




**Integrating online ticket systems with TRA**  
Page 3



**Farmers to export avocados to Europe**  
Page 4



**Dar to host Tanzania honey show**  
Page 7

**Page 13**

## TCAA bans KQ flights starting on January 22

*“This decision is based on the principle of reciprocity, following the refusal by the Kenyan authorities to grant approval for ATCL’s cargo flights despite the clear provisions of the MoU”*

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) has announced the suspension of all Kenya Airways (KQ) passenger flights between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam effective from January 22, 2024 in a tit-for-tat move.

TCAA director general Hamza Johari announced this decision in a public notice issued yesterday, citing the fact that Kenya Airways operates 33 scheduled flights per week between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

The change in mood comes in the wake of a recent decision by Kenyan

aviation authorities to deny Tanzania’s request for cargo flights by Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) from Nairobi to third countries, the notice indicated.

TCAA cited the Kenyan authorities’ refusal as a breach of Section 4 of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on air services entered between the two nations back in 2016, demanding reciprocal treatment for airline firms of either country.

“This decision is based on the principle of reciprocity, following the refusal by the Kenyan authorities to grant ap-

TURN TO PAGE 2



CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan congratulates Dr Emmanuel John Nchimbi (born December 24, 1971) shortly after he was declared the ruling party’s incoming Secretary General. It was at the extraordinary meeting of the party’s National Executive Committee held in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

### SPORTS



**TAIFA STARS READY TO FIGHT FOR GLORY AT 2023 AFCON**

Page 20



**SALAH RESCUES EGYPT AS NIGERIA DRAW AND GHANA LOSE AT CUP OF NATIONS**

Page 19

## Observers confident of ability as Dr Nchimbi takes over CCM post

*NEC members received a report on implementation of the CCM manifesto for Zanzibar and concerning ongoing reforms in state-owned companies and regulatory agencies*

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FORMER cabinet minister Dr Emmanuel

Nchimbi (52) has been appointed CCM secretary general at a sitting of the party’s National Executive Committee held here yesterday.

Paul Makonda, the CCM secretary for Ideology and Publicity, said at a press conference

TURN TO PAGE 2

## ZSSF consults WCF on plans for compensation of workers

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Social Security Fund (ZSSF) has unveiled plans to come up with a special scheme for paying compensation to employees who suffer occupational injuries.

ZSSF director general Nassor Shaaban said yesterday that the fund is studying operational format of the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) which provides the service on the Mainland.

made the statement at a forum which

brought heads of public institutions both Zanzibar and mainland being held on the sidelines of the 10th Zanzibar International Trade Fair.

The exhibition, which is part of the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution, began on January 10 and will go until January 19, this year.

“In the preparation of establishing this benefits scheme for employees who will be injured at work, we have been collaborating a lot with our WCF colleagues to gain experience from

them because we know that they have enough experience on providing good benefits,” Shaaban explained.

He said, they have already received essential education, experience, laws and regulations, which govern compensation issues to enable them make good preparations to establish the new scheme.

WCF’s Director General, Dr. John Mduma said the Fund has achieved great success since its inception by providing adequate and equitable compensation for employees who suffer occupational injuries or contract occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment and in case of death, for their dependents.

“WCF has become a role model in Africa, the SADC region and East Africa, we been sharing experiences with some of the countries and we

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Youth Agenda seeks special groups’ role in electoral bills

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

‘YOUTH Agenda,’ a consortium of eight youth-serving civil society groups, has called for enhanced meaningful youth participation in politics and the electoral process in particular.

Ocheck Msuva, the organisation’s coordinator, said in a press briefing yesterday that the group has been formed response to the call for public hearing on electoral laws reform bills, namely the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Authorities Elections Bill 2023, the National Electoral Commis-

TURN TO PAGE 2



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## ZSSF consults WCF on plans for compensation of workers

FROM PAGE 1

have also seen that it good to also share this experience with our colleagues in Zanzibar, this close partnership that we established will enable ZSSF to attain its goals in compensating victims," Dr Mduma explained.

Deputy Minister for Industries and Trade, Exaud Kigahe said Tanzanians have great hopes to see cooperation

between public institutions of both sides bring productivity in their lives.

Latifa Khamis, chairperson of the Public Entities CEOs Forum who is also the director general of the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tan-Trade) said among other things, the forum aims to enable the institutions' leaders to share experiences to heighten service provision to people.

## TCAA bans KQ flights starting on January 22

FROM PAGE 1

proval for ATCL's cargo flights despite the clear provisions of the MoU," the regulator explained.

TCAA reiterated Tanzania's commitment to international aviation regulations and bilateral agreements, vowing to strive to adhere to the principles of the Chicago Convention 1944 and the bilateral air services agreement between ICAO member countries.

Stakeholders fear that the sudden suspension of KQ flights will significantly impact passengers traveling between the two countries as thousands rely on this route for business, tourism and family connections.

While alternative airlines operate on the route, the loss of KQ's flights will un-

doubtedly lead to reduced options and potentially higher fares, while insiders said that the dispute between Tanzania and Kenya over air travel rights has been simmering for several months.

In August 2020, Tanzania banned KQ flights for a brief period after Kenya excluded Tanzanians from a list of countries whose citizens could enter without quarantine restrictions.

The ban was later lifted, but tensions remained, with the current situation raising concerns over the stability of air travel and freight arrangements between the two countries.

Both countries stand to lose from this disruption, particularly for tourism and business operations, interviewed stakeholders noted.

## Youth Agenda seeks special groups' role in electoral bills

FROM PAGE 1

section 4, sub-section (5) explicitly require the Registrar of Political Parties to ensure that political parties have a gender policy and include special groups like women, youth and people with disabilities.

The consortium similarly demands that payment requirements when submitting nomination forms be waived for youth, women and people with disabilities by amending section 53(1) and 63(1) of the electoral laws bill.

The groups also proposed amending section 59(2) of the bill setting the age limit for a person eligible to run for councillor at 21, objecting that provision excludes young individuals aged 18 to 20 who wish to contest.

"It is recommended that this criterion be changed to age 18," the coordinator indicated, also proposing amendments on section 166 to encourage youth participation through the use of new technology. Currently the section does not emphasize the necessity for the commission to use available forms of technology, he stated.

Youth Agenda recommendations were facilitated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Democratic Institute (NDI) which is another US institution, and the Christian Democratic International Centre (KIC), a Swedish activist organisation.

The collaboration closely involved youth from political parties through the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) and youth-serving civil society organisations, he added.

## Nigeria's Zebra CropBank attracts funding to bolster small-scale farmers across Africa

By Taijiwa Mathew Mutis

Zebra CropBank, an agritech start-up based in Nigeria, has obtained significant funding to further its objective of improving the lives of small-scale farmers throughout Africa.

The Catalyst Fund, a collection of investors dedicated to sustainable farming and rural prosperity, spearheaded the investment which will expedite Zebra CropBank's growth and empower farmers.

The funding is aimed at expanding Zebra CropBank's activities, predominantly via the deployment of solar-powered micro-warehouses and the reinforcement of its integrated trading platforms. This strategy will address problems often faced by small-scale farmers, such as inadequate storage facilities, weak market ties, and vulnerability to climate change.

The bank's trailblazing model involves the construction and leasing of solar-powered micro-warehouses near farming communities. These facilities allow farmers to securely store and insure their harvests, while a USSD platform facilitates transparent storage and trading.

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The initiative has already yielded considerable benefits, with farmers seeing up to 90% increases in their income and noteworthy reductions in storage losses.



Workers Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma (R) and Zanzibar Social Security Fund managing director Nassor Shaaban Ameir exchange greetings in Zanzibar at the weekend. It was on the sidelines of a meeting for heads of institutions under the United Republic of Tanzania government as well as under the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. The event formed part of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Observers confident of ability as Dr Nchimbi takes over CCM post

FROM PAGE 1

after the meeting that at the NEC meeting under the party chairperson, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the NEC members approved Dr Nchimbi's name without dissent.

The post has been vacant since November 29 following the resignation of ex-secretary general Daniel Chongolo, who was appointed into that office on April 30, 2021.

Dr Nchimbi was among the closest comrades in arms for ex-premier Edward Lowassa when his followers mounted a challenge to then party chairman Jakaya Kikwete at the end of the CCM presidential nomination in July 2015, but refused to cross to the opposition when the frustrated

aspirant shifted to Chadema as its presidential candidate. He was appointed ambassador to Brazil in 2016, serving there until 2021 and then appointed envoy to Egypt on March 1, 2022.

He was recalled in a reshuffle of heads of diplomatic missions on August 11 last year, taking over another sensitive public leadership position since serving as Home Affairs minister from 2012 to 2013, with observers saying that his return to high level politics is pivotal as the ruling party mobilises its troops for the local government elections this year and the general election next year.

The publicity chief said the meeting was preceded by a seminar on January 13 to 14 examining ongoing implementation of key projects like the Ju-

lius Nyerere Hydropower Project, the Kigongo Busisi Bridge and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project.

NEC members received a report on implementation of the CCM manifesto for Zanzibar and concerning ongoing reforms in state owned companies and regulatory agencies, he said.

Charles Kitwanga, also a former Home Affairs minister, said Dr Nchimbi understands CCM and the political scene as a whole, while UDSM political science lecturer Dr Richard Mbunda said Dr Nchimbi was a knowledgeable administrator, so the party was safe in his hands.

Chadema secretary general John Mnyika said the new CCM secretary general faces the task of advising the party leadership to shelve the bills

on political parties and electoral reforms.

seeking a right person, Bishop William Mwamalanga, who chairs the inter-religious committee on Ethics, Peace and Human Rights said that Dr Nchimbi has to work to restore the trust of citizens in CCM.

Deus Kibamba, a lecturer at the Dr Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations said that

Dr Nchimbi will also have a role to foster tolerance and accountability in the ruling party.

He said that groups that openly fight for leadership nomination was another challenge, and overseeing the work of the Ideology and Publicity department, to be 'filtered' before being released to the public.



CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs a meeting of the ruling party's National Executive Committee in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

## Central African States to fight food security threats

YAOUNDE

TRANSPORT ministers from landlocked central African countries say increasing commodity prices are causing civil strife in Chad and the Central African Republic.

The ministers, meeting Friday in Cameroon, say the three countries want to find immediate solutions to obstacles facing the transportation of goods moving from Cameroon's Douala and Kribi seaports to central African states.

The Douala and Kribi seaports handle 90 percent of goods delivered to Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR). The ministers and transport officials, meeting in the city of Kribi this week, said goods now take about a month instead of two weeks to arrive in Chad's capital, N'djamena.

Herbert Gontran Djonon Ahaba, CAR's transport and civil aviation minister, said current food price spikes that are causing daily protests in Chad's towns and villages are fuelled by insecurity, illegal police checkpoints, and

the deteriorating roads along the more than 1,400 kilometers between the Douala seaport in Cameroon and the CAR capital, Bangui, and the close to 1,600 kilometers between Douala and N'djamena.

Chad and the CAR say that last month, police used tear gas to disperse civilians in several towns and villages protesting hikes in commodity prices. There is a close to 35 percent increase in food prices, the two governments say.

The ministers say price hikes have also been triggered by rebels, who continue to attack goods in transit to Bangui on the CAR side of the border, and Boko Haram terrorists operating in Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad. Central African states say that rebels last month harassed and seized goods and money from scores of truck drivers on the transport corridor to N'djamena.

Laurent Dihoulnet, secretary-general of Chad's Ministry of Transport, said the attacks, illegal police checkpoints and abuses against drivers in transit in Cameroon suffocate trade and in-

crease food shortages and hunger in the sub-Saharan African states.

He said Cameroon, CAR and Chad transport ministers have decided to dismantle 16 illegal police and military checkpoints on the corridor from Cameroon's Douala seaport to Bangui. Dihoulnet said the ministers have authorized the creation of seven checkpoints that will assure the safety of drivers and their trucks and make sure goods, especially humanitarian needs, reach their destinations in the CAR and Chad.

Cameroon, Chad and the CAR also said they will dismantle over 70 checkpoints they say are illegally set up by Cameroon police and military along the Douala-N'djamena corridor.

Cameroon's police and military say the checkpoints are set up to control illicit trafficking of goods and protect truck drivers and their goods from armed groups, but the drivers say they are forced to pay illegal fees or bribes at the checkpoints.

The transport ministers say joint military and police convoys will protect the drivers in areas prone to Boko

Haram and CAR rebel attacks.

Cameroon says it is negotiating with the World Bank, the European Union and other international funding agencies to construct the roads and facilitate the passage of goods on transit.

In their New Year's messages, Presidents Mahamat Idriss Deby of Chad and Faustin-Archange Touadera of the CAR called for emergency food support for close to five million people they said are either facing hunger, threatened by food insecurity, or finding it especially hard to cope with rising prices.

Chad and the CAR say millions of their citizens are also going hungry because of climate shocks, inter-communal tensions, and rising food and fuel prices.

The UN's World Food Program says that 1.4 million people in Chad, a country that has experienced an influx of over 600,000 refugees in less than a year from the fighting in Sudan's Darfur region, and over two million CAR civilians are threatened by a severe hunger crisis.





Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority Board vice chairperson Mtumwa Ameir (2nd-R) briefs Transport deputy minister David Kihenzile (R) TCAA and the Civil Aviation Training Centre. This was at the TCAA pavilion at the exhibition held at Fumba in Unguja last week as part of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Bus owners urged to integrate online ticket systems with TRA

By Getrude Mbago

THE Land Transport and Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has directed all upcountry bus owners to integrate their online ticket systems with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) before February 1, or else strict measures will be taken against them.

The authority also wanted the owners to ensure that they issue e-ticket tickets to passengers as per set rules and regulations.

Habibu Suluo, LATRA's director general made the directives over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, saying that the move is aimed to enable the government collect required revenues.

Suluo also announced a removal of the ban on the 35 buses of the Kilimanjaro Express Company which the firm faced last week.

He said that last week the company was forbidden to carry passengers in a suspension period that was not specified for allegedly violating set rules and regulations which include issuing paper tickets to passengers while also charging more than the set fare.

"On January 8, we suspended the licenses of 35 buses of Kilimanjaro Express Company after being satisfied that the service provider has continued to violate the law deliberately, but the company has implemented all the directives eradicating the loopholes and this has allowed them to resume services," he said.

Suluo urged every bus owner to adhere to the procedures which the government has set, including issuing online tickets to

passengers and not to increase fare as it is against the rules.

He said that issuing electronic tickets enable the government to get its taxes but also enable owners to better control their collections.

Suluo said that the authority believes that Kilimanjaro has learnt its lesson and that it will not repeat the mistake.

"After being suspended from providing services, the company had to implement a number of conditions including using electronic tickets, complying with the set fare limits. After completing LATRA's instructions and submitting a request to restore services. The authority in collaboration with the Traffic Police together with the National Internet Data Centre (NIDC) have been satisfied and allowed the company to continue providing services," he explained.

The DG said that the authority saw that fining penalty to the company wasn't enough as it has posed fines reaching 19m/- but nothing changed that's why it decided to suspend operations of the 35 buses for the company to learn.

Dickson Ngowi, Kilimanjaro Company lawyer urged for wisdom to be used when issuing such punishments in order to not affect services to people.

"If a certain bus has been found violating procedures, then it should face the measures instead of punishing other buses," he said.

He, however, assured that the company will adhere to all the directives while also working in line with the set rules and regulations.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

## TRC ready to support Z'bar move to restore railway transport services

THE Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) has expressed its readiness to participate effectively in Zanzibar's government initiatives to restore railway transport services which were halted 90 years ago.

TRC director general Masanja Kadogosa made the statement at the ongoing annual Zanzibar Trade Fair held in Nyamanzi in the outskirts of Unguja as part of the commemorations of the 60th anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution.

He said that the first railway in Zan-

zibar started in 1879 by the Sultanate but it lasted for 25 years before closing in 1930, so the presence of the Corporation in the Isles was a good thing to help support the transformation of the railway transport services.

"TRC will participate well in this initiative because we have enough engineers and enough experience in construction of railway, so we will be here to provide ideas or advice as Zanzibar works to build a railway," he said.

He emphasised the importance of

a modern transportation network for Zanzibar's economic growth.

He said that rail transport is the one of the cheapest services, especially in the transportation of goods but also the railway brings graces to the road.

According to him, after completion of the project, the cost of transporting goods will drastically go down thus reducing inflation prices in goods.

Speaking on the on-going construction of the Standard Railway Gauge (SGR), Kadogosa said that the project

is going well despite some challenges hailing the national leaders for bringing the project which is going to transform transport services and boost the country's economy.

He said that transport services at the SGR will commence in July, this year from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma.

Zanzibar was the first country in East Africa to introduce the steam locomotive. In 1879 Sultan Bargash bin Said ordered a seven-mile railway from his palace at Stone Town

to Chukwani. Initially there were two Pullman cars hauled by mules, but in 1881 the Sultan ordered a tank locomotive from an English locomotive builder company.


In 1905 the American Company Arnold Cheyney built another piece of railway, making connection from Stone Town to the village of Bububu. The railway ran for twenty-five years, until 1930.

It was extremely popular and largely used by the local population. There

was a special first-class coach for the benefit of those passengers who wish to keep a different look of the island. The railway also traversed some streets of the city, and it was a source of wonderment.

By 1922 the passenger service ceased. Roads connections improved and motor vehicles on the island increased, so its popularity diminished. With the improvement of the port, the railway was converted for stone transport and finished to run in 1930.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**TANZANIA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY (TAWA)**

**Project: Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development Programme (SECAD)**  
**(KfW Contract Reference No.:2012 66 451)**  
**16<sup>TH</sup> January 2024**

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has received a grant from the German State-Owned Investment and Development Bank (KfW) towards the costs of implementing the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development Programme (SECAD), and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Construction of Rural Infrastructure (i.e., Socio-economic Infrastructures) in Selous Game Reserve (SGR).
- The Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works comprised of various rural Socio-economic Infrastructures as shown in the table below:

Package Number	Tender Number	Procurement Plan Number	Tender Description
014	MNRT/GOPA/KINGUPIRALOT1PP09	PP 09	Construction of Drainage Structures for Selous Game Reserve at Kingupira Sector

**Note:**

- Bidding will be conducted by means of the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure with the qualification as specified in the KfW Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries ("KfW Guidelines") <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Richtlinien/FZ-Vergaberichtlinien-V-2021-EN.pdf>.
- A complete set of the bidding documents (in English) is available to interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Tanzanian Shillings One Hundred Thousand only (TZS100,000.00)** or its equivalent in freely convertible currency for each set (per tender reference number). The method of payment is via bank deposit to the following account at **Tanzania CRDB bank - Account name: Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development with Account number 0150555174201**.

The documents shall be sent by Courier (related costs to be covered by the interested Bidder) or physical pickup by the Bidders at **Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), c/o GOPA, Mpingo House, 4th Floor, Room No. L406, PO Box 25295, 40 Julius Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**

- Bids in one original plus two paper copies and one digital copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below: **SECAD Project Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), c/o GOPA, Mpingo House, 4th Floor, Room No. L406, PO Box 25295, 40 Julius Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** on or before **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 12:00 hours EAT**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted and late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' or designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 14:30 hours** at **MNRT Room No. L406**.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT)  
 c/o GOPA, Mpingo House, 4th Floor, Room No.L406, PO Box 25295,  
 40 Julius Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
 Contact: - SECAD Project Coordinator  
 Email:- SECADtenders@gopa-infra.de

**OFFICE OF THE TREASURY REGISTRAR**



**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER IN PUBLIC AND STATUTORY CORPORATIONS**

- Background information**  
 The Office of the Treasury Registrar (OTR) was established by the Treasury Registrar (Powers and Functions) Act, CAP 370, with custodian, supervisory and advisory role over all public investments and other properties of Public and Statutory Corporations (PSCs). OTR is also responsible for private investments where the government owns shares in trust for the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The OTR's mission is to ensure effective and sustainable contribution of PSCs to national development by focusing on operational excellence commercial viability and optimal service delivery. In achieving this, the Office is undergoing deepened reforms that also involves PSCs boards of directors restructuring and realignment.

The board is an apex body that plays a crucial role in guiding the strategic direction and governance of these institutions. Therefore, recruiting a right mix of board members is vital for any result-oriented organization. It is on this basis that OTR is developing an up-to-date detailed database of such ideal board members.

OTR is seeking capable and qualified candidates to apply for board positions in PSCs working on the following sectors,

- Oil and Gas
- Mining and Mineral Exploration
- Energy and Utilities
- Financial Institutions
- Tourism and Hospitality

- Required minimum qualification and experience**  
 Interested candidates must possess the following;
  - Relevant academic background in the sector applied
  - Having worked in senior decision-making position(s)
  - Previous board experience is an added advantage in diverse sectors
  - Conversant with strategic direction of the upcoming Tanzania vision 2050

OTR will conduct a transparent and fair selection process in compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements governing the respective PSCs. The prospective directors are both for public corporations where the government has 51% ownership or more, as well as for the minority interest.

- How to apply**
  - Interested applicants should send their CVs and accompanying motivation letter via email to [recruitment@tro.go.tz](mailto:recruitment@tro.go.tz) addressing the Treasury Registrar.
  - Closing date for receiving applications is 31st January, 2024.
  - Qualified candidates' profiles will be deposited in a database upon successful interview process and favorable vetting results from responsible government authorities.

Issued by,  
**Treasury Registrar**  
**08th January, 2024.**



# South Korea earns tribute for support to efforts to boost education in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

SHAMATA Shaame Khamis, Zanzibar Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources, and Livestock, has lauded the South Korean government for its continued support to the Indian Ocean in the education sector through Korean International Cooperative Agency (KOICA).

Minister Khamis made the remarks over the weekend when laying the foundation stone at Chwaka Tumbwe Secondary School for the girl's dormitory which was built by Korea Food for the Hungry International (KFHI) under the sponsorship of KOICA.

He stated that education is an important factor for the life of a human being, which is why the first President of Zanzibar, the late Abeid Aman Karume declared the provision of free education.

He said the Zanzibar Revolution brought freedom, unity and cooperation, which should be protected and defended by all means, noting that the government took various initiatives to improve the education environment including the construction of modern buildings as well as boosting the welfare of teachers so that they can work professionally.

He added that, through improving the learning environment there has been an increasing good performance by the pupils in their national exams.

Sommie Koh, KFHI chief executive said that they are thrilled by the completion of the dormitory's construction for female pupils at the school which will help them study in a calm environment.

He also urged the teachers to increase their support to girl pupils so that they can achieve their goals.

Jongbun Joo, director at the KOICA's office in Tanzania said Tanzania is among the few countries it is working with to implement and sponsor various projects including education and improve the learning environment for girls.

Salama Mbarouk, Pemba North Regional Commissioner urged parents to stop imposing heavy chores on female children as well as avoid forcing them into early marriages before they graduate from school, instead he proposed that parents should support their children's studies so the country can get experts.

Adam Ameir, Zanzibar's Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training said the hostel building is capable of accommodating 80 pupils at once and its construction values at a cost of 337m/-.



...through improving the learning environment there has been an increasing good performance by the pupils in their national exams



Othman Masoud Othman (L), the ACT-Wazalendo Vice Chairman for Zanzibar, addresses the opposition party's general meeting held in Songea municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## RC wants beggars removed from Dar streets

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has directed the arrest and removal of all street beggars including those with disabilities.

The RC made the directive yesterday at a meeting with government executives, insisting that the move is meant to take precaution against epidemic diseases.

He wanted the leaders to ensure that the work of removing the beggars be conducted immediately because it has been found that there are some people who are using people with disabilities to get income.

"There are a lot of beggars at the Tanzanite Bridge and apprehend all of the people who you will find escorting PwDs in various parts of Dar es Salaam because they are misusing them to get money," he said.

