



## ENVIRONMENT



**JAFO GIVES OFFICIALS 14-DAY ULTIMATUM OVER SEWERAGE PG 3**

## PROFESSIONALISM



**CRB REGISTRAR DEREGISTERS 4,000 CONTRACTORS PG 4**

## EXPEDITION



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## INFRASTRUCTURE



**REPAIRS OF CHAMBESHI RAILWAY BRIDGE UNDERWAY PG 6**

**BUSINESS** Dar's Kinondoni council issues 12bn/- to youth, women groups

Mascom rolls out four 5G sites in Botswana

DRC relents on mobile device registration tax

Westcon-Constar to combine MEA, SSA regions operations

Eight firms in race to build gas import terminals

# No Tanzanians hurt in Ukraine clashes - govt

## Malaria: Zanzibar adopting new drone mapping technique

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

DRONE and smartphone technology developed at Aberystwyth University located in Wales in the United Kingdom is being used to fight malaria in Zanzibar.

Tiny planes, drones, programmed by the UK faculty provide precise and accurate mapping for the teams on the ground, so that malaria fighting agencies can treat the water pools before the hatched larvae turn into adult mosquitos and start spreading the malaria parasite.

The method is seen as an efficient way of targeting difficult-to-find water pools or wetland patches where some mosquito breeding is taking place, with potentially huge effects as countries push efforts to eradicate malaria.

Faiza Abbas, the deputy programme manager of the malaria elimination programme in Zanzibar, has welcomed the new approach, seeing it as an important step towards eliminating malaria. The project is helpful in reaching and identifying breeding sites, and enables a reduction of expenses, she said.

The Zanzibar programme shall be using this technology "to make sure we are capturing almost all the breeding sites because when you talk about malaria, there is no way you can leave behind the breeding sites..."

"It's a really, really important technology," the manager asserted.

The project is funded by the innovative vector control consortium (IVCC) set up in 2005 with an initial grant amounting to £37m (\$50m) from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Mark Latham, a consultant with the IVCC, says the project "is an example of why it is important to consider different approaches," underlining that it

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa holds private talks with Democratic Republic of Congo President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo (R) in the DRC capital, Kinshasa, on Thursday evening. This was shortly after the conclusion of the 10th Heads of State and Government meeting on the framework for peace, security and cooperation for DRC and Africa's Great Lakes Region. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has advised families with students studying in Ukraine, which has fallen into disruption following a multipronged invasion from Russia, to contact the student's relatives and arrange for those affected to be brought back home if necessary.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said in a statement yesterday that the government had advised Tanzanians resident in Ukraine to keenly follow directives by the country's authorities and communicate with the Tanzanian embassy in Sweden on any emergency assistance needed.

"All Tanzanian students in Ukraine should follow directives given by their institutions which include parents communicating with their children to arrange bringing them home if the need arises," the statement reads in part.

It has, however, said no Tanzanian national has been harmed in the clashes overwhelming the capital Kyiv, with the Ukrainian government shifting its seat of operations to the western part of the country and declaring a state of emergency.

The government was closely following the developments and monitoring the security of Tanzanians in Ukraine, it said, affirming that students and all Tanzanians residing in Ukraine need to remain calm and follow directives issued by the host government.

In another development the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) has asked the government to take responsibility of the security of Tanzanians in Ukraine.

The party said it was not satisfied with the statement issued by Tanzania's embassy in Sweden which is also responsible for Ukraine on Tanzanians and students currently in Ukraine.

"We believe the statement by the embassy was shallow and aimed at denying the embassy's responsibility of securing Tanzanians under their station of duty especially during this time of war," he opposition party underlined.

Russia launched a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine on Thursday, killing dozens as airstrikes hit military installations and ground forces moved in from the north, south and east, triggering condemnation from Western leaders who announced massive economic sanctions.

The United Nations refugee agency said an estimated 100,000 Ukrainians had fled their homes within hours of the rollout of the much expected military expedition, and yesterday Ukraine's army said it was fighting invading Russian forces north of the capital Kyiv, but strategic points were already in Russian hands, as the Ukrainian capital is just two dozen kilometres from the Russian border.

Russian forces early yesterday reached the outskirts of Kyiv already vacated by the government, which said the city was hit by horrific rocket strikes targeting residential areas in the early hours.

**"We believe the statement by the embassy was shallow and aimed at denying the embassy's responsibility of securing Tanzanians under their station of duty ..."**

# 'Local traders must go for India's duty-free market'

By Getrude Mbago

INDIAN High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Pradhan has challenged the Tanzanian business community to take advantage of the Indian duty-free market for various goods, including agricultural produce.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the envoy said Tanzania business people need to tap business opportunities offered by growing Indian markets.

"I urge Tanzanians to tap investment opportunities present in India so as to boost the country's economic development. Let me remind all traders that any ex-

**"Right now India is among the largest trading partners for Tanzania"**

ports from Tanzania entering the India market will be duty free," he declared.

India has recently opened up a new avocado market, he said, urging Tanzanians to use this opportunity to promote trade between

the two countries.

"There is a massive market opportunity in India in which Tanzanians can grab. There is huge demand for pigeon peas, peanuts, groundnuts and sunflower oil, soya beans, fruits such as avocado, mangoes, berries, pineapples and many others," he elaborated.

The envoy said India and Tanzania are determined to work closely towards finding the best ways to unlock new potentials and reinforce existing trade and investment opportunities between the two countries. The two countries cooperate in the energy sector and building agro-sector infrastructures and expect to take

up more areas, he stated.

"Right now India is among the largest trading partners for Tanzania," he asserted, expressing the view that there is room to promote intense business links between the two countries, pointing out that a substantial number of Indian investors have shown interest for investment projects in Tanzania in areas like ports, energy, oil and gas, agro-processing, health and education.

India's nationals visiting Tanzania for investment have interest in areas ranging from min-

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# PM reaffirms commitment to peace, security

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME MINISTER Kassim Majaliwa has assured the international community of Tanzania's commitment to working with other countries to promote peace, security and socioeconomic cooperation for a better world.

The premier made the commitment at the 10th Heads of States and

**"We are also building SGR from Isaka in Tanzania to the Rwanda capital of Kigali"**

Government meeting on peace, security and cooperation (PSC) framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo particularly and the Great Lakes Region as a whole, standing in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in the Congolese capital of Kinshasa.

Since the days of the late father of the nation Mwalimu Julius Nyerere the government has been actively

involved in the liberation movement in Africa, providing asylum for liberation activists, refugees and later, participating in peacekeeping operations, he said.

In ensuring that it contributes to economic prosperity in Africa, Tanzania is implementing various development projects including the construction of a standard gauge railway from Uvinza (Tanzania) to

Gitega (Burundi) and onward to Kivu (DRC).

"We are also building SGR from Isaka in Tanzania to the Rwanda capital of Kigali," he said, pointing out that the construction of a crude oil pipeline from Hoima in Uganda to Chongoleani point of Tanga port similarly contributes to common

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# African Union's delegation in Juba to evaluate peace implementation

JUBA

A team of 15 delegates from the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) has arrived in Juba on a three-day mission to assess the progress in the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement.

Addressing the press on arrival, Kenya's permanent representative to the African Union, Ambassador Jean Kamau, who is also the leader of the delegation, said they came to review the peace process and provide support to the people of South Sudan.

"The Peace and Security Council of the African Union is here for three days at a historic moment when the government of South Sudan is celebrating its two years in office but also to come and review the peace process here in South Sudan," Ambassador Kamau said.

He added: "To assess the achievements which have been made, to look at the challenges and really to provide solidarity and support to the people of South Sudan."

She added that what is important to emphasize is that the peace agreement has brought about peace and stability and there is a specific time frame.

"So, within the period that has passed and what is left, we want to know what are the challenges, what are the key support areas that we (AU) need to put more emphasis in to ensure that we meet the deadline. So we are here on a mission, we are just beginning," she added.

According to the team leader, her 15 member delegation will meet the various stakeholders to the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.

"We will be here for three days. We will talk to a cross-section of stakeholders from the government, the civil society, political parties, and some of the development partners just to get a sense of how the peace process is going, where are the challenges and how can the Peace and Security Council of the African Union continue to support South Sudan during this transition," Ambassador Kamau said.

According to the 2018 peace deal, general elections must take place 60 days before the end of the transitional period. There are only 12 months remaining in the transitional period.

But critical work remains to be done, with less than 10 months to go, including preparing legal and constitutional frameworks for the vote.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L) swears in Col Burhan Zuberi Nassor as Commissioner General of the Zanzibar Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority. The event was held at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

# Malaria: Zanzibar adopting new drone mapping technique

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will open people's eyes to new technologies. "You look at Andy (the programmer); he's a geographer - looking at bringing in expertise from outside of entomologists and epidemiologists that say 'what if we did things this way.' And looking outside the box is

always an important thing, I think, when developing these types of programmes," he remarked. Scientists at the Wales faculty sought an easier way of looking up water pools that malaria-carrying mosquitoes use to breed. It is the first time drone technology has been used in a widespread intervention pro-

gramme, as malaria kills more than 400,000 people worldwide each year. The Zanzibar programme set up a target of ridding the archipelago of malaria by 2023 and constantly seeks to control the spread of malaria by female Anopheles mosquitoes, which tend to bite at dusk and at night. When an infected mosquito

bites a person, it passes the parasites into the bloodstream. Controlling the mosquito larvae is considered a crucial part of malaria eradication, but from the ground, it is hard to predict when and where the breeding sites will develop - which makes it hard to find and treat those spots before the adults emerge. Dr Andy Hardy, a lecturer at the

Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at the university, decided to look at the problem from a different angle, turning to drone technology. Tracing larvae on the ground is quite difficult, but as soon as you get to the idea of using drones, for instance over a large paddy field, you can see the effectiveness it offers come alive,

he said. "You can see certain areas of the rice paddy that are inundated with water, certain areas that are dry. So where do you locate your resources? Obviously on places that are wet," he said. This kind of technology could ultimately be a game-changer in fighting malaria, he added



India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (2nd-R), briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on relations between Tanzania and India. He is with Deputy High Commissioner Manoj Verma (2nd-L), Swami Vivekananda cultural centre director Santhosh Raja (L) and second secretary Raj Ganger. Photo courtesy of Indian High Commission

# Local traders must go for India's duty-free market

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ing, tourism, industrial, agro-processing, transport and construction, finance and the development of human resources, he explained.

He described Tanzania's ties with India as cordial, affirming that existing cooperation and solidarity between the two countries helps stimulate development on both sides. India is also working to strengthen cooperation with Tanzania in protecting trade in the Indian Ocean, fight piracy and engage in other counter-terrorism initiatives, he further noted.

Pradhan pointed at over 5000 Tanzanians benefitting from short courses in India under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) arrangement. The technical training and capacity building

courses pertained to computer software and services, health care, financial tools and entrepreneurship development.

Other spheres covered are managing water sources, energy and power projects operations, technologies, agricultural techniques, small scale industries, rural development, management skills plus human resources planning.

The envoy asserted that India is one of the most advanced nations in the space technology, ICT and biotechnology, and is now the third largest economy in the world in purchasing power parity terms.

India has had the honour of participating in most peace-keeping operations in Africa and we have been the largest contributor of troops to these operations in various such operations, he added.

# PM reaffirms commitment to peace, security

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prosperity.

Majaliwa asked the participants that in the next meetings of the member states of the consulting group on the peace, security and cooperation agreement on DRC and the Great Lakes Region, Kiswahili should be added as an official language for the meetings.

"It is a great honour that our language has now received official approval by the African Union (AU), the East African Community (EAC)

and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)," he affirmed.

The meeting discussed political and security cooperation along with initiatives to deepen economic development and regional integration through crucial cross-border projects, adopting the second report on the implementation of the peace, security and cooperation program in the Great Lakes Region.

It also carries a number of resolutions, as matters arising from the 9th meeting held in Kampala on,

October 8, 2018, officials noted.

The meeting was chaired by host President Félix Tshisekedi, taking over from the outgoing chairman, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

In his remarks upon taking over as chairman, the DRC leader commended the outgoing chairman and other leaders for the great work they have done, committing to pursuing all the good deeds being pursued on the issue, for the benefit of the DRC and Africa as a whole.

He said the regional leaders

were actively assisting the DRC in strengthening security and peace, especially in the eastern part of the country.

The peace, security and cooperation (PSC) framework for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region was signed by 13 countries and four guarantor institutions - the UN, the AU, the Intergovernmental Council for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and SADC - on February 24, 2013 at the AU headquarters in Addis-Ababa.

The signatory countries were Angola,

Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, while Kenya and Sudan joined the agreement on January 31, 2014 to being all signatories to I3.

After the meeting, Majaliwa held talks with President Tshisekedi, focused on how to strengthen trade relations. President Tshisekedi used the opportunity to welcome Tanzanian traders and investors to invest in DRC, plus enabling Tanzanian teachers to

relocate and teach Kiswahili in the DRC, the premier noted.

Majaliwa also conversed with Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye, where the briefing related to strengthening security and broadening economic ties.

The premier similarly met with Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the UN deputy secretary-general for peace keeping operations, where he reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to maintaining peace in needy areas within the region.





Dr Selemani Jafo (R), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), listens yesterday as Rajab Juma of Ufipa Street in Dar es Salaam Region's Kinondoni District briefs him on the environmental challenges they are facing mainly owing to poor sewage systems. The minister gave authorities in the district 14 days to resolve the issue. Left is Kinondoni district commissioner Godwin Gondwe. Photo: VPO

## Jafo gives Kinondoni authorities 14-day ultimatum over sewerage

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office responsible for Union and Environment Selemani Jafo has issued fourteen days ultimatum to authorities in Kinondoni District to find a lasting solution to a sewerage system problem at the Ufipa Street.

Minister Jafo gave the directive yesterday during his impromptu visit at Ufipa Street in Dar es Salaam where he witnessed how poor management of waste water contributed to environmental destruction. He was concerned that most of the waste water management systems at the area were depilated with various leakages flowing water to residential areas.

While at the area, Jafo was surprised that officials from Kinondoni District as well as those from Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) and Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) are not aware of the problem facing residents at the Ufipa Street.

"You were not appointed to just stay in the office; you should come out and visit people in their areas. Some issues can be solved by officials at district level, resolving the waste water management problem does not require a minister from Dodoma. Your offices in the city but yet you are now aware of the environmental challenges that people face," he said.

Kinondoni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe promised to work on the sewerage problem within two weeks as directed by the minister.

"We will table our work plan on the matter on Monday February 28th, 2022. We are going to collaborate with office of the district executive director to see how we can resolve the matter within a short period" said Gondwe.

One of the residents, Rajab Juma told the minister that they have been living with the polluted waste water for quite a long period saying the situation poses risks to the health of people especially children.

## 'Construction of JPM Bridge reaches 40 pct'

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister Works and Transport Eng Godfrey Kasekenya has said that construction of the 3.2 kilometers JPM Bridge popularly known as Kigongo to Busisi in Mwanza Region has reached 40.2 per cent.

Eng Kasekenya made the statement yesterday when speaking shortly after he inspected the ongoing construc-

tion work of the bridge which is expected to be completed in February 24th 2024.

"The construction work is progressing well with officers making regular visits at the project site. The government has invested heavily on this project compared to others, but also the technology being applied is unique and more advanced," said the deputy minister noting the government will continue to

closely monitor its construction to ensure quality.

He said the 3.2 kilometers JPM bridge project is fully funded by the government to a tune of 716bn/-, adding the contractor has continued to receive money from the central government to ensure the bridge is completed for the benefits of Mwanza residents and neighboring regions.

He said that upon completion, the bridge would stimulate

economic activities in Mwanza and neighboring regions as well as reduce congestion of passengers and vehicles as vehicles will be crossing the bridge in four minutes. "The government is determined to open-up economic activities in Mwanza and facilitate trade with countries bordering the region," he said.

He however sent a condolence message to the family of one of the mechanical

engineers working at the JPM bridge, Twalib Abas, 35, who died after a crane he was operating plunged into a lake. The crane crashed after hitting the edge of a temporary bridge and his body was recovered by the fire and rescue force.

Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) Manager in Mwanza, Eng Boniface Mkuambo expressed hopes that the project which is being undertaken

by China Civil Engineering Construction Group (CCECG) and China Railway 15th Bureau will be completed on time, adding so far a total of 801 people have been employed. Among the, 745 are Tanzanians, equivalent to 93 per cent and 56 foreigners.

The state-of-the-art bridge is expected to replace ferry services between Kigongo and Busisi, cutting down travelling time across the channel from

approximately three hours to four minutes and allowing an increase in the number of vehicles crossing daily from 1,600 to 10,200.

Other huge positive impact the bridge would have on the nation's economy, is that it will enhance movement of people and goods, curb marine accidents while promoting trade and other economic activities in the lake zone and beyond.

## RC instructs district councils to devise residential by-laws

By Guardian Correspondent, Bahi

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka has instructed all district councils to prepare by-laws that will be used to protect the residential address infrastructure that are currently being implemented in various parts of the country.

Mtaka made the directives yesterday here when he was launching the exercise to install street and road signs as well as placing symbols for house numbers.

He said along with all districts in Dodoma having started implementing the directives issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the installation of residential addresses, there is a need for the enactment of laws that will help protect the infrastructures.

"District commissioners, directors and ward councillors should sit down and look at how you can start drafting the by-laws that will protect this infrastructure so as to fight against anyone found to be removing these metals with street names," he said.

There are dishonest people who will start coming here to take the metals and sell them as scrappers. These are district trophies so they should be protected and those who will be found destroying them should face legal measures.

The RC said the by-laws also will help Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) from the challenges where most of their metal tools placed along the roads as symbols are being stolen.

"You find there are symbols placed by Tanroads showing that there is a livestock crossing but the dishonest people come and remove the metal and go to sell them as scrappers, this should not be tolerated, we have to fight this," he asserted.

He also urged the people to be at the forefront of protecting the infrastructure which has cost a lot of money.

Bahi district commissioner Mwanahamisi Munkunda said the residential address project is expected to be completed within the next two weeks in all 59 villages.



Abdulkarim Majuto (R), a consulting engineer overseeing the construction of Mwanza Region's Kigongo-Busisi JP Magufuli Bridge briefs Works and Transport (Works Sector) deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (2nd-L) at the site on Thursday on the work in progress. Photo courtesy of Transport ministry

## Mbagala residents to heave huge sigh of relief after completion of BRT project

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

MBAGALA and its outskirts areas residents are expected to breathe a great sigh of relief and move away from transport woes after the completion of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in

March 2023.

Addressing journalists, the Chief Executive Officer for Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (DART) Dr Edwin Mhede said the project has so far reached 44.4per cent.

Dr Mhede said the project is expected to be completed in March

2023 with the service provider beginning the work immediately.

"Despite the successes and challenges, we have decided to include the Khaizen approach to see how it can bring about change in the sector," he said.

Dr Mhede said "We provided

training to our staff and this has conducted to both Udart and Dart so that we remove challenges and complaints raised by our customers," he said.

He said the agency plans to introduce a vehicle to carry passengers from Kariakoo director to

Kibaha which has been the outcry of Kibaha residents.

According to Dr Mhede the government was out to improve transport for BRT buses in various routes which the buses operate.

"We agree that there is need for more buses the problem is that we

have more private vehicles on the road which provides only 10per cent of the transport services needs," he said.

An administrator for the Khaizen approach at the ministry of trade and industries Jane Lyatuu said they intend to provide train-

ing on the approach to various government departments and others with an aim of improving service provision.

She said the training was going to improve service provision hence end complaints by customers.



## CRB deregisters 4,000 contractors

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Dodoma

THE Contractors Registration Board (CRB) has deregistered 4,000 contractors for various disciplinary reasons including abandoning projects.

CRB registrar Rhoben Nkori made the remarks over the weekend when he closed a three-day training for local contractors on contract management.

He said the decision to deregister the contractors came after several warnings by the professional body on best practices and how to implement contracts for construction projects.

"When we deregister a contractor we deny him the right to practice in the country which is aimed at promoting professionalism," he said.

He said experience had shown that some contractors sign contracts without necessary understanding the figures in the contracts.

He said CRB has on several times advised local contractors to carefully study contracts before signing to avoid losses which occur as a result of lack of the same during implementation of various projects.

He said there has been a tendency by local contractors to sign contracts without due diligence, a move that has been subjecting them to losses.

For her part, director of Florida Women Empowerment, Theresia Komba asked the government to facilitate women contractors who don't have enough experience in the

profession so that they can be able to implement big projects.

He said women contractors are denied projects on reasons that they lack experience, saying if empowered they can do wonders.

Komba also asked banks and financial institutions to give privilege to women contractors and give them loans when they apply so that they can be able to implement their projects during the time they win tenders.

"We have capital challenges but if we will be facilitated by bank and financial institutions we can do wonders. Experience comes slowly when you get tenders regularly so they must trust and give us support because we can," she said



**We have capital challenges but if we will be facilitated by bank and financial institutions we can do wonders. Experience comes slowly when you get tenders regularly so they must trust and give us support because we can**



Contractors Registration Board registrar Rhoben Nkori pictured in Dodoma city yesterday closing three-day training on contract management attended by Tanzanian contractors. He is with CRB training coordinator Neema Fuime (L) and central zone manager Yunis Maonyesho. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Pan African body calls for immediate ceasefire between Russia, Ukraine

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has urged an immediate ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

The pan Africa's call came hours after Russia declared an all-out military operation in Ukraine, a move that sent shockwaves throughout the globe while the price of oil surged \$100 more per barrel.

"The current Chair of the African Union and President of

Senegal, President Macky Sall, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, express their extreme concern at the very serious and dangerous situation created in Ukraine," a press release just issued by the African Union Commission reads.

"They call on the Russian Federation and any other regional or international actor to imperatively respect international law, the territorial integ-

riety and national sovereignty of Ukraine," the release said.

