

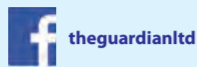


BUSINESS DSE shareholders approve 2.4bn/- dividends for 2022

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Edenville seeks to end contract mining arrangement with NextGen

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EABC appeals for harmonised EAC countries' domestic taxes

By Guardian Reporter

PARTNER states in the East African Community (EAC) need to harmonise domestic taxes to attract more investments into the region, the East African Business Council (EABC) has declared.

John Kalisa, the EABC chief executive officer, says such a measure is consonant with the treaty for establishment of the East African Community (EAC) as it obliges the partner states to harmonise their tax policies. This is meant to remove tax distortions and enhance efficient allocation of investments within the trading block, he said, at a webinar on domestic tax regimes and proposed measures in the next financial year.

Sovereign design and management of domestic taxes has resulted in huge differences in tax systems of the partner states, unfair tax competition and unequal treatment of taxpayers as well as goods and services across the region, the chamber leader intoned.

EABC organised the webinar in liaison with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), an accounting firm, shouldered by Coca-Cola (T) Ltd, to collect stakeholders' views ahead of budget readings of the partner states, apart from Kenya which delivered its budget early to go into election season.

Participants pointed at differences in withholding, Value Added Tax (VAT) and excise taxes across the member states, where Tanzania Mainland, Uganda and Rwanda have a VAT standard rate pegged at 18 per cent, Kenya at 16 per cent and Zanzibar at 15 per cent. Excise taxes for telecommunication services and bank transactions vary across the sub-region. EABC vice chairman Simon Kaheru said that EAC Customs Union protocols since 2005 bring the partner states to apply harmonized customs

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ICT bill zeroes on changes in digital economy, media



President Samia Suluhu Hassan talks with the African Development Bank (AfDB) resident country manager Dr Patricia Laverley at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

OVERSEEING the digital economy and amendments to the Media Services Act of 2016 are the ranking priorities in the fiscal 2022/23 work plan for the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology.

The minister, Nape Nnauye, made this observation when winding up debate and contributions to his 282bn/- budget proposals, which elicited a massive show of support by legislators, on his emphasis that digital economy is the only way forward.

Already \$150bn has been secured by the government from the World Bank to facilitate the national digital economy strategy, to enhance internet accessibility and mobile money transactions coverage.

During fiscal 2022/23 the government will be involved in the construction of 150 telecommunication towers, with internet capacity of 2G and 3G speed bands, he said.

A portion of funds will be used to upgrade 350 telecommunication towers to access 3G and 4G internet communications from the current 2G general level, he said, underlining the focus on digital economy.

The government is similarly prepared to provide 5G internet speed licence to service providers demonstrating they have the right equipment and skills to manage the ultramodern version in internet services.

The minister expressed confidence that 68 per cent of the population lives in areas with reliable access to 3G and 4G internet services but just 27 per cent are capable of accessing internet services through their mobile phones. The government was committed to helping the private sector in bridging the gap, he stated.

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Zanzibar energy bill, tax rates listed as unresolved

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

SEVEN contentious issues related to electricity billing for Zanzibar, revenue sharing and tax issues are listed as unresolved Union matters, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Minister of

State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) told legislators that the issues still feature disputes about revenues for Zanzibar shares in the East African Currency Board which collapsed in 1966, along with sharing of profits generated by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

He was responding to Abbas Ali

Hassan (Fuoni) who asked how many union matters have not yet been resolved and what efforts are being made to address them, to which the minister noted that since President Samia Suluhu Hassan assumed office last March, eleven union matters out of 25 have been resolved.

From 2012 to 2015 the union

resolved seven matters, thus adding eleven matters in one year was phenomenal, illustrating the goodwill of the president in mutual reconciliation, the minister affirmed.

Other union matters yet to be

Help with coops bank plan, Speaker asks CRDB Bank



By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ASSISTING the government in its plans to establish a bank for cooperatives is among key issues that National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson is appealing to the CRDB Bank to examine.

Addressing a shareholders' seminar ahead of the bank's annual general meeting slated for Sunday at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), the parliamentary leader applauded the bank for its lending in agriculture, its participation in the stock market (DSE) as a listed bank. CRDB Bank has so far managed to support two community banks, namely Tandahimba Community Bank and the Kilimanjaro

Cooperative Bank by enhancing their financial capacities to serve farming activities in their respective areas, she said, urging the bank to extend financing to youths to stimulate gainful occupations.

The scheduled meeting will be graced by Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, while Dr Tulia was overly enthusiastic with CRDB Bank record of strong financial performances and regular dividend payments to shareholders.

Profit after tax attained by the bank, at 268.2bn/- last year from 165bn/- in 2020 "is testimony that this bank is exceptional and this has

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EABC appeals for harmonised EAC countries' domestic taxes

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duties, by uniform application of the Common External Tariff (CET). EAC ministers responsible for trade, industry, finance and investment in April finally agreed on 35 per cent maximum rate in a four-band tariff structure, with the partner states retaining the mandate for income tax, VAT and excise duty. Adrian Njau, the chamber's trade policy advisor said the EAC pact on double taxation enacted in 2010 has not been ratified by Tanzania, while Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda have done so. Harmonisation of domestic taxes is perceived as carting a big risk of revenue loss and erosion of policy space for EAC partner states, apart from the arduous negotiations needed for each aspect in harmonising every taxation item. For fiscal 2022/2023, Tanzania businesses are proposing excise duty rate on telecoms brought down from 17 per cent to 10 per cent and raising VAT registration threshold to 200m/- of output per year, participants noted. The Kenyan Finance Bill 2022 increases the capital gains tax rate from 5.0 per cent to 15 per cent, while exempting VAT on plant and machinery in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals. In Uganda, there are proposals for expansion of VAT exemption regime to include: assistive devices for persons with disabilities, supply of airport user services charged by civil aviation authorities, the supply of oxygen for medical use and new investment of \$5m in any specialised hospital. Rwanda had conducted a review of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) bands, while VAT on digital service providers is expected with a transitional period proviso, they added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango hands over a certificate of appreciation during the Innovation Week Tanzania (IWTz) 2022 to NMB Bank head of innovations Jossina Njambi (2nd L) during the closure of the ceremony at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma yesterday. Others are the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (L) Minister for Education Science and Technology Prof Adolf Mkenda (R) and the bank's head of government business Vicky Bishubo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AU member states link forces on terrorism

FROM PAGE 1

never been recorded by any bank in Tanzania," she asserted, underlining that the bank has the capacity to maintain its position, saying it is a model for other public firms.

The proposal by the board of directors to increase dividends payment by 64 per cent will make shareholders proud, she stated, ac-

knowledging the work CRDB Bank was doing in delivering financial literacy to the wider public.

Ally Laay, the board chairman, said 80 per cent of the bank's ownership is in the hands of Tanzanians, taking note of government ownership of 36 per cent, rooting for greater presence of local people in the share distribution "to share the benefits generated from bank operation, via dividends."

Managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela said the seminar would enhance financial literacy among the shareholders, to understand the importance of investing in the bank. "Increased investment will boost their incomes, and we also sensitize them to convince other Tanzanians to join them in investing with the bank," he stated.

Shareholders who will not make it to Arusha for the AGM can do so

virtually through its simbanking app from nine in the morning, he advised, noting that the meeting is convened to comply with provisions of the Companies Act, no 212 in its 2020 edition.

The bank has availed opportunities to shareholders to discuss issues concerning the bank in which they are investing, as well as examining different decisions of the board and management, he said.

The meeting shall conduct an election of board members, receive and discuss the annual report by the board of directors, receive statements of audited financial accounts and approve of the dividends payment for this year.

At the stock market, CRDB Bank share prices rose to 430/- on Thursday from 385/- recorded during the close of last week's trading session on Friday.

ICT bill zeroes on changes in digital economy, media

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Internet subscriptions had increased to 29.9m in April 2022 from 29.1m a year earlier, representing 2.7 per cent of growth, which roughly reflects population growth.

In realising the digital economy, the government has deducted voice interconnection charges to 2/- per minute from 2.6/- per minute set in April 2021, a 23.1 per cent reduction, he stated.

The Media Service Act 2016 will be tabled for amendments that will benefit journalists, he said, laying emphasis on welfare issues instead of media freedom.

The proposals the minister cited include contested suggestions like 'ending the miserable life that journalists are living by working without contracts,' and instituting a minimum level of education for media practitioners.

During fiscal 2021/22 the government was targeting to connect 532 wards with total of 1,100 villages and 5.21m residents with mobile phone communication facilities, billed to cost 82.2bn/-.

As of April 2022, a total of 123 wards comprising 314 villages and 1.38m residents had been reached, while the remaining 409 wards have different levels of project execution, through the Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF).

Through UCSAF the ministry will soon be tendering for installation of five free hotspot Wi-Fi centers likely to commence



Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology Nape Nnauye presents his ministry's budget estimates for the financial year 2022/2023 in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

anytime from next month, he said.

A residential address codification exercise billed at 45bn/- had attained 12,171,320 addresses, overtaking the set target, meanwhile as TANESCO infrastructure will be put to enabling the UCSAF access remote areas. The facility will cut down costs of expanding connection to the national broadband main frame construction.

Telecommunication cables covering 4,442 kilometers were laid, from 1,880 kilometers expected before the accord was reached, extending the national broadband coverage

to 12,761 kilometers by the end of the year, with the total project set at 171.40bn/- in costs.

Sold timecards increased to 55.37m by April 2022 from 52.97m by April last year, an increment of 4.5 percent.

Mobile money subscribers topped 35.75m from 27.33m a year earlier, a 30.8 per cent increase, with communication infrastructure service providers increasing to 23 from 19 in April 2021, a 21.1 per cent rise.

Application services and those adding value increased to 102 from 66 service providers, a rapid increase of

54.5 per cent.

Radio stations have increased to 210 from 200 a year earlier, a five per cent rise, television stations reaching 56 from 50, a 12 per cent increase, while cable television stations topped 59 from 40, a hefty increase of 47.5 per cent.

Registered newspapers titles rose to 284 from 272, a slight 4.4 per cent increase, 663 registered online televised channels from 552, showing a 20.1 per cent rise. Similarly 148 blogs were operating from 134 earlier, a timid 10.4 per cent increase. Online

radio stations increased to 27 from 25, an eight per cent increase, adding up to 285 registered media outlets after issuing 19 licences to new newspapers in the past year, the minister observed.

A report on the National Economy Status 2020 prepared by the National Bureau of Statistics, says the information and communication technology sector was growing at 8.4 per cent annually, with a survey last year showing that 69 per cent of the country's land surface has access to mobile phone communications, he added.

Zanzibar energy bill, tax rates listed as unresolved

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resolved include the registration of firearms, electricity costs when the Mainland power utility (TANESCO) supplies power to the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO).

There are also complaints by Zanzibar traders on double taxation, amounts of Pay As You Earn (PAYE) deducted from salaries, plus withholding tax compliance.

Working on recommendations by the Joint Finance Commission and issue of the export of Zanzibar sugar to the Mainland poses challenges, he said.

Efforts are being made to resolve remaining union matters being contested, with VPO strengthening the resolution mechanism, he elaborated, specifying that the two parts have been working on setback matters and decisions by the joint committee secretariat for evaluation.

The Union government and the Zanzibar authorities have separate teams working on decisions of the joint committee on better approaches in resolving the pending matters.

In October 2020, the government announced that five issues were resolved and officially removed from the list of contentious issues of the union.

These include meeting procedures for the joint committee examining union issues, along with inking an accord on oil and gas investments, while others were agreements on charges on cargo shipped from Zanzibar at the port of Dar es Salaam, participation of Zanzibar in the East African Community (EAC) and its involvement in international and regional issues.

'Tanzanians must cherish Mwalimu Nyerere ideas'

By Henry Mwangonde

CHINESE ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian has advised Tanzanians to inherit the precious spiritual wealth of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in defending international fairness and justice.

Chen was speaking at a one-day symposium to commemorate the centenary anniversary of Mwalimu Nyerere's birth which was jointly organised by the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and the Chinese embas-

sy in Tanzania earlier this week.

The envoy said the founding is the mastermind of the everlasting friendship between China and Tanzania which further deepen exchanges of experience in governance, stimulate the potential of practical cooperation, and consolidate the foundation of friendship.

"Nyerere was dedicated to promoting China-Tanzanian friendship all through his life, leaving much told tales," she said.

Ambassador Mingjian said Nyerere

re set the tone of the comprehensive and consistent friendship between China and Tanzania, and forged the tradition of sharing weal and woe between the two countries.

The symposium was attended by retired Tanzanian leaders, leaders of political parties, ambassadors and high commissioners of foreign countries to Tanzania, think tanks, charity organizations and media houses.

"President Nyerere embodies the inclusiveness and global vision of China and Tanzania," said Chen,

adding that his legacy still guides the development of China-Tanzania relations.

She said successive administrations of China and Tanzania have placed the development of friendship between the two countries in a prominent position.

Deng Li, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, delivered a video message, saying Nyerere was dearly loved by the people of Tanzania, enjoyed high prestige in Africa, and was well known to and

respected by the Chinese people.

He called for the need to carry forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Speaking on behalf of Tanzania's Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Zanzibar's Minister of State in the Second Vice-President's Office, Hamza Hassan Juma, said Nyerere and Zanzibar's founding leader Abeid Amani Karume were the brains behind the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar forged in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

Juma added that Nyerere taught Tanzanians to be self-reliance and discouraged dependence on foreign aid.

Director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam Prof Humphrey Mushi in two decades, China has become Africa's most important economic partner in areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure, financing and aid.



Ukonga legislator Jerry Silaa contributes during the budget session in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'2500 women who deliver in country have obstetric fistula'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AT least 2500 women giving birth in the country are susceptible to obstetric fistula due to traditional beliefs and lacks of awareness are the main contributing factors, it has been said.

Dar es Salaam regional medical officer Dr Rashid Mfaume said yesterday at a function to commemorate the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (IDEOF) marked each year on 23 May.

Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic childbirth injuries. A hole between the birth canal and bladder is caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without access to timely, high-quality medical treatment.

Dr Mfaume said this year's theme was "End Fistula Now: Invest in Quality Healthcare, Empower Communities".

He said awareness among the public was highly needed to end the problem affecting many women in the country in the least developed countries including Tanzania, 100,000 new cases are reported every year.

Dr Mfaume said fistulas can cause a lot of discomfort, and if left untreated, may cause serious complications.

"Our home based Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) attends between 462 and 600 new cases every year, this is an alert that the problem is growing," he said.

Dr Mfaume noted that in Dar es Salaam alone, out of 100 women delivered, 20 were found with fistula, meaning the problem was also in urban areas.

He expressed his region's role to champion campaigns against the problem to ensure the public is aware and takes action when they see similar symptoms.

Brenda Msangi, CCBRT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said that since its inception 2013, it has treated 17,500 women.

She said last year 462 women got treatment adding that the number was still small compared to the magnitude of the problem.

The CEO said that despite all achievements reached so far, more efforts are still needed to be done to end the problem among the women.

According to her, there is a risk of developing cancer in the fistula tract if left untreated for a long period of time. However, most fistulas are simple to treat

Our home based Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) attends between 462 and 600 new cases every year, this is an alert that the problem is growing

'HPSS project set to phase out next year'

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) 'Tuimarishie Afya' project is set to phase out next year with some notable successes which clears the way for universal health coverage.

Among the successes included restructuring of the Community Health Fund (CHF), improved communication systems and improved procurement systems for health commodities.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) annual joint Scientific Conference in Dar es Salaam HPSS Project manager Ally Kebby said the project is aimed at improving access to and the quality of health services both in demand (health promotion, health insurance) and the supply side (drug procurement; health technology maintenance).

The project which is implemented under Tanzania-Swiss cooperation started 10 years ago and will end in October, next year.

It is funded by the Swiss Government and implemented by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, a key partner in health system strengthening initiatives in the country since 2011 and is one of the sponsors of the AJSC.

Kebby noted that the programme has contributed to strengthening capacity of the Medical Stores Department (MSD) of procurement and supply of medicines during the period.

Kebby was speaking in Dar es Salaam on the sidelines of the ongoing 31st Annual Scientific Conference organised by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

The three-day workshop, which started on Tuesday, this week, has brought together scientists, researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders to share expertise on health matters.

"We are a people-centered project that follows a comprehensive systems

approach. We develop innovative solutions in partnership with the Government and support their integration into national institutions, systems and policies. We strive to improve access to, utilization and quality of health services in Tanzania", said Kebby.

During the AJSC, HPSS Project will make a number of presentations highlighting the project's health systems strengthening contributions towards achieving universal health coverage with a focus on health insurance and health commodity supply and use.

Kebby further commended the government for investing heavily in health sector.

He said the government's move to construct and equip zonal hospitals, regional and district hospitals as well as health centres across the country was commendable.



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Rikolto in East Africa is implementing a 4-year horticulture project in Tanzania funded by the European Union's flagship programme AGRI-CONNECT, which aims to improve and increase market competitiveness in the sector.

The project "Building Inclusive and Competitive Horticulture Businesses in Tanzania's Southern Highlands" runs from 2020 to 2024 in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, covering Katavi, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya and Songwe.

We are currently looking for a communication officer in Arusha, Iringa or Mbeya to ensure visibility and communication about Rikolto programmes, especially for the above-mentioned project. The communication officer works closely together with programme staff and reports to the Food Smart City East Africa Director.

The full job description is available on our website: eastafrica.rikolto.org/EU-communication-officer Interested candidates can submit their CV and application letter to eastafrica@rikolto.org by June 1, 23:59pm.



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Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-05-05	Waste Rock Dump Design and Management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to commence the Design by end of May 2022. Able to deliver the review report by end June 2022. Have access to Waste Rock Dump softwares. Able to construct waste dumps 3D models for the key snap-shot years. Able to recommend on how to manage and deal with both NAF and PAF material. Able to Review of existing groundwater monitoring data, geochemical test work, seepage data etc. to decide on the need for liners and covers to prevent offsite impacts of ARD/ sulphates or metal leaching from the WRD. Able to produce a report which cover all Legal Compliance obligations. Able to comply with Barrick's Safety standards and management systems. Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA - Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Year of service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 31st May, 2022.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

NIMR launches genomics laboratory to study malaria parasites

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has launched a genomics laboratory for detecting DNA samples collected from a person with Malaria.

The lab which was launched as part of the 31st Annual Joint Scientific Conference will be used in conducting studies of parasite population, profiling drug resistance and monitoring the performance of anti-malaria parasites.

NIMR chief Research Scientist Dr Deus Ishengoma said the new laboratory will be able to show if malaria parasites from different areas across the country are similar and compare if they are the same or not and if they are developing resistance to drugs and antimicrobial resistance.

Speaking at the launching ceremony held at NIMR Headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Chief Medical Officer Dr Aifello Sicalwe said the new laboratory will enable the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) to monitor the performance of different interventions and plan for deployment of new initiatives when urgently needed.

"Establishing a genomics laboratory is therefore timely and will enable NIMR to support NMCP by generating data locally analyzing, presenting and sharing findings for deci-

sion making," he said.

He said the molecular Surveillance of Malaria in Tanzania (MSMT) project supports our key strategic area of implementing Malaria Molecular survey as stipulated in the current strategic plan.

The project will address key questions of practical relevance to the ministry of health.

According to him, the results from the studies which were done by this project in year 2021 will be used to make plans to contain artemisinin partial resistance and stop its spread from Kagera (where Malaria prevalence rates remain high) to other regions in the country. CMO said the investment in human resources and laboratory infrastructures at NIMR is highly commendable and the government fully supports these initiatives.

He said the ministry through NMCP is currently implementing the Seventh National Malaria Strategic Plan which aims to reduce Malaria prevalence to less than 3 percent by 2025, towards the National goal of eliminating the disease by 2030.

Vice Chairperson of NIMR Council Dr. Khadija Malima said the launched genomics laboratory is an important milestone in the institutes' history saying in the meantime; it will focus on analysis and generation of Malaria parasites data as part of the project's objectives and deliverables.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi talks with the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat Secretary General Wamkele Mene (2nd L) and his delegation at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

5,899 minors experience diverse violence in 2021

AT LEAST 5,899 children from across the country were raped in a period between January and December 2021, according to impeccable statistics from the Police Force.

However, in the same period, a total of 1,114 children were sodomized whereby 1,677 other children were impregnated in different 11,499 atrocities cases reported during last year.

The grim statistics were unveiled here by the Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Parliamentary, Policy and Coordination, George Simbachawene in his remarks to open this year's National Children's and Family Parenting Forum.

Speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, minister Simbachawene said it was very dis-

concerting that there has been an increasing wave of incidences of atrocities towards children, saying in most cases the perpetrators are the family members. He underscored the need for the communities from across the county to stand at fore forefront to fight against the unenthusiastic practices as well as adopt a good habit of reporting the relevant incidents to

law enforcing institutes.

To help contain the poor situation, he said the prime minister has directed law enforcing institutions within the county to ensure speedy and timely judgment of all cases related to children.

According to him, the premier insisted that the institutions in question, including the Police Force, court and the office of the National Prosecutions

Services (NPS) must work diligently and deliver verdict towards cases pertaining to children within six months, and not otherwise.

"The prime minister has sent me to give these directives to all law enforcement institutions within the country," he said.

He noted that the premier has directed law enforcing institutions to take

punitive measures against all parents to be detected to have resolve on their own such cases towards their children, including rapes and early pregnant, among others.

He reminded parents and other children guardians to realize the need of cohabiting in peace and harmony while taking good care for the children, added: "Divorces and poor parenting have been a major factor that often trigger for mushrooming of street children."

Govt allocates 1bn/- for establishing Tanzanite auction market at Mirerani

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

THE government has allocated 1bn/- for the construction of the strategic Tanzanite auction market at Mirerani in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region.

In July 2021 the Tanzanite market was moved from Arusha to Mirerani following the government's amendments to regulations governing tanzanite trade at the Mirerani Mining site.

Yesterday, Simanjiro District Commissioner, Suleiman Serera revealed the government's plan at the training seminar for miners in regard to safety, environment preservation and management of explosives at the mining site organised by the National Commission for Minerals (NCM).

"Construction of the Tanzanite auction market will start any time from now as the money has already been provided. The 1bn/- is out of the 5bn/- allocated for the establishment of the market at Mirerani Mining City," said the DC.

He added that construction work will be done by the National Housing Corporation (NHC).