He warned people who have been taking PwDs into the streets for begging saying that the behaviour was unacceptable.

He claimed that there were some people who have been using their children to collect money in the streets thus denying them their rights to access education and a better future life.

"Anyone who is found loitering in the streets and begging for money, food

or any other things in the streets and roads of Dar es Salaam city will be apprehended, so it is better for them to take action early," he emphasized.

The government has regularly been directing removal of groups of people begging in streets and road intersections.

The government in its operations has been taking many beggars and children back to their homes but after some time, they come back to the streets.

In 2021, the then regional commissioner Amos Makala issued a similar order saying that the increase of beggars in the region was due to some

unscrupulous people who transport them from different regions and bring them to Dar es Salaam to beg for their benefit.

Another leader who implemented the same operation is the then deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Josephat Kakunda who directed district's commissioners and directors in the country to arrest all street boys and girls who are begging instead of going to school.

In September 2013 at least 253 beggars and 135 children were taken back to their homes and thereafter 32 children were taken back to school.

## 300 avocado farmers in Njombe qualify to sell their harvests in European countries

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) has identified and certified 300 avocado farmers who have met international standards thus enabling them reach markets in Europe.

Asia Barnabas, TAHA business development coordinator disclosed this soon after the completion of the avocado stakeholders' forum in Njombe region.

According to Asia, the efforts to provide the farmers with the recognition certificates are meant to guarantee that avocados cultivated in Tanzania have all the qualities and can be distributed to global markets.

"And in order for the avocado to reach global markets, it should start having all the needed quality from the moment it is produced, so we are now asking our regional and the central government to ensure that these infrastructural challenges that affect production and transportation of this important produce (avocado) not to reach consumers are addressed," Asia said.

She said that resolving the most pressing issues facing farmers and traders was a prerequisite move to enable Tanzanian produce to win global

markets.

Anthony Mtaka, the Njombe Regional Commissioner wanted the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) to each one work hard to resolve issues in their respective territories.

"You should immediately start with the plan to build roads in major investment areas; you also need to move the electricity service so that it can be used for irrigation in the fields and the drilling of deep wells for individual farmers," Mtaka said.

He said that in order for farmers to produce quality crops as needed in the global market, it is important to improve services before taking any action to collect taxes from them.

Edger Mtitu, one of the farmers, stated that production and economic reforms will result from adhering to the government's agricultural and marketing plan.

Additionally, he wanted the government to control businessmen who purchase farm produce in the Njombe such as apricots by putting foreign brands to them thus tarnishing the authenticity of the crops.



Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured on Sunday exchanging greetings with Archbishop Damian Denis Dallu of the Catholic Church Songea Diocese shortly after he was consecrated in Njombe town. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE immediate former Conservation Commissioner of the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Dr Allan Kijazi, has called upon the media to continue marketing Tanzania's tourist attractions to promote tourism.

Dr Kijazi who is also former Permanent Secretary for the ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development told journalists here yesterday that domestic tourism

## Media urged to market Tanzania's tourist attractions more

is a key to expanding the sector.

"In this, I see the importance of the media in marketing Tanzania's tourism destinations to increase the number of people visiting them," he said.

He said it was important for the media to give priority to marketing the destinations and also be given enough education on conservation.

"There are some media outlets that confuse between conserved areas and hunting blocs; therefore, the media need to be educated on the matter so that they perform their duties professionally," he said.

In addition, he advised tourism stakeholders in collaboration with the government to find the mode of trans-

port to take Tanzanians to game reserve or parks at a price that is friendly to them.

He said stakeholders should also work together to promote efforts to effort to build affordable accommodation in conservation areas to enable citizens to afford the cost of accommodation when they visit the attractions.

"While some Tanzanians wish to visit the destinations, but they fail because of the high prices of travel and accommodation, if we improve all these, domestic tourism will double and bring productivity to the national income," he said.

He said that the government has tried to care for the local tourists, by

setting a friendly entrance in parks to enable Tanzanians to visit those attractions.

Dr Kijazi said that after retiring, he is contemplating establishing a company which will deal with providing advice on tourism, conservation and land issues.

"My goal is to continue using my knowledge and experience in this areas, so that I can help to dress the challenges that arise in these areas and bring benefits to my country," he said.





**Habib African Bank Limited  
Dar es Salaam**

**PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014.**

**CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2023**  
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Quarter 31.12.2023	Previous Quarter 30.09.2023
<b>A. ASSETS</b>		
1. Cash	8,097	8,544
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	46,934	38,312
3. Investment in Government Securities	69,165	73,967
4. Balances with other banks and financial institutions	28,796	36,991
5. Cheques and items for Clearing	89	88
6. Interbranch float items	209	214
7. Bills negotiated	5,511	4,900
8. Customer liability on acceptances	7,964	8,559
9. Interbank loans receivable	0	0
10. Investment in Other Securities	0	0
11. Loans, advances and overdrafts (Net of allowances for probable Losses)	194,188	182,828
12. Other Assets	3,822	3,857
13. Equity Investments	0	0
14. Underwriting accounts	0	0
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	555	597
<b>16. TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>365,330</b>	<b>358,857</b>
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>		
17. Deposits from other Banks and financial institutions	0	0
18. Customer deposits	298,809	293,260
19. Cash Letters of Credit	0	0
20. Special deposits	5,304	5,141
21. Payment orders/transfers payable	0	0
22. Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	93	129
23. Accrued taxes and expenses payable	6,523	6,181
24. Acceptances outstanding	7,964	8,559
25. Inter branch float items	218	217
26. Unearned income and other deferred charges	0	0
27. Other liabilities	2,671	3,588
28. Borrowings	0	0
<b>29. TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>321,582</b>	<b>317,077</b>
<b>30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)</b>	<b>43,748</b>	<b>41,780</b>
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>		
31. Paid up share capital	2,600	2,600
32. Capital reserves	288	370
33. Retained earnings	36,112	35,953
34. Profit (Loss) account	3,626	1,675
35. Other capital accounts	1,122	1,182
36. Minority Interest	0	0
<b>37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>43,748</b>	<b>41,780</b>
38. Contingent liabilities	74,947	76,174
39. Non performing loans and advances	2,945	3,327
40. Allowances for probable losses	(40)	(32)
41. Other non performing assets	0	0
<b>D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>		
(i). Shareholders Funds to total assets	11.97%	11.64%
(ii). Non performing loans to total gross loans	1.47%	1.77%
(iii). Gross loans and advances to total deposits	65.87%	63.14%
(iv) Loans and advances to total assets	54.83%	52.50%
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	79.97%	81.87%
(vi) Deposits Growth	1.91%	5.38%
(vii) Assets growth	1.80%	5.96%

**CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2023**  
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Quarter 31.12.2023	Comparative Quarter (Previous Year) 31.12.2022	Current Year Cumulative 31.12.2023	Comparative Year (Previous Year) Cumulative 31.12.2022
1. Interest Income	7,523	6,301	27,244	24,057
2. Interest Expense	(4,106)	(3,551)	(15,398)	(13,567)
3. Net Interest Income(1 minus 2)	<b>3,418</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>11,846</b>	<b>10,490</b>
4. Bad Debts Written Off	(813)	(1,230)	(4,421)	(1,230)
5. Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	(40)	(2)	(65)	(10)
6. <b>Non-Interest Income</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>5,062</b>	<b>4,844</b>
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains(Loss)	190	345	1,040	1,165
6.2 Fees and Commissions	471	396	1,678	1,571
6.3 Dividend Income	0	0	0	0
6.4 Other Operating Income	706	539	2,343	2,107
7. <b>Non Interest Expenses:</b>	<b>(2,818)</b>	<b>(2,593)</b>	<b>(11,048)</b>	<b>(9,968)</b>
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(1,570)	(1,555)	(6,226)	(6,004)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(70)	(81)	(287)	(266)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(1,178)	(958)	(4,535)	(3,698)
8. <b>Other Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>4,126</b>
8. Income Tax Provision	(450)	(693)	(1,800)	(1,593)
<b>10. Net Income (Loss) After Income Tax</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>(489)</b>	<b>(425)</b>	<b>2,533</b>
11. Other Comprehensive Income (Items)	1,286	13	4,052	13
<b>12. Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>(477)</b>	<b>3,626</b>	<b>2,545</b>
13. Number of Employees	75	77	75	77
14. Basic Earning Per Share	750	(188)	1,395	974
15. Number of Branches	4	4	4	4
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	2.13%	-0.63%	1.06%	0.84%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds	18.33%	-4.57%	8.75%	6.08%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	31.69%	34.21%	34.20%	34.49%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	4.59%	4.28%	4.29%	4.17%

**CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31.12.2023**  
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Other Reserve	Total
<b>Current Year 2023</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	33,238	4,633	-	220	40,692
Profit for the year	-	-	3,626	-	-	-	3,626
Transfer from/to Regulatory Reserve	-	-	3,511	(3,511)	-	-	-
Transfer to/from Other reserve	-	-	(68)	-	-	68	-
Tax paid for prior years	-	-	(70)	-	-	-	(70)
Dividend paid	-	-	(500)	-	-	-	(500)
<b>Balance as at the end of the year</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,739</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>43,748</b>
<b>Previous Year 2022</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	30,681	6,345	-	285	39,912
Profit for the year	-	-	1,051	-	-	-	1,051
Transfer to statutory Reserve	-	-	1,712	(1,712)	-	-	-
Transfer to other Reserve	-	-	65	-	-	(65)	-
Tax paid for prior years	-	-	(271)	-	-	-	(271)
<b>Balance as at the end of the year</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,238</b>	<b>4,633</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>40,692</b>

**CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2023**  
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current quarter 31.12.2023	Previous quarter 30.09.2023	Current Year Cumulative 31.12.2023	Comparative Year (Previous Year) Cumulative 31.12.2022
<b>I: Cash flow from operating activities:</b>				
Net income (loss)	2,401	3,560	5,426	4,126
Adjustment for:				
Impairment/amortization	80	86	260	10
Net change in loans and advances	(11,360)	(8,148)	(23,964)	(22,661)
Gain/loss on sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
Net change in deposits	5,711	15,224	61,458	1,181
Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	816	16,954	(9,638)	(2,698)
Net change in Other Liabilities	(611)	1,731	1,851	(271)
Net change in Other Assets	(573)	(1,729)	(7,055)	733
Tax paid	(450)	(450)	(1,800)	(1,820)
others (Specify)	0	0	0	58
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities	<b>(3,985)</b>	<b>27,228</b>	<b>26,538</b>	<b>(21,342)</b>
<b>II: Cash flow from investing activities:</b>				
Dividend Received	0	0	0	0
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(16)	(26)	(310)	(42)
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Sale Non-Dealing Securities	0	0	0	0
Others(specify)	0	0	0	0
Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>(310)</b>	<b>(42)</b>
<b>III: Cash flow from financing activities:</b>				
Repayment of Long-Term Debt	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	0	0	0	0
Payment of Cash Dividends	0	(500)	(500)	0
Net change in Other Borrowings	0	(1,000)	0	0
Others(specify)	0	0	0	0
Net cash provided/(used) by financing activities	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,500)</b>	<b>(500)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>IV: Cash and cash equivalents:</b>				
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(4,003)	25,702	25,728	(21,384)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter/Year	89,446	67,748	63,719	85,367
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter/Year	<b>85,443</b>	<b>93,450</b>	<b>89,446</b>	<b>63,983</b>

**SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2023**

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements.

Name and Title	Signature	Date
S. S. HASAN RIZVI (Managing Director)		08.01.2024
EPHRAIM MKONDE (Finance Manager)		08.01.2024
MWARABU HAJI (Internal Auditor)		08.01.2024

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signature	Date
1. ZAIN HABIB		08.01.2024
2. VAZIR A BUKHARI		08.01.2024

**DISCLOSURES MADE UNDER REGULATION 11 OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (DISCLOSURES) REGULATIONS, 2014  
MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES ( GHARAMA ZA HUDUMA ZETU)**

NAME OF PRODUCT/ SERVICES	CHARGE/FEE	LCY	FCY
<b>SAVING ACCOUNTS</b>			
Transaction fees-Ledger Fees	TZS 13,200.00 half-yearly	US\$ 14.50 /Gbp 10/Euro 10 half-yearly	
Temporary Statement	Tsh. 2,000.00 per page	US \$2.00 per page	
Interim Statement	Tsh.2,000.00 per page	US \$2.00 per page	
Withdrawal Charges below TZS 5 MIL	No such Charges	No such Charges	
Withdrawal Charges above TZS 5 MIL	0.06% of the amount	Maximum 1.20% of the amount	
Cash deposit Charge	No such Charges	FCY+small denomination 5%	
Savings Card/Passbook	No such Charges	No such Charges	
Passbook/Card replacement	No such Charges	No such Charges	
Closing Account-LCY	Tsh. 25,000.00	US\$ 25.00	
Dormant account activation	TZS 15,000.00	US\$ 15.00	
<b>CURRENT ACCOUNTS ( PERSONAL )</b>			
Transaction fees-Ledger Fees	TZS 35,000.00 monthly	US \$ 35.00/Gbp 25/Euro 25 monthly	
Temporary Statement	Tsh. 2,000.00 per page	US \$2.00 per page	
Temporarily/Unauthorized Overdraft	27% p.a	No such Charges	
Interim Statement	Tsh. 2,000.0 per page	US \$2.00 per page	
Withdrawal Charges above TZs 10.0 MIL	1% of amount above 10M	0.06% of the excess amount	
Cash deposit Charge	No such Charges	FCY+small denomination 5%	
Closing account	TZS 30,000.00	US\$ 30.00	
Bank Drafts	No such Charges	US\$ 35.00	
Bank Draft cancellation charge	No such Charges	US\$ 60.00	
Cheque book	TZs 35,000	US\$ 35.00	
Cash payment to 3rd party	No such Charges	No such Charges	
Bulk cash deposit below TZs 100M (Bulk Cash Counter) Charges	TZs 5,000	US\$ 5.00	
Bulk cash withdraw below TZs 100M (Bulk Cash Counter) Charges	TZs 5,000	US\$ 5.00	
Stop Payment orders	TZS 35,000.00	US\$ 35.00	
Standing orders ( within bank )	TZS 2,500.00	No such Charges	
Standing orders ( to other bank )	TZS 2,500.00	No such Charges	
Certificate of balance/Balance confirmation	Tsh. 30,000.00 per certificate	US\$ 30.00 Per certificate	
Letter of introduction	TZS 30,000.00	US\$ 30.00	
Salary handling	TZS 10,000.00	No such Charges	
School fees deposits	No such Charges	No such Charges	
TRA collection	No such Charges	No such Charges	
Safe custody charges	No such Charges	No such Charges	
Safe custody access fees	No such Charges	No such Charges	
TISS transfers	TZS 10,000.00	No such Charges	
Dormant account activation	TZS 25,000.00	US\$ 25.00	
Retrieval of Old document more than a year	TZS 100,000.00	No such Charges	
Incoming EFT	TZs 1,500	No such Charges	
Outgoing EFT	TZs 1,000	No such Charges	
Clearing charges	TZs 1,000 per cheque	No such Charges	
SMS Alert charges	TZs 25 per sms	No such Charges	
Non utilization fee on loans	1% of loan amount unutilized for over 6months	1% of loan amount unutilized for over 6months	
Fund Recall charges	TZS 10,000.00	US\$ 10.00	
EFT Manual posting charges for incorrect details	TZS 2,500.00	No such Charges	
Blocking of Lost cheque leave/book charges	TZS 25,000.00	No such Charges	
Previous year statement charges	TZs 1,000 per page	US\$ 1.0 per page	
Printing Old statement charges	TZs 1,000 per page	US\$ 1.0 per page	
<b>Foreign Remittance Charges</b>			
LCY To FCY	Telex / Swift	Commission	Total ( USD )
	70.00	NIL	70.00
FCY to FCY ( USD or Equiv )			
Up to 10,000	50.00	50.00	100.00
From 10,001 to 25,000	50.00	100.00	150.00
From 25,001 to 50,000	50.00	150.00	200.00
From 50,001 to 100,000	50.00	175.00	225.00
From 100,001 to 250,000	50.00	250.00	300.00

Please note that the above charges may vary at the discretion of the management approval

FOREIGN EXCHANGE SERVICES	CHARGE/FEE
Inwards foreign transfers - customers	US\$ 20.00
LC Opening commission ( cash covered )	1.75% per quarter
LC Opening commission ( no cash covered )	2.00% per quarter
LC Advising commission (Inward/Export)	US\$ 200.00
Foreign Document Bills for Collection (Inward & Outward)	1.2% of LC Value
LC Acceptance commission	commission 2.00% per qrt + swift charge US\$ 70.0
LC Payment/Settlement commission	1.2% per quarter+\$120
LC Amendments	US\$ 75.00 + US \$70.00 Swift
Special clearance-LCY	Not applicable
Special clearance-FCY	Not applicable
Outward Foreign Bankers Cheque (OFBC)	Not applicable
Treasury bill bid charges	Tsh. 100,000.00 per bid
LG issuance	1.50% to 2.00% per quarter
Export letter of credit confirmation	Tzs 25,000
<b>Bankers Cheques</b>	
For US Dollars	US\$ 30.00 per bankers cheques
For Tanzanian shillings	Tsh. 30,000.00 per bankers cheques
US\$ bankers cheques cancellation	US\$ 15.00 per bankers cheques
Shillings bankers cheques cancellation	Tsh. 15,000.00 per bankers cheques
<b>Return Cheques</b>	
Cheque return unpaid-LCY	US\$ 50.00 per cheques
Cheque return unpaid-FCY	Tsh. 50,000.00 per cheques



## NGO equips farmers with skills on climate resilience

By Beatrice Philemon

MWANZA Youth and Children Network (MYCN) has introduced a new programme aimed at educating smallholder farmers in Magu and Misungwi district councils, Mwanza Region to become climate resilient.

Brightius Titus, MYCN executive director unveiled this over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at the just-concluded two-day workshop on a six-year project dubbed: 'Decentralization and Climate Change Adaptation' Project (2022-2027) as part of the Data Driven Advocacy (DDA) project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Tanzania.

The workshop brought on board USAID staff and representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs). Under the DDA project, MYCN was coordinating Youth-led organisations' engagement with government on policy and legal frameworks, facilitating capacity building workshops and sessions to youth-led organisations on leadership, proposal development, good governance, mentoring youth-led organisations on institutional development.

"We've decided to support farmers in both areas after identifying that residents and farmers were highly impacted by climate change," he said.

Farmers in the region have been affected by drought and other climate-related challenges.

According to Titus, 180 smallholder farmers in Magu District have been trained on how to access information related to climate change, weather forecast to help farmers determine the best time to plant their crops, the impact of climate change and other issues.

"In this case, MYCN has been able to provide small start-up capital to 10 farmers group in Magu District to help them operate their farming activities more effectively," he said, noting that under the programme, farmers were trained on how to access information related to climate change, weather forecast to help farmers cultivate their crops in accordance with weather change.

In the programme, MYCN links farmers to extension officers to provide them with mentorship and coaching to enable farmers to understand what kind of crops is best to grow, types of pesticides, how to access agricultural tools, best time to grow their crops and others.

MYCN has been able to provide advocacy to local government authorities to set-aside special budgets for climate change issues, teach them on how to engage youth and local communities in preparing development plans for their areas and how to identify community priorities.

"If they get priorities from the community, it will be easy for them to prepare a budget in accordance with people's needs," he said.

"To start with, a total of 25 Ward Executive Officers (WEO) and Community Development Officers (CDO) in Magu District have been trained so far at the ward level," he said.

The project is being implemented by MYCN, in collaboration with Governance Links Tanzania and the East African Communities Organisation for Management of Lake Victoria Resources (ECOVIC) with funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

MYCN is a youth-led NGO, which was established by youth in Mwanza Region in 2009 and meant to assist and facilitate youth and children so they have the best means to participate and develop their intellectual, physical, moral, cultural and economic capacity for their benefit and society in general.



**We've decided to support farmers in both areas after identifying that residents and farmers were highly impacted by climate change**

## RC launches cotton farming project to bolster crop production in Rufiji

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

COAST Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge has launched a new cotton farming project which will be implemented by Rufiji Cotton Ltd to boost production of the crop.

He also received tractors and motorcycles which will be used in the project.

Speaking to citizens at Chumbi ward during the launching event here, Kunenge applauded the investors from India assuring them that the government will provide all needed support.

He said that cotton or 'white gold' as it is commonly known, is one of the historical cash crops in Rufiji district, where in the 1960s it was considered as the major crop grown by many farmers bringing economic relief to several families.

He however said, that despite the history of this noble crop, currently the situation is different as it is clear that cotton is no longer among the major economic pillars for farmers, households and the district as a whole but the new investments will restore the crop.

"We are happy to continue receiving several investors putting their funds to restore farming of major commercial crops, we have investors in sugarcane production and now cotton, we will continue attracting more to stimulate economic development in our region," he said.

Wille Mtunga, director general of the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) said the move will reduce reliance on food crops as cash crops and invest in massive production of cotton bringing positive impacts to the farmers.

He said that the board has passed in 24 villages in Rufiji to educate farmers on better farming practices for the crop.

"The reintroduction of cotton farming will also assist farmers in lowering sales of food crops and avoiding food shortages, which are largely due to people relying on food crops as cash crops," he said

He added that a total of 24 agricultural officers have been sent to the villages to closely assist farmers in crop production.

"We promote farmers to advance from traditional farming to modern farming, in the sense that they should farm commercially while keeping records at every step," he says.

He insisted that the strategies will be achieved through TCB's effective management of distribution and proper use of pesticides and proper guidelines for farmers from planting to appropriate harvest and storage.

According to him, a total of 3012 farmers have been registered and will next week receive quality seeds, pesticides and other support tools free of charge to make farming easy.

Cotton ambassador, Aggrey Mwanri commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for prioritising efforts in transforming the agriculture sector.

"There is a new processing factory which will be constructed here and it needs a lot of cotton of up to 500,000 kilogrammes while the current production is at 100,000 kilogrammes, we will continue encouraging farmers to venture into cotton production to transform their economies," he added.

Rufiji Cotton Ltd executive director, Hassan Kinje said that they have chosen Rufiji due to its favourable environment as well as good support from the government.

He said that the company will support farmers with tractors to facilitate the production of the crop.

He said that the 24 agriculture officers who have been hired have been equipped with new motorcycles to enable them to travel to reach farmers for education and other needed support.

Kinje said that the factory will involve the processing of the crop as well as clothes production.

Ally Athuman Nguvu, Chumbi ward councillor thanked citizens for providing a total of 6000 acres for cotton farming as well as construction of the processing factory.



Hanang' district commissioner Janeth Mayanja (C) presents a dummy cheque for 269.6m/- to 18 residents of the district, NMB Bank customers, whose businesses and other property were disrupted by early last month's mudslides. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

By Guardian Correspondent, Sikonge

SIKONGE District Council in Tabora Region has received 10bn/- from the central government for the implementation of various development projects in the areas of education, health, roads and water.

Nico Kayange, acting district executive director (DED) told journalists at the weekend here that implementation of the projects will greatly bring relief to residents but also stimulate social and economic development in the areas.

"We will ensure that we supervise well all the projects for them to be completed on time to provide intended outcomes, there are some leaders who have misused funds in the previous

## 10bn/- to implement dev't projects in Sikonge District

projects, let me assure you that stern measures will be taken against them," he said.

He also said that in the 2023/24 financial year, the council received 2.6bn/- for the implementation of water and health projects in order to address challenges and strengthen services in the sectors.

"With implementation of projects in the education sector such as construction of schools and dormitories have greatly rescued

children from walking long distances but also bringing health services close to people, specifically pregnant women," he explained.

He added: "Out of the 2.6bn/- which were received, 250m/- went to construct a radiation building, servant houses as well as completion of a cloth washing building at Tutuo health centre."