It said, "The Chair of the African Union and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission urge the two Parties to establish an immediate ceasefire and to open political negotiations without delay, under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to preserve the world from the consequences of planetary conflict, and in the interests of peace and stability in in-

ternational relations in service of all the peoples of the world."

The February 2014 "Maidan revolution" in Ukraine led to former President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing the country and a pro-Western government coming to power.

That was followed by Russia illegally annexing the Crimea region and separatists declaring independence in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Donbas in eastern Ukraine, both of

which have large ethnic Russian populations.

As clashes erupted between Russian-backed separatist forces and the Ukrainian army, the 2014 and 2015 Minsk agreements were signed in Moscow after the intervention of Western powers.

The conflict, however, simmered for years with persistent cease-fire violations.

As of February 2022, some 14,000 people have been

killed in the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Tensions started escalating late last year when Ukraine, the US and its allies accused Russia of amassing tens of thousands of troops on the border with Ukraine.

They claimed Russia was preparing to invade its western neighbour, allegations that were consistently rejected by Moscow.

Defying threats of sanctions

by the West, Moscow officially recognized Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states earlier this week, followed by the start of a military operation in Ukraine on Thursday.

President Vladimir Putin said the operation aims to protect people "subjected to genocide" by Kyiv and to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine, while calling on the Ukrainian army to lay down its arms.



Businesses run by small traders are still very much a fact of life even in clearly inappropriate spots in urban centres across Tanzania, despite frantic efforts to relocate them to 'safer ground'. These are stalls standing on roadsides and even atop rainwater trenches along Morogoro Road in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho suburb. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Kenya to use solar panels to boost crops by 'harvesting the sun twice'

NAIROBI

SOLAR panels are not a new way of providing cheap power across much of the African continent, where there is rarely a shortage of sunshine. But growing crops underneath the panels is, and the process has had such promising trials in Kenya that it will be deployed this week in open-field farms.

Known as agrivoltaics, the technique harvests solar energy twice: where panels have traditionally been used to harness the sun's rays to generate energy, they are also utilised to provide shade for growing crops, helping to retain moisture in the soil and boosting growth.

Initial year-long research collaboration between the University of Sheffield, World Agroforestry and the Kajiado-based Latia Agripreneurship Institute has shown promising results in the semi-arid Kajiado County, a 90-minute drive from the Kenyan capital Nairobi and this week the full project will be officially launched.

For example, cabbages grown under the 180, 345-watt solar panels have been a third bigger, and healthier, than those grown in control plots with the same amount of fertiliser and water.

Other crops such as aubergine and lettuce have shown similar

results. Maize grown under the panels was taller and healthier, according to Judy Wairimu, an agronomist at the institute.

"We wanted to see how crops would perform if grown under these panels," said Wairimu. But there is another pragmatic reason behind the technology: doubling up the output of the same patch of earth to generate power and cultivate food can go a long way towards helping people with limited land resources, she said.

According to Dr Richard Randle-Boggis, a researcher at the University of Sheffield's 'Harvesting the Sun Twice' project; the trial initiative will determine the potential of agrivoltaics systems in east Africa.

"We needed to build a test system to see if this technology will be suitable for the region," Randle-Boggis said, reiterating that, unlike conventional solar mini-grid systems, agrivoltaics have the additional benefits of improving food and water security, while strengthening people's resilience against the climate crisis, as well as providing low-carbon electricity.

The solar panels do not just reduce water loss from plants and the soil - their shade mitigates some of the stress experienced by plants due to high day temperatures and UV damage, Randle-Boggis said.

## LITA set for incubator programme to bolster livestock performance

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Training Agency (LITA) is planning to implement a special incubator programme with an eye to fuel a strategy by the government to improve performance of the livestock sector within the country.

For the past two consecutive years the state-owned Agency failed to execute the vital program due to several reasons, chiefly financial constraints.

Slated to commence from July this year, the initiative also focuses to create expanded employment opportunities among indigenous graduate

youth, especially those based on livestock sector.

An occupational incubator is an organization/place which accelerates and systematizes the process of creating successful enterprise by providing them with a comprehensive and integrated range of support, including space, business support services, clustering and networking opportunities to address their needs and develop their business ideas.

Acting Director (Production) for LITA, Balija Luyombya, told the publication that the project expects to attract at least 100 livestock graduates, to be gathered in five incubator centres at different LITA's campuses within the country.

"We have decided to establish the incubation centres after conducting a special survey which established that most of the livestock graduates in the country are failing to employ themselves in different livestock projects after finalizing their studies due to lack of practical competencies," he expressed.

He observed that the grim record is to a greater extent weaken performance of the key economic sector.

To that end, he stated that the Mpwapa-based Agency, through its campuses will extend the formal entrepreneurship courses by linking the graduates to the incubation centres as

a comprehensive entrepreneurship practical training and give more exposure to make them successful entrepreneurs.

Moreover, he stated that in implementing the envisaged program the institute was planning to select the best livestock graduates from its campuses and put them in the incubation centres for at least 18 months.

"At the centres, the incubates will be equipped with employability skills as an additional 'softer' skills as part to complement their academic achievement towards self-employment, including practical experience," he added.

He however, added that LITA incubators pro-

cess will be linked into three stages, namely, pre-incubation stage, incubation and post-incubation stages.

"Upon completion of incubation program, it's our expectations that incubate graduates with accumulated entrepreneurship competencies," he informed.

The Livestock Training Agency (LITA) Mpwapa was established by Germans in 1930 as part of the then Veterinary Research Station founded in 1905. In 1961, the institute was transferred to Tengeru (Arusha), where training in Animal Husbandry courses was conducted to the end of 1967 and it was reintroduced in Mpwapa.





**WARM WELCOME TO THE  
HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA  
MADAM SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN  
&  
MINISTERS OF GOVT OF TANZANIA  
TO THE  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

## **Best Wishes from**

**Dodsal Hydrocarbons and Power (Tanzania) Pvt. Ltd.**

**Dodsal Resources and Mining Itingi (Tanzania) Pvt. Ltd.**

The Dodsal Group has been a major investor in Tanzania since **2007**, where it has made large scale investments into exploration and development of the hydrocarbon and mining sectors.

We are on the verge of producing **first gas** from the Ruvu block by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year and **extracting gold** from our mining activities.

Dodsal Group has also been supporting the Governments of Zanzibar and Tanzania in managing the **implementation** of social infrastructure, including schools, clinics and providing fresh water supply to local villages.

We have been and continue to be a **long-term investor** in the Republic of Tanzania and Zanzibar.



## The repairs of Chambeshi Railway Bridge underway

By Guardian Reporter

THE repair of the Chambeshi Railway Bridge will finally get underway in March this year, after a protracted tender process was finally concluded yesterday.

TAZARA and Jianngsu Gold Civil Construction Company Limited have signed a contract for the repair of the bridge at a cost of USD1.6 million. The repairs are expected to be completed in four months' time.

Eng Bruno Ching'andu, the managing director and CEO of TAZARA, earlier announced at a press briefing in Lusaka that after completion of the repair of the bridge, train operations across the Chambeshi Bridge will resume in July 2022.

Cross-border passenger train operations, which were suspended at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in May 2020, will also be resumed in July 2022.

Eng Ching'andu thanked the Zambian government for the timely release of funds after the closure of the bridge, but explained that it took long to sign the contract for the repairs due to tender procedures that required both the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to vet and approve the contract. Approvals from both ministries have since been granted.



**Eng Bruno Ching'andu, the managing director and CEO of TAZARA, earlier announced at a press briefing in Lusaka that after completion of the repair of the bridge, train operations across the Chambeshi Bridge will resume in July 2022**



Small traders engaged in the sale of raw maize in business at a Mbezi Shule section of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road yesterday just next to a Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) signboard clearly prohibits the conducting of such activities in the area. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# VETA starts making iodine mixer machines

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN application of own technology, the Vocational Educational and Training Authority (VETA) has enabled the government reduce spending on purchase of iodine mixer machines by making them locally, it has been revealed.

Iodizing machine is used for mixing salt and iodine with the dosing method to help add the important mineral to salt mostly

for table and animal use. The government has purchased and disbursed three machines to Tanga, Mtwara and Coast regions

The government has previously been importing the iodizing machines at the cost of 25m/- each but VETA has come on board, making similar machines at the cost of 11m/- each, saving the government a staggering 14 m/- per machine.

Speaking during the handover

ceremony here yesterday, Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Health Prof. Abel Makubi said the government has managed to save 70m/- from the purchase of five such machines.

"The development made by VETA is a real testimony of the president's call to promote local technology in solving problems facing the country" he said, terming it a big step towards solving iodine related complications in the country.

He urged the vocational training authority to focus on producing more medical equipment such as beds among others.

The PS noted that a research conducted in 2019 showed that Tanzania produces 330,712 tonnes of salt per year but some 141,22 tonnes, equivalent to 43 percent is not fortified with iodine.

Prof Makubi noted that iodine is an important requirement in the body, shunning the notion

that people suffering from diabetes and blood pressure should not take in salt but they are able to use iodized salt at moderate level to help strengthen bones.

He handed over the machines to the ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, being support from the Canada-based organisation, Nutrition International (N.I).

He explained that the organisation in 2018 funded purchase

of some three iodine mixer machines from South Africa at the total cost of 75mn/- They were distributed to Kilwa, Hana'ng and Meatu district councils.

Earlier, the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre director, Dr Germana Leyna noted that iodine is one of the crucial nutritious elements for development of human brain and body.

Nutrition International resident manager Dr Daniel Nyagawa observed that through the

six years' strategic plan (2018-2024), the organisation is ready to cooperate with other stakeholders and the government in general in the fight against malnutrition in the country.

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary from the ministry of State, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, Prof Riziki Shemdoe thanked VETA for deciding to make the machines at such low price.



Monduli district agricultural officer Kaiza Victor (C) briefs district administrative secretary Robert Siyantemi (2nd-L) yesterday on training relating to the identification and control of desert locusts. It was conducted by Tanzania Organic Agriculture Move through the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa project. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## RITA completes development of online registration system

By Guardian Reporter

THE Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has completed the development of a digital system that will facilitate online registration of institutions' board of trustees.

According to a statement issued recently by RITA's Marketing and Communications Manager, Josephat Kimaro, development of the system is part of a series of improvements aimed at increasing efficiency in service delivery to citizens, especially those far from cities.

"This institutional registration system is integrated into the E-Huduma system which is available at our website. One of its benefits is that it enables timely access to information of all registered institutions and boards of trustees," said Kimaro in a statement.

He added: "Before introduction of the electronic system, institutions had to come to the agency's headquarters in Dar es Salaam for registration and other services, a situation that caused inconvenience and increased operating costs."

Kimaro said that so far more than 399 institutions have used the system to secure registration services after it was officially launched recently.

He said the use of the system would enable RITA to obtain accurate information about its institutions as well as being integrated with the institutions' systems involved in registration.

He said electronic system will also enable the government to control the institutions' responsibilities in accordance with their set goals outlined in their constitutions.

"After logging in to the E-Huduma system, one will be required to open an account that will enable him/her to access all the services and receive feedback and other information about the institution from RITA.

Kimaro added: "Applicants will also be able to attach all required documents including the cost and registration fees to be paid."

He added that according to the Trustees Incorporation Act (Cap.318) which was revised in 2002, all the institutions are required to have a board of trustees and register all its properties that will be managed by the board.

"Institutions are required to re-submit property information annually by filling out a special form to indicate those which still exist as well as members of the board of trustees. Most of the institutions have been failing to update the information," he added.

## Kenyan senators pass bill scrapping degree requirement for MPs

By Moses Nyamori

SENATORS have unanimously passed a bill scrapping degree requirement for MP aspirants.

The vote by the Senate is a major win for hundreds of aspirants in the August polls including sitting lawmakers who do not have the requisite academic papers.

All the 27 senators present during the Wednesday sitting voted for the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2021 as the political class appear to gang up against the law.

The Bill that was sponsored by Elgeyo Marakwet Senator Kipchumba Murkomen is set to be introduced in the National Assembly

for consideration before it can be enacted into law.

The new Bill seeks to amend Section 22 of the Elections Act, 2011 that made a university degree mandatory for those seeking to run for MP and MCA positions.

Murkomen's Bill lists the ability to read and write as the only requirement.

The vote by the House comes even as the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) recently insisted that MP aspirants must meet the degree requirement.

MCA aspirants have since escaped the requirement after the High Court in a judgement declared section 22 of the Elections Act unconstitutional.

"Unless declared unconstitutional by the Court, the degree requirement for Members of Parliament is in force and is trite law," said IEBC chief executive Marjan Hussein.

Murkomen yesterday commended senators for backing the Bill while citing the 2109 Census that placed Kenyans with a university degree at only 3.5 per cent.

"Kenya Census 2019 showed that only 3.5 per cent of Kenya's population are university graduates. I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate for approving my Elections (Amendment) Bill and giving a chance to millions of Kenyans to enjoy their political rights under Art.38 of our Constitution," he said.

The senator argued that making academic papers a requirement for elective positions would lock out many people with leadership attributes.

"The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Elections Act, No 24 of 2011, to enable a person who is able to read and write to be nominated as a candidate for elections as a Member of Parliament," states the Bill.

"Section 22 of the Elections Act is amended in subsection (1) by deleting paragraph (b) and substituting therefore the following new paragraph - (b) is able to read and write in the English or Kiswahili language or, in the case of a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, is literate in the Kenya sign lan-

guage," it states.

He says Article 38(3) of the Constitution provides that - every adult citizen has the right, without unreasonable restrictions - to be a registered voter, to vote by secret ballot in any election or referendum and be a candidate for public office within a political party of which the citizen is a member and elected, to hold office.

Currently, the Elections Act only makes it mandatory for the presidential aspirant and running mate as well as governors and their running mates to be degree holders.

The law was passed by Parliament in the run up to 2017 polls but the MPs suspended its implementation to next year's poll.





Edward Nyamanga (R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in Vice President's Office (Environment), with Director of Environment Dr Andrew Komba (C) and Tanzania Forest Services Agency assistant manager (Forest Development) Patricia Manonga during an inspection tour of Mzakwe Forest and Makutupora Basin in Dodoma Region yesterday. They witnessed the implementation of a tree planting campaign organised by the VPO in collaboration with TFS, Makutupora Basin offices and Makutupora National Service. Photo: Correspondent Robert Hokororo

## STAMICO to purchase 14 mineral drilling machines this year - DHR

By Guardian Reporter

State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) has said it will purchase 14 mineral drilling machines by July this year calling upon miners to use the services.

Stamico has also called upon mineral dealers to use its mineral processing plant located in Mwanza which has the capacity to process 480 kilogrammes per day which is an international standard.

This was said by the Director of Human Resources at STAMICO Deusedith Magala who was speaking on behalf of the Director General during the international mineral conference which ended recently in Dar es Salaam.

He said currently they are processing minerals using modern machines which are used in huge mines.

"We are welcoming large scale miners and artisanal miners to use our services because we have the capacity to accommodate both of them due to the new technologies we have adopted recently," he said.

Magala said the state agency has ordered for medium sized smelting machines to help

small scale miners to facilitate the group's operations.

On the mineral processing plant in Mwanza, the official said currently the plant is doing partial smelting adding that by next month the corporation will start buying gold on large scale.

During the meeting Vice President Dr Philip Mpango called upon banks and others financial institutions to work with STAMICO in brainstorming new ways of helping small scale miners to access loans.

He directed the institutions to find a viable way of addressing a dire challenge of capital facing small-scale miners.

Dr Mpango said meanwhile all parties should play their part as the government was working on the establishment of the minerals bank.

He directed miners to utilize the money they receive from banks for the intended purpose in order to win the trust of lenders.

The difficulties in accessing loans from financial institutions dominated the conference that brought together over 2,000 participants who participated physically and virtually.

## Japan reiterates pledge to support UNIDO's activities in Africa

VIENNA

THE United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Japan are continuing to deliver on their pledge to support African countries on their path to progress towards the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building back better from COVID-19.

Productive activities carried out in a sustainable manner are crucial to tackle the global climate crisis, protect the environment, end hunger and create

jobs.

A kick-off event at the Vienna International Centre has marked the start of four new projects in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana and Nigeria, with a total contribution from the Government of Japan of approximately US\$8.7m. In 2021, Japan was the largest governmental donor to UNIDO, with voluntary contributions at a record high, estimated at US\$21.8m.

At the event, Ambassador Takeshi Hikiyama, Permanent Representative of Japan to the

International Organizations in Vienna, and Gerd Müller, Director General of UNIDO, reiterated their commitment to address Africa's key industrial development priorities.

UNIDO's Director General said: "I sincerely thank the Government of Japan for the close partnership and for its steady commitment to make use of UNIDO's expertise to support developing countries. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed millions of people back into poverty: in Africa alone, an additional 47 million have fallen

into extreme poverty in 2020 and 2021. I stand for renewed partnerships on inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa. We need concrete and practical solutions for Africa's pressing challenges. My motto is "progress by innovation."

Müller also referred to the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), which UNIDO was tasked to lead by the United Nations General Assembly, as an important process in anchoring Africa on a path towards inclusive and

sustainable industrial development. He further acknowledged the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), Japan's flagship process to support African-led development. TICAD8 will be held in August 2022.

Ambassador Hikiyama valued the role UNIDO is playing in the IDDA III, and expressed his trust that these projects, the very first ones under the new leadership of UNIDO's DG Müller, will give a further momentum to TICAD8.

"We always have high expectations about UNIDO's ability to

facilitate cooperation between partner countries, donors and our private sector for an effective transfer of technologies and know-how...At a time of global hardship and uncertainty, today's event represents our renewed commitment to work together for the stability and prosperity of the international community," he said.

The project in Cameroon will deliver assistance to improve the national supply chain of personal protective equipment.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the project will assist

vulnerable groups of women to create sustainable income-generating activities as a direct response to the pandemic.

In Ghana aims to strengthen the rice value chain to increase local value addition and, in so doing, create jobs for young people.

In Nigeria, the project will build on the findings of a recent UNIDO study on the local plastic waste chain to reduce and better manage plastic waste by adopting circular economy practices and resource-efficient production.

## EAC working with EU technical groups on economic partnership agreements

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) partner states are currently engaging in internal consultations with a view to ensuring that they are involved in the EAC-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA).

EPAs are trade and development agreements negotiated between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific Partners engaged in regional economic integration processes.

The EAC Heads of State, during the 21st Extra-Ordinary Summit in February 2021 noted that not all Partner States are in a position to sign, ratify and implement the agreement.

"The Summit recognized the importance of some Partner States to move forward and concluded that Partner States who wish to do so should be able to commence engagements with the EU with a view to starting the EU-EAC-EPA implementation under the principle of variable geometry," noted the EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki.

Dr Mathuki was speaking while at the 6th European Union-African Union Summit held in Brussels, Belgium on 17th to 18th February.

Dr Mathuki added that the EU-EAC EPA covers trade in goods, fisheries, agriculture, institutional provisions, dispute settlement as well as economic and development cooperation.

The agreement contains a clause for future negotiations to be undertaken on Trade in Services and Trade Related Issues (competition policy, investment and private sector development, intellectual property rights, trade and sustainable development, and transparency in public procurement).

The EPA when negotiated and implemented is expected to contribute to addressing the production, supply and trading capacity of the EAC Partner States. It is also expected that the EPA will support EAC regional integration and development.



Pendo Kitula (R), manager of CRDB Bank Plc's Palm Beach Premier Branch, and Biko "ambassador" Kajala Masanja (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting 10m/- to Ahmad Ally Mbwana for winning the Biko raffle grand draw conducted every Sunday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Norwegian minister and IFAD president to visit Malawi in wake of storms

ROME

WITH Malawian farmers still reeling from tropical storms that devastated crops and livelihoods in recent weeks, Norway's Minister of International Development and the President of the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will visit the country to meet its leaders and small-scale farmers to discuss the impacts of climate change, and ways to build resilience.

"Extreme weather events have increased globally and have re-

cently wreaked destruction in Malawi - and it is the small-scale farmers who are feeling the brunt of it. My urgent call is to step up investments in adaptation and resilience to ensure that climate change does not deepen hunger and poverty," said Gilbert F. Hounbo, President of IFAD.

"Food security is a main priority in Norway's development policy because it is essential to fight inequality, poverty and hunger," said Anne Beathe Tvinnerheim, Norway's Minister of International

Development.

Tvinnerheim added: "IFAD's projects and programmes enable small-scale farmers and fishermen to produce enough, safe and healthy food in climate-smart ways. Therefore, I am looking forward to a joint field visit with President Gilbert Hounbo to IFAD projects in Malawi. Norway will strengthen our partnership with IFAD and will top-up our core contribution significantly for 2022-24."

Arriving on 27 February for a three-day visit, Beathe Tvin-

nerheim and Hounbo will meet with Malawi's President Lazarus Chakwera, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Lobin Lowe, and the Minister of Finance and Economy, Sosten Alfred Gwengwe, to discuss investments in climate change resilience to achieve zero hunger and poverty targets in the country by 2030. They will then travel to an IFAD-supported project to discuss the challenges of climate change and COVID-19 directly with small-scale farmers, particularly women, to see how targeted investments

have built their resilience and boosted their food security, nutrition and gender equality.

While in the country, they will also meet Rudolf Schwenk, United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim, the United Nations Country team, development partners and Farmers' Organizations representatives working in Malawi. Malawi is a relatively small country with an estimated population of about 19 million people, 83 percent of whom live in rural areas. Agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, accounting for

almost a quarter of Malawi's GDP. However, many small-scale farmers battle to earn a decent living, with 70 percent of the country's population living below the poverty line of US\$1.90 per day. With improved processing technologies and farming methods, small-scale farmers can feed a growing population while restoring degraded ecosystems and reducing agriculture's carbon footprint. When they have access to weather forecasting information and disaster preparedness, they are more resilient to severe cli-

mate events, such as the tropical storms that resulted in a declaration of a state of emergency in the country last month. This requires increased investments in small-scale farmers, who are often the poorest and most marginalized rural people.