For his part, the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Minerals, Yahya Samanda said the aim of the government in instructing the minerals to be auctioned at Mirerani is to make sure Mirerani becomes a truly Tanzanite City.

For his part, the Secretary of Manyara Region Miners Association (MAREMA) Tareq Kibwe praised the new reality saying in one way or the other it will contribute to the economy of the people of Mirerani.

Jaafary Matimbwa, A MAREMA member thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for recognising Mirerani's importance by establishing the Tanzanite auction market at the mining site.



Home Affairs Minister Eng Hamad Masauni (L) exchanging ideas with Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander ACP Muliro Jumanne during a public meeting with Chanika residents in Dar on Thursday as a continuation of the fight against crimes 'panya road'. Centre is the Minister for Community Development Gender Women and Special Groups Dr Dorothy Gwajima. Photo: Ministry of Home Affairs

KSCL launches beginning of production season for 2022/2023 financial year

By Guardian Reporter

KILOMBERO Sugar Company Limited (KSCL) has launched the beginning of production season for the year 2022/2023 fiscal year, a week earlier than it was expected, thanks to timely maintenance.

The early launch of the production season was made possible with an expedited factory maintenance process whose completion was initially scheduled for the last week of May.

Speaking at a brief ceremony to mark the start of the season, Corporate Affairs Head, Ephraim Mafuru said the company's teams worked hard to ensure the factory resumes operations within the set timeframe.

"We are proud to announce that we are ready to launch operations one week ahead of schedule."

The launch of the season was marked with a ceremony known as the "first burn" to mark the start of cane harvesting and was attended by various company officials, representatives from the growers and religious officials attended the symbolic ceremony with high hopes for the new season.

"As a company we have various strategies to ensure steady supply of this important commodity. Having an early start of the production season is a major step," he said.

Mafuru said the company was currently constructing a new sugar factory which is expected to be completed by June 2024 and will double the company's sugar processing capacity and contribute significantly to the country being sugar self-sufficient through its "Bwana Sukari" brand.

There has been no leakage of exams since 2008, House told

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Education, Science and Technology yesterday told parliamentarians that there has been no leakage of exams in the education system since 2008, but cheating attempts by some students, teachers or school owners.

Responding to a question posed by Husna Sekiboko (Special seats-CCM) who sought to know what are the strategies in place by the ministry in controlling exams leakage in the

country; Deputy Minister Omari Kipanga said that even cheating attempts had declined from almost 39,000 cases in 2011 to 393 cases in 2019.

"So far the ministry has been conducting training to teachers and other stakeholders on the negative impacts of facilitating examination leakages in the education system. However, the ministry and its institutions have been taking stern measures against exam administrators who perpetuate exam leakages," said Ki-

panga.

In the same vein, the ministry has since last year been executing a pilot programme on the e-marking system for exams. According to the deputy minister, the programme was for the first time applied in marking last year's standard seven national exams.

The system has recently been applied in marking teachers' exams pursuing diploma degrees for the education profession. "The ministry hopes that the e-marking

system will help in eliminating cheating acts," said Kipanga.

Maimuna Mtanda (Newala-CCM) advised the ministry to review allowances for exam administrators so that they are not enticed into accepting petty bribes to facilitate cheating and leakages.

"Apart from training administrators, the ministry should now start considering an increment in allowances especially during execution of special tasks such as administering exams and marking," said

Mtanda.

Mariam Azab Mwinyi (Special seats-CCM) said that leakage and cheating in exams is a matter of growing immorality in communities where people have started considering illegal acts as right actions.

"The community must play its role from the family level in ensuring that children are raised the right way with fear of committing crimes. Leaking and cheating in exams is an outcome of immorality in our societies," argued Mwinyi.

Implement by-laws restricting lorries from entering city centre, Dar authorities tasked

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DAR ES SALAAM city authority has been urged to strongly implement the by-laws restricting lorries from entering the city centre and the busy Kariakoo business area.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, David Silinde told the House that the city fathers have the obligation to ensure heavy lorries and other vehicles do not load or offload goods within the city centre.

The ban, he said affect other areas in Kariakoo like the Msimbazi street and Morogoro road. "The Dar es Salaam city authority has put in place strategies that allow lorries to enter the areas by issued permits," said the minister.

He noted that section 8 of the by-laws on road usage of 2015 is what provides the city authority powers to control vehicles entering specific areas.

He made the clarification while responding to a question asked by the Special

Seats MP Asha Juma (CCM) who had wanted to know the government's plan to control lorries and heavy vehicles from loading and offloading goods in Kariakoo.

"What is the government doing to stop lorries from entering Msimbazi Street and Morogoro road in order to reduce disturbance to residents in the areas?" she asked.

In his response, Silinde said any person who enter the said areas with a lorry or container without permission in the city is violating the law and is liable to a fine of not less than 50,000/- and up to 300,000/- or jail term of not less than 12 months or both.

However, he said the authority in collaboration with other stakeholders has always been providing public education to drivers, owners of vehicles and the entire public.

He said the aim is to allow all users understand the outcome of violating the law.

The deputy minister also noted that the Dar es Salaam city authority have plans to build a parking area for lorries at Mnazi Mmoja.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) workers connecting water meters to new clients at Mbopo - Mabwepande Ward in Kinondoni Municipal, Dar es Salaam region yesterday. After the completion of the water project over 3,000 people will benefit. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole,

Arusha

DIRECTOR of Public Legal Services in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Griffin Mwakapeje has warned parents and guardians to stop the habit of portraying pictures of their children in social media.

Mwakapeje made the call here on Wednesday when wrapping up the two-day training workshop to editors and reporters on how they can expose gender based violence and report in a

Stop exposing children in social media, parents told

way that will not cause harm to victims. He said that the behaviour is against their privacy according to the Tanzanian laws and international conventions, noting that it has been a trend for a very long time for parents and guardians to feel pride to put pictures of their children in social media which is against the laws that protect their rights.

"We know that they are doing that for their own pride but without consent from their children. They usually put

the pictures in their social media status like WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter but we must know that we are interfering their privacy, and it might cause psychological torture to them in the future," he narrated.

The director said the situation also affect their dignity in their adulthood for interfering their privacy which need to be protected in accordance to different laws and international conventions which Tanzania has ratified.

Mwakapeje stated that the country's constitution recognizes the children's rights and anyone who engage in such practices can get into trouble if taken to the court of law.

"Our children's law has engaged some conditions in international treaties and conventions concerning children's rights which prohibit dignity of children to be interfered. So if we take pictures of our children and expose them in various social media we are

very wrong," he insisted.

He said when a child grow up to the extent of knowing his rights and realize that his pictures were exposed in social media he or she can take claim to be undermined and go to court where he can easily win the case.

"We've witnessed several events where many children's pictures are circulated in social media channel. It doesn't matter whether the picture is good or bad you are not supposed to

put it in social media without his consent and this is according to our laws and international conventions regarding children's rights," he said.

He unveiled that the ministry will set aside funds for regular capacity building program to media personnel and different stakeholders as a move to improve gender based violence, urging reporters to get information from reliable sources especially from government officials during the time they want to publish stories concerning children to avoid misinformation which can be source of chaos.



Kivukoni ward Councillor Sharik Choughule (2nd R) holds a baby Ahmed Masoud for polio vaccination. Attending to baby is nursing officer Getrude Komba during the visit to inspect the vaccination centres in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Getrude Mbago, Morogoro

Over 50,000 people infected with HIV/AIDS in 2021

A total of 54,000 people in the country were infected with HIV/AIDS in 2021, which is a slight decrease from 68,000 new cases that were estimated in 2020.

This is according to new data issued by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Speaking during the opening of a three-day media training here yesterday, executive director of the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) Dr Leonard Maboko said the new report shows that efforts done by the government and stakeholders to fight HIV/AIDS were showing positive results but still more concerted efforts are needed so as to prevent new infections and thus reduce the incidence rate.

He also said that deaths caused by HIV/AIDS

decreased to 29,000 from the 32,000 deaths in 2020. He said Tanzania's goal is to reach HIV epidemic control by 2030, with 95 percent of people living with the disease aware of their HIV status, 95 percent of those testing positive placed on continuous HIV treatment, and 95 percent of those on treatment reaching viral suppression.

Dr Maboko said the new estimates shows that youth women were still at higher risk of the disease and thus more programmes and interventions are now focused on the group.

"We implement programmes that include behavioural, structural and biological interventions, educating the public and encouraging them to test for HIV," he said.

He said in order to win the war against the spread of the disease, it is critical that all people living with HIV get tested, learn their status, and begin lifesaving services.

"If people don't know their HIV status, they can't protect themselves, their families, their partners as they will not be aware of their viral load so as to be sure that the treatment is effective to them," he explained.

He noted the fight against HIV/AIDS started many years ago but fail to meet the targets due to several challenges including discrimination, myths and negative mind-sets, low awareness and failure to take drugs.

He further noted that despite the very high percentages of people living with HIV who

know their status, and treatment rates, new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths are not decreasing to meet goals.

Dr Maboko said TACAIDS is working hard and closely with stakeholders to implement various programmes aimed to increase awareness, make more people to know their status, start using Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs).

He further said that more investment was still needed to achieve the HIV epidemic control goals.

"In order to ensure that we achieve the HIV/AIDS epidemic control in the country, we have to invest heavily and make sure that the number of new infections is below death rate, but with the current statistics, new cases are still

300 students in Shinyanga Region cut short studies over pregnancies

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

OVER 300 primary and secondary school students in Shinyanga Region are claimed to have impregnated and discontinued with their lessons, while 29 of them were married.

The statistics are from 2020 to April 2022 submitted by coordinators of the National Committee for Eradication of Gender based Violence and Child Abuse (MTAKUWWA) from five districts of Shinyanga Region.

The statistics on child pregnancies show that Kishapu District had 64 cases of child pregnancies and two child marriages, Kahama Town 52 child pregnancies and two child marriages, Shinyanga Municipality 54 child pregnancies and five marriages while Ushetu District had 30 child pregnancies and no child marriages.

Shinyanga Regional Administrative Secretary, Auwena Omary, speaking here at the weekend at a meeting tasked to assess the MTAKUWWA progress, said the traditional customs are still obstacles in eradicating these child marriages and pregnancies.

She said even though the region managed to reduce incidences of gender based violence and child abuse, in particular child marriages and pregnancies from the first position to fifth nationally, still more efforts were needed in educating the community against the practices.

She hailed development stakeholders and NGOs in the region for working together with the government in the efforts to eradicate gender based violence and child abuse in Shinyanga Region.

Research done by Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) in 2010 Shinyanga Region took number one position nationally with incidences of child marriages at 59 per cent and child pregnancies at 34 per cent.

State Attorney from Shinyanga Region's National Prosecutions Services (NPS) Wapumbulya Shani said in order to eradicate the practices, the community needs to scream against them.

high," he asserted.

Dr Lilian Benjamin executive director DARE urged people living with HIV/AIDS to stop living in fear but rather value and accept themselves first and the society to respect them more. She said that self-love and acceptance are the main reasons which will make society value and stop discrimination towards people along with HIV/AIDS in the country.

She said HIV/AIDS is not transmitted by having sex only but there are number of factors that leads to contaminate the virus.

Haji Ngilwa, social welfare workforce coach from the PACT Tanzania-ACHIEVE Project said the organisation is implementing a five-year project which is aimed to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants and children.



Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) Tanga regional manager Upendo Lugongo (L) exchanges documents with a contractor Richard Mlay shortly after signing a contract for two water projects worth 1.5bn/- at Pangani district commissioner's office on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Lake Rukwa Basin Water board stresses need to safeguard basin's ecosystem

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Chairman of Lake Rukwa Basin Water Board (LRBWB), Herbert Kashilla has called on stakeholders, members of the public and officials to make deliberate efforts to rescue the basin from the effects of climate change that is aided by human activities inside and around Lake Rukwa.

Kashilla has issued the caution here yesterday at the LRBWB Fourth Forum that aimed to assess the implementation of various resolutions reached at the Third Forum in the Basin's management.

He said quick efforts are needed to fight invasion of human activities by some people, including farming, fishing and herding that has been destroying plants and the lake's ecosystem.

Grace Shitindi, LRBWB official said in fighting environmental degradation, Tanzania Forests services Agency (TFS) in Mbeya Region provided 340,000 tree seedlings for planting in various water sources to preserve the ecosystem near water sources.

Shitindi said in addition they continue

to provide education to the residents on the importance of environmental protection and water resources.

For his part, the Chairperson for Water Consumers Forum in Mbeya, Songwe and Katavi regions, Ulimboka Tuntufye said apart overseeing various human economic activities including farming, herding, fishing and mining around the lake, they are also engaged in the management of environmental protection, according to the country's environmental protection laws.

He added that they have often been organizing debates that involve farmers, herders and miners on the importance of environmental protection as well as penalties to any violators.

Speaking at the forum, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Dr Nadhifa Kemikimba praised the great work done by LRBWB in preserving water resources and the basin's ecosystem.

He said the government spent a lot of money to plan rescue efforts that provides guidelines in regard to the management of the Basin's water resources.

Govt to revisit human activities in islands countrywide

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is in the process to revisit how human activities are affecting the islands countrywide and take proper action for the better of environmental protection and human health.

Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environ-

ment), Khamis Hamad Khamis unveiled this when responding to a supplementary question by Khalifa Mohamed Issa (Mtambwe-ACT, Wazalendo), who wanted to know the government measures to assist people in Mtambwe Island in Zanzibar who have been affected by the climate change effect. He said that the situation has affected the wellbeing of more

than 500 residents.

Responding, Khamis said the government is aware of the climate change effect on Mtambwe Island urging the members of parliament to be patient as they are in the process to revisit all islands which have been affected by human activities and address the situation for the better.

He said the main source of

environmental destruction in the island is the deforestation of mangroves trees and construction of permanent buildings.

"As we are taking measures to save the islands from perishing, you should as well support the government by raising awareness to your electorates to see the importance of taking care of the environment," he said.

He also called upon the public to stop human activities including deforestation and construction of permanent structures in water sources since the action pose great environmental threat.

In his primary question, Boniface Getere (Bunda-CCM) wanted to know when the climate change programme will be implemented in Chamhiro

Division who is facing the drought challenges.

Responding, Khamis said the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) is implementing a project dubbed as Bunda Climate Resilience and Adaptation Project worth US\$1.4million being funded by the adaptation fund.

The project is being implemented in Bunda district in the

wards of Kasuguti, Namhura, Iramba, Neruma, Mahyolo, Igundu and Butimba as per the endorsed project paper.

He said Chamhiro is not catered under the project but he Vice President's Office is looking for partners to support a number of environment protection projects in collaboration with Bunda district council.



Technicians at work during the construction of one of the classrooms of Mangirikiti secondary school in Liwale district, Lindi region earlier this week which is expected to reduce the shortage of classrooms at the school. Photo: Guardian correspondent

Govt, EU discuss data protection plans for the country's economy

By Guardian Reporter

OFFICIALS from the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology and the European Union (EU) Delegation to Tanzania met in Dodoma yesterday and discussed the Europe-Tanzania digital partnership in the framework of Innovation Week Tanzania 2022.

A statement released by EU said during a side event dubbed "Navigating through Data Protection and Cyber Security for Digital Innovation: Takeaways from the EU and Tanzania", participants learned from each other's experiences and plans on data protection, cyber security, and digital single markets.

The event was facilitated by Enabel, the Belgian development agency, in its capacity as implementing partner of the African Union-European Union (AU-EU) Digital for Development (D4D) Hub, a project that brings together the European Union and five of its member states to leverage expertise and resources to advance digital cooperation with African partners.

"For the European Union, this event marked an important milestone towards a stronger partnership with Tanzania in the digital sector. We hope that it will be the first step in a permanent dialogue where we can exchange and work together in our common ambition to boost the country's digital economy to support Tanzanian citizens' well-being," said Manfred Fanti, EU Ambassador to Tanzania and the East African Community.

The EU recently launched the project "Digital4Tanzania: e-Governance Support Programme" which aims to contribute to the digital transformation impact on Tanzania's inclusive economic growth and citizens' wellbeing. With a budget of EUR 35M (90.66 bn/-), its specific objectives include: digital government; improving the digital economy and the use of e-government and e-services; inclusive connectivity; increasing accessible and equitable connectivity services in rural and peri-urban areas, in particular for social services and digital trade support; developing the Fin-Tech sector and innovation ecosystems in the country and the region.

The project will be jointly implemented by the MICIT, EU member states and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) from 2022 to 2026.

'Schools2030' project bears fruit for Dar es Salaam, Lindi regions

By Getrude Mbago

THE implementation of the "Schools2030" project has started to produce positive outcomes to both teachers and students in various beneficiary schools in Dar es Salaam and Lindi regions with tutors describing it as the best tool that promotes learning.

The 10-year Schools2030 project, which is implemented by Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), benefits a number of schools in the two regions. It commenced in 2020 and will run until 2030.

Speaking during the event to showcase school-driven micro-innovations in Dar es Salaam yesterday, National coordinator of the project Shaibu Mandova said the major goal is to improve the quality of education and academic performance for each child, consider-

ing their needs and interests.

He said the majority of teachers have become innovative and adopted the simple teaching techniques which enable them to love their job and encourage children to attend classes and perform well in exams.

He said that the human-centred design learning tools/innovations for learners have been developed and tailored by teachers and learners together, making it possible for children to interact with each other, engage in learning and find learning interesting.

The tools are made from locally available materials, like wood, Manila paper, and cardboard and they attract pupils to love subjects and thus improve performance.

Mandova said the Schools2030 project is aimed at empowering schools to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal no 4, aimed

at ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education.

He said teacher training is one of the stages to achieve the project's goals.

"At the inception of the project, teachers got acquainted with the tools of human-centred design, which help them to independently identify the best educational practices and solutions in the creation of knowledge, skills and values in children and young people for their successful participation in the society," he noted.

He added, "During the training, teachers got a chance to practice a variety of data analysis tools, identify problems, generate ideas and possible solutions. In a few days, teachers were able to identify very specific problems and generated surprisingly simple, but at the same time, important ideas

on how a school can be made interesting for students."

He said that AKF came up with the project to close gaps in the education sector created by the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic that left many teachers without pay since learning had almost been halted.

"AKF has responded with the Schools2030 programme; a 10-year programme aimed at redefining learning and teaching by making the school environment more appealing to make learning more enjoyable as well as improve the teaching capabilities of teachers to deliver human centred programmes," he said.

He further explained that the project will provide a platform for teachers from the two districts to network and share experience on how to be more effective.

Temeke District education officer Abdul Buheti commended AKF for coming up with the project which has started to produce positive results in the country.

"This is a very unique project as it supports teachers to love their jobs even if they are facing challenges of having a large number of students in a class, with the innovative techniques, teachers are able to accommodate students and support all of them to learn and understand," he said.

Aziza Lubembela, the head teacher of Nzasa secondary school in Temeke district, hailed AKF saying that the project has become a savior in the areas as teachers have more and broader ideas to deal with various teaching challenges, something which enables them to produce creative solutions that promote learning.

Instructors on youth life skills told to perform their duties professionally

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Education Officer Germana Mung'aho has called on instructors and researchers from 34 Tanzania Mainland districts who will participate in collecting data regarding Youth and Life skills in East Africa (ALIVE) to perform their duties professionally so as to assist the nation achieve positive results in ethics in the East African countries.

Mung'aho made the remarks at the opening of a training seminar for youth instructors and life skills organised by Alive.

She said the issue of life evaluation is a basic issue in the present world and the government through the Ministry for Education and Vocational Training has seen its importance and given priority by preparing a unit for life skills that will also be tasked to prepare curricula thereon and provide in-depth training on the better way to provide skills to the youth.

She added that the ministry in collaboration with various development stakeholders has been providing training in life skills to the youth to ensure they can manage the present

world of science and technology for the national development.

For his part, facilitator from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Psychology Department, Daniel Marandu said research to be conducted by youth aged 13-17 years from 34 districts will enable them identify themselves and not to engage in unethical habits.

Novatus Mollel, a participant from Bagamoyo District said life skills is a treasure and very important for child's upbringing for future generations.

Mollel said the issue of life skills is not well studied and that some stakeholders, including teachers and policy makers should view them whether they are good because youth who finish schools are said to lack respect and morals and cannot even cultivate a garden.

For his part, Uwezo Tanzania Acting Director, Benjamin Massebo said the evaluation concept prepared by experts from various institutes and institutions will be utilised to know life skills in the youth, to process them and come up with a study report and provided solutions on challenges raised as well as creating curricula that will help youth in schools.



Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) senior communication officer Mabel Masasi (R) briefs a visitor about the authority's operations during the exhibition to commemorate the Innovation Week 2022 in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Teachers complain of humiliation by loan providers

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

IN what can be regarded as atypical humiliation, financial institutions that provide loans in Shinyanga Municipality are claimed to confiscate teachers' ATM cards whenever they fail to repay their debts.

Some of these institutions have been following teachers at the places of work to demand repayment of loans in front of students without

adhering to the terms of contract when handing out the loans.

The situation is mentioned as part of obstacles that had retard education in the municipality as teachers have been performing their duties in difficult environment anticipating humiliation in front of their students, including seizure of their ATM cards.

Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) in Shinyanga Municipality, Meshack

Mashigala revealed this here at the weekend.

Mashigala said every year there have been incidents in which some teachers get 'arrested' by loan providers in regard to what he termed as punishing loans, get locked up in their offices whenever they fail to repay the loans on time.

"When teachers take up loans at 20 per cent interest, they surrender their ATM cards and reveal their pass-

words, and during repayment they find the interest rate has risen to 100 per cent, the situation that makes it difficult for them to pay, thereby making teaching careers challenging," he said.

He called upon loans providers to stop taking the law in their hands by locking up their debtors; instead they should file cases thereof in courts instead of humiliating them.

For his part, Shinyanga Regional Po-

lice Commander, George Kyando confirmed such incidents, saying teachers have been reporting to the police asking for letters to go to their banks to seek other ATM cards claiming that their original ATM cards were lost.

He said there have been many incidents of such kind, sometimes indicating that they are mere strategies by teachers to avoid their creditors, and warned against such type of punishing loans.

According to service guidelines, the rate of deduction from a worker's salary must not exceed one third of his gross salary.

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Dr Sophia Mjema said these teachers are wrong to enter into such loan contracts knowing they stand to punish them, and the worse part of it they even surrender their ATM cards and passwords, and called on the RPC to deal with the situation.



