many cases of such violence in society, as part of the mirror of the society, we must make our contribution," Deborah noted.

Deborah noted they have already completed production of the video for the song, adding that they will schedule a visit to various schools and entertainment spots to, through performing the song, encourage people to do away with gender-based violence.

"We have started with the song, we will compose many more as much as possible, I call on my fellow musicians to compose songs about the

fight against sexual violence," she said.

She said the situation has become worse at the family level, at school, and in the streets, adding that sexual violence acts are increasing.

Deborah stressed that musicians should use their profession to compose songs that encourage the fight against such practices.

The official explained that 'Tanzania Bila Ukatili Wa Kijinsia Inawezekana' is the troupe's first song since its formation.

According to Deborah, the troupe is made up of musicians from various dance music bands located in and outside Dar es Salaam.

"This band is made up of 15 musicians, some of them are singers Anna Mwaole, Luiza Mbutu, Khadija Mnoga 'Kimobitel', Anneth Kushaba, and Tabu Mambosasa, as well as keyboardist Gertrude Joseph," Deborah, who is also the band's artist, noted.

The Chairperson mentioned other musicians are Sarah Sauti (singer), Bright (drummer), and Taji Mbaraka, a base guitarist that can also sing and play other guitars.



Some of the Dar es Salaam-based all-female music troupe's musicians, whose troupe is under the supervision of Tanzania Dance Music Association (CHAMUDATA), pose for a photo recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Man Utd held by Sevilla as Juventus and Feyenoord seize Europa League leads

LONDON

MANCHESTER United's Europa League quarter-final tie against Sevilla is finely poised after two late own goals allowed the Spanish side to leave Old Trafford with a 2-2 draw in Thursday's first leg.

Elsewhere there were narrow home wins for Juventus and Feyenoord while Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen were held to a 1-1 draw by Belgian visitors Union Saint-Gilloise.

Erik ten Hag's United are the favourites to win this season's competition and they looked to be cruising towards the semi-finals as they seized a two-goal first-half lead at Old Trafford thanks to a brace by Marcel Sabitzer.

They could have been out of sight after the break but Antony hit the post at the end of a counterattack and United also saw central defensive duo Raphael Varane and Lisandro Martinez both come off injured.

Sevilla produced a remarkable late comeback, reducing the deficit in the 84th minute when Tyrell Malacia let a ball go past him in the box and then deflected a Jesus Navas cross into his own net.

They then equalised in the second minute of added time when a Youssef En-Nesyri header went in via a big touch off Harry Maguire, who had come on for Varane.

A Sevilla side who have won the Europa League or its predecessor the UEFA Cup a record six times may now fancy their chances of winning the tie in next week's return in Spain.

"We conceded two own goals, bad luck, and we have to deal with it," said Ten Hag. "We have to learn to kill the game, but still everything is open."

- Scare for Szczesny -
The winners of that tie will face either Juventus or Sporting of Portugal in the last four and the Turin giants claimed a 1-0 victory in the first leg of their quarter-final.

Federico Gatti scored the only goal of the game in the 73rd minute after Juve suffered a scare when goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny came off just before half-time when he complained of chest pains.

The Poland international was replaced by Mattia Perin who then made a brilliant double save in stoppage time at the end of the game to secure Juve's win.

"It was fear, it was something that had never happened to me before. I was struggling to breathe so I was worried and scared," said Szczesny after the game.

The Italian club said early tests showed no serious health problems for the former Arsenal goalkeeper.

Mats Wieffer scored the only goal of the game early in the second half as Dutch league leaders Feyenoord beat Jose Mourinho's Roma 1-0 in the first leg of a tie that is a repeat of last season's Europa Conference League final, won by the Italian side.

AFP

Bundesliga title in full focus as Bayern's European dreams wilt

BERLIN

FOUR matches after taking over from Julian Nagelsmann amid talks of a treble, only one title remains realistically within reach for new Bayern Munich manager Thomas Tuchel.