Since 1981, IFAD has financed 14 rural development programmes and projects in Malawi at a total cost of \$653.67 million, with an IFAD investment of US\$ 350.48 million. This has directly benefited more than 2 million rural households.



## Tourism in Africa still a priceless resource with untapped potential

Although there has been a significant increase in tourism in Africa, the sector's abundant potential remains largely untapped on the continent.

Generating business volumes equivalent to the petroleum, agri-food and automotive industries, tourism is now an important growth driver for the African economy. World Bank figures show that tourism accounts for 8.8 per cent of the world's employment and 4.5 per cent of global investment.

The 2015 Africa Monitor Tourism report, published by the African Development Bank (AFDB), paints a clear picture of the sector's position in Africa. 2 Africa welcomed more than 55 million tourists in 2014, a remarkable increase compared with just over 17 million in 1990.

On average, tourism is expected to contribute more than 7 per cent to the GDP between now and 2020, creating 200,000 direct jobs and an overall total of 800,000 jobs. Growth in tourism also boosts activities in the construction and public works, transport, services, agriculture and traditional craft sectors.

However, there are still many obstacles to the success of Africa's tourism sector, and there is a lot more work to be done before we reap the full economic and social benefits of the hotel business.

For over half a century, tourism has been constantly expanding at a slower pace. Today this trend appears to be irreversible. According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) forecasts, there will be over 1.6 billion international tourist arrivals worldwide in 2020.

Although developing countries still share the minimal ratio of the international tourist flows, their performances are improving at a faster rate than the global average. Currently, tourism provides real potential for the economic and social progress. It generates valuable foreign currency exchange and government revenues through taxation. It as well could be a major source of employment.

In Tanzania the number of tourists that is coming to see firsthand the majestic nat-

ural wonders of Tanzania is blessed with like the Mt Kilimanjaro fall, the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro as well as the man made tourist attraction sites.

The smokeless industry in general and culture tourism in particular are exhibiting an upward spiral in the country. This could be gauged or figured out from the various fruitful strides being made in the sector.

The country's positive image and improved promotion mechanisms have increased the number of tourists and it has reached more than million. Above all, peace and stability is a significant factor for this enhancement and effective international and regional conferences the Tanzania hosted so far.

The number of tourists visiting Dar es Salaam has been increasing year after year. The city is also expanding its infrastructures and hotels. A number of star hotels are also under construction.

Hence, the government should continue enhancing the tourism sector to unleash the potentials of the country's natural, historic, cultural and other attractions in a sustainable and globally competitive manner. All concerned bodies should maximize their efforts in boosting Tanzania's benefit from its untapped tourism potential and resources.

Thus, the tourism sector should be developed to be competitive in the global market. Attention must also be given to national parks, historical sites, diverse cultural heritages and other tourism potentials as well.

The Tanzania Tourism Board need to keep enhancing the tourism marketing development, capacity building, development of new and old tourist destinations, and strengthening cooperation and integration with stakeholders.

In this respect, the private sector has a key role in playing a vital part in the country's economic growth and development. As they enhance people's lives and help them escape from poverty, private sectors should be encouraged as a critical stakeholder in economic development.

## Traditional medicines are an important part of healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa

HERBAL medicines are the results of long historical and traditional use of medicinal plants that involve extracts of different parts of plants including seeds, roots, leaves, bark, flowers, or whole herbs, in addition to fresh juice, gums, fixed oils, essential oils, and resins to maintain health and to prevent, alleviate, or cure disease, where the bioactive constituents are responsible for their health beneficial effects.

Tanzania is estimated to have over 80,000 traditional healers with varying specialties. The majority of them are herbalists using mainly plants and a few animal and mineral products in their practices.

Traditional healers are likely to be first consulted as health providers due to socio-cultural settings in rural Tanzania. The estimated traditional healer/population ratio is 1:400 compared to the doctor/population ratio of 1:30,000.

Traditional medicines are an important part of healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa, and building successful disease treatment programmes that are sensitive to traditional medicine practices will require an understanding of their current use and roles, including from a biomedical perspective.

Chinese involvement in Africa has long included a prominent medical presence, with Beijing supporting medical efforts on the continent for decades. As China's export capacity increased in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Beijing began to increasingly augment its efforts in Africa with the promotion of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Traditional Chinese medicine provides China a surprisingly robust soft power tool in Africa, as Beijing increasingly exports medical expertise while also increasingly sourcing ingredients from Africa to meet domestic demand.

Environmental health is the branch of public health concerned with all aspects

of the natural and built environment affecting human health. Other terms referring to or concerning environmental health are environmental public health, and public health protection/ environmental health protection. Environmental health is focused on the natural and built environments for the benefit of human health, whereas environmental protection is concerned with protecting the natural environment for the benefit of human health and the ecosystem.

While China's presence and influence in Africa is well documented - especially regarding resource extraction - another element is increasingly becoming an important economic and political tool: traditional Chinese medicine.

The inaugural China-Africa Forum on Traditional Medicine was held in Beijing in 2000, with 21 African health ministers in attendance. This push coincided with efforts by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which earmarked traditional medicine a policy priority for Africa in 2001. That same year the African Union declared 2001-2010 to be the 'Decade of African Traditional Medicine'. This supranational focus aided Chinese efforts in promoting TCM in Africa, drawing on the parallels between African and Chinese medical practices.

Since then the global herbal medicine market has grown to US\$60 billion, with Africa becoming the largest medicine export market for China in 2012. This figure is in addition to the domestic Chinese traditional medicine market, which accounts for 22.4 per cent of the national pharmaceutical industry, and one third of China's gross medicine production. Despite rising incomes and increased access to western medicine, China's growing middle class still prefers to consume TCM products: China's domestic TCM market has seen 20 per cent growth for the past five years and now stands at US\$114.2 billion.

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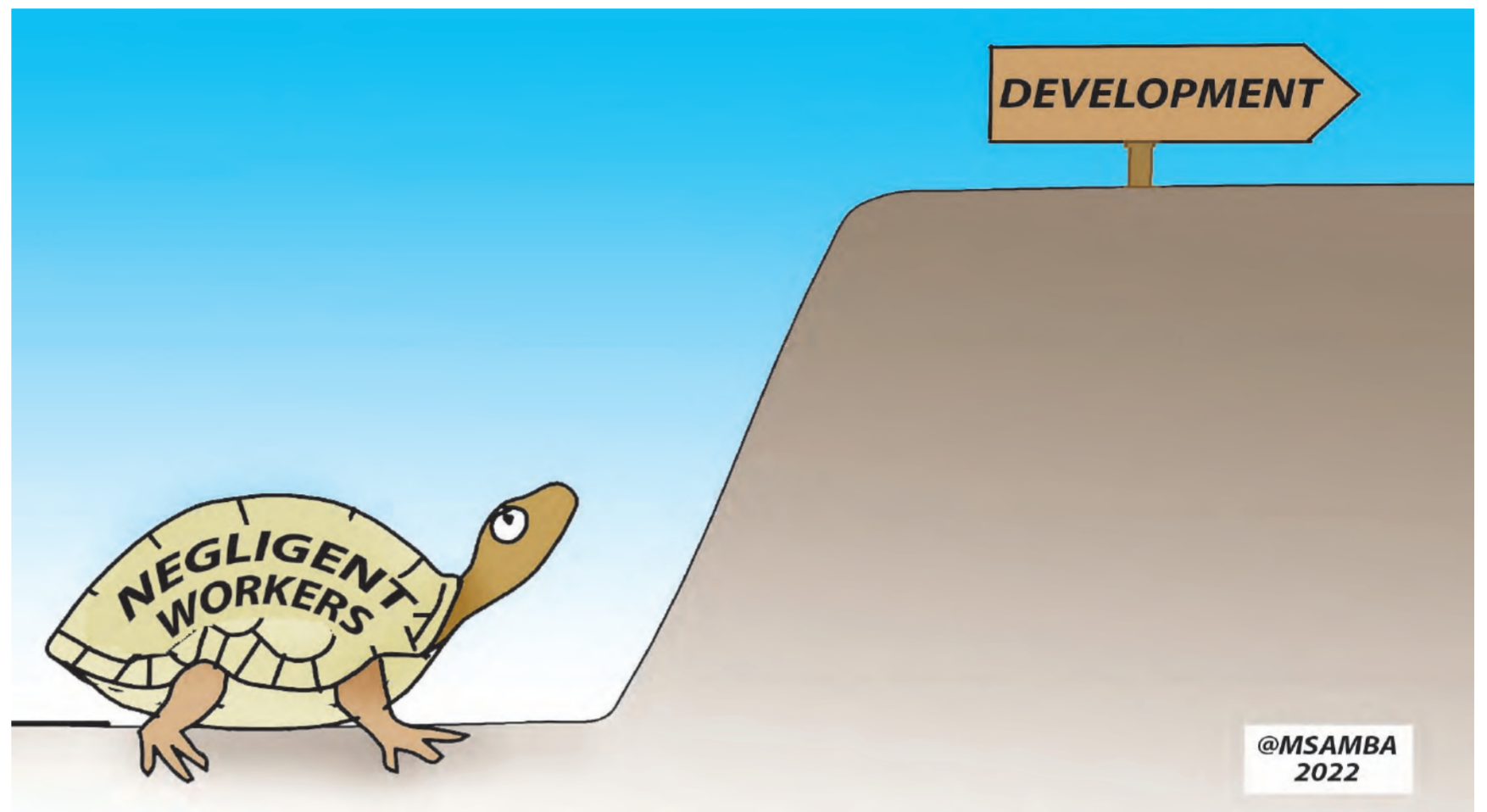
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## The evolution and challenges of women in peace and security

Dr. Zanetor Agyeman

HISTORICALLY, the issue of gender, specifically women in governance was not considered serious enough until the world was forced to acknowledge the inequitable distribution of suffering when it comes to conflict and gender in more recent times, and even then, the appropriate wording still eludes most treaties and conventions and resolutions with regards to the naming of gender-based sexual crimes and the consequences of committing those crimes. The Covid-19 pandemic once again highlighted the fact that women are disproportionately affected in times of crisis, as it brought to the fore many of the old cracks that had not been addressed.

The United Nations Organization is comprised of countries all of whom have a heterogeneous population in terms of male and female, however, the issues concerning women's participation in governance, peacekeeping, peace-building and post-war reconstruction and development did not become topical until quite recently. It has been twenty-two years since the UNSCR 1325(2000) was passed, yet some very real challenges remain.

### Historical Context of Women in Peace and Security

The Women in Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda was initially conceived by women in the form of pressure groups that demanded to have their voices heard on behalf of womankind at the Women's Congress in 1915 during World War I. This was the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom.

When the UN was formed, the women's pressure group insisted on the formation of what became the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) which is a stem of the General Assembly of the UN and ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) to be precise. This was mainly about the European women as the other countries were still colonies. The UN declared 1975 as the Year of the Woman and the ten years following were declared the Decade of Women.

It is noteworthy that by the 1970s most countries had declared independence from their colonial masters and so this so-called Decade of the Woman was a more global concept.

In 1979 the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. CEDAW was born and presented at the conference in Copenhagen in 1980. CEDAW is legally binding and as progressive as it is, it made no mention of gender-based violence. Most states have signed and ratified this treaty, except for the USA which has signed but not ratified. Iran, Somalia, Sudan and Tonga are non-signatory states to the CEDAW Treaty.

The year 1985 saw the largest of its kind in the International Women's Conference held in Nairobi and its main themes were Equality, Development and Peace; Peace being not simply the absence of war, but also the freedom from violence against women. Good governance is judged by certain criteria, which according to the World Bank are: According to the African Development Bank, good governance should have the following features: Accountability, Transparency, Combatting corruption, Participation, Legal and judicial reforms.

The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 was forced to address women's rights as a human rights issue because of the violence and sexual abuse against women occurring in Yugoslavia at the time. Sadly, not much has changed as sexual violence against women (and boys) is used as a weapon of warfare.

The Fourth International Women's Conference was held in Beijing in 1995 made human rights and women's participation in decision making at all levels



Zanetor Rawlings

key. One of the recommendations was for the countries to have gender desks in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies including Security Services. It cautioned against the specific establishment of Women's Ministries as these would take gender issues to the periphery as that ministry would be saddled with all matters gender-related. The conference also discussed the eradication of poverty, women in armed conflict and violence against women.

In the aftermath of the Beijing conference, came the 1998 Windhoek Peace Conference in which Namibia collaborated with Bangladesh to champion the women, peace and security agenda culminating in the adoption of UNSCR 1325. Resolution 1325 (2000) recognized the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and focuses on Gender balance, Gender Mainstreaming, Accountability, Gender balance advocates the increase in female participation and representation. Gender Mainstreaming is about the consideration of the special needs of women in conflict, post-conflict reconstruction and development, electoral procedures, policing and access to justice.

Following UNSCR 1325, came supplementary resolutions SC/1820 (2008), SC/1888 (2000), SC/1889 (2009), SC/1960 (2010), SC/2016, SC/2122 (2013) and SC/2242 (2015). Each of these builds upon the previous resolutions. As the UNSCR progressed, the emphasis shifted to sexual violence. The UNSCR 1889 focused on the participation of women in the various bodies and sectors and emphasized the need for capacity-building in women.

The UNSCR 1960 (2010) now has names of people or groups that are credibly suspected of crimes of sexual violence against women and further states that the UNSC can institute sanctions against those on the list.

The UNSCR 2242 (2015) recognized the changing context of peace and security, discussed conflict prevention and participation of women as opposed to an overemphasis on protection through military means.

Within the Resolutions are the recommendation for Member States to adopt National Action Plans to address gaps in 1325 and ensure that practical steps are taken to ensure that Resolution 1325 is implemented. Even though it has been addressed as

security issues specifically by the UN, there are political, developmental, social, educational, and other aspects of women's roles that are perhaps being forced into the security sector for obvious reasons.

The chronological account of the inception of the WPS Agenda is an indicator of the fact that the issue of gender balance and mainstreaming are still not fully implemented by countries across the globe. Two decades after 1325, a report by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom found that the three primary challenges to progress on Women, Peace and Security are:

- i. militarism and militarization;
- ii. the patriarchal and political underpinnings of the agenda; and
- iii. lack of accountability for implementation."

Challenges to the WPS Agenda include:

A poor awareness, lack of commitment among the main actors, lack of inadequate resources, absent gender desks.

Some cultures do not regard women as equal to men in society. Sadly, others do not view sexual violence against women as a crime. - Women generally have different leadership styles, which should be explored and developed as part of a holistic approach to global governance.

There are not enough women in the various levels of leadership to drive the gender balance and mainstreaming aspects of the WPS Agenda. The basic structure of education in most countries does not have gender sensitization and mainstreaming as part of its formal curriculum and there is still a considerable amount of resistance (subtle and overt) in most sectors to increase the proportion of women to the thirty per cent recommended by the UNSC. Furthermore, there tends to be a narrow focus on states in conflict or emerging from conflicts without enough focus on the nations at peace or in relative stability. This usually means that the opportunities to create a paradigm shift in a peaceful situation are often lost as preference is given to conflict situations.

Good governance includes participation in economic activities and politics of which frequent, free and

fair elections are an important component. Unfortunately, within the political arena, the vicious verbal and sometimes physical attacks on women who dare to run for political office, serves as a disincentive to other women who might be well qualified but not able to withstand the levels of gender-based abuse that women face in politics. The structures that must be in place for the enforcement of law and order and for ensuring justice for victims of crime must be functioning optimally and with a gender-sensitive lens to further improve equity and equal opportunities to women.

In the arena of peacebuilding and PCRD, there are not enough women at the negotiating table whether because of the cultural and sometimes religious barriers placed in their way or the fact that there are just not enough women with the capacity to fill those slots. The studies have shown that having women at the negotiation table improves outcomes and often results in more sustainable peace.

The CEDAW and SC/1325 and many others including International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law find themselves in a grey area in more recent times as they were crafted with conventional warfare in mind with clear boundaries of inter-state and intra-state conflict. However, most conflicts today have transboundary components, making them sometimes intrastate with an international dimension resulting in complexities with regards to the application of International Criminal Law.

### Conclusion:

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda is difficult to water down into a homogenous concept simply based on the culture, social and economic spectrum in the states that constitute the global arena in International Relations. These concepts are built around the concepts of leadership and governance from the point of view of men, with very little reference to the opinions or contributions of women.

The social constructs existing in the arena of International Relations and Governance have been centred on the way men think and behave, as a generalization. In attempting to improve the representation and participation of women in politics, economics and peacebuilding, the core of these concepts must be examined and adjusted to make room for the feminine component as it is obviously the lack of balance that results in this vicious cycle in which women are unable to break the glass ceiling in a sustainable manner.

It would appear in some ways that the over dominance of men in all spheres of global governance has only finally exposed a defect in our social construct that we can no longer afford to ignore.



## THE LAW &amp; YOU

## How African leaders disregard regional court judgments

By Telesphor Magobe

THE Law and Human Rights Center (LHRC) has been argued to accelerate its expansion of its activities in rural areas, in order to build awareness in the area to address acts of gender-based violence.

The call was made yesterday by the Director of Kipunguni Information and Knowledge Center in Dar es Salaam, Seleman Bishagazi, at a seminar on Gender and Development run by the Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP).

The director expressed that in many rural areas, people, especially women, do not have enough awareness of their rights, especially when they lose their husbands, and that they are deprived of inheritance because of ignorance of the law.

The director voiced more on the issue by adding that, "I urge law enforcement agencies including LHRC to expedite the scope of their activities, especially in rural areas." He reiterated that, "Women in rural areas have experiences many challenges and do not know where to turn."

Bishagazi also added that there was a need for adequate legal assistants in various rural areas, so that they could provide assistance to people who were experiencing atrocities, including inheritance deprivation.

"There is something I have witnessed in Tarime, a woman is allowed to do business by her husband on condition that when she returns home from business, she pays her husband the amount of money she earns," said Bishagazi.

Bishagazi said, he followed up on the matter and found that women are considered to men as cattle keepers, and that when she leaves her husband to graze, she has to pay him 200 or 300 shillings a day.

"I believe that, with adequate legal expertise in various rural areas, such practices could be reduced if not completely eliminated," he underscored.

Attorney Theresi Kibano from LHRC, whose original statement led by Bishagazi request, adding, currently and the center has offices in some regions including Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Arusha.

"We provide free legal aid from Monday to Friday at our offices including Dar es Salaam which are located in Kinondoni, so we ask you to use them to get legal aid," said Advocate Kinabo.

TGNP Program and Communications Officer, Jackson Ma-

langalila added that the network conducts the seminars every Wednesday on a variety of topics to build community awareness on various issues including sexual violence.

"We welcome people to come on every Wednesday from 2pm to exchange ideas on various topics aimed at building community awareness and strategizing to end acts of sexual violence," said Malangalila.

He said, in the seminars, the TGNP engages various stakeholders, including the police from the Gender and Children's Desk, social welfare and many others, as they all have the same goal to serve the community to live in a comfortable and enjoy life.

Last week we saw that natural justice has three principles: no person should be judge in his or her own cause (the rule against bias), a person should not be condemned unheard (a fair hearing) and a right to know the reasons for a decision that affects a person. Thus, natural justice is central to the rule of law.

We also saw that in the administration of justice and as Lord Heward in the case of *R v Sussex Justices ex parte McCarthy* [1924], held: "Justice must not only be done, but must manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done."

A few months ago we also came across another legal aphorism which says: "better that 10 guilty person's escape, than that one innocent suffer" [attributed to English jurist, judge and politician William Blackstone (1723-1780)] and another one was "Judges, like Caesar's wife must be above suspicion." From these aphorisms we can say that justice ought to be sought until it is found. It can be sought in national courts, in regional courts and in international courts provided one has the locus standi to do so.

When a person is dissatisfied with a judgment from a lower court he or she is entitled to appeal to a higher court with the jurisdiction to determine the case referred to it. In Tanzania, the Court of Appeal is final.

However, the Court of Appeal has no jurisdiction in arbitration of any matter concerning a



dispute between the government of the United Republic and of the Revolutionary government of Zanzibar (Article 126 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977). It shall only hear and determine every appeal brought before it arising from a judgment or other decision of the High Court or of a magistrate with extended jurisdiction [Article 117(3)].

Now, if the Court of Appeal is final, how about the jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)? Are the decisions made in these regional courts binding or not to national courts of member countries?

If not, why have those courts been established? Article 33(1) of the Treaty that establishes the East African Community (EAC) states that: "Except where jurisdiction is conferred on the Court by this Treaty, disputes to which the Community is a party shall not on that ground alone, be excluded from the jurisdiction of the national courts of the Partner States."

Speaking on the EACJ jurisdiction, Justice Har-

old Nsekela, President of EACJ (November 2011) said during a paper presentation on the role of the EACJ in the EAC Integration in Kampala, Uganda, that "This Court (EACJ) is of limited jurisdiction which is hardly comparable to the then Court of Appeal for East Africa." This suggests that the EACJ lacks superiority to national courts of member countries and that is why its decisions are hardly implemented by member countries.

Both the EACJ and the AfCHPR have heard many cases from member countries, but I will refer to only two from Tanzania, which although the government of Tanzania was directed by the two courts to implement their judgments, to date none has been implemented.

In the case of *Jebra Kambole v United Republic of Tanzania* [2018], the AfCHPR by a majority of nine Judges for and one against, Judge Blaise Tchikaya dissenting, on July 15, 2020 ordered the respondent state "to take all necessary constitutional and legislative measures, within a reasonable time, to ensure that Article 41(7) of its Constitution is amended and aligned with the provisions of the Charter so as to eliminate, among others, any violation of Articles 2 and 7(1) (a) of the Charter."

