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EU, govt diet guidelines set to curb malnutrition

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has launched the food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) to promote healthier diets and fight malnutrition.

Health minister Umyy Mwalimu said the guidelines were launched in Zanzibar last year, with the formulation of guidelines being based on the local nutrition situation.

She pointed out that this includes food availability and eating habits tailored to the cultural context, providing evidence-based recommendations on healthy diets and lifestyles.

This is vital for the prevention of various forms of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, she said at the launch in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, affirming the need to fight malnutrition through dietary practices and nutrition education.

"While the nature and causes of malnutrition are complex, a nutritionally insufficient diet is a common denominator throughout all types of malnutrition," the minister declared, highlighting that food systems have the potential to contribute to curbing malnutrition.

This would complement agriculture's primary role of producing food and generating income, she stated, insisting that it is essential for the ministry to bring together differ-

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PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomes visiting Romanian President Klaus Iohannis to State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday - "escorted" by a drizzle. Photo: State House

Tanzania hosts Romania leader, lists expertise sharing areas

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Romania have agreed to strengthen bilateral ties, sharing expertise in agriculture, mining, disaster management and pharmaceuticals.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan made this observation at a joint press conference yesterday alongside visiting Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, saying that bilateral cooperation between the two countries dated back to May 1969.

"The discussions between us dwelt on taking collective efforts to develop further the sectors of pharmaceuticals, agriculture, mining and disaster management," she said, also pointing at exchanging knowledge of various issues including technology transfer.

Romania has offered 10 scholarships for Tanzanian students to study in Romania, with Tanzania providing five scholarships, with the two countries agreeing to increase the volume of trade.

The trade level has been low despite the fact that the two countries share a long history of cooperation, she said, affirming that the two countries need to find ways to increase the volume of trade.

They can also address bottlenecks by inviting businesses from the two countries to discuss on how to improve trade levels," she stated, applauding the visit of the Romanian leader.

It was the first tour of that country's head of state in Tanzania since bilateral cooperation started, with the two countries signing a Memorandum of Understanding on disaster management.

It also includes economic and technical cooperation in agriculture technology between the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and Romanian Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences.

The visiting president said his coun-

try was preparing a new cooperation strategy with African countries including Tanzania, highlighting other areas which they agreed on such as agriculture and cyber security.

"We have several enterprises, especially SMEs from Romania and Tanzania that can bank on Romania as a link to European countries," he said, hinting that there are several matters that the two countries have in common.

President Iohannis and his delegation are today scheduled to go to Zanzibar for a wide ranging conversation with Zanzibar president Dr Hussein Mwinyi, plus visiting tourist attractions like the Stone Town.

The visit is strategically designed to reinforce Romania's diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with Africa, he stated.

The visit is a part of a larger tour spanning four African nations, including Kenya, Cape Verde and Senegal, underscoring Romania's commitment to fostering stronger ties with the African continent.

President Iohannis's tour is strategically designed to reinforce Romania's diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with Africa, as Tanzania and Romania have been cooperating in trade and investment. The main Tanzanian products exported to Romania are Nile perch fillet, tea, tobacco and avocado.

Tanzania imports from Romania products like electrical machines, tractors, vehicles and medical equipment.

Statistics show that in 2021, Tanzania exported products worth \$4.26m to Romania while importing products worth \$12.3m from that country.

Romania has invested in various projects in transportation, industry and tourism at \$6.04m, creating 89 jobs in total, while investing in three projects in Zanzibar pegged at \$7.5m this year, creating 64 jobs.

Global South meeting campaigns for greater economic cooperation

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has appealed to the international community to support the growth of the economies of developing countries including Tanzania to expand the participation of its people in development.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement yesterday that the premier issued this appeal yes-

terday in his remarks at the opening of the second 'Voice of Global South Summit' virtually chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The forum should ensure that developed countries play a greater role in developing the economies of developing countries so that investments flow into these countries, he said.

Sitting in for President Samia Su-

luhu Hassan, the premier asked the forum to look into how it can align the global economy with developing economies including Tanzania.

He appealed to platform participants to formulate ways to address climate change challenges, renewable energy, youth employment and women advancement.

The meeting bring together ex-

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Experts 'troubled' over rise in cases of diabetes

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH experts have called for lifestyle change among wide sections of the public in a concerted effort to control the spread of diabetes.

Dr Boniface Mphumhila, an expert at the Temeke referral hospital, said at a diabetes symposium organised by the Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCD) in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the latest figures show that every 20 seconds a patient loses a leg

globally while 10 out of 100 hospitalised patients lose legs in Tanzania from diabetes.

He said the meeting, aimed at discussing challenges of the disease, was based on the fact that cases of diabetes have been increasing day after day.

"We want to let the general public understand the causes and at least change lifestyle to control the spread of the non-communicable disease," he emphasised.

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Experts 'troubled' over rise in cases of diabetes

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Dr Onesmo Kisanga, a kidney specialist at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), said diabetes is the leading cause of kidney complications globally. "A recent study has shown that diabetes was the cause of kidney failures by 44 percent," he said, pointing out that figure is based on those on dialysis and those being put to transplants.

Regular health screening is vital to map out sugar levels in blood and carry out urine tests in figuring blood sugar levels, he stated, while Dr Aneceth Muchunguzi, another participant, said she has diabetes type one for 10 years.

She said the general public was not aware of diabetes in children, with the result that the ailment can cause death in children while most parents are unaware of the problem.

She said if diagnosed early, diabetes can be controlled especially in children so that they achieve their dreams like other children, elaborating that

data shows that more than 500m people suffer from diabetes globally, with 10m having type one diabetes.

Dr Omary Ubuguyu, Health ministry assistant director for NCDs, said statistics available at the ministry show a large increase in NCDs where seven percent of Tanzanians suffer from kidney diseases while nine percent show signs of diabetes.

The diseases are a massive public health burden but their prevalence can be reduced by changing lifestyle habits, especially by exercising regularly and being careful with the foods we eat, he said, arguing that for the country to win the battle against NCDs, a change of mindset, lifestyles and taking a preventive approach is unavoidable.

Last year, the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS) in collaboration with (TDA) launched the national non-communicable diseases (NCD) research agenda, aimed at identifying priority areas to combat the killer diseases, he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Dodoma city yesterday representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan in delivering a virtual address at the Second Voice of Global South Summit, opened by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Photo: PMO

Global South meeting campaigns for greater economic cooperation

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Experts from scores of developing countries to discuss their challenges by airing their voices so that it is delivered to the G20 summit slated for later this month.

Earlier when opening the summit, the Indian leader said

despite the platform having more than 100 member countries, they are still linked by needs and priorities which are largely the same.

"In December when we took over the G20 presidency we tasked ourselves to raise our voices but also ensure that developing countries are heard,"

he said, underlining that this is the reason for hosting the Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS).

"We need to ensure that developed countries hear your voice and the example for it was the formulation of the Global Biofuel Alliance," he said in illustration.

The summit was attended by 13 countries including seven presidents, namely Ferdinand Marcos (Philippines), Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka (Fiji), Joko Widodo (Indonesia), William Ruto (Kenya), Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov (Kyrgyzstan), Richard Ravalomanana (Madagascar) and Daviv Adeang (Na-

uru). Prime ministers who attended the summit were Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh), Abiy Ahmed Ali (Ethiopia), Pravind K. Jugnauth (Mauritius), James Marape (Papua New Guinea), and the chief government adviser for Bhutan, Chogyal Dago Rigdzin.



Brenda Msangi (L), CEO of Dar es Salaam's CCBRT Hospital, makes a briefing yesterday on assistive devices produced by the hospital. She was taking around a group of individual givers from various parts of Tanzania the hospital invited in a gesture of gratitude for their continued support in serving vulnerable Tanzanians contending with various health-related challenges. Story on Page 3. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government inks contracts for rehabilitation of three vessels

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE government yesterday signed three contracts for rehabilitation of state-owned ships—MV Liemba, MT Nyangumi and MT Ukerewe at a cost of over 49bn/.

The signing ceremony at the Mwanza South Port went together with the launch of MV Umoja, a wagon ferry that was on major rehabilitation from November 2021 to September this year.

The government spent 21bn/- to rehabilitate the ferry wagon, the job which was done by a contractor from South Korea—S.M Solution.

Speaking at the function, Managing Director of state-owned Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), Eric Hamissi said that MV Liemba with capacity to carry 600 passengers and 200

tonnes of cargo operates on Lake Tanganyika while MT Nyangumi and MT Ukerewe ply on Lake Victoria.

According to him, MT Ukerewe is used to carry out breakdown services for vessels on Lake Victoria as well as taking vessels to slipway and back to the lake. He said after completed rehabilitation, MT Nyangumi will be used to transport petroleum products.

Hamissi said that MV Liemba, which stopped operations in 2018 owing to dilapidation, will be rehabilitated at the cost of 32.9bn/- for 24 months as per agreements reached in the contract.

Rehabilitation of MV Liemba will involve installation of a new engine and cutting of defective plates among others. The ship will be rehabilitated by a local contractor—Brodosplit Com-

pany Limited that belongs to the Dar es Salaam Merchant Group, he said.

He said that MT Nyangumi with capacity to carry 400,000 tonnes of petroleum and MT Ukerewe will also be rehabilitated by Dar es Salaam Merchant Group (DMG) at a cost of 8.92bn/- and MT Ukerewe will cost 6.3bn/-.

The contractor is expected to complete rehabilitation of the two ships within ten months, he added, noting that they are going to change the name of MV Umoja which will be christened, 'New Umoja Kazi len-delee'.

Deputy Minister for Transport, David Kihenzile directed experts in the ministry to identify opportunities available in the lakes for the country's benefit adequately.

EU, govt diet guidelines set to curb malnutrition

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ent stakeholders in pursuing this shared cause.

Tanzania is one among 12 countries in Africa formulating national FBDGs with support of FAO, as the UN agency is dedicated to helping countries create diet rules tied to staple preferences, with other countries listed as including Benin, Gabon, Namibia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Nigeria, and Zambia.

Tanzania still faces the challenge of poor nutrition, with more initia-

tives needed to transform people's mind sets as to what to regularly take as food, she stated, underlining that in every 100 under-five children, 30 have stunting symptoms/

This figure is a slight decrease from 34 children in every 100 under-five recorded during fiscal 2015/2016, she said, asserting that Tanzania malnutrition engulfs 28 percent of women and four percent of children under five years, who show symptoms of overweight and obesity.

"Unfortunately there is a widespread mind-set among people that eating a balanced diet is expensive," she said, reminding the audience

that this is not true, elaborating that research shows that it is advised to eat not more than one kg of meat per week.

"Eating a variety of foods like vegetables, fruits, cereals/grains, starchy tubers or roots, pulses, nuts, and seeds, and milk," she specified.

Lamine Diallo, head of natural resources at the European Delegation in Tanzania, highlighted the interconnectedness of agriculture and nutrition, expressing confidence in the guidelines' potential to enhance food systems and address malnutrition.

Dr Nyabenyi Tipo, the FAO country representative, stressed the vital

role of healthy diets amid the ongoing challenges of unhealthier diets.

"This milestone represents a culmination of dedicated efforts and collaboration among various stakeholders, reflecting our shared commitment to improving the nutrition and well-being of the Tanzanian population," he affirmed.

The FBDGs are expected to contribute to the achievement of several sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), she said.

The guidelines will further sup-

port the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, she further noted, underlining that the launch of the FBDGs signifies a substantial step towards fostering healthier dietary habits.

They seek to enhance nutritional outcomes and fortify the resilience of food systems, as the dietary guidelines present unique opportunities for countries to advocate for the reduction of various forms of malnutrition.

The initiative is funded by the European Union, under Agro-Connect, a euro100m programme focused

on the development of horticulture, coffee and tea value chains.

In line with the EU "farm to fork" strategy, the programme adopts a holistic approach, starting from improved production in the farms up to the final products reaching markets and consumers, positive for health aspects and protecting the environment.

The latest FAO report found that there are around 269m undernourished people in Africa, meaning people who are going hungry every day, and more than a billion Africans who cannot afford a healthy diet, the official added.

Teachers and students awarded for excelling in Chinese language

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Chinese Embassy in Tanzania has awarded 132 teachers and students who have excelled in Chinese language learning in 2023.

Speaking at the 6th China Ambassador's Award ceremony on Thursday in Dar es Salaam, Ambassador Chen Mingjian said the winners are from the University of Dar es Salaam, University of Dodoma, Muslim University of Morogoro and Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy.

Others are from the State University of Zanzibar and 18 secondary schools, such as Benjamin William Mkapa High School, Zanaki Secondary School and other secondary schools from different regions in the country.

She said to start, 50 local Chinese teachers will be all together provided with 600 prepaid phone refill cards worth 6m/-.

The envoy added that the embassy is going to call on more social institutions and enterprises to join the 'Support Local Chinese Teachers' initiative.

Ambassador Mingjian said the African continent, including Tanzania, has seen an enthusiasm and passion

for Chinese language learning.

She noted that by the end of 2022, about 20 African countries had incorporated the Chinese language subject into the national education system, and more than 30 universities had established Chinese language majors or Chinese-language-teaching majors.

"Tens of thousands of graduates have become the backbone of the development of African countries and the bridge for China-Africa friendship," she said, adding that about 25,000 students in Tanzania are learning Chinese.

Amb. Mingjian added that for the past decade, Tanzania universities and middle schools have made great progress in the capacity of Chinese language instruction.

"I am looking forward to seeing the Chinese proficiency exhibition by the teachers and students. More importantly, I look to the teachers and students to act as ambassadors of friendship in the future," she said.

According to her, local Chinese teachers and the students are contributing to China-Tanzania friendship, and helping more Tanzanian friends to be able to experience and explore the world.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, presents an award to Morogoro Muslim University don Tarick Kiango (L) at the China Ambassador to Tanzania Awards 2023 ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is the Director of Higher Education in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, Peter Msofe. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Prof Peter Msofe, Director of Higher Education, Ministry of Science, Education and Technology said that studying Chinese language is not only beneficial to student's long-term personal development, but contributes to the future friendship

and cooperation between the two countries. "I hope you will cherish the time at school to study hard, apply what you have learned to your practical work later, and make contributions to the economic and social development of Tanzania," he said.

Prof Msofe urged students to be committed to the cause of Tanzania-China friendship and play an important role in promoting traditional friendly cooperative relations between our two great countries.

CCBRT acknowledges support from individual supporters

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam based CCBRT hospital has expressed gratitude to individual stakeholders from across the country for their continued support in serving vulnerable Tanzanians with various health challenges.

Speaking yesterday during an event to thank them, CCBRT Chief Executive Officer, Brenda Msangi said that each year, the hospital provides services to thousands of children with disabilities from low-income households in order to improve their quality of life.

"CCBRT provides specialized health services to vulnerable

Tanzanians including children born with congenital deformities. We are immensely grateful for the incredible generosity of our donors. Your support has directly translated into changing the lives of thousands of children and their families. Your belief in our mission drives us to strive for excellence and to continue making a positive difference in our community," he said.

CCBRT strives to expand access to services for vulnerable patients, while seeking support from various stakeholders who are willing to support the noble cause, he said.

Msangi added: "Our stakeholders include donor organizations,

corporate partners, SMEs and individual givers. This demonstrates the saying that 'Giving is a heartfelt act, not a measure of one's wealth', it is not necessary to be a large company or a wealthy person to be able to give, no, any donation, no matter the quantity anybody can make a big difference in the lives of those in need at our hospital.

He said individuals, groups, and institutions have been donating various gifts to patients, such as soap, sanitary pads, patient uniforms, bed sheets, Khangas, mosquito repellents, slippers, food, and funds that help the hospital to address more pressing medical needs.

Charity, a 23 years old girl living with physical impairment and beneficiary of CCBRT services said: "I have no words to express my gratitude to CCBRT, all this is because of their huge support since I was in secondary school. While at the university, I was able to move freely from one place to another attending lectures and group discussions, something I could have not been able to do without an appropriate mobility device from CCBRT."

She added: "I have graduated from the University of Dar es Salaam, attaining a Bachelor's degree in development studies. I hope that the government, private sectors and NGOs will em-

brace inclusion and an accessible environment for people with disabilities like me to contribute to the nation's development."

Charity was involved in a car accident that led to spinal injury in 2013. In 2016 she met with CCBRT's sitting clinic team at Jangwani secondary school, since then she has been receiving mobility and other rehabilitative services from CCBRT which enabled her to fulfil her daily activities including studies.

One of CCBRT's stakeholders and Chairman of the Lalji Foundation, Imtiaz Lalji said his foundation is focused on providing support to people with various needs in the community, includ-

ing education, health, and other areas, and that in early September of this year they donated assistive devices to 11 children and enabled them to receive these devices at CCBRT hospital, supporting them to fulfil their dreams.

"Young children with disabilities, like other children, have many needs, they still need to go to school, play and socialize with their peers in the community, so if they are empowered, they will be able to fulfil their dreams and thus contribute to their families, the community and the nation as a whole," said Lalji calling upon other stakeholders to come forward to support CCBRT."

WFP: School feeding programme crucial for pupils' enhanced education outcomes

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE World Food Programme (WFP) has appealed for increased investments for school feeding programmes in the country, saying it plays a pivotal role in enhancing education and nutrition outcomes to help accelerate the human capital development agenda.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, WFP Country made the appeal here yesterday, noting that they specifically contribute to increasing school enrolment by nine per cent and attendance by ten per cent, promote gender equality helping to attract and keep girls in school. According to her, they increase diet diversity, help to reduce anaemia, especially among school girls, by 20 percent.

Sarah was speaking during the launch of the Implementation Plan of the National Guidelines on School Feeding and Nutrition Services for Basic Education Students.

World Food Programme (WFP) through its five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2022-2027) has prioritised advancing efforts on school feeding by working closely with various government entities including the President's Office, Regional Administration (PORALG), Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and many other sectors as well as Regional Secretariats and Local Government Authorities.

The organization is also leveraging our decades of experience in the design, implementation and monitoring of school programmes in Tanzania and globally.

"The bedrock of this support has been positioning the school feeding programme as a high-return investment and an enabler of Tanzania's food systems transformation", she said. She added that in 2021, as part of the United Nations Food System Summit, the country identified the school feeding programme as one of the six pathways for sustainable food systems transformation through dialogues conducted in Mainland and Zanzibar. The WFP boss congratulated PORALG, all government and non-government stakeholders for the development of the Implementation Plan.

She said it will operationalise the National Guidelines on School Feeding and Nutrition Services for Basic Education Students National Guidelines, providing the framework for delivery of quality school meals and other complementary school health interventions for pre-primary, primary and secondary students.

Its development started last year, and we are excited to see the launch today, she said, terming it a significant achievement as clear guidance to all stakeholders especially schools is key to maximise the outcomes of school feeding programmes and enhancing their sustainability.



DANGER LURKS: The photo, taken yesterday, speaks for itself. These are pupils of Dar es Salaam's Goba Tegeta A Primary School - all visibly distressed, with some too deeply buried inside the three-wheeler to know what was going on outside. It was reported that the poor state of roads in the suburb was "putting off" most public service vehicles and making Bajaj and bodaboda taxi operators have a hard day, but this made little sense. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'FCC destroys 10bn/- worth of counterfeit goods every year'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Fair Competition Commission (FCC) has revealed that it destroys counterfeit products worth 10bn/- every year that were supposed to enter the market.

FCC Acting Advocacy Manager, Alex Mmbaga revealed this when presenting a paper at the 7th meeting of the Editors' Forum (TEF) held in Lindi Region.

Mbaga was briefing editors about efforts made by the commission in the fight against counterfeit and

fake goods.

He said the seized products are burned at the expense of the owners and added that they have been ensuring that they brought the owners to witness the way they are burned as a measure to ensure they don't repeat," he said.

He said counterfeits was a profitable business for unscrupulous businessmen adding that the war was involved with great financial power explaining that criminals who used to sell drugs have moved to the business.

He called for collaboration from stakeholders saying it can only succeed and make Tanzania a safe place for investors and consumers if everyone fulfils responsibilities.

"Counterfeit products are products made by imitating someone else's brand without their consent with the intention of deceiving or deceiving the consumer and they are of poor quality thus damaging the market for the manufacturer of the original product," he said.

He said that in implementing the law, they have been collaborating

with logo owners and other institutions such as Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Police, Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA).

He mentioned other institutions they collaborate with such as Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), Public Prosecutor (DPP) and the Attorney General (AG).

He said that manufacturers of fake products are not responsible for the effects caused by their

products to consumers because they don't identify themselves as the original manufacturers of products.

He said fake products are sold at a price that is almost the same as the real product, a situation that has contributed to a large extent to confuse consumers.

He said fake products are inferior products and have serious effects on the consumer, such as food and medicine, electrical and construction equipment, which cause serious damage to property

and housing.

He said the products can remove the seller of real products from the market because the fake ones are sold at a lower price.

He said that fake products can threaten investors and kill existing businesses, thus depriving the nation of income, resources and job loss for people.

He said they are cooperating fully with traders and consumers in fighting counterfeit goods and they are opening more offices in Kigoma and Mtwara Regions.



SinoTan Industrial Park chairman Janson Huang (2nd-R) briefs Ardhi University's Director of Building and Research, Dr Godwin Maro (2nd-L), on the some of the machines found in the Lu Ban workshop training facility shortly after the launch of the workshop inside the park - at Kwala in Kibaha District, Coast Region, earlier this week. Photo Carlos Banda

Refugee camps in Kigoma in need of support after partners scale down aid

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale, Morogoro

NYARUGUSU and Nduta refugee camp are facing economic hardships as international organizations including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reduce their support.

One of the key factors leading to the situation was the Ukraine-Russia war, the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and the Covid-19 pandemic according to assistant Director for refugees in the Home Affairs ministry Commissioner Nsato Marijan revealed this during a workshop to journalists which was organized by an NGO Dignity.

He said by May last year, Tanzania received 12,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and that in total there are 250, 000 from different countries.

"The situation is tough because the world is facing financial resources due to the various conflicts going on globally as well as climate change," he said.

He said the conflicts have led to an increase in challenges to human life hence affecting refugees host countries as accessing finances has been a problem.

He said among the steps that the country has taken was to return the refugees to their countries of origin to create some space in camps.

He named another challenge as environmental degradation saying the refugees are given raw food which they use firewood to prepare.