Knocked out of the German Cup by Freiburg, Bayern were thrashed 3-0 by Manchester City in a Champions League quarter final first leg, leaving them a mountain to climb in Wednesday's return leg in Munich.

A season without a trophy would be a disaster -- and could even prove fatal for some of the Bayern brass -- and the Bundesliga is their last realistic chance of a title.

The news on Thursday of Sadio Mane's one-match suspension after a physical altercation left teammate Leroy Sane with a bloody lip has only added to Tuchel's worries.

Two points ahead of Borussia Dortmund with seven matches remaining, Bayern host 14th-placed Hoffenheim on Saturday.

Despite their lowly table placing, Hoffenheim are on the up under American manager Pellegrino 'Rino' Matarazzo.

The American took over in February with the club in danger of a first ever relegation, but Hoffenheim are now on a three-match winning streak -- their longest since August.

Rino has form at Bayern's Allianz Arena, having come away with two 2-2 draws in his last two matches there, while in charge of previous club Stuttgart.

Hoffenheim midfielder Christoph Baumgartner said on Thursday he "expects a team that want to make up for the 3-0 defeat."

"If you're not awake in Munich, if you don't fight back, they will crush you."

After the City defeat, Bayern defender Matthijs de Ligt said "we need to stick together", keeping focus on the "big game against Hoffenheim on Saturday."

Dortmund, Bayern's challengers in the title race, take on Rino's ex-club Stuttgart, who are also experiencing a late-season bounce -- and doing so under former Hoffenheim manager Sebastian Hoeneß.

AFP

Manchester City target perfect 10, Villa's rise meets Newcastle test

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are turning up the heat on Arsenal in the Premier League title race as Pep Guardiola's men target a 10th consecutive win when lowly Leicester visit the Etihad on Saturday.

Arsenal's six-point lead at the top of the table could be halved by the time they visit West Ham on Sunday.

Both matches will also have a bearing on the battle to beat the drop with only six points separating Leicester in 19th from Wolves in 13th.

In-form Aston Villa could force their way into the top-four race when third-placed Newcastle visit Villa Park.

Manchester United are also looking to take a step closer to next season's Champions League at Nottingham Forest.

AFP Sport looks at some of the key talking points ahead of the action.

City hit top form



Erling Haaland

Leicester look like lambs to the slaughter ahead of their trip to the Etihad due to the contrasting form of both clubs.

Dean Smith will take charge of the Foxes for the first time after a nine-game winless run that has seen them slip to second bottom in the Premier League.

City, on the other hand, have scored 34 goals in winning their last nine, including a 3-0 demolition of Bayern Munich in midweek.

Despite the gap at the top, the

title race is back in City's hands as they have played a game fewer than Arsenal and also host the Gunners in their next league game after this weekend on April 26.

Erling Haaland took his tally for the season to 45 against Bayern on Tuesday and the Norwegian has more records within his reach on Saturday.

Haaland needs just two more goals to match Mohamed Salah's Premier League record of 32 in a 38-game season.

Arsenal had matched City's

recent run stride-for-stride until they stumbled in a 2-2 draw at Liverpool last weekend to blow the title race wide open once more.

"We know that everything is in our hands and we just have to keep going game by game," said Arsenal winger Bukayo Saka ahead of the trip to West Ham.

"If we win these last eight games and get some good results, the title can be ours, so we just have to stay focused."

Villa enter European race
Newcastle are closing in on a return to the Champions League for the first time in 20 years thanks to a five-game winning run.

But the Magpies face one of their last remaining hurdles against a Villa side that have taken 19 points from the last available 21.

Just staying in the top flight was Unai Emery's first task when he took over October, but the Spaniard now has Villa up in sixth.

That will be good enough for a place in next season's Europa League, which Emery has won four times with Sevilla and Villarreal.

But victory over Newcastle would close the gap on the top four to six points.

"I'm very happy for the fans," said Emery. "At home we are taking clean sheets, three times in the last three matches, we've

scored six goals, and we are winning."

Forest in freefall
Without a win in two months, Nottingham Forest have slipped into the bottom three ahead of the visit of Manchester United.