The AfCHPR also ordered the respondent state "to submit a report within 12 months of the judgment, on the measures taken to implement the terms of the judgment and to submit further reports every 6 months thereafter until the Court is satisfied that there has been full implementation."

Article 41(7) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977) states that: "When a candidate is declared by the Electoral Commission to have been duly elected in accordance with this Article, then no court of law shall have any jurisdiction to inquire into the election of that candidate." This Article was challenged in the AfCHPR. Yet, it has not been amended to comply with the Articles 2 and 7(1)(a) of the Charter.

In the case of the *Media Council of Tanzania, Legal and Human Rights Centre and the Human Rights Defenders Coalition v the Attorney Gener-*

al of the United Republic of Tanzania [2017], the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) on March 28, 2019 declared that the provisions of sections 7(3)(a), (b), (c), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j); 19, 20 and 21: 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40; 50 and 54; 52 and 53 and 58 and 59 of the Media Services Act, 2016 violated Article 6(d) and 7(2) of the Treaty for establishing the East African Community (EAC).

The United Republic of Tanzania was directed to take such measures as were necessary, to bring the Media Services Act, 2016 into compliance with the Treaty establishing the EAC, but to date the respondent state has not implemented any.

I have used these two examples to show how what is agreed upon at regional level is not readily implemented for lack of political will. In this case, one wonders whether African states will ever take these regional courts seriously and implement their judgments. Most African leaders pay lip service to what they agree together to implement at regional level.

Today's proverb: "All promises are either broken or kept."

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## Foreign enterprises ready to explore 'blue ocean' in China's Olympic economy

BEIJING

DESPITE the curtains closing on the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, the event has opened up a new vista for the Chinese market that might potentially reshape the world's ice and snow industry, as hundreds of millions of Chinese have developed a "crush" on winter sports and foreign investors are eager to pitch in.

TechnoAlpin Snow Making Equipment, a world-leading company in snow-making, has benefited from the Games as a major supplier of snow-making equipment, systems and related technical services to the competition venues.

"The privilege of supporting such high-end ice and snow events has been a great boost to our effectiveness and reputation," said Florian Hajzeri, general manager of the firm, noting that the Games provides "the most comprehensive and widest" opportunity for the company.

The passion ignited by the Games has stimulated unparalleled zeal for winter sports in the country. Zhou Xing, PwC China Sports Industry Leader, commended that ice and snow sports are among the hottest topics in China's society and have been carried out in over 30 provincial-level regions on the Chinese mainland.

"Driven by the Beijing Winter Olympics, business opportunities in China's ice and snow sports market have accelerated and become a 'blue ocean' in the eyes of foreign brands," said Wang Lei, snow market director of POMA Beijing Ropeway Co., Ltd.

"The number of participants in ice and snow sports in China has reached 346 million, and the participation rate of residents has reached 24.56 percent, which strengthened our confidence in the ice and snow industry," Wang said.

## OPPORTUNITIES IN ICE, SNOW INDUSTRY

Industry data showed that the number of ski resorts in China rose from 568 in 2015 to 770 in 2019, and is expected to top 1,000 this year, nearly doubling in seven years.

"China has built a lot of new ski resorts in recent years, and no other country in the world has done this at the same scale and quantity," said Hajzeri, adding that the company will seek opportunities to work with Chinese ski resorts in infrastructure maintenance and system upgrade.

"The ice and snow industry experienced rapid development before the Winter Olympic Games, and now it has turned to high-quality development," Wang said, noting that not only outdoor



Tourists ski at a winter sports park in Tengzhou, Shandong province. File photo

ski resorts, but also indoor ski resorts, snow parks and professional ski resorts will be developed in the future, which means more possibilities in the industry.

In addition to the fast expansion of ice and snow venues, Olympic fervor also triggered mounting demand for ice and snow sportswear, with multiple trending topics spread on social media since the opening of the Games.

"There will be an important share of consumers looking for high-quality garments which are able to combine the best performance with a fashion twist," said Stefano Colombo, marketing and sales director of Colmar, an Italian sportswear manufacturer specializing in ski wear.

Colombo also predicted that fierce competition will exist in China's ice and snow market in the future.

Eyeing trillion-yuan-level growth potential of China's ice and snow market, Zhou said investments will involve the whole ice and snow industrial chain, highlighting a wide range of opportunities in the fields of venues, garment and

equipment, machinery, merchandise manufacturing as well as training and performance.

Remigio Brunelli, managing director of Beijing Tecnica Sport Equipment Co., Ltd., also welcomed China's move to build industrial clusters to promote the synergy of various sectors in the ice and snow industry.

Talking about the plan to build a belt region that integrates sports, culture and tourism industries of Beijing and Zhangjiakou, he said, "The program for the development of sport, culture and post-Olympics tourism is the confirmation of how great business opportunities will follow after the Winter Olympics."

## FUTURE OF GREEN TECHNOLOGY

The Water Cube used in the 2008 Summer Games is now the Ice Cube. The venue was used for curling, and due to a convertible support structure and a removable ice-making system, leaving the swimming pool intact. This transformation mode can highly reduce the reconstruction cost and slice carbon emissions generated

by a new-established stadium, said Li Sen, director-general of the general planning department of Beijing 2022 Organizing Committee.

Technology has played an important role in realizing the transformation of the Olympic venue and is expected to reshape the sports industry and bring more benefits for market players, according to industry insiders.

"Technology innovation will be an important force to drive the high-quality development of the ice and snow industry," said Zhou from PwC, expecting a deeper integration between the sector and digital technologies.

Ice and snow enterprises can develop more digital products such as wearable intelligent equipment and big data platform, build digital application scenarios, and expand new forms of business related to cloud fitness, online training and virtual sports, Zhou noted.

Green technologies have been put on high agenda for suppliers of the Games. For example, Italian snow groomer manufacturer PRINOTH has equipped their vehicles for the competi-

tion venues with a cutting-edge system to help increase efficiency, save cost and optimize performance for ski resorts.

"The opportunities for foreign companies are endless in sustainable development, from water recycling to clean and renewable energy to solar and wind electricity," said Brunelli, expecting some projects built for the Olympics to gain a higher market cap in China amid its carbon neutrality goal.

"Olympic Games put China under the spotlight. It's important to show and concretely see the commitment to pursue sustainability not only in the ice and snow industry but in all the different sectors," said Colombo, adding that China has the potential to be one of the leading economies in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Investors have taken a shine to the technology-driven boom in the sports industry and beyond.

"Technology plus sports is a particularly hot track, and those technologies related to sports can also be applicable to a wider range of scenarios," said Zhou, referring to compelling investment opportunities.

Eyeing China's vast market prospects, PwC has released a plan to invest 8 billion yuan (about 1.3 billion U.S. dollars) in China in the next five years, with priorities in digital redesign, digital products and solutions, sustainable development, regional economic clusters and future workforce.

"We will rapidly expand the use of emerging technologies, and extend all services to meet the complex challenges facing businesses and society," said Thomas Leung, PwC China Markets Managing Partner. **Xinhua**



# World's custodian of peace remains glaringly irrelevant

BY THALIF DEEN

**A**S a new political twist to an old saying goes: the dogs bark but the military caravan moves on.

Despite ominous warnings from an overwhelming majority of member states both in the General Assembly and the Security Council – against a military attack on Ukraine – Russian President Vladimir Putin stood defiant when he ordered a full-scale invasion of a sovereign territory.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in a hard-hitting statement, said the invasion was a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine – and inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

But a lingering question remained: has the 15-member UN Security Council (UNSC), which is mandated with the task of maintaining international peace and security, outlived its usefulness.

Dr. Alon Ben-Meir, a retired professor of international relations at the Center for Global Affairs at New York University (NYU), told IPS there is no more glaring example of how irrelevant the United Nations Security Council, which is the custodian of global peace and security, has become, than the debate at the UNSC.

Despite overwhelming opposition from both the Security Council member states and the General Assembly, he pointed out, Putin went ahead with his planned invasion of the Ukraine, knowing full well that he is grossly violating the UN Charter.

“What has transpired was a clear reflection of how the Security Council has outlived its usefulness, and demonstrated the dire need to reform it to meet the changing global order,” he added.

While the UN General Assembly has the ability to pass resolutions criticizing individual member states, he argued, it has no power to enforce any measure.

“The UNSC does have the power to take action, but it is limited to establishing peacekeeping missions. More often than not, the five permanent UNSC members with veto power almost always exercise that power to defend their interests, regardless of how the issue being debated impacts world peace and security.”

Thus, it is a given, he said, that the Russian ambassador will veto any of security resolutions to which the Kremlin objects.



Russian military operations inside the sovereign territory of Ukraine “on a scale that Europe has not seen in decades, conflict directly with the United Nations Charter,” Secretary General Antonio Guterres told journalists February 24. Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe

There is really no other recourse that the UN can take to correct what is fundamentally flawed in its current structure.

“The time is overdue to reform the UN so that the Security Council reflects the changing geopolitical reality and its impact on the global order to ensure that the UNSC lives up to its founding premise to ensure peace and security,” he declared.

Ian Williams, President of the Foreign Press Association in New York, told IPS: “If Moscow wants to play by the rules, according to the Charter, Russia is not on the Security Council and does not have a permanent seat.”

The Soviet Union is in the Charter and Russia usurped the seat with no resolution at the General Assembly or on the Council. Russia never applied or was formally accepted into membership, he pointed out.

Maybe the Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly, along with other

members, could simply deny them.

“Unless such decisive action is taken it’s difficult to see the organization surviving this League of Nations moment. Others have stretched the Charter – but Putin has taken it past breaking point, said Williams, a former President of the UN Correspondents’ Association (UNCA) and author of *Untold: The Real Story of the United Nations in Peace and War*.

Thomas G. Weiss, Distinguished Fellow, Global Governance, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Presidential Professor of Political Science, told IPS this is precisely what the Security Council voted to halt when Iraq invaded Kuwait (in August 1990).

“Even if one mouths the fiction that Ukraine was created by the Bolsheviks, Ukraine is more of a ‘state’ than Israel or all countries ‘created’ after decolonization. The UN is as central or peripheral as it always has been”.

The veto was agreed so that action versus

one of the P5 was unthinkable. The only remaining option is the General Assembly which would at least force China to take a public stand as to whether state sovereignty matters, said Dr Weiss, Director Emeritus, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, The CUNY Graduate Center.

Samir Sanbar, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General who headed the Department of Public Information, told IPS the U.N. could prove its useful role by taking initiatives – perhaps through back channels and the “good offices of the Secretary General” to offer practical proposal to diffuse escalating tension.

He pointed out the role “discreetly played” by the first Asian secretary General, U Thant, to diffuse the escalating Cuban Missile crisis and Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld’s efforts to avert a big power confrontation over an American pilot held by China and also over the conflict in the Congo.

Also, a group of third world member states could move to make potential proposals, said Sanbar, who served under five different Secretaries-Generals during his tenure in office.

Asked about the irrelevance of the UNSC, Martin Edwards, Professor and Chair, School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, told IPS: “This is an old claim. I remember all the handwringing after the Iraq war. The Security Council didn’t go away then, and it’s not going away now”.

Even though Putin launched this savagery during the meeting of the

Council Wednesday, “we need to remember that permanent members are not constrained by the Council. The veto ensures this.”

But that having been said, the Council still has value for efficient coalition building. While Russia can’t be meaningfully censured by the Security Council, the speeches from two nights ago make clear that Russia is isolated, thus making it easier for Ukraine’s allies to cooperate by imposing harsh sanctions, he noted.

“And Russia is not getting expelled because no proposal to expel Russia will make it through the Security Council to go to the General Assembly”.

So, the fact that diplomacy is going to shift away from the UN is not necessarily surprising. The US and Europe have a better sense of who stands with them and who supports Russia, and they can work with these allies to impose harsh sanctions quickly, declared Edwards.

Asked if there is a precedent for a member state, in violation of the UN charter, being suspended or ousted from the UN, Dr Ben-Meir said although the UN Charter includes a provision for suspending any country that violates the charter, no country had ever been suspended or ejected, regardless of how egregious its violation of the charter might have been.

And while many UNSC resolutions have condemned specific countries, such as Israel for violating the Palestinians’ human rights, or threatened to take punitive action against a state, they have largely been rebuffed, as the UNSC fundamentally lacks an enforcement mechanism.

# Digital yuan injects fresh dynamism into Chinese economy

By Wu Qiuyu

**C**HINA has rolled out a broad range of payment products to help both Chinese citizens and foreigners experience the convenience of mobile payment with China’s digital fiat currency, or the e-CNY, for small-value payments during the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

During the just-concluded Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, many people used digital yuan to buy Bing Dwen Dwen, the official mascot of the sports event, from a store selling Beijing 2022 licensed merchandise at the National Stadium in Beijing.

The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics is an epitome of the pilot programs of the digital yuan. Over the past few years, the country has launched the trial run of its digital currency in Hainan province, Xiong’an New Area, eight cities including Shenzhen, Suzhou, Chengdu, Shanghai, Changsha, Xi’an, Qingdao, and Dalian, as well as competition zones of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing and

Zhangjiakou, the co-host city for the Games.

Data showed that as of the end of 2021, the number of pilot scenarios of the e-CNY reached about 8.09 million, and the cumulative digital yuan transactions hit 87.57 billion yuan (\$13.78 billion).

Pilot areas of the digital currency have effectively verified the technical design and the stability of systems for digital yuan payment services, the usability of relevant payment products, and the applicability to different scenarios, enhancing people’s understanding of the design concept of the e-CNY.

At the beginning of this year, a pilot version of digital yuan wallet mobile app was made available on multiple app stores. As the pilot projects of digital yuan are advanced, relevant products and application scenarios have been increasingly enriched.

During the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, for instance, consumers can choose to pay either through the digital yuan wallet mobile app or various forms of physi-



A man tries payment with digital Chinese yuan (e-CNY) on a shared bike at an exhibition of China’s digital fiat currency at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, Oct. 21, 2021. (Photo by Du Jianpo/People’s Daily Online)

cal wallet of digital Chinese yuan, including payment card and wristband.

The physical wallets of the

e-CNY, which can be obtained and used anonymously for small-value payments, are safe and convenient and can ensure

the security of user’s personal data.

China will promote research and development of its digital

fiat currency in a steady manner, according to the country’s economic and social development blueprint, the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

At present, digital economy is becoming an increasingly important driving force for global economic growth, pointed out Pan Helin, executive director of the digital economy research institute of Zhongnan University of Economics and Law.

The research, development, and application of digital renminbi (RMB) can help better fulfill people’s demands for fiat currency in digital economy scenarios and improve the convenience and security of retail payments, propelling the development of China’s digital economy, Pan explained.

The research and development of digital RMB is a necessity for facilitating the growth of digital economy, noted Fan Yifei, deputy governor of the People’s Bank of China (PBOC), China’s central bank.

Sci-tech innovations represented by digital economy are growing into a key driving force for the cultivation of new growth drivers, Fan noted, adding that to achieve high-quality economic and social development, China needs to develop a new type of retail payment infrastructure, a public product that is safer, all-purpose, and inclusive, so as to further satisfy people’s diverse payment demands and improve the capacity and efficiency of basic financial services.

The central bank will continue promoting pilot programs and the research and development of the digital yuan, and further deepen pilot use of e-CNY in retail services, living payment, government services and other scenarios according to the arrangements of the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, according to an official with the PBOC.

People’s Daily

## CAPITAL RADIO

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Tea can help transform agrifood systems to end poverty, hunger

By Guardian Correspondent

THE tea industry can play an important part in the transformation of global agrifood systems, but it must overcome significant challenges, QU Dongyu, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has said.

"Tea can play a leading role in our path to build a better world where no one is left behind," Qu said in opening remarks to the 24th Session of FAO's Intergovernmental Group on Tea.

Tea is a labour intensive sector that provides jobs and income to many of the poorest rural communities in the world, including women and their families. Smallholder farmers and farming households produce 60% of the global tea output. This makes tea an important contributor to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, tea export earnings represent an important source of revenues, especially for many low-income countries that need foreign exchange to pay for their food import bills and to buy goods and ser-

vices from world markets.

"To end world hunger and poverty it is critical that we transform our agrifood systems, and tea can play a role in this transformation," Qu told the meeting, attended by government experts, officials and international observers.

Tea is the most widely consumed drink in the world after water and represents an important economic activity, with the value of global tea production estimated at around US\$ 17 billion, while trade is valued at about US\$ 8 billion annually, according to FAO statistics.

The Director-General also noted that tea has an important social dimension; it brings people together to share stories, build friendships and overcome differences.

The data show an increase in the consumption of tea during the pandemic lockdowns as people took comfort in a warm cup of tea during the most difficult moments, he added.

Moreover, tea production can lead to further erosion of natural resources, particularly soils and water. Deforestation, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion and water contamination are some of the challenges that need urgent attention. But the sector also



has its vulnerabilities, with tea bushes subject to recurrent infestations by pests and diseases, which reduce yields and harvests. For example, the brown blight disease of tea can result in significant losses in production and income.

Smallholders need technical and financial support to invest in pest and disease-resistant varieties, and to achieve sustainable productivity growth. The Confederation of International Tea Smallholders can provide valuable support in this regard,

Qu said. FAO's Strategic Framework aimed at achieving better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all, leaving no one behind, can support the transformation of the tea sector, he noted, adding that the tea sector

can contribute to achieving the Four Betters.

To mark last year's World Food Day, FAO convened a Dialogue on Tea and Coffee, exploring the cultural and economic and significance of both beverages.

# Malawian government launches emergency response to polio outbreak

By Special Correspondent

THE Ministry of Health in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations (UNICEF), Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has launched an emergency response to the poliomyelitis outbreak in Malawi.

The response will include disease surveillance across Malawi and large-scale polio immunization campaigns.

Speaking at a press conference in Lilongwe, Deputy Minister of Health, Enock Phale, said the response follows a study, which showed that the

single poliovirus type 1 case detected in a Lilongwe-based female child was a result of failure by the parents to vaccinate the child against the disease.

Phale said the isolated case is enough to declare it a Public Health Emergency despite it being believed that it is an imported case.

"We will roll out a robust system to make sure we contain it's spread. We will do whatever we can to make sure we break the infectious cycle. One way will be by bringing public awareness campaigns," he said.

The deputy minister said the campaign will target the total population

of children under the age of five in Malawi, which is over two million vaccinations.

"We have emergency committees to seal out loopholes that can lead to further spread of poliomyelitis in the country. It is devastating to have a case after 30 years of no Poliomyelitis case. We are putting in place some communication strategy because the public needs to know and also some resource mobilization programs," said Phale.

WHO Representative in Malawi, Dr Janet Kayita, advised the Malawi government to intensify surveillance in order to understand the reality on the ground and strengthen the immunisation system to make sure children are able to access recommended vaccinations including the Polio vaccine.

"There should be a special immunization targeting the children affected by Tropical Ana to make

sure every child is reached out with the vaccine," Kayita

On the other hand, CDC Country Director, Dr Kelsey Mirkovic, said eliminating Wild Poliovirus Type 1 was a long and hard battle.

"CDC's Picornavirus and Poliovirus laboratory in Atlanta-USA is a global specialized laboratory. It is the one where detailed genetic analysis was completed for the Poliovirus from Lilongwe which helped us to understand how long the virus had been circulating undetected. The WHO region of Africa was declared free from Wild Poliovirus type 1 in 2020 with the last known transmission in 2016. A total of \$100, 000 US dollars is budgeted and used for the same annually," said Mirkovic.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNICEF Representative in Malawi, Rudolf Shwenk

said it is a triple-emergency as Poliomyelitis is a top up on the Covid-19 and Tropical Ana because these three can have a direct impact on one another.

"It needs regional response therefore Immunization must be prioritized. We will have experts coming this Friday. Resources have been mobilised. We really have to protect the children. Parents should make sure their children are vaccinated," said Shwenk.

Poliomyelitis eradication is targeted globally because it is infectious and causes irreversible paralysis hence the single case has received enormous attention from all corners of the world. It spreads through consumption of contaminated food and water which makes consumption of safe water and warm food prevention measures the same.

# Europe can look to Africa as preferred gas supplier

JOHANNESBURG

WITH recent sanctions on Russia by western nations threatening the critical supply of Russian gas to European markets, an opportunity has emerged for African gas producers to step up, enhance hydrocarbon production and exports to meet international supply gaps.

Significant progress has already been made to establish Africa as a viable gas export market, and now, with geopolitical tensions rising, Africa should focus on establishing itself as the preferred supplier to international markets.

The withdrawal and disruption of supply channels from Russia, as the second largest gas producer globally and the biggest supplier of natural gas to Europe, will not only send Europe into a deeper energy crisis, but will cause price hikes globally.

This represents a golden opportunity for Africa. On February 22, 2022, member states of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) met in Doha, Qatar to discuss the impact of the mounting tensions between Russia and Ukraine and its impact on the global gas market.

In the Doha Declaration - issued after the meeting concluded - parties emphasized that despite their commitment to increasing gas production to meet growing energy demand globally, they do not have the capacity to help Europe replace 40% of its energy consumption in the event Russia cuts supply. These commitments will not only be critical for Europe's energy crisis but for Africa's sectoral expansion.

In an exclusive interview with the African Energy Chamber (AEC) this month, Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, Equatorial Guinea's Ministry of Mines and Hydrocarbons, said: "Infrastructure is going to be critical. Investors in Europe may be selling solutions to be able to put as many terminals as possible, which will allow us to export gas to them. That is what we need in order to be competitive in gas."

African producers can take advantage of the outcome to attract investments required to build infrastructure that would enable them to expand exploration, production and exportation to meet the anticipated increase in demand in Europe.