Prof Khoti Kamanga who presented a paper at the event said news on refugees and immigrants should be given priority by the media to gain understanding of the groups in the society.

Tanzanian graduates to benefit from direct jobs at Chinese-owned companies

By Carlos Banda

TANZANIANS are set to benefit from direct employment opportunities after graduating from a four-year joint capacity building Luo Ban Workshop project that aims to enhance their skills and knowledge towards the use of advanced technology in the industrial sector.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Godwin Maro, the Di-

rector of Building and Research from Ardhi University said the workshop is a tripartite collaboration involving Ardhi University, Chongqing Vocational Institute Engineering (CVIE) and Sinotan Industrial Park.

"This is the second inauguration of the Luo Ban workshop in Kwala Industrial Park following initial inauguration on Thursday at the University premises by Minister for Education, Sci-

ence and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda together with the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian. Students will learn in China and spend the last year doing an internship in Tanzania," he said.

He added that after completion of the fourth-year students will qualify for direct jobs in industries owned by Chinese companies and other firms in the SinoTan Industrial Park.

Dr Maro expressed his thanks to Group Six International, Chongqing Vocational Institute Engineering and the Chinese government for accepting the collaboration pointing out that the transfer of skill and technology will address the need for equipment and other facilities thus benefiting the university and the nation altogether.

Representing Chairman of Group Six International, the

Chairman of Sinotan Industrial Park, Janson Huang said the inaugurated Luo Ban Workshop is the first among Tanzanian universities.

"The Luo Ban workshop is aimed at helping African countries in capacity building. We have opened the workshop to assist Tanzania with capacity. The workshop will be equipped with teachers and curriculums for training the students who are

coming for practice. Student will have enough skills to go to different industries," said Huang.

The Sino-Tan industrial park is developed and operated by the Sino-Tan Kibaha Industrial Park Co, LTD. It is expected to create 2000 direct jobs and 50,000 temporary jobs whereas the operator is expected to create 10000 direct jobs and 250,000 temporary jobs.

PEPFAR out to support orphans, vulnerable children and their caregivers through USAID

By Beatrice Philemon

THE US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has brought relief to orphans, vulnerable children and their caregivers through the USAID Kizazi Hodari Southern Zone Activity which is implemented in Iringa Region by Deloitte Tanzania.

Briefing USAID Mission Director, Craig Hart's on the impact of the program, within two decades, Kahumbya Kateka, USAID Kizazi Hodari Southern Activity Director said they have been able to transform the lives of over 90,000 beneficiaries across five regions and 21 district councils.

The USAID Mission engaged in Iringa Region's tour as part of commemorating the 20th anniversary of PEPFAR program in Tanzania. The Kizazi Hodari Southern Zone Activity is introduced to improve the health, well-being and protection of orphans, vulnerable children and youth in HIV high burden communities within the Southern zone of Tanzania.

Kateka added that they have also introduced two programs for adolescent girls and boys aged between 10 and 14 years. One of the program is the Determined, Resilient, Empowered Aids-free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) and Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) that aims to prevent HIV infection and sexual violence, enhance identification, reporting and response to violence against children and gender based violence (GBV).

She said so far they have been able to provide adolescent sexual reproductive health education and HIV prevention knowledge in two Councils of Mafundi and Iringa.

She said through Kizazi Hodari they have also distributed reusable sanitary kits, education subsidies and financial literacy education to over 9000 adolescent girls and young women, the thing that resulted in an increase in their confidence, school attendance, and willingness to express and defend themselves.

Kateka added that the CBIM intervention has reached more than 9000 adolescent boys resulting in reduction in violence in schools.

She said Njia Panda primary school is one of 28 schools in Iringa municipal council that have benefited with the DREAMS and CBIM interventions.

"To improve socio-economic capacity of at-risk adolescent girls and young women including orphans and vulnerable children caregivers, we have supported 1,371 community microfinance groups of which 638 are in Iringa Region. We aimed to enable caregivers to have sustainable income to support their children's welfare," said the Kizazi Hodari Director.

"The community microfinance groups have been successful as some groups have been linked and qualified to access government funds through special loan arrangements for women and youth," she added.

She said they have launched the first private sector engagement forum in Niombe Region to mobilise additional resources to support vulnerable children.

Tatu Kusaini, Njia Panda Primary School Head teacher lauded USAID through PEPFAR for introducing the program at the school that has in turn helped 235 pupils to get training on financial literacy, educational subsidies, sanitary pads and 204 on CBIM training.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from teachers, pupils have confidence with improved academic performance. 97 percent of pupils who completed their Standard Seven education passed their national examinations, said Kusaini, noting the school was established in 1974 and has 1465 pupils, among them, 728 girls and 737 boys.

She however mentioned some of the challenges they face such as lack of computers, photocopy printers, chairs, tables and desks. She appealed to stakeholders to assist the school to construct a fence to enhance children protection.



Kololo Alphonse (2nd-L), a member of Katavi Region's Miele Beekeepers Association, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday showing a "traditional" type of beehives he said contribute to the destruction of the environment. It was at a meeting on ways to contend with climate change. He is with his colleagues Abdallah Lingilile (L) and Aziz Ngwaga (behind him). Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

China vows to work with judiciary in Africa to ensure people's justice

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has launched the 'Stop the lies' campaign as a vital initiative to protect young people from the tobacco industry and their deadly products, by calling for an end to tobacco industry interference in health policy.

This campaign is supported by new evidence from "The Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2023", published by STOP and the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control, which shows

that efforts to protect health policy from increased tobacco industry interference have deteriorated around the world.

WHO's campaign aims to amplify youth voices, expose tobacco industry tactics and increase public awareness on the need to defend health policies and protect the health of future generations.

Youth groups around the world called on countries to "...adopt decisions that shield us from the manipulative practices of tobacco and related industries."

"WHO stands with young

people globally who have demanded governments protect them against a deadly industry that targets them with new harmful products while outright lying about the health impacts. We call on all countries to safeguard health policies from this deadly industry by not letting them have a seat at the policy-making table," said Dr Ruediger Krech, Director of Health Promotion, WHO

The tobacco industry tries to interfere with countries' right to protect people's health by taking governments to court, or offering financial and in-kind incen-

tives to be able to influence tobacco control policies, even at the upcoming WHO FCTC Conference of Parties. WHO supports countries in defending evidenced based tobacco control measures in the face of industry interference.

The tobacco industry continues to lie to the public, using different ways to spread misinformation, including through:

Recognizing the tobacco industry's relentless efforts to market its products to vulnerable groups, especially young people, WHO is committed to expose the industry's at-

tempts to weaken health policies and call on policy makers to stand firm against tobacco industry influence. There are 183 Parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that have committed to do this under the global health treaty.

The tobacco industry has a long history of lying to the public, even insisting that smoking does not cause lung cancer. Today we know that tobacco causes 25% of all cancers and kills over 8 million people each year, but the industry persists with marketing what they call 'new' and 'safer' products that we

know are harmful to health, while still producing trillions of cigarettes each year.

With half of all tobacco users dying prematurely, the maintenance of the tobacco and nicotine market relies heavily on recruiting new, young users, and tobacco companies employ multiple tactics to gain the trust and interest of young people at an early age.

Menthol and flavoured cigarettes and candy-flavored e-cigarettes with eye-catching designs have further contributed to the popularization of these products among the young generation, all while

leaving many consumers largely unaware of the negative effects on their health

The tobacco industry invests enormous amounts of money in lobbying against tobacco control policies and funds organizations that promote its interests

These tobacco tactics, when left unchecked, inflict immeasurable harm on public health. Moreover, the production and use of tobacco and nicotine products have a cascading damaging effect on other critical issues such as the environment, mental health, and child labour.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) acting CEO Kiula Kingu (with microphone) makes an on-location briefing to members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Capital Investments earlier this week on progress in the implementation of the Makongo-Bagamoyo water project. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Dutch foundation embarks on tour to sensitise communities about albinism

By Guardian Reporter

A Dutch-based foundation—InSide The Same in collaboration with the embassy of Netherlands in the country has embarked on a two-week tour in five regions to educate communities and dispel myths about people with Albinism.

The tour involves screening a special documentary film dubbed “White Berry” to students in schools and universities in five regions.

Briefing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the foundation’s Executive Director Désirée Schoonen said the film tells a story of Grace, an African-Dutch teenage girl with Albinism, who struggles to come to terms with how society (and by extension herself) sees her complexion.

She said the documentary screenings will be conducted in Dar es Salaam, Doda, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Mwanza from November 20 to December 1.

Désirée said that more efforts and strategies needed to enable children with albinism to survive and overcome stigma in order to go to school.

She said parents, teachers, NGOs and community leadership have a big role in supporting children with albinism and advocating for educational opportunities.

According to her, the foundation was established to help people with albinism and other needy groups in Tanza-

nia ensuring that they are getting equal social and cultural opportunity in their respective communities.

“Our interventions also focus on mobilizing and sensitising communities in relation to people with albinism, promote positive attitudes, perceptions and practices towards people with albinism amongst community and family members,” she said.

Latifa Mwazi who is the movie’s main actress expressed her gratitude to those who supported the production of the documentary which is going to greatly educate and change negative attitudes spread in the public towards people with albinism.

Latifa, who is also a Dutch young girl with Albinism, said that the major objective of passing in the colleges to educate students and surrounding communities is because the students are future parents who need to have a positive understanding of PWAs or any person with disabilities.

“We know that college students have grown enough to understand this, and they may soon become parents, so we educate them to value and support any kind of child whom they will be blessed to have,” she said.

According to her, apart from screening it in the universities, the documentary will also start to be shown in the screens of long distance buses to further reach more people with the education.

US government provides \$30 million for habitat restoration and protection in western Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States has provided \$30 million to the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) for sustainable development, habitat restoration and protection work in Western Tanzania.

Funded by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Gender and Equity and Equality Fund, the project will be

entirely locally managed and led by the Tanzanian chapter of Jane Goodall’s namesake organization.

The project is built on 20 years of USAID-JGI’s partnership in Tanzania through the USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo (Hope Through Action) project over the course of five years.

USAID Office of Acquisition and Assistance Director, Leslie-Ann Nwokora said: “This partnership with Jane Goodall Institute-Tanza-

nia is a prime illustration of USAID’s commitment to place local actors at the forefront and promote locally led development. Congratulations to JGI-Tanzania; this is a well-deserved graduation, and USAID is supporting you all the way.”

Western Tanzania is a home to much of the country’s approximately 2,200 chimpanzees, and a great deal of Tanzania’s natural heritage.

The economic, health, and educational challenges faced by its peo-

ple have led to increased climate and biodiversity threats, especially the unsustainable conversion of forest and woodland habitats for agriculture.

In partnership with the government, the USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo project is committed to addressing the challenges.

The USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo project focuses on long-term sustainability through improving people’s livelihoods, agricultural

production, and forest management.

It supports investments for lasting forest conservation, community benefits and stable income by enhancing land rights, improving forest management, promoting sustainable agriculture, introducing payment of ecosystem services, addressing gender-based violence, and supporting youth leadership nationwide.

From a focus on addressing com-

munity resilience to climate change and biodiversity protection, the project’s impact will be delivered with the latest data, innovative geospatial technologies and science, effective approaches to knowledge management, communication, and storytelling.

Additional emphasis will be placed on gender equity and social inclusion with funding from USAID’s Gender Equity and Equality Action—GEEA Fund.

Tanzania and Mozambique to sign a joint agreement on development of natural gas reservoirs at border points

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE’S National Institute of Petroleum and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) are nearing an agreement to jointly develop sizable natural gas reserves located along the border shared by their two countries, according to reports.

Mozambique has previously discovered 172 trillion cubic feet of gas in two sections of the northern belt area, which it now believes may overlap into Tanzanian territory. Similarly, two gas fields in southern Tanzania appear to extend beyond the border into Mozambique.

The agreement would allow licence holders on both sides of the border to jointly develop the reservoirs and could reshape the energy landscape for the region.

The multifaceted agreement includes provisions for technology exchange and other forms of bilateral cooperation.

Natural gas is increasingly recognised as an important resource in meeting energy demands, particularly for countries looking to reduce their reliance on imported oil and achieve greater energy security.

The agreement would position Mozambique and Tanzania as key players in supplying natural gas to neighbouring countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Malawi and Zambia. Mozambique’s existing gas infrastructure offers another advantage for them to leverage, benefitting both nations.



Masoud Ali Mohamed (2nd-R), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President’s Office (Regional Administrations, Local Governments and Special Government Departments), presents clothes to Shang Kiu, Deputy Mayor of China’s Chongqing City, shortly after talks of bilateral cooperation held in Zanzibar yesterday. Witnessing the event are the Consul General of China to Zanzibar, Zhang Zhisheng (L), and Zanzibar Mayor Mahmoud Mohamed Mussa. Photo courtesy of Maelezo -Zanzibar

Africa’s electricity regulators gather to promote renewable energy

NAIROBI

AFRICA’S electricity regulators met in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on Thursday to advance the uptake of renewable energy in the continent in order to combat climate change.

The five-day conference brought together electric-

ity regulators from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Namibia and South Africa to discuss ways to accelerate the use of green energy sources as a means to expand access to electricity in Africa.

Ishmael Ackah, the executive secretary of the Public Utility Regulatory Commis-

sion in Ghana, said that the continent has abundant renewable energy resources that can help the region provide affordable and green electricity for its residents.

“In Ghana, we hope to tap more solar energy because it will translate to a cheaper source of energy

because we have abundant sunshine,” Ackah declared.

He revealed that currently the bulk of Ghana’s electricity is derived from thermal sources but the country is prioritising investments in green electricity so as to reduce the carbon emissions from the energy sector.

James Andilile, the Direc-

tor General of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) said Tanzania is keen to expand electricity generation from renewable energy sources.

Andilile stressed that Tanzania has one of the longest rift valley systems on the continent which contains

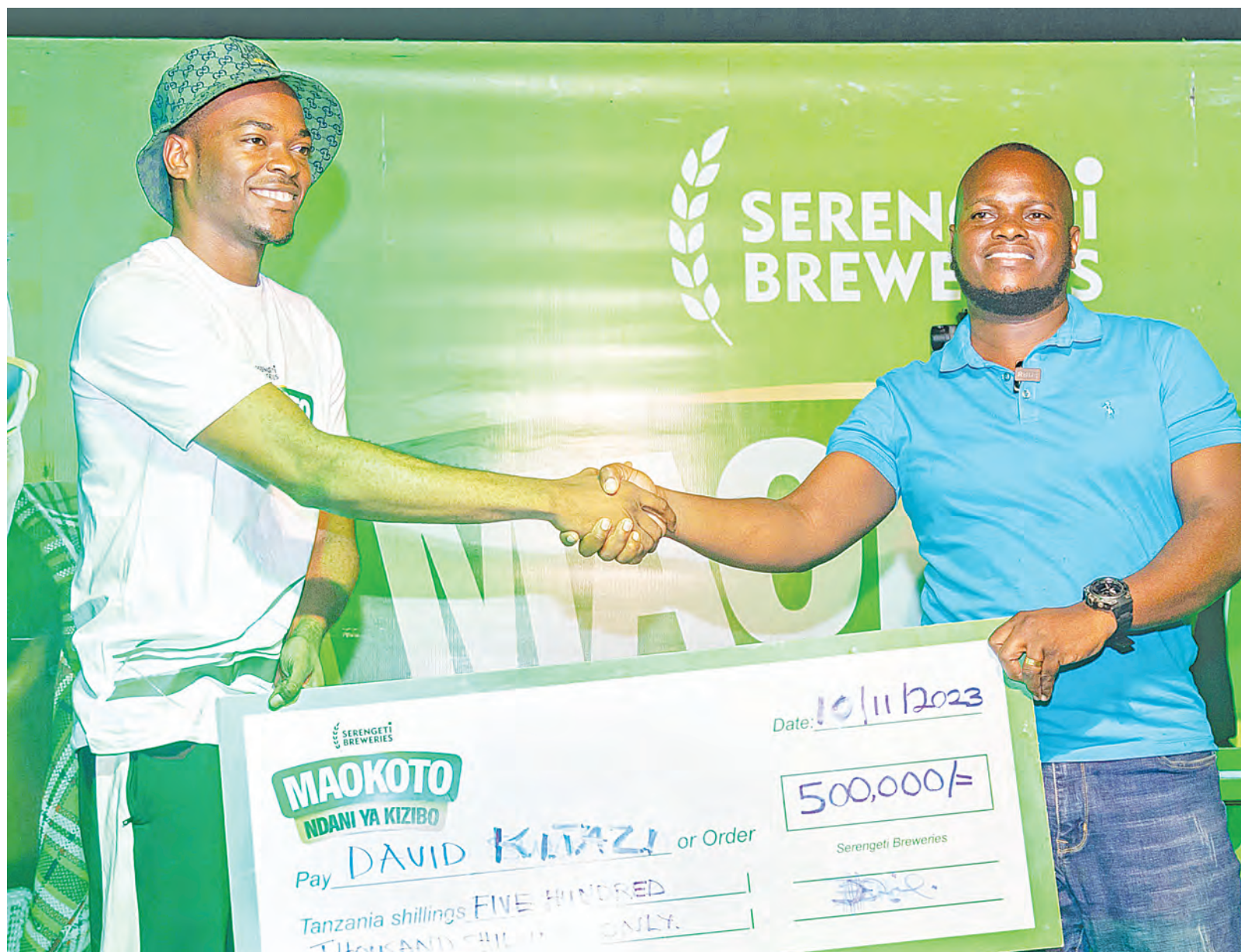
abundant geothermal energy.

“The advantage of green energy is that advancement in technology has reduced the operational costs of clean energy production plants,” he said.

Ziria Tibalwa Waako, the Chief Executive Officer of Uganda’s Electricity Regu-

latory Authority, said that the use of green energy will generate environmental and economic benefits for the continent.

“Renewable energy will also reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels which will result in foreign exchange savings,” she added.



David Kitazi (L), one of the winners of the Serengeti Breweries Ltd promotion campaign raffle dubbed "Serengeti Maokoto Ndani ya Kizibo", receives a dummy cheque for 500,000/- from the SBL sales officer Ian Stallone at a prize-giving ceremony held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

USAID promises \$100m in help to youth and women in agribusiness

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE US Agency for International Development (USAID) is set to invest up to \$100m (250bn/-) in supporting the government's Building a Better Youth and Women Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT - YIA) which aims to enrol youth in agribusiness.

The fund which is expected in the next 3-4 years is expected to boost programmes and projects of BBT that are anticipated to up economic opportunities of the younger population in the East African nation.

According to Craig Hart, USAID Country Director said the support will open economic opportunities along the agricultural value chains for the youth.

"We are glad to work together with the Tanzanian government towards improving the livelihoods of the youth who are involved in agriculture," said Hart yesterday at Iringa Regional Commissioner's office where officials from USAID and US embassy were inspecting some health projects.

He further stated that the money will be channelled towards addressing key issues affecting the agriculture sector such as policy, food safety and storage among others.

BBT initiative which was started to provide land and financing is a government response towards the issues that has been affecting the youth.

In this, the government select the youth who are given up to 10 acres of land each and helped to access loans under the government guarantee scheme and loan facility for the young people.

The Tanzanian government had discovered that the low contribution of the sector to national GDP is partly contributed with low engagement of youth in the agricultural sector who account about 56percent of the active labour force in the country.

In fact, BBT-YIA is a tool for contributing the attainment of the Agenda 10/30 that envisage to increasing the youth employment by 1.5 million and obtaining the growth rate of the agricultural sector by ten (10) percent by 2030.

The estimated cost for implementing various activities for the entire program life span is Tanzania Shillings 356.199 billion (equivalent to \$148,416,167).

It is estimated that 24percent of the budget will come from the Government and 76 percent from development partners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

In Tanzania, Youth accounts for 56percent of the active labour force, although most of them are unemployed, underemployed, or working in precarious conditions, according to 2022 - 2030 Youth Initiative For Agribusiness report by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Government warns drug dispensing outlets against selling antibiotics without prescription

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has warned pharmacies and other drug dispensing outlets to stop selling antibiotics to any patient without a doctor's prescription, because such practice exacerbates antimicrobial resistance and causes loss to the government.

Chief Pharmacist Daudi Msasi said that improper use of antibiotics poses a threat to public health, calling on stakeholders to help spread education on the matter.

"Antimicrobial resistance is costly because when diseases are not responding to the drugs, it will force the government to look for others, which might be expensive," Msasi said, while officiating

at a meeting to discuss the problem ahead of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week.

The meeting was organized by the Roll Back Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative (RBA Initiative), a non-governmental organization whose aim is to fight back antimicrobial resistance.

The organization sees both rural and urban communities as critical players in addressing antimicrobial resistance. Msasi hailed the organization for the good work it is doing in Dodoma and Bahi district, noting that the initiatives ought to be rolled out in the whole region and nation at large.

He said that the government has already approved the regulations governing pharmacies and other

drug dispensing outlets to ensure that they abide by the laws while conducting the business.

The Chief Pharmacist noted further that the regulations are aimed at protecting the public health by making sure that all dispensing outlets adhere to the regulations.

He said the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week aims at increasing awareness to the public on the antimicrobial resistance and encouraging only appropriate use of drugs.

Msasi added that appropriate use of medical drugs includes sticking to only doctors' prescriptions, where to get them, the duration of the patient medication among others.

"However, people should use an-

tibiotics according to their doctors' prescriptions and avoid buying such drugs without being recommended by any medical personnel," he pointed out.

Elaborating, he detailed that antimicrobials resistance differs and depends on the type of a medication preferred, adding that the country for instance, was using Chloroquine to treat malaria, but it developed resistance by 50 per cent and had to be withdrawn and replaced by Sulphadoxine - Pyrimethamine (SP) that was also removed because equally was not treating.

The Chief Pharmacist further noted that when drugs develop resistance by 50 per cent, it is withdrawn from treating such

disease(s), because patients will no longer respond to the medication.

He said that the government has already endorsed the Pharmacy (Prescription Handling and Control) Regulations since June last year.

He added that the respective authorities had started holding accountable pharmacists who go against the laws.

Msasi said that penalties outlined in the regulations include among others fines, being jailed or closing down the business by revoking their licenses.

Thereza Evarist, representative from the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, on her part said that antimicrobial resistance is made

worse by misuse and abuse of antibiotics in humans and farm animals.