Forest spent close to £200 million (\$249 million) on a British record 29 new signings over the course of two transfer windows since being promoted back to the top flight for the first time since 1999.

But the sacking of sporting director Filippo Giraldi this week was evidence that there has been little return on investment.

Fan support has ensured manager Steve Cooper remains in a job but owner Evangelos Marinakis has warned results must "improve immediately."

Fixtures

Today (1400 GMT unless stated)

Aston Villa v Newcastle (1130), Chelsea v Brighton, Everton v Fulham, Southampton v Crystal Palace, Tottenham v Bournemouth, Wolves v Brentford, Manchester City v Leicester (1630)

Tomorrow

West Ham v Arsenal (1300), Nottingham Forest v Manchester United (1530)

Monday

Leeds v Liverpool (1900)

AFP

Guardiola can make Bellingham great - but Real Madrid would make him a global superstar

BY JASON BURT

THE choice for Jude Bellingham is clear: Join the most successful and glamorous club in the history of European football or the team that is arguably its strongest and with the best coach of his generation.

It appears to be either Real Madrid or Manchester City for the midfielder who is still a teenager until June and is the most in-demand British player since Gareth Bale elected to join Real ahead of Manchester United in 2013.

United made a late intervention then - even offering more than the world record fee of £85 million Real paid for Bale (although they kept the figure unofficial so as not to upset Cristiano Ronaldo) - but they left their move far too late as the forward had his heart set on Spain.

United are hoping to make another late swoop with Bellingham, although their hopes are complicated by the challenging financial landscape they face, with more than £300 million in outstanding transfer fees, Uefa's cost controls and the uncertainty over their ownership all adding to a 'sell-before-you-can-buy' policy.

There is also the knowledge that Bellingham has already turned them down - he chose Dortmund over United when he left Birmingham City in 2020 - although United under Erik ten Hag feel like a different proposition.

There are other alternatives. Chelsea cannot be discounted but Paris St-Germain can as they

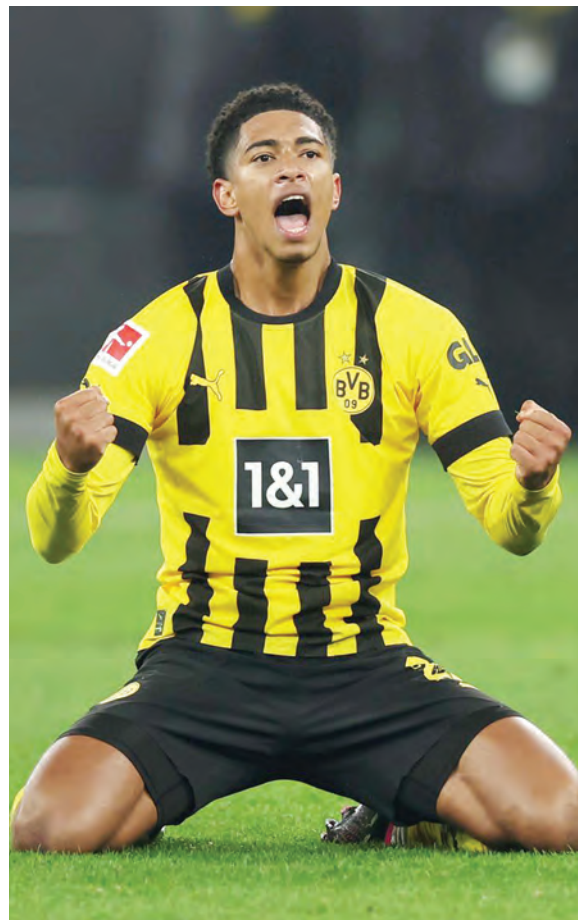
are unable to fund the signing, because of Financial Fair Play, and must work on deals to get players out as they balance their books. Liverpool have withdrawn from the race while there remains the possibility that, after all of this, Bellingham may even decide to remain with Dortmund for one more season.

If he does choose Real it is hardly some slight on the Premier League or a questioning of its pulling power. There may be well-founded scepticism over how the European champions can fund a move, which is likely to cost at least £25 million euros, but they remain adamant that they can. And they are Real Madrid.