Abdur-Rasheed Tunde Omidia, President of the AEC Nigeria and West Africa said: "The ongoing European energy trilemma and challenges provides a golden opportunity for African gas producers to develop a robust, bankable gas strategy to cater for motherland Africa and our European friends energy demand. I believe Africa can leverage current trends to attract much needed investment to develop the infrastructure needed to accelerate production for regional consumption and exportation. The time to act on the Trans Africa Gas plan is now."

Already, African countries have started ramping up production. The African Energy Chamber (AEC) - in its Q1 2022 Outlook - predicts Nigeria to increase gas production from 2016 of about 1,550 billion cubic feet to up to 1,780 billion cubic feet in 2022.



These production increases will enable Nigeria to increase domestic capacity, ensuring energy security both domestically and continentally, while creating the opportunity to scale-up exports to European markets.

Other African producers such as Algeria and Niger, who together with Nigeria, recently signed the Declaration of Niamey during the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) Mining and Petroleum Forum (ECOMOF) - paving

the way for the construction of the multi-billion, 4,128km Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline, which will run through the three countries into Europe - now have an opportunity to attract funding for the project rollout and expand their production and exportation capabilities to Europe.

Once completed, the pipeline is expected to transport 30 billion cubic meters of gas per annum which Europe will desperately need to meet demand.

At the same time, Equatorial Guinea, with over 1.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, which remains untapped, can also take advantage of the anticipated European gas crisis to attract more investment for its natural gas market growth and development.

African gas producers need to improve policy planning and enactment, and deal with negotiation to make themselves attractive markets to partner with. AEC's annual summit African Energy Week (AEW) set to take place from 18 to 21 October 2022, will unite investors, regulatory authorities, oil and gas companies and oil and gas industry players under one roof in Cape Town, South Africa to discuss best practices and for signing of deals.



**In an exclusive interview with the African Energy Chamber (AEC) this month, Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, Equatorial Guinea's Ministry of Mines and Hydrocarbons**

# Projects in Africa move forward steadily with enhanced China-Africa cooperation

By Special Correspondent

CHINESE companies have steadily pushed forward the construction of projects in Africa, as China and Africa step up cooperation in the new year in traditional areas including infrastructure and agriculture, as well as in emerging sectors like vaccine donations to fight against COVID-19.

In February, the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation

(CCECC) has accelerated the infrastructure construction in Tanzania and Nigeria, the company said in a statement sent to the Global Times on Thursday.

On February 8, the CCECC started construction for a light rail project along the shoreline in Lagos, Nigeria, further ensuring the completion of the project before the end of the year.

Experts noted that as Lagos is the economic center of Nigeria, the

light rail project will not only drive economic growth and improve people's lives, but also create a number of local jobs.

On February 2, the CCECC completed the casting of the first prestressed concrete girder of a bridge built in Tanzania amid adverse factors including local complex geology and the impact of the heavy rain in the region. This marks a new stage in the superstructure construction of the bridge project.

In addition to the projects under construction, many Chinese companies have signed new contracts with African countries.

On February 15, the Human Construction Engineering Group No.2 Company signed a contract with Larose Investments for the construction of Royal Apartments in Uganda, with the contract amount of \$200 million. It will become the tallest residential building in the country once completed.

Additionally, four Chinese firms including Hunan Construction Engineering Group signed a contract with Côte d'Ivoire for the construction of processing factories for agricultural products. The project is scheduled to start construction from March to June 2022, and all processing plants will be completed and put into operation by August 2023.

Once operational, the annual production capacity is expected

to reach 400,000 tons of rubber, 300,000 tons of palm oil and 200,000 tons of seed cotton as primary products.

Moreover, in order to help Africa fight against the pandemic, Chinese vaccine manufacturer Sino-vac Biotech signed a cooperation agreement with Egypt to build a fully automated cold storage facility in the country that can store 150 million doses of vaccines. When completed, the cold storage facility

will be the largest vaccine storage center in Egypt and Africa.

In 2021, total trade between China and Africa exceeded \$23.8 billion, up 35.3 percent year-on-year, data from the General Administration of Customs showed.

Experts noted that with deepening economic cooperation between China and Africa in 2022, more companies will contribute to the development of African modernization.



# Africa may be hamstringing its economic and security prospects by distancing itself from Indo-Pacific forum

By Peter Fabricius

**T**HE Indo-Pacific – a relatively new concept – stretches from South Africa via the Red Sea to Russia, New Zealand and Canada. It's not a well-defined concept geographically and is even fuzziy politically. But given its growing geopolitical significance, it is a region that Africa needs to be more actively involved in for security and development reasons.

France, which regards itself as an Indo-Pacific nation via its many island territories in the region, created its first Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2018 and the European Union (EU) followed soon after. Other European countries already have or are drafting similar policies, as are the United States (US), Japan and India.

These strategies are, to varying degrees, a response to China's growing presence in the region. So it's perhaps not surprising that, according to French officials, Beijing regards the very concept of 'Indo-Pacific' as hostile to its interests.

At the first Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific held in Paris on 22 February and co-chaired by the EU and France – China was the proverbial elephant in the room. Around 50 countries and regional organisations attended, but China wasn't invited. Nor was the US – to avoid a spat between the two global rivals, officials said. Russia was also not invited.

China's absence raised the question: was this a meeting to formulate a strategy to contain it? Beijing is growing bolder in the region, particularly in the South China Sea. It's asserting

multiple claims against states such as Vietnam and the Philippines for full sovereignty over hundreds of tiny islands and atolls. It hopes to extend its Exclusive Economic Zones, several of which have been transformed into military bases – in effect, unsinkable and immovable aircraft carriers.

France and the EU both denied that the forum aimed to form a bloc against China. "It's not against China or anyone," France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian insisted. "It's about the development of partnerships between the European Union and the Indo-Pacific."

Not everyone was convinced. South Africa's International Relations Minister Naledi Pandor was invited but eventually declined. Pretoria's ambassador to France was supposed to represent her, but he didn't arrive. South African officials told ISS Today this was because Pretoria had concluded that this was indeed an anti-Chinese event.

South Africa's absence aggravated an already weak African presence and participation in the forum. The centre of gravity of the discussion was clearly towards the eastward half of the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.

According to officials, Djibouti was there but said little, with the Indian Ocean island states – particularly Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles – being the most active African participants. This is perhaps not surprising, given the maritime bias of the concept and the focus on topics such as the blue economy. And also the island states sense that their security issues are not being addressed adequately by the African Union (AU).

Discussions at the forum covered



French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (left) and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell (right) welcome Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marise Payne, during the Indo-Pacific Ministerial Cooperation Forum as part of the French EU Council Presidency in Paris on 22 February 2022.

three themes: connectivity and digital technology; global issues such as health and climate change; and security and defence. The first two seemed neutral enough, though even there, one could discern the outlines of China.

The connectivity and digital tech pillar focused on building up the EU's 2012

Global Gateway strategy, which aims to develop leading infrastructure projects, "promoting the European model for personal data protection." It's not hard to contrast this with the Chinese company Huawei's international dominance in supplying 5G technology. Western countries suspect Huawei is passing private customer information to Chinese intelligence, as the law apparently obliges them to do.

But the security and defence pillar was where China's implicit presence became most visible.

The focus was on implementing the Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP) in the Indian Ocean and related initiatives. Part of the CMP's ambition is to keep maritime routes open to all, Le Drian pointed out at the press conference after the meeting. The CMP pilot project was in the Gulf of Guinea, mainly to counter piracy.

The EU's special envoy for the Indo-Pacific, Gabriele Visentin, told journalists that the forum had agreed that the first extension of the CMP would be into the north-west Indian Ocean at the Strait of Hormuz. That's the strategically critical chokepoint between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, just north of Operation Atalanta, where the EU naval force is helping to combat piracy off the Somali coast.

Visentin said other CMP areas could include the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. And he didn't rule out one in the South China Sea where China is trying to restrict other countries' vessels from freely navigating through waters it claims as its own.

South Africa's decision to skip the Indo-Pacific forum was interesting. It was another example of how the country finds its options limited by

its alliance with China through strong bilateral ties and Brics membership. The Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa economic bloc regards itself as a counter to Western global dominance. South Africa similarly declined an invitation to US President Joe Biden's virtual democracy summit because Pretoria saw it as anti-Chinese.

Though also a Brics member, India felt no such qualms about the Indo-Pacific forum. In the opening session, Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaisankar welcomed the EU's "commitment to contribute to the security of the region".

He suggested that the EU's presence balanced unnamed regional forces throwing their weight around without respect for international law, territorial integrity, and sovereignty – a seemingly implicit reference to China. There could be many reasons for Africa's relative indifference to France's Indo-Pacific forum – including just plain 'summit fatigue' as French officials suggested. The forum followed the AU and AU-EU summits in quick succession.

Some African states also still need to be convinced of the benefits, though the island nations are not among them. Some countries, like South Africa, are suspicious about the Indo-Pacific concept and fear being dragged into big power rivalries.

Yet the concept seems to be here to stay. And so, as Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Researcher Denys Reva has suggested, Africa should be more proactive in framing its understanding of the 'Indo-Pacific' and how it can benefit, while retaining its regional autonomy.

DM

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 234 00--

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

**WORD-FIT**

**CROSSWORD**

**SOLUTIONS**

3 LETTERS: ICE, LAY, BOY  
 4 LETTERS: FINE, EASE, NEST, ABEL, TACO, AGED  
 5 LETTERS: MEANT, EASEL, EMBED, DIENE  
 6 LETTERS: ADRIFT, YEMENI, EUNUCH, MEAGRE MEKONG, MILAN,  
 7 LETTERS: PENGUIN  
 8 LETTERS: LIBERALS  
 10 LETTERS: FREE LOADER

**CLUES: Across**

1 profession of being a journalist  
 5 Chief city of Togo  
 7 present food to someone  
 8 make suitable for a new use  
 10 place in a particular position  
 11 Paris is her Capital city  
 13 be absolutely sure about something  
 15 milk and milk products collectively  
 17 physically dependent on a particular substance  
 19 a chair  
 20 work requiring little skill and lacking prestige

**Down:**

1 named after Julius Caesar  
 2 the whole community of Muslims  
 3 a yearly court of record held by the lords of certain manors  
 4 appreciate to the full  
 6 Garden of Adam and Eve  
 7 distribute over a wide area  
 9 small bomb thrown by hand  
 12 a traditional Japanese inn  
 14 the color of milk  
 16 a sphere of activity  
 17 say something in order to obtain an answer  
 18 a barrier constructed to hold back water

By Magezi: 0755429240 fehmagezi@gmail.com

**RADIO One** **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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## BUSINESS



## Mascom rolls out four 5G sites in Botswana

GABORONE

BOTSWANA MNO Mascom has launched four 5G sites in the capital Gaborone as part of plans to roll out 111 sites across the country before year-end.

Mascom CEO Dzene Makhwade-Seboni said: "Connectivity drives socioeconomic digital transformation and with its unprecedented connectivity capabilities, 5G will take us and our society to a whole new level. It is bound to revolutionise industries and enhance customer experience and advance us as a nation towards the



**Digital transformation is broadening and mixing business boundaries in all sectors, which will increase both diversity and uncertainty. With 5G's network design concepts and integrative capabilities, it's possible to combat these uncertainties**

achievement of our Fourth Industrial Revolution ambitions."

She said the socio-economic benefits of 5G-enabled smart cities are immense. "Residential services,

such as streetlights, traffic signals and security, which are part of the national broadband strategy, will benefit from 5G."

The country's Minister of Transport and Communications Thulagano Segokgo said 5G is part of accelerators, including Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, big data and Internet of Things, used to catalyse the digital economy for the country.

"Digital transformation is broadening and mixing business boundaries in all sectors, which will increase both diversity and uncertainty. With 5G's network design concepts and integrative capabilities, it's possible to combat these uncertainties."

Segokgo said the fundamental benefit of 5G is the speed at which data is transferred throughout the network, allowing for wider use of connected devices.

Botswana's healthcare sector is one of several that stand to benefit from 5G, according to the Minister.

Advanced wireless communications and information processing technology can streamline medical diagnosis and better allocate and share medical resources and data.

"As we move towards enablement of e-Health in Botswana the health sector has significant 5G use cases and opportunities, many medical IT groups deal with surgical equipment that needs to be both connected and air gapped from their networks for security reasons."

## Dar's Kinondoni council issues 12bn/- to youth, women groups

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

**T**HE Kinondoni municipality has disbursed a total of 12.1bn/- to 2,845 women, youths and people with disabilities groups in the period of five years from 2017 to 2022.

The municipality's community development officer, Zena Nalipa, the disbursed interest free loans, which is 10% of the total revenue, will enable them to expand and establish economic activities.

She said also conducted capacity building to the benefiting groups on different business skills. He said the disbursed funds during 2019/2020 included 1.3bn/- to 557 women groups, 659.6mn/- to 306 youth groups while 119.6mn/- directed 31 disabled groups.

The officer said during the financial year 2021/2022, the municipal has so far disbursed 1.3bn/- to 318 women groups, 1.05bn/- to 68 youth groups and 204mn/- to disabled groups.

She said the municipal strategic plan targets to improve the social services as well as improve the lives of people.

"Some of the plan objectives is to strengthen socio-economic capacities, promote gender balance, improve governance and improve delivery of social services," she said during the capacity building seminar organized



Kinondoni municipal community development officer, Zena Nalipa.

by Tanzania Gender network Programme (TGNP).

Programme Communication Officer of TGNP, Jackson Malangalila, said the seminars have a wide range of topics

that help the community address issues of gender-based violence.

He said the issue of gender-based violence contributes to women's economic empow-

erment, and that when they reach the TGNP they are also taught how to get rid of economic hardship by doing various business. "In the GDSS seminars we invite people

of various cadres including economists who teach participants how to carry out their development activities, but also to combat gender-based violence," Malangalila said.

## DRC relents on mobile device registration tax

KINSHASA

THE DRC government said it will scrap the contentious device registration tax, effective March 2022.

The country first implemented the device registration programme in 2020 to help combat fraud and counterfeit devices.

The Register of Mobile Devices (RAM) tax compels customers to register their devices International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) with ARPTC (Autorité de Régulation de Poste et de Télécommunication).

Registered customers who use 2G devices are required to pay US\$1, while those who use 3G or 4G devices have to pay US\$7.

Funds are collected by the regulator, which has blocked numbers of subscribers who failed to either register or pay.

Critics of RAM have accused authorities of using the tax to steal from consumers and that the government has not been transparent about the levy or plans regarding funds collection.

In October last year, the leader of opposition coalition Martin Fayulu said, "We are calling for the immediate withdrawal of RAM because its theft and a scam. Let's

march and denounce it because its theft. Once withdrawn, all monies collected must be returned."

Subsequently the country's Minister of ICT, Post and Telecommunications Augustine Kabissa Maliba was called on to explain to Parliament why the process of registering a phone had been transformed into a tax.

The government then scrapped the tax applied to 2G devices, but not to 3G or 4G devices.

In December last year, a Parliamentary Commission recommended that the government withdraws the tax because the Commission could not trace the funds raised either in the general budget or in the special account.

During a Ministerial Council meeting, it was decided to scrap the tax entirely.

Minister Maliba said, "All measures are taken so that from March 1, 2022, all direct withdrawals from subscriber units as remuneration for the service known as 'Register of Mobile Devices' cease definitively. This decision is in response to the cries of distress of the Congolese people in the face of the removal of the communications units and the recommendation of the people's representatives

## Westcon-Comstor to combine MEA, SSA regions operations

CAPE TOWN

GLOBAL distributor Westcon-Comstor has announced it will combine its Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa (MEA) operations as part of a group-wide strategy to improve efficiency, drive profitability, and streamline engagement with partners and vendors.

Effective 1 March 2022, the new structure will be headed by Rakesh Parbhoo, who has been appointed Senior Vice President whilst maintaining his role as Group CTO.

"The combined operations will represent nearly 14% of Group revenue and boasts close to 500 staff members, making Westcon-Comstor one of the most formidable distributors in this market," said David Grant, CEO at Westcon-Comstor. "The expanded operation headed by Rakesh provides the perfect platform for us to scale our services while giving partners and vendors with multiple geographies a seamless experience, no matter where their customers are."

The company has made further strategic appointments to support the new combined entity.

Steve Lockie, the Group Managing Director for the Middle East, is

joined by his recently appointed counterparts Louise Taute, Managing Director for Southern Africa and Vincent Entonu, Managing Director for Rest of Africa, all reporting directly to Parbhoo.

The new structure will allow Lockie to focus on the opportunities presented by the company's recent expansion into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Elmien du Toit, current Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Sub-Saharan Africa, has been with the group since 2006 takes on the role of COO for MEA.

Forming part of Parbhoo's executive leadership team, du Toit will be responsible for supply chain and sales operations, including oversight of back-office business functions aligning these to company-wide global best practices while ensuring their local relevance.

Another strategic appointment is that of Catherine Mwololo who will take the role of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for MEA. As a member of the regional executive team, Mwololo, the current CFO for Sub-Saharan Africa, will consolidate her responsibilities for finance across the entire MEA region.

## Eight firms in race to build gas import terminals



Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) Director-General Daniel Kiptoo.

NAIROBI

KENYA is reviewing applications of companies seeking to build eight privately-owned import terminals for cooking gas in another attempt to lower prices in the absence of government price controls on the commodity.

Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) director-general Daniel Kiptoo told the Business Daily that the State has approved Lake Oil to start constructing its terminal at Kwale while the other seven are at various stages of evaluation.

Kenya currently imports Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) through a privately-owned facility at the Port of Mombasa and the Port of Dar-es-Salaam, locking out competition that is key to lowering the cost of cooking gas.

The absence of competition, the 16 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) and a lack of common-user government-owned facility at the Port of Mombasa have been blamed for the high prices.

"We have eight privately-owned import terminals for LPG that are at various stages of

approval. Some are already doing their Environmental Impact Assessment and two weeks ago we approved Lake Oil to do their plant in Kwale," Mr Kiptoo said on Thursday.

"These terminals will offer different routes of importing cooking gas and have the desired effect of bringing competition that is key to the lowering the price of cooking gas," Mr Kiptoo added.

One company is currently handling over 90 percent of Kenya's LPG shipments while the other chunk comes in through the Tanga plant in Mtwara, with the products trucked via Namanga and Holili border posts.

Gas prices have jumped 48 percent to an eight-year high of Sh2,978 for a 13-kilogramme cylinder as the exclusive club of suppliers and distributors used the introduction of new taxes to hike prices.

The 13-kg gas from Total Energies is retailing at Sh2,995, Rubis K-gas at Sh2,950 and Shell/Vivo's Afrigas Sh2,990.

LPG firms from Tanzania export about 40 percent of their annual volumes to Kenya high-

lighting the impact of the lack of many players to ship the product locally.

Prices of LPG in Mombasa are much higher than in Dar es Salaam and Tanga due to more efficient offloading and storage infrastructure.

Cooking gas prices are not controlled unlike petrol, diesel and kerosene with the government stating price controls on LPG will deter investors from coming into the sector.

The government has been promising to control for over a decade after the handling and storage facility under construction in Mombasa is complete.

The terminals will offer the government another avenue to lower prices of cooking gas as it awaits completion of the Kipevu Oil Terminal that will have a common-user berth for handling cooking gas.

Kenya will build a common-user facility for handling cooking gas once the Kipevu Oil Terminal The berth that will take 36 months to construct will allow the State to start an open tender system (OTS) for gas imports.is completed.



# Wall Street cuts European stock targets as war prompts outflows

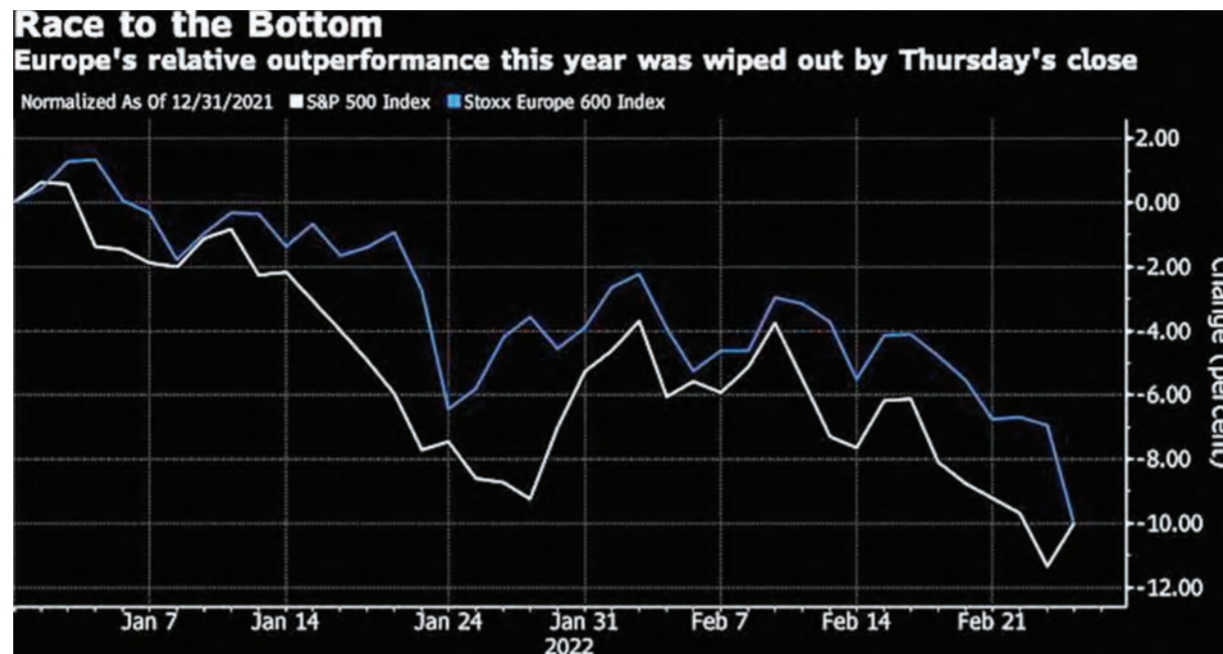
NEW YORK

Wall Street strategists are cutting their forecasts on European equities on concern that the war in Ukraine will hurt economic growth, while investors pull money from the region's stock market at the fastest pace in three months.