She said that in spite of limited data in the African region, a recent study shows the emergence of resistance to artemisinin as an antimicrobial used in treating Malaria.

She observed that globally, one in ten medicines is estimated to be substandard or falsified and the African region is worse affected than any other parts of the world.

For that matter, she called upon the different stakeholders to work together to secure safe, effective antibiotics for generations to come, including investing in water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and limiting the use of antibiotics in livestock and aqua farming.

Report shows alarming rise in measles cases, disruptive outbreaks and deaths

By Guardian Reporter

A JOINT publication by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published yesterday highlighted an alarming rise in measles cases, disruptive outbreaks and deaths in 2022.

Measles cases globally in 2022 are reported to have increased by 18% to over 9 million, deaths went up by 43% (136,200) compared to 2021 while 37 countries experienced outbreaks in 2022.

The findings reiterate the continued need for accelerated efforts to support recovery from the pandemic and strengthen health systems, especially in the lower income countries most impacted by this deadly disease. Of the 22 million children who missed their first measles vaccine dose in 2022, over half live in just 10 countries, 6 of which are lower-income countries supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Madagascar, Nigeria, and Pakistan).

Aurélia Nguyen, Chief Programme Officer at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance commented: "Measles is a highly contagious and deadly disease: preventing outbreaks requires consistently vaccinating at least 95% of eligible children. This was

already challenging before the pandemic and with cases, outbreaks and preventable deaths rising so sharply due to increased immunity gaps related to the pandemic, it shows how even more important it is that our Alliance provides an unprecedented level of support to countries in 2024."

With routine immunisation hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2023 Gavi supported 9 lower-income countries in accelerated efforts to plan and rollout out measles and measles-rubella follow-up campaigns, and disbursed over US\$12 million to support outbreak response in 6 countries. An additional 3 preventive campaigns are planned before the end of this year. In response to the sustained and alarming trend in measles cases, in 2024 Gavi will support a record number of lower-income countries - at least 15 in total - to undertake measles and rubella preventive campaigns aiming to reach about 38.5 million children, in addition to introductions and outbreak response.

The Vaccine Alliance supports measles immunisation activities in lower-income countries in close collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, CDC, American Red Cross, UN Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other partners, including through the Measles & Rubella Partnership.



Ulanga acting district development officer Jacqueline Mponguliana speaks at the launch of the BRAC Tanzania Finance Ltd branch in Mahenge town earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Countries meet in Kenya to thrash out global plastic pollution treaty

By Karen McVeigh

GOVERNMENT delegations will gather in Nairobi, Kenya, to hammer out details of what could be the first global treaty to tackle the plastic pollution crisis.

A key focus for the discussions on Monday will be whether targets to restrict plastic production should be decided unilaterally or whether states should choose their own targets; this is, say environmentalists, the "centre of gravity" for the treaty's ambition.

At the last round of negotiations in Paris

in May run by the international negotiating committee (INC) the US, Saudi Arabia, India and China favoured a "Paris-style" agreement where states would have the freedom to determine their own commitments, while others, including Africa and many developing countries, preferred strong global commitments.

But there are signs, some observers say, of a shift in the US's position on this key issue, though details have yet to emerge. "The main takeaway for many environmental groups, after INC2 [the negotiations in Paris],

was how bad the US position was, in terms of Paris-style voluntary commitments," said Graham Forbes, the global plastics campaign lead for Greenpeace USA. He said there had been signals of a shift.

"We are going to be watching very closely to see how that plays out. We need to be speaking about rules and putting in place regulations." Last month, a "zero draft" version of the text was published by the INC as the basis of negotiations over what the head of the United Nations Environment Programme has described as the most im-

portant multilateral treaty since the Paris accord in 2015. The goal is to have a formal treaty in place by the end of 2024. This third round of talks, in Kenya from 13-17 November, will mark the halfway point.

The "zero draft" captures many different perspectives from different governments. In the section relating to virgin plastic production, the draft sets out three options for working towards a reduction of primary plastic.

The first involves a globally agreed target for reduction, (similar to the Montreal Pro-

to). The second involves global targets for production reduction, with nationally determined restrictions, similar to the Paris agreement.

The third involves nationally determined targets and restrictions.

Tim Grabel, a senior lawyer at the Environmental Investigations Agency, said it was hoping for something between option one and two: "The Montreal Protocol is generally agreed to be the best multilateral environmental agreement in the world," Grabel said.

SADC, OCHA reaffirm commitment to addressing climate change effects

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have reiterated the urgent need for accelerated action and strong partnership to address the impact of climate change in the face of increased frequency and intensity of disasters in the region.

OCHA Assistant Secretary General, Joyce Msuya and the SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi made the remarks early this week during their meeting as part of the UN OCHA Assistant Secretary General's tour of Southern and Eastern African region to show UN's commitment to support countries that are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.

Msuya commended the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) for its work in protecting communities and building confidence among communities in the areas of Cabo Delgado Province where SAMIM is deployed as part of the SADC's regional response to support the government of Mozambique to combat acts of terrorism and violent extremism.

Reflecting on her visit to the SADC Humanitarian Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) in Nacala, Mo-

zambique, she commended SADC for establishing the Centre to coordinate regional disaster risk preparedness, response and early recovery.

He pledged OCHA's support to the SHOC through facilitating linkages with financiers, capacity building and peer-to-peer learning exchanges. For his part, Magosi appealed to the international community to support regional efforts aimed at mitigating the impact of disasters. Magosi applauded OCHA for taking steps towards the establishment of a Climate Financing window under the OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund (CERT) to support climate change programmes.

The two underscored the need for collaborative efforts between governments and development partners to put in place inclusive socio-economic measures to address social inequalities that have the potential to drive conflicts. SADC and OCHA have a long-standing partnership and currently the two have partnered in the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management Strengthening in SADC (DRMSS) Project whose overall objective is to contribute to the reduction of the impacts of natural and manmade hazards, strengthen disaster management and preparedness capacity, and increase resilience.



NMB Bank Plc senior project manager Hellen Dalali (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday taking part in a panel discussion on natural solutions to the impacts of climate change in the context of the carbon market. She is with the UN-FAO Country Representative in Tanzania, Nyabenyi Tito Tipo (C), and Prof Yues Hauss from the Association for the Development of Protected Areas (ADAP). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzanians urged to preserve the country's ecosystem

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

NATURE Tanzania, a national conservation Non-government organization (NGO) has called upon Tanzanians to conserve the environment for a sustainable ecosystem of the country's nature and natural resources.

Speaking at the College of African Wildlife Management-Mweka (CAWM-Mweka) early this week when introducing the bird of the year 2023, Executive Director, Emmanuel Mgemwa said the aim of the introduction is to promote protection and conservation of natural habitats especially birds.

"The Bird of the Year 2023 is Grey Crowned Crane, we are here to introduce it to you and promote awareness creation to community members," he said.

Mgemwa noted that the organization has decided to have a special symposium on the conservation of natural resources engaging conservationists, academicians, community members, and local leaders to create awareness on the importance of protecting and conserving natural resources.

"Nature Tanzania is the Bird Life International partner for Tanzania; our mission is to conserve and restore key biodiversity habitats that are identified as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) for the benefit of the present and future generations," Mgemwa explained.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Nature Tanzania, John Yonazi Salehe said that in central Tanzania, the organization is implementing a conservation program to address the illegal killings of birds using white storks as flag-

ship species.

"The program also focuses on conservation of resident and migratory birds, sustainable development, conservation education and habitat restoration," said Salehe, noting Tanzania is rich in biodiversity hence the need to enhance conservation.

"The country has over 1,200 species of birds. We are using birds as indicators of ecosystem health and a tool for biodiversity conservation. We are working with communities, the private sector and the government in areas identified

as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)," Salehe added.

He said this year, five bird species—Lesser Flamingo, Grey Crowned Crane, Lappet-faced vulture, Common Barn-owl and the African Spoonbill competed to get the 'Bird of the year 2023' whereas the Grey Crowned Crane won through public votes.

He named other projects that Nature Tanzania implements in the country as sites and habitats, ecological sustainability, positive change in people's attitudes arising

from empowerment, research, and Species.

Administration and Academic Principal of the CAWM-Mweka, Prof Alex Kisingo applauded the role played by Nature Tanzania in the protection and conservation of natural resources appealing to other organizations to do the same.

"Protection and conservation of our natural resources is everybody's responsibility; it is important for communities to be properly engaged in conservation activities to ensure sustainability use of our resources," he said.

Government to spend 1.4billion/- on construction of office for Mara RPC

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Jumanne Sagini on Thursday inspected construction progress of the Mara Regional Police Commander's Office in Musoma municipality, of which upon completion will cost 1.4bn/-.

Speaking after inspecting the project, Sagini said that completion of the project will increase efficiency as well as ensure a comfortable working place for the police commander. He said the new building will include offices for each of the departments.

"The six phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is determined to improve the working environment for police officers. The government has already disbursed funds for second and third phases' implementation of this project," said the Deputy Minister calling upon the contractor to make sure the project is completed on time.

Mara Regional Police Commander, Salim Morcase thanked the Deputy Minister and the ministry for closely monitoring construction of the project.

"As the police force we express our sincere gratitude to the government and the ministry for providing funds and making sure the project is implemented as planned," said the RPC.

Morcase informed the Deputy Minister that construction of the office has now reached 92 percent. He said the contractor started to execute the project on November 18th, 2021 and it is expected to be completed in December this year.



Bazil Ngotty (R), house manager for Mchakamkacha Recovering Centre of Moshi municipality's Karanga ward, pictured on Thursday conducting an education and sensitisation session for young drug addicts undergoing rehabilitation at the facility. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

WHO launches commission to foster social connection

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced a new commission on social connection, to address loneliness as a pressing health threat, promote social connection and accelerate the scaling up of solutions in countries of all incomes.

Co-chaired by U.S. Surgeon General, Dr Vivek Murthy, and African Union Youth Envoy, Chido Mpemba, the commission consists of 11 leading policy-makers, thought leaders and advocates.

Running for three years, it

will analyse the central role social connection plays in improving health for people of all ages and outline solutions to build social connections at scale.

The commission will consider how connection enhances the well-being of our communities and societies and helps foster economic progress, social development, and innovation.

Social isolation - having an insufficient number of social connections, and loneliness - and the social pain of not feeling connected are widespread.

Contrary to the perception that isolation and loneliness primarily affect older people in high-income countries, they impact the health and well-being of all age groups across the world.

One in four older people experience social isolation and the rates are broadly similar in all regions. Among adolescents, between 5 and 15 percent experience loneliness, according to research findings.

WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "High rates of social isolation and loneliness

around the world have serious consequences for health and well-being. People without enough strong social connections are at higher risk of stroke, anxiety, dementia, depression, suicide and more. The commission will help establish social connection as a global health priority and share the most promising interventions."

Chido Mpemba, African Union Youth Envoy said: "Young people are not immune to loneliness. Social isolation can affect anyone, of any age, anywhere. Across Africa and beyond, we must redefine the

narrative around loneliness. Investments in social connection are critical to creating productive, resilient and stable economies that promote the well-being of current and future generations."

U.S. Surgeon General, Dr Vivek Murthy said: "I am thrilled to work closely with an outstanding group of Commissioners on advancing social connection - a vital component of well-being. Together, we can build a world that is less lonely, healthier, and more resilient."

Dr Murthy added: "Given the profound health and so-

cial consequences of loneliness and isolation, we have an obligation to make the same investments in rebuilding the social fabric of society that we have made in addressing other global health concerns, such as tobacco use, obesity, and the addiction crisis."

Lack of social connection carries an equivalent, or even greater, risk of early death as other better-known risk factors - such as smoking, excessive drinking, physical inactivity, obesity, and air pollution. Social isolation also has a serious impact on physical and mental health;

studies show that it has been linked to anxiety and depression and can increase risk of cardiovascular disease by 30 percent.

The new WHO commission will define a global agenda on social connection; raising awareness and building collaborations that will drive evidence-based solutions for countries, communities and individuals.

This agenda has particular significance at this time, given how the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic repercussions undermined social connections.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2023

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

Self-respecting persons do not wait for 'name and shame' list to pay up

A LOAN is an undertaking which chiefly relies on trust that, even if enforcement is at times necessary, it only occurs sparingly and on a few loan defaulters.

Were it that such excesses are needed for most loans issued and recovery fails, the loan system or arrangement would risk collapsing altogether.

This is, happily, not the case with loans issued by the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) even as the agency has at times been heard lamenting the failure by some beneficiaries to pay up.

It is uncertain if the board knows their whereabouts of all defaulters but, all the same, it says it is determined to publish a list of their names.

HESLB officials say this is going to be an unmasking exercise, which is a bit curious in that it suggests that it wishes to use public opinion as a lever with which to get people to pay up. In a way, that would take the place of investigative work that would provide credible answers as to where they are and if they are still unable to repay their loans or are just playing hide and seek with the public authorities.

And with the current stage of mass communication, once the name is known and fingerprints are readily retrievable, the rest is fairly easy. Those defaulters definitely use telephones by those names which can be changed and thus make it difficult to track them, but their fingerprints do not change.

On the basis of a database with names of defaulters, those who are now using different names could be tracked by matching with fingerprints, etc.

Explanation by senior officials showed that they have a map of action on what they want to do, which is to focus on the private sector as

the 'repository' of a greater number of those refusing - or failing - to pay up.

The officials swear that they will unmask those all concerned and are pleading that such individuals should 'unmask themselves' before their names are made public.

Of course, there seriously ought to be a clear distinction between a viable loan recovery strategy and a vindictive campaign. It could serve simply to find their places of employment and then demand cooperation from their employers, based on a legal validation document.

The printing of the said 'map' would be a worst-case scenario, where some defaulting beneficiaries may indeed have to put up with a semblance of shame from friends or relatives.

But the usual maxim relating to such situations is not to talk about the legal or social troubles of a friend or relative until such person perhaps raises the matter. In case the list is printed and we all mind our own business, there would thus possibly be no one turning up to pay, so the whole issue would have flopped.

The Controller and Attorney General will be told that "all available methods were tried" to get defaulters to pay but to no avail.

That is why the board might wish to rethink its strategies by skipping the fireworks of 'naming and shaming' and instead stick to time-tested ways of loan recovery, including locating persons and seizing assets, etc. This naming and shaming appears meant to draw public sympathy for HESLB efforts, which is a valid wish. However, all that the public wishes to see is efficiency in the administration of loan issuance, which includes repayment so that the revolving funds which the loans are meant to be benefit more and more deserving Tanzanians.

Climate change ultimately reduces the freedom to choose mode of life

THE havoc the ongoing rains have wreaked - and continue to wreak - in various regions in Tanzania and in neighbouring countries bring into question the capacity of safeguards most countries commonly turn to in reacting to emergencies.

There was a time that a tornado from the Indian Ocean swept the central parts of Mozambique, devastating large parts of Zimbabwe and Malawi within hours.

Little has filtered through as to how far the people of those areas coped with the disaster, save at the initial stages. We heard plenty on the scope of devastation; but from then onwards things descended to normal, from emergency to routine poverty.

With the deadly floods in Somalia on which the media have been providing briefs, a few lessons are emerging. One is that the more rudimentary and sparse the structure of residential surroundings and basic communications, the worse the effects of tornadoes or pounding El Nino rains.

It thus follows that the situation where the kind of residences that a country ordinarily has will no longer be a matter of culture, but drawn into policy as disaster prevention.

The reason here is that the scale of disasters tied with weather outbursts is such that household structures, similar to farming systems (and in that sense agro-sector stability and food security as a whole) require a re-thinking as an aspect of public policy.

The situation is that anyone living in a substandard structure in low-lying flatlands with few trees stands to be swept away by floods. Unless efforts are made to design a strategy taking this reality into account, Africa stands to continue reporting disasters fairly frequently.

When it comes to providing as-

sistance to victims of disasters, the world is starting to learn that this is becoming increasingly less feasible, for the simple reason that each country has climatic disasters of its own.

A large part of global public aid goes to strife-torn areas especially where wars are raging, snuffing out cries from marginal climate disaster situations elsewhere.

Redesigning farming and livelihoods will not be an overreaction to current emergencies but a method of forestalling even graver turns.

A case in hand is when heavy rains left one person dead, destroyed 39 houses and damaged 11 other houses earlier this week in Nachingwea, Simanjirio and Muheza districts. The rains also heavily damaged numerous roads and swept away several bridges.

But with the expected year-end seasonal downpours pending, this might be just the beginning, in which case the situation could get a lot worse then. It looks marginal each time it happens but it adds up to real disaster, adding up as disaster by small doses and hence looking manageable.

What is likely to be in stock is that each time of massive rain - and with climate change - it will be the turn of swelling numbers of people to lose their dwellings.

And low-lying areas turned into farms in poorly vegetated areas, there are instances where these will simply be swept by floodwaters.

Policy design would require that residents nearly everywhere get land with title deeds and thus able to attract loans with which to build decent houses or develop farms. Where and when the market price proves right, they could then sell and leave. It could be deals worth a bargain.

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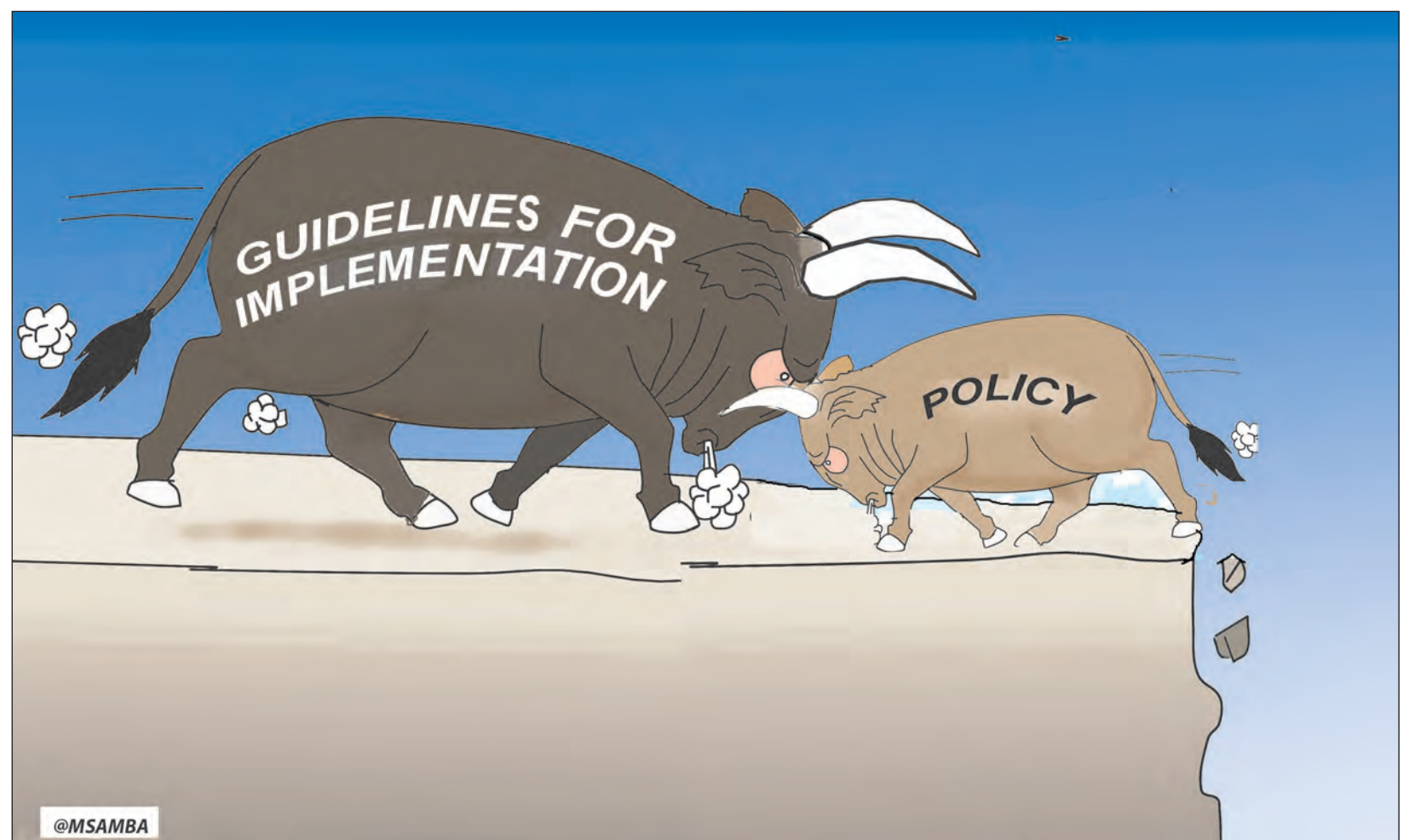
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You have an amazing, personalised mental dictionary

By Nichol Castro

IF you are average, you know more than 40,000 words. How you retrieve and use them in milliseconds is an astonishing feat.

The days of having a dictionary on your bookshelf are numbered. But that is OK, because everyone already walks around with a dictionary - not the one on your phone, but the one in your head.

Just like a physical dictionary, your mental dictionary contains information about words. This includes the letters, sounds and meaning - or semantics - of words, as well as information about parts of speech and how you can fit words together to form grammatical sentences.

Your mental dictionary is also like a thesaurus. It can help you connect words and see how they might be similar in meaning, sound or spelling.

As a researcher who studies word retrieval, or how you quickly and accurately pull words out of your memory to communicate, I'm intrigued by how words are organised in our mental dictionaries.

Everyone's mental dictionary is a little bit different. And I'm even more intrigued by how we can restore the content of our mental dictionaries or improve our use of them, particularly for those who have language disorders.

Language is part of what makes humans special, and I believe everyone deserves the chance to use their words with others.

While a physical dictionary is helpful for shared knowledge, your personal mental dictionary is customised based on your individual experiences.

What words are in my mental dictionary might overlap with the mental dictionary of someone else who also speaks the same language, but there will also be a lot of differences between the content of our dictionaries.

You add words to your mental dictionary through your educational, occupational, cultural and other life experiences. This customisation also means that the size of mental dictionaries is a little bit different from person to person and varies by age.

Researchers have found that the average 20-year-old American English speaker knows about 42,000 unique words, and this number grows to about 48,000 by age 60. Some people will have even larger vocabularies.

By now, you might be envisioning your mental dictionary as a book with pages of words in alphabetical order which you can flip through as needed.