City resident walks near a heap of garbage at Mabibo market opposite the National Institute of Transport in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Manyara RC wishes embezzlers of funds barred from 'USAID Afya Yangu' project

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

MANYARA Regional Commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere has instructed district executive directors not to allow officials who embezzle public funds to oversee "USAID Afya Yangu" project that focuses in reducing maternal deaths in the region.

Nyerere issued the instruction here yesterday at the launching of the project sponsored by the United States Aid for International Development (USAID).

"Directors should provide adequate collaboration to ensure embezzlers are not allowed to manage this project," he said.

He said the project will reduce maternal deaths and stands to improve health services.

He added that last year 36 pregnant women died in the region, equivalent to two per cent, and 483 deaths of infants.

He also said among obstacles faced by women during delivery is excessive bleeding and pregnancy epilepsy.

For his part, the Director of "USAID Afya Yangu" Dr Ritha Norowha said the aim of the project is to improve the availability of quality maternity services.

She said they will dwell in the improvement of delivery services to reduce maternal deaths, child pregnancies and spur changes in the community.

She explained that in the project they will monitor pregnant women who attend clinic so as to increase to 20 per cent the number of women visiting clinic, and added that the entire project will last five years and will involve 11 regions in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

Manyara Regional Medical Officer Dr Damas Kayera said the project stands to reduce maternal deaths, and added that as for now there 68 deaths in every 100,000 births.

For his part, Mbulu District Executive Director, Abubakar Kuuli said he believes the project will reduce maternal deaths in his district.



For his part, the Director of "USAID Afya Yangu" Dr Ritha Norowha said the aim of the project is to improve the availability of quality maternity services

Water ministry directed to connect healthcentres, schools with clean and safe water

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTRY of water has been directed to ensure that all health facilities and schools in the country are connected with clean and safe water, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Water, Maryprisca Mahundi made the statement yesterday while responding to a supplementary question asked by Rorya MP, Jafar Chege (CCM).

The MP had wanted to know the government's plan to ensure availability of clean and safe water in the dispensaries, health centres, hospitals and schools in the country.

"What is the government doing in effort to connect health facilities and schools that do not have water with the important utility product?" he asked.

But the deputy minister maintained that

it is the ruling party's manifesto and the government directive that all the health facilities and public schools are connected to clean and safe water.

He said: "By acknowledging the importance of the health facilities, schools and other areas, the government has directed the ministry to ensure accessibility of water in those areas."

Earlier in a main question, the lawmaker

had also wanted to know the government's plan to send water to Rabuor ward in Rorya constituency.

The deputy minister responded that Rabuor ward has three villages of Oliyo, Rabuor and Makongoro, adding the first two get water from deep wells.

She noted that in effort to improve availability of water services in Rabuor village, the government is in the 2021/2022

planned to build a 225,000 litres tank and a 12.8 kilometre distribution infrastructure.

She noted that the project is scheduled to end by June 2022 and benefit over 4,792 residents. The deputy minister added that in the 2022/2023, the government will continue implementing water projects in Oliyo and Makongoro villages, being part of the plan to improve water services in Rabuor ward.

World Information Society Day: How information uplifts living, and ageing

Cultural diversity for dialogue and development, dream hard to realise

MAY 21 is the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, of which is tied the singular observation by United Nations chroniclers that protecting the diversity of cultural expressions is more important than ever. Yet it is also true that this is also the source of innumerable conflicts, which surprisingly arise not because the cultures are too far one from the other but their proximity. When two cultures are close to one another, a force may come up somewhere seeking harmony' or call it 'peace.'

This idea of peace was the traditional apology for conquest of large areas to create what are known as empires, and indeed this legacy, of Pax Romana in ancient days (the thousand year duration of the Roman Empire which set the stage for world history), then later there was Pax Britannica, where 'the sun never set on the British Empire.' After the Second World War there is something like Pax-Americana, to protect the foundations of the post-war world, based on the sanctity of sovereignty and human rights. It is within such parameters that cultural diversity is enshrined, but how positive or negative might diversity be?

Those organizing numerous ceremonies around the world on this day focus on the richness of the world's cultures, and the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. That is where the shoe pricks, for countries marked by diversity as an integral aspect

of cultural identity or expression can hardly be organised in harmony on a democratic basis, as all militant expression of group distinction easily veers from cultural concerns to political engagement. Clans are for example a powerful expression of solidarity in Western Asian communities, but also dictate personal values, making democratic organization of society complicated.

In Tanzania for instance there is no dispute on what is culturally acceptable and what isn't, but individuals need to survive positively in a situation of chronic unemployment and low wages. They adapt by means unlikely to be recommended by elders for instance. So, while we celebrate the diversity of languages and cultural expression internally, as they make the stage vibrant and full of creativity, forces of uniformity lurk beneath. If intolerance of economic reform because it upsets 'Africa for the Africans' and restores diversity of people one meets in business or administration as at the end of the colonial period, diversity and dialogue may come unstuck. Thousands of youths braving the seas to cross to Europe provide an illustration of inadequacy of diversity; workable economic structures have their cultural patterns as well.

The whole world has of late been glued to television on the drama of the killing in civilian battlefields of Jenin in Palestine, where Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by a direct shot to the head. Those who cherish suicide bombings are the ones most anguished by this killing, so do we maintain these diversities or seek uniformity, accept

Handing CAG local governments' audit queries to PCCB must serve as deterrent

It is time Africa invested in young people's sexual reproductive health

Sexual and reproductive health and rights or SRHR is the concept of human rights applied to sexuality and reproduction. It is a combination of four fields that in some contexts are more or less distinct from each other, but less so or not at all in other contexts. These four fields are sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive health and reproductive rights. In the concept of SRHR, these four fields are treated as separate but inherently intertwined.

Distinctions between these four fields are not always made. Sexual health and reproductive health are sometimes treated as synonymous to each other, as are sexual rights and reproductive rights. In some cases, sexual rights are included in the term sexual health, or vice versa.

Some of the notable global NGOs that fight for sexual and reproductive health and rights include IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation).

AFRICA has the youngest population in the world with more than 400 million people between the ages of 15 and 35 years which require increased investment in economic and social development fac-

tors to improve the development index of its countries.

Speaking at a virtual panel discussion on youth, gender equality and sexual reproductive health rights in transforming African food systems on 12 August 2021, the moderator, Rosa Ayong said young people are increasingly interested in sexual reproductive health and rights and understand, now more than ever, the importance of sexual health knowledge.

The virtual panel discussion was organised by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Africa region to commemorate the International Youth Day.

IPPF organised the event through its sub-office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

It focused on the role of youth in advocacy towards gender equality and sustainable healthy food systems and sharing recommendations to support young people's meaningful engagement in advocacy on inclusive food systems for the realization of sexual reproductive health rights on the African continent.

This year's International Youth Day, celebrated under the theme: "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health", which offers an opportunity to reflect on the in-

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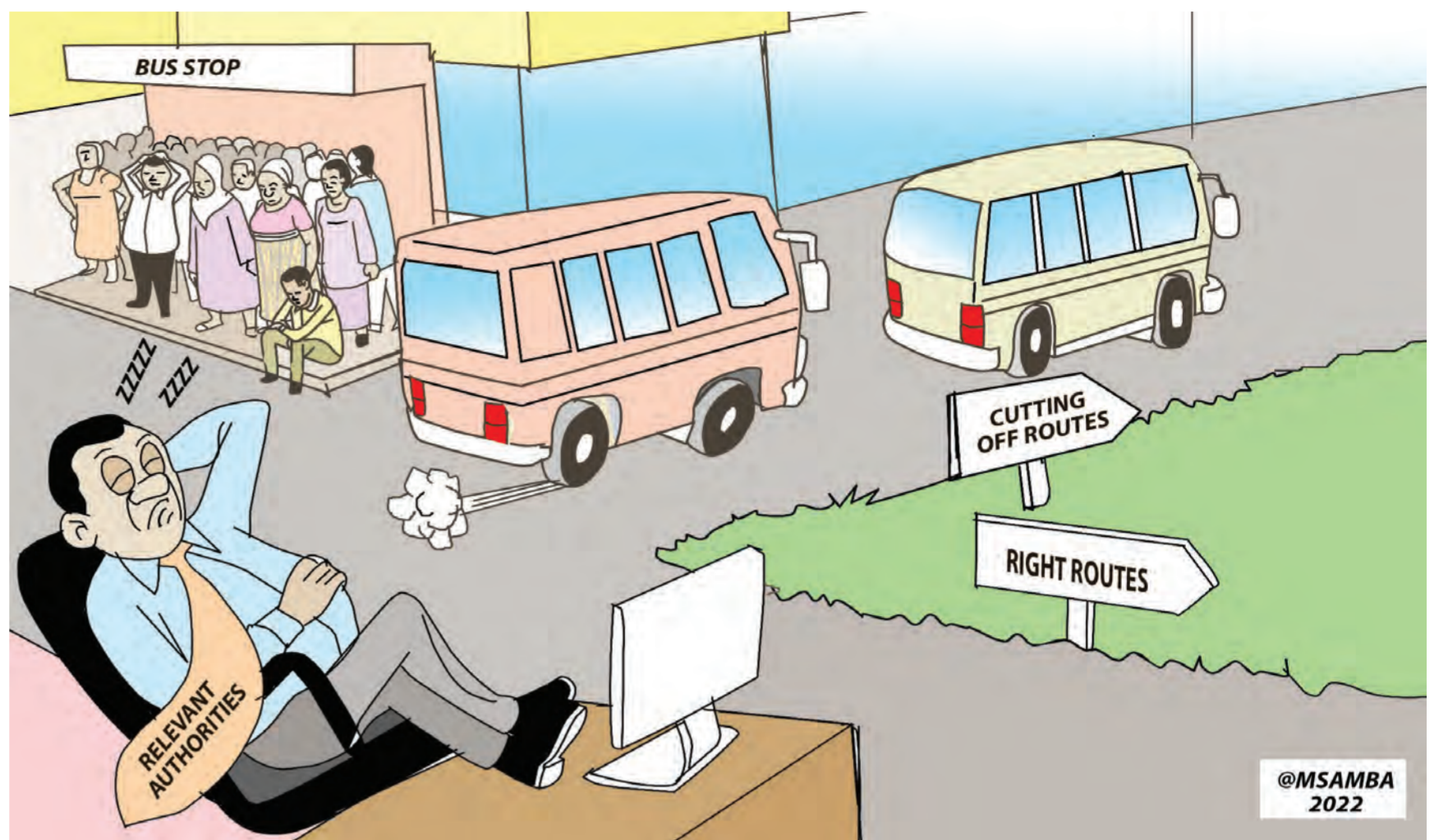
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African countries must embrace the concept of good food as good medicine

By Joseph Chamie

PEOPLE require food, with more people requiring more food and less people requiring less food. Despite that self-evident relationship, most governments appear reluctant to accept the intimate link between the supplies of food and the numbers of people and continue calling for the further growth of their populations.

The world's population of approximately 8,000,000,000, or more than double its size at the start of the Green Revolution in the mid-1960s, is again facing a food crisis across many countries and areas. And that food crisis is expected to worsen in the near term.

The food crisis in dozens of countries, which are located primarily in Africa and Asia, is largely due to the three Cs: conflict, climate change, and COVID-19. Also, the recent conflict in Ukraine due to Russia's military invasion has further exacerbated the food crisis.

As a result of the conflict in Ukraine, a growing number of governments are erecting new barriers to stop the exports of food products and other important commodities at their borders. Those barriers are expected to worsen the food crisis with shortages and higher prices for a variety of goods in many food insecure countries.

Today an estimated 800 million people, or 10 per cent of the world's population, are hungry. Also, projections show that the world is not on track to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030, i.e., Sustainable Development Goal 2.

The future growth of world population, which is currently increasing by approximately 80 million per year, is expected to be concentrated in regions that contain most of the countries suffering from hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Of the expected growth of the world's population of nearly 600 million over the next eight years, Africa, much of which is dependent on imported food, accounts for 47 per cent of that demographic growth, followed by Asia at 43 per cent.

Moreover, the projected percentage increases in the populations of Africa's sixteen food insecure hotspot countries are among the world's highest and well above the global average. By 2030 many of the populations of those African countries are expected to increase by no less than 25 per cent.

The current population of Niger, for example, is expected to increase by 34 per cent over the next eight years, i.e., from 26 million to 35 million. In contrast, the projected increase of world population of 7 per cent over those eight years is a fraction of the rates of Africa's food insecure hotspot countries.

The expected population growth of food insecure countries by mid-century is even more striking. Whereas world population is projected to increase by about 20 per cent by 2050, the populations of some African food insecure hotspot countries are expected to double in size by mid-century. A particularly rapid rate of future demographic growth is the population of Niger, which is expected to increase from its current 26 million to 66 million by mid-centu-



A Malian refugee tends vegetables at the market garden in Ouallam, Niger.

ry.

The future growth of world population, which is currently increasing by approximately 80 million per year, is expected to be concentrated in regions that contain most of the countries suffering from hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Another African food insecure hotspot country whose population is expected to double in size is the Democratic Republic of the Congo, increasing from 95 million today to 195 million by 2050. The African country with the largest population, Nigeria, is also projected to increase substantially from its current 217 million to 401 million by 2050, thereby displacing the United States as the world's third largest population.

Outside of Africa six additional countries, which have been affected greatly by armed conflicts and violence, are also considered food insecure hotspot countries. Those countries are Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen in Asia and Haiti and Honduras in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Following the Green Revolution in the late 1960s, global food production has outpaced the rapid growth of world population during the second half of the 20th century. World population has more than tripled since 1950, from 2.5 billion to 8 billion today.

At present, approximately half of the planet's habitable land is now being used for the production of food, which accounts for an estimated 70 per cent of freshwater consumption. That vital human activity has important consequences for the planet, including contributing to biodiver-

sity loss, pollution, deforestation, and soil degradation as well as to greenhouse gas emissions.

Part of the responses to those consequences for the planet include reducing meat consumption and moving the world's population to a more plant-based diet. In addition to the improvements to human health, eating mostly plant-based foods would contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduced animal waste.

In many parts of the world, especially those food insecure hotspots noted above, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation are greatly impacting the production, availability, and distribution of food with droughts, floods, high temperatures, wildfires, desertification, pests, rise in sea levels, etc.

In addition to aiming to increase the supply of food and making healthy diets affordable and accessible for populations with low household purchasing power, greater efforts are needed to reduce the overall demand for food by stabilizing the size of populations.

In addition to reducing high morbidity and mortality rates, governments should endeavor to reduce high fertility rates. Expediting the demographic transition in countries with high death and birth rates would contribute considerably to reducing the future sizes of those populations and thereby the projected demand for additional food.

For example, Africa's future population, which has increased six-fold since 1950, could be markedly less than currently projected

if the continent's demographic transition is expedited. If the future fertility rates of African countries were to follow the United Nations low variant projection instead of its medium variant, the population of Africa would be 200 million less by 2050 and more than a billion less by 2100 (Figure 3).

Reductions in the rapid growth of populations in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere will certainly not resolve the problems of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Other major challenges need to be addressed, including conflict, climate change, and COVID-19.

However, it is also certainly the case that lower rates of demographic growth will lead to fewer additional people in the future. Such demographic reductions will in turn lead to reduced future demand for food.

As stated at the outset, the relationship between food and people is self-evident. Namely, people require food, with more people requiring more food and less people requiring less food.

It's well past the time for governments to embrace the relationship between food and people. To do so entails governments adopting comprehensive policies and implementing effective programs aimed at reducing high rates of population growth and stabilizing the size of their populations.

Joseph Chamie is a consulting demographer, a former director of the United Nations Population Division and author of numerous publications on population issues, including his book, "Births, Deaths, Migrations and Other Important Population Matters."

US bill to counter 'malign' Russian activities in Africa could see continent caught in crossfire

By: Peter Fabricius

A new Countering Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act to punish states that back certain Russian actions could have major implications for African countries, including South Africa.

A United States (US) bill that would oblige Washington to punish African governments that abet Russian 'malign' activities on the continent is sailing through Congress.

The Countering Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act passed the House of Representatives on 27 April by a huge, bipartisan 419-9 majority and is now sure to be passed by the Senate and become law soon. It would direct the US Secretary of State "to develop and submit to Congress a strategy and implementation plan outlining United States efforts to counter the malign influence and activities of the Russian Federation and its proxies in Africa."

The bill broadly defines such malign activities as those that "undermine United States objectives and interests." The Secretary of State would have to monitor the actions of Russia's government and its 'proxies' – including private military companies (clearly Wagner is in the sights) and oligarchs.

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The government would have to counter such activities effectively, including through US foreign aid programmes. It would need to "hold accountable the Russian Federation and African governments and their officials who are complicit in aiding such malign influence and activities."

The bill was introduced to Congress on 31 March and was clearly a response to Russia's 24 February invasion of Ukraine. Several other punitive laws aimed at Russia – including one directing the administration to gather evidence of Russian war crimes in Ukraine – were introduced at about the same time.

New York Democrat Gregory Meeks, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the bill was designed to thwart Russian president Vladimir Putin's efforts to "pilfer, manipulate and exploit resources in parts of Africa to evade sanctions and undermine US interests," and to finance his war in Ukraine.

Meeks also presented the bill as supportive of Africa, intended to protect "all innocent people who have been victimised by Putin's mercenaries and agents credibly accused of gross violations of



Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) shakes hands with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (right) during the BRICS summit in Johannesburg on 26 July 2018.

human rights in Africa, including in the Central African Republic and Mali." It is specifically in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Mali that Wagner has been accused of committing human rights violations to prop up dubious governments and thwart Western interests.

Some African governments suspect there's more at play than protecting "fragile states in Africa," as Meeks put it. "Why target Africa?" one senior African government official asked. "They're obviously unhappy with the way so many African countries voted in the General Assembly and their relatively non-aligned position."

It is true that proportional to other regions, more African states didn't support the United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution of 3 March, condemning Russia's "aggression" against Ukraine. Twenty-seven African governments voted for the resolution. Just one – Eritrea – voted against, while 17 abstained and the rest were absent.

Does that mean the new US bill is designed, at least partly, to

punish Africa for its relative lack of support for the US-led effort to punish Russia? Perhaps. Though the sponsors would say it targets Africa because that is where Russia and its proxies have been most active.

And some of the actions that the bill enjoins could benefit Africa. It targets Russian efforts to "manipulate African governments and their policies, as well as the public opinions and voting preferences of African populations."

What the authors seem to have in mind here are, for instance, the purported efforts by alleged Russian government proxies to bribe candidates in the last Madagascar elections, and the activities in Africa of the Association for Free Research and International Cooperation (Afric). This is a Russian election observation organisation, ostensibly independent, but which appears to be run by Yevgeny Prigozhin, the man widely known as Putin's chef and believed to run Wagner.

Western intelligence agencies and others believe both Wagner

and Afric are proxy operations for Putin's government, with a mission to frustrate Western activities in Africa and elsewhere. These agencies contend that Afric's actual function is to counter election monitoring by Western and local monitors, thereby giving credence to the likes of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front. Afric did indeed deliver a positive judgement of the last elections in Zimbabwe.

On the flip side of this injunction, the bill urges the US government to strengthen democratic institutions, improve government transparency and accountability, improve standards related to human rights, labour, anti-corruption initiatives, fiscal transparency, monitoring natural resources and extractive industries, and "other tenets of good governance".

But what about the bill's intention to thwart Russian efforts to "invest in, engage, or otherwise control strategic sectors in Africa, such as mining and other forms of natural resource extraction and exploitation, military basing and other security cooperation agreements, and information and communications technology"? Does that mean any African country where a Russian company invests will fall foul of this legislation? Or will it only apply to investments that advance Putin's supposedly nefarious ambitions?

Two potentially controversial case studies in South Africa spring to mind. One is the lucrative United Manganese of Kalahari mine in South Africa, owned by Putin's oligarch chum Viktor Vekselberg – but with 22% held by the ruling African National Congress's (ANC) own corporation, Chancellor House.

This dodgy investment is probably keeping the cash-strapped ANC financially afloat. And it's been speculated that that is the real reason for the government's controversial 'non-aligned' stance on the Ukraine war.

Another case study could be the joint venture between African Rainbow Minerals – owned by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's brother-in-law Patrice Motsepe – with Russia's Norilsk Nickel in the potentially lucrative Nkomati nickel mine.

How the US will see such investments is unclear. However, what is emerging is not so much a picture of the US targeting Africa because it voted the wrong way at the UN. Instead, it seems Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sparked a new Cold War psychosis – and that all other considerations will henceforth be subordinated to the imperatives of that conflict.

Michael McCaul, senior Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who co-sponsored the bill, hinted at this on 4 May. He told a congressional committee considering several anti-Russia bills: "We must make every state choose between doing business with the free world or with the war criminal."

So the danger then, as now, is that Africa will get caught in the crossfire.

DM

China's new urban infrastructure construction makes urban governance, people's life easier

By DING YITING

THE urban lifeline operation monitoring system employed in Hefei, east China's Anhui province, can display real-time monitoring data on urban infrastructure such as gas and water supply facilities and bridges on a screen.

Trough diagram showing the spatial distribution of safety hazards to urban infrastructure with four colors that represent different levels of risks, i.e. red, orange, yellow and blue, the system makes locations with potential hazards clearly visible.

Since its implementation over four years ago, the system has cumulatively forecast and issued early warnings against more than 6,000 emergencies including gas pipeline network leakage, excessive biogas concentration, water distribution network leakage and road cave-in, helping reduce the incidence of the city's underground pipe network accidents by 60% and improve hazard screening efficiency by 70%, according to Li Xuan, deputy director at the center for urban lifeline operation monitoring equipped with the system.

After years of rapid and large-scale construction, many Chinese cities have accumulated plenty of hazards to their complex sub-systems of urban governance in such fields as administration, transportation, and communications. As a result, there is an urgent need of promoting new urban infrastructure construction.

According to an official with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD), new urban infrastructure construction includes such key tasks as comprehensively advancing the building of City Information Modeling (CIM) basic platforms to lay the foundations of smart city construction; building intelligent

municipal infrastructure and carrying out upgrading, transformation, and intelligent management of facilities concerning water supply, heating, gas, and other utilities of municipal infrastructure; driving the coordinated development of smart cities and intelligent connected vehicles (ICVs) for the construction of a smart transportation platform; pushing ahead with the construction of smart communities at a faster pace; promoting the coordinated development of intelligent construction and industrialization of construction; and stimulating the construction of urban operation, management, and service platforms.