Bank of America Corp. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. both lowered their index targets, with the latter now expecting virtually no full-year returns for Europe's Stoxx 600 in 2022. Credit Suisse Group AG reduced its overweight, while EPFR Global data showed \$1.8bn outflows from the regional equity funds.

The conflict has exacerbated an energy crunch in Europe, which is heavily reliant on Russian imports, just as central banks prepare to tighten policy to tackle already-high price pressures. Europe is also expected to be hit harder than the U.S., due to its closer economic ties and geographical proximity to the conflict.

"Higher energy prices will likely push up inflation further and any tightness or disruption to the supply of energy, especially gas, in Europe would also have implications for production and GDP," Goldman strategists led by Sharon Bell wrote in a note to clients. "In light of the conflict, the rise in risk aversion - some of which will likely linger - and the impact on the growth/inflation mix, we take down our



target prices."

The strategists revised their 12-month target for the Europe Stoxx 600 Index to 490 points from 530 and their blue chip Euro Stoxx 50 index expectation to 4,300 from 4,800, while raising their forecast for the UK's FTSE 100 index to 8,100 from 7,900.

The U.K. large-cap gauge "has

proven more resilient both to rate rises and concerns about escalating energy costs," they said.

"The index has almost no tech exposure and a heavy-weight in value stocks and financials."

Meanwhile, Bank of America, which has been persistently bearish on European stocks, cut its target for the Stoxx 600 to 410 from 430. That

implies a further 6.6% drop from Thursday's close, which was already more than 10% lower from the record highs reached in January.

The move reflects increased risks from the conflict in Ukraine, Sebastian Raedler and his colleagues wrote in a note. Separately, the bank's economists said the "shock from spiking energy prices" could

lower euro-area growth by 50 basis points.

Credit Suisse's Andrew Garthwaite cut European exposure on growth risks from rising oil and gas prices and reduced the size of the bank's overweight in Europe.

The downgrades highlight the changing fortunes for European equities, which started the year with strategist expectations that they'd extend their post-pandemic rally and beat U.S. peers amid a global rotation to cheaper, so-called value stocks.

That outperformance, fueled by concerns that monetary policy tightening will hurt expensive U.S. tech champions hardest, was all but wiped out by Thursday's close.

Goldman already tempered its expectations for U.S. stock returns this year, as rising rates expectations and increasingly hawkish rhetoric by central banks across the developed world has arrested the post-pandemic rally on both sides of the Atlantic. Emerging market stocks have outperformed developed peers this year.

## ABB, Keppel sign agreement on how to strengthen water management links

SINGAPORE.

ABB's Motion business area and Keppel Energy Transition Centre Pte Ltd (KETC), the innovation and technology arm of Keppel Infrastructure Holdings Pte Ltd (KI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will see the two partners deepen their collaborative efforts to jointly explore, develop and deploy advanced digitalization solutions in the water management ecosystem.

The MoU combines ABB's domain knowledge and expertise with Keppel's extensive experience to pursue new possibilities of interconnectivity and efficiency, both from a process as well as energy usage perspective.

Singapore's water management has been widely regarded as one of the world's best with state-of-the-art technologies deployed to ensure its resilience. A range of ABB products and solutions, including connected energy-efficient motors and variable speed drives enabling data insights, together with automation and control systems as well as instrumentation and water analyzers are adopted to drive down environmental impact from energy intensive processes involved in the safe and sustainable supply of water.

"The water industry is in the midst of a pivotal transition and by working jointly together, we hope to identify opportunities which will not only scale up digital adoption but more importantly elevate Keppel Infrastructure's operating resilience and performance to the next level," said Goh Eng Kwang, Executive Director, Project Management and Executive Director, Water Services.

"The goal is really two-fold. The first is looking at the water life cycle holistically to optimize the interaction of big data, clear analytics, and smart devices, and how we can improve data oversight, plant performance, life cycle maintenance as well as utilization of capital assets;

The second is centered on accelerating the industry's shift towards net zero, bringing Keppel a step closer towards our own sustainability goals."

"We are deeply committed towards working with Keppel to accelerate the deployment of smart technologies to meet Singapore's water needs today and into the future.

In this respect, the MoU is a cornerstone in our bonded water story. Both companies have worked extensively in this industry and we look forward to bringing out the best from each other to build on Singapore's water management success," said R Narayanan, Senior Vice President, Asia, ABB Motion Business Area.

Water demand in Singapore is currently around 430 million gallons a day and is likely to double by 2060. To boost its water security, Singapore is looking at desalination as a weather-proof source of water for its ever-growing population of 5.5 million.

Desalination is expected to meet up to 30 percent of Singapore's water demand by 2060. While the availability of desalination contributes immensely to Singapore's water resilience, it is an energy-intensive process requiring modern methods to boost efficiency and sustainability

# Volkswagen keeps Porsche IPO on table amid market volatility

WOLFSBURG

VOLKSWAGEN AG said it will continue to explore an initial public offering of the German manufacturer's Porsche sports car brand as markets are roiled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A listing could happen at the earliest in the fourth quarter, VW Chief Financial Officer Arno Antlitz said Friday. The plan comes on the heels of the fighting in Ukraine, which has sparked volatility across world markets and concerns of higher energy prices.

Europe's largest automaker and its majority shareholder Porsche Automobil Holding SE -- the billionaire Porsche and Piech family's main investment vehicle -- confirmed this week they're in advanced talks about selling shares in the company's most profitable division. The move would lift VW's valuation and help fund its shift toward electric cars.

An offering would grant Porsche "greater entrepreneurial freedom" and advance the group's bid to transform into a vertically-integrated mobility company, VW Chief Executive Officer Herbert Diess said during a call with reporters. "This marks an inflection point and the ideal timing for the potential transaction in order to ignite our EV shift momentum."

VW's preference shares rose as much as 4.5% in Frankfurt. The stock was up 3.1% as of 11:10 a.m. local time.

Estimated to value Porsche at as much as \$85 billion euros (\$95.2 billion) by Bloomberg Intelligence, the move would partly reverse a tumultuous takeover of the Stuttgart-based company more than a decade ago.

Going ahead will require walking a tightrope between key sharehold-



ers that own almost all of the group's voting stock and external investors under VW's complex governance structure.

The owner family, the German state of Lower Saxony and Qatar together control about 90% of voting rights.

The actual feasibility of an IPO depends on "several different parameters as well as general market conditions," VW said Thursday in a statement, adding that no final deci-

sion has been taken.

The Porsche offering could serve as a blueprint for an IPO of VW's battery business, a key element of the carmaker's EV push. VW is open to third-party investment in the division and won't rule out listing it, Antlitz said.

Listing Details  
VW provided more details of a possible Porsche offering late Thursday. The brand's share capital would be split 50% between preferred shares,

which don't carry voting rights, and 50% common shares with voting rights.

As much as 25% of the preferred shares could be sold on the capital market and Porsche Automobil Holding would acquire 25% plus one share of the ordinary shares. This would give the family a blocking minority on strategic decisions.

Volkswagen will propose the distribution of a special dividend in case of

a successful IPO amounting to 49% of the total gross proceeds. This would help the Porsche and Piech families to finance their acquisition of the direct stake in what used to be their family enterprise.

"The appeal of owning a direct stake in Porsche almost guarantees success," Jefferies analyst Philippe Houchois wrote in a note. The IPO's terms, still subject to approval, also "raise governance concerns."

# Tata in talks with aircraft makers over order for Air India

NEW DELHI

PLANEMAKERS Boeing Co and Airbus SE have met executives from India's Tata Group in recent weeks to discuss plane orders for Air India, two people familiar with the matter said.

Tata last month regained ownership of state-run carrier Air India after nearly 70 years in a \$24 billion equity-and-debt deal. While the airline has lucrative landing slots, the group faces an uphill task to upgrade Air India's aging fleet and turn around its financials and service levels.

Air India has a mixed fleet of over 140 Airbus and Boeing planes, and industry executives estimate it would cost Tata

more than \$1 billion to refurbish the aging aircraft.

Airbus declined to comment on discussions it says it "may or may not be having with potential customers". Boeing said it does not comment on conversations it might have with its customers.

Tata did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Bloomberg reported on Thursday that Tata had begun preliminary discussions with the planemakers and lessors for jets including Airbus A350-900s and Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, citing people familiar with the matter.

The airline, with its maharajah mascot, was once renowned for its

lavishly decorated planes and stellar service championed by founder JRD Tata. Air India was founded in 1932 and nationalised in 1953.

Since the mid-2000s, however, Air India's reputation has declined as financial troubles mounted. It flew widebody planes with business class seats in poor repair and grounded some of its new 787s to use for spare parts.

Tata, the autos-to-steel conglomerate, operates two other airlines: Vistara, in a joint venture with Singapore Airlines, and AirAsia India, which it operates in partnership with AirAsia Group. (Reporting by Aditi Shah, Additional reporting by Tim Hether, Jamie Freed.





# Coal miners fear for their jobs as world shifts to renewables

CANBERRA

**T**HOUSANDS of workers in fossil fuel-related jobs are worried about their future employment as governments start the transition to renewable energy.

This is particularly true for those working in the coal industry, as several countries aim to shut down their existing coal plants over the next decade, potentially leaving hundreds of thousands unemployed.

The latest in a long line of worldwide coal plant closures came this week as Australia announced it has plans to shut down its biggest coal factory in 2025, seven years ahead of schedule. Eraring station in New South Wales, operated by Origin Energy, said it plans to turn the power off on the 2,880MW black coal generator due to changing conditions.

The reality is the economics of coal-fired power stations are being put under increasing, unsustainable pressure by cleaner and

lower-cost generation, including solar, wind and batteries." Said CEO of Origin Energy, Frank Calabria.

Several other energy companies in Australia have stated plans to close their coal operations early over the last year. AGL is planning to close its Baywater generator in 2033 rather than 2035, and its brown coal-fired Loy Yang A plant in 2045 as opposed to 2048. EnergyAustralia has also brought forward its Yallourn power plant closure from 2032 to 2028.

This has led many Australian coal workers to fear for their employment prospects heading forward. There are around 400 workers at the Eraring plant that will lose their jobs and more in the supply chain that will be affected.

"Origin Energy has given the Australian Energy Market Operator (Aemo) notice that will allow it to shut the 2,880MW black coal generator from August 2025. The company said its decision reflected "the rapidly changing conditions in the national



Eraring Power Station at Lake Macquarie, which provides about a fifth of NSW's electricity, likely to shut down due to changes in the energy market, its owner said.

electricity market, which are increasingly not well suited to traditional baseload power stations".

Origin's chief executive, Frank Calabria, said the energy market was now "very different" from when Eraring began fully operating in 1984. The plant provides

about a fifth of NSW's electricity generation. "The reality is the economics of coal-fired power stations are being put under increasing, unsustainable pressure by cleaner and lower cost generation, including solar, wind and batteries," he said in a statement.

Matt Kean, the NSW treasurer

and energy minister, said he was disappointed by Origin's decision and acknowledged the closure would cause problems for the grid if not replaced. He promised the state would build what he described as the "biggest battery in the southern hemisphere" in response.

Called the "Waratah super battery", it would have a 700MW/1400 megawatt hour capacity, and would be initially funded through a new Transmission Acceleration Facility promised to "fast-track the delivery of critical transmission infrastructure". He said the state's electricity infrastructure roadmap, supporting a number of new renewable energy zones, would receive an additional \$84m funding and another \$47.5m would be spent on pumped hydro storage.

"I'm absolutely confident that [the battery] will be done in time in 2025 to put downward pressure on electricity prices and ... ensure that we can give the lights on," Kean said.

The federal energy and emissions reduction minister, Angus Taylor, said Origin's announcement was "bitterly disappointing for all energy users" who "rely on affordable, reliable energy to power" the plant's 400 workers and the Lake Macquarie community.

He said the "early and sudden closure" would leave a "consider-

able gap in reliable generation" and could cause a spike in electricity prices.

"The Morrison government has been consistent and clear. On-demand reliable power such as coal, gas and pumped-hydro is needed to balance the record levels of intermittent forms of energy such as wind and solar," Taylor said.

"Closure without like-for-like replacement puts affordability and reliability at risk. It is incumbent on energy companies to step up and deliver like-for-like replacement capacity. They owe this to their customers as providers of an essential service."

Aemo's chief executive, Daniel Westerman, said planned additional capacity, including new transmission and the battery announced by the NSW government, meant the state would have access to enough electricity generation to meet its energy security target when Eraring closed. "This announcement also reaffirms the need for timely development of transmission projects," he said.

# True costing of the green energy boom now being realised

WASHINGTON

GENERAC Power Systems is seeing increased sales of its home standby generators in overseas markets including geopolitical hotspots Russia and Ukraine even as the company boosts production to meet heavy demand in the United States.

In 2018, a pair of us on the MetalMiner team attended the Aluminum 2018 Dusseldorf. Although Dusseldorf felt like a charming Ohio blue collar town with good beer, one of us left the event with a deep cough (obviously pre-Covid). Oddly enough, the weather alert app kept displaying daily ozone levels in the "high" or "extremely high" range.

As a puzzled American, one of us appeared confused and the other, thankfully knowledgeable. The cough comes down to the type of energy now used in Germany, coal. MetalMiner's European colleague quickly explained that after the Japanese Fukushima nuclear disaster, Germany implemented a plan to shut down its entire nuclear operations no later than 2022.

In hindsight, that decision by Germany appears both foolish and ironic. Foolish because Germany has lost its negotiating power (pun intended) with Russia for which it relies. It's ironic because the country already had "clean energy" but now must turn back to dirty energy to avoid blackouts.

In the meantime, while the world watches the Russian invasion and also the impact of sanctions, (we'll venture a guess that they will have minimal impact), the MetalMiner analyst team discussed Europe's energy situation and the impact on various metals markets.

To us, this represents a sure sign that people know the grid appears unsustainable. The green narrative centers around climate

change as the root cause of more severe weather but the other factor relates to the unreliability of green energy and power companies have failed to make the investments in backup energy sources needed to support wind and solar. Green energy goes down far more often than either nuclear or coal plants.

From an alternative investment standpoint, the lack of energy independence, the lack of sunshine or wind at times will help spur other energy spin-off companies such as generator companies (by the way the home generator lead time for this editor stands at 5 months). Another spin-off will include diesel vehicles produced with mobile generators to charge cars after they run out of charges on highways.

Oil prices have no immediate cap. Prior to the invasion, rising demand already provided price support. By shutting down American production, the US gave up its control over the oil price. As a net exporter of oil, the US also supplied the world market. Thus the US had a role with both supply and demand. Second, any time oil prices surged, the US could enter the market with more supply and thus help control prices. Moreover, as the only non-OPEC producer, the US had some control over global oil prices.

Although oil prices make up some 30% of the CRB index, a rising oil price might not carry over to industrial metals. Nor does it apply to the price of individual exchange-traded metals (e.g. aluminum, copper, nickel etc).

The one-two combination of rising oil prices combined with steep inflation will likely depress demand for goods and services. Ordinarily, a rising oil price tends to signal rising demand and often, a healthy economy. Today, just the opposite may occur.



SATURDAY 26 Feb		SATURDAY 27 Feb		MONDAY 28 Feb		TUESDAY 1 March		WEDNESDAY 2 March		THURSDAY 3 March		FRIDAY 4 March		SATURDAY 5 March		SUNDAY 6 March					
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## WORLD

## Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai contributes to gender equality

HONG KONG

THE COVID-19 pandemic derailed some of the hard-won progress in women's advancement globally, but people could help contribute in their own way to help reverse the trend, a webinar heard on Feb 24.

"COVID-19 has taken us 20 years back with our progress. It's something we need to address quickly," said Nourah Gargash, manager of Women's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.

She noted that many frontliners working to combat COVID-19 are women, who also have "invisible work" such as taking care of the family at home. She encouraged people to "make change from where you are right now" and reflect on why women were being affected the most by the pandemic.

Gargash was one of the experts who spoke at the webinar, titled "Women Making an Impact in the Middle East To Create a Better World", was jointly organized by the United Arab Emirates Consulate in Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong Gender Studies Programme.

Expo 2020 Dubai kicked off in October last year and is running until March

after a year's delay due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Women's Pavilion was organized in partnership with Cartier, the French luxury conglomerate.

In his opening remarks at the webinar, Sheikh Saoud Almualla, the UAE acting consul general in Hong Kong, said the UAE has always been committed to empowering women, who are "the foundation of communities". He noted that the UAE has nine cabinet minister members who are women.

The acting consul general noted that the UAE ranked first regionally and 24th globally in the Women, Peace and Security Report 2021 released by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, a think tank in Washington.

"(In spite of) all these achievements, our work is not done, and the government cannot solve all the challenges alone. The collaboration of the private sector, civil society, and individuals are needed to give voices to the women and girls in the UAE and globally," Almualla said.

Another speaker, Lana Farouki, head of Women's Pavilion, Cartier MENA (Middle East and North Africa), said her company formed a partnership with the Expo because they shared a similar vi-



Gender equality experts and advocates at a Feb 24 webinar titled: "Women Making an Impact in the Middle East to Create a Better World". The event was jointly organized by the United Arab Emirates Consulate in Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong Gender Studies Programme. The speakers featured were Nourah Gargash, Manager of Women's Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai, and Lana Farouki, Head of Women's Pavilion, Cartier MENA while Sheikh Saoud Almualla, the UAE Acting Consul General in the HKSAR, gave his opening remarks. (SCREENSHOTS BY CHINA DAILY)

sion of empowering women.

"Our purpose as a brand is (that) the woman is at the center and core of what we do. Both from a business standpoint, from an inspirational standpoint and toward our commitments as well to women," said Farouki.

She said Cartier also realized the importance of the public sector and private sector working together.

"You speak to different people and show different opportunities from both ends of the subject. So, when a government supports women, and a private sector as well supports women, then you've reached the maximum of movement that you can as a country, but also our responsibility as a private sector and that is why we chose to collaborate," said Farouki.

Gargash said women are at the forefront of the Expo itself and "the Women's Pavilion is the prod-

uct of that". She also said the women's pavilion was not just for women, but men allies and the youth, too.

Almualla, the UAE acting consul general, said the Women's Pavilion was a powerful platform to promote gender equality and engage different stakeholders.

Attendees of the webinar were given a brief presentation of the Women's Pavilion, the first standalone pavilion dedicated to the gender in the World Expo's history. It had the theme "When women thrive, humanity thrives", to highlight and celebrate women's impact in different fields.

The webinar was moderated by Elizabeth LaCouture, director of HKU Gender Studies Programme and Daiana Mazaripova, a HKU Gender Studies Student.

Agencies

## Three ex-police officers guilty of violating George Floyd's rights

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



THREE former Minneapolis police officers were found guilty by a federal jury on Thursday of depriving George Floyd of his civil rights by failing to give aid to the handcuffed Black man pinned beneath a colleague's knee.

The jury also found that the conduct of officers Tou Thao, 36; J. Alexander Kueng, 28; and Thomas Lane, 38, during the arrest on May 25, 2020, caused Floyd's death, a finding that can affect the severity of their sentence.

It is a rare instance of police officers being held criminally responsible for a colleague's excessive force. All three men were convicted of denying Floyd's constitutional right to medical care while in police custody.

Thao and Kueng were also convicted on a charge of denying Floyd's right to not face excessive force by failing to stop their colleague Derek Chauvin from kneeling on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes. Chauvin was convicted last year in a state court of Floyd's murder.

Thao, Kueng and Lane will remain free on bail pending their sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. Prosecutors have not yet said what sentence they will request, but the men may face years in prison.

"This is just accountability," Philonise Floyd told reporters after the verdict was read. "It could never be justice because I can never get my brother back."

The verdict marked a second victory this week for prosecutors in the US Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, coming just two days after a jury in Georgia found three white men guilty of federal hate crimes in the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, a young Black man who was gunned down while running through a mostly white neighborhood.

"That's historic for our country, because oftentimes officers kill Black and brown men and women, and we get little to no consequences," said Brandon Williams, George Floyd's nephew. "A lot of times we don't even get charges, let alone convictions."

### Killing sparked protests

Federal prosecutors argued in the US District Court in St. Paul that the men knew from their training and from "basic human decency" that they had a duty to help Floyd as he begged for his life before falling limp beneath Chauvin's knee.

Floyd's killing sparked protests in cities around the world against police brutality and racism.

It also led lawmakers to propose such measures as restricting chokeholds, banning "no-knock warrants," and legislating to curtail the US Supreme Court doctrine known "qualified immunity" that limits lawsuits over police use of excessive force.

Those proposals were included in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act passed in the Democratic-controlled US House of Representatives last year. Philonise Floyd on Thursday again urged lawmakers to pass the measure that has stalled in the Senate, where Democrats are unlikely to get the necessary Republican votes.

Chauvin, who is white, was sentenced to 22-1/2 years in prison last year after a state murder trial. Although race was not part of the state or federal charges, Chauvin's conviction was seen as a landmark rebuke of the disproportionate use of police force against Black Americans. In December, Chauvin pleaded guilty to the federal charge of violating Floyd's rights.

Under Chauvin's plea agreement, federal prosecutors will seek a 25-year sentence, concurrent with his state prison sentence. His three former colleagues are also due to stand trial in Minneapolis in June on state charges of aiding and abetting Floyd's murder.

### Bystander video

Widely seen cellphone video Thao stood steps away from Floyd, rebuffing the demands by horrified onlookers that Chauvin get off Floyd's neck. Kueng and Lane were to Chauvin's right, pinning down Floyd's buttocks and legs.