However, while this visual analogy is helpful, there is a lot of debate about how mental dictionaries are organised. Many scholars agree that it's probably not like an alphabetised book.

Scientists created an interactive map of which brain areas respond to hearing different words.

One widely rejected theory, the grandmother cell theory, suggests that



Your brain processes letters, words, sounds, semantics and grammar at breakneck speed. Credit: StudioM1/ISTOCK via Getty Images Plus

each concept is encoded by a single neuron. This implies that you would have a neuron for every word that you know, including "grandmother".

While not accepted as accurate, the aspect of the grandmother cell theory suggesting that certain parts of the brain are more important for some types of information than others is likely true.

For example, the left temporal lobe on the side of your brain has many regions that are important for language processing, including word retrieval and production.

Rather than a single neuron responsible for processing a concept, a model called parallel distributed processing proposes that large networks of neurons across the brain work together to bring about word knowledge when they fire together.

For example, when I say the word "dog", there are lots of different aspects of the word that your brain is retrieving - even if unconsciously. You might be thinking about what a dog smells like after being out in the rain, what a dog sounds like when it barks, or what a dog feels like when you pet it.

You might be thinking about a specific dog you grew up with, or you might have a variety of emotions about dogs based on your experiences with them. All of these different features of "dog" are processed in slightly different parts of your brain.

One reason your mental dictionary can't be like a physical dictionary is that it is dynamic and quick-

ly accessed.

Your brain's ability to retrieve a word is very fast. In one study, researchers mapped the time course of word retrieval among 24 college students by recording their brain activity while they named pictures.

They found evidence that participants selected words within 200 milliseconds of seeing the image. After word selection, their brain continued to process information about that word, like what sounds are needed to say that chosen word and ignoring related words.

This is why you can retrieve words with such speed in real-time conversations, often so quickly that you give little conscious attention to that process.

Until ... you have a breakdown in word retrieval. One common failure in word retrieval is called the tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon. It's the feeling when you know what word you want to use but are unable to find it in that moment.

You might even know specific details about the word you want, like other words with similar meaning or maybe the first letter or sound of that word. With enough time, the word you wanted might pop into your mind.

These tip-of-the-tongue experiences are a normal part of human language experience across the life span, and they increase as you grow older. One proposed reason for this increase is that they're due to an age-related disruption in the ability to turn on the right sounds needed to say the selected word.

For some people, though, tip-of-the-tongue experiences and other speech errors can be quite impairing. This is commonly seen in aphasia, a language disorder that often occurs after injury to the language centres of the brain, such as stroke, or neurodegeneration, such as dementia. People with aphasia often have difficulty with word retrieval.

Fortunately, there are treatments available that can help people improve their word retrieval abilities. For example, semantic feature analysis focuses on strengthening the semantic relationships between words.

There are also courses of action like phonomotor treatment that focus on strengthening the selection and production of speech sounds needed for word production. There are even apps that remotely provide word retrieval therapy on phones or computers.

The next time you have a conversation with someone, take a moment to reflect on why you chose the specific words you did. Remember that the words you use and the mental dictionary you have are part of what make you and your voice unique.

*** This article is from The Conversation, an independent non-profit news organisation dedicated to unlocking and sharing the ideas and knowledge of academic experts for the public. Nichol Castro, Assistant Professor of Communicative Disorders and Sciences at the University at Buffalo in the US.**

We fail to report rape cases at the expense of innocent victims

By Telesphor Magobe

THE other week we briefly looked at International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists marked each year on November 2. We said journalists are collectively a key link between world governments and their people since through their daily reports people get to know what governments do and governments get feedback from the people.

Yet, when it comes to safety, journalists are always at risk. According to UNESCO, since 1993 more than 1,600 journalists across the world “have been killed for reporting the news and bringing information to the public.” The UN General Assembly in December 2013 adopted a Resolution A/RES/68/163 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.

Among other things, the resolution “condemned unequivocally” all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention, as well as intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations and proclaimed November 2 as International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. So, whenever we mark this day let us remember to protect the safety of journalists.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the offence of rape. I recently met a victim of rape who related to me how she was traumatised after she was raped when she was still a girl. She said what she went through haunted her to date. One afternoon she was at her home village and was sent to a village market to buy some necessities. As she was returning home, it was already dark and suddenly, she fell into the hands of a rapist who impregnated her. The rapist was a neighbour.

So, when she arrived home she told her mother what happened on her way back home and who was her assailant. The mother decided to keep it a secret because



she didn't want her daughter to be known to have been raped. So, they arranged that she leaves the village for town where she would stay.

She said she left home and stayed in town until she gave birth to her first born daughter. She said it was very difficult for her to go over it, so she was traumatised and hated almost all the boys she saw. She told me she didn't want to hide what happened to her from her daughter. She said she told her who her father was, but that her pregnancy was a result of rape. The reason she told her was that she wanted her daughter to know what happened to her mother and since she is now an adult it is good that she knows the truth about it.

The lady now has two daughters: the first born is a product of rape and the second one was born after she got married. She said she was unlucky that even her marriage

didn't go well. She said because of what had happened to her, she doesn't trust men very much. Her first daughter, whom I have also met, also has two children.

The offence of rape is contrary to section 130 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022). Section 130(1) states: “It is an offence for a male person to rape a girl or a woman.” Section 131 provides for punishment for rape. Section 131(1) states:

“Any person who commits rape is, except in the cases provided for in the renumbered subsection (2), liable to be punished with imprisonment for life, and in any case for imprisonment of not less than thirty years with corporal punishment, and with a fine, and shall in addition be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by the court, to the person in respect of whom the offence was committed for the injuries caused to such person.”

In Omary Kijuu (appellant) v Republic (criminal case No 39 of 2005), Omary Kijuu was convicted of the offence of rape, contrary to sections 130(1)(2)(b) and 131(1) of the Penal Code (Cap 16). He was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment and 4 strokes of the cane. He was also ordered to pay the victim Sh50,000 as compensation for injuries the victim suffered through rape. Aggrieved by the decision of the trial court, he appealed to the High Court of Tanzania, but his appeal was dismissed over merits. He then appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania in Dodoma.

The appellant is a paternal uncle to the victim of rape and after he had committed the offence he disappeared for two years and when he reappeared he was arrested. It was on December 26, 2000, at about 20:00, while the girl was asleep with her young sister and elder brother,

was woken up by the door of the room in which she was sleeping being forced open. She saw a man bursting and she identified him to be her paternal uncle (the appellant), who threatened to kill them if they raised an alarm. The children kept quiet and the appellant grabbed the girl, who was at that time aged 11 years and led her to a nearby primary school where he raped her.

She was threatened to be killed if she made any noise. Meanwhile, other children who were in the room told their mother who had just entered the house from her business and she raised the alarm. Seeing that, the appellant ran away. After going through the evidence, the Court of Appeal found that the prosecution had proved the offence of rape beyond a reasonable doubt and one of the issues the Court of Appeal noted was that the appellant's disappearance immediately after the act and reappearing after a long time was inconsistent with his innocence. So, his appeal was dismissed and his conviction and sentence upheld.

Today's proverb: “The morning sun never lasts the day.”

The author is a lawyer base in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

The Law and You



Youth in Solomon Islands hope for better future from tomorrow

By Catherine Wilson

THE Pacific Games, the most prestigious sporting event in the Pacific Islands region, will open in the Solomon Islands in the southwest Pacific tomorrow. And it is set to shine a spotlight on the energy, hopes and aspirations of youths who comprise the majority of the country's population.

Timson Irowane (25), who has been competing in triathlons for the past six years, is brimming with confidence and anticipation. “The Pacific Games is a big event because my people are here, and it is very special because this is the first time the Solomon Islands is hosting the Games that I've been involved in,” Irowane told IPS during an interview at the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport in the capital, Honiara.

Every four years, a Pacific Island nation is chosen to host the regional multi-sport Pacific Games. And this year, about 5,000 athletes from 24 Pacific Island states, such as Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Fiji and New Caledonia, will arrive in Honiara to compete in 24 sports, ranging from athletics and swimming to archery and basketball.

The Solomon Islands has a high population growth rate of 2.3 percent and about 70 percent of the country's population of about 734,000 people are aged under 35 years. Christian Nieng, Executive Director of the Pacific Games National Hosting Authority, told IPS that it will be a chance to showcase their talents and achievements. “It is the biggest international event ever hosted in the country. And as we are hosting, we want to compete for every medal chance,” Nieng said.

Not far from Honiara city centre, the new Games precinct includes a large national stadium, which can accommodate 10,000 people, as well as swimming and tennis centres. Eighty percent of the funding needed to build the facilities and organize the Games has been provided by international donors and bilateral partners, including Australia, New Zealand, Papua

New Guinea, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Korea and Indonesia.

“One of the long-term benefits of the Games is that we now have a new sports city as a legacy of the event,” Nieng added. It will be one of the best in the Pacific region, he believes, and, if well maintained, will last for 25 years, providing world-class facilities for Solomon Islanders to pursue their development and ambitions in sport.

At the sports institute, about 1,200 athletes are in training, and their energy and excitement is palpable. Here, Irowane, who is from Western and Malaita, two outer island provinces, is one among many who are striving to be selected for the national team of about 650 athletes who will represent the Solomon Islands later this month. His dedication has already led to international success. He participated in the Pacific Games held in Samoa in 2019 and numerous regional championships before heading to the Commonwealth Games hosted in Birmingham in the United Kingdom last year.

But he said that there were many wider benefits of sport to young people. “Triathlon is a multi-sport which involves discipline. Sport is not just for training, for fitness and skills that you learn in a specific sport, but it trains holistically to be a better person and a responsible person,” Irowane said. “And it helps athletes and individuals to be good citizens.”

Another local star aiming high is 21-year-old Jovita Ambrose, also from Malaita Province. “I started athletics and running during school games when I was 17 years old. When I'm running, I know that I'm good at it. When you are good at sport, it keeps you busy; it helps you stay healthy and not get involved in negative activities, such as drugs,” Ambrose said. In the last two years, she has travelled to competitions overseas, including the World Athletics Championships in Oregon in the United States last year and in Budapest, Hungary, three months ago.

The Solomon Islands has a rural majority population that is scattered across more than 900 islands where there is often lim-



Many local businesses in the formal and informal sectors are hoping for increased visitors and business during the Pacific Games being hosted in the Solomon Islands in late November. Burns Creek Settlement market in Honiara. Credit: Catherine Wilson/IPS

ited access to roads, basic services and employment. And the younger generation faces significant economic and development challenges. In a country which is not generating enough jobs for those of working age, the government estimates that 16,000-18,000 youths enter the employment market every year, with less than 4,000 likely to gain a secure job. Estimates of youth unemployment range from 35 percent to 60 percent.

“There is a lot of unemployment and, also, under-employment, where young people get a job opportunity which does not match their skill set. It is a real frustration for them when they are educated and still waiting for a job opportunity,” Harry James Olikwailafa, Chairman of the Solomon Islands National Youth Congress, explained to IPS. “The important issues for young people today are economic opportunities, employment opportunities and educational opportunities.”

In the last two decades, Solomon Islanders have also grappled with the aftermath of a five-year civil conflict. “The Tensions”, triggered by factors including urban-rural inequality, cor-

ruption and competition for land and resources, erupted in 1998 between rival armed groups representing local Gualandowners on Guadalcanal Island and internal settlers from Malaita Province. Hostilities ended in 2003, by which time many people, including children, had experienced violence, atrocities and displacement and had been deprived of education.

Morrison Filia (936) and his wife, Joycelyn (32), grew up in the aftermath of the conflict. And now, through a new entrepreneurial initiative, are aiming to help grow economic opportunities in Honiara. In August, they launched a new tourism business, Happy Isle Tours and Transfers, which offers airport transfers for visitors and tourists to hotels, as well as tours of Honiara, its history and landmarks, and excursions to World War II memorial sites on Guadalcanal Island.

“In Honiara, there are a lot of young people, and employment is a problem. So, the main idea is that we try to create this business so that we can employ more young people. We are trying to give young people opportunities,” Morrison told IPS. They

have also opened their business in time for the Games. “One of the other reasons why we started the business is that we noticed tourists and visitors coming [to the Solomon Islands], but they find it difficult to find transport,” Joycelyn said. “We are excited and looking forward to the Games because we are expecting more tourists. It will bring other different people to the country, and we are expecting increased bookings. I think it will also increase employment in the country and help us in our economy,” she continued.

The Pacific Games will continue for two weeks and finish on the 2 December. And like Morrison and Joycelyn, Timson Irowane has long-term goals. “I wish to be a role model, to introduce the sports and motivate more young people to be involved in any sport they are interested in. I love to encourage them because we have the advantage of the facilities here beyond the Games,” he declared.

Argentines get used to the fact that inflation can always get worse

By Daniel Gutman

PEOPLE in Argentina have become accustomed to the fact that nothing costs the same today as it did the week before and they take price hikes in stride with resignation, says Mariano Cohen. "Almost nobody gets angry or complains anymore. They just don't buy something if they can't afford it," he explains in his disposable goods store in Villa Crespo, one of Buenos Aires' most commercial neighborhoods.

Mariano sells plastic cups, plates and bowls, cardboard packaging rolls and aluminum containers. He serves bars, restaurants and the public. He has a large sales room, about 80 square meters, and a mezzanine of the same size, which he uses as a warehouse and is a great asset for a merchant who sells non-perishable products.

The business owner tells IPS that he buys and stocks as much merchandise as he can, to anticipate price hikes.

"If I don't have more, it's because there's no more coming in or because they don't want to sell me large quantities. The other day a supplier suspended a very important delivery from one minute to the next and gave me back the money I had already paid him," he comments, with the same gesture of resignation that, he says, his customers make when faced with the prices in his store.

The economy of this South American country, with a long history of imbalances and inflation, has entered a spiral of permanent price increases that has already squelched the capacity for amazement of its 46 million inhabitants.

In Argentina, the absurd has been normal for some time: here you can buy a pair of shoes in six installments without interest, with financing subsidized by the government or even by private banks, but to buy a house you must pay in cash, because mortgages are almost non-existent. Today, price rises are so common that people are surprised the few times that a price is the same from one week to the next.

In 2021, there was concern when inflation climbed to 50 percent per year, partly attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced an increase in currency issuance to meet social assistance needs. However, people soon became nostalgic for this figure: in 2022 the index climbed to 95 percent, the highest since 1991.

Even so, the economy of this nation - where more than 40 percent of the population is poor and practically no private sector employment has been created for the last 12 years - seems to be determined to prove that it can always get worse.

This year inflation climbed again, to an accumulative 103 percent in the first nine months alone, reaching 138 percent in the interannual index (from September 2022 to September 2023), according to official data. Projections indicate that 2023 will end with an increase in consumer prices of around 150 percent.

Emerging and drowning again

"I feel that the day I get paid my salary is the best day of the month, but also the worst," Ariel Machado tells IPS, laughing bitterly.

"I'm happy when I get paid, but when I set aside the money for fixed expenses and calculate how much I'll have left, I feel like I'm drowning again," says Ariel, who has a son and is separated from his wife, and who is employed by a well-known public relations agency in Buenos Aires and also sells selected wines over the Internet to supplement his income.

A typical member of the strong middle class of Buenos Aires, used to going on vacation to the beaches of Brazil and dining in restaurants a couple of times a week, Ariel says that those things are



José Lonardi stands in his tiny candy and beverage shop in downtown Buenos Aires. Customers, he says, have lost all reference points for the price of products in Argentina and so nothing surprises them anymore. CREDIT: Daniel Gutman / IPS

now just memories and that today he sometimes feels like he's spinning "on a wheel of unhappiness, because of the amount of things I want to do and can't."

He tries to forget about it, but doesn't succeed. "Worrying about money consumes a lot of energy. Three years ago I couldn't save either, but this didn't happen to me. Now there are days when even having a cup of coffee outside the office seems like a wasteful luxury," he says.

By his own admission, Ariel is not even remotely among the most vulnerable segments of the population, who spend practically all their income on food, prices of which have been rising more than average. Latin America's third largest economy is immersed in a process of stagnation and deterioration that began in 2012 and caused the governing parties to lose the last two presidential elections, in 2015 and 2019.

On Sunday Nov. 19, the next president will be chosen in a runoff election in which the ruling party's centrist candidate Sergio Massa will compete against the far-right opposition candidate Javier Milei.

Only the extravagant proposals of Milei, who calls for the free carrying of arms and the creation of a market

for the sale of organs, in addition to immediate dollarization and the elimination of the local peso from the Central Bank, have made Massa, who since 2022 is the Minister of Economy, competitive.

Elections always generate even more instability in the economy and situations that are difficult for visitors to understand.

Those who can afford to do so stock up on items in anticipation of what will happen to prices and consumption after the elections.

Thus, September, the month prior to the first round of elections, showed a strong increase in consumption in supermarkets (eight percent above the previous month, according to private sector data), comparable only to March 2020, when the pandemic confinement began.

In any case, the impact of inflation on the poorest is especially visible in the outskirts of the capital. Greater Buenos Aires is home to 15.5 million people, or one third of Argentina's population, where more and more people sleep on the streets or wander around in search of something to eat.

The poor suffer from a decline that is measured not only in terms of income but also with respect to access

to basic services and to environmental conditions.

A paper published in October by the Argentine Catholic University's (UCA) well-respected Observatory of Social Debt found that since 2018 a process of reduction of the inequality gap began in Greater Buenos Aires, but due to the worsening living conditions of the middle class rather than to improvements in households in the most impoverished neighborhoods.

Members of these vulnerable sectors of Buenos Aires told IPS that the escalation of inflation is more a problem of the middle class people living in the city, who have to lower their standard of living and who are becoming poorer, while in their case "we were and are so bad off that a jump in inflation of 100 to 150 percent does not change anything for us."

In addition, part of the poorest population of Buenos Aires and its outlying areas receives social assistance from the central or city governments, or from non-governmental organizations.

No reference point

José Lonardi owns a tiny shop selling candy, beverages and cigarettes

on Paraguay Street, a few blocks from the Obelisk, an icon of downtown Buenos Aires.

The prices of the merchandise, he tells IPS, increase almost every week, sometimes by three to five percent, and sometimes by 20 to 30 percent.

"Two or three years ago, customers still complained when prices went up, because they had some point of reference. Today, inflation has picked up so fast that nobody knows how much things are worth and nobody says anything anymore," he remarks.

Against this backdrop, contradictory advice is rampant.

The value of pesos is melting like ice cream under the sun and people want to get rid of them. On afternoon TV programs, a steady parade of economists advise people to buy large quantities of toilet paper to beat inflation.

Many people, however, do not pay attention to them: in different neighborhoods of Buenos Aires restaurants are always full, even on weekdays.

"In the Argentine economy nobody knows what might happen next week. So pesos are burning holes in people's pockets, and people, as long as they have them, spend them," says José.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Smallholder farmers gain least from international climate funding - study

By Maina Waruru

SMALLHOLDER farmers from the Global South benefit from a grossly disproportionate 0.3 percent of international climate finance despite producing a third of the world's food and despite holding the key to climate-proofing food systems.

The family farmers and rural communities received around \$2 billion from both public and private international climate funds out of the \$8.4 billion that went to the agriculture sector in 2021, even as over 2.5 billion people globally depended on the farms for their livelihoods.

The \$8.4 billion was almost half of the \$16 billion that was available for the energy sector and is only a fraction of the estimated \$300-350 billion needed annually to "create more sustainable and resilient food systems," a new report has found.

The amount was also quite different from the \$170 billion that smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa alone would require per year, the study on global public finance for climate mitigation and adaptation conducted by Dutch climate advisory company Climate Focus has found.

The low level of climate finance for agriculture, forestry, and fishing is of concern, given the impact of climate change on food production and the extent to which food and agriculture are fuelling the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Agricultural productivity has declined by 21 percent due to climate change, while the food and agriculture sector as a whole is responsible for 29 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and 80 percent of global deforestation, the study explains.

The farmers have been sidelined by global climate funders and locked out of decision-making processes on food and climate despite being the engines of rural economic growth. This is especially so in Sub-Saharan

Africa, where up to 80 percent of agriculture is by smallholder farmers and where 23 percent of regional GDP is attributable to the sector.

It reveals that 80 percent of international public climate finance spent on the agri-food sector is channeled through governments and donor country NGOs, making it hard for smallholder farmers' organizations to access it. This is because of complex eligibility rules and application processes and a lack of information on how and where to apply.

Many family farmers also lack the infrastructure, technology, and resources to adapt to climate impacts, with serious implications for global food security and rural economies as well, it notes.

The study 'Untapped Potential: An analysis of international public climate finance flows to sustainable agriculture and family farmers,' published on 14 November, laments that only a fifth of international public climate finance for food and agriculture supports sustainable practice. The money mainly goes to the Global North, even as agriculture becomes the third biggest source of global emissions, and the main driver of biodiversity loss.

"Climate change is hitting harvests and driving up food prices across the globe. It has helped push 122 million people into hunger since 2019. We need to create more sustainable and resilient food systems that can feed people in a changing climate, but we can't do this without family farmers," the report compiled on behalf of ten farmer organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific says.

"Family farmers are also key to climate adaptation. They are at the forefront of the shift to more diverse, nature-friendly food systems, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says is needed to safeguard food security in a changing climate," it further notes.



The groups are led by the World Rural Forum and include African groups—the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum, the Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations in Central Africa, and the Network of West African Farmers' and Producers' Organisations. Also part of the group is Northern Africa's Maghreb and North African Farmers Union.

The Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, the Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network, the Confederation of Family Producers' Organizations of Greater Mercosur, and the Regional Rural Dialogue Programme are also represented in the study.

Many of the farmers are already practicing climate-resilient agriculture, including approaches such as agroecology, which implies a wider variety of crops, including traditional ones, mixing crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries, while reducing agrochemical use, and building strong connections to local markets.

The study by the new alliance of farmer networks representing over 35 million smallholder producers ahead of COP28, which is set to agree on a Global Goal for Adaptation, is concerned that since 2012, overall, only 11 percent of international public climate finance has been targeted at agriculture, forestry, and fishing, which amounts to an average of \$7 billion a year.