The acting DED also said that the funds were used in improving provision of health, nutrition and

social welfare services to children who are brought for services at Tutuo health centre.

Kayange said 300m/- were spent in procurement of medical devices for the emergency building at Sikonge district hospital.

He further said that the funds were used in improvement of infrastructure in various primary and secondary schools as well as construction of a new Sikonge secondary school at a cost of 603.8m/-.



Jackfruit ready for retail sale as slices at the Muheza town market, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

DAR ES SALAAM is set to host the three-day Tanzania honey show in June, this year.

The unique show will bring on board over 5,000 beekeeping stakeholders from across the country and Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda is expected to grace the occasion.

This year's honey show is to attract 400 exhibitors and more than 5,000 participants, including industry experts, beekeeping enthusiasts.

The apiculture event serves as the grand celebration of beekeeping excellence in Tanzania under the theme "Beyond Borders, Beyond Hives"

Elias Patrick, the Strategic Partnerships Director of the Tanzania Honey Junction, who is organizing the event, expressed that coming exhibitions promises a unique and

## Dar to host Tanzania honey show this year

enlightening festival that unveils significant accomplishments in the beekeeping industry.

"The grand celebration of beekeeping excellence: Tanzania Honey Show 2024 promises a unique and enlightening festival that unveils significant accomplishments in the beekeeping industry," he expressed.

He unveiled that the exciting and educational event which will span for three dynamic days will focus to help change some of the challenges upsetting the vital economic sector.

"The event aims to elevate honey consumption within Tanzania and provide local beekeepers with the tools and opportunities to access global markets. Engaging exhibitions, interactive workshops, culinary competitions, tastings, and demonstrations will showcase the diverse applications of honey while

promoting sustainable beekeeping practices," he said.

Patrick stated that the chosen theme reflects their commitment to showcasing the global significance and innovations within the honey industry that transcend geographical and traditional boundaries.

"It emphasizes the expansive reach of beekeeping practices and the diverse flavours of honey that extend beyond the confines of hives," he insisted.

According to him, the Tanzania Honey Show is not merely a showcase, but is a positive platform for stimulating diverse innovation and collaboration towards development of the beekeeping sector across the country.

"I believe that by bringing together local and international stakeholders, we can propel Tanzanian honey onto the global stage while ensuring its

benefits are appreciated right here at home," he emphasized.

Together with that, Patrick observed that the event, which was lastly staged way back in 2006, is part of preliminary preparations to sensitize the sector's stakeholders to prepare effectively for the coming 50th Apimondia 2027 Congress.

Tanzania Honey Junction Limited is committed to promoting sustainable beekeeping practices, fostering environmental conservation, and delivering high-quality bee products.

The Tanzania Honey Show 2024 is a testament to our dedication to addressing key challenges within the industry and driving positive change. Join us at the Tanzania Honey Show 2024 as we work towards a future where Tanzanian honey is both cherished locally and celebrated globally.





Used clothes for "low-key" sale near Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stand yesterday, the small traders concerned in relative hiding for fear of arrest by law-enforcers for conducting business in unauthorised areas. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Send your attendants for customer care training, LATRA tells bus owners

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has urged bus owners to send their vehicles' operators and hostesses to a customer care training in order to improve service provision and grow their business.

LATRA's director of road transport, Johansen Kahatano, during the opening of training for bus operators at the College of Business Education (CBE).

He said the training was very important for the bus attendants to improve their customer service.

"Bus hostesses are very important people in the transportation sector, they are the ones who works to ensure that the vehicles are clean and well arranged for the passengers to enjoy smooth travel while supporting passengers in various important services, so it is important to equip them with required skills to facilitate provision of quality services" he said.

Kahatano said the safety of passengers is important, so if the attendants receive training, they will ensure that all passengers wear seat belts throughout the journey.

He said that many bus attendants (hostesses) do not wear seat belts but they are the first to tell passengers to wear the seat belts.

Kahatano said the bus staff need to be taught how to handle customer complaints so that they know what to do when a customer has a complaint.

Prof Edda Lwoga, CBE rector said the college has decided to support the government's efforts to promote professionalism and efficiency of public transport operators.

She said the goal is to ensure that the services are of high quality adding that CBE is one of the institutions that have been given permission to provide such training.

She said that the college has already prepared curricula, training manuals,

as well as preparing facilitators and all necessary tools for the training.

"It is our expectation that immediately after this launch, the college will officially begin the admission of training participants and it will be held in centres located in the regions of Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza and Mbeya," she said.

She said CBE recognizes the efforts made by the government through (LATRA), in improving road transport in the country.

She said the establishment of LATRA through the Transport Regulation Act of 2019 was an important step in managing and improving the important sector.

"However, we are still witnessing this sector continuing to face various challenges such as violations of road safety laws and regulations, unsatisfactory customer service, this situation requires more efforts from all stakeholders," she said.

Head of the road safety education desk of the Police Force, Michael Deleli said the Force sees the training as a great opportunity because it will help eliminate challenges in public transport.

"There are a number of crimes being done in public transport and it is due to ignorance of some operators, for example we have witnessed the transportation of illegal immigrants, these actions are carried out by operators who have no understanding of the country's laws," he said.

He said even drugs are being transported through the motor vehicles especially buses, but when they are caught, bus attendants fail to recognize the owners, a situation that has been causing chaos.

Mbazi Mjema, treasurer of the Bus Owners Association (TABOA) commended the government for the decision to introduce the training as it will help the association fulfil its responsibilities and increase efficiency.

## UN says 2,000 peacekeepers to leave eastern DRC in first phase

KINSHASA

A TOTAL of 2,000 troops of the United Nations are set to leave the restive eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo by the end of April in the first phase of the peacekeeping mission's planned withdrawal from the country, the head of mission said on Saturday.

The U.N. Security Council approved the end of the mission in December following a request by Congolese

President Felix Tshisekedi in September to fast-track the withdrawal of the peacekeepers.

The currently 13,500-strong force, known as MONUSCO, took over from an earlier U.N. operation in 2010 to help quell insecurity in the east of the Central African country, where armed groups fight over territory and resources.

But in recent years, its presence has become increasingly unpopular for what critics say is a failure to

protect civilians against militia groups, sparking deadly protests.

"We have a ceiling of 13,500 troops authorised by the Security Council, as of April 30th, with the start of the withdrawal underway, we will reach 11,500," Bintou Keita, head of the mission, told a joint press conference with government officials.

The first of three withdrawal phases will begin in South Kivu province, she said, adding that 14 U.N. bases in the province will be taken over by

Congolese security forces.

U.N. peacekeeping forces will later withdraw from the North Kivu and Ituri provinces in the next phases.

Congolese Foreign Minister Christophe Lutundula told the press conference in the capital Kinshasa that the remaining U.N. forces are expected to be out of the country by Dec. 31.

"The withdrawal of MONUSCO does not necessarily mean the end of the fight we are undertaking to protect the territorial interests of our country, we must continue to struggle," Lutundula said.

More than 7 million people have been displaced due to conflicts in Congo, mostly in the three eastern provinces where a myriad of armed groups continue to operate.

## AI to hit 40 pct of jobs and worsen inequality, IMF says

By Annabelle Liang

ARTIFICIAL intelligence is set to affect nearly 40% of all jobs, according to a new analysis by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

IMF's managing director Kristalina Georgieva says "in most scenarios, AI will likely worsen overall inequality".

Georgieva adds that policymakers should address the "troubling trend" to "prevent the technology from further stoking social tensions".

The proliferation of AI has put its benefits and risks under the spotlight.

The IMF said AI is likely to affect a greater proportion of jobs - put at around 60% - in advanced economies. In half of these instances, workers can expect to benefit from the integration of AI, which will enhance their productivity.

In other instances, AI will have the ability to perform key tasks that are currently executed by humans. This could lower demand for labour, affecting wages and even eradicating jobs.

Meanwhile, the IMF projects that the technology will affect just 26% of jobs in low-income countries.

It echoes a report from Goldman Sachs in 2023, which estimated AI could replace the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs - but said there may also be new jobs alongside a boom in productivity.

Georgieva said "many of these countries don't have the infrastructure or skilled workforces to harness the benefits of AI, raising the risk that over time the technology could worsen inequality among nations".

More generally, higher-income and younger workers may see a disproportionate increase in their wages after adopting AI.

Lower-income and older workers could fall behind, the IMF believes.

"It is crucial for countries to establish comprehensive social safety nets and offer retraining programmes for vulnerable workers," Georgieva said. "In doing so, we can make the AI transition more inclusive, protecting

livelihoods and curbing inequality."

The IMF analysis comes as global business and political leaders gather at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

AI is a topic of discussion, following the surge in popularity of applications like ChatGPT.

The technology is facing increased regulation around the world. Last month, European Union officials reached a provisional deal on the world's first comprehensive laws to regulate the use of AI.

China has introduced some of the world's first national regulations on AI, which include rules concerning how algorithms can be developed and deployed.

In October, President Biden signed an executive order compelling developers to share safety results relating to AI with the US government.

The following month the UK hosted an AI Safety Summit, at which a declaration on the safe development of the technology was signed by multiple countries.



Salim Khalfan Kimaro, Chief Financial Officer with the Finance ministry's Financial Sector Development Department, makes a presentation in Morogoro municipality yesterday at financial education training for artists from various social organisations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA**



**Request for Proposal**

**ENDLINE EVALUATION-PROTECTING GIRLS FROM HARMFUL PRACTICES IN MARA AND GEITA REGIONS**

**RFQ No. PIT/CO/10837462/FY24**

1. Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Morogoro, Mara, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Mpanda and Kigoma. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide.
2. Plan International Tanzania through protecting girls from harmful practice (PGHP) project supported by UKNO and CHNO has set aside funds for end line evaluation. The Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to [tenders@plan-international.org](mailto:tenders@plan-international.org) Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing or submission of the bid documents.
4. Bidders must submit the proposal in a sealed envelope by hand to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam, before **17:00 Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, marked the respective RFP number. Not to be opened before **17:00 Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.
5. Late and Electronic Bids shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**Country Director**  
**Plan International Tanzania**  
**Central Technologies House**  
**Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area**  
**New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA**  
**P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam**



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## Nation ought to see more of the fruits of investment in public service development

IN an article on human resource management published just a little under sixteen years ago, a highly regarded analyst described leadership as one's ability to get others to willingly follow her or him.

Hakala, who was known to have demonstrated proud leadership and management experience across a highly competitive military environment, outlined what he saw as the top ten leadership qualities.

These include having a vision, articulating it, and implementing it; having integrity, and thus the trust of one's followers; and having dedication, meaning spending the time or energy necessary to accomplish tasks at hand.

Among the other attributes were having magnanimity, meaning being humble enough to give credit wherever credit was due and to take personal responsibility for failures; and being open or approachable, that is being able to listen to new ideas.

The others are creativity, or the ability to think differently, to get outside the box that constrains solutions; humility, or the recognition that leaders are no better or worse than other members of the team; and fairness, or dealing with others consistently and justly.

Yet others are assertiveness, or the ability to clearly state what one expects; and a sense of humour, with which to relieve tension and boredom, defuse hostility and energise followers.

In this connection, we are reminded of a conference that was once jointly organised by the Commonwealth Association of Public Administrators and Managers, the Tanzanian government and the Tanzania Public Service College. It was held in Arusha city.

The conference brought together human resource experts and executives from Commonwealth member-countries as diverse as hosts Tanzania, Barbados, Botswana, Canada, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and the UK.

The theme tied in splendidly with the views of HR management and administration experts like Hakala, who saw people as the most valuable asset to all manner of organisations.

And, indeed, this was the gist of the message Australian Public Service

Commissioner Lynelle Briggs had for the conference.

Briggs told the conference, whose theme was 'Governance Excellence: Managing Human Potential', that attracting, retaining and developing the right people with the right skills was critical for success.

The executive said that in the private sector, bottom line performance was the ultimate measure of whether that delicate equation was effectively balanced.

"In public administration... it is the quality and potential of our most valuable asset, our workforce, which will ensure that governments are served well, with integrity and honesty, and communities are supported with robust and reliable services and advice," explained Briggs.

The conference ran as a series of mini-lectures on four major challenges that governments and corporate entities globally commonly face as they seek to build their workforces.

The sessions revolved around strategic planning, attraction and recruitment, developing employees, and managing performance - the last one regarded as the most daunting.

The conference had opened with the chief guest aptly noting that well-managed and motivated human resources were essential for promoting good governance and formulating and implementing sound economic policies.

Now, Tanzania's public service has evidently undergone intensive changes over the years, the idea being to make it more effective and efficient.

The changes have cost the nation a fortune in terms of financial and other resources, so the people have every right to expect generally much better services than have been extended to them until now. It is only to be expected that all concerned will take serious, dutiful and comprehensive stock of their performance, both as members of whatever agencies, firms and other institutions they are attached to and as individual players, and feel obliged to do even better.

That should be the spirit which, if translated into enough well-meaning concrete action, should see our country and nation move all the faster towards the widely hoped-for level of social and economic development.

## Legislatures could help banks play bigger role in growing economies

THE just-ended commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution saw actors from various sectors and quarters compare notes and exchange views on their respective lines of action and expectations.

For instance, National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson and her Zanzibar counterpart, Zubeir Ali Maulid, met at a function having to do with the role of banks under the much-changed economic and other conditions we are witnessing.

The two "sister" legislatures regularly brainstorm on the kind of policy measures seen as suitable for implementation in efforts to expedite social and economic development on both sides of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The two key dignitaries hailed the noticeable rise in the contribution of the financial sector in facilitating a more vibrant market making it possible for various groups to realise the potential of fruitful investment they seek to initiate.

Banks are in a way, if you will, the midwives between what someone dreams and what the market can accommodate.

This is primarily because dreams are personal, while market potential is more open to scrutiny - and that is where banks come in.

These institutions put large savings into economic activity that earns the savers an interest while also propelling growth including through job creation.

One aspect in what transpired when the two legislative body heads met with financial sector stakeholders was the way in which their assessments of the role of banks hinged mainly on rather familiar

issues. Much of the thrust was in relation to what is commonly termed corporate social responsibility (CSR). This is where banks and various other firms or agencies direct portions of their surpluses or profits into the education, health, water, environment and other sectors.

The reflection was well-timed as the event was a dinner gala involving NMB Bank Plc staff and legislators.

Of course, there were remarks directed at the core functions of banks, where the top legislators noted that commercial banks play a critical role in national building efforts.

Not everyone adequately comprehends or readily acknowledges the value of CSR as opposed to levies local governments may at times seek from investors, as if the latter don't pay taxes in the first place.

Anyone familiar with the potential role of banks in economies like ours that are still largely rudimentary would realise the rationale for commending the financial institutions for their CSR initiatives.

The efforts go into supporting the government in addressing factors hindering progress in the likes of education, healthcare, disaster management and the environment.

But it is not merely in supplying vital items like desks, roofing materials, medical supplies or building classrooms where the strategic role of banks ought to be seen.

To put it a little differently, it means a lot more than just having banks use portions of their profits "to give back to the community". As importantly, it also entails - for the banks - being able to accelerate the pace of meaningfully lending across the board.



## ATIDI backs 20-MW solar project in Uganda

DUBAI

THE African Trade and Investment Development Insurance (ATIDI) has announced its intent to support the 20-MW Ituka West Nile Uganda Ltd solar project developed by AMEA Power, a Dubai-based independent power producer (IPP).

ATIDI will support the project via its Regional Liquidity Support Facility (RLSF) by providing payment guarantees for the benefit of the project on behalf of the Ugandan national power utility, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL).

The partnership was announced at the signing ceremony on the margins of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which was held here. It underscores ATIDI's commitment to risk mitigation and project resilience in the dynamic landscape of sustainable energy.

COP28, the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was held in Dubai from 30 November 30 to December 13, 2023. It was the first COP to take place in the Middle East, a region highly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis.

COP28 was mainly out to take stock of the progress made by the parties on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the landmark climate treaty adopted in 2015, and to chart a course of action to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect lives and livelihoods.

One of the first outcomes of COP28 was the establishment of a loss and damage fund. This will provide financial support to developing countries already suffering from the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, sea level rise, and biodiversity loss.

The fund was agreed after decades of demand by the global south. However, the US\$700 million pledged by the wealthy nations falls far short of the estimated annual cost of the damage, which ranges from US\$100 billion to US\$580 billion.

A historic result of COP28 was the adoption of a fossil fuel phase-out agreement, which commits the parties to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, so as to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

This was the first time that the COP explicitly addressed the need to end the use of coal, oil, and gas, the main drivers of the climate crisis.

The agreement also calls for a tripling of renewable energy capacity globally by 2030, and the acceleration of technologies such as carbon capture



ATIDI CEO Manuel Moses (L) with Aqueel Bohra, AMEA Power's senior director for project development.

and storage.

Commenting on the deal, ATIDI CEO Manuel Moses thanked AMEA Power for serving as catalysts for energy independence in Uganda.

"At ATIDI, we believe in fostering sustainable development, and one crucial avenue is supporting IPPs who propel diversification of Africa's energy mix," said Moses.

He elaborated: "Over the past years, Uganda has demonstrated remarkable strides in its energy sector, and we are proud to play a role in this transformative journey. Our recent collaboration with IPPs (independent power projects) in Uganda is not just about power generation. Rather, it is about empowering communities, driving economic growth, and fostering a sustainable future."

Aqueel Bohra, AMEA Power's senior director for project development, meanwhile said investing in renewable energy in Uganda was part of the company's pledge to deliver sustainable energy to all.

"We thank ATIDI for their support, which is crucial for the success of the project. Our solar project will not only help provide essential power to homes and industries but will also drive economic growth, creating jobs, and safeguarding the environment," he added.

Uganda has made noticeable progress in increasing the national electricity access rates, with annualised increases of 3 per cent between 2010 and 2020. The rate currently stands at 42 per cent, which is a notable improvement from only 12 per cent in 2010.

The national installed capacity stands at 1,346 MW, the bulk of this being from hydro-powered projects. This leaves the country vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change in the event of any prolonged drought

that would result in poor electricity generation.

Africa is home to 39 per cent of global renewable energy potential, and the continent's green energy sector offers lucrative opportunities for foreign companies and developers looking to diversify their portfolios, in line with COP28 commitments.

For the Middle East, the African continent offers Gulf countries the ability to establish themselves as renewable energy market leaders, while exercising technical expertise and generating returns on investment.

Africa is only beginning to understand the full potential of its renewable energy resources. The African Development Bank estimates the continent's solar capacity potential at as high as 10 TW, hydroelectric potential at 350 GW, and geothermal potential at 15 GW. Yet as of last year (2022), total installed renewable capacity on the continent was just shy of 59 GW.

At the upcoming Invest in African Energy (IAE) forum expected to take place in Paris from May 14 to 15, 2024, this untapped potential will be explored. The idea will be to connect MENA, Europe and Africa's energy players to advance energy security and climate diplomacy goals.

Last September, the UAE's AMEA Power announced plans to construct a 1 GW green hydrogen project in Mombasa on the Kenyan coast, utilising electricity generated from existing geothermal plants.

The renewable energy company has also agreed to develop a 200 MW geothermal project in Uganda, a 300 MW wind farm in Ethiopia and a solar and battery initiative in Djibouti.

To advance a 1 GW green hydrogen initiative in Mauritania, AMEA Power signed two memoranda of understanding during COP28,

targeting the development of a 100 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant and 100 MW wind farm.

Emirati state-owned renewable energy firm Masdar meanwhile recently signed agreements to develop renewable projects in Uganda with a total capacity of approximately 1 GW.

In Angola, Masdar has signed agreements to develop 150 MW of solar projects in Quipungo, this as part of the firm's broader commitment to develop 2 GW of renewable capacity in the country.

Earlier this year, Infinity Power - a joint venture between Masdar and Egypt's Infinity - acquired a 60 per cent stake in independent power producer Lekela Power.

The latter firm boasts over 1,300 MW of wind power assets across the African continent, including the 143 MW Khobab, 143 MW Kangnas and 143 MW Loeriesfontein wind farms in South Africa.

The acquisition aligns with the company's strategic interest in expanding its renewable footprint in Africa, while the firm is also pursuing a partnership with Africa50 to undertake floating solar PV projects in Mozambique, as well as developing 500 MW of renewable capacity in the Republic of the Congo.

Meanwhile, the UAE launched its Etihad 7 programme at the start of this year, pledging to deliver clean energy to millions of Africans by 2035.

Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber, COP 28 President-Designate and CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and Masdar, pledged US\$4.5 billion to aid African economies in accelerating their green transition and urged developing nations to fulfil the US\$100 billion in annual green finance previously committed for developing countries.

While the UAE has been leading renewable energy investment in Africa to date, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other Gulf nations have stated their interests in accelerating project developments and participating in sustainable economic growth across the (African) continent.

The IAE 2024 forum serves as a pivotal platform for connecting Gulf energy firms and developers with African resources.

Taking place in Paris, the event serves as a strategic alignment of European and Middle Eastern energy interests aimed at fostering mutually beneficial partnerships and unlocking new green energy finance.

In alignment with global transition goals, investors can engage with opportunities for clean energy technologies and infrastructure and take advantage of the continent's vast renewable resources.

\* Agencies



By Tegbaru Yared

# Nations across Africa need to stand together to end conflict in Ethiopia

ETHIOPIA'S Amhara region has been the epicentre of political violence and armed conflict, with Fano ethnic militias clashing with the federal government since April this year. Calls from national and international actors for hostilities to end have gone unanswered.

President Sahle-Work Zewde, in her October state of the federation address, reiterated the need for dialogue on major issues dividing the political elite and society. In August, African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat called for parties to "immediately cease the fighting", as well as "the protection of civilians" and "engagement in dialogue to reach a peaceful solution". He renewed the AU's support for an "inter-Ethiopian initiative" to achieve peace and stability.

But the conflict continues. The Amhara region was relatively stable before the Tigray crisis began in November 2020. However, its armed forces and ethnic militias joined the federal government in the war against Tigrayan forces. Prior to the conflict, the regional government incorporated contested territories such as Wolkayt, Humera, Tselemti and Raya under Tigray's jurisdiction.

The conflict ended with the AU-mediated cessation of hostilities agreement (CoHA) being signed in November 2022. The federal government integrated regional special forces into national security institutions - the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF), federal police and regional police forces. However, Amhara political organisations resisted this integration, which led to the defection of regional special force members to the Fano ethnic militia.

Some Amharas believe the reintegration plan showed a failure of both the Ethiopian government and the AU to disarm the Tigray People's Liberation Front - a CoHA stipulation. Under Article 11 of the agreement, in December 2022 the AU launched the AU Monitoring, Verification and

Compliance Mission and deployed the whole team to Mekele in January. In May this year, the mission reported that disarmament of the Tigrayan forces was 85% to 90% complete. In June, the AU Commission extended the mission's term by six months.

## Uneasy relationship

However, Amhara forces don't believe their Tigrayan counterparts are properly disarmed - due partly to the decades-old competition and mistrust between the two regions' political elite. The fresh memory and war trauma further complicated this uneasy relationship.

The Amhara forces are also alarmed about the status of Wolkayt and Raya's contested territories. They consider the federal government's recommendation to resolve the issue through a referendum as a move to force them out of these territories. They say the government has not protected ethnic Amharas across the country from attacks, particularly those by the Oromo Liberation Army in the Oromia region.

While resistance to government reintegration is the immediate cause of tension with the Amhara forces, the conflict was shaped by various historical and structural factors. Similarly, Amhara elites' suspicion that the CoHA shifted alliances between Tigrayan forces and the government against it is because of deep-seated historic rivalry and mistrust.