All three testified in their own defense. Each acknowledged they knew they had a duty of care to people in their custody. But they and their lawyers told jurors they did not realize at the time that Floyd was in dire need of medical aid or that Chauvin's use of force was excessive.

Prosecutors repeatedly played videos showing Floyd's distress was plain to bystanders, including children and an off-duty firefighter, who shouted that Floyd was passing out and begging the police to check his pulse.

The three defendants all described deferring to the authority of Chauvin, the most senior officer at the scene with 19 years at the Minneapolis Police Department.

Kueng and Lane, who first handcuffed Floyd on suspicion of using a fake \$20 bill in a nearby store, also noted they were rookies only a few days out of training, which lasted more than a year. Thao had been on the force for eight years.

Agencies

## Egypt's accelerating economic growth indicates success of fighting COVID-19 - experts

CAIRO

THE accelerating pace of the economy in Egypt, which has exceeded the government's goal, is considered by economists as a successful outcome from the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and endeavor on restarting the economy.

In the first half of the fiscal year 2021-2022 (which lasted from July 2021 to December 2021), Egypt's Gross Domestic Production (GDP) increased 9 percent, the highest record since the beginning of 2000, compared to 1.3 percent in the same period the previous year, the government said in a statement last week.

The statement added that Egypt's economy will keep its momentum throughout the year, with an annual GDP growth rate between 6.2 to 6.5 percent. The fiscal year in Egypt begins in July.

"It proved the success of measures taken by Egypt to deal with the repercussions of the COVID-19," said Waleed Gaballah, professor of financial and economic jurisdictions at Cairo University.

The Egyptian government has taken several decisions regulating social distancing,

providing vaccines, and developing the health system, along with providing incentive packages to some impacted sectors, pumping large government investments, and expanding national projects in many fields.

Moreover, the rise in the Suez Canal revenues and remittances of Egyptian expats contributed to raising the growth average and supported Egypt's foreign currency reserve, Gaballah added.

In 2021, the Suez Canal hit record annual revenues in its history of 6.3 billion U.S. dollars, according to the chairman of the Canal Authority Osama Rabie.

Meanwhile, the remittances of Egyptians abroad during the first ten months of 2021 recorded nearly 26.4 billion dollars, with a 7.8 percent rise compared to the same period in 2020.

Creating job opportunities



Suez Canal

is the most important outcome of achieving a large growth rate, he added, noting that current unemployment rates hit 7.4 percent compared to 12 percent during the political turmoil. Gaballah added that reaching 9 percent

in the first half of 2022 is also driven by the tremendous momentum of successive structural reforms.

In 2021, the Egyptian government launched the "National Program for Structural Reforms,"

the second phase of the 2016 economic reform program, which aims to develop sectors of manufacturing, agriculture, communication and information technology.

Kareem Al-Omda, a professor of the economy with the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, said the Egyptian economy was "greatly shrunk in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19."

"Restoring the economic activities in the current fiscal year helped in rising the economic growth," he said. But the Egyptian economy has not fully recovered and needs several more years, Al-Omda said, adding that "nevertheless, Egypt was among the least countries that have been harmed by the pandemic."

## Iran urges West be realistic in nuclear talks, recalls negotiator

VIENNA

IRAN on Wednesday urged Western powers to be "realistic" in talks to revive a 2015 nuclear deal and said its top negotiator was returning to Tehran for consultations, suggesting a breakthrough in its discussions is not imminent.

After 10 months of talks in Vienna, progress has been made toward the restoration of the pact to curb Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, but both Tehran and Washington have cautioned that still there are some significant differences to overcome.

"Nuclear talks in Vienna are reaching a sensitive and important point," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-abbollahian told a news conference with his Omani counterpart in Tehran.

"We wonder whether the Western side can adopt a realistic approach

to go through the remaining points of the talks."

Reuters reported last week that a US-Iranian deal was taking shape in Vienna to revive the pact, abandoned in 2018 by then-US president Donald Trump, who also reimposed extensive sanctions on Iran.

A draft text of the agreement alluded only vaguely to other issues, diplomats said, adding that what was meant was unfreezing billions of dollars in Iranian funds in South Korean banks, and the release of Western prisoners held in Iran.

Diplomats from parties

involved in the negotiations have said they have entered a crucial stage, with a Russian envoy saying on Tuesday that the discussions are nearing a conclusion.

Sources close to the negotiations have said a prisoner swap between Iran and the United States was expected soon.

Agencies

## Digitalisation helps floral industry in Yunnan thrive

ZHANG Haibei, a flower farmer in Kaiyuan city, southwest China's Yunnan province, lately equipped his flower greenhouse with smart devices.

"These are not light bulbs, but intelligent sensors. Now my greenhouse is a digital greenhouse," said Zhang, holding one of the smart devices that look just like little lamps.

Since these intelligent sensors were installed in various corners of his greenhouse, he has been able to monitor in real time the temperature, humidity, soil fertility and other factors in the greenhouse through a mini programme on his mobile phone.

In May 2021, the national modern agricultural industrial park in Kaiyuan city put into operation a digital platform covering the entire flower industry chain, in a bid to help 10 flower growers who've been engaged in flower cultivation for a trial period, including Zhang, and 25 flower companies in the industrial park.

"The platform offers us precision planting formulas, which clearly specify how much water and light the flowers need. Thanks to the platform, the quality of my chrysanthemums has climbed from C-level to A-level, and my income has risen by over 40 percent,"

Zhang said.

"The platform is able to monitor the environment of greenhouse in real time and provide precision planting plans based on actual conditions. For flower companies engaged in large-scale production, the technology-enabled link can save nearly 400,000 yuan (\$63,236) in labor costs per year," said Chu Yuan, a technician at the industrial park.

The platform also provides flower farmers and companies with services concerning many other links of the flower industry chain, including research and development, sale, trans-

portation, and after-sales service, Chu added.

In recent years, Kaiyuan city has vigorously implemented a "digital village" pilot project to promote the application of digital technologies in rural areas, under which it has continuously enhanced the role of digital technologies in its flower industry, extending the employment of relevant technologies from precision planting to comprehensive services covering the entire industry chain.

In January 2021, the national modern agricultural industrial park in Kaiyuan city was recognized as one of the

third batch of national-level modern agricultural industrial park in China.

The application of digital technologies has made it possible to trace each link of the production and supply of every batch of flowers, including the source of seedlings and seeds, cultivation, management, post-harvest treatment, packaging, as well as storage and transportation, Chu pointed out.

The platform enables flower growers and companies to discover flawed flowers in time and locate related problems in the production and supply chains, thus prevent mold growth and enhancing product quality control, Chu added.

The platform also plays a part in after-sales service. Through a management system empowered by digital technologies, users of the platform are able to identify accurately and rectify the problems in production according to customers' complaints, which makes up for the inadequacies in production management in the past which relied entirely on manual work.

So far, industrial data collected from the industrial park over the past nearly five years has been uploaded onto the platform.

People's Daily





## Biden hits Russia with sanctions, puts more troops in Europe

WASHINGTON/LONDON

US President Joe Biden announced on Thursday additional sanctions against Russia and the deployment of more troops to Europe as conflicts in Ukraine continue to evolve.

Speaking from the East Room of the White House, Biden said the new measures will target major Russian banks, limit the country's "ability to do business in dollars, euros, pounds, and yen," and curtail Moscow's high-tech imports and its ability to upgrade the military.

The US president said he had authorized "deployment of ground and air forces stationed in Europe to the eastern flank," as well as "additional US force capabilities to deploy to Germany" as part of the response of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"Our forces are not and will not be engaged in the conflict with Russia in Ukraine, our forces are not going to Europe to fight in Ukraine but defend our NATO allies and reassure those allies in the east," he reiterated, adding that NATO will convene a summit "tomorrow."

A senior US defense official said in a statement on Thursday afternoon that the Pentagon had ordered the deployment to Europe of approximately 7,000 additional service members and that they are expected to "depart in the coming days."

The troops, the official added, will deploy to Germany to reassure NATO allies, "deter" Russia's military operations and be prepared to support a range of requirements in the region.

Biden also addressed concerns that oil prices may further go up as a result of US sanctions against Russia.

"We've been coordinating with major oil-producing and consuming countries toward our common interest to secure global energy supplies," he said. "The United States will release additional barrels of oil as conditions warrant."

The announcement was made hours after leaders of the Group of Seven countries met virtually to coordinate their responses to Russia's military actions in Ukraine.

Biden tweeted he and his G7 counterparts had agreed to move forward on what he called "devastating packages of sanctions and other economic measures" against Russia.

Earlier on Thursday, Biden convened a meeting of the National Security Council in the White House Situation Room to discuss the latest developments in Ukraine.

### \$600 weapon assistance

Meanwhile, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday that lawmakers on Capitol Hill want to provide Ukraine with "lethal defense weapons" worth \$600 million to help Kyiv defend itself against Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized "a special military operation" in Donbass on Thursday and Ukraine confirmed that military targets across the country were under attack.

In a televised speech, Putin said the "plans do not include the occupation of Ukrainian territories" and that Russia is "not going to impose anything on anyone by force."

Russia's move, he explained, is in response to "fundamental threats" of NATO which has expanded to eastern Europe and brought its military infrastructure closer to Russian borders.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday that the United States and NATO have broken their commitments, continuously expanded eastward, refused to implement the new Minsk agreement, and violated the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2202.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday that Kyiv decides to sever diplomatic relations with Moscow.

### Britain's new round of sanctions

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday announced a new round of "severe" sanctions against Russia, aimed at excluding Russian banks from the British financial system.

Speaking to Parliament, Johnson said his country is announcing "the largest and most severe package of economic sanctions that Russia has ever seen," including imposing a full asset freeze on Russian state-owned VTB Bank.

Furthermore, Britain will impose asset freezes on more than 100 new entities and individuals, ban Aeroflot Airline from Britain, and limit the amount of money that Russian nationals will be able to deposit in their British bank accounts.

The British government will also introduce legislation to prevent Russian companies from raising funds on British markets, and ban the export of "dual-use" equipment that can have military uses in the electronics, telecommunications and aerospace sectors, Johnson said.

On Tuesday, Britain had already announced its "first barrage" of sanctions against Russia as a response to the development of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These sanctions targeted five Russian banks and three very high net worth individuals.

# Explosions heard in Kyiv on 2nd day of Russian offensive

KYIV / WASHINGTON

TWO explosions were heard yesterday in the center of Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, as the Russian special military operation entered the second day, local media reported.

There was no air raid alert around the time of the blasts, which the local authorities have not yet confirmed, according to Interfax-Ukraine news agency.

Interior Ministry adviser Anton Gerashchenko wrote in a telegram that he had just heard two powerful explosions, which he later clarified as "attacks by our air defenses on enemy planes or drones," citing operative information.

Mayor Vitali Klitschko tweeted that three people were injured, one in critical condition, after missile debris hit a residential building.

He also posted a photo showing a building with part of its wall torn down and emergency services present at the scene.

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized "a special military operation" in Donbass, and Ukraine confirmed that military installations across the country were under attack.

Ukrainian airfields, command posts, naval bases and radar stations were among the facilities



A view of a damaged residential building at Koshytsa Street, a suburb of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, early yesterday. AFP

destroyed, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

### No-fly zone

The Federal Aviation Administration of the United States said on Thursday that it is extending its no-fly zone in Eastern Europe as conflicts in Ukraine are unfolding.

The FAA said in a statement that it issued Notices to Air Missions expanding the area in Eastern Europe and Russia where US airlines and US pilots cannot operate.

"The expanded NOTAMs now cover the entire country of Ukraine, the entire country of Belarus and a western portion of Russia," the statement read. NOTAM is a notice containing information

essential to personnel concerned with flight operations but not known far enough in advance to be publicized by other means.

### Denmark to accept refugees

As tension escalated, Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said on Thursday that the country will accept refugees fleeing from Ukraine.

Frederiksen also pledged humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and its neighbors.

"There will be internally displaced refugees. There will, of course, also be a lot of pressure on a country like Poland, but also on Moldova and other countries. And then the refugee flows can enter Europe, which Denmark will facilitate,"

Frederiksen explained.

However, she added that "it is far too early to put figures on how many refugees Denmark will take in." According to the Danish news agency Ritzau, immigration authorities have started preparations to take in Ukrainian refugees.

Meanwhile, as a NATO member state, Denmark will bolster its own national preparedness and the NATO defense alliance's readiness, Frederiksen said.

"Denmark is not threatened directly ... But (the crisis in Ukraine) will have an impact on our economy and our energy supply. We expect a lasting international crisis, potentially with large costs for the Danish society. We are living in uncertain times," she said.

According to Chief of Defense Flemming Løntfer, Denmark will be used as a "springboard" for Allied forces in the future.

"This may mean that additional Danish forces must be deployed outside the border," Løntfer said.

### Call For Dialogue

Abdulla Shahid, president of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on Thursday called for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine and peaceful means to settle disputes.

"I call for an immediate ceasefire, deescalation of tensions and a firm return to diplomacy and dialogue," said the UNGA president in a statement. Underscoring that the UN Charter is based on the principle of sovereign equality, Shahid called on all member states to settle their international disputes by peaceful means.

Agencies

## Wang: China understands Russia's security concerns

CHINA always respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and also understands Russia's reasonable security concerns, as a complicated and special history lies behind the Ukraine issue, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Thursday.

Talking with Lavrov over the phone, Wang said China calls for a complete renunciation of any Cold War mentality, as well as a security system for Europe that is balanced, effective and sustainable and achieved through talks and negotiations.

Lavrov said Russia was forced to take necessary measures as the United States and NATO went back on their promises of not expanding the organization eastward, refused to implement the Minsk II agreement and violated Resolution 2202 of the United Nations Security Council.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Thursday that Russia, an independent major country, decides and implements its diplomacy and strategies based on its own judgment and national interests.

She said that China-Russia ties are non-alliance, non-confrontation and do not target any third parties.

Hua made the remarks at a news conference after US State Department spokesman Ned Price said China should urge Russia to "back down" and "de-escalate" tensions with Ukraine, and added the growing China-Russia partnership is "concerning".

On the US suggestion that Moscow made the move because it had gained China's support, Hua said she believed the Russian side will be "very displeased to hear such a notion".

China-Russia ties are fundamentally



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

and essentially different from the "small groups" the US has been pursuing, based along ideological lines, to create confrontation and separation, Hua said.

"China is not interested in, and does not intend to imitate the 'enemy or friend' Cold War mentality or the practice of patching up so-called 'alliances' and 'small cliques'," she added.

Hua said the US is unqualified to tell China what to do about respecting state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

China has consistently and firmly safeguarded the UN Charter's tenets and principles, as well as the basic norms guiding international relations, Hua said.

However, in the 250 years since its foundation, the US has only refrained from waging military operations in other countries for less than 20 years, she said.

"Such a country surely has a different understanding of respecting state sovereignty and territorial integrity than we do," Hua said. "The international community knows this clearly."

When asked whether China has provided or plans to provide any weapons to Russia, Hua said China does not take the initiative to provide weapons to others facing the risk of conflict, "unlike when the US provided a large amount of military equipment to Ukraine".

Xinhua

## Ukraine ended up defending itself on its own – Zelensky

KYIV UKRAINIAN President Vladimir Zelensky said his country ended up defending itself on its own.

"We ended up defending our country alone. Who is ready to fight alongside us? I don't see anyone," he said in a video address to the nation, posted on his Telegram channel yesterday night.

In his words, no one was ready to guarantee that Ukraine would eventually become a NATO member.

"Everyone is afraid, everyone is silent," he said. "They replied that <-> they are with us, but are not ready to make us members of the alliance."

At the same time, the Ukrainian



leader thanked partners for support.

"I'm thankful to every country, which is helping Ukraine by deeds, not just by words," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address on Thurs-

day morning that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics he had made a decision to carry out a special military operation in order to protect people "who have been suffering from abuse and genocide by the Kiev regime for eight years."

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories.

The Russian Defense Ministry reassured that Russian troops are not targeting Ukrainian cities, but are limited to surgically striking and incapacitating Ukrainian military infrastructure. There are no threats whatsoever to the civilian population. Agencies

## Development of Russia-Ukraine conflict

### KYIV

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Thursday authorized "a special military operation" in Donbass, and Ukraine confirmed that military installations across the country were under attack.

The international community has expressed deep concerns over the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Here is a timeline of some major events related to the current crisis:

### Feb. 24, 2022

Putin on Thursday authorized "a special military operation" in Donbass. "Our plans do not include the occupation of Ukrainian territories."

### Feb. 21, 2022

The Russian Security Council held an extraordinary meeting, when the country's top officials supported the recognition of Lugansk and Donetsk. Putin signed two decrees recognizing Lugansk and Donetsk as independent and sovereign states. At a ceremony held in the Kremlin, Putin also inked the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Russia and Lugansk and Donetsk respectively.

### Feb. 18, 2022

An explosion occurred close to "DPR government building." Local armed groups in eastern Ukraine ordered the evacuation of civilians to Russia, citing the danger of a possible military offensive.

### Feb. 17, 2022

The Ukrainian military claimed that local armed groups in eastern Ukraine launched shelling on the area controlled by government forces. Local armed groups in eastern Ukraine accused the Ukrainian government forces of first using heavy weapons to attack areas under their control. Tensions in eastern Ukraine continued to escalate.

### Feb. 2, 2022

The United States decided to deploy additional troops to Europe, including 1,000 troops to be repositioned to Romania and another 2,000 troops to be sent from the United States to Germany and Poland, in preparation for what it claimed to be an "imminent" Russian invasion of Ukraine.

### Jan. 26, 2022

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that the United States has delivered a written letter to Russia addressing Moscow's concerns amid escalating tensions on Ukraine's border.

### Jan. 22, 2022

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry

said the first shipment of military aid from the United States arrived in Kiev.

### Jan. 10-13, 2022

-- The latest round of talks aimed at defusing tensions between Russia and the West within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe ended without a breakthrough as both sides warned of potential escalation.

### Dec. 10, 2021

The Russian Foreign Ministry demanded "legal guarantees" that NATO wouldn't expand eastward.

### Feb. 7, 2019

The Ukrainian parliament passed a constitutional amendment stating Ukraine's commitment to joining NATO.

### Feb. 12, 2015

The leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France announced a peace deal in the Belarusian capital of Minsk, which envisaged a ceasefire between Ukrainian government troops and local armed groups in eastern Ukraine.

### Dec. 23, 2014

The Ukrainian parliament renounced Ukraine's "non-aligned" status with the aim of deepening cooperation with NATO.

### Sept. 5, 2014

Then Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and local armed groups in eastern Ukraine signed a ceasefire protocol in Minsk, where envoys from the two warring sides as well as Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held talks for a possible political solution to the crisis.

### April 2014

Unrest erupted in eastern Ukraine, where protesters seized government buildings, demanding a referendum on autonomy and closer ties with Russia.

### February 2014

Amid rising protests, Ukraine's parliament voted to dismiss then President Viktor Yanukovich and set early elections.

### November 2013

The Ukrainian government suspended the signing of partnership agreements with the European Union to avoid straining ties with Russia, triggering widespread protests, which soon snowballed into a violent nationwide movement against the authorities.





Tanzanian athlete, Failuna Abdi, will represent the country in the 2022 Commonwealth Games slated for July 28-August 8 in Birmingham.

## Athletes start preparations for 2022 Commonwealth Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FIFTEEN athletes entered the camp in Kilimanjaro yesterday to prepare for the 2022 Commonwealth Games which are slated for July 28 to August 8 in Birmingham, England.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer Rogath Stephen said the athletes will camp at Forest Industries Training Institute (FITI).

The AT information officer said the country will be represented by nine athletes, six males, and three females, but the association selected 15 athletes so that the coaches can have enough pool to select the final squad.

He mentioned the athletes as Andrew Rhobi, Alphonse Simbu, Gabriel Geay, Failuna Abdi, Jackline Sakilu, Faraja Lazaro, Fabian Nelson, Josephat Gisemo, and Joseph Panga.

Others are Simon Merandya, Mohamed Charles, Ally Gulam, Winfrida Makenji, Marcelina Mbuu, and Natalia Elisante.

He said the athletes will be coached by Suleiman Nyambui who will be assisted by Kassim Saleh and Anthony Mwingereza.

Stephen said AT settled for Nyambui

due to his experience in athletics, taking charge of the Brunei National athletics team and he is also a former AT secretary-general.

Luiza John is the squad's team manager, assisted by Oswald Reverian.

Stephen stated: "We have unveiled the national athletics team which entered camp on Friday in Kilimanjaro."

"We decided to enter camp early so that the coaches and athletes can have enough time to prepare for the Games."

"We want to send a team that can compete and not just makes numbers, we want medals at this year's Games," he said.

He said the camp is an initiative of AT as the association is waiting for a government-sponsored camp.

Tanzania will be represented by athletes from sports disciplines namely athletics, boxing, judo, swimming, and Para sports in Commonwealth Games.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Birmingham 2022, will see

5054 athletes from 72 Commonwealth nations participate in 283 events from 20 sports codes under the theme 'Games for All' in Birmingham.



Umy Wenceslaus

## Artist to host Samia Marathon

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FORMER actress and comedian, Umy Wenceslaus, has said she is looking for 55m/- from sponsors to organize a race known as 'Samia Marathon'.

Umy, popularly known as 'Dokii', disclosed in Dar es Salaam yesterday the event seeks to show the community that a woman has what it takes to be President.

"It is an idea I have come up with, I am looking for sponsors, and if possible, I ask to be allowed to meet President Samia."

"I will explain my intention to her and see how she can help me to fulfil it," the artist disclosed.

The artist said she intends to see to it the Samia Marathon solely involving female runners, and if she gets the money, the race will start in Dar es Salaam and will later take place in other regions ac-

ording to the schedule.