In 2020, the MOHURD carried out the first batch of pilot projects for new urban infrastructure construction in 16 Chinese cities including Chongqing, Fuzhou and Jinan. Meanwhile, it arranged a series of specialized pilot projects for CIM basic platform construction as well as intelligent administration and construction.

Liang Feng, leader of network security and informatization experts' group under the MOHURD, noted that through renewal and transformation of urban infrastructure oriented to digitalization, grid-based management and intelligentization, China is able to speed up the transformation of ways to manage urban construction, improve the overall level of urban construction and operational efficiency, and promote the modernization of urban governance system and capacity.

With the construction of smart communities, high-quality services such as elderly care, fitness, and delivery become more easily accessible to residents and can thus meet their diverse needs.

Unmanned buses and delivery vehicles, smart cameras that can



A citizen tries driving a virtual new energy vehicle at a smart energy experience center in Yuncheng city, north China's Shanxi province, Feb. 24, 2021. File photo

accurately detect high-rise littering, smart trash cans that can automatically weigh and count garbage items, and smart greenways that allow residents to check their movement trajectories by scanning a QR code, among other facilities empowered by smart technologies, have made residents' life more convenient.

New urban infrastructure construction projects are also helpful for driving industrial upgrading and cultivating new eco-

economic growth drivers.

Through the implementation of relevant projects, new urban infrastructure construction, which involves strong industrial chains, can promote the application of new technologies and the clustering of new industries, and advance the development of new business forms and improvement in new consumption, eventually unleashing the huge potential of urban development and driving effective investment.

At the end of last year, Chongqing issued a plan for the pilot projects of new urban infrastructure construction.

According to the document, the municipality plans to invest over five billion yuan (\$738 million) to advance 38 pilot projects, including developing ICVs and expanding the coverage of intelligent sensing devices to over 10 kilometers of road, as well as piloting more than 100 projects for the digital construc-

tion of engineering projects, and implementing projects integrating construction industrialization and informatization that cover an area of over 15 million square meters.

By 2025, Chongqing will incubate a batch of leading enterprises in new urban infrastructure construction, which will generate a capacity of over 100 billion products and services, said the document.

An MOHURD official said that

the country will accelerate the construction of a three-tier CIM basic platform system at the national, provincial, and city levels; comprehensively promote smart municipal administration, smart community, and smart construction; coordinate the development of smart cities and ICVs; and speed up the implementation of new urban infrastructure construction projects by building demonstration bases.

People's Daily

Cost of living in focus as Aussie election race hits final stretch

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison criss-crossed the country in a final day of campaigning, insisting he could still win Saturday's election despite polls pointing to a change of government or hung parliament.

Morrison and Labor Opposition leader Anthony Albanese targeted marginal seats across four states in the final 48 hours of the six-week campaign as data showing wages growth being outstripped by inflation and record low unemployment provided fodder for competing claims on who would best manage the economy.

An Ipsos opinion poll published by the Australian Financial Review showed Labor leading Morrison's ruling Liberal-National coalition 53 percent to 47 percent on a two-party preferred basis, where votes are ranked by preference and distributed to the highest two candidates.

But Labor's primary vote shrunk to 36 percent to the coalition's 35 percent, with minor parties and independents attracting nearly a third of voters, raising the prospect of a minority government.

Morrison, in a blitz of media interviews on Friday morning, said he could still win, and pointed to his economic competence.

"What I've demonstrated over these last three years - not everybody's agreed with me... and not everybody likes me - but that's not the point. The point is, who can manage the nation's finances to keep downward pressure on rising interest rates, downward pressure on cost of living?" he said on ABC News Breakfast, before campaigning in Western Australia.

Albanese campaigned with former Labor Prime Minister Julia Gillard in the South Australian capital of Adelaide on Friday morning, broadening his attack to the government's record on gender equality and climate change, issues championed by independent candidates.

Gillard, Australia's first woman prime minister and an international campaigner on women's leadership, urged women to vote Labor. "I am very confident it will be a government for women," she said.

In 2010, after the election delivered a hung parliament, Gillard formed government after extended negotiations with independents and minor parties.

Several so-called "teal independents" are challenging key Liberal held seats, campaigning for action on climate change after some of the worst floods and fires to hit Australia and criticizing the government on integrity and equality.

Morrison pledged to become "inclusive and bring more people with us" if re-elected, after polling showed his personality could be a hurdle for the Liberal vote, particularly women.

Another challenge for the major parties is a \$40 million advertising blitz by billionaire Clive Palmer's United Australia Party, which is fielding candidates nationally.

ABC election analyst Antony Green said unlike the previous election, Palmer's advertising blitz hadn't singled out Labor for attack, which could impact



A billboard showing Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison adorns the side of the Trades Hall building in Melbourne yesterday, a day before Australia goes to the polls in a general election. AFP

preference flows and the result.

Election rules were changed on Friday to allow all voters who tested positive for COVID-19 to vote by telephone.

More than 6.5 million pre-poll or postal votes were already cast out of 17 million eligible voters in Australia's compulsory voting system.

Cost of living battles

The government has played up its credentials in supporting the economy through the COVID-19 pandemic, pointing to data on Thursday showing Australia's jobless rate fell to 3.9 percent in April, the lowest in 48 years.

Labor said businesses had struggled to find workers after Australia's borders were closed

and highlighted other data that showed wages had grown just 2.4 percent, the lowest since 1998. It wants to boost the minimum wage to keep pace with inflation of 5.1 percent.

"Australians are doing it tough, they know that wages have gone backwards by 2.7 percent," said Albanese on Friday.

Asked about the possibility there would be

no clear result on election night as independents drew votes, he urged people to vote Labor instead.

"There's three more years of the same or there's myself, who wants to bring the country together, who wants to be inclusive, wants to end the division, wants to end the climate wars," he said.

College graduate succeeds in large yellow croaker farming business in Fujian

WITH support from his university, Ye Zhoumin, 26, from Ningde city, southeast China's Fujian Province, has developed a successful high-quality large yellow croaker business after engaging in deep-sea cage farming.

"The breeding farm covers an area of 80,000 square meters," introduced Ye, who has been engaged in the business for six

years. "It is expected that over 600 tonnes of premium large yellow croakers will be produced this year," he added.

Instead of developing the breeding industry in the inner bay area, which is a common practice, the young man eyed the deep sea far away from the shore, which provides better water quality and can therefore guarantee a higher quality and

price for the prized fish.

In September 2017, he established a company, and started cultivating two boxes of fish fries in the sea waters off Doumi village, Xiapu county of Ningde, an ideal place for large yellow croaker farming.

His fish fries were raised in a huge net cage, which was also a departure from the conventional mode.

Traditionally, large yellow croakers are bred in small cages with a high density, which affected the quality of the fish. But Ye's net cage, with a base area that covers 3,600 square meters, provides the fish a larger space to move around.

The trial proved successful. About one year later when the fish hit the market, the fish were quickly sold out in a few months, with the sales volume

of his company exceeding 1 million yuan (about \$147,000). But after Ye expanded his business in 2019, a disease emerged among the fish fries that ended up causing him to lose out on nearly 10 million yuan.

"It was difficult to monitor the condition of the fish fries and the quality of the sea water in the huge net cages," he explained.

Fortunately, Minjiang Univer-

sity, Ye's alma mater, lent a helping hand in June 2020.

He Wei, a professor at the university, led over 10 experts to conduct on-site research, and introduced digital technology to Ye's farming base for the real-time monitoring of the development of the fish and the quality of the water.

"The technology monitors water temperature, flow rate, and salinity in real time," said

Ye, adding that this makes the feeding pattern more accurate.

Ye sold over 30-million-yuan worth of large yellow croakers in 2021, while his breeding farm has since become an education base for the university.

Besides, Ye also joined hands with a research team from the university to extract sea cucumber peptides from sea cucumber farming and add it into the fish feed.

CAPITAL RADIO
A young Kenyan female journalist

RATIBA YA VIPINDI
JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

NEWS FEATURES

'Huge spike' in global conflict caused record number of displacements in 2021

By Special Correspondent

CONFLICT and violence forced people from their homes a record number of times last year, with sub-Saharan Africa bearing the brunt of mass internal displacement caused by 'huge spikes' in fighting.

People fleeing violence were internally displaced 14.4m times in 2021, an increase of 4.6m on 2020, according to figures published by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

Most of those displacements - 11.6m, or 80 per cent of the total - took place in sub-Saharan African countries, with the war in northern Ethiopia dwarfing other conflicts in terms of the number of times people were forced from their homes.

Alexandra Bilak, IDMC director, said the geographic concentration of the conflict-related displacement across sub-Saharan Africa, from the Sahel to east Africa, was a huge concern. "These are, of course, countries that have experienced long histories of conflict, but what these numbers show is that the conflicts are far from having been resolved," she said.

She added: "So on top of protracted crises, you get new waves of violence every year. In Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, we're talking huge spikes of new violence that have led to incredibly large numbers being displaced and, at least for now, very little prospect for returns."

New flare-ups of violence often collided with climate pressures such as drought or flooding, and resulting food insecurity, making it even harder for countries to give internally displaced people (IDPs) the help they needed, she said.

"There's absolutely no window during which some kind of



Women and children queue for food at the Silsa camp in Ethiopia. The country had a record 5.1m internal displacements due to conflict in 2021. File photo

stabilisation could happen, and some degree of return or sustainable local integration. These constant shocks to the system mean that the numbers keep increasing."

According to the report, there were 59.1 million IDPs globally in 2021, a

cumulative figure, which has grown steadily since the IDMC began documenting in 2003. Every year more displacement is caused by natural disasters than conflict, but last year the number of forced movements due to disasters such as storms,

floods and volcanic eruptions - 23.7 million - was down considerably on 2020.

The number of times people were forced from their homes by violence was of particular concern to the IDMC. As the report deals with 2021,

the figures do not include the huge humanitarian fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where more than 7 million people are thought to be internally displaced. The only place to rival that scale of displacement was Ethiopia, where conflict - chiefly war between government forces and Tigrayan rebels in the north of the country - triggered 5.1m internal displacements. Until the invasion of Ukraine, that was the highest annual figure ever recorded for a single country.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which saw 2.7m displacements due to conflict, and Afghanistan, where the Taliban toppled Ashraf Ghani's government, also registered all-time highs. The volatile situation in Myanmar, where the military staged a bloody coup, helped triple the overall figure for East Asia compared with the previous year.

With more than half the global IDP population under 25, and about 25 million under 18, the IDMC called for more targeted interventions to protect children and young people from the particular dangers they face. "The financial difficulties IDPs tend to face may force children to engage in dangerous income-generating activities, including crime, transactional sex or joining armed groups," the report notes. "Strengthening child protection systems that consider these risks is essential."

Displaced girls and boys, it adds, confront different risks, with girls at greater risk of sexual violence and child marriage, and boys of recruitment by fighters.

Bilak hoped the report would raise awareness of the worsening plight of IDPs, which historically had received "much less attention" from governments and policymakers than that of refugees or migrants. "This is, first and foremost, a call for acknowledgment of the scale ... and the urgency of the issue," she said.

Faced with the stark increase in conflict-related displacement, she added, the IDMC urged greater investment in peace-building, "and in preventing those conflicts from happening in the first place".

Exim Bank launches new account for SMEs businesses

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania has launched a specialized service for small business owners and entrepreneurs known as the 'Exim Wajasiriamali Akaunti' aimed at bringing closer and promoting banking services to the important economic groups.

Further, the measure is aimed at facilitating business operations among small business

owners and entrepreneurs including food vendors, bodobodas, artisans and similar groups by enabling them to easily save, receive payments digitally while integrating the said groups with various business opportunities including loans.

Speaking at the launch of the product in Dar es Salaam today, Exim Bank Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Shani Kinswaga said among other things, the service supports the government's call

to financial institutions in the country to design various services targeting to help entrepreneurs and small businesses, especially youths and women, get rid of the economic burden.

"The new product is a response to the feedback we have been receiving from our various stakeholders including our customers. 'Exim Wajasiriamali Akaunti' makes it easy for small businesses even if they are not registered with BRELA, with

their business licenses or TIN numbers they make various payments including online payment, ATM Transactions, payments by cheques, and other ways of transferring money from one bank to another," he said.

He said the product also goes hand in hand with the bank's Life Insurance service.

Exim Bank's Head of Products and Revenue Assurance, Mtenya Cheya said the service

is special for the bank's current customers as well as new customers.

"Along with many other benefits, this product aims to bring about changes in business attitudes among small business owners and entrepreneurs in the country. The aim is not only to encourage the groups to make payments through our banking system but also to provide them with good banking records so that they can be

trusted and eventually get loans as the bank already has information on their sales and their different commercial needs," she said.

Citing some of the benefits of the service, Assistant Retail Product Manager from the bank, Callist Butunga said the product has got easy payment and transaction options that include online, mobile, or through the bank's agents.

"This service also guaran-

tees small businesses access to their services easily at any time, making online purchases and any business transaction. This account can be opened in shillings or dollars, can be opened as a joint account, and allows the user to make payments by cheques," he mentioned

So we are encouraging our current and new customers to open 'Wajasiriamali Akaunti' as it comes a number of benefits" he said.

Dodoma-based fertiliser firm to start production next July

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Kilosa

THE Dodoma-based Itracom Fertiliser Company will officially start production of the key farm inputs in July this year, a senior official said yesterday.

Intracom commerce director, Nazaire Nduwimana unveiled here on Thursday when speaking at farmers' field day held in Ilonga village, Kilosa district, Morogoro region.

The aim of the field day also attended by Tanzania agriculture research institute (TARI), Kilosa district government officials, Kilosa farmers was to show case the efficiency of the new fertilizers from ITRACOM and their impact on crop production and productivity.

Nazaire said the company will start production of 200 tonnes of fertiliser adding that the company will increase production to 600 tonnes by next year.

He explained further that the company's target is to reach production capacity of 1.5 million tonnes in the course of time. Nazaire said in the course of production, the company will also produce 300 tonnes of Lime.

He said the qualities of the new fertiliser are 19 per cent higher than the rest.

Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said the skyrocketing of fertiliser price was a big problem for most smallholder farmers. Therefore, the coming of the new fertilizer will reduce importation of fertiliser and reduce the price for the farmers. "Almost 90 per cent of fertiliser is imported from outside. This quality fertiliser has come at the right time when the farmers are struggling to get the fertiliser at affordable price. We have tested it in our TARI centres and so far they have shown success," he said.

We have already tested soil three quarter of the country. We know for sure which crop is suitable for which fertiliser and for which soil. Therefore, the ITRACOM fertiliser will be very much supportive to the farmers across the country.

He said the fertiliser have been tested explaining how to use the fertiliser TARI Ilonga centre director Lameck Makoye said for fertiliser the farmer can apply 103kg per hectare while for top dressing the farmer can 476kg per hectare "It is very easy to use. The farmer need to pick up the fertilizers by hand and apply on the field as directed," he said.



TARI director general Geoffrey Mkamilo (2nd R) explains to government officials, researchers and farmers the effectiveness of ITRACOM fertilizer on rice at Ilonga village in Kilosa. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Kilosa district commissioner Majid Mwangi who was the guest of honour said besides farmers, ITRACOM will also benefit livestock keepers. The manual are being used as raw materials to manufacture the fertilizers.

He said the coming of ITRACOM will provide employment for hundreds of youth in the country.

The district commissioner also inspected the farmers' demo plots to see for himself the effectiveness of the ferti-

liser.

Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority Stephen Ngalo explained that the samples were taken for testing and shown high quality. "We are also inviting other Tanzanians and investors who have money to invest in fertilizers so that we can help farmers get access fertiliser at an affordable rate," he said.

"This is a result of international diplomacy of President

Samia Suluhu Hassan. Both farmers and livestock keepers will benefit from this ITRACOM investment," he said. TARI set up the demo plots for trials of the fertiliser at TARI Ilonga centre for Rice, TARI Selian centre for maize and beans, TARI Uyoile centre for rice, beans and maize, TARI Hombole centre for sunflower and sorghum.

The ITRACOM investment in Tanzania follows a tour of Burundi by President Samia Suluhu Hassan she made in

Dr Gwajima calls for community cooperation to fight against the youth criminal gangs

By Guardian Reporter

DR Dorothy Gwajima, Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister has called on Tanzanians to cooperate with their government in providing reports on crimes or signs thereof from their areas, in order to fight

against them in the community.

The minister made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during his visit to Chanika, Zingizwa and Buza wards to speak to victims of attacks by an armed criminal gang of small children popularly known as "panya road."

In the visit, Dr Gwajima was

accompanied by the minister for Home Affairs, Hamad Masauni.

Dr Gwajima said the youth have no capability to fight the government if the people cooperate with their government by providing it with any signs of such crime to relative authorities.

She explained that solidar-

ity between the community and their government is the only solution in eradicating these criminal gangs involving youth of between 16 and 20 years of age.

"Social decay in children's upbringing is the main cause for the formation of these groups," she added. She said parents do not do not allot time to speak to

their children to know what they are up to and in the process they easily join such criminal gangs including "panya road" groups.

For his part, Home Affairs Minister Hamad Masauni said he was pleased to hear that more than 61 children were being held by the police through the cooperation of members of the commu-

nity. For his part, Dar es Salaam Special Zone Regional Police Commander Jumanne Muliro said the police will continue to perform their duties according to the oaths without leniency and whoever will dare to play with 'Tanzanian' peace will face the consequences.

"We have closely worked to-

gether with the community police, they have been of great help to us as we were able to nab some of the suspects from Chanika, Kunduchi Mtongani and Kinyantira areas and some of the items seized from them included TV sets, mobile phones and others that were robbed from their victims.

Youth demand a voice in call-to-action on child labour

DURBAN

ASHLEY has vast work experience. She has laboured by the sweat of her brow in the blistering sun on the streets of Guatemala, in the open fields on farmlands and indoors, toiling for long hours to the hum of a sewing machine.

Her work resume might be impressive to some - street trader, farmworker and tailor - but she, like 160 million children around the world, is trapped in child labour, working desperately to support her impoverished family and provide for her education.

"For most working children, it is very hard for us to express ourselves. All working children have different necessities, and most of their parents cannot supply these: clothing, health, and education. The root cause of child labour is poverty because it makes us as working children get out of our houses to risk our lives to be able to help our family," she said.

"Working children are not done with formal education. They have not finished primary education because their families do not have financial resources. We need to go out and financially sustain ourselves economically. In other cases, third parties abuse them," Ashley told delegates at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Durban, South Africa.

"In my country and also the whole of Latin America, you will see every day how children are

posted in parks, by the traffic lights, doing any kind of work in bad conditions."

Ashley took time out from her work to share her story and join a small band of teenage peers and child labour survivors to make history, representing the children of 10 countries from across the globe at the conference, which runs in Durban, South Africa until Friday 20 May.

Like Ashley, across the globe in India, Amar Lala was born into a poor family and worked as a child labourer before being rescued by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, a social reformer who has tirelessly campaigned against child labour and advocated for the universal right to education.

"I used to work in the stone quarry breaking stones every day and putting those stones into pots. We used to get hurt every day but had no chance to get to hospital to get treatment. I had no idea, and even my family had no idea what education was. I was the luckiest boy to get helped when the Nobel Laureate saw me and rescued me. I got the opportunity to study and decided to become a lawyer to stand for other children who are like me. Today, I can proudly say I am a lawyer standing in court, every single day fighting for children who have been exploited and are in child labour and bondage," Lala said.

Children affected by child labour, like Ashley, Kabwe from Kenya, Mary Ann from South Africa and survivors like Lala, now 25, shared their stories before a group of chil-



Nothing about us, without us, was a clear message at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Durban, South Africa. These delegates were among those who drew up their own call to action at the conference. File photo

dren stood in unison to deliver the Children's Call to Action, at the first global conference, ever, to include a platform for the voices of children impacted by child labour. The conference hosted more than 60 children and young people from different parts of the world, representing

Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Organisers withheld the children's full names to protect their identities and personal safety.

Representatives from the International Labour Organization, including Thomas Wissing of the Technical Advisory Cluster, chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Mikiko Otami, SA Minister of Employment and Labour, Thulus Nxesi and other high profile international government, business and civil society leaders were present during the session, either physically or virtually.

In their call-to-action statement, which captures the expectations of children who attended the conference, they noted that the conference was being held at a "critical moment" when the world is seeing an increase in child labour, especially on the African continent, where 92.2 million children are entrapped, some 80% working in the agricultural sector.

Social protection and the provision of safe spaces for children during emergencies. Governments should make budgetary allocations to support and enrich children's development, especially in poor, marginalised communities.

Initiatives should be formulated, inclusive of children's voices, to ensure that children's rights and well-being are not violated or relegated to the background in emergencies. All states should adhere to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 and nationally adopted policies and laws on protecting the child.

Apportionment/ allocation of budget. Richer countries should provide development assistance to poorer countries, especially in emergencies. For example, the provision of safe spaces for shelters that can be used to empower children and their parents/caregivers on matters of child labour.

Governments should commit to initiatives that enhance the appropriation of finances to maximise their use towards support for access to social protection, free quality public education, health care for all children and free sanitary towels to ensure full school attendance.

Stakeholders must be empowered to demand ac-

countability and transparency from governments at all times. Corruption and the misappropriation of funds will disallow the opportunities for free access to quality public education for all and diminish children's abilities to pursue their dreams of becoming meaningful members of society.

Ensure the democratic representation of children and young people in the making and implementation of key decisions that affect them the most at all times. Organisations such as student unions, child-based groups and civil society organisations must engage with children to find solutions.

"We children and young people of the world...are saying 'no to child labour'. We are asking governments and all other actors to respect and consider our voices to eradicate child labour by 2025. We hope that this conference does not become one of just words, but of actions," the children said.

Commenting on the children's involvement in the conference, Otami said they had helped provide a clear understanding of what the world was fighting for and the need for the holistic implementation of children's rights.

"Hearing the voice of the children is very important. We talk about evidence-based research - what the children are experiencing and thinking is part of the evidence," she said.

Wissing said children's participation had been discussed at previous conferences, but the South African government had decided that it was ready to give children a platform to speak to the world's policymakers.

"Children's rights are not something you can negotiate according to local conditions or problems. These are aspirations that need to be put into action. You look at these conventions (on the rights of the child and the eradication of child labour), but if you don't implement them, we will be discussing the same thing in 50 years. We want to eliminate child labour," Wissing said.