In 2021, the World Bank, Germany, the Green Climate Fund, and European Union institutions contributed around half-54 percent, amounting to \$4 billion collectively, while Nigeria, India, and Ethiopia

were the top recipients, receiving a combined \$1.8 billion. Notably, some of the world's most food insecure countries, including Sudan, Sierra Leone, and Zambia, each received less than \$20 million, it discloses.

"As the climate crisis pushes the global food system ever closer to collapse, it is vital that governments recognize family farmers as powerful partners in the fight against climate change," it warns.

Hakim Baliriane, Chair of the Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum, observed: "Climate change has helped push 122 million people into hunger since 2019. Reversing this trend will not be possible if governments continue to tie the hands of millions of family farmers."

The study defines small-scale family farms as those of less than two hectares, mainly in developing countries.

On the other hand, international climate finance broadly refers to finance channeled to "activities that have a stated objective to mitigate climate change or support adaptation. These include multilateral flows in and outside the (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, as well as bilateral flows at national and regional levels, including the Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, and Green Climate Fund, and are usually disbursed as grants and concessional loans

The study finds that family farms are also the

backbone of rural economies, supporting over 2.5 billion people globally who depend on family farms for their livelihoods. It says that in Sub-Saharan Africa, where up to 80 percent of farming is done by smallholder farmers, agriculture contributes 23 percent to regional Gross Domestic Product.

Family farmers are also key to climate adaptation in that they are at the forefront of the shift to more "diverse, nature-friendly food systems," which, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are critical in safeguarding food security in a changing climate.

It finds that millions of smallholder farmers are already practicing climate-resilient agriculture, including approaches such as agroecology—growing a wider variety of crops, including traditional crops, mixing crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries, reducing agrochemicals use while building "strong connections to local markets."

It concludes that governments must ensure that available climate finance for sustainable climate-resilient practices is increased, including that of agroecological approaches.

It explains: "This means funds to support diverse, nature-friendly approaches and to create community-based solutions that build on traditional expertise and experience.

It recommends that small-scale family farmers ought to have direct access to more climate finance and that financing mechanisms and funds should be developed with the participation of farmers' organizations to meet their needs.

In addition, efforts should be made to ensure longer-term, flexible funding so that communities can determine their own priorities.

The role of the farmers as powerful catalysts for climate action, food system transformation, and the protection of biodiversity should be acknowledged and given a "real say" in decision-making on food and climate at the local, national, regional, and international levels. This should include decisions on land reform and agricultural subsidies.

The COP28 in Dubai later this month has food systems as a big part of the agenda.

An August report by the UK's ActionAid has found that climate adaptation and green transition initiatives in the Global South received 20 times less financing when compared to main global emitters, fossil fuels, and intensive agriculture sectors in the last seven years.

It found that leading banking multinationals funded the emitters' activities in the southern hemisphere to the tune of \$3.2 trillion since 2015 when the Paris Agreement on Climate was adopted. German agrochemical giant Bayer was the biggest recipient of the financing, receiving an estimated \$20.6 billion since 2016.

African economic conference calls for stronger political will to spur industrialisation

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast

AFRICAN countries need to show stronger political will to advance industrialisation, including the adoption of new policies to promote improved productivity and harness the potential of a growing youth population.

The remarks were made by delegates attending the 2023 African Economic Conference in Ethiopia's capital—Addis Ababa under the theme 'Imperatives for Sustainable Industrial Development in Africa'.

Organised by the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme, the conference brought together experts, the private sector, researchers, and young people to discuss the challenges and prospects of industrialisation in Africa.

Ethiopian President, Sahle-Work Zewde underscored the importance of industrialisation as an essential driver of inclusive economic growth.

"The need to change the narrative of Africa's industrialisation for inclusive and sustainable industrial development has become more imperative; African countries need to build a robust industrial sector that can withstand external shocks," she told participants.



President Sahle-Work stressed that industrial policies should focus on supporting domestic industrial development and promoting improved productivity and competitiveness, underscoring that COVID-19 had taught hard lessons about the vulnerability of global production and value chains to various shocks.

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Claver Gatete, called on the conference to explore the policies and institutional capacities needed for sustainable

industrialisation, inclusive development, and structural transformation.

"This will help us rebuild and emerge stronger from the crises," he said, adding that implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement is also crucial," said Gatete.

He affirmed the ECA's commitment to supporting countries and regional economic communities to develop national and regional implementation strategies to help them integrate the AfCFTA agreement into their national

priorities and identify areas of competitive advantage.

African Development Bank's Chief Economist and Vice President, Kevin Urama urged African countries to think differently and implement transformative policies that accelerate indigenous manufacturing capacity and encourage consumption of locally made products.

"Africans need to think African, produce African, and consume African to encourage indigenous industrial development in Africa," he said.

Urama proposed several approaches to accelerate industrialisation and structural transformation in Africa. These include implementing a strategic industrial policy that encourages local production and consumption, as well as domestic and regional value chain development.

"Policies such as local content and franchising could deliver low-hanging fruits," Urama said, adding that Africa has the natural resources needed to lead the electric vehicle technology revolution.

Director of the Regional Service Centre at the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Office for Africa, Matthias Naab, urged the promotion of mutually beneficial public-private partnerships committed to manufacturing in Africa.

He also welcomed the growing recognition of youth in development policies. "The inclusion of young African researchers in this conference is a testament to our commitment to harnessing their intellectual power; youth are the industrialists of today and tomorrow, and we want to ensure that they lead in identifying pathways forward," he said.

Fatou Haidara, Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), cited Africa's young population, vibrant small and medium enterprises, renewable energy potential and abundant natural resources as the potential for the continent's success.

"Local manufacturing capacity, inclusive access to global financial markets, sustainable value chains and climate action are necessary prerequisites for a prosperous Africa," Haidara said, underlining UNIDO's commitment to support countries to develop capacity, analysis, and evidence-based policy advice.

Africa is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies with an attractive human capital base, dominated by a young population base compared to the aging populations of other regions, and is therefore seen as the future frontier labour market.

However the pace of industrialisation and economic transformation in Africa remains slow compared to other regions.

'No end in sight' to rising greenhouse gas emissions, UN weather agency warns

GENEVA

GREENHOUSE gas emissions reached a record high in 2022 with "no end in sight to the rising trend", the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a report published recently.

The greenhouse gas bulletin comes ahead of the UN climate change conference COP28 which opens in Dubai in two weeks.

Fossil fuels - coal, oil and

gas - account for most greenhouse gas emissions, which trap the sun's heat, leading to global warming and climate change.

Last year, global averaged concentrations of the most important greenhouse gas - carbon dioxide (CO₂) - were a full 50 per cent above the pre-industrial era, marking a first, and continued to grow in 2023.

Methane concentrations also grew and levels of nitrous oxide, the third main gas, saw the highest year-on-year increase on record from 2021 to 2022.

"Despite decades of warnings from the scientific community, thousands of pages of reports and dozens of climate conferences, we are still heading in the wrong direction," said Petteri Taalas, the WMO Secretary-General.

The current trajectory "puts us on the pathway of an increase in temperatures well

above the Paris Agreement targets by the end of this century," he added, referring to global efforts to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

As a result, countries will experience more extreme weather, including intense heat and rainfall, ice melt, sea-level rise and ocean heat and acidification.

"The socioeconomic and environmental costs will soar," he warned. "We must

reduce the consumption of fossil fuels as a matter of urgency."

WMO explained that just under half of CO₂ emissions remain in the atmosphere, while over a quarter are absorbed by the ocean and just under 30 per cent by "land ecosystems" such as forests.

As long as emissions continue, CO₂ will continue accumulating in the atmosphere leading to global temperature rise. Furthermore, given

its long life, the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero.

The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO₂ was 3 to 5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2 to 3°Celsius warmer and sea level was 10 to 20 metres higher.

"There is no magic wand to remove the excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere,"

said Taalas. A WMO initiative announced this year aims to ensure sustained, routine global monitoring of greenhouse gas concentrations and fluxes to improve understanding around climate change and support action on mitigation.

Taalas said the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch "will greatly improve sustained observations and monitoring to support more ambitious climate goals."

All for ceasefire, but EFF motion to cut ties with Israel a step too far for ANC

By Marianne Merten

THE thing about Parliament is that it comes with its own rules, processes and practices that put the spoke in political spin.

No decision was scheduled following Thursday's parliamentary debate on the EFF motion calling upon "the government to close the Israeli Embassy in South Africa and suspend all diplomatic relations with Israel".

That vote will only come in a full sitting of the House on Tuesday, 21 November.

But these parliamentary niceties give the governing ANC the weekend to finalise what International Relations Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini on Thursday described as engagements and discussions.

"Our government is in discussions on the matter of closing the Israeli embassy in Pretoria and we'll need to take into consideration that it may affect our diplomatic presence in Palestine.

"The demands from South Africans for the closure of the Israeli embassy in Pretoria have merit..." said Mashego-Dlamini.

"(T)he government is engaging all relevant stakeholders regarding our diplomatic relations with Israel, given the war crimes and genocide we are witnessing in Gaza."

Freedom Front Plus Chief Whip Corné Mulder bluntly told the deputy minister there would be "definite, direct implications" for the six South African diplomats stationed in Ramallah, Palestine. They would lose their diplomatic status, would have to live in Ramallah rather than Jerusalem, as they do now, and enter Palestine via Jordan.

"If you expel the Israeli ambassador and cut all diplomatic ties with Israel, SA will not be in a position to play any role whatsoever in terms of any mediation or any chance to play a constructive, positive role to bring this conflict to an end," said Mulder.

"Not one Arab country which has diplomatic ties with Israel - Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, United Arab Emirates - has severed diplomatic ties with Israel despite what's going on."

Mulder added that South Africans would see on Tuesday whether the government would "do the right thing" and continue diplomatic attempts to solve this conflict.

ANC 'open for engagement'

It was part of the verbal sparring and barbs lobbed across the virtual platform over the motion brought by EFF leader Julius Malema, expertly timed given South Africa's positioning on this Middle East war.

In many ways, the motion rides on the back of strong public sentiment across South Africa that Israeli bombing and targeting of hospitals was disproportionate to the 7



EFF leader Julius Malema protests at the Israeli Embassy on 23 October 2023 in Pretoria. (Photo: Gallo Images / Frennie Shivambu)

October Hamas killing of 1,400 Israelis and the abduction of over 200 civilians.

But as Mashego-Dlamini's statement showed, the motion also puts the government - keen to see itself as an international player and negotiator - on the back foot.

ANC MP and Deputy President Paul Mashatile's parliamentary counsellor, Hope Papo, highlighted some of those dynamics, emphasising that "we should not move alone" and end up isolated in southern Africa and on the continent.

"This is why, whilst we support the essence of this motion, we are open for an engagement with the EFF so there could be some amendments..."

"We will not close the embassy and cut diplomatic relations without putting conditions to that.

"If you do that (cut ties) full stop, then we close the op-

portunity for continued engagements with other stakeholders... and (lose) the ability to have influence on the situation," said Papo.

He emphasised that amendments to reflect conditions were needed, "otherwise the motion will not be carried".

So, unless the ANC and EFF get together before Tuesday's vote to resolve sticking points, this motion is unlikely to succeed.

It wouldn't be the first time. In February 2018, the ANC supported the EFF motion for expropriation without compensation, also after some fine-tuning.

As Mulder drily pointed out in Thursday's debate, "The EFF took the initiative, and the ANC will have to follow."

That debate unfolded in the wake of the ANC and its alliance partner, the labour federation Cosatu, throwing their support behind the EFF motion - without mentioning the EFF.

Or, as Luthuli House put it in an ANC statement just ahead of the debate, "... the ANC will agree to a parliamentary motion which calls upon the government to close the Israel Embassy in South Africa and suspend all diplomatic relations with Israel until Israel agrees to a ceasefire and commits to binding United Nations facilitated negotiations whose outcome must be a just, sustainable and lasting peace."

In a statement, Cosatu's international desk called on political parties in Parliament "to act decisively against the apartheid state of Israel for the horrifying war crimes against the people of Gaza and the whole of Palestine..."

A day earlier, President Cyril Ramaphosa, during an official visit to Qatar, announced that South Africa joined "many other countries across the world" to refer Israel to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"We have put through a referral because we believe that war crimes are being committed there. And, of course, we do not condone the actions that were taken by Hamas earlier, but similarly, we condemn the actions that are currently under way and believe that they warrant an investigation by the ICC," said Ramaphosa in a video clip released by the Presidency on Wednesday.

This effectively was in line with International Relations Minister Naledi Pandor's statement to the House a week earlier, days before the Israeli

ambassador to South Africa, Eliav Belotserkovsky, was demarched in the sternest rebuke short of expulsion.

Pandor's stipulations for addressing the conflict were repeated on Thursday - an immediate ceasefire, urgent humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, a UN protection force, and the investigation of Hamas for holding civilians hostage.

The debate also included condolences to Gift of the Givers. The group's Gaza representative since 2013, Ahmed Abbasi, was, according to a statement on Facebook, "directly targeted by the apartheid Israeli forces" as he and his brother returned from morning prayers.

Point-scoring

Those moments of condolence stood in stark contrast to the point-scoring and often acerbic debate disrupted by frequent heckling.

Despite a point of order, Al Jama-ah leader Ganief Hendricks got away with saying, "Those who support the genocide in Palestine, like the DA, Action SA and ACDP... they behave like vampires."

IFP MP Mkhuleko Hlengwa had earlier called for an immediate ceasefire, saying "the war must stop", but argued against cutting diplomatic ties as this would isolate South Africa and leave the country unable to contribute to peace negotiations.

DA MP and international relations spokesperson Emma Powell used her time at the podium, regardless of the EFF's points of order, to try to poke holes in the ANC's foreign policy stance, pointing out South Africa's abstention in the UN over Sudan, where three million children are among the seven million displaced by war.

"If the ANC cared about human rights or international law, it would not have remained silent in the face of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine."

In closing the debate, Malema sharply criticised fellow opposition parties but tactically opened the door to the ANC for another set of discussions.

"We are not opposed to amendment of any motion as long as, at the end of the day, we agree that the Israeli ambassador is dismissed," said Malema.

How that unfolds will emerge in the vote in the House on Tuesday.

DM

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 25 -

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

14. Un able to see
15. the longest river in Africa
17. a type of lamp
22. limbs on which we walk
23. procedure in which fluid is injected into the rectum
24. an enemy in Kiswahili
25. plural form of mouse
26. a state of conflict

DOWN:
1. rounded summit of a hill
2. over a certain age limit
3. refuse to admit the truth
4. the body's recognizable structures
5. river in Kiswahili
6. an edible-kidney shaped seed
8. claim that someone has done something wrong
9. a Polynesian garland of flowers
10. either of two 13th century Icelandic books
14. blyny
16. gastrointestinal atony
18. agar-agar
19. hem
20. hindmost part of an animal
20. attempt to find
22. of less than average height

ACROSS:
1. Capital city of Tanzania
7. done or shown openly
8. on the leeward side of a ship
11. Palace of Buganda kingdom
12. show the way to a destination
13. the first surviving Chinese dictionary

WORD FIT

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

SERENE BIBLE SOME
OROMO VOTE CADET
ALA OPENER BOOK
AD REM ROSE BREED
EVEREST

Yesterday's solution

L I L O N G W E W S O O T H E E
E V I L E R A I S O L O W N
S O V E R E I G N T Y D A E M O N G
S R I G O O D S A M A S S A
O I N T M E N T P A T A G O G
R A G E E I S S A P A T A G O G
N N C E V E O E N G A G E
S S M E N O E N G A G E
S E R E N G E T I D P E G A D

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

BUSINESS

National debt stock shrinks 6.7pc in Q3

By Guardian Reporter

The national debt stock was US\$39,815 million at the end of September 2023, a quarterly decrease of 6.7 percent, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) quarterly economic bulletin for third quarter of this year has shown.

The decrease was primarily attributed to appreciation of the US dollar against other currencies in the debt portfolio and debt service.

The external debt stock accounted for 70.2 percent of the total debt stock, while 84.8 percent was public debt.

The external debt stock amounted to US\$27,948.7 million at the end of September 2023 compared with US\$27,341.4 recorded at the end similar period in 2023.

Out of the external debt stock, 96.3 percent was outstanding principal and the balance was interest arrears.

Public sector external debt, which comprises of the central government and public corporations formed 78.4 percent of external debt stock.

In terms of the creditors' category, multilateral institutions accounted for the largest portion of the debt stock, at 52.4 percent, followed by commercial creditors.

During the quarter under review, external loans worth US\$597 million were disbursed, with the central



government being the major recipient. Debt service amounted to US\$231.9 million, of which US\$182.4 million was principal repayments and the balance was interest payments.

Debt service was equivalent to 6.2 percent of exports of goods and services. Domestic debt recorded a quarterly increase of 1.8 percent to 29,449.5bn/- at the end of September 2023.

Government securities continued to dominate the domestic debt portfolio, accounting for 85.9 per-

cent. The main creditors to the Government continued to be commercial banks and pension funds, jointly holding 57.8 percent of the debt stock.

During the quarter, the Government borrowed 1,310.6bn/- from the domestic market, of which 769.2bn/- was Treasury bonds and the balance was Treasury bills.

Domestic debt that fell due during the quarter amounted to 1,282.9bn/-, of which 709.5bn/- billion was principal that was

rolled over and 573.4bn/- was interest payments.

Meanwhile, Zanzibar debt stock increased to 3,043.3bn/- at the end of September 2023 from 2,661bn/- registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Out of the total debt, external debt stock was 2,539.5bn/- (equivalent to US\$1,023.3 million), compared with 2,340.6bn/- at the end of September 2022.

The increase in external debt was on account of new disbursements

and exchange rate depreciation. External debt accounted for 83.4 percent of total debt stock.

Domestic debt stock was 503.8bn/-, higher than 320.4bn/- registered in September 2022.

The outturn was associated with new borrowing from both bank and non-bank sources.

Treasury bonds dominated at 53.2 percent, whereas debts maturing between 1 and 10 years accounted for 58.9 percent of the total debt outstanding.



US dollar due for rebound from its worst day in a year

NEW YORK

It may be premature to call the end of the dollar's bull run after the currency's worst day in more than a year, according to high-profile investors including T. Rowe Price and Fidelity International.

T. Rowe Price says bets on Federal Reserve rate cuts next year are overblown, and expects growth in the US and higher interest rates versus other major economies to support the dollar.

Fidelity International sees those higher-for-longer US interest rates risking dragging the economy into a downturn that would benefit the US currency. Meanwhile, Western Asset Management says demand for Treasuries and the greenback's status as the world's reserve currency will bolster the case for US exceptionalism.

"I don't think we can call the end of the dollar bull market," said George Efstathiopoulos, portfolio manager at Fidelity International in Singapore. "We've been reducing our overall local currency exposure" in part to reflect that view.

Many dollar bulls remain undaunted despite a painful 24 hours of trading after soft inflation data sent Bloomberg's gauge of the US currency tumbling by the most in a year. The Australian dollar rallied the most since January in the wake of the report, while the euro enjoyed its biggest intraday move in a year.

The index steadied Wednesday even as investor bets the Federal Reserve will



The US dollar's status as the world's reserve currency, facilitating easy borrowing for the US, and the recognition of Treasuries as the world's safe-haven asset especially in times of escalating geopolitical tensions

cut interest rates by mid-2024 spread into Asia, spurring currencies from South Korea's won to Indonesia's rupiah to rally more than 1 percent. The US currency was little changed against major peers in Asia trading Thursday.

Hedge funds feature prominently among the cohort of dollar bulls, adding to long positions for eight-straight weeks – the longest streak in over two years, according to Commodity Futures Trading Commission data compiled by Bloomberg.

The current bout of dollar weakness

is coherent with more Fed easing being priced in, but other Group-of-10 currencies should "later feel the heat too" as markets price a similar dovish turn for their respective central banks, according to HSBC's Charlotte Ong.

"We maintain our view of dollar resilience as we head into 2024, especially in the face of soft global growth and relatively firm US yields," the London-based strategist said.

That's also the view of T. Rowe Price, which sees the latest burst of exuberance for rate cuts as misguided.

"I don't see the Fed cutting in 2024," Tim Murray, a capital markets strategist at the \$1.31 trillion money manager, said on the sidelines of a media breakfast. That would be needed for the dollar to see "significant" weakness, he said, adding "the one reason they would cut would be if the employment market suddenly really starts to weaken sharply, but that is unlikely."

But others are less optimistic on the dollar's path, and suggest the currency may be reaching its top for the cycle.

Bank of America Corp. strategists including Alex Cohen said the US currency could be "vulnerable to a quick positioning reversal" as investors see bullish greenback positions as one of the most crowded trades in markets. Strategists at Barclays Plc, Morgan Stanley and National Australia Bank Ltd. have cautioned in recent weeks that bets on the greenback are getting increasingly stretched. Meanwhile options positioning shows the weakest appetite for new dollar positions in more than three months.

"The dollar can fall maybe another 1%," said Brad Bechtel, global head of foreign exchange at Jefferies LLC in New York. "The market is long USD and we expect position rebalancing will take us a bit lower before we get a lot higher over the medium term."

For investors like Western Asset, a division of Franklin Templeton, dismissing the dollar's strength may prove to be a misstep as US exceptionalism continues to dominate. With the Israel-Hamas war stoking tensions in the Middle East, the continuing conflict in Ukraine, and ongoing tensions between the US and China, appetite for the greenback will remain.

"The US dollar's status as the world's reserve currency, facilitating easy borrowing for the US, and the recognition of Treasuries as the world's safe-haven asset especially in times of escalating geopolitical tensions, should dispel any doubts about the economic or financial resilience of the US," product specialist Robert Abad wrote in a note.

EU, Tanzania lend a hand to sustainable cooking solutions

By Guardian Reporter

The European Union (EU) and the Government of Tanzania have awarded five grants to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as part of their commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action in Tanzania.

The grants amounting to 26.1bn/- (EUR 9.92 million), are allocated under the EU-funded Integrated Approach to Sustainable Cooking Solutions Programme.

The recipients of each of these five grants are World Wide Fund for Nature, World Vision Tanzania, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, TaTEDO - Sustainable Energy Services Organization and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group.

These NGOs will implement various projects across Tanzania focusing on sustainable forest management and wood-fuel production in rural areas with an overall aim of enhancing environmental sustainability, in particular the sustainability of the wood-fuel value chain.

The projects are expected to address challenges in fuel wood value chain, promoting reforestation, and enhancing sustainable charcoal production and biomass energy solutions.