The government has taken a fully fledged security approach in response to the crisis. The ENDF was ordered to disarm Amhara special force members who did not heed the government's call for disarmament. Although the ENDF's mission met with little armed resistance - leading authorities to believe the reintegration



Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde reiterated in August 2023 the need for dialogue on major issues dividing the country's political elite and society. (Photo: Waldo Swiegers/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

was successful - Amhara defectors joined forces with Fano militias. They launched coordinated attacks against local and regional officials.

The fragmented hit-and-run tactic of the militias later morphed into a coordinated attack against local administrative structures when the group started seizing control of towns. To take control of the regional capital, Bahir Dar, forcing the provincial government to request federal government intervention.

Ethiopia's Council of Ministers immediately declared a state of emergency in Amhara, inherently encroaching on citizens' civil and political rights with adverse

implications for livelihoods. Despite the state of emergency and ENDF deployment to enforce peace and security and restore stability, the region remains fragile, with armed confrontation between ENDF and Fano and ethnic militias continuing unabated. The federal government continues a security approach in trying to contain the violence.

Unless resolved soon, instability in the Amhara region will spread beyond Ethiopia's borders. Eritrea's involvement lent a regional dimension during the 2020-22 war between Amhara and Tigrayan forces. The more disruption in Amhara lingers, the higher the probability

of actors in Eritrea becoming involved.

The instability and ongoing war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Force in Sudan could also influence the trajectory of Ethiopia's armed conflict. The contested territories across the Ethiopia-Sudan border, the al-Fashaga territory, the rising influx of refugees and the increase in arms smuggling in the area could exacerbate the violence.

## Spectre of Al-Shabaab

The Amhara situation could also affect campaigns by the AU, international communities and Somalia against al-Shabaab. For one, if the ENDF is preoccupied with the Amhara forces and withdraws from the Ethiopia-Somalia border, as it did in 2020, Somalia's anti-al-Shabaab efforts could be prolonged. Extremists could use the security vacuum to infiltrate Ethiopia in search of a territorial haven. They could also expand their influence into Ethiopia and threaten the stability of yet another Horn of Africa country.

The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) should view the Amhara crisis as more than a local security challenge in one of its member states. Based on its mantra of "African solutions to African problems", it should involve continental actors early to avoid spillover into the region.

The federal and Amhara regional governments recently indicated they'd be open to dialogue. This is an opportunity for the AU Commission - at the PSC's behest - to explore this and approach the parties to implement a conflict resolution mechanism in the region. This could be through a special envoy under Mahamat.

The Panel of the Wise could also inspire both parties' political will for a negotiated settlement. Timeliness could help prevent another major crisis in Ethiopia. **DM**

## Assessing public debt sustainability with a long-term view

By Vatcharin Sirimaneetham

WHEN students from poor families in developing countries are offered places at prestigious universities, they are often faced with a tough choice. One option is to accept the offer and create more debt, likely through borrowing from a loan shark, to pay for tuition fees. Another option is to forgo this opportunity, which could be the first in family generations, and start working as low-wage workers.

If what matters is the ability to repay debt in coming months, then entering the labour market not only avoids creating new debt but also generates income. Yet, if one adopts a longer-term view and considers that tertiary education could offer higher earnings, and thus ability to pay off debt, and savings in the long run, then going to a university seems more viable.

While governments are different from individuals in many ways, this is also the nature of choices that policymakers in developing countries face. They embark on ambitious development pathways, such as providing universal healthcare services and boosting renewable energy production, which are good for people and the environment in the future, but they often mean additional sovereign borrowing and debt today.

Should governments borrow more to invest in development, or should they give up these investments to attain 'sustainable' public debt level, as perceived by creditors and financial markets?

Arguably, investments to foster equitable and green development do not bode well with the current approaches on public debt sustainability analysis adopted by international financial institutions and credit rating agencies.

This is because returns to investment in development only become clearly visible in the long run, but the current approaches prioritize a country's ability to meet debt obligations in the near term. There is a risk that too much emphasis is being put on reducing short-term debt distress risk at the cost of social and environmental well-being.

Given the lack of a long-term, development-aligned approach to assess

public debt sustainability, ESCAP in its Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2023 proposes a new, 'augmented' approach to supplement the existing approaches.

This augmented approach duly considers the scale of a country's investment needs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how such investment can reduce, rather than increase, the government debt-to-GDP ratio in the future. For example, investing in the SDGs would raise the potential GDP level amid a more educated and healthier workforce, technological innovation, and climate-resilient economies.

The augmented approach also considers the sovereign debt implications of pursuing national SDG financing strategies and structural development policies. In the same way that many students seek financial grants and part-time jobs to make their university education a reality, governments also actively explore domestic and international financing options to fund their development ambitions. This financing aspect should form a critical part of any debt sustainability analysis.

Unlike traditional approaches, the augmented approach does not categorize debtor countries into a low or high risk of public debt distress based on some common thresholds. This is because 'sustainable' debt level should be country specific, depending on the gap between development progress and goals, among others.

Instead, based on the ESCAP Macroeconomic Model, this new approach illustrates different trajectories of government debt levels under different policy scenarios and adverse shocks. This helps policymakers make informed choices on how to strike a balance between achieving the SDGs and maintaining public debt sustainability in the long run.

The analysis on Mongolia as a pilot country in the Survey 2023 shows that investing in the SDGs would, as expected, result in a surging government debt level initially due to large spending needs. Yet, after considering the sizeable socioeconomic and environmental benefits of investing in the SDGs as well as a package of policies aimed at promoting a green and diversified economy, mobilizing fis-



cal resources and attracting private finance for development, government indebtedness is expected to fall notably in the long run.

Going beyond policy research, the augmented public debt sustainability analysis was discussed at the fourth session of the Committee on

Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development in early November 2023. During a dedicated session, high-level government officials also highlighted policy actions that Mongolia, Pakistan and Viet Nam have undertaken to balance the SDG attainment

with long-term public debt sustainability.

The augmented approach is also implemented as part of ESCAP's technical assistance for its member States. For example, ESCAP is working with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) of Viet Nam

to study the fiscal, socioeconomic and environmental implications of policies on carbon pricing, poverty reduction, and investments in information and communications technology. A national workshop was organized in mid-December 2023.



# China builds ecological monitoring network to better protect lucid waters, lush mountains

By Kou Jiazze, Yao Xueqing, Li Maoying

**E**ARLY in the morning, Shen Wei arrived at the Gehu Lake, upstream of the Taihu Lake in east China's Jiangsu province, with a toolbox, to conduct routine water quality and aquatic organism monitoring. Meanwhile, Shen's colleagues were sampling water from the lake with a water collector for the monitoring of planktonic algae.

After the sampling was completed, Shen, deputy chief of the ecological department of the Changzhou Environmental Monitoring Center, which initiated a comprehensive ecological monitoring network for water bodies on the plains of Changzhou, returned to the lab with his colleagues and started analyzing samples.

"We discovered *Novaculina chinensis*, a national second-class protected aquatic wild animal, and we have found it at multiple locations many times," said Shen. According to him, this indicated that the ecological condition of Gehu Lake was improving.

The monitoring of planktonic algae also had some positive findings - diatoms, the dominant species in the winter lake, were at normal levels and varieties.

Ecological monitoring is essential for obtaining an objective and accurate understanding of the ecological conditions in a given area, implementing scientific ecological protection and restoration measures, and evaluating their outcomes.

Recently, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, issued a work plan on national ecological quality supervision and monitoring for the 2023-2025 period.

According to the plan, China will set up a national ecological monitoring network and designate 55 sites as the first batch of national stations for monitoring ecological quality, including a station in Xishuangbanna, southwest China's Yunnan province, and the comprehensive ecological monitoring network for water bodies on the plains of Changzhou.

The first batch of national stations for monitoring ecological quality cover major ecosystem types such as forests, wetlands, grasslands, deserts, oceans, cities, and farmlands. They span across 44 key ecological conservation and regulatory areas in China, as well as other important ecological regions and urban clusters with frequent human activities.

Compared to environmental monitoring, ecological monitoring features richer content, more complex indicators, and more diverse methods.

"The national ecological monitoring network takes species diversity and habitats as its monitoring objects, with the goals of highlighting supervision, finding problems, and accumulating data. It focuses on the composition, structure, and functions of biological communities and species, enabling comprehensive monitoring of all types of ecosystems



A geological monitoring device enabled by the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System is installed in Nanmu township, Youyang Tujia and Miao autonomous county, southwest China's Chongqing municipality. (People's Daily Online/Qiu Hongbin)

within a 100 km radius of each monitoring station," said Dong Mingli, an official with China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

In the Xishuangbanna national nature reserve in Yunnan, Yuan Shengdong and other scientific researchers from the Xishuangbanna tropical rainforest ecosystem station walked into the depths of the dense forest to carry out routine field monitoring at designated plots, including measuring, marking, sampling, and recording.

For most of the year, the staff at this station are out in the field. "We collect millions of monitoring data every year, including various types such as biology, meteorology, hydrology, and soil," said Yuan.

He further explained that studying the dynamics of tropical rainforests requires long-term data accumulation, as short-term observations do not yield immediate results. Therefore, researchers need to diligently work day by day to gather the necessary data for studying

the changes in the rainforest ecosystem.

Dong said that the national ecological monitoring network takes monitoring stations as regional centers, monitoring plots as the primary objects, and ground mobile patrols as a supplement. Working in sync with remote sensing, it integrates satellite resources, manned and unmanned aerial vehicles, ground fixed and mobile patrol monitoring, and other observation methods to establish an integrated sky-ground ecological monitoring technology system, Dong explained.

It is learned that satellite remote sensing monitoring boasts a wide coverage. It can monitor land surface changes promptly and discover ecological damages, serving as the primary means for ecological supervision.

Unmanned aerial vehicles are flexible and responsive. They can carry visible infrared sensors, hyperspectral sensors, LiDAR and other payloads to conduct on-site investigations and technical calibrations of damage clues and changes of ecological types in key areas. This provides data support for the verification of ecological damages and validation of remote sensing parameters.

Ground monitoring mainly utilizes video surveillance, patrols, plot monitoring and other means to conduct real-time monitoring of key sensitive areas and discover problems like human interference.

Ecological monitoring not only aims to present the current status and changes in regional ecological quality but also focuses on enhancing the ability to proactively detect ecological issues.

"For example, cyanobacterial bloom is a prominent issue in the treatment of the Taihu Lake. The monitoring station utilizes historical data to study the competitive growth mechanisms of aquatic plants and cyanobacteria, providing technical support for scientific and precise artificial restoration of the ecological environment," said Pan Chen, director of the Changzhou Environmental Monitoring Center.

People's Daily

By Alza Kryeziu

**L**AST year, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Germany (BAMF) registered 9,399 asylum applications from Georgian citizens, of which only 0.3 per cent were approved.

The same source also revealed that the total number of asylum seekers in Germany reached 352,000 during the same year, marking an increase of 51 per cent, or 111,000 people, compared to 2022, Schengen-VisaInfo.com reports.

Among them, 329,000 were first-time applicants. This increase represents the highest volume of asylum applications since 2016 when a total of 722,370 initial applications were submitted.

260k Applications Decided, Over Half Approved in 2023

According to BAMF, within the 352,000 applications, 23,000 were follow-up attempts from the previous year, reflecting cases carried over due to failures or withdrawals.

In 2023, the same authority rendered decisions on a total of 260,000 applications, while over half of them were approved.

Moreover, the majority of applications during the same year originated from individuals fleeing conflict and human rights violations in countries as follows, Syria (104,561), Türkiye (62,624) and Afghanistan (53,282).

While positive decisions were granted to a significant number of Syrians and Afghans, who faced dire circumstances in their home countries, only 13 per cent of Turkish applicants received approval.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser stressed the need to maintain existing policies based on the 2023 asylum statistics. In this regard, she pointed out a 25 per cent increase in the number of individuals repatriated to their countries of origin compared to 2022. She further indicated that the government is ready to adopt a legislative package to simplify and speed up the process of such returns.

## 'Over 9,000 Georgians applied for asylum in Germany in 2023'



Last November, BAMF granted 35,316 initial applications for asylum, bringing the annual number to 304,581 initial applications for asylum.

During the year, it completed 242,185 asylum procedures. Between January and November 2023, Germany registered a total of 325,801 asylum seekers, including 304,581 initial applications and 21,220 subsequent applications.

This statistic shows a significant increase of 60.3 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year, during which there were 189,998 initial applications. The data also show that among the initial applications in 2023, 21,287 were related to children born in Germany who were under one

In addition, the latest data from the BAMF highlights a marked increase in the proportion of male asylum seekers aged 16 to 40 in Germany over the past five years. In the first eleven months of 2023, half of the first-time asylum seekers (50.7 per cent) fell into this age group, a marked increase compared to 2019 and 2020, where the percentage moved to just over a quarter (26.2 per cent and 26.6 per cent), respectively.

## 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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Turkish firms undertake over \$85 billion projects in Africa

KAMPALA

COMPANIES from Türkiye have undertaken tens of billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure and superstructure projects in Africa, cementing their rapid expansion in the continent in a drive that has been creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

The contracting firms completed 1,864 projects across Africa worth \$85.4 billion as of the end of 2023, according to data from the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK).

Turkish companies' investments across the continent exceed \$10 billion, and their firms employ more than 100,000 Africans.

Türkiye's engagement with the African continent has been gaining pace over the years. Since taking office nearly two decades ago, first serving as prime minister, Erdoğan has been fostering ties with the continent, presenting Türkiye as a fairer player than the continent's former colonial powers.

The diplomatic push has seen Türkiye's trade volume with Africa surge to nearly \$41 billion as of the end of 2022, from as low as \$5.4 billion in 2003. The figure is projected to hit \$50 billion in 2023.

The government's priority to engage with Africa has helped facilitate

the growth of business and trade relations. It came with a strong commitment focused on direct aid, infrastructure, transportation projects and mutually beneficial economic partnerships.

Major Turkish construction companies in Uganda, Polat Yol and Yapı Merkezi have undertaken megaprojects.

Polat Yol won a civil works contract to upgrade the 92-kilometer (57-mile) Muyembe-Nakapiripirit Road, linking Uganda to Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Trade has improved along the road that travels through the districts of Bulambuli, Kween and Nakapiripirit, according to residents. The road crosses the Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve, Uganda's second largest conservation protected area after Murchison Falls National Park.

Once completed, it will boost the flow of tourists in the area, which will create employment opportunities for residents and increase economic benefits for the government, Lilly Ajarova, a Ugandan conservationist and tourism expert, who is the head of the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), said.

"Pian Upe is a captivating haven for nature enthusiasts and conservationists seeking to experience the thrill of African wildlife in its natural habitat. It is also the best place to see



A train on the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line in Kimuka, Kenya.

Uganda's rarest animal, the cheetah. This widens the tax basket and tourism industry's business opportunities," Ajarova told Anadolu Agency (AA).

Yenen Edip, the project manager for the Muyembe-Nakapiripirit Road, says the majority of employees on the project are Ugandans.

"Our mode of operation is managing the work centrally and delivering it locally

with local people at the center stage. Our aim is to share our knowledge with the people, expose them to available technology and become a positive force supplementing their socio-economic efforts," he said.

"The Turkish contractors are very generous. During Qurban Bayram, they use their tracks to transport animals for slaughter and provide us with free meat.

This is something we had never seen before. We are so blessed to have them," Muhammad Swadiq, a local imam, told AA.

Qurban Bayram is also known as the Feast of Sacrifice or Eid al-Adha. It is the practice of sacrificing an animal in remembrance of the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son at the command of God.

Motorists whom AA spoke to acknowl-

edged spending less time on the road and making more money because a trip that took days now only takes hours.

At the beginning of 2023, the government pitched Yapı Merkezi to build a 273-kilometer (170-mile) section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line from the Malaba border post between Uganda and Kenya to Kampala, which is expected to cost \$2.2 billion.

The railway line was supposed to be constructed by the China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC), but after eight years of non-execution, Uganda opted for the Turkish builder to build the line.

SGR project coordinator Engineer Perez Wamburu said Kampala signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Yapı Merkezi.

Turkish companies also built the Tripoli Convention Center in Libya, the Kigali Convention Center in Rwanda, the parliament building in Cameroon, the Dakar Arena, a state-of-the-art multisport complex with a 15,000-seat capacity in Senegal, the Dakar International Conference Center in Senegal, the Blaise Diagne International Airport in Senegal and the Niamey Airport in Niger, among others.

Turkish Ambassador to Uganda Fatih Ak says Türkiye aims to share its knowledge in infrastructural development and all aspects that can facilitate accelerated prosperity for Uganda.

"We are paying attention to ensuring that Turkish companies operating in Uganda are doing a good job that directly improves Uganda's transportation network, shares skills and stimulates job creation for Ugandan people," Ak said.

## Davos: Global crises set to dominate gathering of business leaders

By Faisal Islam

JUST a week ago, the expectation about the latest gathering of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, was of a line being drawn under three years of pandemic, lockdown and Ukraine war energy shocks.

Inflation is falling, and 2024 was set to be the year that central banks start cutting interest rates, including here in the UK. In three years of different rolling, merging global crises, the world economy has been in the shadow of massive geopolitical shifts.

The events of the past few days shows that the "polycrisis" is far from over.

Perhaps the most telling de-

velopment has been the ability of the Houthis to use relatively cheap drones and armaments to cause havoc with world trade. Air strikes on the Houthis in Yemen were carried out explicitly to keep the currents of trade and economic recovery flowing through the straits leading to the Suez Canal.

But oil prices jumped on Friday because the risk of a wider confrontation in the region has also gone up. In three months the crisis in Gaza has led to RAF jets attacking targets in Aden. What will be happening three months from now?

As it happens, this sort of fundamental diplomatic challenge is made for the World Economic Fo-

rum. Launched in 1971, and held every year in the Alpine ski resort of Davos, the conference puts together the world's top business people and politicians, as well as key players from charity and academia.

Where else would the Israeli president, Saudi foreign minister and Qatari prime minister be present in the same space at the same time, alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Premier Li Qiang?

Expectations are low surrounding the grim situation in the Middle East, but this is the sort of place where constructive and un-

expected conversations can take place discreetly.

There had been a whiff of decay about Davos since the pandemic. G7 leader appearances were getting rarer. Rishi Sunak hasn't been and isn't going this week. In a huge year for elections across the globe the US delegation this year is particularly thin. Republicans in particular view the event with some suspicion.

The Republican Party's Ron DeSantis, a potential presidential candidate, last year called Davos a "threat to freedom" run by China. The Florida governor said any policies emerging from the forum were "dead on arrival" in his state. The view in Davos is that he thought that such rhetoric would

play well in the presidential primaries which also start this week.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky is attending, and will be mindful of "Ukraine fatigue" reaching Washington DC and becoming prevalent in developing countries.

For the UK, some in the business community appear ready to go beyond a curious interest in the Labour Party in this election year.

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt and shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves will be competing for the attention of UK business leaders and international investors.

If business investors are worried about Labour's economic plans, for example for extra in-

vestment spending, the World Economic Forum is exactly where it may, or may not surface. I recall then-opposition leader David Cameron's parade of meetings with world leaders, just before he became prime minister in 2010.

There has been a backlash against some of the corporate do-gooding typical of the event, especially the recent focus by investors on companies' environmental and social policies.

Put brutally, the world of the past two years has seen massive returns for hydrocarbon extractors, carbon emitters and arms companies.

The optimism will come from a hope that disturbed geopolitics can somehow settle without a fur-

ther energy shock.

Artificial intelligence will be everywhere, with the ChatGPT-creating Open AI boss Sam Altman being paraded to the world's business and political leaders by Microsoft, which is now vying with Apple to be the world's biggest company.

So at the start of a delicate year of disorder and uncertainty in global politics and diplomacy, and question marks about economic recovery from years of such crisis, it is difficult to imagine a better moment for a gathering like the World Economic Forum this week.

The task is to travel towards the light at the end of the tunnel. It will not be easy.

## Chinese market unlocks huge opportunities for global investors, says banking executive

NAIROBI

THE Chinese market remains an attractive destination for global investors, including multinational financial institutions with a large footprint in Africa, given China's accelerated pace of reform and opening up, a banking executive has said.

James Agin, managing principal of the Corporate and Investment Banking Division at Absa Bank Kenya PLC, said a vibrant Chinese economy has unlocked opportunities for global investors, including banks.

"The whole opening up of the Chinese economy worked quite well for global trade and economy," Agin said during a recent interview in Nairobi.

While underscoring China's pivotal role as an engine of global economic growth, Agin said China has attracted international firms thanks to its strengths, including advanced technologies, a skilled workforce, a huge consumer base, and an edge in low-cost production.

China has played a phenomenal role in global trade, is committed to protecting intellectual property rights, and has hastened institutional reforms, hence its ability to attract foreign companies keen to expand their profit margins, Agin said.

He noted that China's reform and opening up has facilitated the uninterrupted flow of goods and services while the country's indigenous companies have fostered global economic growth.

"We are seeing very big Chinese brands, Chinese companies actually playing a pivotal role in the global economy," Agin said.

The vast Chinese market brings immense opportunities to the world, Agin said, citing the higher spending power of Chinese consumers as the country focuses on inclusive economic develop-

ment.

Satisfying the huge demand for essential products like Kenyan avocados in the Chinese market has also presented new opportunities for foreign agribusiness firms, Agin said.

He added that China's bilateral trade partners have been able to develop local manufacturing in their bid to boost the export of processed goods to the Asian nation. A staff member introduces wild anchovy products to visitors at the third edition of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, June 29, 2023. (Xinhua/Sun Ruibo)

"Other economies can now start benefiting not (only) from getting goods from China but also supplying into the Chinese economy," said Agin.

China still occupies a strategic place in global and African economies, securing the confidence of global institutional investors like banks, Agin said, revealing Absa Bank's intention to establish a footprint in the Chinese market.

"The next big frontier was to have an office presence in China. As a group, from a strategic perspective, our presence in China is critical for the continued success of enhancing trade between the continent of Africa and China," Agin said.

He noted that robust China-Kenya trade relations have boosted foreign currency flows into the Kenyan economy while investments from Beijing have injected vitality into key sectors like housing, energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing.

Agin said, Absa has partnered with the China Development Bank, helping the lender gain access to Chinese industries and investors while boosting its capacity to finance projects.

He said this partnership with the China Development Bank has also enabled



People visit the 7th China (South Africa) Trade Fair in Johannesburg, South Africa.

the lender to fulfil some of its core objectives, such as deepening and enhancing the involvement of Chinese businesses in Africa.

According to Agin, Absa Bank has set up a pan-African

team to cater to Chinese businesses, adding that sensitivity to cultural nuances has been a key to cementing ties with Chinese clients.

Last year, Absa Bank announced the setting up of a

China desk staffed with Mandarin-speaking professionals to offer a range of services to investors from the Asian nation and deepen trade relations with Kenya, he said.



By Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo

# African countries shouldn't entertain forcing of displaced Palestinians from Israel conflict zone

In early January, media reports claimed Israel was in talks with "Congo" about "voluntary migration plans" for Palestinians from Gaza. The original report in Zman Yisrael said 'voluntary' resettlement was slowly becoming official policy, and the Israeli coalition was meeting secretly with Congo and other nations on the issue. A security cabinet source said, "Congo will be willing to take in migrants, and we're in talks with others".

Israel-based ID24 later reported talks with Rwanda and Chad. It cited an unnamed official as saying Israel would exchange financial and military aid for resettling Palestinians, but warning, "We must move forward with this solution while paying close attention to international reactions that could interpret it as a forced transfer and not a voluntary migration. This is why we work closely with legal advisors".

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Chad have denied secret talks with Israel. The Republic of the Congo hasn't issued a public statement.

Israel subsequently denied talking to other states about absorbing displaced Gazans. Several countries, including the Netherlands, Germany, France and Saudi Arabia, have condemned calls for forced migration.