He said the ILO was working with trade unions to lobby businesses for decent wages and working conditions for parents so that their children could go to school

IPS

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 287 00--

3 letters WEE, SUE, KNM.
4 letters BUTT, SNOW, APES, RISE, ERSE, NOOK, IOAS, ULNA, IDLE, ANNA, ECUS.
5 letters OPRAH, DEISM, EMAIL, UPPER, TREES, RINSE SMALL.
6 letters LISBON, CANOES, BOATER, TASSEL.
7 letters SLASHER, NAIROBI.
8 letters TEE SHIRT, STOOSHIE.

CLUES: Down
 2. the religion revealed through Muhammad
 3. cited by Jesus & his disciples on the night before his Crucifixion
 4. a leader in a Muslim community
 5. month of the goddess Maia
 6. famous for the religion Islam
 7. Islamic canonical law
 8. free from Sin
 9. a young sheep often used by Jews for sacrifice to God
 16. the person in charge of religious affairs
 17. non Muslim
 19. it is called Biblical mountain
 21. heathen
 26. hot drink

Across:
 1. holy book
 5. the celebration of Eucharist
 7. one of Islam branches
 10. speech that are disrespectful to God
 11. a purpose
 12. First man to be Created
 13. land owner in India
 14. maize porridge in Africa
 15. trouble sent by God to Egyptians in the Old testament
 18. have sexual intercourse against the will of a person
 20. place where Jesus turned water into wine 23. a prize
 24. a short repeated phrase in music
 25. a heron with white plumage
 27. brief written record of religious facts
 28. the ninth month of the Muslim year

WORD-FIT
 MAIDSOME HERMITAGE
 ENNUYAL EMBORSNRI
 EDENLOUD LIMBORSTRAL
 TEREDEL MANNULALSO
 AATIGN ENAHUMGALIN
 NSOIL TONENESS
 UHURU WASTIAGO
 MOONTEDE ENAMELASSAD
 ABIDE XIND BLENLARGE
 ROLES C GROUNDHOGS
 EYRA ES SPECTH

RADIO One **RATIBA YA IPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BUSINESS

China now quietly increases purchases of low-priced Russian oil

SINGAPORE

CHINA is quietly ramping up purchases of oil from Russia at bargain prices, according to shipping data and oil traders who spoke to Reuters, filling the vacuum left by Western buyers backing away from business with Russia after its invasion of Ukraine in February.

The move by the world's biggest oil importer comes a month after it initially cut back on Russian supplies, for fear of appearing to openly support Moscow and potentially expose its state oil giants to sanctions.

China's seaborne Russian oil imports will jump to a near-record 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) in May, up from 750,000 bpd in the first quarter and 800,000 bpd in 2021, according to an estimate by Vortexa Analytics.

Unipek, the trading arm of Asia's top refiner Sinopec Corp, is leading the purchases, along with Zhenhua Oil, a unit of China's defense conglomerate Norinco, according to shipping data, a shipbroker report seen by Reuters and five traders. Livna Shipping Ltd, a Hong Kong-registered firm, has also recently emerged as a major shipper of Russian oil into China, the traders said.

Sinopec declined comment. Zhenhua and Livna did not respond to requests for comment.

The firms are filling the hole left by western buyers after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Russia calls a "special military operation."

The United States, Britain and some other key oil buyers banned imports of Russian oil shortly after the invasion. The European Union is finalizing a further round of sanctions, including a ban on Russian oil purchases. Many European refiners have already stopped buying from Russia for fear of running afoul of sanctions or drawing negative publicity.

Vitol and Trafigura, two of the world's biggest commodity traders, phased out purchases from Rosneft, Russia's biggest oil producer, ahead of an EU rule that came into effect on May 15 barring purchases unless "strictly necessary" to secure the EU's energy needs.

"The situation began taking a drastic turn after the exit of Vitol and Trafigura

that created a vacuum, which could only be filled by companies that can provide value and are trusted by their Russian counterparts," one Chinese trader, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

The low price of Russia's oil - spot differentials are about \$29 less per barrel compared with before the invasion, according to traders - is a boon for China's refiners as they face shrinking margins in a slowing economy. The price is well below competing barrels from the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the United States.

China separately receives some 800,000 bpd of Russian oil via pipelines under government deals. That would bring May imports to nearly 2 million bpd, 15% of China's overall demand. For Russia, oil sales are helping to cushion the blow to its economy from sanctions.

State-owned Chinese companies, led by Sinopec and Zhenhua, are set to buy two thirds of Russia's flagship Far Eastern export grade ESPO (Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean oil pipeline) blend in May, up from a third before the invasion of Ukraine, traders who closely monitor the flows told Reuters. Russia exported about 24 million barrels in May, 6% higher than April.

Sinopec alone is likely to buy at least 10 ESPO shipments in May, doubling its volume before the invasion, with some of the trades hitting a record discount of \$20 a barrel below benchmark Dubai crude on FOB Kozmino basis, three of the traders said.

Sinopec, Zhenhua and Livna are moving more oil from both Russia's Baltic Sea ports in northwestern Europe and its Far East export hub Kozmino.

Zhenhua, the smallest state-owned Chinese oil trader, has chartered ships to move Russian oil, according to shipping data and traders with knowledge of the matter.

North Petroleum International Co, a unit of Zhenhua, loaded two ESPO shipments in early May, and another two cargoes of Urals from Baltic Sea port Ust-Luga in late April and mid-May, according to data from Refinitiv and Vortexa, a shipbroker report and traders.



FILE PHOTO: Oil tankers are seen at a terminal of Sinopec Yaogang oil depot in Nantong

DSE shareholders approve 2.4bn/- dividends for 2022

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) shareholders have approved 2.4bn/- dividends for 2022, which is equivalent to 100.78/- per share.

The amount declared is also equivalent to 60 per cent of net profit generated during the year ending December 2021, as it was approved during the company Annual General Meeting held on May 18, this year in Dar es Salaam.

Trading of shares cum dividend started on May 18 to June 17 this year while trading ex-dividend will start on June 18 onwards, says the company statement published yesterday.

According to the DSE group annual report 2021, total income decreased by 13 percent from the revenue of 10.05bn/- in 2020 to 8.77bn/- in 2021. The profit before tax decreased marginally to 4.04bn/- compared to a profit before tax of 4.81bn/- in 2021.

Despite the decline in the earnings in year 2021, the result say, the DSE group still managed to record strong financial performance due to management efforts and initiatives to diversify its revenue base and allocating expenses in a cost-conscious manner, coupled with efficient management of its investment portfolio and improvement in bond trading.

Following continued good performance, the DSE share price increased



DSE Chief Executive Officer Moremi Marwa

by 48 percent during year 2021, from 880/- in December 2020 to 1,300/- per share in December 2021.

This resulted into an increase in shareholders' book value of 10bn/-, from the market capitalization of 21bn/- in 2020 to a market capitalization of 31bn/- in 2021.

The recent DSE market

report shows the company share closed at 1,900/- on Thursday this week.

"In 2022 the DSE shall continue the overall delivery of the 2018 - 2022 Strategic Plan II which is embedded in the overall DSE objective of "providing a responsive securities exchange that promotes economic development through offering a range of attractive

and cost-effective products and services," reads parts of the annual report quoting the chief executive officer Moremi Marwa.

Specifically, Marwa says in year 2022, the DSE group say is focusing on implementing DSE Revised Rules, 2022; Provide enabling environment for listing of sustainable themed/labelled finan-

cial instruments; Pursue liquidity enhancement of both equity and debt market segments.

Other focuses are preparing the DSE Five year strategic Plan III (2023-2027); Enhance diversity of CSR Products and services; Ensure enhanced compliance and risk management process; and enhance efficient utilization of DSE financial human and other resources.

During the year 2021, the total asset of the DSE Group grew to 29.1bn/- from 28.4bn/-, the growth of 3 percent, the increase was due to the increase in the investment in the government securities from the funds obtained from the operations.

Price earnings ratio increased from 4.5 in year 2020 to 7.8 in year 2021, the increase was mainly due to increase in the market price, this led to the value of DSE Group to increase by 10bn/- in 2021 compared to 2020.

During the year, the group had positive cash flow generated from the operating activities of 2.5bn/- (2020: 1.28bn/-), this was attributed by the funds collected from the outstanding receivables with customers.

Edenville seeks to end contract mining arrangement with NextGen

PERTH

AIM-listed Edenville Energy is in discussions with NextGen Coalmine to vary the existing contract mining arrangement the companies have on the Rukwa coal project, in Tanzania, and to potentially take back control of the operations.

Edenville believes this will enable the company to capture a larger percentage of future sales, either on a contract basis or direct operation basis.

The company entered into a contract arrangement with NextGen early this year; however, Edenville says it has yet to enjoy any material benefit from the contract mining arrangement, owing to operational issues, which it is seeking to address.

In the meantime, Edenville is assisting NextGen on the ground and with limited funding to allow operations at Rukwa to be increased on a timely basis.

The company confirms that it is working with urgency to get the situation sorted, since international and domestic coal prices have increased significantly, with there being heightened interest from customers to enter into offtake agreements for coal from Rukwa.

"Since entering into the agreement with NextGen, a number of things have changed on a macro level that have made the economics of Rukwa considerably more attractive. The company is determined to maximise cash returns in the current global coal environment, especially given the attractive pricing forecast over the coming years.

"Given its current financial position, Edenville now has capacity to expand operations organically and to meet this heightened demand," explains Edenville CEO Alistair Muir.



The Rukwa Coal Mine has the potential to produce significant free-cash to Edenville from its operations, particularly in the global coal pricing environment PHOTO/FILE

Meanwhile, Edenville has also advised that Upendo Group's 10 percent economic interest in the joint venture holding the licences governing the Rukwa project has been transferred to a 10 percent direct holding on the principal production licence.

This may require Upendo making contributions to operations going forward, to which Edenville is seeking

clarification.

The Company believes this transaction may require Upendo Group Ltd to make contributions to operations going forward. The Company is seeking formal clarification of the transfer and is in discussion with its Tanzanian legal advisers to understand its implications. The Company says will provide a further update once these are received.

From 1 February 2022 to 30 April 2022, 610 tonnes of washed coal was sold and 453 tonnes of fines were sold ex-stockpile, according to the company report.

"Rukwa has the potential to produce significant free-cash to Edenville from its operations, particularly in the global coal pricing environment," the company CEO added.

DSE records first corporate bond trading for Q2

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) recorded the first corporate bond trading at the secondary market on Wednesday and Thursday.

The trading on Wednesday involved the retail bond, floated by the DSE listed

bank in 2019, at an interest rate of 10 percent per annum, payable quarterly for its term of three years, until June 2022.

The DSE market report shows on Wednesday, a 3-year bond with a coupon rate of 10.00 percent and a face value of 1.50mn/- and transaction value of 1.43mn/-

traded at 95.0000 percent in one deal.

During the first quarter corporate bonds with the face value of 64bn/- and transaction value of 58.58bn/- recorded.

During the second quarter of last year, corporate bonds with the face value amounting 416.44bn/-

and transaction value of 385.39bn/- were recorded.

In 2019, NMB received approval from CMSA to issue 25bn/- with a green shoe Option of an additional of 15bn/-. Following the receipt, applications worth 83.3bn representing subscription level of 333 percent recorded. NMB on 22nd July 2019

applied and received approval from the CMSA to accept all bids received for 3rd tranche.

In 2015, the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) and the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) gave NMB Bank Plc a go ahead to issue bonds totalling 200bn/- on Medium Term Note (MTN)

basis.

NMB has so far issued four tranches of bonds as Tranche 1 was issued in June 2016 to retailers (retail bond) during which period a total of 41.4bn/- raised, a 107 percent oversubscription from the Sh20 billion that was initially approved, complete with a green shoe option of

5bn/-.

The bond was listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) and later matured in June, 2019.

Tranche 2 - worth Sh23.3 billion - was issued in December, 2017 as private placement to institution. This bond matured in December, 2019.

This year, the bank issued a three year Jasiri Bond, with expectation to expected to raise 25bn/- with a green shoe option of 15bn/-

On Thursday, a 5-year bond with a coupon rate of 13.46 percent and a face value of 5.10mn/- was traded at 95.0000 percent in 1 deal.

Eleven firms awarded for supporting growth of livestock sector

By Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of eleven companies engaged in livestock sub-sector from Kilosa, Tanga, Morogoro, Iringa and Dar es Salaam regions were awarded dollar cash prizes to recognize their achievements in supporting smallholder farmers, including supply of productivity enhancement input bundles and provision of advisory services.

The awards were presented by the minister of livestock and fisheries, Mashimba Mashauri through AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project at the Sales Period 2 Award Ceremony.

Also they were awarded for providing animal nutrition food, vaccination and artificial insemination to smallholder livestock keepers.

AgResults project manager team lead, Neema Mrema said ten companies received awards include Abea Animal Breeding East Africa, Agri Care Enterprises based in Tanga, A to Z Universal Co. Ltd based in Iringa Region, Damian Agrovat based in Gairo district, IDD Veterinary

Centre, Kile Agrovat, Kilosa Veterinary Centre, Mil Animal Nutrition Innovation Centre based in Arusha, OISO Vet Centre based in Lushoto, Twins Agrovat and General Supply Investment Co. Ltd and VETFARM.

She said, Damiani Agrovat went away with US\$12,1040 cash prize, Kile Agrovat awarded \$122,315, IDD Veterinary awarded \$121, Twins Agrovat and General Supply Investment Co. Ltd received \$28,515, VETFARM awarded 34,934 USD.

Other includes Kilosa Veterinary Centre \$5,308, Mil Animal Nutrition Innovation Centre \$8,802 to mention few.

"AgResults has organized the event to recognize each competitor's efforts and present them with their prizes, which required a great deal of innovation, learning, and adaptation along the way, you have set a very admirable benchmark for future competitors of this project."

She said the Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project is part of AgResults, a \$152 million collaborative initiative between the governments of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Bill and Melinda



Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Mashimba Mashauri Ndaki (2ND R) presents a Sales Period 2 Award to VETFARM management to recognize them for high quality milk production. (1st right is the Tanzania Dairy Board Registrar, Dr. George Msalya)

Gates Foundation and the World Bank Group.

Under AgResults' Pay-for-Results model, the competitions encourage actors to achieve predetermined results thresholds and quality for monetary prizes.

"It is important to showcase the commitment that these competitors have demonstrated over the last nine months in ensuring smallholder farmers are well-served with access to high quality dairy inputs and, just as impor-

tantly, advisory services," she said.

Since 2020, the project has tackled issues of low dairy productivity and limited access to inputs, providing monetary prizes for businesses that deliver a variety of input 'bundles' and advisory services to farmers.

The event brought together government representatives, development partners, and private sector stakeholders to recognize the project's growing momentum in its second year and reflect on its

potential to strengthen the dairy sector.

The event featured a range of perspectives, from donors to Project Manager Land O'Lakes Venture37 to the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries - culminating in the announcement of prizes.

"The project is engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders, including the Government of Tanzania, to ensure the availability of inputs and enhanced service delivery," he said. "This strong collabora-

tion has led to the achievements we see today. Congratulations to the competitors for their innovation and resilience."

Minister Ndaki said the awards were issued in recognizing the significance of the prize competition to shape Tanzania's market growth and benefit its farmers.

"The government has recognized the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project's contributions to the implementation of the Tanzania

Livestock Master Plan," said the Minister. "This gives us confidence that through public-private partnerships, we can solve many challenges facing the livestock sector in Tanzania."

Rodrigo Ortiz from the AgResults Secretariat said Tanzania project fits into the broader goals and approach of the initiative, namely using monetary incentives to drive private sector innovation that benefits the entire value chain.

"This second year built on the experimentation and innovation of Sales Period 1," said Mr. Ortiz. "We are very pleased with the competitors' achievements as they continued to invest time and resources to develop new methods of reaching farmers and packaging critical inputs with important accompanying technical assistance."

Christopher Duguid, First Secretary for Development - Economic Growth, from Global Affairs Canada said reflecting on the benefits of testing Pay-for-Results prize competitions as a development approach to drive market systems development and strengthen relationships among value chain actors.

"As we mark the halfway point of the competition, we can already see its potential to increase access among vulnerable populations and improve the lives of smallholder dairy farmers," said Mr. Duguid. "The donor community is very excited to see what the competition achieves in the next two years."

VP Dr. Mpango commends NMB Bank for supporting innovation

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Vice President, Dr. Philip Mpango expressed its interest in NMB Bank's commitment to support products and services innovation and urged the bank to support Tanzania youths with innovative ideas.

Speaking during a visit to the NMB pavilion during the Innovation Week held at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, Mpango said innovation is an essential driver of the economic development of any country.

"As Government we understand that innovation has a profound effect on macroeconomics and its contribution to economic development. Congratulations and I urge you to continue supporting youths with innovative ideas," Dr. Mpango said.

He made the remark after being brief on an experimental financial solution system initially developed by NMB Bank that has opened doors for innovators to try out their solutions and has now attracted 150 innovators since its launch.

He Head of the NMB Bank Innovation Department Josina Njambi while briefing the Vice President said as part of the bank's efforts to support innovation, the bank pioneered development of a special system known as the NMB Sandbox environment which provides an opportunity for



financial solutions innovators especially in the digital sphere to come up with their innovative solution adding that the bank was committed to partnering with successful innovators.

"This system provides an opportunity for innovators to try out solutions they have devised and see how they can work effectively and successful innovators will have the

opportunity to partner with NMB Bank to develop an integrated banking system to enhance service delivery in a more easy, secure and quicker way "said Josina.

She added, "Apart from providing opportunities to these innovators, the best innovative solutions will be the catalyst for development of the financial sector and the national as a

whole."

She noted that the bank is pleased that the innovators have been very responsive adding that already 150 innovators have signed up for the system with their solutions being under trial

"We anticipate the numbers to scale up as this opportunity is still available. I take this opportunity to continue encouraging more innovators to grab opportunities

provided by the sandbox environment" added Josina.

On his part, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Professor Eliamani Sedoyeka also shared similar sentiments and urged the bank to continue working closely with the ministry for purposes of supporting the education sector in general.

Barrick extends facility, establishes sustainability-linked metrics

TOROTO

GLOBAL bullion producer Barrick Gold has announced that it had extended its undrawn \$3-billion revolving credit facility by one year to May 2027 and that sustainability-linked metrics had been incorporated into the facility.

The metrics were made up of yearly environmental and social performance targets, directly influenced by Barrick's actions, rather than based on external ratings.

The performance targets, Barrick said, included Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions intensity, water use efficiency (reuse and recycling rates), and total recordable injury frequency rate.

The miner could incur positive or negative pricing adjustments on drawn credit spreads and standby fees based on its sustainability performance versus the targets.

"The extension of the termination date of our undrawn credit facility, combined with our strong balance sheet, highlights the current strength of Barrick's liquidity, while the establishment of sustainability-linked metrics, along with Barrick's recently released 2021 Sustainability Report, continues to show Barrick's commitment to ESG," commented senior executive VP and CFO Graham Shuttleworth.

Barrick's long-term credit is currently rated BBB+ and Baa1 by S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service, respectively.

Company's net cash balance at the end of Q1 stood at \$743 million, reflecting cash flow from the operations, the continuing sale of non-core assets, and its share of a further \$0.6 billion in cash distributions by Kibali.

The company management said Q1 was a softer quarter, particularly when compared to Q4 of 2021, which included a record-breaking performance from Nevada Gold Mines.

With a stronger performance expected in the second half of the year, Barrick management says it remains on track to meet its 2022 production guidance.

Barrick's Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.20 per share for the first quarter of 2022 that will be paid on June 15, 2022 to shareholders of record at the close of business on May 27, 2022.

This dividend comprises a base quarterly dividend of \$0.10 per share and a performance dividend enhancement of an additional \$0.10 per share.

“The extension of the termination date of our undrawn credit facility, combined with our strong balance sheet, highlights the current strength of Barrick's liquidity, while the establishment of sustainability-linked metrics, along with Barrick's recently released 2021 Sustainability Report, continues to show Barrick's commitment to ESG

Oil steady as supply risks meet economic headwinds

LONDON

OIL prices edged lower on Friday on course for little change on the week as a planned European ban on Russian oil balanced out investor concerns about weakening economic growth hitting demand.

Brent futures for July were down 10 cents, or 0.1%, to \$111.94 a barrel by 0920 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for June fell 56 cents, or 0.5%, to \$111.65 on its last day as the front-month.

The more actively traded WTI contract for July was down 0.23 cents at \$109.66 a barrel.

The International Mone-



tary Fund (IMF) urged Asian economies to be mindful of spillover risks from monetary tightening.

Asian economies faced a choice between supporting

growth with more stimulus and withdrawing it to stabilize debt and inflation, IMF Deputy Managing Director Kenji Okamura said.

While Bank of Japan pol-

icy runs counter to a global shift towards monetary tightening, central banks in the United States, Britain and Australia raised interest rates recently.

"If U.S. growth data continues to sour, oil prices could get caught up in the negative stock market feedback loop," SPI Asset Management Managing Director Stephen Innes said in a client note. Despite higher fuel prices, however, Americans were getting back behind the wheel, according to a report from the Federal Highway Administration on vehicle miles.

The European Union is hoping to clinch a deal on a proposed ban of Russian crude imports which includes carve-outs for EU states most dependent on Russian oil such as Hungary.

"Odds of an EU embargo being declared sooner rather

than later increased in the wake of Germany's success in cutting Russian oil imports by more than half in a very short period," consultancy BCA research said in a note.

"Further reductions in Germany's imports of Russian oil will make it easier for the EU's largest economy to walk away from Russian crude and product imports sooner rather than later."

Iran, meanwhile, is having a tougher time selling its crude now that more Russian barrels are available with Iranian crude exports to China down sharply since the start of the Ukraine war as Beijing buys discounted Russian barrels.

Kenya taxman loses billions on higher airtime, data taxes

NAIROBI

AIRTIME and call data tax collections fell by 19.8 percent or Sh7.4 billion last year on reduced use following the increment of excise duty from 15 percent to 20 percent.

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics data shows the taxman collected Sh29.8 billion last year, a drop from Sh37.2 billion in 2020. The government imposed a higher tax last year, through the Finance Act, 2020, in a bid to collect at least Sh8 billion in extra revenues from Safaricom, Airtel and Telkom Kenya.

The charge was passed on to consumers, with Airtel increasing the cost of making calls to Sh2.78 per minute and Safaricom to Sh4.87 per minute for peak time, up from Sh4.30 previously. The new tax had a damp-

ening effect on the use of voice and data that saw companies record a slowdown of revenues, ultimately hitting tax collections.