The official grant signing ceremony was held at the Bank of Tanzania conference hall in Dar es Salaam. It was attended by officials from the



Cedric Merel, EU Head of Cooperation

EU Delegation to the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African Community and United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Representatives from the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Ministry of Energy, the Tanzania Forest Agency Services, Tanzania Revenue Authority and the Registrar of NGOs were also present. "Unsustainable

and inefficient production and use of charcoal for cooking has significant environmental, economic, and social impacts.

The EU is committed to helping Tanzania tackle these challenges," said Cedric Merel, EU Head of Cooperation. "Partnerships with government, development partners, private sector and non-government organizations is crucial in addressing challenges facing forest and cooking sectors".

The programme will reduce the amount of biomass used for

wood-fuel, thereby leading to reduced Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation which is a major contribution to the Government of Tanzania in meeting its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) commitments, added Merel.

Amina Shaaban, Deputy Permanent Secretary on behalf of Dr. Natu Mwamba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance Tanzania said, "...The European Union has been among the key supporters of Tanzania's development journey. This grant not only signifies financial support EU has extended to Tanzania, but also fosters a sense of partnership, collaboration, and shared values between the two parties. It highlights the belief that by working together, we can address the most pressing challenges of our time."

She also added, "...on behalf of the Ministry of Finance as the contracting authority in the five grant contracts signed today, I wish to reaffirm our commitments towards successful implementation of the contracts. On that note, I urge all beneficiaries to implement these contracts in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions; and should make the best use of the locally available human resources in the projects' areas to enhance ownership and sustainability of the projects."

China asks some big banks to cap interest rates

BEIJING

China told a handful of nationwide lenders to cap interest rates on interbank funding, people familiar with the directive said, a move that dovetailed with a sizable cash injection intended to calm the market after last month's unexpected liquidity crunch.

At least two national banks were

told last week by regulators to offer rates on one-year negotiable certificates of deposit at no higher than 2.57 percent, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing private information.

On Thursday, the PrimeNCD rate, an index measuring primary issuance rates on CDs of major commercial banks, was in line with that level at around 2.57 percent, according to

National Interbank Funding Center's website. The move underscores the regulator's latest efforts to calm financial markets by keeping funding costs stable and avoiding volatility risks. The central bank on Wednesday stepped up its support by offering 1.45 trillion yuan (\$200 billion) of cash through its medium-term lending facility, the most since 2016.

Chinese banks have increased

their sales of short-term debt and raised rates even as Beijing sought to calm traders after a recent liquidity squeeze. Lenders last week doubled their issuance of NCDs, a form of debt with maturities from one to 12 months, to more than 1 trillion yuan. That's the largest weekly issuance on record, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Liquidity fears spiked at the end of

October, when some smaller financial institutions had to borrow short-term cash at a rate of 50 percent to meet their funding needs. Though the central bank said the jump in rates was temporary, worries over scarce cash persist as the government crowds out the market with bond issuance through year-end to support the sluggish economy.

China also plans to provide at least

1 trillion yuan of low-cost financing to the nation's urban village renovation and affordable housing programs, in its latest effort to shore up the property market, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. The PBOC would inject funds in phases through policy banks with the money ultimately trickling down to households for home purchases, they said.

Euro zone bond yields inch back towards 2-month lows

LONDON

Euro zone bond yields edged lower on Thursday, resuming their broad downward trend driven by market expectations that major central banks are done with raising interest rates, though the timing of rate cuts remains a topic of debate.

Germany's 10 year bond yield dipped around 2 basis points to 2.61 percent, heading back towards a two-month low of 2.567 percent hit early the previous day.

The Bund yield, the euro zone benchmark, has dropped fairly steadily since early October, when it briefly nudged above 3%, as economic data showed inflation was slowing in the United States and inflation and economic growth were slowing in Europe.

That, in turn, has underpinned the

view that the recent programme of central bank rate increases around the world, which has weighed heavy on government bonds, has come to an end.

The European five year/five year forward, a market-based gauge of euro zone inflation expectations, on Thursday was at its lowest level since April, with markets pricing roughly a 75 percent chance of a European Central Bank rate cut as soon as April next year.

The latest significant sign of slowing inflation was cooler-than-forecast US CPI data on Tuesday, the week's major macro-economic release, after which the Bund yield dropped 11 bps and the US 10 year Treasury yield fell nearly 20 bps.

Yields ticked up a touch on Wednesday, a move analysts attributed partly to a sense that Tuesday's bond rally was slightly overdone,



and to a data that showed a smaller than expected fall in US retail sales.

"The European sovereign market is just trading based on whatever is happening with U.S. Treasuries, and we think the rally that happened

on the back of the CPI numbers is unconvincing as it was provoked by markets expecting four US rate cuts next year starting in June, or maybe May," said Althea Spinozzi, fixed income strategist at SaxoBank.

She said strong US economic data did not appear to match that many cuts and so soon.

"We believe that as we enter the new year there will be bigger divergence between European sovereigns and the US because the difference in the economic backdrop means we will see some easing in Europe before the US"

Investors are also watching political developments after the German government on Wednesday froze major spending pledges focused on green initiatives and industry support after a constitutional court ruling on unused pandemic emergency funds blew a 60 billion euro (\$65 billion) hole in its finances.

"This would imply slightly less (bond) issuance in 2024, but we think the market impact would be marginal," said Mohit Kumar chief economist Europe at Jefferies said in

a note to clients. In Spain, acting Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was expected to end four months of political deadlock on Thursday by securing backing in a parliamentary vote for another term.

The spread between German and Spanish 10 year yields narrowed around 2 bps to 101.2 bps, just above the 96.6 it reached on Tuesday which was its narrowest since August.

The spread between Germany and Italy, the benchmark for the European periphery, has also been narrowing and is not far from its narrowest since mid September at 177 bps, also 2 bps narrower on the day.

Italy's 10 year bond yield fell 6 bps to 4.38 percent, moving back towards a two-month low hit the previous day.

Germany's two year yield fell 1 bp to 3.00 percent and Italy's dipped 4 bps to 3.64 percent.

Germany funds green hydrogen pilot plant in Namibia

JOHANNESBURG

A green hydrogen pilot plant and refuelling station, to gain scientific insights into upscaling green hydrogen technologies and to ensure a high safety level for the hydrogen economy, is to be built in Namibia. Germany's Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM) stated on Thursday.

Germany's Federal Ministry for Education and Research is providing more than €10-million for the development of the Cleanergy pilot plant near

Walvis Bay and has afforded a project budget of €1-million-plus to BAM.

BAM component safety head Prof Dr-Ing Thomas Böllinghaus, who is leading the German side of the project, said the joint research programme would identify innovative materials for welded transport lines, piping systems and storage tanks that would enhance the safety and sustainability of green hydrogen technologies.

Cleanergy has invited BAM and the Namibia Green Hydrogen Institute at the University of Namib-



Illustration of green hydrogen pilot plant

ia (UNam) to collaborate as research partners.

Completion of the 5 MW pilot plant, which will serve as a testing ground for hydrogen production and handling, as well as associated components and infrastructure, is expected in ten months.

The mission is to lead Namibia's green energy transformation by becoming the foremost producer

of green hydrogen, reducing carbon emissions, and driving economic growth using Olthaver & List's solar energy plant and CMB. TECH's expertise in hydrogen and ammonia technologies.

"For this reason, we are ecstatic to collaborate with BAM, supported by UNam and we are grateful to Prof Dr Böllinghaus and his team for their dedication

towards driving real transformation in the field and on the subject," Olthaver & List and Cleanergy Solutions Namibia group manager Eike Krafft stated in a media release to Engineering News & Mining Weekly.

The mutual scientific exchange will be facilitated through a group of doctoral students from Namibia.

Over the course of the next three years, these

students will conduct research on materials compatibility.

While most of their research will take place at BAM's competence centre, H2Safety@BAM, part of it will also take place at the pilot plant to facilitate Namibian upscaling as well as the imparting of knowledge to Namibian scientific and technical personnel

Central banks' trillion-dollar current problem

LONDON

From 2009 until the end of last year, net asset purchases by major central banks – the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, Bank of England, and Bank of Japan – totalled about \$20tn. That figure must come down. The big question is how far, and how fast.

Following the financial crisis, central banks hoovered up bonds as part of quantitative easing programmes to stimulate demand-sapped economies.

Then the pandemic hit, leading to a further bond-buying binge to calm markets. Central banks (with the exception of the BoJ) have been slimming their balance sheets this year via quantitative tightening, letting expiring bonds roll off their balance sheets, and in the case of the BoE, through sales.

When central banks buy bonds from banks, the latter receive a credit known as central bank reserves – the safest and most liquid financial assets. QT reverses the process, reducing liquidity in the system. Still, the Fed's total asset holdings amount are equivalent to about 30 percent of the US economy – just under \$8tn – and the ECB's, more than half the eurozone's gross domestic product.

Maintaining too large a balance sheet leads to heightened financial instability – excess reserves distort the private market for liquidity provision, create dependence on the central bank, and, as Andrew Hauser, an executive director at the BoE, outlined in a recent speech, it can incentivise inappropriate risk-taking.

It can also raise operational and reputation risks for central banks. When interest rates rise, central banks suffer losses on their bond portfolios and pay out more interest on bank reserves created by QE.

"Many central banks are now facing big financial holes, which are politically uncomfortable" said Ricardo Reis, a professor at the London School of Economics. In July, the BoE forecast it would make a net loss of more than £150bn over the next decade as it unwinds QE. Although the cost is covered by treasuries, it is

hardly good for the public image of the central banks. The aim of QE should be to calm markets or provide stimulus when rates are already low. If it is not unwound, central banks risk being seen as financing government deficits.

A more trimmed balance sheet also allows central banks to regain "valuable policy space in an environment in which the current large volume of excess liquidity is not needed", as Isabel Schnabel, a member of the ECB's executive board, noted in a speech in March. Rates may also need to be pushed higher than would be the case with smaller balance sheets, raising the chance of deeper recessions – particularly if they just ratchet higher with each crisis.

But the trillion-dollar problem facing central banks is how to shrink their footprint without sparking ructions. High government deficit forecasts, particularly in the US, point to an ample supply of government bond issuance down the line. Ongoing QT with bond sales only adds to that supply. This may push yields too high, and lead to something breaking in the economy – the Fed's QT efforts in 2019 drove market convulsions. Calls to abandon QT are already mounting.

How far central banks should go depends on what is the optimum size of their balance sheets, or the preferred minimum range of reserves as the BoE calls it. "It should be large enough to satiate the demand for reserves," Reis argues. This means central banks should not slim down to pre-global financial crisis levels – economies have grown and banks' liquidity needs have risen (as demonstrated by the demands on Silicon Valley Bank following rapid deposit outflows that led to its collapse).

That has made calculating the precise level of the PMRR more difficult. In the US, the banking system's lowest comfortable level of reserves has been estimated by analysts to be about \$2.5tn, compared with more than \$3tn currently. This suggests the end of QT is still distant, particularly when factoring in the Fed's other liquidity facilities.

Camco seeks \$1.6bn for electrification in Africa



LONDON

Camco, a specialized impact fund manager focusing on sustainable energy and climate finance, is planning to raise \$1.6 billion for electrification projects in Africa through its Renewable Energy Performance Platform 2 (REPP 2) debt fund.

According to information relayed by Bloomberg on Thursday, November 16,

citing Benjamin Hugues, the Investment Director at Camco, REPP 2 will devote 50 percent of these assets to the development of mini-grids and grids on isolated sites – 40 percent will be directed towards solar, wind, and hydroelectric power plants with a capacity of less than 25 megawatts, while the remaining portion will be reserved for domestic solar systems.

Hugues explained that the fund aims to

secure \$230 million directly from various financial institutions and governments, including the Green Climate Fund and the UK government.

Collaborating with other donors and private investors, the goal is to raise a total fund of \$1.6 billion, aiming to address the energy deficit in Africa, where 600 million people still lack access to electricity.

The first phase of this project (REPP 1) was launched in 2015 and successfully raised \$120 million and mobilized nearly \$500 million in co-financing. The expansion into REPP 2 underscores Camco's commitment to advancing sustainable energy initiatives in Africa, contributing to the continent's energy access and environmental resilience.

WORLD

Israel continues to comb Gaza's largest hospital, expand raids

JERUSALEM/GAZA

ISRAELI forces continued on Thursday to comb Gaza's largest hospital, al-Shifa, for the second consecutive day, expanding their searches for hostages and militant activity to other hospitals in the area, while all communications collapsed across the besieged enclave due to a lack of fuel.

During the searches in al-Shifa Hospital, "an underground tunnel shaft has been found beneath the hospital," Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Spokesman Daniel Hagari said in a press briefing on Thursday night. He said a vehicle with "many ammunition" was also found below the medical center.

Beneath the Rantisi Hospital, "a complex web of tunnels was found. This is a combat area, where our forces are still fighting (with militants)," said Hagari, adding that "many weapons" were also found at the al-Quds Hospital. He presented photos showing automatic weapons, hand grenades and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs).

Earlier, the army announced that the remains of Yehudit Weiss, an Israeli woman who was abducted by Hamas militants on Oct 7, were extracted by

IDF troops from "a structure adjacent to the al-Shifa Hospital." The body was transferred to Israeli territory.

It was the second time that Israeli forces raided al-Shifa Hospital. The army released on Wednesday photos of some automatic weapons, RPGs and hand grenades that they said were found in the building but have not provided evidence for a central Hamas military headquarters, which Israel repeatedly claims is concealed below the medical compound.

Al-Shifa's Director Muhammad Abu Salamiya told Al Jazeera TV news that snipers surrounding the hospital had prevented medical staff from moving between the buildings. Troops stormed the hospital's departments, where there were more than 650 inpatients, 500 medical personnel, and 5,000 displaced people seeking shelter. At least four patients who urgently needed dialysis were in "a critical condition" due to the damage to medical services.

Gaza was in desperate need of medical supply as Israel cut off the enclave from electricity, water, food and fuel.

Gaza's main telecom provider Paltel announced on social media platform X a total blackout, including all inter-



A Palestinian wounded in Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip is brought to a hospital in Khan Younis, on Wednesday. AP

net and telephone services, after "all energy sources sustaining the network have been depleted, and fuel was not allowed in."

On Thursday, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) announced the suspension of dozens of drinking water and sewage facilities in central and southern Gaza Strip due to fuel depletion.

Thomas White, UNRWA's operations director in Gaza, said in a post on social media platform X that 76 water wells in the three southern provinces of the Strip, along with two main drinking water stations and 15 sewage pumping stations, have stopped functioning due to fuel shortages.

Sewage was flowing on roads and streets of Rafah city as sewage pumps were out of service due to the depletion of fuel, he said, adding drinking water scarcity could also potentially lead to a 40 percent increase in diarrheal and infectious diseases among displaced people in UNRWA shelters.

Meanwhile, the shelters managed by the

UNRWA in central and southern Gaza are severely overcrowded with a record-high number of displaced persons.

A UNRWA report on Wednesday said that over 1.6 million people in Gaza have become internally displaced, including approximately 813,000 taking shelter in 154 UNRWA installations.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) noted in its Wednesday report that the UNRWA shelters are accommodating far more people than their capacity allows, leading to the spread of diseases, including acute respiratory infections and diarrhea, raising environmental and health concerns.

The overcrowding is also affecting the agency's ability to provide effective and timely services, according to the OCHA.

Also on Thursday, Hamas's armed wing al-Qassam brigades claimed responsibility for a deadly shooting attack in the morning at a checkpoint between Jerusalem and the southern West Bank.

Kremlin spokesman convinced Russia's next president should be 'just like' Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S next president should be "just like" Vladimir Putin, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with the student news channel MGIMO 360.

"Just like him [Putin]," he said when asked what Russia's next president should be like. In response to a clarifying question about whether such a thing was possible, Peskov said, "A different version, but still just like him."

Russia's presidential election will be held on March 17, 2024. The Russian Federation Council will make an official decision on the date of the election in December 2023, after which political parties must hold their pre-election congresses and officially nominate candidates. Putin is eligible to run for another term, but has not yet spoken about his decision on the matter.

MGIMO 360 is a student news channel at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). The channel covers various youth events at MGIMO and beyond, creates entertainment content on various topics, and publishes interviews.

Since May 2021, the channel's correspondents have been covering the working visits of Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as part of the Russian Foreign Ministry's pool of reporters.



PM Modi condemns civilian deaths in Israel-Hamas war, urges dialogue, diplomacy

NEW DELHI

CONDEMNING the mounting civilian deaths in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said new challenges are emerging from the events in West Asia.

Reiterating India's condemnation of the Hamas terror attacks in southern Israel on October 7, PM Modi also highlighted that New Delhi has also sent humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine.

In his opening address at the Voice of Global South Summit earlier yesterday, Prime Minister Modi (pictured) said, "For global prosperity, sabka saath and sabka vikas is paramount. We all are seeing that new challenges are emerging from the events in the West Asia region."

"India has condemned the terrorist attack in Israel on October 7. We have laid emphasis on exercising restraint, dialogue and diplomacy," he added.

PM Modi said that India has also sent humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine.

"We also strongly condemn the deaths of civilians in the conflict between Israel and Hamas. After talking to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, we have also sent humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine," he added.

"This is the time when the countries of the Global South should unite for the greater global good," Prime Minister Modi stated.

The Second Voice of Global South Summit is taking place in a virtual mode. The Second Voice of the Global South Summit would focus on sharing with countries of the Global South the key outcomes achieved in various G20 meetings over the course of India's Presidency.

The challenges posed by global developments are also likely to be discussed. Further, the summit will serve as a platform to discuss ways to sustain the momentum generated towards our common aspiration of a more inclusive, representative and progressive world order.

Recently, Israel President Isaac Herzog said India advocates peace and can definitely pursue the voice of reason, security for Israel and peace for the region.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Herzog described India as "a very important nation in the world" and "one of the greatest countries on earth".

"India is a very important nation in the world and it was my true honour to speak at the joint session of US Congress in Washington in July, just a few weeks after PM Modi spoke. We believe India advocates peace and is a very impressive country, one of the greatest on earth and India can definitely pursue the voice of reason, security for Israel and peace for the region," the Israel President said.

He was asked about India's position on the sequence of events following Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7. The war between Israel and Hamas has entered the 41st day.

ANI

Xi says sustainable development 'golden key' to fixing current global problems

SAN FRANCISCO

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Thursday that sustainable development is the "golden key" to solving current global problems.

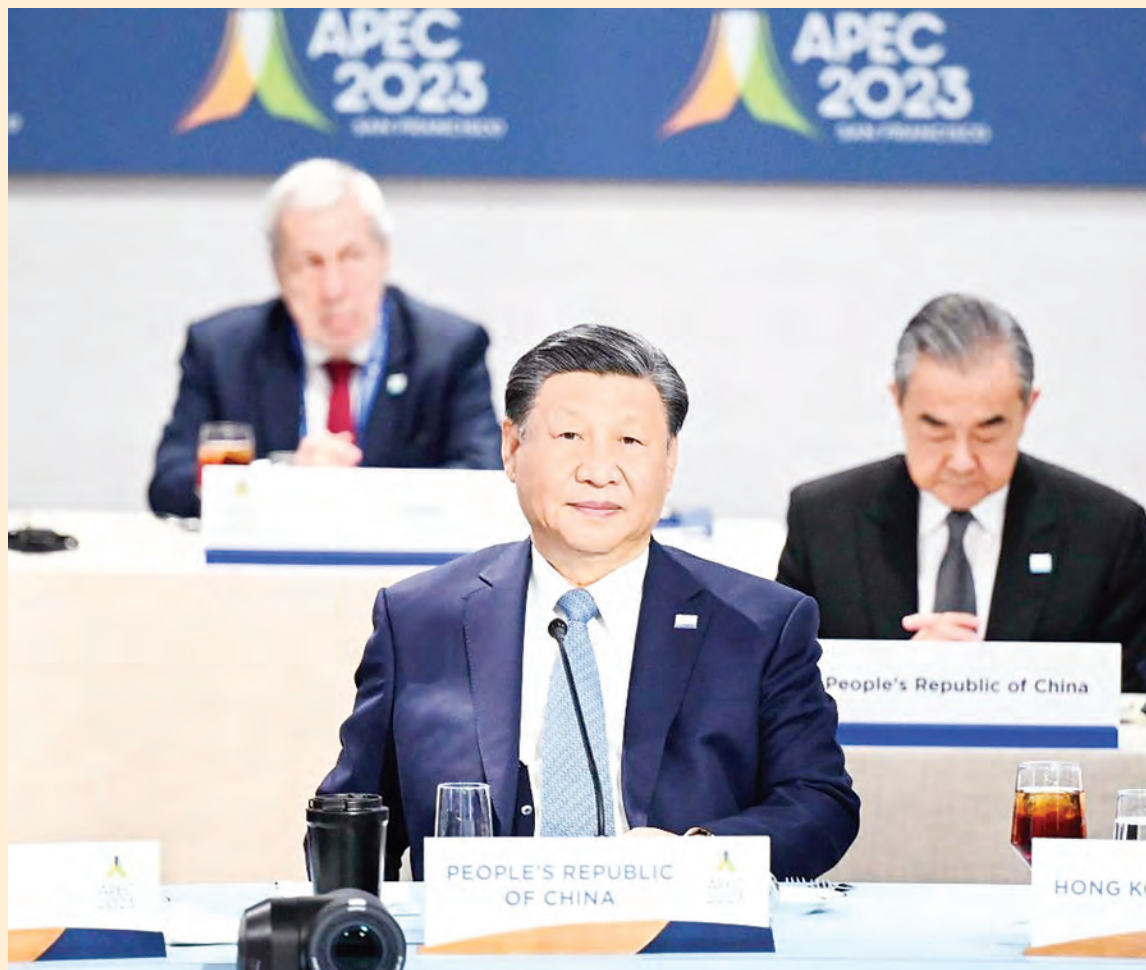
At an informal dialogue and working lunch during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, Xi said in recent years, APEC has delivered on the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and vigorously implemented the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, making positive contributions to global green and sustainable growth.

"Under the current circumstances, we need to further build consensus and focus on actions to inject greater impetus into the cause of global sustainable development," he said.

First, accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Xi proposed. "We should put development firmly at the center of the global agenda, build a political consensus that everyone values development and all countries work together for cooperation," he said.