Their appeal is obvious just as it was when Bale joined, when Jonathan Woodgate, Steve McManaman and Michael Owen went there, and just as it was when David Beckham jumped at the chance in 2003 when he was being pushed by Sir Alex Ferguson in the direction of Barcelona. Instead Beckham secured a move to Real and lifted his own superstar status to a new level.

There can be no doubt that along with the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland, and Barcelona's Pedri and Gavi - the latter beating Bellingham to win last year's 'Golden Boy' as the best under-21 in world football - that the England international is a superstar in the making. In fact, he is already there. It just now depends on how big he will be.

At Real the sell is obvious: Bellingham can



Jude Bellingham

form a stellar midfield for a decade alongside the young France internationals Eduardo Camavinga and Aurelien Tchouameni while

learning over the next year from the peerless Luka Modric, should the Croat sign a 12-month contract extension.

There is always inher-

ent risk at Real, not least because of the uncertainty over whether Carlo Ancelotti will remain as coach, who will replace him and the circus that can quickly develop at the club. Bellingham has already proved he can thrive overseas but Real is a whole new, goldfish-sized ball game.

In football terms and, maybe also, in terms of winning silverware and dominating and - crucially - developing as a player, then City appears a stronger proposition. Bellingham would link up again with Haaland, his former Dortmund team-mate, and both would still be young enough, in seasons to come, to make that big move to Real if they wanted to do so.

The pull of playing for Pep Guardiola is also extremely strong. Unquestionably he is the coach in world football who improves players the most. It is hard to think of any signings City have made under him who have not got better and enhanced their value.

Even the doubts over

the £100 million committed to bring in Jack Grealish have evaporated. It is, for Guardiola, an extraordinary track record of success and while it might be time to pray for the rest of the Premier League should Bellingham sign, it could be huge for the player fulfilling his potential for club and country.

There is a quiet confidence at City that their case is compelling and that Bellingham is leaning towards them over Real, especially now that Liverpool have put their interest on hold. Guardiola regards him as a talent that City cannot afford to miss out on and is willing to allow captain Ilkay Gundogan to leave - he is out-of-contract this summer - and sell Bernardo Silva to help fund the move. That is how highly he rates Bellingham.

It is a remarkable position for the 19-year-old to be in. He cannot make a bad choice. His superstar status appears secure whether it is Madrid or Manchester.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Manchester City target perfect 10, Villa's rise meets Newcastle test

PAGE 18

City rivals' final league derby pits confidence, determination



Yanga's winger, Ducapel Moloko (L), negotiates his way past Simba SC left-back, Mohamed Hussein, at the 2022/23 NBC Premier League match held in Dar es Salaam on October 23 last year and ended in a 1-1 draw.

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

JUST what is likely to permit either one side or the other to win the 2022/23 NBC Premier League derby in Dar es Salaam tomorrow, a potential title decider is a matter that has been preoccupying pundits for the days since the Easter festivals went to the back burner.

When the discussion is put in a nutshell, it boils down to the argument that reigning league champions Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, have confidence as they can lose that match and win the title.

Their rivals do not have that option, in which case determination is likely to be at a peak.

This said and gotten over, more complicated questions come up, such as in what manner strictly speaking determination makes a difference, and looking at some recent encounters it is hard to say this can be ascertained.

For instance, the pundits

were issuing the reminder that over the past nine or 10 derbies involving the two sides, the Msimbazi Street outfit has won just once, drawing the rest or losing.

One fan was in the past especially irritated that the red and white team lost, the fourth time.

Still, clubs prize determination, and coaches keep emphasizing the point, for instance, a technical underdog coach in the UEFA Champions League circuit was saying the other day that the issue is 'to be or to battle, together, all of us together', in repetition.

There may be a caveat about determination if there is little at stake, for instance during the CAF Champions League's Group C return match between Simba SC and Morocco's Raja Club Athletic, that both

sides had qualified for the last eight.