"Excise revenue increased across all the sub-categories except for airtime which decreased by 19.8 percent from Sh37.2 billion to Sh29.8 billion," KNBS said in the latest Economic Survey.

Airtime and data have become the biggest source of excise taxes ahead of beer, spirits, cigarettes, bottled water, and financial transactions.

The KRA collected Sh29.8 billion on airtime, Sh28.9 billion on financial transactions and Sh28.5 billion from beer and other sin taxes.

The mobile telephone service consumers also carry the burden of paying value-added tax (VAT), which is levied at 16 percent.

Excise duty on airtime jumped to Sh26.2 billion in 2018, up from Sh16.1 billion



the previous year when the government hiked the tax from 10 percent to 15 percent.

This saw an increase in charges for calls, text messages and data as

Safaricom raised the cost of calls by 30 cents, and SMS by 10 cents while Zuku increased the costs of subscribers who use the 10Mbps package to Sh3,999 from Sh3,500.

The persistent increment has, however, backfired, with consumers having cut back on making calls and Internet browsing.

Telecoms companies said the ex-

tra charge will be borne by the consumer which may negatively impact users' consumption and stifle innovation at a time when self-employed youth have turned to the Internet

to run digital-enabled businesses.

Data has been a key competition point between telcos and Internet providers, with each seeking an edge over the other on a price basis.

Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) data shows Kenya had 65.08 million mobile subscribers in the quarter ended December 2021. Of those users, around 46.3 million had mobile data subscriptions.

Safaricom saw its voice income drop 4.8 percent to Sh82.5 billion in the year to March to make up 27.6 percent of the company's topline, down from 34.5 percent three years ago.

The company said although its data income grew impressively by 8.1 percent to Sh48.4 billion, the growth was dampened in the second half of its financial year to March due to the new taxes.

AGRA President appointed to high-profile Climate Overshoot Commission

By Guardian Reporter

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) President Dr. Agnes Kalibata, has been selected as one of 16 eminent members of the Climate Overshoot Commission.

She joins former heads of government, national ministers, environmental leaders, and high-level international officials, who will evaluate additional approaches for reducing the climate risks of overshoot in an integrated way, according to a statement issued by AGRA.

The Climate Overshoot Commission was formed upon the realization that global warming is fast approaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement, an 'overshoot' of that goal is likely within the next decade.

The Commission, which is chaired by former World Trade Organisation Director General Pascal Lamy, will balance the potential, costs and risks of enhanced

adaptation, carbon dioxide removal, and sunlight reflection against the serious impacts of a warming world.

The commissioners will meet six times over the next fifteen months - starting in Italy, New York and Egypt - to prepare a strategy that will be unveiled before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) of 2023.

The expected strategy will be evidence-based, just, and promote equitable approaches for reducing risk in a dangerously warming world.

"Rising global temperatures are already creating challenges for global food systems. Africa's smallholder farmers are facing adverse consequences as a result of fluctuating weather patterns. We are seeing this in droughts, floods, mudslides, and pest attacks across Africa. This Commission brings together leaders to work together in advocating for action that can prevent climate overshoot and develop appropriate response strategies to reverse

global warming and limit the impacts of worsening climate change," said Dr. Kalibata, who served as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

Dr. Kalibata brings to the Commission a wealth of experience from her involvement in agricultural and food systems, both as a successful minister of agriculture (Rwanda) and as the leader of AGRA.

In both these roles, and many others, she has led the development of strategies enabling farmers adapt to the vagaries of climate change, in addition to mitigating further damage.

Her contribution to finding global solutions to end hunger has seen her win numerous awards and international recognition, including the prestigious Africa Food Prize, an honorary doctorate from the University of Liège, and the National Academy of Sciences' Public Welfare Medal, amongst many others.



ITV

TUESDAY 17 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
8:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shika Bamba rpt
14:30 Igizo Filler: Mizengwe
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:35 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
21:50 Chetu ni chetu
22:20 Soap: Love to Death
23:00 The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 18 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Uchumi wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Soap rpt: Rebecca
12:55 Dakika 45 rpt
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
14:15 Soap: Love to Death
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base

18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Jarida la wanawake
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Albu Yako
21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tulia Marathon
22:20 Soap: Love to Death
23:00 Habari
23:30 Soap: Love to Death
23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 19 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The base
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:15 Soap: Love to Death
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

FRIDAY 20 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco

12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
14:30 Igizo rpt: Rebecca
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: WCF
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

SATURDAY 21 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Korean: Jumong rpt
13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15 Igizo: Rebecca
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean: Jumong
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
21:15 Igizo: Rebecca
21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV TOP 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15 DWTV

SUNDAY 22 May

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35 Bongo Movie rpt
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi

18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Rebecca
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:15 Bongo Movie:
00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05 Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Tues 17 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Our Earth
20:00 Series: Itohan
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 18 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
12:00 Our Earth Rpt
12:30 Innovation Rpt
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Series: Itohan
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Décor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 19 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Itohan
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt

Frid 20 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Rev
19:30 Eco@Africa
20:00 Albu Yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 21 May

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out'n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 17:15 Eco@Africa
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Décor
20:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
21:00 Out'n'About
21:30 Music Club 101 rpt
23:00 Series rpt: Itohan
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 22 May

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Itohan
15:15 Albu Yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Décor rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
21:00 Dw News Africa
21:30 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
00:00 Al Jazeera



Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) President Dr. Agnes Kalibata

WORLD

We are going to die: Sri Lanka warns of food shortages

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA'S prime minister has warned of a food shortage as the island nation battles a devastating economic crisis and vowed the government will buy enough fertilizer for the next planting season to boost productivity.

A decision in April last year by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to ban all chemical fertilizers drastically cut yields and although the government has reversed the ban, no substantial imports have yet taken place.

"While there may not be time to obtain fertilizer for this Yala (May-August) season, steps are being taken to ensure adequate stocks for the Maha (September-March) season," Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a message on Twitter late on Thursday.

"I sincerely urge everyone to accept the gravity of the ... situation."

Sri Lanka is facing a dire shortage of foreign exchange, fuel and medicines, and economic activity has slowed to a crawl.

"There is no point in talking about how hard life is," said A.P.D. Sumanavathi, a 60-year-old woman selling fruit

and vegetables in the Pettah market in Colombo, the commercial capital, on Friday. "I can't predict how things will be in two months, at this rate we might not even be here."

Nearby, a long queue had formed in front of a shop selling cooking gas cylinders, the prices of which have soared.

"Only about 200 cylinders were delivered, even though there were about 500 people," said Mohammad Shazly, a part-time chauffeur who said he was standing in the line for the third day to be able to cook food for family of five.

"Without gas, without kerosene oil, we can't do anything," he said. "Last option what? Without food we are going to die. That will happen hundred percent."

The central bank governor said on Thursday foreign exchange had been secured from a World Bank loan and remittances to pay for fuel and cooking gas shipments, but supplies are still to flow through.

Inflation could rise further to a staggering 40 percent in the next couple of months but it was being driven largely by supply-side pressures and measures by the bank and government were al-



Police use tear gas to disperse university students protesting to demand the resignation of Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the country's crippling economic crisis, in Colombo on Sunday. AFP

ready reining in demand-side inflation, the governor added.

Inflation hit 29.8 percent in April with food prices up 46.6 percent year-on-year.

As anger against the government spread, police fired tear gas and water canon to push back hundreds of student protesters in Colombo on Thursday. The protesters are demanding the ouster of the president as well as the prime minister.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis has come from the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic battering the tourism-reliant economy, rising oil prices and populist tax cuts by the government of President Rajapaksa and his brother, Mahinda, who resigned as prime minister last week.

Wickremesinghe, appointed prime minister in his place, is accused of being a stooge of the brothers.

Other factors have included heavily subsidized domestic prices of fuel and a decision

to ban the import of chemical fertilizers, which devastated the agriculture sector.

The Group of Seven economic powers supports efforts to provide debt relief for Sri Lanka, G7 finance chiefs said on Thursday in a draft communique from a meeting in Germany after the country defaulted on its sovereign debt.

P. Nandalal Weerasinghe, the central bank chief, has said plans for a debt restructuring were almost finalized and he would be submitting a proposal to the cabinet soon.

"We are in pre-emptive default," he said. "Our position is very clear, until there is a debt restructure, we cannot repay."

A spokesperson for the International Monetary Fund said the fund was monitoring developments very closely and that a virtual mission to Sri Lanka was expected to conclude technical talks on a potential loan program to country on May 24.

Agencies

Musk denies he sexually harassed flight attendant on private jet

OAKLAND

BILLIONAIRE Elon Musk took to Twitter late on Thursday to denounce as "utterly untrue" claims in a news report that he had sexually harassed a flight attendant on a private jet in 2016.

Business Insider reported earlier on Thursday that Musk's SpaceX paid \$250,000 in 2018 to settle a sexual harassment claim from an unnamed private jet flight attendant who accused Musk of exposing himself to her.

The article quoted an anonymous person who said she was a friend of the flight attendant. The friend had provided a statement as part of the private settlement process, according to the article.

"I have a challenge to this liar who claims their friend saw me 'exposed' - describe just one

thing, anything at all (scars, tattoos, ...) that isn't known by the public. She won't be able to do so, because it never happened," Musk tweeted.

Reuters was not able to verify the Business Insider account. Musk and SpaceX did not respond to Reuters requests for comment on Musk's tweets.

In addition to allegedly exposing himself, Musk rubbed the flight attendant's thigh and offered to buy her a horse if she would "do more" during an in-flight massage, Business Insider quoted the friend of the flight attendant as saying.

The flight attendant came to believe that her refusal to accept Musk's proposal had hurt her opportunities to work at SpaceX and prompted her to hire a lawyer in



2018, according to Business Insider.

The rocket company made the settlement out of court and included a nondisclosure agreement which prevented the flight attendant from speaking about it, Business Insider said. The news site did not name the friend or the

flight attendant.

Musk, who is also chief executive of Tesla Inc and is in the midst of a contentious effort to buy Twitter Inc, said on Wednesday that he would vote Republican instead of Democrat, predicting a "dirty tricks campaign against me" would follow.

Agencies

Taliban say female Afghan TV presenters must cover face on air

KABUL

TALIBAN authorities in Afghanistan have asked television broadcasters to ensure that female presenters on local stations cover their faces when on air, an official said on Thursday.

The move comes days after authorities ordered women to cover their faces in public, a return to a policy of the Taliban's past hardline rule and an escalation of restrictions that are causing anger at home and abroad.

"Yesterday we met with media officials... they accepted our advice very happily," Akif Mahajar, spokesman for the Taliban's Ministry of Vice and Virtue, told Reuters, adding this move would be received well by Afghans.

While he framed the move as "advice", Mahajar added: "The last date for face covering for TV presenters is May 21," referring



to when compliance with the new requirement should begin.

He did not respond to a query on what the consequences would be of not following the advice.

Most Afghan women wear a headscarf for religious reasons, but many in urban areas

such as Kabul do not cover their faces. During the Taliban's last rule from 1996 to 2001, it was obligatory for women to wear the all-encompassing blue burqa.

Mahajar said female presenters could wear a medical face mask, as has been widely used during the COVID-19 pandem-

ic.

Women in Afghanistan had pursued work and education after the Taliban government was toppled in 2001 following a US-led invasion, endeavors that were forbidden to them under Taliban rule at the time.

The Taliban says it has changed since its last rule, but recently added regulations such as limiting women's movement without a male chaperone. Older girls above 13 years old have also yet to be allowed back to schools and colleges.

A local television channel's female employee, who wished to remain anonymous, told Reuters Taliban officials had visited their office on Wednesday.

"Today (Thursday) the production department wore masks but the news office continued as usual," the employee said.

Some channels have already begun implementing the new rule. Agencies

China's trade with Belt and Road countries sees robust growth

BEIJING

CHINA'S economic and trade ties with countries along the Belt and Road have strengthened significantly over the past decade, an official said yesterday.

"Despite the protracted COVID-19 pandemic and complicated international situation, the building of the Belt and Road Initiative continues to demonstrate strong resilience and vitality, injecting strong impetus into global openness and cooperation and world economic recovery," Sheng Qiuping, vice-minister of commerce, told a press conference.

From 2013 to 2021, the annual trade volume between China and countries along the Belt and Road expanded from \$1.04 trillion to \$1.8 trillion, marking an increase of 73 percent, Sheng said.

During this period, China's direct investment in countries along the Belt and Road totaled \$161.3 billion, while 32,000 enterprises were established in China by these countries, with a combined investment of \$71.2 billion, Sheng added.

China signed new contracts worth about \$1.08 trillion with countries along the Belt and Road in the period for engineering projects in transportation, electricity and other areas, he said.

In the first four months of this year, China's imports and exports with countries along the Belt and Road jumped 15.4 percent year-on-year to 3.97 trillion yuan (about \$588 billion), 7.5 percentage points higher than the overall growth of China's foreign trade, said Wang Lingjun, deputy head of the General Administration of Customs.

Russia can offer 25 mln tonnes of grain for export starting on August 1 - UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA can offer 25 million tonnes of grain for export via the port of Novorossiysk starting from August 1 and until the end of this year, Russian Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said, speaking at UN Security Council meeting on conflicts and food security on Thursday.

According to Nebenzya, Russia "continues to remain a responsible supplier of food and energy."

"This year, we expect a record high wheat harvest. In this regard, we can offer 25 million tonnes of grain for export from the port of Novorossiysk starting on August 1 and until the end of this year," the envoy said.

"We can also discuss other procurements, including considering that, between June and December, potential export of fertilizers will stand at least 22 million tonnes."

But, if you have no intention to withdraw your sanctions, imposed on your own initiative, then why do you accuse us? Why the poorest nations and regions have to suffer because of your irresponsible geopolitical games?" the diplomat underscored, addressing the representatives of Western states.

According to Nebenzya, in the current circumstances, attempts to "groundlessly shift responsibility" for deteriorating food situation in the world on Russia "are not just absurd, they are sacrilegious."

Nebenzya said that grain exports from Ukrainian ports have been blocked because of actions by Ukraine, not Russia.

"You claim that we are allegedly blocking the possibility of exporting agricultural products from Ukraine by sea," he said at a UN Security Council meeting on food security.

"However, the truth is that it's Ukraine, not Russia, that continues to block 75 foreign ships from 17 states in the ports of Nikolayev, Kherson, Chernomorsk, Mariupol, Ochakov, Odessa and Yuzhny, and it was Ukraine that mined the waterways."

"Given that, how can we talk about grain export?" he said. "And no matter what you say here today, only you can change this situation, gentlemen."

Exported Ukrainian grain does not go to countries in need, but is being loaded in EU storages - possibly as payment for arms shipments, Nebenzya said.

"A logical question arises: where do these shipments [of Ukrainian grain] go? What do they have to do with ensuring food security in the world?" Nebenzya said. "We have justified suspicion that the grain does not go to aid the starving global South, but is being loaded in European states' grain storages. As we understand, this is how Ukraine pays for weapons being shipped by the West."

Agencies



THE U.S. boasts the world's richest medical resources and best healthcare capacity, yet it has seen one million Americans lose their lives to the COVID-19 pandemic within 27 months. The failure of the U.S. policy responses to COVID-19 has revealed the hypocrisy of the human rights in the U.S.

"Today, we mark a tragic milestone: one million American lives lost to COVID-19," U.S. President Joe Biden said in a prerecorded video speech delivered to the Global COVID-19 Summit on May 12.

As the COVID-19 death toll in the U.S. reached one million, all sectors of society have expressed grief over the loss of lives in the pandemic in various ways. The Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C. rang its bell 1,000 times for 90 minutes in the twilight, once for

Undeserved national tragedy - Over 1 mln COVID-19 deaths in the US

every 1,000 people who have died from the virus. The toll should also be a reminder to the U.S. government.

When faced with a pandemic unseen in a century, only by putting people and their lives first and truly respecting every life can countries respect and protect human rights to the greatest extent.

However, American politicians didn't take effective countermeasures, which caused the country's COVID-19 cases and deaths to rank first in the world for a long period of time.

What American people remember about the epidemic in the past over two years is grief from not being able to say goodbyes to their beloved ones for one

last time, fear when nursing homes reported a huge amount of COVID-19 deaths, and sadness when over 200,000 children were orphaned because of the pandemic.

COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. have almost doubled the country's death tolls from World War I and World War II combined, and are equivalent to the population of San Jose, California, the tenth largest U.S. city.

"Each one of those numbers represents a grandparent or a spouse or someone with their own unique story that we've lost", according to an article published on ABC News.

"This unthinkable tragedy will forever

appear in the history books," the article quoted John Brownstein, Ph.D. an epidemiologist at Boston Children's Hospital.

Looking back at how the U.S. has ended up a loser in the fight against COVID-19, people can see clearly that a major reason is that American politicians stubbornly prioritize their political interests. To guarantee their votes, American politicians deliberately downplayed the risk of the virus.

Their remarks, such as Omicron variant is just a big flu, and COVID-19 mortality rate is very low, and the virus will miraculously disappear, will always remind American people just how indifferent the politicians have been to life amid the

epidemic.

From nucleic acid testing, wearing masks to maintaining social distance, from the allocation of medical strategic reserves, the formulation of emergency relief bills to the promotion of vaccination, the two major political parties in the U.S. have been criticizing, vetoing, and confronting each other, and the federal and local governments have been acting in their own ways and restraining each other.

The overall situation of America's anti-pandemic response has been messed up by the political calculations of various parties.

The so-called human rights preached

by some American politicians are nothing more than a mirage to the American people trapped in the epidemic.

Another major reason why the U.S. failed to contain the epidemic is it has put short-term economic interests and capital interests above public health security and people's life and health.

It was reported that the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the U.S. National Security Council prepared an anti-epidemic response memo in February 2020, which clearly recommended a series of strict measures to control the spread of the virus.

But U.S. policymakers immediately rejected the memo after learning that relevant measures could cause the U.S. stock market to crash.

People's Daily

Russia will obviously not supply gas to anyone for free, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will not supply gas to anyone for free, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Friday when commenting on a statement made by the Finnish company Gasum, saying that it will not fulfill the requirement on paying in rubles and expects gas deliveries to be suspended in coming days.

"We do not have information about all companies, with which Gazprom has contracts concluded, this is not our authority. Gazprom should be contacted on details, of course. But [Russia] will obviously not supply anything to anyone for free," he said.

The Finnish state-owned gas company Gasum said in a statement earlier this week that it did not accept Gazprom Export's requirement to switch to ruble payments and would consequently not make payments in rubles or under Gazprom Export's proposed payment arrangement.

The Finnish side has decided to take the disputes regarding the supply contract to arbitration, the company added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered on March 23 that unfriendly states must pay for Russian gas in rubles, saying that Moscow would refuse to accept payments under gas contracts with those states in 'compromised' currencies, particularly meaning dollars and euros.

Agencies

UN Security Council convenes to address food insecurity, calls for global cooperation

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Security Council met on Thursday to address food insecurity and called on the international community to strengthen cooperation to solve it.

"When war is waged, people go hungry," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the Security Council during a debate on conflict and food security chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Some 60 percent of the world's undernourished people live in areas affected by conflict, the top UN official said, adding that "no country is immune."

Last year, most of the 140 million people suffering acute hunger around the world lived in just 10 countries: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen - eight of which are on the council's agenda.

"Let there be no doubt: when this council debates conflict, you debate hunger. When you make decisions about peacekeeping and political missions, you make decisions about hunger. And when you fail to reach consensus, hungry people pay a high price," Guterres said.

Despite being pleased to announce that the Central Emergency Response Fund is releasing 30 million U.S. dollars to meet food security needs in Niger, Mali, Chad, and Burkina Faso, the UN chief said sadly: "But it is a drop in the ocean." Guterres expressed concern over food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, which is experiencing its worst drought in four decades, affecting more than 18 million people, while in Ethiopia and Somalia, continued conflict and insecurity plague the people.

At the moment, 44 million people in 38 countries are at emergency levels of hunger, known as IPC 4 - just one step away from famine. More than half a million people in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Yemen, and Madagascar are already suffering from IPC level 5: catastrophic or famine conditions.

"The war in Ukraine is now adding a frightening new dimension to this picture of global hunger," said the secretary-general.

Guterres outlined four steps that countries can take to stop "the deadly dynamic of conflict and hunger," beginning with investing in political solutions to end conflicts, prevent new ones, and build sustainable peace.

"Most important of all, we need to end the war in Ukraine," he said, calling on the Security Council to do everything in its power "to silence the guns and promote peace, in Ukraine and everywhere."

Secondly, he underscored the importance of protecting humanitarian access and essential goods and supplies for civilians, drawing attention to the members' "critical role in demanding adherence to international humanitarian law, and pursuing accountability when it is breached."

Third, he said there needed to be "far greater coordination and leadership" to mitigate the interconnected risks of food insecurity, energy and financing, while reminding that "any meaningful solution to global food insecurity requires reintegrating Ukraine's agricultural production and the food and fertilizer production of Russia and Belarus into world markets - despite the war."

Finally, it is "more necessary than ever" for donors to fully fund humanitarian appeals with official development assistance. "Diverting it to other priorities is not an option while the world is on the brink of mass hunger ... Feeding the hungry is an investment in global peace and security," said the secretary-general. In a world of plenty, no one should accept "a single child, woman or man" dying from hunger, including "the members of this council," he concluded.

David Beasley, chief of the World Food Programme, spoke extensively about "the perfect storm" that drives hunger, including conflict, climate change, and the COVID pandemic.

He cited destabilizing dynamics in Mali, Chad, Malawi, and Burkina Faso; riots and protests in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Pakistan and Peru; conflicts in Ethiopia and Afghanistan; drought and famine in Africa, and a "ring of fire around the world" as an escalating number of people continue "marching to starvation."

"Food security is critical to peace and stability" globally, he underscored. And while the "perfect storm" has resulted in a rise in food prices in 2022, he said food availability would be the big concern in 2023. Beasley stressed the importance of increasing production, opening Ukraine's ports and emptying its silos to stabilize markets and address the global food crisis.

Xinhua

Explainer: Why monkeypox cases are spreading in Europe, US

LONDON

A handful of cases of monkeypox have now been reported or are suspected in Britain, Portugal, Spain and the United States.

The outbreaks are raising alarm because the viral disease, which spreads through close contact and was first found in monkeys, mostly occurs in west and central Africa, and only very occasionally spreads elsewhere.