China has put forward the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and made positive efforts to promote synergy among the international community and address development deficits, Xi said.

Second, forge a new path of



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends an informal dialogue and working lunch during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco, the United States, on Thursday. Xinhua

transformation for green development, he proposed. Countries should jointly promote the transformation and upgrading of energy, industrial and transportation structures, promote carbon reduction, pollution reduction,

green expansion and growth in a coordinated manner, promote the fair transformation of labor force and high-quality employment, and build a homeland of coordinated advancement of economy and the environment,

he said.

Third, build global synergy to address climate change, Xi proposed, calling on countries to uphold the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a main channel

in global climate governance, adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, formulate climate targets in line with respective national conditions, address the concerns of developing countries in terms of financing, capacity building and technology transfer, and promote the full and effective implementation of the convention and the Paris Agreement.

China has thoroughly implemented the new development concept, promoted the comprehensive green and low-carbon transformation of the economy and society, and contributed continuously to co-building a homeland of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature, Xi said.

To promote the green Belt and Road Initiative, China will continue to deepen cooperation in green infrastructure, green energy, green transportation and other fields, and support the capacity building of developing countries through the special fund for South-South cooperation on climate change, he said.

China is ready to work with all parties to make greater contributions to building a global development community as well as a clean and beautiful world, Xi added.

The dialogue, chaired by U.S. President Joe Biden, was themed on sustainability, climate and just energy transition.

Xinhua

THE sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) recently came to a close. It saw tentative deals worth \$78.41 billion signed, 6.7 percent higher from the previous expo.

The continuous success of the CIIE showcases China's increasing appeal in promoting high-level opening up, injecting positive energy into global recovery.

During this year's CIIE, various parties further demonstrated their confidence in China's development prospects.

The number of Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders participating in the expo exceeded that in previous years, with a flurry of "global debuts", "Asia debuts", and "China debuts".

Foreign companies have shown their trust in the Chinese economy

CIIE contributes to global recovery, development, prosperity

through concrete actions. According to data released by the China's Ministry of Commerce, the number of newly established foreign-invested enterprises in China increased by 32.4 percent year-on-year from January to September this year.

A survey conducted by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade showed that nearly 70 percent of surveyed foreign companies are optimistic about the market prospects in China over the next five years.

The International Monetary Fund recently raised its growth forecast for China's economy in 2023 to 5.4 percent, and major financial institutions such as JPMorgan, UBS Group, and Deutsche

Bank have also lifted their predictions for China's economic growth this year.

Business leaders from multinational companies who participated in the CIIE highly praised the resilience and potential of the Chinese economy, expressing their firm confidence in deepening their presence in the Chinese market.

One said that the Chinese supply chain system boasts huge resilience and potential, and the resilience and innovation of the Chinese economy mean an opportunity for foreign companies to satisfy the Chinese consumption market and the country's economic demand.

This year's CIIE has further demonstrated China's determination to

expand its opening-up. Before the first CIIE officially kicked off, Chinese President Xi Jinping remarked that the CIIE is hosted by China but for the world. He stressed that it is not an ordinary expo, but a major policy for China to push for a new round of high-level opening-up and a major measure for China to take the initiative to open its market to the world.

The CIIE fulfills its platform function for international procurement, investment promotion, people-to-people exchanges and open cooperation, creating market, investment and growth opportunities for participants.

Be it specialty from the least developed countries or high-tech

products from developed countries, they are all getting on board the express train of the CIIE to accelerate their entry into the global trade market.

International observers have noted that an open China creates more cooperation opportunities for the world and China's commitment to building an open economy injects tremendous certainty and momentum into the global economy.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of China's first pilot free trade zone. Recently, the 22nd pilot free trade zone of the country, the China (Xinjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone,

was officially launched.

From the establishment of the Lingang Special Area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone to the implementation of the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, and from the release of the Master Plan for the Construction of the Hainan Free Trade Port and the Implementation Plan for Further Reform and Opening-up in Shenzhen to the continuous improvement in business environment and intellectual property protection, a series of opening-up measures announced by China at the CIIE have been implemented, continuously creating new market opportunities for the world.

Thailand's Deputy Prime Min-

ister and Commerce Minister Phumtham Wechayachai noted that the CIIE has demonstrated China's commitment to opening up and showcased the willingness of all parties to expand cooperation. It is creating new opportunities for global enterprises, especially small and medium-sized ones, he added.

The global economy is experiencing a weak recovery, with sluggish global trade. Countries need to strengthen open cooperation and work together to address challenges.

China will continue to host major exhibitions such as the CIIE to provide platforms for open cooperation, help build more consensus on open cooperation and contribute to global recovery and development.

People's Daily

India's G20 Presidency advocated for finding solutions from within Global South - EAM S Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday said that India's G20 Presidency advocated for finding solutions from within the Global South. He said that India walked the talk by hosting the first Voice of the Global South Summit in January 2023 and added that the nations were able to hold discussions on the key concerns and priorities of the Global South.

While addressing the Foreign Ministers Session of the Second Voice of the Global South, Jaishankar said, "As we took over the G20 presidency last year, Prime Minister Modi declared that and I quote "Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow travellers from the Global South, whose voice often goes unheard."

India has since walked the talk by hosting the first voice of the Global South Summit in January this year. By doing so, we were able to elicit and deliberate on the key concerns and priorities of the Global South. This, in turn, informed our approach to the G20 discussions throughout the year."

The External Affairs Minister noted that long-standing structural inequities have been seriously aggravated by the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Jaishankar stressed that it has turned worse due to the fuel, food and fertilizer crisis emanating from the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and its response. He stated that India is hosting the Second Voice of Global South to report on key outcomes from the New Delhi G20 Summit.

"All of us are acutely aware of the growing stress on the international economy and global society. Long-standing structural inequities have been seriously aggravated by the devastation of the COVID pandemic. This has been made worse by the

fuel, food and fertilizer crisis emanating from the Ukraine conflict and its responses," Jaishankar said.

"Resource challenges, financial constraints, disrupted trade and climate events have added to our burdens. As a result, growth prospects are as daunting as the SDG landscape is grim. It was our foremost responsibility to refocus the G20 on the pressing needs of the global South. Thanks to the ideas and inputs received from all of you, India's G20 presidency did advocate for finding solutions from within the Global South," he added.

Jaishankar highlighted that the New Delhi Leaders Declaration of the G20 Summit will be remembered for bringing back the G20's focus on the "real and serious concerns of the Global South." He said that the declaration is a comprehensive message on promoting strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

"It seeks to accelerate progress on SDGs and has come up with an action plan accordingly. It envisages a green development pact for a sustainable future. It endorses high-level principles on lifestyle for sustainable development, voluntary principles on hydrogen, the Chennai Principles for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy, and the Deccan principles on food security and nutrition, amongst others," Jaishankar said.

He stated that G20 has affirmed the fundamental importance of gender equality and committed to half the digital gender gap by 2030. Jaishankar called the inclusion of the African Union in the G20 as the most satisfying outcome of India's G20 presidency.

He said that the Voice of the Global South can be greatly impactful by amplifying individual voices and projecting shared interests for the emerging world. He emphasised that institutions like the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for the Dis-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (L)

aster Resilient Infrastructure, and the One Future Alliance serve to offer solutions from the Global South for the world's most pressing challenges.

"While change is the natural order, that continues to be a resistance for a greater role for the Global South in shaping solutions for the key issues of our times. But together, we need to continue putting greater emphasis on the need to take everyone along and everyone's

views along while we deliberate at multilateral and plurilateral forums.

The Voice of the Global South Summit can be greatly impactful by amplifying our individual voices and project our shared interests for the emerging world order," Jaishankar said.

He said that Global South needs to work towards self-reliance to mitigate its vulnerabilities vis-a-vis economic concentrations. He noted that COVID

era is a stark reminder for the "perils of dependence for basic necessities on far away geographies."

He added, "We need to not only democratize and diversify production but build resilient and reliable supply chains and promote local solutions. Only then can the Global South secure its future."

Jaishankar reaffirmed India's commitment to the Global South through an extensive range of development projects in 78 nations and stressed that these projects are "demand-driven, outcome-oriented, transparent and sustainable."

ANI

Hamis terrorist tunnel uncovered in Shifa Hospital complex - Israel Defence Forces

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL Defence Forces (IDF) has said that a Hamas terrorist tunnel was uncovered in the Shifa Hospital complex in Gaza.

According to IDF, IDF troops found another terrorist tunnel in the Rantisi Hospital. It further said that a large amount of weaponry and ammunition were found in the Al-Quds Hospital.

In a post shared on X, IDF stated, "Exposing another layer of Hamas' exploitation of three of the largest hospitals in Gaza: Inside the Shifa Hospital complex, a Hamas terrorist tunnel was uncovered." In another post, it stated, "Inside the Rantisi Hospital, yet another terrorist tunnel was unearthed by IDF troops."

"The Shaldag SF unit, the 7th Brigade, and additional SF units exposed Hamas's tunneling infrastructure inside the Shifa Hospital. They also discovered a booby-trapped vehicle that was prepared for the October 7th massacre, containing a large amount of weapons and ammunition," Israeli Air Force posted on X.

Taking to X, IDF shared pictures of weapons and ammunition found in what they said was the Al-Quds Hospital. "Inside the Al-Quds Hospital, a large amount of weaponry and ammunition were found. This was all found over the past 24 hours," IDF posted on X.

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said fighter jets struck several more Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon. The IDF said that the attacks were carried out in response to attacks on the northern border. The Times of Israel reported.

According to IDF, anti-tank guided missiles were fired at a number of army posts on the border near the Biranit base and the northern community of Rosh Hanikra. No injuries were reported in the attacks, according to The Times of Israel report.

On Thursday, Israel Defence Forces shared a video showing weapons inside Gaza's Al Shifa Hospital. In the video posted on X, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Lt Col Jonathan Cornicrus forced Al-Shifa Hospital's MRI building. ANI

To jointly build Asia-Pacific community with shared future

THIS year marks the 30th anniversary of the first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting. Chinese President Xi Jinping has been invited to attend the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, which fully showcases the great importance China attaches to Asia-Pacific economic cooperation.

China will continue to contribute wisdom and strength to deepen Asia-Pacific cooperation and promote the building of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future.

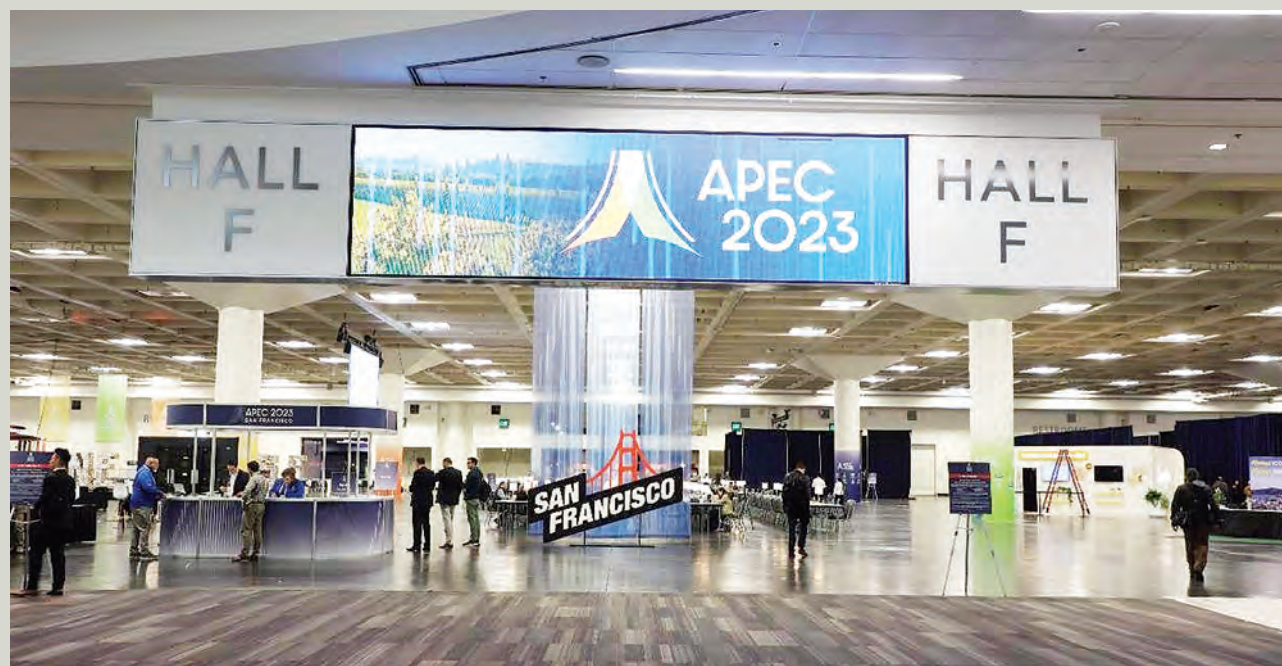
The Asia-Pacific region accounts for one-third of the world's population, over 60 percent of the world's economic output, and nearly half of global trade. It is the most dynamic economic area of the world.

As an important economic cooperation platform in the Asia-Pacific region, APEC has made continuous progress in promoting regional trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and played a positive role in driving global and regional economic growth.

Currently, the Asia-Pacific region enjoys overall stability, and regional cooperation continues to make progress. Peaceful development and win-win cooperation remain the mainstream.

At the same time, the world enters a new period of turbulence and transformation, with geopolitical tensions and an evolving economic landscape impacting the development environment and cooperation framework in the Asia-Pacific region.

All parties expect the Asia-Pacific region to follow the



Journalists and staff members work at the international media center of APEC 2023 in San Francisco, the United States, on Nov. 12, 2023. File photo

path of peaceful, open, cooperative, win-win and inclusive development, respond to the challenges of the times, promote regional economic integration, explore new development prospects, and lead global economic growth.

China has been actively advocating for the building of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future and firmly led the direction in promoting cooperation in the region.

Since 2013, Xi has attended or chaired APEC Economic Leaders' Meetings and delivered important speeches.

China has promoted Asia-Pacific cooperation through its propositions, promoted the development of the region with its contributions, built consensus in the region with its wisdom, and promoted the joint construction of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future featuring openness and inclusiveness, innovation-driven growth, greater connectivity, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

At the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Xi will deliver an important speech to fully elaborate on China's major propositions on deepening Asia-Pacific cooperation and driving regional and global growth.

China will steadfastly work with all parties to promote the prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific region and create a better future for the region.

China, as a key player in the Asia-Pacific region, holds immense potential for economic growth and plays a significant role in driving regional economic development.

The Asian Development Bank's Asia Economic Integration Report 2023 indicated that China contributed 64.2 percent to the region's total economic growth, 37.6 percent of the growth in trade in goods, and 44.6 percent of the growth in trade in services.

The country is dedicated to deepening the Asia-Pacific partnership featuring mutual trust, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation. It aims to build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future that is peaceful, stable, clean and beautiful, a region where all are ready to help each other and that brings prosperity for all.

The commitment will create new opportunities and inject fresh impetus into the development and prosperity of both the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large.

China's development has benefited from the Asia-Pacific region, and China reciprocates by benefiting the region through its own progress.

China stays committed to opening up in a wider scope and broader areas and at a deeper level. It sticks to Chinese modernization and builds new systems for higher-level open economy. China will continue to share

its development opportunities with the world, especially with the Asia-Pacific region.

It is widely recognized that a prosperous and strong China not only serves the fundamental interests of the Chinese people but also brings more benefits to the Asia-Pacific and the world.

The peace, stability, and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region belong to all the people in the region, and the future of the Asia-Pacific relies on the joint efforts of the people.

All parties should stay true to their original aspirations, adopt a strategic and long-term perspective on regional cooperation, and uphold APEC's role as the main channel in regional cooperation and keep Asia-Pacific cooperation in the right direction, so as to work together to build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future.

People's Daily

Special flight with 120 evacuated Russians from Gaza Strip lands in Moscow

MOSCOW

THE Russian Emergencies Ministry's Il-76 plane brought to Moscow another group of Russian citizens evacuated from the Gaza Strip, the ministry's spokesman Roman Okhotenko told journalists on Friday.

"The Russian Emergencies Ministry's Il-76 plane has just landed at the Domodedovo Airport bringing 120 Russian citizens evacuated from the Gaza Strip," he said. "During the flight they were accompanied by doctors and counselors of the Russian Emergencies Ministry."

Okhotenko said there were no wounded people registered among the evacuated Russian nationals.

"There are no wounded, fortunately, and all the people are in reasonably good health," he stated.

The Russian Emergencies Ministry's spokesman also said that up to 900 Russian nationals submitted requests to cross the Rafah checkpoint.

"As of today, we have 887 registered requests to cross the Rafah checkpoint," Okhotenko said.

Twenty eight Russians are waiting in Cairo to be evacuated, while 12 more people, who crossed the Rafah checkpoint

on Thursday, are on their way to the representatives of the Russian Emergencies Ministry. In all, 288 people have already returned to Russia, while a total of 328 people left the Gaza Strip.

Earlier in the day, Okhotenko reported that up to 100 Russian nationals evacuated from the Gaza Strip remain in temporary accommodation centers in the Moscow Region.

"As of today, 97 people, including 39 children, remain in the temporary accommodation centers," he said.

The evacuation of Russian citizens trapped in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone in the Gaza Strip has been arranged by Russia's Emergencies Ministry and diplomats.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said earlier that more than 1,000 people have applied for evacuation from the Gaza Strip, among them there are Russian citizens and members of the Russian diaspora.

The first Il-76 special flight of the Russian Emergencies Ministry with 70 Russian nationals landed in Moscow on November 13, the second flight with 98 evacuated people landed at the Domodedovo Airport on November 15.

Agencies





Tabora United head coach Goran Kopunovic. (Agencies)

Tabora United aim to reinforce their squad in mini-transfer window

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TABORA United head coach Goran Kopunovic is aiming to reinforce his squad and will look to add attacking and defending players during the mini-transfer window to have a good balance in his squad.

Kopunovic has said that his short-term plans are to continue to increase the edge of the attackers he has now in the Tabora squad, while the long-term one is to start looking for the best defenders, midfielders and attackers.

In the nine matches in the NBC Premier League, they found themselves drawing five matches, against Singida Big Stars, Coastal Union, KMC, Geita Gold and Kagera Sugar.

The team also scored five goals and allowed seven games from two wins and two losses.

The Tabora-based side won two matches against Tanzania Prisons and Dodoma Jiji while they lost two in front of Azam FC and JKT Tanzania and are now in the seventh place in the NBC Premier League standings.

"We are facing the challenge of scoring goals. We have managed to score, but not to the level that is re-

quired according to the chances we are creating in the most competitive league in East and Central Africa," said Kopunovic.

"We have produced many goalless draws not because we have a good defensive line, it is because opponents failed to convert those chances we gave and our striking force failed to hurt our opponents. We have to change this immediately.

"We will continue to work, making adjustments but when the time comes, we will look at the best way to bring in the best players who will come to add to the defensive midfield, attacking midfield and right back so that we can be strong," he said.

In those nine matches, Tabora United have managed to score five goals while conceding seven goals in their first season in the top flight football.

"There are improvements we will have to make. We will need players to come and strengthen us with quality. I enjoy the work that continues to be shown by the squad we have.

"They are doing a great job but we will need more in the near future," said the former Simba SC coach.

Formula One has gone all-in on America with Las Vegas race. It is no sure bet

By PAUL NEWBERRY

EDDIE Cheever had a prime seat the last time Formula One rolled the dice in Las Vegas.

Behind the wheel of a race car, Cheever took part in both F1 races that were staged in the early 1980s around a nondescript parking lot next to Caesars Palace – a scorching, glorified karting track that was perhaps the worst excuse for a racing circuit in grand prix history.

"Diana Ross was on the podium," Cheever, who took third in the 1982 race behind winner Michele Alboreto and runner-up John Watson, said with a chuckle. "That's what I remember most."

Those races look downright quaint compared to Formula One's return to Sin City this weekend for a glittering, high-rolling spectacle along the Strip. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to prepare the 3.8-mile circuit that incorporates one of America's most famed streets. Staggering ticket prices give it the exclusive feel of a Super Bowl.

Yet, in some ways, this feels like déjà vu.

Four decades ago, there was a big

push to make Formula One the next big thing in America. Races sprouted up all over the country. Long Beach. Detroit. Dallas. And, yes, Las Vegas.

All were gone before the end of the '80s, like so many hair bands.

One can't help but wonder if Formula One is simply going through another flash-in-the-pan stage in America, if all the hype fueled by the popularity of the Netflix reality series "Drive To Survive" and the ample U.S. dollars doled out by F1's American owner, Liberty Media, will soon be running on empty.

Especially if one driver keeps winning nearly all the races.

Max Verstappen arrived in Las Vegas having locked up his third straight world championship nearly six weeks ago. The 26-year-old Dutchman has taken the checkered flag in 17 of 20 races this season and, unless something really unusual happens Saturday night, he'll be the first one crossing the line in his mighty Red Bull machine.

While "Drive To Survive" has concocted some riveting storylines, the real show rarely provides any drama – at least at the front of the F1 field.

Karume Boys receive heroic reception following CECAFA U-15 championship triumph

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi and Agencies

ZANZIBAR U15 Boys were set to land in the island with a private jet ordered by Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi after the Karume Boys clinched the 2023 CECAFA title in Uganda on Thursday.

President Mwingi also pledged a 1m/- price tag for each goal to be scored by Karume Boys who scored one goal following a 1-1 draw in their match before a penalty shootout when they faced Uganda Rhinos in the CECAFA U15 championship.

However, it was expected that the Karume Boys will have more prize money given to them following the historic triumph for the Isles in front of all the players and technical bench.

Karume Boys clinched the 2023 CECAFA U-15 Boys Championship after edging Uganda 4-3 in post-match penalties in the final held at the FUFA Technical Centre in Jinja, Uganda.

They had a sensational cruise in the elapsed CECAFA contest after winning all their three Group B assignments without conceding a goal.

The winners of the contest had to be decided in the shoot-out after the two sides labored for a one-all draw in regular time.

Lukman Omar gave Zanzibar the lead after 19 minutes, but the Uganda Rhinos responded with an equalizer after 30 minutes through Ibra Ssebaga.

The two teams failed to find more goals in the second half.