In past years, Uganda's Cranes lost 3-0 to Taifa Stars as it has already qualified for the 2019 AFCON finals, and one reason would be an understrength squad or low determination.

Another sphere of discussion concerns the technique, which pundits say boils down to what the technical bench is doing.

They sort out the issue in terms of the method or technique is a matter of the coach and the rest of the technical bench, while the issue of skills and how to use them belong to players.

While on the whole, this is likely to be factually valid, the technical bench has plenty to do with how far players can use their skills, not just the patterns of play, and formations.

It is doubtless that individual skills count a lot in a game, and it in a sense explains why not having this or that player on the side makes a difference, and at times a club enters a bad patch with transfer or injury.

Still, there are situations where gaps are not quite felt, as other players move into shape and cover up for missing players, such that one does not even remember someone is missing.

In such situations, patterns of play appear to be of great help, not just robust skills.

When that aspect of the issue comes up, one detects a strain of confidence among fans and pundits of the Jangwani Street side that they have a better pair of hands in Nasreddine Nabi, perhaps if one adds Cedric Kaze.

The other side has a coach who is relatively new on the job but knows the team intensely already, such that the only possible drawback in that area is if there is a set of techniques to use in a derby, where Nabi will have an advantage. That, though, can scarcely be decided.

Most pundits attribute the five Yanga derbies without a loss as due to the coach, that he is the trump card on the side.

This was also the case with its performance in the continental run, dropping to the CAF Confederation Cup and putting up a good run all the same.

Obviously, there has been a lot of recruitment in between, but somewhere notice ought to be taken of recruiting a good coach; it is not irrelevant.

So the facts remain on the table that Simba SC has a greater need of winning the match than Yanga, but there is no doubt that there will be an acute determination on the part of the reigning champions as well.

What cannot be said is the psychological aspect, if the fact that the game is more dispensable for Yanga could affect their level of determination on the pitch. It is a coin-throw issue, to try to solve from the outside.

What is likely to count however is whether there will be a surprise goal at an early part of the game, as it has what it takes to motivate a team that they can do it.

Often a first strike can smother part of the confidence but at times it has the opposite results, making the scoring side believe they are doing it, and lose focus.

It may in that sense pull the other side to battle it out with a vengeance and turn the tables, even if some would say this is a return match scenario.

Halftime is metaphorically a match already played, and when the teams return, someone has to turn the tables, even if it came up in the second half, a late rally is still possible to turn the tables.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zete kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

SSports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on SSports.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
16:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Yanga Princess' midfielder, Precious Christopher (L), races past Simba Queens' defender, Daniela Ngoyi, when the sides faced each other in this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League clash held in Dar es Salaam on March 22 and ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA PRINCESS

Yanga Princess optimistic about excelling in remaining SWPL fixtures

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

YANGA Princess' interim head coach Fredy Mbuna has pledged to ensure the team hardly commits the same mistakes that led to its loss to Alliance Girls in this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) clash.

The Mainland Tanzania women's top-flight's 13th round tie that took place at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza on April 5 had seen Alliance Girls garner a 1-0 win over Yanga Princess.

Yanga Princess has, as a result, conceded a loss in three games in the top flight, having earlier been beaten by Fountain Gate Princess in both Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

The April 5 match was the first Women's Premier League assignment that has witnessed Mbuna, the former Yanga versatile footballer, serving as a caretaker coach for the women's team.

Mbuna is leading Yanga Princess's technical bench after the then-head coach, Sebastian Nkoma, was fired following the club's poor performance.

Under Nkoma's tutelage, Yanga Princess conceded a loss in one tie, losing 1-0 to Fountain Gate Princess in a duel that took place in Dodoma on March 9.

In the other loss, Yanga Princess went down 1-0 to Fountain Gate Princess on the league's opening day in Dar es Salaam last year when the former was coached by Edna Lema.

"My outfit played well against Alliance Girls but, unfortunately, luck was not on our side, I further observed the weaknesses in my team," Mbuna noted.

"I'm going to work on them and once again we will return to the pitch focusing on victory in the coming games," Mbuna insisted.