Even the United States (US) government – a committed ally of Israel – issued a rare statement rejecting "irresponsible statements" from Israeli ministers, saying they didn't reflect the policy of the Israeli government or prime minister.

The forcible transfer of civilians of an occupied territory, in whole or in part, is against international humanitarian law. As of 6 January, 1.88 million Palestinians (85% of the population) were displaced across the Gaza Strip due to Israel's ongoing military aggression that has killed 22,835 Palestinians since 7 October 2023.

Plans to push large numbers of Palestinians into distant countries that satisfy the test of 'voluntariness' in the context of military occupation and months of bombardment are unrealistic and unlikely. But it's concerning that Israel is pursuing these conversations to gauge

public and political responses. Many officials across multiple parties have made remarks that serve a dangerous normalising function.

### 'Encouraging emigration'

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir rejected the US's condemnation, saying: "The United States is our best friend, but first of all we will do what is best for the State of Israel: the migration of hundreds of thousands from Gaza will allow the residents of the [Gaza] envelope to return home and live in security and will protect the IDF soldiers".

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich repeated calls to resettle Gazans, claiming that "more than 70% of the Israeli public today supports encouraging emigration as a humanitarian solution".

Far from a fringe view, members of the leading Likud party have made similar calls. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly told a Likud meeting that he was working to facilitate Gazans' voluntary migration to other countries but is struggling to find states willing to absorb them.

Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter claimed, "We are now rolling out the Gaza Nakba," referring to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians between 1947 and 1949 that displaced approximately 750,000 people.

Intelligence Minister Gila Gamliel told reporters, "Voluntary migration is the best and most realistic programme for the day after the fighting ends". In November 2023, Danny Danon (Likud) and Ram Ben-Barak (Yesh Atid) jointly published a Wall Street Journal article calling for the West to welcome Gaza refugees.

Sustained efforts to drive Gazans south towards the Egyptian border and leaked papers indicate that Israel is again trying to push Gazans into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Reports



Residents of Al Nuseirat and Al Bureij refugee camps evacuate during Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip, on 4 January, 2024. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Mohammed Saber)

claim that Israel has offered to write off Egyptian debt and that Netanyahu has lobbied European leaders to help

him pressure President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to absorb refugees.

Egypt and other Arab countries have withstood the pressure to open their borders, partly out of fears that Israel could use the war to force demographic changes and eliminate prospects of Palestinian statehood. Despite wanting to maintain diplomatic relations with Israel, el-Sisi said the war wasn't just aimed at fighting Hamas, but was "also an attempt to push the civilian inhabitants to ... migrate to Egypt" with the intent to "eliminate the Palestinian cause ... the most important cause of our region".

Mass displacement has been a central theme of Israeli-Palestinian history. Israel has refused to allow Palestinians who fled previous wars to return. Almost six million refugees and their descendants remain in other countries – many stateless.

Egyptians, like most Africans, have broad solidarity with the Palestinian cause. Any decision viewed as entrenching Israeli occupation would face public and political backlash. Egypt also has concerns about terrorists moving with Gaza civilians, and the country becoming a base for attacks on Israel.

Israel has secretly implemented a deportation plan for African migrants before. Between 2014 and 2017, Israel brokered a partnership with Rwanda and Uganda to accept asylum seekers who agreed to 'voluntary' transfer. Rwanda and Uganda have denied this.

But reports show that thousands of Africans were promised travel documents, cash and visas if they agreed to leave Israel for 'third countries'. The plan was eventually abandoned after the asylum seekers were denied documentation, blocked from claiming asylum and coerced into leaving Israel.

### Displacement threat

Given the humanitarian and political implications, discussions between states about mass displacement would

likely remain clandestine and outside public scrutiny.

Democratic countries and regional blocs such as Italy or the European Union, have previously secured migration cooperation under questionable circumstances. These include co-opting Libyan militia and partnering with Tunisian President Kais Saied in exchange for 'managing' boat departures to Europe. Both deals included giving cash to controversial leaders and have undermined democracy and the rule of law.

Concerns would also arise if deals included military aid. Israel is the world's 10th largest arms exporter. It hasn't ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and is accused of providing arms and surveillance to regimes with poor human rights records, including during the Rwandan genocide, the South Sudanese civil war and apartheid South Africa.

The current appetite for weapons or cash injections could be high in some quarters. In 2022, Rwanda agreed to a widely criticised deal to accept asylum seekers from the United Kingdom (UK), which was subsequently blocked by the UK Supreme Court.

Hopefully, the trial balloon of forcibly displacing Palestinians into Africa has returned an overwhelming response and been quashed. We must remain vigilant about anything that suggests otherwise. **DM**

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT -57 -

Crossword grid with numbers 1-18 and clues. Clues include: 1 Capital city of Tanzania, 5 ret, 7 marked effects, 10 compete eagerly with others in order to do or achieve something.

11 discontinue an action  
12 the computer that randomly selects the prize-winning numbers of Premium Bonds  
14 a system of detecting a direction of an aircraft  
15 grandmothers  
17 a lesson  
18 expel from a property  
Down:  
1 a person that drives a car  
2 be determined by  
3 painting, literature, music, and dance  
4 speed at which a passage of music is played  
6 behind or towards the rear of a ship or aircraft  
8 a remarkable and very welcome occurrence  
9 Natives of Asia  
13 rub out  
16 a habitual drunkard

Word search grid with the word 'PEA' visible in the middle.

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.

- NONE, IVORIES, NETA, ORES, RAGE, CIAO, NINON, OVER, PEAP, RECAP, EDOM, BARE, NOTEPAD, ASIDE, CAD, ALONE, ERASER, AARON, PEPPER, BA, ADAM

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words like MWANZA, RAIS, PRANA, AMASSER, SALS, NOSE, ARIDE, DEMAC, ZAKAT, I, REAGENT, ONANA, V, DAYTIME, F, C, I, N, E, M, A, B, I, M, O, A, L, U, M, E, N, G, A, B, E, A, M, L, T, H, E, M, E, D, R, I, V, E, R.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a detailed weekly program schedule from Monday to Sunday with various news and entertainment programs.





Crafting successful marketing campaigns

Page14



Economists expects global economic uncertainty in 2024

Page14



Dollar loses ground as Fed cut bets rise; yuan slides

Page15

# Coin selling business flips over scarcity

By Francis Kajubi

The rising demand for coins for insertion in gambling machines across Dar es Salaam city has been blamed for the apparent scarcity of the items particularly those of 200/- denomination.

This is reported to have seriously affected youths, apparently the age group most actively engaged in betting for livelihoods.

A cross section of youths involved in selling coins, who spoke to Smart Money recently, said the scarcity, which started since November last year, has triggered new challenges to their source of incomes.

Mbaya Katyola (28), resident of Boko suburb in Dar es Salaam said three years ago, he used to earn a maximum of 300,000/- as profit a month from coin business, of which he invested 700,000/-.

Katyola, a father to a two-year son, says due to the shortages, he is now earning a maximum profit of 150,000/- a month from selling coins of different denominations to commuter bus conductors.

He says he has been relying on coins trading to make a living, alongside with his part-time job as an aluminum windows welder.

"The business is becoming unprofitable, owing the continuous mushrooming of coin inserting gambling machines on bars and sports betting premises in big cities such as Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha and Mbeya, which are wiping them out from the circulation," he said.

Katyola says he rents a two-room residence, which he pays 70,000/- a month, but since the business is souring, he finds his life more challenging.

"I started this business in January 2021. Things were smoothly working out for me. I used to obtain coins from the central bank's office in exchange for banknotes. I remember we used to go there each Thursday, as specifically scheduled by BoT," said Katyola.

According to him, the BoT's arrangement was later halted, as they were directed to seek the service from commercial banks.

He explained that the BoT's decision triggered a new challenge, as the majority of commercial banks had no machines for counting coins thus making the service delivery cumbersome.

"Tellers at the commercial banks didn't offer the service on the excuse that they had no time to count coins worth at least 200,000/-. I had to strive on the streets to collect the coins from individuals, just to get the business going," said Katyola.

As for now, Katyola collects the coins in exchange of



Mbaya Katyola (R) sells coins to a commuter bus conductor at Mwenge bus stop in Dar es Salaam.

banknotes from women who sell local cookies in primary schools in the city.

He says he wakes up around 4.00 am before opening his business at Mwenge bus stop around 5.00am.

He runs the business until afternoon, when he closes, in order to find more coins to sell to his consumers from the evening and the next morning.

"I normally get the coins from cookie vendors at Tegeta, Bunju and Boko primary schools. I sometimes go to Mlandizi and Kibaha towns in the Coast region to find enough coins from wholesale shop owners," he said.

He asserted that a lot of effort is needed to secure a mixed bunch of coins including 50/-, 100/- and 200/- denominations worth of 200,000/-.

However, he noted that the toughest task is securing coins of 200/- because of their increased scarcity.

He said that the scarcity of coins, especially of 200/- picked up in October, late November 2023, when schools were closed, claiming that the scarcity was extreme in December.

Katyola sells a mixed of 50/-, 100/- and 200/- coins valued 800/- as change to commuter bus conductors at 1,000/-, where he generated 200/- as net profit because he doesn't buy them, but exchanges banknotes to cookie vendors in primary schools on equivalent value.

For him, the acute scarcity of 200/- coins is contributed by two main factors.

"The temporary factor or reason is closure of schools in December where pupils who are the best consumers of coins are at home. In my opinion, pupils largely contribute to the circulation of coins," he commented.

According to him, the second reason which is permanent is the use of 200/- coins in gambling machines instead of metal token.

"The gambling machines should be halted from using the coin and instead they should design special tokens. Another worst thing with the machines derelict the coins' quality," he argued.

Amos Mungi (30), a commuter bus conductor for Kawe-Segerea route, blamed the central bank and the Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT) for allowing the 200/- coins to be used in gambling.

He said that since the new commuter bus fare came into effect on December 08, 2023 the 200/- coins are hard to find among sellers.

"The new commuter bus fares are 600/-, 700/- and 800/- per route. In this case, conductors are supposed to have enough 200/- coins for giving back change to passengers. In my opinion, coin gambling machines are the main reason behind this scarcity," said Mungi.

Mariam Mfanga (27), a sales supervisor of Turunya bar at Mwenge Dar es Salaam admitted that there is a coin gambling machine at the bar whereby the installing firm entered into agreements with the bar owner. "It is obvious that 200/- is the only coin

used in the gambling machine. I'm aware that not less than 2,000 coins are loaded in the machine for it to run gambling draws," she said.

"I am given 300 coins worth 60,000/- of 200/- on a weekly basis by the machine operating firms, for topping up in the machine in case gamblers win the draws."

She asserted that winning gamblers are not allowed to take home the 200/- coins, but instead are being paid banknotes. The coins are reserved for present and future gambling draws.

"There is no way these coins can be deposited to the bank. As a matter of fact, we need them so badly due to the current shortage, which is even affecting the gambling business," she defended.

Nusrat Hamis (23), Mbezi Kimara resident in Dar es Salaam said that just two weeks ago, she found herself into a bitter argument with a commuter bus conductor who claimed to have no change after she had paid 1,000/- to ply from Tangi Bovu bus stop to Kimara.

"The conductor told me that he didn't have the 300/- change for me as he argued that he had no 200/- and 100/- coins in his pocket. Instead he asked me for 200/- so that he could give me a 500/- coin and I didn't have one," said Hamis.

According to her, the conductor had no option but to stop by the petrol filling station to buy change and she was given her 300/-. Roda Kimati (26) a Goba resident in the city, said that she is aware of the central bank's notice that encourages people to retrieve the coins they keep in their homes to its branches across the country, so that circulation can be restored.

"Myself had kept coins in my car and at home that amounted 4,700/-. Most of the coins I kept for almost two months are of 200/- and 100/- denomination. I had deposited them just five days ago in my bank account," said Kimati.

"I never knew that there is scarcity of the coins in until I heard on radio that the central bank is encouraging people to deposit the coins they held or surrender them to its branches."

## Gold, tourism push exports earnings high

By Carlos Banda

EXPORTS of goods and services went up by 17.8 percent to US\$13.9 billion during the year ended in November last year, from US\$11.8 billion during the year ended in November 2022, thanks to increased exports of gold and tourism sector.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for December shows that exports of goods increased by 8.3 percent after reaching US\$77 billion at the end of November last year, while those of receipts went up by 32.7 percent to US\$61 billion.

MER also noted that improvement of goods exports earnings was also registered in exports of oil seeds and horticulture, particularly vegetables.

The expansion of goods exports earnings resulted by the increase of gold exports, which fetched US\$3.03 billion, manufactured goods and other non-traditional exports, fetched a combined earnings of US\$2.6 billion as well as traditional exports, which injected US\$969 million to the economy.

The central bank review explains that the increase of export of traditional goods was largely driven by coffee and tobacco.

Data from Coffee Board of Tanzania show that during the last season (2022/2023), the crop's production increased by 20 percent to 81,500 tonnes from 66,605 tonnes produced in 2021/2022.

In the last season, TCB says, 37,909 tonnes or 46.5 percent of the coffee beans harvested in the country were Arabica and 43,589 tonnes were Robusta.

On tobacco, Tanzania has been mentioned as the second largest producer of Tobacco in Africa for the year 2022/2023.



Tourists take pictures in one of the country's attractions. For the first time in history, tourism earnings have surpassed dominant gold. File Photo

According to the minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe, by December last year, the export value of tobacco was US\$316 million towards the goal of reaching US\$400 million.

Bashe noted that for the 2024/2025 season they are optimistic to reach 200,000 tonnes against the target is 300,000 by 2025/26.

Additionally, on monthly basis, exports of traditional goods almost doubled to \$185.3m in November 2023 compared to \$126.5m recorded in the same month in 2022, while non-traditional exports rose to \$511m from US\$488.4m.

The analysis also pointed out the trend in mixed developments in the commodity prices at the global stage in November 2023, whereas Gold prices increased owing to the weaker US dollar, the prices of agricultural products also registered an increase except for cotton, sugar and maize, owing to the demand-supply imbalances.

The BoT review also shows that service receipts jumped to US\$6,158.6 million in the

year ending November 2023 from US\$4,641.8 million in the corresponding period in 2022 driven by tourism and transport receipts.

The surge in travel receipts reflects the rebound of the tourism sector as tourist arrivals rose by 27 percent to 1,797,347 by the year ended in November, 2023.

On a monthly basis, service receipts increased to \$531.7m in November 2023, compared with \$414.1m in the similar period 2022.

Despite the performance in Tanzania's exports, the MER highlights that the external shocks continued to exert pressure on the current account position, foreign and exchange rate.

The current account deficit remained large, though has been narrowing gradually in recent months. In the year ending November 2023, the current account deficit was US\$2,903 million compared with US\$5,160.6 million in the preceding year.

The halving of the current account deficit was largely on account of increased earnings

from tourism activities and traditional exports.

Imports of goods and services decreased to US\$16,222.2 million in the year ending November 2023, compared with US\$16,315.3 million in the year ending November 2022, ensuing from a fall in goods import bill largely white petroleum products.

Imports of machinery, industrial transport equipment and motor cars, and food and beverages for industrial use increased, while that of refined white petroleum products fell by 14.5 percent to US\$2,799.7 million, on account of price effect.

On foreign exchange reserves, the stock US\$4,850.6 million compared to US\$4,541.1 million at the end of November 2022.

The reserves were adequate to cover 4 months of projected imports of goods and services, which is in line with the country benchmark of 4-months, although was less than the East African Community (EAC) benchmark.

## Gold prices cross \$2,050 amid safe-haven demand

MUMBAI

GOLD prices rose in Asian trade on Monday, recouping most of their new year's losses as persistent tensions in the Middle East drove safe-haven demand, while traders still held out for early interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

The yellow metal saw increased demand as a conflict between the U.S. and the Iran-aligned Houthi group escalated over the past week, marking a potential spillover in the Israel-Hamas war.

Mixed US inflation readings also saw traders largely maintain their bets that the Fed could begin cutting interest rates by as soon as March 2024, which kept the dollar subdued and spurred some flows into rate-sensitive assets.

Spot gold rose 0.2 percent to \$2,053.88 an ounce, while gold futures expiring in February rose 0.3 percent to \$2,057.85 an ounce by 00:27 ET (05:27 GMT).

Traders appeared to have largely maintained their expectations that the Fed will cut rates by 25 basis points in March, at least according to the CME Fedwatch tool. The tool showed traders pricing in a 70 percent chance of a March cut, up from a 64 percent chance seen last week.

Mixed inflation data furthered this notion. While consumer price index inflation grew slightly more than expected in December, producer price index inflation fell more than expected.

Focus was now on a slew of addresses from Fed officials this week, which are expected to offer more cues on the bank's outlook. But several of Fed officials have downplayed hopes on early rate cuts.

Uncertainty over the path of US interest rates is likely to keep gold trading rangebound in the near-term. But the yellow metal stands to benefit from any decreases in lending rates this year.

Among industrial metals, copper prices rose sharply on Monday following a weak start to the new year, although negative signals from China dampened the outlook for the red metal.

Copper futures expiring in March rose 0.8 percent to \$3.7648 a pound.

China's central bank unexpectedly kept its medium-term lending rates on hold on Monday, indicating that the world's largest copper importer had limited headroom to further loosen monetary conditions and support a fragile economic recovery.

Monday's move also points to no changes in China's benchmark loan prime rate, heralding limited levels of monetary stimulus for the economy, which have so far done little to shore up growth.

Chinese trade data on Friday also showed a drop in copper imports in December, amid high inventory and increased domestic output.



## DIGITAL MARKETING:

# Crafting successful marketing campaigns

By Alley Mtatya

WE are surrounded by ads. Whether it be the billboards or our mobile phones, we have commercials floating around us 24 hours 7 days of the week. All these promotions, outreaches and commercials are a part of marketing campaigns.

A marketing campaign has some strategic activities that promote a brand or business. It has become a trend these days to promote a service or product with the help of marketing campaigns.

Every day millions of active businesses across the world are grabbing the attention of people. That's the challenge, but with an effective marketing campaign, any business can run smoother than intended.

Good digital marketing can add that extra fuel to your business and marketing. It can add a concentrated burst of energy that pays off as a significant boost to your brand reputation, awareness, and most important, sales. An ideal digital marketing campaign connects with the customer, increases the brand's awareness which ultimately increases business.

Many aspects go into creating a successful marketing campaign, but a few relevant things to keep in mind are: Create memorable content, Simplicity is better, Be authentic and Craft a powerful message.

People want to consume content that enriches their lives and gives them an enjoyable experience. It's vital to find a balance between their interests and the values behind your business to ensure an authentic and meaningful campaign.

A winning campaign can elevate your brand's image and surpass your sales. A successful marketing campaign is not about flashy ads or funny commercials. It's



about achieving tangible results.

Keeping track of measurable indicators of your campaign can set up the right path for your brand's success. Here are the few steps that will help you create one of the best marketing campaigns.

The first and foremost step is to identify your audience. For instance, if you are planning to run a B2B facility, check the demographic and psychographic characteristics of the buying decision-makers. In that, geographical factors play an important role. The more the information you collect about your customers, the easier it will be to run the campaign.

Second, set up the budget. Having sufficient funds can fulfill your desired goals. If you need any, check the availability of financial support, and set up the monthly/annual budget depending on your willingness to advertise it, your business size, industry, and what stage your business is in.

Third, develop your message. Creating a clear and loud message that has the potential to get a higher response rate.

Your message must address three things - appeal to the audience to evoke an emotional response, emphasize how your product/service will benefit them, and the third that can help you create a credible message is the testimonials.

Adopting these three elements will help you develop a message that can strongly influence the target audience.

Fourth, build up your media strategy. Social media has a vital role to play in interacting with the audience. With interaction, sales will come, and with sales, revenue.

What's more important is choosing the right advertising platform. It's equally important to promote true advertising. Therefore, you have to promote the right idea on the right platform with the right mindset.

Fifth, implementing the strategy is the easiest part of developing the best marketing campaigns. You need to have the right team to schedule the time and coordinate all the activities required to launch the campaign.

Sixth, analyze your results. The best marketing campaigns are developed that analyze their results and work on them. The path doesn't end after implementation. You have to track the results, responses and feedback you get post-launch.

You have to work on them to learn better and minimize the faults. If the campaign is successful, work on making it better and extending its reach.

Every advertising campaign affects the brand. It's not a compulsion to get positive results all the time. However, advertising is a need to let your brand reach new heights in the corporate world.

The two biggest challenges in advertising are to measure the value of advertisement and ensure it resonates with the right audience.

**Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam**

# Economists expecting global economic uncertainty this year

By Guardian Correspondent, Davos-Klosters

GLOBAL economic prospects remain subdued and fraught with uncertainty, according to the latest Chief Economists Outlook released today, as the global economy continues to grapple with headwinds from tight financial conditions, geopolitical rifts and rapid advances in generative artificial intelligence (AI).

More than half of chief economists (56 percent) expect the global economy to weaken this year, while 43 percent foresee unchanged or stronger conditions.

A strong majority also believes labour markets (77 percent) and financial conditions (70 percent) will loosen over the coming year. Although the expectations for high inflation have been pared back in all regions, regional growth outlooks vary widely and no region is slated for very strong growth in 2024.

"The latest Chief Economists Outlook highlights the precarious nature of the current economic environment," said Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, World Economic Forum.

"Amid accelerating divergence, the resilience of the global economy will continue to be tested in the year ahead. Though global inflation is easing, growth is stalling, financial conditions remain tight, global tensions are deepening and inequalities are rising - highlighting the urgent need for global cooperation to build momentum for sustainable, inclusive economic growth."

## Regional variations

The outlook for South Asia and East Asia and Pacific remains positive and broadly unchanged compared to the last survey, with a strong majority (93 percent and 86 percent respectively) expecting at least moderate growth in 2024.

China is an exception, with a smaller majority (69 percent) expecting moderate growth as weak consumption, lower industrial production and property market concerns weigh on the prospects of a stronger rebound.

In Europe, the outlook has weakened significantly since the September 2023 survey, with the share of respondents expecting weak or very weak growth almost doubling to 77 percent.

In the United States and the Middle East and North Africa, the outlook is weaker too, with about six in 10 respondents foreseeing moderate or stronger growth this year (down from 78 percent and 79 percent respectively).

There is a notable uptick in growth expectations for Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia, although the views remain for broadly moderate growth.

## Geopolitical rifts compound uncertainty

About seven in 10 chief economists expect the pace of geoeconomic fragmentation to accelerate this year, with a majority saying geopolitics will stoke volatility in the global economy (87 percent) and stock markets (80 percent), increase localization (86 percent), strengthen geoeconomic blocs (80 percent) and widen the North-South divide (57 percent) in the next three years.



Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, World Economic Forum

As governments increasingly experiment with industrial policy tools, experts are nearly unanimous in expecting these policies to remain largely uncoordinated between countries.

While two-thirds of chief economists expect industrial policies to enable the emergence of new economic growth hotspots and vital new industries, a majority also warn of rising fiscal strains (79 percent) and divergence between higher- and lower-income economies (66 percent).

## AI takes the spotlight

Chief economists expect AI-enabled benefits to vary widely across income groups, with notably more optimistic views about the effects in high-income economies. A strong majority said generative AI will increase efficiency of output production (79 percent) and innovation (74 percent) in high-income economies this year.

Looking at the next five years, 94 percent expect these productivity benefits to become economically significant in high-income economies, compared to only 53 percent for low-income economies.

Almost three-quarters (73 percent) do not foresee net-positive impact on employment in low-income economies and 47 percent said the same for high-income economies. The views are somewhat more divided on the likelihood of generative AI to increase standards of living and to lead to a decline in trust, with both being slightly more likely in high-income markets.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts a slight decline in global growth to 2.9 percent in 2024, down from 3 percent in 2023.3 The relative resilience in global figures continues to rely on the growth performance of emerging economies, while the momentum in advanced economies is fading.