But Zanzibar's goalkeeper Mahir Amour, who was also the



Zanzibar players celebrate after winning their 2023 CECAFA U15 Boys Championship final match against Uganda at the Technical Centre in Njeru, Uganda on Thursday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

hero when they ejected South Sudan in penalties at the semi-final stage, rose to the occasion to stop two penalty kicks to ensure his team won 4-3.

"The boys have worked hard to become champions," said a happy Zanzibar coach Mohamed Mrishona Mohamed after the match.

In an earlier match, Tanzania beat 10-man South Sudan 1-0 in the play-off to finish third and to pick the bronze medal.

Seleman Kaniki scored the lone goal in the second minute of added time going into the interval. South Sudan's Victor Elizaya was sent off in the 88th minute for unsportsmanlike conduct. Uganda's Owen Mukisa was voted Best Player, while Zanzibar's Amour was the Best Goalkeeper.

Lazarus Peter George from South Sudan, who netted eight goals, scooped the Top Scorer's gong. Ethiopia won the Fair

Play award. The awards ceremony was attended by the President of the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) Wallace Karia and the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) President Moses Magogo.

The eight teams that took part in the regional Championship which are Zanzibar, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Somalia.

Salah scores four, Lesotho shock Nigeria in World Cup qualifying

CAIRO

LIVERPOOL star Mohamed Salah scored four goals as Egypt trounced Djibouti 6-0, and minnows Lesotho pulled off a shock 1-1 draw in Nigeria in World Cup qualifying on Thursday.

After reaching the 200-goal mark in English football last Sunday, Salah netted twice in each half of a Group A match-day one romp in Cairo. Mostafa Mohamed and Trezeguet also scored.

Djibouti are ranked 154 places below Egypt and survived for only 17 minutes before a low cross eluded two defenders and Salah fired into the net at the far post.

He slammed a penalty over goalkeeper Sulait Luyima and into the roof of the net five minutes later to give record seventh-time African champions Egypt a two-goal lead by half-time.

Salah completed his hat-trick with a tap over the line at the far post on 48 minutes and netted again on 69 minutes with a close-range shot into the far corner.

The two-time African Footballer of the Year has scored 52 goals for Egypt, who are seeking a fourth World Cup appearance, with Canada, Mexico and the United States hosting the 2026 finals.

Nigeria are 113 places above Lesotho in the world rankings and were expected to make a winning start in Group C despite the absence through injury of

star forward Victor Osimhen.

But Lesotho stunned the home crowd in the southeastern city of Uyo by taking a 56th-minute lead when Motlomelo Mkhwanazi rose at the far post to nod home after a corner.

Nigeria equalised 11 minutes later when Semi Ajayi, who plays for English second-tier club West Bromwich Albion, scored with a powerful header off a corner taken by captain Kelechi Iheanacho.

Aided by a second-minute own goal in Algiers, four-time World Cup qualifiers Algeria defeated lowly ranked Somalia 3-1 in Group G.

After a low cross struck Ahmed Abdi and entered the Somali net, Baghdad Bounedjah doubled the lead before half-time.

Yusuf Ahmed halved the deficit midway through the second half and Algeria had to wait until 10 minutes from time before restoring a two-goal lead through Islam Slimani.

Kenya, back in international football after a FIFA ban for political interference prevented them playing in 2024 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying, lost 2-1 away to Gabon in Group F.

Masoud Juma put Kenya ahead just before half-time in Franceville, Denis Bouanga levelled on the hour mark and Guelor Kanga snatched an 88th-minute winner for the home side.



Egypt captain Mohamed Salah. (Agencies)

AFP

Hungary and Slovakia reach Euro 2024 while starlet Yamal scores for Spain

MADRID

HUNGARY and Slovakia booked their tickets for Euro 2024 on Thursday while 16-year-old sensation Lamine Yamal scored again for already-qualified Spain.

The Hungarians guaranteed their place at the finals in Germany when an own goal from Bulgaria's Alex Petkov deep in stoppage time gave them a 2-2 draw in Sofia.

The visitors only needed a point to qualify but were 2-1 down before Petkov allowed a cross to skid off the top of his head and into his own net in the 97th minute in the most dramatic of finishes.

The Hungarian players exploded in joy at the end of a match played in an empty stadium because of fears of protests against the head of the Bulgarian football federation.

Instead, Bulgarian fans mounted protests outside the ground.

Ten supporters and five police officers were injured in clashes and police also used water cannon to disperse crowds of fans angry at the lack of their national team's progress.

The draw gave Hungary 15 points from seven games in Group G of European qualifying, two ahead of Serbia.

In Bratislava, Slovakia cruised past Iceland 4-2, with two goals from Lukas Haraslin helping them qualify for the finals for the third time in a row.

Hungary and Slovakia join host nation Germany, Austria, Belgium, England, France, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Turkey as the teams qualified so far.

In other games, Spain, who have also already secured their qualification, comfortably beat Cyprus 3-1 with starlet Yamal opening the scoring in the fifth minute.

Yamal had become Spain's youngest player and scorer in a 7-1 qualifying win against Georgia in September and on Thursday he rounded the goalkeeper and scored with a powerful finish.

Already-qualified Scotland came from behind to draw 2-2 with Georgia in Tbilisi thanks to Lawrence Shankland's 93rd minute equaliser. **AFP**

Germany seek stability in Nagelsmann's home debut

BERLIN

GERMANY coach Julian Nagelsmann takes charge of his first match on home soil in today's friendly against Turkey in Berlin, promising improvements in defence seven months from hosting Euro 2024.

Nagelsmann, 36, was named Germany coach in September after former boss Hansi Flick became the first manager in the country's history to be sacked.

Flick was let go with Germany administrators fearing a humiliation in the home tournament, the coach having overseen a group stage exit at the Qatar World Cup and a run of five winless games.

Flick's Germany conceded 13 goals in that five-game run, including four against Japan in what became the 58-year-old's final match in charge.

Nagelsmann took over Germany ahead of the US tour in October.

Germany beat the US 3-1 and drew 2-2 with Mexico, showing Nagelsmann the side still have defensive improvements to make.

- 'Construction site' -
When Germany won the World Cup in Brazil in 2014, the side conceded just four goals in seven matches, shutting out Portugal, USA, France and runners-up Argentina.

Speaking when announcing his squad on Friday, Nagelsmann called the team's habit of leaking goals was "a construction site" saying "we want to build a stable defense."

It is a sentiment well understood throughout Nagelsmann's charges, with midfielder Leon Goretzka saying on Wednesday "it is still too easy to score goals against us."

"Everyone is aware that defense is the key to success in tournaments. We haven't been able to do it so well in the past few tournaments."

Germany last kept a clean sheet at a major tournament in 2016 in a 3-0 win over Slovakia.

Known for his tactical flexibility, Nagelsmann wants to understand his options at the back, saying his side "need to become more variable defensively."

Nagelsmann brought back 2014 World Cup winner Mats Hummels, who has had an impressive season at Borussia Dortmund, while regulars Antonio Ruediger, Niklas Sule and Jonathan Tah have also been selected.

- 'Too many goals' -
The defensive lynchpin of undefeated league leaders Bayer Leverkusen, Tah recognised Germany's problem, but said on Thursday everyone on the field needed to pitch in.

"We're definitely conceding too many goals. That's something that we need to fix tactically as a team."

Tah has been in career-best form under manager Xabi Alonso as his Leverkusen side have won 16 and drawn one of their 17 matches in all competitions this season. **AFP**

Uruguay stun Argentina; emotional Diaz double as Colombia sink Brazil

BUENOS AIRES

URUGUAY ended Argentina's 14-match unbeaten streak with a 2-0 victory over the world champions in World Cup qualifiers on Thursday as Luis Diaz scored twice to fire Colombia to an emotional 2-1 win over Brazil.

Defender Ronald Araujo fired Uruguay ahead on 41 minutes before Liverpool forward Darwin Nunez made the game safe with an 87th-minute goal on the counterattack to settle a hard-fought clash at the Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires.

It was Lionel Messi and Argentina's first defeat of the 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign, and their first loss since they were stunned 2-1 by Saudi Arabia at the 2022 finals in Qatar.

"We never felt comfortable," Messi said after the defeat.

"They're a physical team that works well and on the counterattack they were very dangerous," added Messi, praising the work of Uruguay's revered Argentine coach Marcelo Bielsa.

"You can see his hand in the team. In all the teams or clubs he's been involved in, including Argentina, you can see his hand," said Messi.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni meanwhile backed his team to recover in time for next week's showdown with Brazil.

"There is a very difficult game coming up and we will try to do our best; I think this team has shown plenty of times that it can get out of difficult situations," Scaloni said.

"We lose and win as a team, and there are times when you have to give credit to the opponent," Scaloni added.

"We can't think that because we're world champions, we can't lose. We are not unbeatable -- I've said it before and will continue to say it."

Argentina, who had won all four of their opening qualifiers, remain on top of the standings with 12 points from five matches. Uruguay's win leaves them in second place on 10 points.

- Diaz sinks Brazil -
In other South American qualifiers, Nunez's Liverpool team-mate Diaz scored two goals in five minutes as Colombia came from behind to stun Brazil 2-1 in Barranquilla.

Diaz's dramatic double capped a roller-coaster month for the forward, whose father was taken hostage by Colombian guerrillas at the end of Octo-



Colombia's Luis Diaz celebrates at the end of a qualifying soccer match against Brazil for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at Roberto Melendez stadium in Barranquilla, Colombia, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023. Colombia won 2-0. (AP)

ber before being released last week.

Diaz's father, Luis Manuel Diaz, was watching from the stands in tears as his son scored in the 75th and 79th minutes to fire Colombia to a crucial win.

Diaz's second-half double cancelled out Brazil's opener, which came from Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli after only four minutes.

A disappointing result for Brazil was compounded by an injury to Real Madrid star Vinicius Jr., who limped off clutching his left thigh after 27 minutes.

Diaz meanwhile said he had experienced "hard moments" after learning of his father's kidnapping in late October. "But life makes you strong and brave and I think that's football, and not just football but life," said Diaz, dedicating his performance to Colombian compatriots.

"I'm grateful to my team-mates, to the coaching staff who were always there for me at every moment. And I dedicate the victory to the people, who deserved

it."

Colombia moved up to third place after the win with nine points from five games.

In other games, Venezuela ground out a 0-0 draw with Ecuador while Bolivia moved off the bottom of the 10-team standings with their first points of the qualifiers after a 2-0 home win over Peru.

Chile and Paraguay remain outside the qualifying spots after a goalless draw in Santiago. Chile's Argentine coach Eduardo Berizzo resigned after a 0-0 draw that leaves 'La Roja' in eighth place, with five points from five games.

The top six teams of the round-robin home-and-away qualifying tournament will earn berths at the expanded 2026 World Cup taking place in the United States, Canada and Mexico, while the seventh-placed team goes into a play-off.

AFP

Asian heavyweights win big to launch World Cup qualifying in style

TOKYO

ASIA's footballing heavyweights made fast starts to World Cup qualifying on Thursday with Australia, Japan and South Korea plundering 17 goals between them in big wins on home soil.

The long road to the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico began in earnest in Asia with 36 teams in action Thursday.

Australia, who reached the last 16 at the Qatar 2022 World Cup before bowing out 2-1 to Lionel Messi and eventual champions Argentina, hammered Bangladesh 7-0 in Melbourne.

It was Australia's biggest victory since 2019 and the perfect present for Graham Arnold, who took charge for the 59th time, a record for a Socceroos coach.

Substitute Jamie Maclaren hit a second-half hat-trick in front of nearly 21,000 and it could have been even worse for Bangladesh but Massimo Luongo missed a late penalty.

"Seven goals, but it could have been more, for me too, but three points and we move

on," said Melbourne City striker Maclaren.

"I'm not even sure (goalkeeper) Maty (Ryan) had a save to make so proud of the team, but we obviously know the next games are going to be harder."

Australia are in Group I alongside Palestine and Lebanon, who meet in Sharjah.

In Group B, Ayase Ueda also scored a hat-trick as Japan got their bid to reach an eighth straight World Cup off to an emphatic start with a 5-0 win over Myanmar.

The hosts were missing injured Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma but Feyenoord striker Ueda picked up the slack with a ruthless display of finishing in Osaka.

Daichi Kamada and Ritsu Doan also got on the scoresheet as Japan took early control of a qualifying group that also includes North Korea and Syria.

Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu demanded even more from his side despite their handsome victory.

"We had chances to score more goals," said Moriyasu, who took Japan to the last 16 at the Qatar World Cup follow-

ing stunning wins over Germany and Spain.

- Son hits screamer -

Not to be outdone, Jurgen Klinsmann went a little way towards silencing the doubters in South Korea as his side strolled to a 5-0 thumping of Singapore in Seoul.

Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min was among the goal-scorers, and it was a cracker, bending the ball left-footed into the top corner from outside the box.

Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton Wanderers earlier headed home for his second goal in as many matches for

his country.

"A huge compliment to the team, a very professional performance," German legend and South Korea coach Klinsmann said.

"Five-nil is a nice scoreline to read but it doesn't really show you the energy and effort you have to invest in order to get to that scoreline," he added.

Also in Group C, Wang Shangyuan scored 16 minutes from time to give China a 2-1 win in Thailand and join South Korea at the top of the early standings.

China host South Korea on Tuesday.

In Group F, Vietnam beat the Philippines 2-0 away.

- Qatar hit eight -

Among games later Thursday, Saudi Arabia comfortably beat Pakistan 4-0 and 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar crushed Afghanistan 8-1 in Doha, with Almoez Ali scoring four of their goals, including two from the penalty spot.

Iran were 4-0 winners against Hong Kong.

Palestine began their quest for a place at the World Cup with a goalless draw against Lebanon in their Group I World Cup qualifier in Sharjah.

The match was played at Khalid Bin Mohammed Stadium in Sharjah because of a one-match stadium ban on 'host' Lebanon following unruly scenes in their qualifier against Syria in Beirut last year.

A record eight direct spots and one intercontinental playoff berth are at stake for 2026 for Asian Football Confederation sides, from nine groups of four.

The top two from each group go through to the final qualifying round in Asia. **AFP**

...After kidnapping, father of Colombia striker Luis Diaz celebrates son's goals vs. Brazil

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia

DAYS after he was released by kidnapers, the father of Colombia striker Luis Diaz was in tears on Thursday after he watched his son score both goals in a 2-1 win over Brazil in a World Cup qualifying match.

Wearing a Colombia jersey and a necklace, Luis Manuel Diaz fell on top of some people next to him in the stands of the Metropolitan Stadium and wept next to his wife, Cilenis Marulanda, as he celebrated.

Luis Manuel Diaz was held captive for 12 days in a mountainous region by the ELN guerrilla group. He was reunited with his family on Tuesday.

"I thank God. He makes it all possible. We have always lived tough moments, but life makes you strong and brave. So is soccer and so is life," Luis Diaz said after the match. "We deserved this victory."

Diaz scored both goals on headers, the first in the 75th minute and the second in the 79th. It was Colombia's first win against Brazil in World Cup qualifying in 15 matches.

"He is a friend, he suffered a lot these days. This is beyond soccer, he deserves it," said Brazil goalkeeper Alisson, a teammate of Diaz at Liverpool.

Armed men on motorcycles kidnapped Diaz's parents from a gas station in the town of Barrancas on Oct. 28. His mother was rescued within hours by police, who set up roadblocks around the town of 40,000 people near the Venezuelan border.

Diaz and Colombia will take on Paraguay next Tuesday. **AFP**

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Uruguay stun Argentina; emotional Diaz double as Colombia sink Brazil

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Yanga shortlisted for CAF club of the year 2023

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans have been named on the final shortlist for the Men's Club of the Year in the forthcoming 2023 CAF Awards.

Earlier this month, a panel of CAF technical experts, African football legends and selected media representatives from a number of countries put together the preliminary list for the various categories with the performance of the nominees between November 2022 and September 2023 serving as the period under consideration.

Young Africans together with nine others were nominated for the Men's Club of the Year award.

The initial list had CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly, Raja Casablanca, Mamelodi Sundowns, Esperance, ASEC Mimosas, CR Belouizdad, Wydad, Marumo Gallants as well as Confederation Cup and Super Cup winners USMA.

The list has now been trimmed to five clubs.

In addition to Young Africans, USMA, Mamelodi Sundowns, Al Ahly and Wydad are the final shortlisted clubs for the Club of the Year award.

Young Africans' journey to the top of African football began in the NBC Premier League, where they defended the league title and won the Federation Cup last season.

At the continental stage, they enjoyed a stellar run in the CAF Confederations Cup, going all the way to the final last season.

Under the guidance of coach Nasreddine Nabi, Wananchi only lost the CAF Confederation Cup final against USMA Alger on the away goals rule.

They won the return fixture 1-0 in Algiers but the 2-1 defeat they suffered at home in Dar es Salaam in the first leg proved detrimental.

This season, they are on top of the NBC Premier League standings after nine rounds of fixtures.

They have made it to the CAF Champions League Group stage.

Under the leadership of Argentinean coach Miguel Gamondi, Young Africans won all their four CAF Champions League qualifiers to book a group stage ticket for the first time since 1998.

Wananchi have been drawn in Group D of the CAF Champions League along with Al Ahly, Algeria's CR Belouizdad, and Ghana's Medeama.

They are set to start their campaign with a trip to Algeria next week.

In addition, Fiston Mayele, who was instrumental in Young Africans Confederation Cup run, has been shortlisted for the CAF Inter Club of the Year Player.

Mayele finished as the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup top-scorer with seven goals. He joined Pyramids FC of Egypt at the start of this season.

The winner of each category will be decided after votes from a voting panel consisting of CAF Technical Committee, media professionals from Member Associations, Head Coaches &

Captains of Member Associations and clubs involved at the group stages of the Interclub competitions.

The Awards Gala is to be graced by the crème de la crème of African football on December 11 in Marrakech, Morocco.

Tanzania begins quest for 2026 World Cup qualification



Taifa Stars head coach Adel Amrouche. (Agencies)

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA men's national football team, Taifa Stars, will this evening get their 2016 World Cup qualifying campaign underway when they take on Niger at Stade de Marrakech in Morocco.

Both nations have been drawn in Group E, alongside World Cup finalists Morocco, 2012 African Cup of Nations winners Zambia and Congo. Eritrea withdrew from the group.

The match is set to be played in Morocco after CAF failed to approve any stadium in Niger forcing the West African nation to settle for Morocco for their home games.

With a daunting assignment against Morocco to follow up on Tuesday, Taifa Stars will be keen to kick off their World Cup qualifying journey on a

high.

Adel Amrouche and his charges will be backing themselves to pick up a dream start to the World Cup qualifiers as they take on an opposing side against whom they are unbeaten in two recent encounters, claiming one win and a draw in the 2023 African Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Taifa Stars concluded their friendly schedule for the year in October when they were held to a somewhat disappointing 1-1 draw by Sudan in Saudi Arabia.

They have now gone unbeaten in their last three matches, picking up one win and two draws, including a 0-0 stalemate against Algeria in their final Africa Cup of Nations qualifying

game on September 8.

Despite the draw against Algeria, Taifa Stars secured a second-placed finish in Group F, picking up eight points from six matches, to secure a third AFCON appearance.

Amrouche said after his squad had taken part in Thursday's late training session that back-to-back games in a short time are

not easy for his young squad but they do their best to make the nation happy.

"We are going to do our best to make our people happy. Football is football but making people happy is the most important consideration in my philosophy. My contract is not about football but about the wonderful people in Tanzania because I love these people and I am in a good relationship with them.

"I am not going to complain about this and that now that we are here. We are people who talk on the field. We do our best because I know our problems. We play on 18 and 21 November, it is not easy for the players and coaches to focus on one game. For me it is normal but not for the young players," he said.

Captain Mbwana Samatta and JS Kabyile forward Simon Msvuwa will lead the attack while Bakari Mwamnyeto and Ibrahim Bacca will guard the defence.

Niger, on the other hand, are winless in their last four competitive fixtures, and this game comes in the backdrop of their poor showing in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers where they finished last in Group F.

However, a 3-0 victory over Somalia in a friendly last month should give Niger reason for optimism.

India-Tanzania friendship race launched in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

THE race of friendship between the countries of India and Tanzania was officially launched yesterday by the Indian embassy in Tanzania.

The marathon is scheduled for December 30 and 31 where the famous Indian athlete Milind Soman will run 120 kilometers from Dar es Salaam to Bagamoyo and back.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam in a short event to launch the race, the Deputy High Commissioner of the Indian Embassy in Tanzania, Manoj Varma, said Tanzanians are welcome to participate with Soman in the two-day race.

He said that they have organized the race to ensure that they maintain the existing unity between the two countries, including various athletes, to exchange ideas.

"It will be a unique event in maintaining the unity of these two friendly countries, the doors are open for all people to register to participate," said Varma.

He said the Indian Embassy is happy to organize the race and that will be one of the ways to support the efforts of the President of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan in developing sports and maintaining international cooperation.

In addition, the organizer of the race, Mahesh Joshi, said that

the race on the first day will start from the streets of Dar es Salaam to Bagamoyo and on the second day it will start from Bagamoyo back to Dar es Salaam where it will cover a total of 120 kilometers.

"Union of India and Tanzania we have organized this race where in general Soman and other runners will run a total of 120 kilometers in two days," said Joshi.

On his part, Soman asked many Tanzanians to come out to the races where apart from maintaining the existing unity between the two countries, they will also build their bodies and im-

prove their health.

"It is a good opportunity for us as fellow citizens, I am waiting with great enthusiasm to join the Tanzanians to run this race, for people to show up in large numbers," he said.

He said he has done similar races in many countries

around the world and he was proud and happy to come and participate with the people of Tanzania.

The veteran athlete will be coming to Tanzania for the second time, the first time he did it years ago when he came to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.



India's Deputy High Commissioner in the country, Manoj Varma (C), together with coordinators of the friendly athletics race between Tanzania and India, Mahesh Joshi (R) and Nikki Aggarwal pressing the button to launch the race which is expected to be held on December 30 and 31. On the left is the Master of Ceremony Taji Liundi. The event took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

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EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kaji Za Wana
13:35 Dandao Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planef Bongo (r)
15:00 Kungu
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dandao Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dandao Za Michzo
17:00 SILEK
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kaji Za Wana
18:30 RHASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
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