Yanga Princess is lately sitting fourth after collecting 22 points in 13 matches whilst JKT Queens lead the rest of the pack having amassed 31 points.

Before losing to Alliance Girls, Yanga Princess had not managed to notch a victory, losing 1-0 to Fountain Gate Princess, settling for a 0-0 draw with Mkwawa Queens, and thereafter posting a 1-1 draw with Simba Queens.

Alaf Aces cricketers all out to dominate 2023 DC 50 Overs League

By Guardian Reporter

WITH almost three ties having already taken place in the Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 50 Overs Division A's League, Alaf Aces Cricket Club has turned into one of the showdown's favourites.

The tournament's Group A is led by Alaf Aces Cricket Club, which boasts wins in two out of three outings and a 1.3467 net run rate.

They opened their campaign with a 44-run win over Lions Cricket Club in a tie that took place in the city on February 19.

Caravans Cricket Club, also one of the top honour challengers, was Alaf Aces Cricket Club's next victim, with the former suffering a five-wicket loss to the latter in a duel that took place on February 26.

Pacer, Ally Mpeka, starred for Alaf Aces Cricket Club when the club fielded, as the cricketer ran rings around Caravans Cricket Club's batting lineup and claimed a six-wicket haul whilst giving away 38 runs in 9.1 overs.

Zimbabwean cricketer, Aisah Chibanda, won the Man of the Match prize thanks to



Promising all-rounder Hamza Ally (R), now playing for TCA Combine in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 50 Overs Division A's League, receives the Kiwingu Man of the Match prize from Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) vice-chairman, Shaheed Dhanani, after the side took on Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) in the competition's duel played recently. Ally is Alaf Aces Cricket Club's cricketer roped in by the outfit before the beginning of this season. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALAFACES CRICKET CLUB

his impressive showing at the crease during Alaf Aces Cricket Club's innings, nailing 60 runs not out.

Alaf Aces Cricket Club's tie against the Gymkhana outfit, slated to take place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) on March 19, was abandoned before the beginning of the second innings because of

rain.

The Gymkhana squad had batted first in the scheduled 50-over clash and notched 185 runs all out in 40.3 overs before the rain brought the game to a stop.

The Group A leader further has one of the most competent batting lineups, amassing 518 runs and leaking 470 runs.

Second-placed Caravans Cricket Club has posted a victory in two ties and a defeat in one to settle for the 1.6342 net run rate. The outfit has posted 788 runs and given away 491 runs.

Gupta Upanga SC - A, placed third in Group A, is also in the race for the silverware, as the club has notched 454 runs and conceded 582 runs from two victories and one loss to record 0.1141 net run rate.

Lions Cricket Club, now occupying fourth place, has to showcase elements of a strong contender for the top honour as it has managed to notch 659 runs and conceded 639 runs from victory in one clash and loss in two matches.

Bottom-placed Gymkhana Cricket Club has managed to post the -2.4045 net run rate from four matches after losing three ties and the other clash was abandoned.

A seasoned challenger, Aga Khan SC, is enjoying the driver's seat in Group B after collecting a 3.0938 net run rate from victory in three out of four fixtures, followed by second-placed Pak Stars boasting a 5.6600 net run rate.

Strikers Club, positioned

third, has amassed a 0.4415 net run rate (401 runs scored and 320 runs conceded) whereas Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC), now sitting fourth, has notched -2.3600.

TCA Combine languishes at the bottom of the table in Group B without a victory in four ties - notching a -3.5744 net run rate.

Alaf Aces Cricket Club is still reveling in last season's success, as the outfit lifted the 2022 GP Gymkhana Shield tournament title which took place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC), defeating Aga Khan SC by 23 runs in the final.

Winning the 2022 GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's trophy turns out to be the most memorable achievement the club has had in recent years.

Alaf Aces Cricket Club's quest for success in this showpiece was hugely boosted by its acquisition of gifted Zimbabwean all-rounders, Chibanda and Jeremiah Makanya.

The duo had turned out for their country's national U-19 squad which took part in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup in the past.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