However, growth forecasts remain vulnerable to an increased risk of shocks. The geopolitical rifts highlighted as a source of global economic volatility in the last survey have since increased with new conflicts erupting or worsening in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

# Five things to watch in global commodity markets this week

LONDON

GLOBAL shipping rates are surging as tensions rise in the Red Sea, after the US and UK conducted airstrikes against the Iran-backed Houthis militants in retaliation for their attacks on merchant ships. Alcoa Corp. releases earnings on Wednesday, marking the unofficial start of the commodity world's quarterly reporting season, while cocoa's upward momentum continues.

## Shipping

Shipping companies are increasingly avoiding the Red Sea amid the escalating situation in the key global trade corridor. Before Friday's allied strikes in Yemen, freight rates were already shooting higher amid a ramp up of attacks.

The Drewry composite index - which is a weighted average for eight key routes - has surged 122 percent since Nov. 30 as ships are being forced to ply alternate waters and travel thousands of extra miles, resulting in fewer vessels to carry goods. The Houthis have vowed a response, which risks roiling global supply chains further and pushing freight costs up more.

## Agriculture

A monster rally in cocoa isn't letting up as the new year begins. Most-active futures in London closed out 2023 with the biggest annual advance in 15 years, while contracts in New York surged 61 percent. Both have edged higher in recent days on growing concerns over declining production.

Traders will be focused on key grinding reports due Thursday for the final three months of last year in Asia, Europe and the US, seen as a proxy for demand. Weak processing data could dent prices, as it would signal softening consumption of discretionary items such as chocolate.

## Natural Gas

Liquefied natural gas shipments have skyrocketed since the opening of the first export facility in the Lower 48 states in 2016 as production has surged, with the US becoming the world's biggest exporter last year for the first time.

But the Biden administration - amid growing pressure from environmental groups and lawmakers to live up to its pledge to transition away from fossil fuels - is evaluating the climate criteria it uses to approve new export projects that could hinder the booming industry.

There's a "growing risk that the review will lead to a formal or informal delay or pause in approvals," Benjamin Salisbury, an analyst at Height Securities LLC, wrote in a note.

## Earnings

Alcoa - the largest US producer of aluminum - is set to release fourth-quarter results on Wednesday after the close of trading. Shares tumbled 25 percent last year as the company struggled with operational and permitting setbacks in Australia for bauxite, and as global aluminum prices barely eked out a gain amid an oversupply. Alcoa last week said it was planning to halt output at one of its three Western Australian refineries as it begins to reckon with cost-cutting measures.

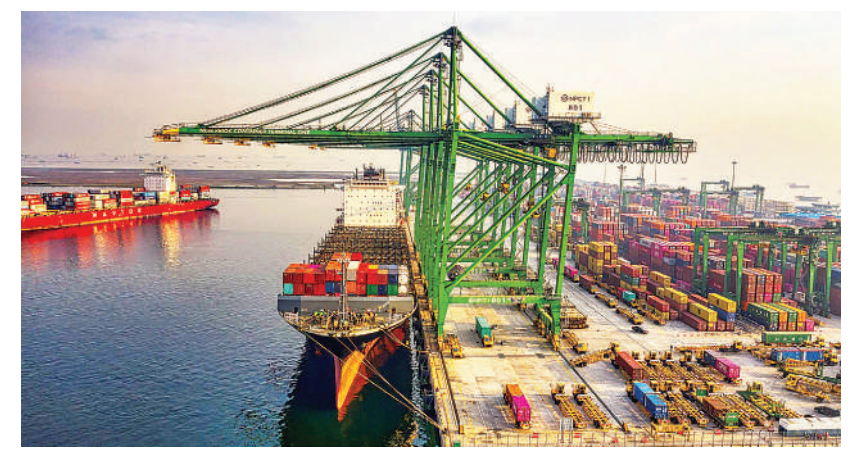
Investors will be seeking guidance from Chief Executive Officer William Oplinger regarding any further operational adjustments, as well as possible impacts on market fundamentals from the continued buildup of Russian supplies at the London Metal Exchange.

## Battery Metals

A tumble in raw materials like lithium, cobalt and nickel have led to a decline in battery costs that power electric vehicles. Last year, average prices fell to \$139 per kilowatt-hour and are expected to drop a further \$6 a kilowatt-hour in 2024, according to BloombergNEF.

Despite the declines - a boon for consumers - there are growing concerns in the market. Overcapacity is leading to lower plant utilization rates, which in turn impacts margins for battery manufacturers, BNEF forecasts.

Political, business and cultural leaders will convene starting Monday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, with critical minerals, EVs and the energy transition, among many other things, on the agenda.



# India's IT shares appreciate on bets of growth rebound

BENGALURU

INDIA'S IT companies gained 4 percent on Monday following better-than-expected results from Wipro and HCLTech, signalling stability in demand.

Wipro's shares rose 13.7 percent to their highest since April 2022, and were on track for their best day since July 2020. HCLTech shares rose over 5 percent to a record high.

The 10-member Nifty IT index climbed 4 percent to a nearly two-year high, powering the benchmark Nifty 50 index to a fresh record high.

"There are some signs showing that the decrease in revenue or slower growth many companies faced might start to improve in the next few quarters," said Apurva Prasad, vice president of institutional research at HDFC Securities.

Market leader Tata Consultancy Services and second-ranked Infosys also reported better-than-expected third-quarter revenue on Friday, indicating that the overall demand situation had not deteriorated further.

Last year, Indian IT companies struggled as clients favoured cost-oriented deals over growth-oriented ones.

HCLTech logged its highest third-quarter revenue growth since the corresponding period in 2021.

The company, however, narrowed its fiscal 2024 revenue forecast in dollar terms on a constant currency basis to 5-5.5 percent from 5-6 percent previously.

"HCLTech's revised guidance suggests a positive end to fiscal 2024, with expectations of outperforming competitors in the upcoming fiscal year, 2025," Prasad added.

"We are seeing a certain form of stabilization, and in some ways, some pickup in discretionary spend," Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte said in a post-earnings media conference on Friday.



# Dollar loses ground as Fed cut bets rise, yuan slides

SINGAPORE

THE dollar ebbed on Monday as investors revived their bets of early rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, while the yuan fell to a one-month low after China's central bank surprised markets by keeping its medium-term policy rate steady.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) left interest rates unchanged when rolling over maturing medium-term policy loans, defying market expectations for a cut to shore up China's bumpy post-pandemic economic recovery.

That sent the onshore yuan sliding to a one-month low of 7.1813 per dollar, while its offshore counterpart fell as far as 7.1906 per dollar, languishing near Friday's one-month trough.

China's fourth-quarter gross domestic product (GDP), December industrial production, retail sales and unemployment rate are among the key economic indicators out on Wednesday, which are likely to provide further clarity on the outlook for the world's second-largest economy.

In the broader market, traders also have their eye on a reading on UK inflation due later in the week, as the market focus remains on how soon major central banks globally could begin easing rates this year.

Sterling slipped 0.1 percent to



\$1.2730, though it remained close to a two-week peak hit last week.

The euro hovered near the \$1.10 mark and was last 0.13 percent higher at \$1.0964. The dollar index dipped 0.1 per-

cent to 102.30, having drifted largely sideways the past couple of sessions.

Bets for Fed cuts this year, beginning as early as March, have risen after data on Friday showed US producer prices unexpectedly fell in December, sending Treasury yields sliding in response.

"We move past the US CPI and PPI releases and the market has become even more convinced that the Fed's easing cycle starts in March, with a 25 bps cut priced for every meeting from this starting point," said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone.

Market pricing now points to a 78 percent chance that the US central bank will begin easing rates in March, as compared to a 68 percent chance a week ago, according to the CME Fed-Watch tool.

In Asia, the yen remained under pressure at 145.15 per dollar on expectations that the Bank of Japan is likely to keep its ultra-loose policy settings unchanged at its upcoming policy meeting next week.

The Australian dollar, often used as a liquid proxy for the yuan, edged 0.13 percent higher to \$0.6695. The New Zealand dollar slipped 0.11 percent to \$0.6234.

"I expect (Wednesday's) data dump to show weak momentum in the Chinese economy," said Carol Kong,

a currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

"That could be a headwind for... risk currencies like the Aussie and kiwi."

**TAIWAN AFTER THE ELECTION**

Elsewhere, the Taiwan dollar fell to a more than three-week low of 31.222 per US dollar, after the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) Lai Ching-te won the presidency over the weekend, though his party lost its majority in parliament.

Analysts expect Taiwan's stock market to take a hit this week as the spectre of policy paralysis fuels selling in a market that is up 25 percent in little more than a year.

"The election result is mostly within market expectations," said Aiden Wang, a vice president at Cathay Securities Investment Trust, which is Taiwan's biggest fund management house and has more than T\$1.5 trillion (\$48.4 billion) under management.

"China has not responded with any actions that pose an imminent threat," Wang said, pointing to how Taiwan has enough domestic issues to handle, such as the state of its economy and real estate sector.

"Now investors must wait and observe what the new Taiwan government will do."

## China to hold medium-term rate, as it increase liquidity

SHANGHAI/SINGAPORE

China's central bank left the medium-term policy rate unchanged on Monday, defying market expectations for a cut as a weaker currency limited the scope of monetary easing in the near term to boost the economy.

A slew of recent indicators continued to reflect the country's uneven economic recovery, with a pick-up in exports in December but weak credit growth and persistent deflationary pressure calling for more stimulus measures.

However, a narrowing interest rate margin at commercial banks and a weakening Chinese yuan have limited the room for the People's Bank of China (PBOC) to maneuver, and rate cuts may be postponed until later this year, some market watchers said.

On Monday, PBOC said it was keeping the rate on 995 billion yuan (\$138.84 billion) worth of one-year medium-term lending facility (MLF) loans to some financial institutions unchanged at 2.50 percent from the previous operation.

"We suspect the main reason the PBOC failed to deliver this time is a desire to avoid triggering renewed depreciation pressure on the renminbi," economists at Capital Economics said in a note.

The yuan has weakened more than 1 percent against the dollar so far this year to a more than one-month low due to uncertainty around when the US Federal Reserve will start cutting interest rates.

Capital Economics continued to forecast two 10-basis-point rate cuts by the end of the second quarter and a reduction to the reserve require-

ment ratio (RRR). Monday's loan operation was to fully meet cash demand at financial institutions to "maintain reasonably ample liquidity in the banking system," the central bank said in an online statement.

In a Reuters poll conducted last week, 19 of 35 market participants had expected the central bank to cut the MLF rate to help shore up the weak economy. And a vast majority of the respondents had also expected the PBOC to inject fresh funds into the financial system beyond the amount that were maturing.

Those expectations grew after major Chinese commercial banks lowered their deposit rates late last year, and after recent disappointing economic data stoked the view that more stimulus was warranted.

Economists at ANZ said PBOC might have held off cutting rates as "authorities may be concerned about bank profitability".

With the steady medium-term policy rate, some market watchers now expect a reduction to the banks' reserve requirement to release fresh funds to boost credit and growth.

The operation on Monday resulted in a net 216 billion yuan fresh fund injection into the banking system, with 779 billion yuan worth of MLF loans set to expire this month.

"We continue to see quantitative and liquidity measures as the main policy focus," said Frances Cheung, rates strategist at OCBC Bank.

"With this morning's decision where the net MLF injection was not huge, market expectation for an RRR cut shall stay high."

Investor expectations of a cut in the reserve requirement came after Zou Lan, monetary policy

department head of PBOC, highlighted RRR as a monetary policy option to support credit growth, according to a state media report last week.

Seasonal factors could also delay monetary easing, as financial institutions usually have to assess their profitability and their clients' loan appetite for 2024 ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, which starts on Feb. 10, said Marco Sun, chief financial markets analyst at MUFG Bank (China).

He maintained a forecast for a 20-basis point reduction in the PBOC's policy rate later in 2024.

Data due this week for December industrial output, investment and retail sales, along with fourth-quarter gross domestic product will give investors clues on whether the economy will need further support.

Meanwhile, overseas investors have resumed selling China onshore equities in the new year as pessimism over the country's sluggish economic recovery deepens.

Global funds offloaded 7.9 billion yuan (\$1.1 billion) of stocks in the first two weeks of 2024, after making large purchases in the final week of last year, according to Bloomberg-compiled data. Sentiment remained downbeat as deflationary pressures persist, while policy support has been underwhelming.

Chinese equities saw their worst start to a year since 2019 and are trading near their lowest level in nearly five years. The selling came after foreigners recorded their smallest-ever annual purchases of onshore stocks in 2023, putting January on track for a sixth straight month of outflows.

## European stocks decrease as traders weigh rates outlook

LONDON

EUROPEAN stocks fell as traders weighed the outlook for monetary policy ahead of a raft of speeches by policy makers at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week.

The Stoxx Europe 600 index slipped 0.2 percent, extending a lackluster start to the year after a 13 percent rise in 2023.

Basic resources and carmakers led the decline after Germany's economy dodged a recession, though the latest data showed it contracted for the first time since the pandemic last year.

Germany's 10-year yield rose about three basis points as bonds across the euro region fell.

The European Central Bank will lower interest rates four times this year as inflation retreats more quickly than previously anticipated, according to a Bloomberg poll of economists.

But ECB Chief Economist Philip Lane dampened expectations of rapid easing when he said in an interview published at the weekend that cutting rates too early would be "self-defeating." ECB Governing Council member Robert Holzmann may add to the picture when he speaks at Davos later today.

"With lingering uncertainties regarding the outlook for monetary policies in both the US and the European Union, reasons to buy the market are hard to find," said Pierre Veyret, a technical analyst at ActivTrades. "Hopes of a quick dovish switch have been regularly undermined by both macro data and hawkish semantics from central bank officials."

Among individual stock moves in Europe, Dassault Aviation SA slumped as much as 10 percent after the French aircraft maker reported a decline in 2023 jet orders. Just East Takeaway.com NV and HelloFresh SE dropped after Exane analysts recommend steering clear of Europe's food delivery sector.

US equity-index futures were flat, with cash stock and Treasury markets closed on Monday for a public holiday. A gauge of the dollar gained after a surprise decline in US producer prices Friday reinforced bets the Federal Reserve will lower borrowing costs in coming months.

The MSCI Asia Pacific share index climbed for a third session. Stocks advanced in Taiwan after the Democratic Progressive Party won the presidential election and the more China-friendly Kuomintang gained too few seats to control the assembly.

China's CSI 300 Index swung between gains and losses amid speculation officials may lower the required reserve ratio after the People's Bank of China unexpectedly left the rate on its one-year policy loans at 2.5 percent Monday. That was contrary to expectations among economists that it would trim the so-called medium-term lending facility by 10 basis points.

"Rate cuts are likely still on the cards, but China looks to be taking a more measured approach to policy easing," said Marvin Chen, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence in Hong Kong.

Along with more US earnings reports, investors this week will be focused on inflation readings in Germany and the UK, as well as a swath of political leaders and officials including Chinese Premier Li Qiang attending the annual WEF. A speech by Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller, after officials last week attempted to temper any expectation of a looming rate cut, will also be closely watched.

In commodities, oil declined as the risk that air strikes by the US and allies against the Houthis would ignite a wider conflict and disrupt crude flows from the Middle East was balanced by soft fundamentals.



People's Bank of China

VIEW FROM THE TOP





## WORLD

## US, Britain launched new strike on Hodeidah

SANAA

THE United States and Britain conducted a new strike on Yemen's Red Sea port city of Hodeidah on Sunday evening, the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported.

The strike targeted the Jad'a mountain in the Alluheyah district in the northern part of the city, the report said, adding the warplanes were still hovering over the area.

The strike was the latest in a series of similar air raids carried out by US and British warplanes in the past three days.

The US and Britain have stated that the strikes came in an attempt to deter the Yemeni Houthi group from launching further attacks on international shipping in the Red Sea, a vital water-

way for global trade.

US fighter aircraft also shot down an anti-ship cruise missile fired from Houthi militant areas of Yemen toward a US destroyer operating in the Southern Red Sea, the US military said on Sunday.

There were no injuries or damage reported in the latest incident, according to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), which released the news in a statement posted on the social media platform X.

CENTCOM said the missile was shot down near Yemen's port city of Hodeidah.

Earlier on Sunday, the Houthis complained that US aircraft were observed flying close to Yemeni airspace and coastal areas.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Ab-



In this image provided by the UK Ministry of Defence taken on Thursday Jan 11, 2024 shows an RAF Typhoon aircraft taking off from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, for a mission to strike targets in Yemen. AP

dulsalam described the activity by "enemy" aircraft as a blatant violation of national sovereignty.

The Houthis said that their operations in the Red Sea aimed to prevent what it called "Israeli-linked ships" from passing through the Red Sea until Israel ends its attack and siege on the Palestinian enclave of Gaza Strip.

On Saturday, the Houthis said the recent airstrikes on their positions by the US and Britain would not deter them from continuing attacks on Israeli targets, vowing to launch more strikes soon.

Hodeidah, under the control of the Houthis, is a lifeline for delivering humanitarian aid and commercial supplies to Yemen, which has been mired in a civil war since 2015.

Lebanese group Hezbollah said on Sunday US actions in the Red Sea would harm the security of all shipping as the area had now become a conflict zone, saying the Houthis of Yemen would keep up attacks despite US and British strikes.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said Houthi targeting of ships belonging to Israel or heading to its ports would continue.

"The more dangerous thing is what the Americans did in the Red Sea will harm the security of all maritime navigation, even the ships that are not going to Palestine, even the ships which are not Israeli, even the ships that have nothing to do with the matter, because the sea has become a theatre of fighting, missiles, drones and war ships," he said.

"Security has been disrupted," *Agencies*

## Russia's Investigative Committee ensures law and order in Donbass, new regions – Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has congratulated the staff and veterans of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation on the anniversary of the committee's establishment as an independent federal state agency.



"Today, your professional qualities, courage and dedication are vital to the fulfilment of critical tasks related to ensuring law and order in Donbass and Novorossiia. Working in a complicated environment, investigators, forensics staff and experts are taking part in the investigation of neo-Nazi crimes against civilians, and you are serving Russia with honesty," he said in a congratulatory telegram published on the Kremlin website.

The Russian leader stressed that the Investigative Committee is one of the essential and key links in the national law enforcement system. Its operatives are at the forefront of the battle against crime and corruption, firmly upholding Russia's interests and protecting the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

"I have no doubt that you will continue to safeguard and promote the traditions of the service's veterans and will do your duty commendably," Putin concluded.

The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation was founded on January 15, 2011 as an independent federal state agency.

## Boeing opens its first India-focused distribution center in Uttar Pradesh

NEW DELHI

GLOBAL aerospace major Boeing has opened its first distribution center in India – in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh. The 36,000-square-foot parts warehouse will support regional aviation customers in maximising fleet utilisation.

The aerospace company, in a release issued yesterday, asserted that the new site is part of its continued commitment to expanding its presence in the country and delivering an efficient, cost-effective, and local solution.

"The Boeing India Distribution Center illustrates Boeing's commitment to supporting the growth of this market, aligned with the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. This center will support the emergent needs of spare parts for Boeing aircraft in India, reducing lead times, improving availability, and supporting the MRO industry here," said Salil Gupte, president, of Boeing India.

The new India location is one of eight distribution centers around the world.

"The India Distribution Center represents another significant step forward in Boeing's strategy to provide parts and services when and where customers need them," said William Ampofo, vice president, Parts and Distribution Services and Supply Chain, Boeing Global Services.

"It also represents our commitment to delivering efficient, cost-effective solutions for Boeing's commercial airplane customers in the region."

The aerospace company announced its investment in the distribution center less than a year ago during Aero India 2023, and the first parts were shipped to customers in December 2023.

The India distribution center is positioned strategically along India's Eastern Freight Corridor, with proximity to both Delhi and the upcoming Jewar airport. The warehouse, which prioritizes innovation, safety, and sustainability, is operated in collaboration with third-party logistics provider DB Schenker.

These initiatives encompass a partnership with GMR Aero Technic to establish a Boeing Converted Freighter line in Hyderabad and the establishment of a Global Support Center in Gurgaon.

Additionally, Boeing has committed a USD 100 million investment in infrastructure and pilot training programs to support India's growing demand for pilots in the coming two decades. **ANI**



## Wang Yi calls for global peace conference to settle Gaza conflict

CAIRO

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday called for a comprehensive international peace conference to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as he expressed grave concern over the rising tensions in the Red Sea.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, issued the call during a joint press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

He expressed China's support for the resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks as soon as possible, the final realization of peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel, and the harmonious coexistence of Arab and Jewish peoples.

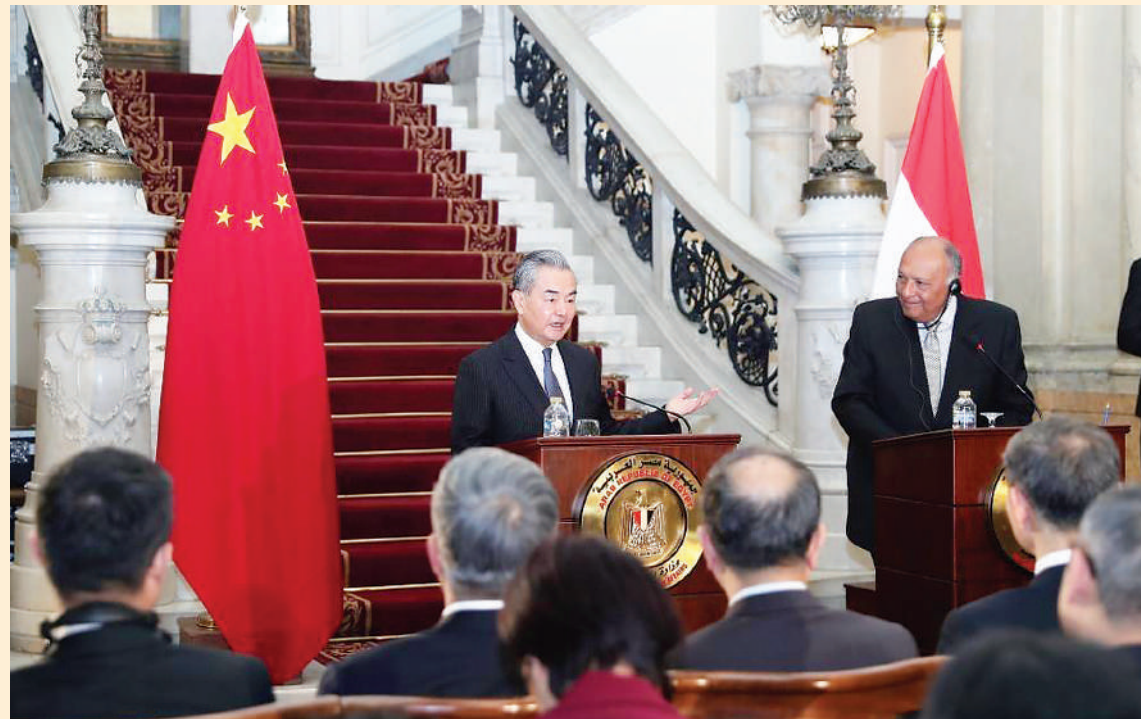
China has always aligned itself with international fairness and justice, worked with Arab and Islamic countries to put an end to the conflict and violence, done its best to protect the safety of civilians, and made unremitting efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and sustainable solution

to the Palestinian issue at an early date, the top Chinese diplomat said.

Wang also put forward a four-point proposal to resolve the conflict in the Gaza Strip that includes securing a ceasefire as soon as possible, ensuring the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid, respecting the will of the Palestinian people regarding the future of arrangements for Gaza, and the implementation of the two-state solution to achieve a just settlement of the Palestinian issue.