Here is what scientists know so far.

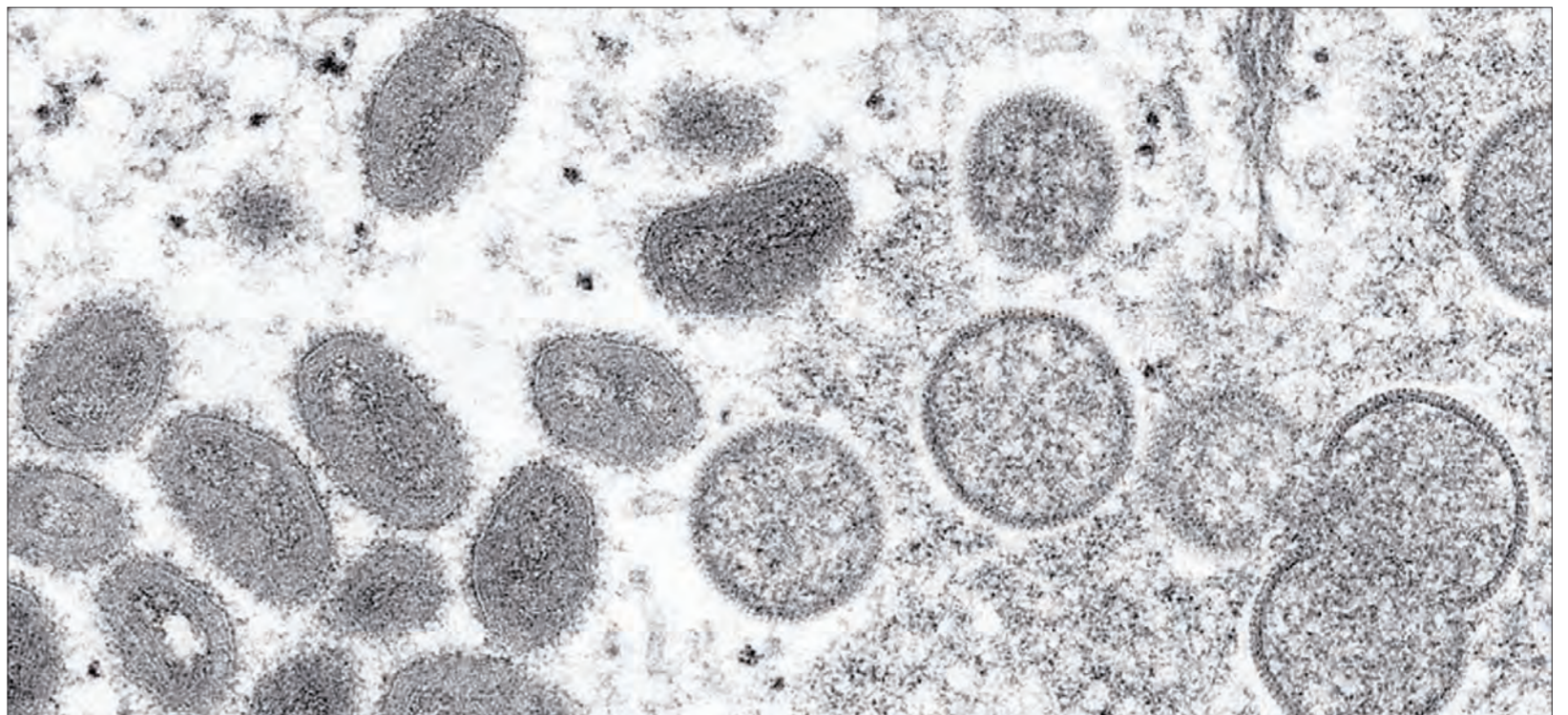
'Highly unusual'

Monkeypox is a virus that causes fever symptoms as well as a distinctive bumpy rash. It is usually mild, although there are two main strains: the Congo strain, which is more severe - with up to 10 percent mortality - and the West African strain, which has a fatality rate in about 1 percent of cases. The UK cases have been reported as the West African strain.

"Historically, there have been very few cases exported. It has only happened eight times in the past before this year," said Jimmy Whitworth, a professor of international public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who said it was "highly unusual".

Portugal has logged five confirmed cases, and Spain is testing 23 potential cases. Neither country has reported cases before.

The United States has also reported one case.



This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions (left) and spherical immature virions (right) obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak. AP

Transmission

The virus spreads through close contact, both in spillovers from animals and, less commonly, between humans. It was first found in monkeys in 1958, hence the name, although rodents are now seen as the probable main animal host.

Transmission this time is puzzling experts, because a number of the cases in the United Kingdom - nine as of May 18 - have no known connection with each other. Only the first case reported on May 6 had recently traveled to Nigeria.

As such, experts have warned of wider transmission if cases have gone unreported.

The UK Health Security Agency's alert also highlighted that the recent cases were predominantly among men who self-identified as gay or bisexual.

Scientists are now carrying out genomic sequencing to

see if the viruses are linked, the World Health Organization said this week.

Why now?

One possible scenario behind the rise in cases is increased travel as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

"My working theory would be that there's a lot of it about in west and central Africa, travel has resumed, and that's why we are seeing more cases," said Whitworth.

Monkeypox puts virologists on the alert because it is in the smallpox family, although it causes less serious illness.

Smallpox was eradicated by vaccination in 1980, and the shot has since been phased out. But it also protects against monkeypox, and so the winding down of vaccination campaigns has led to a jump in monkeypox cases in areas where the disease is endemic, according to Anne Rimoin, an epidemiology professor at UCLA in California.

She said urgent investigation of the new cases was important as "they could suggest a novel means of spread or a change in the virus, but this is all to be determined".

Experts urged people not to panic.

"This isn't going to cause a nationwide epidemic like COVID did, but it's a serious outbreak of a serious disease - and we should take it seriously," said Whitworth.

Huawei's open source operating system joined by more innovative developers

OPERATING system used to remain a challenge for many industries.

For instance, financial institutions need their operating system to be extremely reliable as they have to deal with a huge user base and complicated business forms.

The power industry, which sees a broad geographical coverage of its businesses and high maintenance cost, must work to lower its cost and enhance safety while guaranteeing sound information construction and high-quality system operation and maintenance.

Now, the OpenEuler, an open source operating system launched by Chinese tech giant Huawei, is making the issue far less difficult.

Open source operating systems open and share their source codes, allowing anyone to carry out secondary development of the systems based on the industries in which the systems are applied.

Huawei introduced The OpenEuler in September 2021, and its code, trademark, community infrastructures and other assets were donated to the OpenAtom Foundation in November the same year.

This has transformed the OpenEuler from an open source project led by its founding company into one that's co-constructed by the industry and shared by the community.

The rapid growth of the system is attributable to the continuous contribution made by the members in the OpenEuler community, who are growing ever more diversified. So far, the community has attracted nearly one million developers who established nearly 100 groups.

The system has been downloaded more than 470,000 times and the community joined by more than 330 enterprises, including chip manufacturers, operating system developers, and application software suppliers. The OpenEuler community is becoming one of the most dynamic communities in the industry.

"The operating system is being applied in more and more industries, and a large batch of outstanding open source software are merging," said Ren Lin, a senior technical expert with the information technology center under China Mobile, one of the three major telecommunications carriers in China.

He believes Huawei's donation of the system to the OpenAtom Foundation will further stimulate the innovation in the application of the system.



Huawei launches the OpenEuler operating system in September 2021. (Photo courtesy of Huawei)

So far, the OpenEuler has been applied by government departments, financial institutes and telecommunications carriers in a wide range of industries, such as energy, aerospace, logistics and education.

Numerous operating system developers have started developing commercial versions of the system. China Mobile, together with its two major rivals in China - China Telecom and China Unicom, have all developed their own versions of the OpenEuler.

According to a report on the Chinese operating system market, the OpenEuler saw the largest market share expansion in the sectors of government and carrier affairs, and ranked first in terms of market growth in its application in the financial industry.

Over one million sets of the operating system have been applied for commercial use, and another two million are expected to be applied this year.

Besides, Huawei has launched a talent development acceleration plan under the guidance of relevant department of the Chinese Ministry of Education, with an aim to encourage more university students and teachers to join the operating system industry.

High school student Wu Qihan, a prize winner at the 2021 Kumpeng application innovation contest held by Huawei, told People's Daily that the contest enhanced his understanding of operating system and improved his knowledge and technical capability.

Bai Zeping, a senior college stu-

dent and a developer in the OpenEuler community, holds a similar view. He said the Chinese environment and equal communication in the OpenEuler community have brought developers closer to the community.

As the most basic and important software, operating system is the core and bedrock of a computer system.

Whether an operating system has a large developer base and whether it is massively applied are of crucial importance to the system.

As it is joined by more and more innovative developers, the OpenEuler will offer stronger support for China's digital infrastructure construction in the future.

People's Daily

The operating system is being applied in more and more industries, and a large batch of outstanding open source software are merging

Russian defense chief unveils plans for Western Military District to counter NATO buildup

MOSCOW

DURING a recent panel, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu revealed how many military units will be formed in the Western Military District in response to NATO's buildup near Russia's borders.

"Twelve military units and sub-units will be formed in the Western Military District by the end of the year," Shoigu said, noting that tensions continue to mount in the area of responsibility of the Western Military District, which is also due to the possible admission of Finland and Sweden to NATO.

According to the defense chief, these countermeasures will be synchronized with the supply of modern weapons and military equipment to the troops. "This year, we intend to get more than 2,000 pieces of such equipment," he added.

Shoigu noted that inspections based on the results of the winter training period showed a qualitative increase in the level of train-



ing of the district's formations by 25% compared to the previous year.

According to the defense minister, the intensity of combat training tasks performed by the ships of the Baltic Fleet increased by 42%. More than 300 combat exercises with application of various kinds of weaponry were fulfilled. Since the beginning of the year, the aviation of the district has increased by 4%.

Agencies

Africa to invest in health of women, children in humanitarian settings

NAIROBI

PROVISION of quality and affordable healthcare services to women, children and adolescents in Africa's conflict hotspots will be a priority to avert a humanitarian crisis, senior officials said at a virtual forum on Thursday.

Margaret Agama-Anyetei, the acting director for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the African Union (AU), said the bloc and its multilateral partners intend to scale up maternal, infant and adolescent health services in fragile settings as part of efforts to build the resilience of communities.

"Responding to the health needs of women, children and youth in humanitarian settings is critical to save lives and build resilience in the face of fragilities connected to the climate crisis, conflicts and the pandemic," said Agama-Anyetei.

She disclosed that the establishment of a home-grown agency to deal with the humanitarian crisis in the continent had gathered steam, and priority will be accorded to vulnerable groups like women, children, the elderly and youth.

While acknowledging that the climate crisis, COVID-19 pandemic and internal strife had taken a heavier toll on women, girls, children and the adolescents in Africa, Agama-Anyetei said providing them with nutritional support, clean water, sanitation and reproductive health services was paramount.

Early preparedness and response, improved accountability and partnership are key to boosting response to the health and nutrition needs of women and children in fragile settings, said Agama-Anyetei.

Convened by global health lobbies, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) and CORE Group, the virtual forum sought to rekindle conversation on effective delivery of health services to women, children and adolescents in humanitarian and fragile settings.

Chipo Chimamisa, the deputy director of Maternal and Reproductive Health of the Ministry of Health and Childcare of Zimbabwe, said that investing in women, child centered healthcare programs was crucial, given their vulnerability to diseases, malnutrition occasioned by conflicts and natural disasters.

SPORT



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC's attacker, Hassan Kabunda (R), and the side's midfielder, Awesu Ally, jubilate after Kabunda had registered a third goal for the side in an NBC Premier League clash against Mbeya City FC held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam two days ago. KMC FC won 3-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TPC selects provisional squad for Paralympic athletics side

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has announced a provisional squad made up of 44 athletes to prepare for future international events.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC secretary-general, said the selection of the athletes was done in consultation with the Tanzania Paralympic Athletics Association (TPAA).

He said the athletes are the ones who are disciplined, classified, and performed well in the National Paralympic Athletics Championships which were held last March at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam and sponsored by Toyota Tanzania, Gold Star Paints, and National Sports Council (NSC).

Namkoveka said the team is made up of 28 males and 16 females, of whom 22 participate in Paralympic athletics, 17 participate in the javelin and shot put events, and five are wheelchair race contenders.

The TPC official said the wheelchair races team has no female athletes, given no female performer has a record of competing in either local or international events.

He however expressed his delight that the wheelchair race team has Gerald Hamisi that is also a Paralympic swimmer.

Hamisi that is a student at Dar es Salaam's Pugu Secondary School is the only local Paralympic swimmer classified by International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

Namkoveka said one of the athletes in the provisional squad has visual challenges.

The TPC official said the athletes are drawn from seven regions of Mainland Tanzania while six athletes come from Zanzibar. He mentioned the regions the athletes are coming from as Morogoro, Manyara, Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Ruvuma, Mara, and Mwanza.

He said TPC is waiting for coach Bahati Mgunda who is in South Africa to come

up with his training program, whereas the athletes will continue undergoing training at their respective teams.

Namkoveka noted: "We have unveiled a provisional squad of 44 Paralympic athletes, TPC and TPAA officials are waiting for coach Mgunda to return from South Africa and together we come up with a training program for our athletes."

"We are calling upon all athletes in the team to continue with their training to stay in good shape, and improve their best times to meet the required international qualification," he said.

Namkoveka further asked the athletes in the team who are not classified to submit their traveling particulars to TPC so that their details are recorded by the IPC.

He said TPC is geared to see to it that all athletes in the team have IPC licenses and are classified before the 2024 France Paralympics.

The Paralympic athletes selected for track and field events are John Pius, Nasri Juma, Paulo Nzala, Pazy Mwinyimkuu, George Joseph, Felician Robert, Shukur Khalifan, Naaman Hekima, John Stephano, Abuu Bakar Zahoro, and Hamis Chole.

Others are Goodluck Rigaru, Kasim Ibrahim, Othman Othman, and Ibrahim Samson.

The females in this category are Sarafina Bedon, Happy Simon, Jackie Kijaluo, Hawa Hussein, Marriam Kipepe, Mwajab Yusuf, and Hadra Abdallah.

Namkoveka mentioned male Paralympic athletes in field events as Juma Kidevu, Samson Ponzia, Ernest Nyabale, Ignacius Mtweve, Osman Ally, Osman Osman, and Ally Abdallah.

Female athletes in this category are Grace Range, Bernadeta Kinyelo, Zainab Lukanga, Sikujua Mbembwe, Sauda Njopeka, Umyy Kalthum, Mary Gekura, Fatuma Said, and Hadah Simai.

Wheelchair race athletes are Kennedy Godfrey, Swahibu Rajab, Gerald Hamis, Sumira Mabula, and Ezra Mwambasi.

Azam FC official cautions TFF

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC's Head of Information and Communication Department, Thabit Zakaria, has called on the Tanzania Football Federation, through the Referees Committee, to consider rotation when selecting referees for important ties in this season's NBC Premier League.

Zakaria requested the federation after referee Herry Sasii was selected to officiate the Premier League clash pitting Azam FC against Simba SC which took place at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday and ended in a 1-1 draw.

Sasii is alleged to have been selected to officiate almost every important league fixture that Azam FC takes part in.

Zakaria said the referee, this season, had been selected to officiate the Azam FC clash against Yanga, the official was thereafter allowed to officiate the Wednesday tie against Simba SC.

"We are tired of Sasii, are there no other referees? We ask the league board not to appoint him again," the Azam FC official disclosed.

Zakaria noted: "Why is it that our games against Simba SC are officiated by Sasii? The first round match was officiated by Sasii, our match against Yanga was officiated by the same official."

"The second round match against Simba SC was officiated by Sasii as if there are no other referees."

Azam FC management believes the club had a great chance to emerge victorious in the Wednesday game due to the good displays it put on throughout 90 minutes.

The outfit got the lead through Zambian striker Rodgers Kola in the first half but a few minutes later Simba SC equalized through forward John Bocco.

Zakaria said Azam FC players had certainly shown the value of the side in the game which they deserved to win.

Tanzanian teams should rely on investment rather than motivation

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MOROCCO'S RS Berkane and Orlando Pirates of South Africa, which were beaten by Tanzania's Simba SC in this season's CAF Confederation Cup, were on Friday expected to face each other in the showpiece's final.

What does this mean? Some people claim that Simba SC has beat the best teams that have reached the continental showdown's final, so the former is as well the best.

Simba SC indeed is the best but one football match does not determine the comparison in quality between one team and the other.

The key is the continuity of quality. This season alone Simba SC lost to Mbeya City FC and Kagera Sugar within 10 days in Premier League. It does not make these teams stronger than Simba SC.

They are 90 minutes results but in local football, Simba SC is often compared to only one team, Yanga.

Azam FC is not in the two clubs' group. Simba SC can lose to either Azam FC or Polisi Tanzania but Simba's quality is beyond the two.

RS Berkane, despite facing many African football followers' criticism, had in the 2019/20 season won the CAF Confederation Cup's silverware.

A year earlier the Moroccan side reached the tournament's final against Egypt's Zamalek. What will surprise soccer fanatics is RS Berkane's qualification for this year's continental showdown final even if the squad was beaten by Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

RS Berkane, however, has standards and it is not surprising the club has made it to the final, as it had made the feat its target.

Orlando Pirates had won the CAF Confederation Cup before and only recently played in the competition final.

I do not think that qualifying for the CAF Confederation Cup final is, for them, the



Simba SC fullback, Mohamed Hussein (C), dribbles past South Africa's Orlando Pirates players when the clubs locked horns in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal's first leg which took place in Dar es Salaam on April 17. Simba SC won 1-0.

strangest feat. There are standards set that are lacking in Tanzania's outfits.

Thankfully Simba SC has started to get used to playing in continental showpieces' group stage. For now, this is the side's standard. I look forward to them coming back next year and then doing the same again.

They can also go halfway and thus place themselves in the group stages and semi-finals. This is what is needed rather than judging performance by just one football match's results.

Today Simba SC's qualification for the continental showdown semi-finals will not be too surprising because the side has already played in the group stage successfully.

If a soccer lover assesses carefully, even if Yanga will win the Premier League this season while playing good football Simba is ahead of the former. An individual ought to see how Yanga was easily eliminated by Nigeria's Rivers United in CAF Champions League's first preliminary round.

Yanga and Simba SC's biggest problem is having a huge gap between the outfits and other African top guns.

An individual should consider that the last time Simba reached the semi-finals of African club competitions was in 1974.

It is almost 50 years old now and it is the only team from Mainland Tanzania that has ever reached such a big stage.

Yanga reached a milestone in CAF Champions League in 1998 when the club reached the showdown's

quarterfinals. It has never been back there.

People say if an individual holds money he or she can get used to it. If one works in a perfume shop he or she may find himself/herself smelling good all the time.

The smell of success in the continental tournaments did not sit well with Simba SC and Yanga.

Take a look at DR Congo football big guns, TP Mazembe. Two seasons back, the club had a less competent side but already this year it has made its way to Confederation Cup's semi-final.

The Congolese club has had a better stint in this showdown than Simba and Yanga. And I still believe TP Mazembe is not stronger than Simba.

It is as if local football enthusiasts will not be surprised that South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns will lift the CAF Champions League silverware next season despite crashing out of this season's showpiece quarterfinals with a loss to Angola's Petro Atletico.

An individual just knows that this year the South African club has slipped but the side's standard merits its progression to the semi-final, final, or lifting top honour, that is the way big teams go about.

Egypt's Al Ahly does not win the CAF Champions League title every season, but we all know that the club merits a place in the showdown semi-final and wins the top honour.

These are the standards that Tanzania's outfits have not set but they have started to either brag or mea-

sure their quality with statistics of beating teams that have gone to the finals. This is not right.

But then in terms of standards let us remind ourselves that there are club standards and country standards. RS Berkane is backed by Arab heritage.

Morocco's history in continental showdowns backs the outfit. The nation that has witnessed such sides like Waydad Athletics Club and Raja excel for so long will not be surprised if RS Berkane reaches the final. One just knows that Moroccans are good at using local players.

Simba SC's wins over RS Berkane and Orlando Pirates and then the former witnesses the two clubs make it to the tournament's final should not hurt Tanzania's football fanatics.

Our colleagues have set their standards for a long time and sometimes through the tricks of African football it becomes easy to get a one-match victory but, in general, it does not mean that an outfit's standard has improved.

At the end of the day, we have to remind ourselves if these finalists have criteria on and off the pitch.

Their investment is particularly high. These are the teams that sign players at the higher prices.

They have modern private stadiums for practice and matches, they do not hire modest coaches.

All of these are not done by Tanzania's outfits. To begin with, most foreign players playing their trade in Tanzania are the ones coming via free transfer.

Tanzania's outfits have never bought a player for 200,000 US dollars so far. Well, Tanzania's squads can beat big teams in Dar es Salaam but, in general, the latter's standards are higher than the former's.

Local clubs rely more on motivation than investment, they have to reach the point that if Simba SC could not qualify for either of the continental competitions' quarterfinals then the whole of Africa ought to be shocked.

That is a good start to the growth of local football, in recent years many African countries have begun to believe in that context.

Yanga is the one that has the longest journey to return to the CAF club competitions.

If Yanga takes its chances this season and participates in the CAF Champions League next season, the club should remember that there are standards it has to set and develop almost every year as Simba SC did in recent years.

NBC Dodoma Marathon to back fight against cervical cancer

By Correspondent Jumanne Juma

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has organized a marathon, dubbed 'NBC Dodoma Marathon', aimed at supporting more than 20,000 women with cervical cancer.

A total of 9000 women in Tanzania have been diagnosed with cancer and, out of the mentioned number, 550 women have been diagnosed and treated.

The NBC Bank's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi, affirmed the institution's move during the launch of the NBC Dodoma Marathon which will take place for the third consecutive season.

This year's race has been scheduled to take place in Dodoma on July 31.

Speaking at the launch of the marathon in Dar es Salaam two days ago, Sabi stated that within a year more than 1000 women in Tanzania tested positive for cervical cancer.

He said within two years the institution has been able to cooperate with the Ocean Road Cancer Hospital and the hospital has successfully screened 9000 women.

About 550 women were diagnosed with the disease and have received treatment and are experiencing recovery.