He also called for an end to the harassment of commercial ships in the Red Sea, an important international trade route for goods and energy, while stressing the need to safeguard unimpeded global production and supply chains as well as the international trade order.

Noting that the UN Security Council has never authorized any country to use force against Yemen, the top Chinese diplomat called for refraining from taking any actions that will "add fuel to the fire" in the Red Sea and raise the overall security risks in the region.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry jointly meet the press after their talks in Cairo, Egypt, on Sunday. Wang is on a visit to Egypt. XINHUA

Wang said that the current tense situation in the Red Sea shows the spillover effect of the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip, adding that the priority now is to stop the conflict as soon as possible

to prevent it from further escalation or even getting out of control.

He added that it is necessary for all parties to jointly safeguard the safety of sea lanes in the Red

Sea in accordance with the law, while earnestly respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries along the Red Sea, including Yemen. **Xinhua**

## United States and our partners have not given up: Joe Biden marks 100 days in captivity for Hamas hostages in Gaza

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has vowed that his administration will continue with its efforts to free hostages seized by Hamas 100 days ago when the terrorist group attacked Israel.

In a statement on Sunday, Biden (pictured) said that the United States and its partners have not given up yet.

"In November, working in close coordination with Qa-

tar, Egypt, and Israel, we brokered a seven-day pause in fighting that resulted in the release of 105 hostages—including a 4-year-old American child—and allowed us to surge additional vital humanitarian aid into Gaza. I was deeply engaged to secure, sustain, and extend that deal. Sadly, Hamas walked away after just one week," Biden said.

"But the United States and our partners have not given up. Secretary Blinken was back in the region this past week seeking a path forward for a deal to free all those still being held. I look forward to maintaining close contact with my counterparts in Qatar, Egypt, and Israel



to return all hostages home and back to their families," he noted.

In his statement Biden said, "Today we mark a devastating and tragic milestone."

The US President said that the 100 hostages who are still held captive by Hamas, include six Americans as well. "Today, we mark a devastating and

tragic milestone—100 days of captivity for the more than 100 innocent people, including as many as six Americans, who are still held being hostage by Hamas in Gaza. For 100 days, they have existed in fear for their lives, not knowing what tomorrow will bring," Biden said, according to a White House press release.

"For 100 days, their families have lived in agony, praying for the safe return of their loved ones. And for each of those 100 days, the hostages and their families have been at the forefront of my mind as my national security team and I have worked non-stop to try to secure their

freedom," he added.

Biden reaffirmed his pledge to the hostages and their families and assured that the US will continue to work for it.

"I will never forget the grief and the suffering I have heard in my meetings with the families of the American hostages. No one should have to endure even one day of what they have gone through, much less 100," the White House quoted Biden as saying. **ANI**

## Grassroots sports events empower rural revitalisation

WITH flags flying high, the melodious sound of the reed pipes, the resounding beats of drums and gongs, cheerleaders dancing and singing, and a packed stadium, the 2024 season of the Village Super League, or "Cun Chao" in Chinese, kicked off on Jan. 6, 2024 in Rongjiang county, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture of southwest China's Guizhou province.

"The new season sees a significant increase in the number of participating football teams. Last year, the Village Super League featured 20 teams, while this year, over 1,800 players from 62 football teams will partake in the new season," said Lai Hongjing, a member of the organizing committee of Village Super League and a P.E. teacher of No.1 Middle School of Rongjiang county.

"Cun Chao" is a grassroots football league that has gained popularity in China in recent years. Chinese internet users dub it the "Village Super League", drawing inspiration from renowned leagues such as the English Premier League and the Chinese Super League.

By hosting the Village Super League matches, Rongjiang, with a population of less than 400,000, became a sensation last year, attracting attention and generating revenue.

According to the Village Super League Office of Rongjiang county, from May 13 to Dec. 31, 2023, "Cun Chao" received more than 58 billion page views online, and the livestreams of the matches

attracted more than 600 million views online. During the same period, Rongjiang received 7.33 million tourist arrivals, translating to tourism income of 8.113 billion yuan (about \$1.13 billion).

The success of "Cun Chao" is attributed to the fervent football community in the local area.

In the 1990s, residents of Rongjiang county started to organize matches on open fields. Presently, the county boasts 25 football fields, 35 registered teams, and 41 schools offering football coaching. Nearly 50,000 people in the county play football.

"Cun Chao" is not the only sports event that has been deeply involved in the grassroots and has achieved great success.

In Taipan village, located in Taijiang county, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture, the local community upholds the tradition of playing basketball during festivals. Through the establishment of the "Cun BA", or Village Basketball Competition, Taijiang county received over 2 million tourist arrivals in a year, resulting in tourism revenue exceeding 2.3 billion yuan.

In Wenchang, a county-level city in south China's Hainan province, every village has its own volleyball court and everyone plays volleyball. The popularity of the village volleyball league has now extended from offline to online platforms.

Village sports events, origi-

nating from rural areas, play a significant role in the development of these regions. By actively involving the local community and capturing people's attention, these events have unlocked a multitude of values. Various rural sports events have also stimulated economic development.

During the breaks between the matches, the audiences were treated to captivating cultural performances. Outside the sports venues, e-commerce live-streaming sessions were hosted, offering a platform to sell a wide range of cultural and creative products.

Sports events have played a role in empowering the tourism and cultural industries, paving a

new path towards rural revitalization. They have brought attention to Guizhou's distinctive cuisine, agricultural products, and intangible cultural heritage.

They have also led to the creation of tourism projects and increased employment opportunities for the local community. The online buzz generated by these events has translated into increased offline foot traffic, ultimately benefiting the residents of Guizhou.

The thriving rural sports events allow more people to appreciate the charm of sports and experience the excitement of competition.

To demonstrate their support, villagers raised funds for their teams, stitched team emblems, and offered their seats to accommodate tourists. They even

formed a volunteer team of drivers to contribute their share to the games.

Yang Bing, a commentator for the "Cun Chao", said sports serve as a bond that unites people, instilling a sense of confidence in the local culture of Rongjiang.

Mass sports, deeply ingrained in rural areas, continue to exude vitality, infusing a fresh atmosphere into the hosting regions.

During the Village Super League matches, young entrepreneurs who have returned to their hometowns after graduating from college hosted live-streaming sessions, promoting local agricultural products. The impact of "Cun BA" is evident, as many neighboring villages have reaped the benefits of these basketball games.

**People's Daily**



## Denmark: King Frederik X takes throne after abdication of Queen

COPENHAGEN

DENMARK'S King Frederik X ascended the throne on Sunday, succeeding his mother, Queen Margrethe II, who formally abdicated after 52 years as monarch, with large and admiring crowds gathered in the capital to witness history.

Margrethe, 83, stunned the nation on New Year's Eve when she announced she planned to become the first Danish monarch in nearly 900 years to voluntarily relinquish the throne.

The succession was formalized when Margrethe signed the declaration of her abdication during a meeting of the Council of State at parliament. After signing the declaration, the queen rose and gestured to Frederik to take her seat, and said "God save the King" before leaving the room.

Denmark, one of the oldest monarchies in the world, does not have a coronation but there were still moments of pomp in the day's events.

After the abdication, the new monarch, 55, was proclaimed king by Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on the balcony of the parliament building, Christiansborg castle, with the words "Long live his majesty King Frederik the 10th".

Wearing a ceremonial military uniform adorned with medals, Frederik

addressed the crowd from the balcony.

"My hope is to become a unifying king of tomorrow. It is a task I have approached all my life. It is a task I take on with pride, respect and joy", he said.

Visibly moved and several times wiping tears from his eyes, Frederik ended his speech with the words: "United, committed, for the Kingdom of Denmark", his royal motto, a 500-year old tradition supposed to underpin a new monarch's reign.

Frederik was joined on the balcony by his Australian-born wife Mary, 51, who is now queen, and their children: Christian, 18, who is the new heir to the throne, Princess Isabella, 16, and 13-year-old twins Princess Josephine and Prince Vincent.

The royal couple, who met in Sydney during the 2000 Olympic Games, kissed before leaving the balcony amid roaring cheers from the tens of thousands of people who had converged on the capital in close to freezing temperatures.

"They did so well. I think it was so nice that they ended with a kiss, the whole square was oozing with love and joy in that moment", said one woman who gave her name only as Marie.

The new king and queen take the throne at a time of huge public support and enthusiasm for the monar-



Denmark's King Frederik X and Denmark's Queen Mary wave from the balcony of Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen, Denmark on Sunday. AP

chy in the nation of nearly six million.

"It brought tears in a joyful way to see him do so well up on the balcony, both with his speech and when Mary came out and held his hands and finishing with a kiss", said Kasper Wiigh Larsen, 45.

"It has really been worth it to stand here and wait all day", he said.

Police closed several metro stations in central Copenhagen for security reasons to stop more people from entering the packed streets.

The new king and queen rode by horse carriage through the crowds back to their residence, Amalienborg, a royal complex built in the 1750s and located in central Copenhagen.

The royal family appeared

later on the balcony of their residence to greet thousands of people below. The couple will continue to reside with Margrethe, who will retain her title as queen, in Amalienborg albeit in their respective palaces in the octagonal complex.

Margrethe, who had said in the past she would remain on the throne for life, did not give a reason for her decision to step down but said that a major back surgery she underwent in February last year had made her consider her future.

Agencies

## Diplomats from Africa, Asia discover that Assam's Karbi Anglong has 'home-like cultural traits'

KARBI ANGLONG

DIPLOMATS from African and Asian countries have discovered cultural traits in Assam's Karbi Anglong that are similar to those of communities back home.

For the first time in its 50-year journey, the Karbi Youth Festival (KYF) has hosted representatives from foreign embassies in India. The presence of diplomats from Laos, Malawi, and Myanmar lent an international flavour to the inaugural day of the festival on January 13.

Joseph A Kawinga, the First Secretary (Tourism) at the Malawi High Commis-

sion, said he was amazed by the similarity in attire, food habits, and the use of traditional tools between the Karbis and Malawians.

"I would have gone back home with a certain degree of bias had I not visited this part of India. Malawi is known as the warm heart of Africa because of the hospitality of the people of our country. The people of Karbi Anglong have the same warmth and their attire and food are almost the same as ours," he said.

Kawinga also expressed that by more developing tourist-friendly facilities without compromising on its natural

beauty and cultural wealth, Karbi Anglong could be a popular destination for people from Malawi and other foreign countries, as "many people do not know where to go" beyond the usual touristy places.

Keo Sengdavong, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Lao PDR, also underlined the cultural similarities between the Karbis and the Laotians.

"India and the Lao PDR have had a very good diplomatic relationship since 1965, with New Delhi helping to redevelop the Angkor Wat temple in our country. Karbi Anglong can promote the

cultural affinity for more tourism and business between the two countries," he said. Sengdavong said a visit to the cultural museum in Diphu (Taralango) left him awestruck because the farming, fishing, and musical instruments of the Karbis on display were similar to those used by the ethnic communities in Laos.

The observations of Tin Tin Htwe Win, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Myanmar, were similar.

She said the Karbis shared cultural traits with many ethnic groups in the western part of Myanmar.

"The two regions (Karbi Anglong and

western Myanmar) can benefit from more people-to-people interactions," she said. The second of the KYF, the oldest and largest ethnic festival in the Northeast, began with the traditional sport of Hambi Kapathu, followed by exhibitions of Ritnong Chingdi (folk dance), Lamthama (debating), Hirjir Kehir (poem recitation), Bong-oi Alun (folk song), Kengdongdang Kedam (bamboo still-walking), Bathali Ke-ap (shooting with bamboo catapults), Kephir Kethak (weaving), Kesoi Keret (wood craft), and Kebu Keleng (bamboo craft).

ANI

## Russian diplomat calls on West to stop supplying arms to Kiev if it wants talks

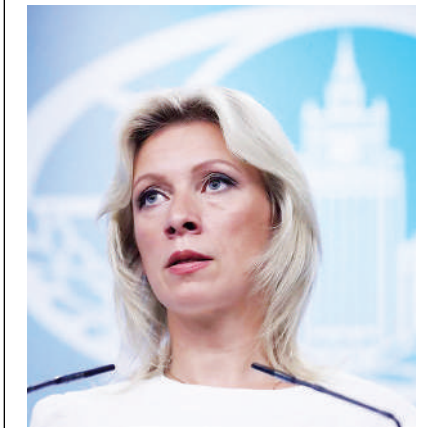
MOSCOW

IF the West wants talks on Ukraine it should stop supplying Kiev with weapons, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, commenting on Swiss Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis' statement that Russia should be included into peace discussions.

Addressing a news conference in Davos earlier in the day, Cassis said that efforts are being made to bring Russia into peace discussions on Ukraine mediated by other countries and stressed that a peace conference could not be held without Russia's participation.

"If it is about some countries' desire to find a way out of the dead end they have been brought into by Washington, this is one thing. In this case, they should stop supplying weapons to Ukraine, stop imposing anti-Russian sanctions, and stop making Russophobic statements," she told the Izvestia newspaper.

"If this rhetoric is geared toward drawing Russia into some sort of a psychedelic process on the West's terms to influence Russia's principled approaches, we won't be lured into this trap," she stressed.



## Gazan patients in dire need of medical care as conflict reaches grim milestone

GAZA

YOUSUF Ali, a Palestinian cancer patient, still struggled to get life-saving treatment as the deadly Israel-Hamas conflict has ravaged the Gaza Strip for 100 days.

Ali, suffering from lung cancer, said his health condition has deteriorated due to poor access to any proper medical treatment since the onset of the conflict on Oct. 7, 2023.

"For three years, I used to receive periodic treatment at hospitals in the West Bank and Israel to keep my condition stable, before the war flipped my life upside down," the patient recalled.

The 44-year-old man was forced to leave his house and relocate to Rafah, like many of the more than 1.9 million internally displaced Gaza residents. Since then (the start of the conflict), "I have neither received any specialty drugs nor any medical examination from a specialist," he told Xinhua, lamenting that his pain has grown twice as intense as before.

"I am dying slowly, and no one is caring about us (the patients)," he said. The enduring conflict has also endangered 51-year-old Samira Ziara, a heart disease patient, who also has not received any treatment since the war erupted.

"Unfortunately, my mother is witnessing a record and painful situation in light of the deterioration of her health and her lack of medical care and medicines while at the same time diseases and epidemics spread in shelters," Samira's son Kamal Ziara told Xinhua.



An injured girl is transferred to a hospital in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis, on Jan. 12, 2024. (Photo by Yasser Qudih/Xinhua)

He said he could not stand to lose his mother, calling on the international community to help Gazan patients receive treatments either inside Gaza or allow them to travel outside to receive health care.

Under massive Israeli siege and bombardment, the casualties in Gaza were horrific, and the toll is still on the rise.

More than 23,800 Palestinians have been killed, and over 60,000 others were injured, according to figures released by the Gaza-based Health Ministry.

The Israeli escalation came in retaliation for an attack by Hamas, in which its militants killed about 1,200 people and took away more than 200 as hostages.

Besides the shocking deaths and injuries, Gaza is suffering from a worsening humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by power outages,

fuel exhaustion, and cut-off communications.

"More than 1.9 million displaced people suffer from catastrophic conditions due to the lack of daily necessities and medical care," Ismail Thawabta, director general of the government media office in Gaza, told Xinhua. "Out of the 325 shelters in Gaza, only 150 have medical points at a time when most hospitals and primary health centers have been out of service," Thawabta said. Local medical authorities have detected more than 400,000 cases of diseases and epidemics at a time of challenges posed by harsh winter conditions, he added.

Meanwhile, only nine out of the total 36 hospitals and 19 of the 72 healthcare centers are now operating in Gaza, with their average occupancy rate being 351 percent and the occupancy rate of intensive care units (ICU) at 261 percent, according to the Hamas-run Health

Ministry.

According to the media office of the Rafah crossing, 972 patients were transferred outside the enclave to receive medical care, consisting of 571 wounded and 401 patients of various diseases, including cancers.

"It is of great importance to firstly evacuate the more than 5,300 people facing serious and complex health conditions in Gaza to receive necessary and appropriate care abroad," Ashraf al-Qedra, spokesperson of the Gaza-based Health Ministry, told Xinhua.

"We are suffering from a severe shortage of medicines and medical supplies here, including anesthesia, antibiotics, intravenous fluids, pain relievers, insulin, blood and its derivatives," al-Qedra said.

Also, medical equipment, such as monitoring devices, respirators, incubators, X-rays, CT scans, analysis devices, and anesthesia, are not operating in hospitals due to power outages, the spokesperson noted.

Meanwhile, overcrowded shelters for the displaced, which have become a hotbed for infectious diseases amid poor sanitation and running out of sanitizers and vaccine stocks, are facing the imminent danger of a public health crisis.

According to the World Health Organization, Gaza hospitals also face a deficiency of medical staff, including surgeons, neurosurgeons, and ICU staff, while medics on the ground have to deal with extremely volatile working conditions amid fear of Israeli bombardment.

Xinhua

## Britain's Conservatives set for 1997-style election defeat

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party is set for an electoral defeat on a par with its heavy loss to the Labour Party in 1997, according to a YouGov opinion poll published in the Telegraph newspaper.

Ahead of an election expected later in 2024, the poll predicted Labour was on course to win 385 seats in parliament while the Conservatives will retain just 169, losing more seats than they did in 1997.

That would represent an 11.5 percent swing to Keir Starmer's Labour, the biggest collapse in support for a governing party

since 1906, the newspaper said.

The 14,000 people surveyed by YouGov represented about seven times the usual number of people involved in the firm's polling. The survey was commissioned by a group of Conservative donors, the Telegraph said.

Recent polls have repeatedly shown the Conservatives trailing Labour. A YouGov poll in November put Sunak's party behind by 19 percentage points.

Asked about the latest forecast of a heavy electoral defeat, defence minister Grant Shapps said his party had a plan that would help win over voters.



A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaking during the first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session of the year, at the House of Commons in London, on Jan 10, 2024. AFP

## Ecuadorian military, police raid prisons to regain control amid 'state of emergency'

QUITO

ECUADOR'S army and police contingent raided the country's prisons Sunday to regain control following the total release of agents and prison officers who were taken hostage in this week's riots.

The armed forces and the national police confirmed joint operations in prisons, including the confiscation of explosives and other prohibited items.

Approximately 800 military and police officers participated in Sunday's operation in Machala city, in the province of El Oro, "retaking control and conducting searches inside the prison," the military said on X, formerly Twitter.

It added that the "total control" of the pris-

on of Turi, in the province of Azuay, has also been retaken, following a military deployment in the prison that began in the early hours of Sunday.

Another 1,100 uniformed personnel raided the prison in the northern city of Esmeraldas, capital of the Esmeraldas Province, and "confiscated explosives, alcohol and household appliances" in the prison.

Riots in Ecuador's prisons erupted on Jan. 8 after drug lord Adolfo Macias absconded from a prison in the city of Guayaquil. On Jan. 9, President Daniel Noboa's government declared a "state of emergency" for 60 days, including imposing a night curfew in response to the escalation of violence in the country, attributed to the actions of organized crime groups.

Xinhua



# SPORT



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (L) is pictured handing over a senior national football team's jersey bearing the name of the squad's former skipper Leodegar Tenga (C) to Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Adam Mihayo, during an occasion for soliciting sponsorship for national teams that took place in Dar es Salaam last week. Mihayo bought the jersey for 7m/-. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Gymkhana golfer clinches 2024 Charity Golf Day tourney silverware

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC) golfer, Abbe Omary, has emerged as the overall winner of this year's Lions 'Play for Sight' Charity Golf Day tournament held at the club's course last weekend.

The 18-hole tournament, organized by Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Mzizima, was played under a Stroke Play format and brought over 50 golfers- according to the event's coordinator Shanti Shah.

Shah stated the golfers who battled it out in the tournament came from TPDF Lugalo Club, Kilombero Club, and Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club.

Omary posted 72 net strokes to emerge as the overall winner of the tournament which aimed at raising funds for supporting eye services.

The overall winner was followed by second-placed Son Vengetsamy who notched 73 net. Veteran golfer, Shabbir Abji, netted two-over-par 74 net strokes to triumph in the event's Division A, Taha Jabiri who scored 79 net secured second place in the division.

In Division B, Kanal Lkhani posted 74 net to beat the rest of the division's golfers to the top honour, whilst George Parira who returned 77 net took second place.

Robin Bista won the Division C top honour after recording 76 net strokes- followed by second-placed Arshid Balmeda who returned 78 strokes.

Yvonne Ondari- who carded 78 strokes- won the Ladies' category, and Kiye Mwakawago secured the top prize in the Juniors' category.

Yvonne also won the Longest Drive prize for the ladies. The Nearest to the Pin prize for men went to Shival Naickel while Vicky Elias won the prize in the Ladies' category.

Lion Shah thanked all participants and stakeholders who contributed to the success of this year's event while giving a special mention to Toyota Tanzania, who sponsored the tournament.

Lion Shah moreover commended the Lions Club of Mzizima Dar es Salaam's management and the golfers who took part in the 18-hole event.

Lions Club Mzizima Eye Camps' coordinator, Ragib Hassanali, said 60m/- was collected in the showdown.

Hassanali said the funds will be used to provide eye care in various camps that the Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Mzizima will set up in the country.

The official revealed there will be provision of eye testing services, glasses, cataract surgery, and medicine at the camps.

"We always set up camps in rural areas to provide services for eye problems and, to a large extent, we have done that almost all over the country, so, with these funds we are continuing the practice of providing the service," Hassanali noted.

The organizer expressed sincere regards to the tournament's sponsor Toyota Tanzania, the players, and other stakeholders who facilitated the acquisition of the funds.

“

Several other clubs, including BUL FC, Police FC, and Kataka FC, have embraced the double-licensing system, offering players opportunities to feature in lower divisions while maintaining their connection with higher-tier teams

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

A non-governmental organization (NGO), Save the Children, has introduced a sports bonanza to school children affected by mudslides that occurred in Hanang District, Manyara recently.

Speaking in an exclusive interview in Hanang last weekend, Save the Children's Official Responsible for Child

Protection, Busungu Mathias, said the sports bonanza aims at helping children normalize their mental health after experiencing trauma brought about by the loss of close relatives, schoolmates, and classmates during the mudslides.

The bonanza, which got underway on January 10, 2024, and will climax on January

20, 2024, involves over 16 teams and also intends to help children intermingle through sports and other games and forget the horrifying experience.

The event is moreover expected to bring happiness among parents, given they will be watching their children happily participate in sports. The bonanza, the official

pointed out, will encourage many pupils- who have opted out of going to school- to start attending classes.

Mathias revealed: "We have handed over sports equipment to various groups of children, including boys, girls, and children with disabilities and special needs."

The official further noted: "These sports are safe,

friendly, entertaining and participatory." He said that games/sports are one of the crucial things that help children to come together and forget the past, adding that Save the Children cannot remain quiet when seeing children encounter problems. Agidang'on Primary School's Head Teacher, Enaziel Akioo, commended Save the

SPORTS

## Mlandege FC savours 2024 Mapinduzi Cup glory

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipeka

THIS year's edition of the football competition that traditionally ushers in the New Year here in East Africa, the Mapinduzi Cup, came to a thrilling climax last weekend in the Isles with a surprising winner coming out on top.

Indeed, the championship that featured the leading lights of regional football vying for glory alongside Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar clubs proved to be an utterly compelling tournament that saw a few big guns fall by the wayside.

Ultimately though, the competition's two best teams progressed to the final and these were Simba SC and the hosts' Mlandege who both served up an entertaining contest last weekend.

Despite being considered red-hot favorites heading into the eagerly awaited showdown, Simba SC sadly came a cropper as Mlandege FC enjoyed a slim 1-0 win to clinch the coveted trophy. Remarkably, it is striking to note that Isles' based clubs have not claimed success frequently in this championship in recent years.