The NBC Bank boss noted: "Cancer is the leading killer disease among women in developing countries, for example, 1400 women tested positive for cervical cancer in Tanzania per year and more than 30 percent have lost their lives in three years because they miss out on ap-



National Bank of Commerce (NBC) Managing Director, Theobald Sabi (C), holds one of the jerseys to be used by runners in the 2022 NBC Dodoma Marathon, slated to take place in Dodoma at the end of next month, at the race's launch held in Dar es Salaam two days back. Others are (L-R) Athletics Tanzania president, Silas Isangi, Ocean Road Cancer Institute's Director, Julius Mwaiselage, Sanlam Insurance Company's CEO, Julius Magobe, and EFM Radio and TV CEO, Dennis Busulwa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

propriate treatment."

Sabi further stated in fighting cervical cancer through the marathon, they aim to raise 200m/- this year.

According to the official, in the last two years, they collected a total of 300m/- whereby all the money will be sent to Ocean Road Cancer Hospital for the treatment of women with cervical cancer.

"This cancer is treatable so our job is to raise funds, make awareness and our goal is to raise 200m/- this year that will help in treatment," he disclosed.

Sabi said the response from people to the marathon is huge whereby in two years the institution has

had more than 4000 people participating in the race, and this year they expect to attract more than 5000 people.

The NBC Bank boss further revealed the aim is to create awareness that cervical cancer is treatable, and women should have the habit of testing at least every year to know their health.

Ocean Road Cancer Hospital's Director, Julius Mwaiselage, said they are grateful to NBC Bank for the commendable effort the institution is putting in backing the hospital to fight cervical cancer.

"We would like to thank NBC Bank for supporting us in providing treatment for women, in two

years we have partnered with the institution, 9000 women have been examined and 550 women have been treated and recovered," Mwaiselage stated.

"This disease starts when a girl starts engaging in sexual intercourse and cervical cancer screening is done for girls aged 14 years onwards... we continue to provide education that this disease is treatable and the most important thing is they should not stop going for screening," he added.

The NBC Dodoma Marathon is registered internationally and has a certificate, the race has involved top-class runners from in and outside the country.

Real Madrid signs deal worth \$380M for Bernabéu management

MADRID

REAL Madrid has signed a stadium management deal for the Santiago Bernabéu worth 360 million euros (\$381 million), the club said Thursday.

The agreement was reached with investment firm Sixth Street and "experiences company" Legends, which specializes in organizing sports and other events and is partly owned by Sixth Street.

The deal with the U.S.-based companies comes with Madrid close to signing Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappé, who would arrive as a free agent but command a club-record salary. One of soccer's top stars, the 23-year-old Mbappé's contract with PSG expires at the end of this season.

Real Madrid said the money from the deal can be invested in "any of the club's activities."

Madrid has not signed any top players in the last few transfer windows and currently holds the league's highest spending limit at 739 million euros (\$783 million).

The club this season won a record-extending 35th Spanish league title and will be looking to win a record-extending 14th European trophy when it faces Liverpool in the Champions League final on May 28 in Paris.

Sixth Street acquired the right to participate in the operation of certain new businesses of the Bernabéu for 20 years, Madrid said. The exact stake the company will have was not immediately disclosed by the club.

Legends, meanwhile, "will contribute its experience and knowledge in the operation of large stadiums and leisure centers, allowing for the optimization of the management" of the stadium.

"This alliance with Sixth Street and Legends, world leaders in their respective disciplines, will be fundamental in providing unique experiences in a stadium where multiple events can be hosted throughout the year," Madrid said in a statement. "This agreement strengthens our goal of continuing to significantly increase the stadium's revenues from both sporting and other types of events."

Sixth Street said it manages over \$60 billion in assets globally and is also linked to the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA, as well as to Airbnb and Spotify. Last year it invested a majority stake in Legends, which was formed in 2008 by affiliates of the New York Yankees and the Dallas Cowboys.

"Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabéu is hallowed ground in the world of football, and we are honored to be joining this partnership to invest in the innovative, long-term strategic vision that has guided the club's consistent success over its storied history," said Alan Waxman, co-founder and CEO of Sixth Street.

AP

Arsenal unsure on £55m Jesus deal - sources

LONDON

ARSENAL are weighing up their options after being told Manchester City will demand £55 million from the north London side to sign Gabriel Jesus this summer, sources have told ESPN.

Arsenal are in the market to sign at least one forward and have sounded out the 25-year-old over a possible move.

Initial contact has now been made between the two clubs and sources have told ESPN that Arsenal have balked at City's valuation given he only has one year left on his contract.

However, the amount is based on City's respect for the player -- who has scored 95 goals in 235 appearances -- but also a desire to recoup the €60m fee paid to Borussia Dortmund to sign Erling Haaland.

City boss Pep Guardiola would prefer to keep Jesus but will not stand in the striker's way if he pushes to leave.

Jesus has started 20 Premier League games this season and has previously hinted at his frustration at not being more regularly involved.

Jesus' agent Marcelo Pettinati confirmed to the Guardian last week that talks had taken place and "we like the project" but also that there were six clubs in the frame.

Arsenal have since lost twice to Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastle United, leaving them facing the likelihood of missing out on Champions League football next season.

That will make a deal for Jesus harder to pull off, although not impossible.

Arsenal will wait to see what European competition they qualify for this weekend before deciding their next move but sources have told ESPN that Arsenal did not expect to finish in the top four this season and therefore their long-term budgeting has not been significantly affected by the recent slump.

Whether they pursue a deal for Jesus remains to be seen. Head coach Mikel Arteta is a huge admirer of the player having worked with him at City but Arsenal are looking at other options including Paulo Dybala, who will leave Juventus on a free transfer at the end of the season.

Arsenal have made contact with Dybala's representatives to find out what personal terms the player is seeking.

Sources have told ESPN that a member of Dybala's entourage held meetings in London and Manchester before flying to Spain and Italy for similar conversations as Dybala assembles his options before making a decision on his next club in the coming weeks.

Inter Milan have long been mooted as a possible destination but Manchester United and Newcastle are also among the clubs monitoring Dybala's situation.

(Agencies)

Explainer: If top European leagues adopted a playoff, how would it work?

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IT'S time to talk about the "P" word. That's right: Playoffs, the common format in North American sports, where teams play a whole regular season for most of the year that seemingly becomes irrelevant when the top teams -- or, in the case of Major League Soccer, the NHL and the NBA, more than half the teams -- advance to a whole other knockout tournament that determines the seasonal champion.

It's also a format that's been anathema to the vast majority of European leagues who, for the most part, have been more than happy to crown their champions the way they've crowned them for the past century or so.

However, that could be changing. It won't happen next year, or even the year after, but it's an increasing part of the conversation as the European game deals with a shifting economic landscape and the increasing effects of polarization with the rich (whether we're talking clubs or leagues) dramatically increasing the gap to everybody else, season after season.

We've already seen UEFA radically change the Champions League format to the "Swiss Model" from 2024; Belgium introduced a post-season playoff format in 2009 and has tinkered with it since. Both Germany's Bundesliga and Italy's Serie A have been exploring the possibility of some kind of post-season playoff format -- whether knockout or round-robin based -- for a while now.

This talk won't go away, so here's a Q+A to better understand why it's happening and how things could look like in the future.

Q: Wait, why are they doing this? What happened to "if it ain't broke, don't fix it"?

A: Plenty of folk think that it is breaking, if not broken, and they range



from those involved in big clubs right down to mid-size and smaller clubs.

There are two main factors at play here. One is the economics of the system, where clubs find it difficult to be sustainable. The other is the sporting side, with resources so unevenly split that certain clubs dominate year after year. The two are linked: clubs feel they are forced to make a choice between sustainability and the ability to compete. And that, incidentally, applies to the big clubs as well, or at least it's the justification given by some clubs, like Real Madrid and Juventus, for the Super League project.

Q: How does that work?

A: Like any business, if you want to be sustainable, you either cut costs or grow revenue or both. Many clubs have been propped up by owners investing in teams to try to grow their brand and commercial revenue as well as chase on-field success, which leads to more prize money. But it's difficult to do since you can't control what happens on the pitch, you're all chasing the same pie and you can only fund losses for so long. And if you cut costs, you risk becoming less competitive.

UEFA and national leagues have tried to address this via mechanisms like Financial Fair Play and while it has broadly made football's ecosystem more stable, it has also made it less competitive. You only need to look at league tables from 20 or 30 years ago -- as well as the number of points earned by cham-

pions -- to see this, and that bleeds into the sporting case for playoffs ...

Q: Which is?

A: Every season, in May, you see a huge amount of frankly irrelevant games. Between teams that are already champions, teams that have clinched a European spot, teams that are already relegated and teams that know they aren't going down and aren't going into Europe, we get a whole load of empty encounters.

Matchday 37 was played between Sunday and Tuesday in the Premier League, and 12 of the 18 teams involved had nothing at stake. It was a similar story for more than half the teams in the Bundesliga and La Liga. And bear in mind, those are leagues with six or seven European places at stake, so there's much more to play for. That's not the case for most leagues in Europe.

Q: OK, but the attendances were still good, right?

A: Yes, for the most part, but I'm not sure you can simply use match-going fans -- most of whom are season ticket holders anyway, or folks who bought their tickets far in advance -- as the only metric here. For a start, they're older -- in 2016, the Premier League revealed the average match-going fan was in his forties -- which doesn't bode well for the future. But also, since everybody talks in terms of global audience, how engaged is someone, especially a younger fan, going to be for a game with nothing at

stake?

Going to games is an entirely different experience -- with rituals like hanging out with your friends, singing songs, eating or drinking, sitting outside in the sun (hopefully) -- than watching at home, no matter how virtually you are connected to whatever communities you watch games with.

Unless you have some local family connection to a place or get to experience games in person, it's highly unlikely you're going to become a fan of a club that hardly competes for anything other than mid-table comfort.

Q: Well, you could go on a cup run ...

A: Sure, but that's a tough sell, not to mention that domestic cups have been largely devalued in most countries, mainly because they're sandwiched in the league schedule: cup runs are interference. But you're on to something. Playoffs of some kind might well rekindle that late in the campaign and in leagues with runaway winners, reintroduce a sense of competition and jeopardy after the regular season.

Q: Won't it devalue the regular season like in American sports? The Utah Jazz had the best record in the NBA regular season last year, but nobody remembers that: they just remember that Milwaukee were NBA champions ...

A: Sure. But you don't need to use the playoffs to necessarily determine the champions, or those all-im-

portant European places. Whoever wins the league can be crowned champion and get all the accolades. Call whoever wins the post-season something else.

There's still value in it. Whoever wins it will still have beaten, in rapid succession, the other top teams in the league. And because these late season games will be meaningful, you will generate more revenue.

Q: I don't know ... it seems unfair that you get to win a trophy when you're not the best team in the country based on the regular season. Would fans accept that?

A: They already do, don't they? We accept it in the Champions League, don't we? If Real Madrid win the Champions League, they will do so having taken fewer points (30) than Liverpool (who are already at 31). So what?

Or take the Championship in England, which (in relative economic terms) is the biggest prize in football. We regularly get teams finishing fifth or sixth, 10 points or more out of the promotion places, and getting promoted via the playoffs. Nobody seems to have a problem with that.

Q: OK, but that means extending the season, and aren't there already too many games?

A: Well, for a start, I'd cut the number of top-flight teams in each big league to 18 or even 16. Then you'd automatically have more meaningful games. And you'd cut down on player workload, without extending the season. But, of course, that's unlikely to happen, since it's about money and more inventory equals more revenue.

It wouldn't have to be a big production either. Give the top two teams a bye to the semifinal, have third to sixth place finishers play quarterfinals. Play single-leg at the home of the highest placed team and you wrap everything up in 10 days. Or you make it top eight, give byes to the quarterfinal to the third and

fourth place teams, and do it in 12 days.

Not every format is going to be right for every league, and not every league might want to do this, but you're giving teams something to play for. And you're creating a lucrative property: another batch of high-end games on successive nights at the end of a campaign.

As for the player workload, we're talking two or three additional games maximum. (Scrap the League Cup in England and it will even out...)

Q: What if you're playing a European final? Won't that mess with your preparation?

A: No system is perfect. There will be outliers and weird situations. But heck, we just saw Liverpool play a decisive away fixture with the Premier League title on the one and make nine changes from the weekend. These are extreme cases and extremely rare.

Q: What about tradition? Isn't that important?

A: It is, but there's a difference between tradition and natural conservatism. To many, the FA Cup was more important than the league in England for many years. Now it's not. The Bundesliga has had a single league, round-robin format for more than 50 years, the French League since World War II. And, of course, the European Cup became the Champions League and changed formats. The game adapts over time.

I think the reason people are talking about this -- and why I welcome the discussion -- is that this isn't being driven purely by economic factors (though, obviously, they're important), but by sporting factors too. We can talk about levelling the playing field via salary caps, or dividing revenues more equitably and whatever until we're blue in the face, but it's hugely difficult to do and there are myriad obstacles. A playoff solution would help address some of those issues in some of those countries and is far easier to implement.

AP

Female referees to officiate men's World Cup for 1st time

GENEVA

FEMALE referees will make World Cup history this year by working games at a major men's tournament for the first time in Qatar.

Three female referees and three female assistant referees were announced Thursday by FIFA among 129 officials selected for World Cup duty, including one man who caused controversy when refereeing a chaotic African Cup of Nations game in January while suffering with heatstroke.

French referee Stéphanie Frappart already worked men's games in World Cup qualifying and the Champions League, after handling the 2019 Women's World Cup final. She also refereed the final of the men's French Cup this month.

"As always, the criteria we have used is 'quality first' and the selected match officials represent the highest level of refereeing worldwide," said FIFA

Referees Committee chairman Pierluigi Collina, who worked the 2002 World Cup final. "In this way, we clearly emphasize that it is quality that counts for us and not gender."

Salima Mukansanga of Rwanda and Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan are also on the list of 36 referees preparing for the 64 games at the tournament, which will be played from Nov. 21-Dec. 18.

The 69 assistant referees include Neuza Back of Brazil, Karen Díaz Medina of Mexico and Kathryn Nesbitt of the United States.

"I would hope that in the future the selection of elite women's match officials for important men's competitions will be perceived as something normal and no longer as sensational," Collina said.

Among the male referees is Janny Sikazwe of Zambia, who blew the final whistle at an African Cup group match after 85 minutes and again 13 seconds before the 90 minutes were complete,

with Mali leading Tunisia 1-0.

About 30 minutes after the match, officials ordered the teams back on the field to restart play but Tunisia refused. The result was later ratified by the Confederation of African Football despite an official protest by Tunisia.

The match was played

in heat and humidity in Cameroon, and Sikazwe later explained he started to become confused in the intense conditions.

Sikazwe will be working at his second World Cup after handling two group games at the 2018 tournament in Russia.

The extreme heat in Qatar led FIFA to decide in

2015 to move the tournament to the cooler months in the Gulf emirate.

FIFA has picked 24 men to work on video reviews. The VAR system made its debut in 2018.

FIFA said 50 referee-and-assistant trios began preparing in 2019 for World Cup duty, with the project affected by limits on inter-

national travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two referees were picked from each of Argentina, Brazil, England and France.

All the officials -- who were not allocated into specific teams of three -- face future technical, physical and medical assessments this year, FIFA said.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Explainer: If top European leagues adopted a playoff, how would it work?

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Golfers set for Lugalo Ladies Open tournament

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

A handful of Tanzania's female golfers have turned out to battle it out in this year's Lugalo Ladies Open tournament at the Lugalo Golf Club course in Dar es Salaam.

Minister for Defence and National Service, Stergomena Lawrence Tax, was yesterday set to be the guest of honour in the opening of the two-day show-down.

The tournament tees off at the course today, with Lugalo Golf Club Chairman Michael Luwongo disclosing the tournament is set to take place with two objectives.

He explained the objectives including marking International Mother's Day as well as congratulating President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts in promoting tourism and sports in the country.

"We have decided to organize the competition to celebrate Mother's Day as well as congratulate President Samia Suluhu Hassan for promoting our country's tourism and boosting sports," Luwongo said.

He also added that according to statistics, women have mostly performed better in international golf tournaments.

Tax laws set to be reviewed to promote soccer

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Minister for Finance and Planning, Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba, has met sports clubs and government institutions in charge of the sector to discuss plans and strategies to develop the sports industry in Tanzania.

The stakeholders briefed Nchemba on the challenges they face in developing football including the existence of an inadequate budget in their clubs as well as urging the government to continue to provide more tax relief on artificial grass and its connectors.

Nchemba assured the stakeholders that the instructions issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure that the sports sector is developed will go for implementation as it is important and many youths are self-employed through the sector.

He called on the sports governing bodies in the country to ensure that the industry performs well to successfully fly Tanzania's flag internationally as well as to ensure that stadiums are built in strategic areas to promote sports in the country.

Nchemba moreover instructed the Ministry of Finance and Planning experts to review the various challenges presented by stakeholders as well as review the tax laws to develop the sector at a time when the government budget is being discussed in parliament.

Speaking on behalf of the football clubs in the country, the Chairman of Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), Steven Mnguto, thanked the government for appreciating and supporting sports.

Mnguto that also serves as second vice-president of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) requested that the challenges they presented to Nchemba ought to be dealt with so that Tanzania's football can make progress and make it easier for the country's soccer outfits to operate efficiently.

The football industry has become one of the most lucrative and competitive industries in the financial world.

The value of football clubs has soared over the last 30 years and entrepreneurs from around the world are now desperate to try and get involved in a market that is still yet to reach its ceiling.

With an affordable and huge budget, Tanzania football clubs will have what it takes to run their daily activities.

With huge costs and a need for good results on the pitch, budgeting is crucial to the success of any football club.

Abubakar, Mao recalled as Poulsen announces Taifa Stars squad



Tanzania's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players jubilate when the squad's midfielder Novatus Dismas netted a goal in an international friendly fixture against the Central African Republic held in Dar es Salaam in March. PHOTO: TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars head coach, Kim Poulsen, has announced his 28-man squad that will face Niger and Algeria in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers next month.

After missing out on Taifa Stars' recent international friendly games against the Central African Republic and Sudan plus the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, assistant captain Himid Mao, who is based in Egypt, has been recalled to the team by the Danish coach.

Another notable inclusion in the squad is that of Yanga's midfielder Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy' who had not been called up to the senior national team since Poulsen took over the reins last year.

'Sure Boy' is one of seven Yanga players, including Bakari Mwamnyeto, Farid Mussa, Aboutwalib Msherry, Kibwana Shomari, Feisal

Salum, and Dickson Job that are in the squad.

Simba SC may have blown hot and cold in this campaign but Poulsen has called up six of their players while Azam FC, Mbeya City FC, and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC each have one player in the squad.

Taifa Stars begin their qualification campaign away to Niger at Stade de l'Amitié Gé-

néral Mathieu Kérékou Cotonou, Bénin on June 4, 2022.

The match will be played in Benin due to Niger's lack of an approved venue for international games.

A Togolese quartet led by center referee Komlanvi Aklassou will handle the first group stage game of the qualifiers.

Aklassou will be assisted by his compatriots, Jonathan

Ahonto Koffi and Wassiou Tchamolla Ouroutou, whilst Kouassi Attisso Atogobe, also from Togo, will be the fourth official.

Tanzania which has been pooled together with Uganda, Niger, and Algeria in Group F will host the North African giants at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on June 8, 2022.

The third and fourth rounds of qualifiers will be played in September, with the last two rounds will take place in March next year.

The top two teams from the group qualify for the finals which will be held in Ivory Coast.

Taifa Stars squad:

Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula (Simba SC), Metacha Mnata (Polisi Tanzania), and Aboutwalib Mshery (Yanga).

Defenders: Shomari Kapombe (Simba SC) and Kennedy Juma (Simba SC), Haji Mnoga (Weymouth, England), Dickson Job (Yanga), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Yanga), Abdallah Kheri (Azam FC), Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC), and Nickson Kibabage (KMC FC).

Midfielders: Farid Mussa (Yanga), Novatus Dismas (Belta Tel Aviv Bat Yam, Israel), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Himid Mao (Ghazal el Mahall, Egypt), Aziz Andambwile (Mbeya City FC), Feisal Salum (Yanga), and Ben Starkie (Spalding, England).

Forwards: Simon Msuva (Unattached), Kelvin John (KRC Genk, Belgium), Mbwana Samatta (Antwerp, Belgium), Reliants Lusajo (Namungo FC), Kibu Denis (Simba SC), George Mpole (Geita Gold FC), Abdul Suleiman (Coastal Union), and Ibrahim Joshua (Tusker FC, Kenya).

Azam FC plots Mtibwa Sugar's downfall in Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



Some Azam FC players participate in a warm-up before the club took on Simba SC in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash that was held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

AZAM FC has six remaining fixtures in this season's NBC Premier League to make amends for what has been a disappointing season for the side.

The Dar es Salaam outfit will face Mtibwa Sugar at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro today.

The ice cream makers had a very good game against Simba SC in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday and gave a new impression to their fans but the fact is that the mid-table mentality has been very challenging for them for lack of continuity.

Speaking of good results this season, Azam FC has notched just one point in ties against Simba SC and Yanga this season after settling for a 1-1 draw with Simba SC at the Azam Complex Stadium.

Azam FC confronts Mtibwa Sugar which has risen to popularity in recent days with two wins, two draws, and one loss in one of the last five games, whereas Azam FC had won one of the last five games.

Perhaps the technique of playing Mudathir Yahya as number 10, whereas the footballer's original position is midfield, as well as playing Kenneth Miguna as a deep-lying midfielder with Sospeter

Bajana, could help Azam FC in the remaining games.

The approach is bound to reduce Azam FC pressure by starting attacks and pressing from the opponents' zone while having the advantage of having a player, Miguna, who can launch an attack from deep.

Despite struggling to score goals late since joining Mtibwa Sugar on January 17, 2022, Ugandan forward Brian Muilu Mayanja has been trying to find his feet again since firing goals during February.

Mayanja signed a one-and-half-year deal as a free agent following the mutual termination of his employment contract with Uganda's Police Football Club.

Mtibwa Sugar has been scoring goals in the club's last six matches although the club has won just three matches and drew 0-0 in the last game against Coastal Union.

The Morogoro squad's offensive midfield is made up of experienced local and foreign footballers like Hamis Ndemla, who has been scoring goals from midfield and bringing flexibility and balance in offense and defense.

The Sugar Millers enter today's game demanding victory due to having tough fixtures against Simba SC and Yanga next month.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A CEMETERY CAN RAISE ITS FUNERAL PRICES AND BLAME IT ON THE COST OF LIVING?