Understandably then, Mlandege FC's admirable cup-winning heroics can rightly be described as a gigantic achievement of enormous magnitude.

Hats off then to Mlandege FC, which magnificently overcame the difficult challenge posed by the greatly feared juggernauts Simba SC to secure a pleasing 2024 Mapinduzi Cup triumph to the sheer ecstasy of their chuffed fans.

Now that the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup has come to a gripping end, the attention of local football devotees will undeniably turn to the 2023 AFCON finals, which kicked off last Saturday with a bang.

Indeed, the opening encounter pitted the hosts Ivory Coast against minnows



Simba SC's midfielder Saidi Ntibazonkiza (R) dribbles past Mlandege FC's player when the two clubs met in a 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final that took place in Zanzibar last Saturday and ended in a 1-0 victory for Mlandege FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Guinea Bissau in an absorbing duel that saw the hosts emerge with a relatively comfortable 2-0 win against their unheralded opponents.

Both Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau were drawn in Group A, which also consists of Equatorial Guinea and the perpetually ambitious Super Eagles of Nigeria.

Despite their perennially lofty ambitions, the Super Eagles of Nigeria were held to a 1-all draw by lightweights Equatorial Guinea, who must be relieved over having avoided a humiliating defeat.

For Tanzania's part, the ever-dramatic AFCON finals will get going on January 17 when our Taifa Stars go up against traditional giants the Atlas Lions of Morocco.

Apart from powerhouses Morocco, the Taifa Stars were drawn in Group F which includes Zambia and DR Congo, who have both won the whole shebang in their illustrious past.

The Taifa Stars will have a lot on their plate in Group F. However, it is hoped that they will not be fazed by the stern test awaiting them, which ought to stand them in good stead.

Let us conclude with local cycling which is a sport that has been arguably neglected in recent years on our shores.

Indeed, the body tasked with governing the sport, which is the Cycling Association of Tanzania (CHABATA), has found it incredibly hard to stage regular cycling competitions on home soil. In light of this unmistakably unpleasant state of affairs, one hopes that cycling stakeholders and would-be corporate sponsors will band together to revive this great sport.

## Tigo promises 2024 Kili Marathon participants, fans great experience



Participants of the 21km race, sponsored by Tigo, wait at the starting point during a previous edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon which took place in Moshi. FILE PHOTO

By Guardian Correspondent

TELECOMMUNICATION company, Tigo, the sponsor of the Tigo Kili Half Marathon category of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, has promised the category's participants and fans a great and memorable experience ahead of the big event.

This comes barely a month before the marathon gets underway on February 25 at the Moshi Cooperative University ground in Kilimanjaro.

The Tigo Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael, said that all is set for the marathon, adding they expect a huge turnout in the Tigo Kili Half Marathon category.

"Most Tanzanians are now health conscious and are day after day showing great interest in marathons and Kili Marathon is one of the events that have gathered a lot of popularity and we have seen the numbers increasing year after

year," she said.

She said the modernization of the Tigo network, which now guarantees Tigo users a much faster network during the marathon, is one of the memorable experiences that the participants should expect.

"Participants and fans will be taking photos and videos during the races so they can send them to their loved ones or post them on social media. We are guaranteeing them a good experience," she said.

She said as part of Tigo's commitment to promoting sports tourism in Tanzania and nurturing athlete talents, the firm is thrilled to sponsor the Tigo Kili Half International Marathon for the ninth consecutive year.

She said the company's innovative and simplified marathon registration and payment platform is still open for all race categories, revealing runners can use Tigopesa by dialing \*150\*01#, then pressing 5 LKS, then pressing 5 (Ticket) and following instructions to finalize registration.

"The entries are however limited and almost full so we urge all participants to ensure they complete their registration before the organizers close the exercise," she said. This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager- 42km, Tigo- 21km, Gee Soseji- 5km Fun Run,

while water table sponsors are Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Sugar, TotalEnergies, and CRDB Bank.

Official partners are KiliMedair, Garda World Security, CMC Automobiles, Sal Salinero Hotel, and official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

The event will be held at the Moshi Cooperatives University ground on February 25 and will play host to an IAAF route-measured 42km race, Half Marathon, and a 5km Fun Run. The event is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

## NGO introduces sports bonanza to Hanang children

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

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20, 2024, involves over 16 teams and also intends to help children intermingle through sports and other games and forget the horrifying experience.

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pointed out, will encourage many pupils- who have opted out of going to school- to start attending classes.

Mathias revealed: "We have handed over sports equipment to various groups of children, including boys, girls, and children with disabilities and special needs."

The official further noted: "These sports are safe,

friendly, entertaining and participatory." He said that games/sports are one of the crucial things that help children to come together and forget the past, adding that Save the Children cannot remain quiet when seeing children encounter problems. Agidang'on Primary School's Head Teacher, Enaziel Akioo, commended Save the

Children for introducing the sports bonanza and handing over sports equipment to his school.

He said: "Sports/games console and make children socialize, they will make these children forget memories of the past mudslides tragedy faced them."

Akioo further noted that through the bonanza, the

notorious truants will attend studies. Gedang'onyi Primary School's male Head Prefect also commended Save the Children for consoling them and handing over sports equipment, noting sports make the youngsters forget the trauma they are experiencing. Ganana Ward Education Officer Salum Zubeir also commended Save the Children for introducing the sports bonanza.



## Barca lacking in every way in Madrid thrashing - Xavi

JEDDAH

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez criticised his team for their inadequate performance in a humbling 4-1 defeat by Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup final on Sunday.

The Spanish champions were thrashed in Saudi Arabia by their bitter Clásico rivals and Xavi said his team gave a bad account of themselves.

"We were lacking in every way and have to apologise to the fans, we did not show the level to compete in a final," Xavi told reporters.

"It's a heavy defeat, as a Barca fan I'm disappointed, we put on one of our worst displays of the season.

"This is not the image that Barca have to show, especially in a final against Real Madrid."

Vinicius Junior hit a first-half treble for Real Madrid, including a brace inside the first 10 minutes, with Robert Lewandowski netting for the Catalans.

Rodrygo rounded off Real Ma-

adrid's rout in the second half, while Barca defender Ronald Araujo was sent off for two bookings, both for fouls on Vinicius.

"We did not stop counter-attacks and runs, we started in the worst way in a final, we were trailing for the whole game," added Xavi.

"We reacted well with Robert's goal and then with the penalty, the game basically ended there."

Xavi said his team had to work on their mistakes after the defeat, but that three trophies were still at stake this season.

Barcelona visit third-tier Unionistas de Salamanca in the Copa del Rey last 16 on Thursday.

"It's a trophy lost, we have to be self-critical (but) I still believe in the project and we can still have a great season," said the coach.

"I think we can turn the situation around ... everything continues, I've been in these situations many times, there's nothing for it but sucking up the criticism."

AFP

## Madrid Super Cup hero Vinicius 'no saint' but trying to improve

JEDDAH

VINICIUS Junior admitted he was "no saint" after inspiring Real Madrid to win the Spanish Super Cup on Sunday with a hat-trick in a 4-1 thrashing of rivals Barcelona in Saudi Arabia.

The Brazilian winger, 23, is often criticised by opponents for going down easily, confronting officials and humiliating them with dribbles.

Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo was sent off for two yellow cards, both for fouls on Vinicius.

Players and staff on Barcelona's bench, including midfielder Sergi Roberto, appeared to remonstrate with Vinicius in the second half.

"I'm very sad because everyone wants to fight with me because they know it will come out in the media," Vinicius told reporters after the game.

"I try to focus on the game to do the best for my team-mates (but) I am not a saint, sometimes I talk too much, do dribbles I shouldn't do, but I am here to improve.

"I want to improve, my team-mates and the coach are showing me what I have to do."

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said he took Vinicius off in the final stages because he was tired.

"I took off Vinicius for all the effort he'd put in, not to avoid problems," the Italian told reporters.

"I took him off for the last 10 minutes. Vinicius has to do his job, which is to make people excited and bring trophies to Real Madrid."

Vinicius was by far the best player on the pitch as Real Madrid crushed their rivals to avenge last year's Super Cup final defeat by the Catalans.

The Brazilian's hat-trick doubled his tally of goals against Barcelona, now six in 16 appearances.

Vinicius celebrated his first goal in the style of Cristiano Ronaldo, the former Real Madrid striker and the club's all-time top goalscorer, who now plays in Saudi Arabia.

"The celebration was for Cris, because he's my idol, and now he is playing here," said Vinicius.

"The people in Saudi Arabia have a special love for me, I am very happy for what we did today. To beat Barcelona 4-1 is very hard and today we had an almost perfect game."

AFP



## Salah rescues Egypt as Nigeria draw and Ghana lose at Cup of Nations

ABIDJAN

MOHAMED Salah saved Egypt from an embarrassing defeat in their opening game at the Africa Cup of Nations on Sunday, while Nigeria were held by Equatorial Guinea despite Victor Osimhen getting on the scoresheet.

Ghana were also in action in Abidjan and suffered a shock 2-1 loss to Cape Verde as three nations with 14 AFCON titles between them all failed to get off to winning starts at this year's tournament.

There was drama at the Felix Houphouët Boigny Stadium in Ivory Coast's economic capital as Egypt needed a Salah penalty seven minutes into injury time to snatch a 2-2 draw with Mozambique in Group B.

The penalty was awarded following a VAR check for a foul on Mostafa Mohamed, and Salah's strike denied Mozambique a historic first ever AFCON win.

"I was sad seeing my players devastated at the end because we deserved the win," said Mozambique coach Chiquinho Conde.

His nation had not won a game in four past appearances at the AFCON, and their winless record now spans 13 matches in total.

Mohamed had given record seven-time African champions Egypt the ideal start when he scored inside two minutes, but the sapping heat and humidity seemed to get the better of the Pharaohs.

Mozambique equalised through a Witensio Quembo header on 55 minutes and completed the turnaround when substitute Clesio Bauque burst through to make it 2-1 three minutes later.

Salah saved Egypt, but it was not a convincing start to their campaign in Ivory Coast where they are attempting to win a record-extending eighth AFCON crown and a first since 2010, before the Liverpool superstar had made his international debut.



Egypt and Mozambique players fight for the ball during their African Cup of Nations Group B match at the Felix Houphouët Boigny Stadium in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on Sunday. Agencies

"I want to win every match I play and when we don't I am sad, but there are no easy games," said Egypt coach Rui Vitoria.

"We were not the best team before the draw was made and we are not the worst now."

- Cape Verde stun Ghana -

Suddenly Egypt's next game on Thursday against Ghana could be make or break for both, with the Black Stars reeling after conceding in injury time to lose 2-1 to Cape Verde.

The Black Stars looked set to come away with a draw after Alexander Djiku headed home on 56 minutes to cancel out Jamiro Monteiro's first-half opener.

But Cape Verde pounced on poor defending to grab all three points in the 92nd minute, with substitute Garry Rodrigues tucking the ball into a gaping goal to the shock of Ghana fans in the crowd of just under 12,000.

"We want to show the world what we can do, that we are small but we can compete on football-

ing terms with all teams in Africa," said Cape Verde coach Pedro 'Bubista' Brito.

The evening was also notable for the appearance as a substitute of Andre Ayew, with the 34-year-old becoming only the third player to feature in eight editions of the competition.

Yet of far greater concern to Ghanaians is the result for a country whose tally of four AFCON victories is bettered only by Egypt and Cameroon.

- Osimhen on target -

They went out of the last edition in 2022 in the group stage and Chris Hughton's team also came here off the back of a 1-0 defeat to the Comoros in World Cup qualifying in November.

"We conceded a very poor goal, and hence it is a very disappointing night for us," Hughton said of Cape Verde's winner.

"We have no choice but to make sure it is a favourable result in our next game against Egypt."

Three-time champions Nigeria

are hoping the presence of African Player of the Year Osimhen can spark a successful campaign but they were held to a 1-1 draw by Equatorial Guinea in Group A.

Osimhen nodded in to level in the first half almost immediately after Iban Edu had opened the scoring in match that ended with both teams on one point, two fewer than Ivory Coast.

The tournament hosts beat Guinea-Bissau 2-0 in the same Ebimpe Olympic Stadium on Saturday. "I am not happy. This draw does not suit us. Our team created a lot of chances but we did not score," said Nigeria coach Jose Peseiro.

Of concern to organisers will be the sight of a practically empty stadium, with very few fans attending the game in the 60,000-capacity ground.

Holders Senegal kick off their campaign on Monday against Gambia in Group C in Yamoussoukro, with Cameroon and Algeria also in action.

AFP

## How Senegal came to dominate African football

By Rob Stevens and Yusuf Akinpelu - BBC Sport Africa

MOROCCO may have made history in 2022 by becoming the first African team to reach the Fifa World Cup semi-finals, but the continent's dominant footballing force lies further down the coast in Senegal.

The Teranga Lions are defending their Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) title in Ivory Coast this month, but that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Senegal are also reigning continental champions at Under-17 and Under-20 level, and even won the African Nations Championship (CHAN), the competition for domestic-based players for the first time last year.

Aliou Cisse's men were to start their Group C campaign with a derby against The Gambia later yesterday as they look to become the first side to register back-to-back Afcon triumphs since Egypt won their third in a row in 2010.

"We have just the one star," the 47-year-old, referring to having lifted the trophy just once, said. "We are keen to win again, to continue winning it."

Cisse himself was part of Senegal's original golden generation, which finished as runners-up at the 2002 Afcon before reaching the semi-finals of the World Cup later that year on the country's debut at the finals.

Former international team-mate El Hadji Diouf believes Senegal's recent success is the result of both a strong partnership between the government and the country's football federation (FSF) and critical investment in facilities.

"Everywhere you go in Senegal, all the cities have academies," Diouf told BBC Sport Africa.

"They start young, at Under-10, and have tournaments every year. We want to improve that and have the same organisation like in England and France.

"I have to say congratulations and thanks for our government because that's a policy and they give the money. And the president of the FSF, Augustin Senghor, is working so well."

Senegal's hold over the African game even stretches to beach soccer, with the country winning the past four conti-

mental titles and finishing fourth at the last Beach Soccer World Cup in Russia in 2021.

"Pathways and coaching stability

Alongside the establishment of local academies and infrastructure, Souleymane Diallo, a part-time coach of national age groups and a research professor at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, says a pathway has been created to move talent from youth international level to the senior side.

"Senegal has an extraordinary potential of players and we're being patient with the generations," Diallo told BBC Sport Africa.

"At grassroots level, we have a very broad base and we're creating channels through which these players can reach the first team.

"The federation asks us to put players who have played in the lower categories on the radar, so that each generation can move on from a lower level to a higher one. "If they finish their category at U17, they go to U20. If they finish at U20 they go on to the U23s, the CHAN team and the first team."

Another big factor in Senegal's long-term strategy has been to ensure stability in the dugout. Cisse has been in charge of the Teranga Lions since March 2015, and has slowly built towards success.

A quarter-final exit in the 2017 Afcon (on penalties) was followed by a defeat in the 2019 final, before Senegal returned to triumph in Cameroon in February 2022. During that time the West Africans were the continent's top-ranked side for over four years before being replaced by Morocco following their historic World Cup run. Senegal exited in the last 16 in Qatar, beaten 3-0 by England, but there were no questions over Cisse's future.

"Senegal's policy is to insist that coaches stay on the national bench for as long as possible," Diallo said. "A roadmap has been put in place which ensures all national coaches have the same requirements in terms of training content and information, and created channels for liaison."

Participating in continental and global tournaments at youth level more frequently has helped boost the nation's fortunes.

"The process of reaching the top level is a gradual one," Diallo said. "In the past, we didn't win in Africa because we didn't regularly take part in African competitions. "If you want to win, you have to be there first. The first step is to solve the problem of being present at these competitions, and that's what Senegal has done."

"We need to be present all the time, and it's now that we're going to lay the foundations for winning the World Cup in the future."

"Nothing to fear" in Ivory Coast

As for their Afcon title defence, concerns have been raised about the fact that some of Senegal's key players now ply their trade in Saudi Arabia, with goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, captain Kalidou Koulibaly and talisman Sadio Mane all

drawn there.

Previously Cisse had refused to select players from the Saudi Pro League because of its low quality in comparison to Europe's top flights.

"We showed we were capable of winning the title when we had players in the major European championships," Cisse said. "Now we also must show we can win it with players who play in Saudi Arabia."

Diouf is bullish about Senegal's chances of retaining the trophy, and says former Liverpool and Bayern Munich forward Mane "wants to show everyone he is far from finished".

"We are the best team in Africa and we don't have to fear anything," the 42-year-old added. "We have so much quality and I see the players are still hungry. The mix we have between the leaders of this team and the young boys is unbelievable.

"The only way we cannot win this Africa Cup of Nations is [by] not thinking we are the best."

And Mane, who netted the winning spot-kick in the final against Egypt in Cameroon just under two years ago, knows the effect taking the trophy back to Dakar once more could have.

"Winning the Afcon was the best trophy I have ever won in my life and coming to do it again will be special and a big achievement," he told Caf Online.

"Winning the Afcon will [have] a big impact for our football because we have won all the other categories which is great for the country."

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Salah rescues Egypt as Nigeria draw  
and Ghana lose at Cup of Nations**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi (Front row, 2nd L), presents certificate of appreciation to NMB Bank's Chief Finance Officer Juma Kimori (Front row, 2nd R), for the institution's sponsorship of the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup during the tournament's final which took place in the Isles last weekend. The bank spent 200m/- to sponsor the tournament. Others are Zanzibar's Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla (Front row, L), and NMB Bank's Zanzibar Cluster Manager Naima Said Shaame (Front row, R). PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

## Simba SC winger eyes March comeback

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC's Ivorian attacking midfielder, Aubin Kramo, has disclosed his anticipated return to the pitch, expressing a determination to make a significant impact upon his comeback.

Currently sidelined due to knee injuries that necessitated surgery, Kramo (pictured) underwent the operation in South Africa based on medical advice.

The star player is diligently working towards a full recovery during this period away from the pitch.

With official projections pointing to an early March return to competitive action, Kramo is optimistic about resuming his pivotal role for Simba SC.

He is not only focused on personal achievements but also on expressing gratitude to the fans who supported him during his rehabilitation.

In a heartfelt message, Kramo conveyed his appreciation for the patience and encouragement shown by Simba SC's loyal supporters throughout his time away from the pitch.

He acknowledged their unwavering support and expressed a deep connection with the fanbase.

As a gesture of gratitude, Kramo has set a specific goal for his return. He is determined to score his first goal in either the NBC Premier League or the CAF Champions League upon resuming play in March.

This planned feat is intended as a token of appreciation for the fans who stood by him during his recovery.

Kramo's commitment to reciprocate the fans' loyalty with a tangible contribution on the field reflects not only his sporting prowess but also his understanding of the profound connection between players and supporters in the world of football.

As the eagerly awaited return approaches, Simba SC fans can anticipate a spirited and goal-driven comeback from their talented midfielder.

Simba SC introduced Kramo as a versatile striker expected to play a crucial role in upcoming domestic and international matches, aiming to surpass their performance from the previous season.

Kramo officially joined the club on July 8, 2023, becoming the second import after Willy Onana in that transfer window.

The Ivorian striker, previously with ASEC Mimosas, sealed a lucrative deal with the Msimbazi Street outfit's giants.

Due to injury, Kramo missed all 10 NBC Premier League matches, which saw Simba SC register victory in seven outings, draw in two, and lose one.

He also missed the CAF Champions League encounter, with Simba SC coming second, securing one win, two draws, and one loss in four matches.

He was also absent from the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup which took place in Zanzibar, in which Simba SC lost 1-0 to Mlandege FC in the final after participating in six matches.



## Taifa Stars ready to fight for glory at 2023 AFCON

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE time that has been eagerly awaited is now, and everyone can see how the reality is in Ivory Coast at the current edition of the major African soccer tournament, Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), which has begun to pick up the pace gradually.

Tanzania's national team, Taifa Stars, has work to do in the tournament, whereby the most important thing is to see that everyone wants to see the side win, and now it is time to work on seeking victory.

The opportunity to win exists, and the important thing is to work hard to win, because everyone wants to get good results, so the time is now to do well in this tournament.

It is clear that fans need to see the team get good results on the pitch, and by putting in a spirited performance, the team can get good results. So, all that is needed is to be in all matches.

Taifa Stars' head coach Adel Amrouche sent a clear message, saying: "Tanzania is not just showing up at the AFCON, we are aiming to compete."

After a rigorous training camp in Egypt and San Pedro, Ivory Coast Amrouche assured fans that his team was hungry for victory.

He declared: "There are no easy games in this tournament, but we're prepared to fight for every point."

With a tough group stage schedule featuring Morocco, Zambia, and DR Congo, the Taifa Stars know they'll have to bring their A-game.

But with Amrouche's unwavering belief and their intense preparation, Tanzania could be a surprise contender in this year's Africa Cup of Nations.

Mbwana Samatta, the senior national team's captain, believes in comprehensive preparation as he stated: "Preparation is paramount. I believe comprehensive preparation will lead to success."

Samatta disclosed: "Our group poses challenges as every team is well-organized, but I trust the coaching staff to devise a solid strategy for our success, so let's entrust the team's preparation



Tanzania's senior national football team players are pictured training in Ivory Coast last weekend to shape up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations slated for January 13–February 11, 2024. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

task to the technical bench."

The PAOK Thessaloniki forward pointed out: "But Tanzanians should not stop giving their support, it is very important for us players."

Instructions from the technical bench are important to follow, along with players increasing discipline in the matches they will play.

This will reduce mistakes on their side as well as unnecessary yellow card penalties in competing for the trophy inside the field when looking for results is possible, and the available time is now.

Everyone should have their job to fight for good results for the sake of getting good results, it is possible because it is time to do it for everyone to fight for victory on the field.

No one likes to see their team lose, so it is time to prepare and do it in every game on the field, and the time is now to do it well, best of luck Taifa Stars.

Taifa Stars has been put in Group F and the squad's first match, slated to be played tomorrow at 8 pm East African time, will see it lock horns with Morocco.

It was possible to win because the Egyptian national team led by Mohamed Salah was given a high chance of winning against Mozambique.

## Singida FG FC aims top three finish in NBC PL

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC information officer Hussein Masanza has said that the club has now dedicated its focus to the 2023/24 NBC Premier League after completing the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup campaign.

The Singida-based side is aiming to finish in the top three positions of the domestic top flight to boost the squad's chances of excelling in either of the African inter-club competitions, namely the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

Masanza revealed that after crashing out of the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup semi-finals the club is focusing on this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup triumph and NBC Premier League after returning from the Isles.

He noted: "Our 2024 target is to finish among the top three teams. We are confident to meet the goal for we have a good squad to elevate us to the next level, we have come close in various tournaments in the country we want to compete internationally too."

"The NBC Premier League is very competitive and makes us hungry for a spot among the best teams," the official pointed out.

He added: "We are sitting five places in the league log after 14 games if we can push ourselves with the technical bench, then we have a shot at CAF inter-club competitions."

Singida Fountain Gate FC is currently positioned fifth in this season's NBC Premier League, having collected 20 points in 14 matches, winning five, drawing the same number, and losing four games.

The club issued a word of appreciation to the Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) for allowing it to participate in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup.

During the competitions, Singida Fountain Gate FC showed great performance, although last year the squad managed to finish as finalists.

In last year's Mapinduzi Cup final, Mlandege FC clinched the showdown's title after beating Singida Fountain Gate FC 2-1.

Apart from the team's excellence in this year's competition, the side's Kenyan forward Elvis Rupia managed to score five goals.

Singida Fountain Gate FC is under the tutelage of South African Thabo Senong and his assistant Nizar Khalfan after the squad parted ways with Brazilian tactician Ricardo Ferreira after spending two months with the team.

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV TUESDAY**

**MJADALA**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntlu  
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntlu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**MJADALA** is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