"I wish to leave a mark that I contributed to society via recognizing the contribution of women in the development of this country, President Samia has honoured women," she said.

She said as she continues to look for sponsors, her biggest dream is to meet the President to discuss in detail her goal to continue recognizing a woman's contribution to development.

The artist said she is lately focusing on getting sponsors to achieve the goal of organizing the Samia Marathon.

"The mentioned amount is sufficient, I believe more sponsors will come forward to back the race," the artist stated.

Umy is one of the artists who rose to prominence for her role in a Television series, she was portrayed as a woman with a Kenyan accent, which led some to believe that she is not Tanzanian.

## 2022's Kilimanjaro Marathon organizers announce roads to be closed on Sunday

By Guardian Correspondent

CERTAIN roads within Moshi town will tomorrow be closed to enable the safe operation of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, which is marking its 20th Anniversary.

A statement issued by Kilimanjaro Marathon organizers in Moshi yesterday stated that this is necessary for the safety of the runners as they will be running along the highway therefore motorists should find alternative routes during the closures to avoid inconveniences.

The statement said from Arusha, the vehicles will be stopped between the Arusha roundabout and YMCA for a short period to allow runners to cross the road.

This will also affect motorists from Dar es Salaam, Marangu, and Himo but runners should be off these roads by 0900.

From Machame to Sokoine Road, the road will be closed at Shanty Town Road at 0600 detours onto Lema Road, and from Rau to Moshi, the road will be closed for the 5km Fun Run from 0700- 0900.

"The road between Mso-

ka to Mweka will also be closed between 0700 to 0900," the statement read in part.

The organizers also announced two parking areas for the runners which include the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) East which can be accessed via Uru Road into the MoCU ground and also at the Moshi Police College grounds which can be accessed from Kilimanjaro Road into the CCP grounds.

"Most of these areas have lots of space and are close to the finish," the organizers added, as they

cautioned runners to be careful when crossing roads.

For those using minibuses/taxis drop off will be at either the two parking areas or at the roadsides.

"There will be no access to MoCU from Sokoine Road from 0600 so those coming from that side will have to drop at the corner between Sokoine and Kilimanjaro Road."

Sponsors for this year's 20th Anniversary event include the main sponsor, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, Tigo- 21km race, and Grand Malt- 5km Fun Run. Water table sponsors

include Absa Tanzania, Unilever Tanzania, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, and Kilimanjaro Water.

Official suppliers for the event include GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel, Surveyed Plots Company Ltd, Tanzanian Tourism Board, and CMC Automobiles.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon will be held on Sunday at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) venue.

It is organized by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.



Tanzanian boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo (L), takes on Namibian Julius Indongo in last year's African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Welterweight title fight which took place in Dar es Salaam.

## Mwakinyo improves spot in world boxing ranking

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DESPITE being out of action for more than five months, Tanzanian professional boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo, has moved up the world rankings.

According to the world ranking recently released by boxrec, a network that keeps records of professional boxers from all over the world, Mwakinyo, fighting in the Super-Welterweight division, has climbed one place from 15th to 14th among 1,778 boxers in the division.

The Tanga-based pugilist is leading the Super Welterweight division in Africa.

According to Boxrec, Mwakinyo is the only African boxer to enter

the top 15.

The Super Welterweight division is led by Jermell Charlo of the United States, followed by Brian Carlos Castano of Argentina and Tim Tszyu of Australia.

Mwakinyo has not appeared in the ring since beating Namibian Julius Indongo with a fourth-round Technical Knock Out (TKO) in an African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Welterweight title fight in Dar es Salaam on September 3 last year.

The situation has seen Mwakinyo drop from 10th place to 15th before climbing back to 10th position this week.

In an interview held recently, the boxer said his drop did not hurt him.

"If I had dropped because of

losing a fight it would have hurt me a lot, but I dropped due to the results of other active boxers in the world, I believe I will rise twice when I start fighting again," Mwakinyo stated.

Shortly before rising to the same position, Mwakinyo said he was not satisfied with his position as his goal is to rise to the first spot in the world.

The pugilist noted if he does not get a chance to take part in a fight and win soon there is a possibility that the boxer will drop due to the points that three boxers below him will gain if they will win their fights.

The boxers are United States pugilists, Austin Trout and Jesus Alejandro Ramos with 20.39 points and 19.75 points respectively, and

Dennis Hogan of Australia with 19.80 points.

However last month the World Boxing Federation (WBF) stripped Mwakinyo of his WBF title due to technical reasons.

The decision means Tanzania now has no WBF titleholder as was the case in the past.

The country had various WBF champions including Francis Cheka, who won the title after commanding a TKO win over Phil Williams of the US.

Mwakinyo won the WBF Intercontinental Super Welterweight title on August 14, 2020, after outpointing Congolese boxer Bebe Rico Tshibangu at the Mlimani City Hall in Dar es Salaam.

## Booker has 25 points, Suns beat Thunder for 8th straight win

OKLAHOMA CITY

DEVIN Booker had 25 points, 12 assists and a career-high six steals to help the NBA-leading Phoenix Suns beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 124-104 on Thursday night.

Booker played point guard with All-Star Chris Paul out with a fractured right thumb. Booker finished with a season-high assist total and helped

the Suns win their eighth straight game.

"I thought Devin managed the game well," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

Oklahoma City collapsed on big man Deandre Ayton, limiting him to six points on five shots. Cameron Johnson and Mikal Bridges each scored 21 points for the Suns, who have won 19 of 20 to improve to 49-10.

The Suns will try to turn Paul's absence into a

growing experience.

"I feel like we can only get better from this," Suns forward Jae Crowder said. "Obviously, we've put ourselves in position to have a cushion. But at the same time, we're playing purposeful basketball each and every night."

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led Oklahoma City with 32 points in his return after missing 10 games because

of a sprained right ankle. Rookie guard Josh Giddey, who had 15 points, nine rebounds and six assists, said he was glad to see Gilgeous-Alexander back.

"Love playing with him," Giddey said. "I think that chemistry is getting better and better over time. I think in a few years, we're going to be one of the best backcourts in the league. So growing with him is something I'm loving

doing." Phoenix led 31-14 at the end of the first quarter, outscoring Oklahoma City 14-0 in fast-break points behind nine steals.

The Thunder rallied in the second behind Gilgeous-Alexander's nine points in the period. Crowder's layup at the buzzer gave the Suns a 48-45 halftime lead. Gilgeous-Alexander scored 15 points before the break.



## Pique: Napoli win shows Barca returning to 'origins'

NAPLES

GERARD Pique says Barcelona's emphatic 4-2 Europa League win over Napoli on Thursday, which saw them book their place in the round of 16, sent a message that the Catalan club are on their way back to the top.

Barca have struggled in Europe in recent years, winning just two of their last 11 knockout games away from Camp Nou. This season, they failed to make it out of their Champions League group, scoring just twice in six games as they dropped into the Europa League.

However, Pique, who was on target at the Diego Armando Maradona stadium, is optimistic that Barca's presence in Europe's second-tier competition will only be fleeting.

"We have not been competing in Europe at the level a club like Barca should be," he told reporters. "[But now] we have gone back to our origins, something we maybe had stopped doing recently. It's a message for everyone, for us and for people on the outside, that little by little we're on our way back. We're on the right path."

Pique, who added that "everyone must take their share of the blame" for Barca's slump, says a combination of factors have helped the team turn a corner since September's 3-0 defeat at home to Bayern Munich.

"A lot has changed since then," he explained. "I would say we now have the fundamentals in place. There is a base from which the team feels confident and comfortable."

"We also strengthened well in January, adding firepower in attack. We know we can score and compete now. There's been a change on the bench as well with [Xavi coming in]. There have been a lot of changes and that's reflected in the team."

Jordi Alba and Frenkie de Jong goals helped Barca into a 2-0 lead inside 13 minutes in Naples before Lorenzo Insigne pulled one back from the penalty spot for the Serie A side.

Pique restored Barca's two-goal advantage before the break and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's fourth goal since joining from Arsenal made it 4-1. Matteo Politano added a late consolation for Napoli as Barca progressed 5-3 on aggregate following a 1-1 draw at Camp Nou last week.

(Agencies)

## Brazil players in Ukraine appeal for help to leave

KIEV

SHAKHTAR Donetsk's Brazilian players have appealed for help following Russia's attack on Ukraine on Thursday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced martial law across the country Thursday, and the nation's top-tier soccer league has been postponed as Russian forces launch a military assault.

Thirteen Brazilian players from Shakhtar Donetsk and Dynamo Kyiv striker Vitinho have sought refuge with their families in a hotel in the country's capital, Kyiv.

"Here we are all gathered, Dynamo and Shakhtar players, with our families, staying here at the hotel because of the situation," Shakhtar defender Marlon Santos said in a video that shows the players with their families.

"We are here asking for your help, due to the lack of conditions in the city, closed borders, closed airspace. There's no way we can get out. We ask a lot of support from the government of Brazil, which can help us."

One of the wives of the players added, "We women are with our children and feeling a little abandoned. We don't know what to do, nothing [information] comes to us. We make an appeal to you, even for the sake of the children. Each one left the house running to come to the hotel."

There are 35 Brazilian soccer players competing in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Shakhtar boss Roberto De Zerbi told Sportitalia: "I am staying in my room. Today is not a good day. I have been waiting for the federation to suspend the season until this happened."

"However, I didn't move. I am here to do sport and I could not turn my back on the fans. There are 13 Brazilian players here and my staff. We could have returned home, but we preferred to wait. Last night we woke up to the noise of explosions."

Former Shakhtar boss Paulo Fonseca, who is trapped in Kyiv with his wife and son, told Jornal de Noticias: "I woke up at five in the morning with five explosions in a row. I had a flight scheduled for today, but now it is impossible to leave here, not least because the airports are already destroyed and the airspace has been closed."

"This is the worst day of my life. Now it's time to wait and be lucky. And pray that a bomb doesn't fall on us."

Russian troops launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, as President Vladimir Putin cast aside international condemnation and sanctions and warned other countries that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen."

(Agencies)

## Conte and Bielsa's futures on the line, Eriksen set for Brentford bow

LONDON

TOTTENHAM end a rollercoaster week with a visit to Leeds today that could seal the fate of either manager with Spurs boss Antonio Conte hinting he could quit after just four months in the job.

Spurs had seemingly revitalised their bid for a top-four finish and a return to the Champions League with a stunning 95th minute goal from Harry Kane to beat leaders Manchester City 3-2 last weekend.

But they followed up that success by losing 1-0 at Burnley - their fourth defeat in five league games.

"The situation is unacceptable. To lose four games in five for Tottenham has to be a disaster," said Conte, whose side sit eighth in the table. "It's right to make an assessment with the club."

"The situation is going down and I think our fans don't deserve this situation. I'm too honest to close my eyes and continue in this way."

"If the problem is the coach, I'm ready to go to help the club. I don't want money, I'm too honest. We have to do something because if we



Antonio Conte

continue in this way the situation is not going to improve."

Spurs' latest failure was just as much of a blow to Leeds in their battle to beat the drop.

Burnley's second consecutive win, while Leeds were being hammered 6-0 by Liverpool on Wednesday, closed the gap between Marcelo Bielsa's men and the bottom three

to just three points.

"We are fighting relegation," said Bielsa. "Of course it worries me, how is it not going to?"

Leeds have conceded a league-high 56 goals in 25 games.

Bielsa has been feted with God-like status in Yorkshire for ending Leeds' 16-year exile from the top flight.

But there is increasing evidence that his fourth season may be his last at Elland Road and that a change of manager may even be needed to stem the slump towards the relegation zone.

Eriksen returns for Brentford rescue -

Brentford have also been dragged into the relegation battle by a seven-game winless run in which they have picked up just one point.

But the Bees could have the boost of calling on Christian Eriksen for Saturday's vital clash with Newcastle as the Dane nears his return.

Eriksen has not played a competitive match since suffering a cardiac arrest at Euro 2020 in June.

The 30-year-old, who joined the London club as a free agent in January following his release from Inter Milan, has stepped up his fitness by playing in behind closed doors friendlies in recent weeks.

"He's in a good place so we aim for Newcastle," said Brentford boss Thomas Frank.

Eriksen's emotional comeback adds extra intrigue to a game of big significance at the bottom.

A six-game unbeaten run has taken Newcastle out of the bottom three as they have been boosted by the first signings made by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund in January.

However, they are just two points ahead of Burnley in 18th having played a game more.

Brentford have a four-point cushion over the bottom three, but have played three games more than Burnley.

Klopp not expecting Everton favour -

Everton are also mired in the relegation dog fight and have the toughest task of all this weekend when they face City fresh from

their first league defeat since October.

The champions' lead at the top of the table has been cut to three points by Liverpool, who also edged ahead of Pep Guardiola's men on goal difference with their thrashing of Leeds.

Liverpool are in League Cup final action this weekend as they face Chelsea at Wembley, handing City the chance to extend their advantage to six points once more at Goodison Park.

"City play, I don't know quite who, but they will probably win this game then it is six points again before we play the next league game," said Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, who does not hold out much hope for a favour from his Merseyside rivals.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today  
Leeds v Tottenham (1230), Manchester United v Watford, Brentford v Newcastle, Brighton v Aston Villa, Crystal Palace v Burnley (all 1500), Everton v Manchester City (1730)

Tomorrow  
West Ham v Wolves (1400)

## Arsenal's win over Wolves thrilling thanks to a worrying lack of options

LONDON

IF Arsenal needed any clarity on the high-wire act they have signed themselves up for on the run-in, Thursday's dramatic 2-1 win over Wolves was it.

Around the same time as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang added another goal to his burgeoning tally for Barcelona at Napoli, the Gunners turned to contract rebel Eddie Nketiah to rescue something from a game that was drifting away from them.

Nicolas Pepe, the club's largely disappointing £72 million record-signing, had already been thrown on five minutes earlier. With Gabriel Martinelli subdued and eventually substituted, and Emile Smith Rowe absent through illness, manager Mikel Arteta had nothing left on the bench. This was it.

And just as it appeared a glorious chance to close in on a top-four place was slipping from the grasp courtesy of Hwang Hee-Chan's 10th-minute goal, the two substitutes combined to find a way back. Martin Ødegaard produced a sumptuous pass for Nketiah, who aligned his clever run with a smart cut-back, which Pepe turned on smartly to fire past Wolves goalkeeper Jose Sa.

Then in the fifth minute of added time, Pepe, Ødegaard and Alexandre Lacazette combined to create a chance for the latter to shoot at goal, an effort which Sa could only divert into his own net.

Arsenal's decision to allow Aubameyang to leave the club in January without signing a replacement was decision based on a belief it would have been reckless to commit significant funds midseason on options which were not on their shortlist. The gamble of waiting until the summer is eminently sensible in the cold light of day, but under the lights at an exasperated Emirates Stadium it rarely feels more of a risky gamble.

Lacazette spent much of the preceding 95 minutes acting as a more effective cheerleader than a centre-forward, regularly geeing up the crowd during breaks in play as the home side tried



Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette, left, celebrates after scoring his side's 2nd goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Emirates Stadium, London, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. (AP Photo)

to free themselves from a problem of their own making, Gabriel failing to find goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale with an innocuous back pass, allowing Hwang a chance to score.

As is the case with Nketiah, Lacazette's contract expires in the summer and, as things stand, both will leave on free transfers but neither can be faulted for their commitment as they look to fill the void left by Aubameyang.

"They are trying their best and I trust them, we trust them," Arteta said. "They have different qualities. They can play together and they showed me every day that they want to contribute and get what we want so they are doing it."

If anything, Lacazette appears to be relishing the responsibility of stepping into the captaincy role following Aubameyang's departure.

"When I see our striker in the 85th minute chasing a full-back in the corner flag, winning the ball back, playing, going, fighting, missing one chance, missing two

chances, going again, what can I do? I can only praise him as much as possible and give him support," Arteta said of Lacazette.

Doubts will remain about their potency, however. The last time an Arsenal player scored a league goal from open play operating in the centre-forward position was Lacazette against Southampton on

Dec. 11, the day Aubameyang was dropped for a breach of team discipline, never to return. Lacazette thought he had broken that run with the winning goal but replays showed his effort was off target before Sa's inadvertent intervention redirected it.

Martinelli has contributed to the cause from a wide left position while Smith

Rowe, Ødegaard and Bukayo Saka's persistent triple threat underlines that Arteta is building a team not solely reliant on serving a No. 9 to score the vast majority of their goals. But future challenges will be all the more difficult for Arsenal if they lack a centre-forward taking chances. Lacazette still has three league goals to his name. Nketiah

has none. However, for now, Arteta was right to laud the spirit and endeavour of his players to secure a result that delivers a measure of schadenfreude after Wolves criticised the way Arsenal celebrated their win in the reverse fixture a fortnight ago. But, more importantly, it moves them three points behind fourth-placed Manchester United with two games in hand. And to underline this particular achievement, it was the first time in 46 matches that Wolves lost a Premier League game in which they had scored first.

"I said to them at half-time: 'If you want to be at the top at the end of May, we are going to have to overturn results maybe two, three or four times.' Today was an opportunity," Arteta said. "I'm especially happy when a player individually makes an error that costs a goal, then the team can put that aside, win the match and everybody is talking about it."

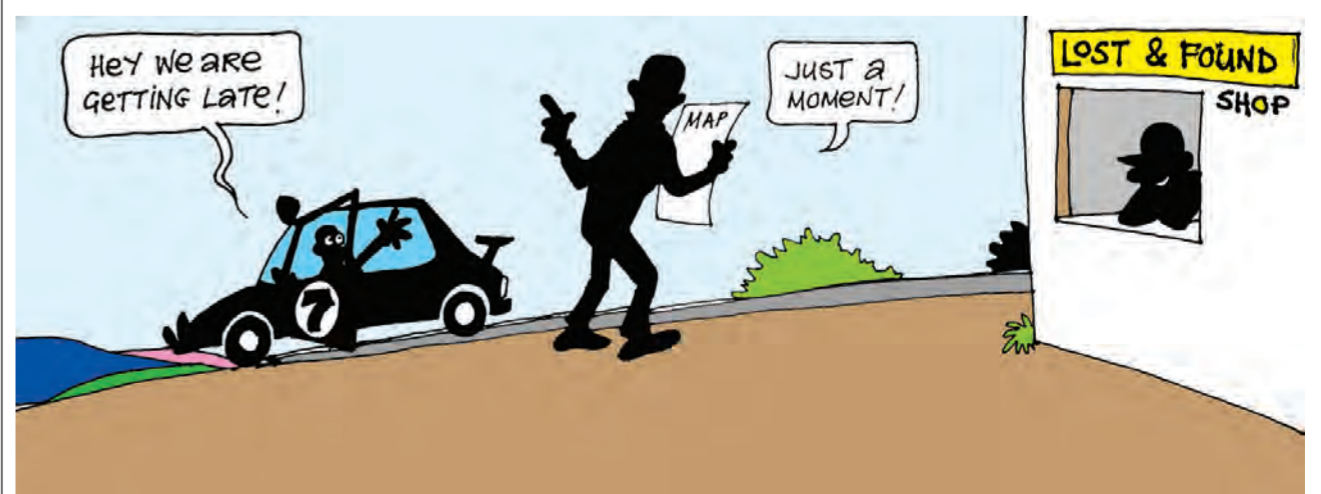
"I encourage them to celebrate this victory because you can tell how difficult it is in this game to win football matches -- and our supporters the same, they should celebrate."

As a delirious Emirates Stadium began to empty out at fulltime, one Arsenal fan shouted, "It doesn't get much better than that!"

It doesn't get much closer than that, either. Chances are, they'd better get used to it.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Conte and Bielsa's futures on the line, Eriksen set for Brentford bow

PAGE 19

## Simba SC keeper sets impressive record in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup



Aishi Manula

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**T**ANZANIA'S Simba SC first-choice goalkeeper, Aishi Manula, has set an impressive record in the two group matches of the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup.

Manula, as a result, stands to give Simba SC confidence in the upcoming match against RS Berkane to be played in Morocco tomorrow.

Despite the presence of big-name goalkeepers playing for the most popular team and leagues in the continental tournament, Manula has so far been the top performer in the two rounds.

According to statistics, Manula had, in the two matches he played for Simba SC against ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast and US Gendarmerie of Niger,

led by making an average of five saves per game.

In the two matches, Manula has saved 11 shots, ahead of RS Berkane goalkeeper, Hamza Hamian Akbi, that has an average of five saves per game.

Tunisia's CS Sfaxien goal-

keeper, Aymen Dahmen, who has made a total of six saves with an average of saving three shots per match, is placed third.

Simba SC's match against US Gendarmerie Nationale, which took place in Niger last

Sunday and ended in 1-1 draw, had Manula putting solid displays.

The keeper saved a total of eight shots and helped his team to settle for one point while saving three more shots in the match against ASEC Mi-

mosas.

He not only made a lot of saves in the tie against US Gendarmerie but also took third place in the list of keepers who executed the most passes.

The keeper executed a total of 21 passes that reached the target accurately out of the 29 passes he directed to his teammates, equal to 72%.

In terms of quality for individual players in the second round of the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage, Manula ranks third in the list of best goalkeepers with a score of 6.8 under 10.

The shot-stopper trails Al Masry goalkeeper Ahmed Masoud with 7.8, while Pyramids FC goalkeeper Sherif Ekramy, who scored 7.3, is placed second.

The success that Manula has enjoyed in CAF Confederation Cup is a continuation of his improving performance in recent years at home and continental tiers.

The goalkeeper is so far leading in keeping clean sheets in most domestic games in the last five seasons, in which the goalie won the best goalkeeper award in four of the five seasons.

Manula, who joined Simba SC in 2017, has won four Premier League titles, two Azam Sports Federation Cup trophies, three Community Shield trophies, and one Mapinduzi Cup trophy.

The keeper moreover twice reached the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League.

## Pak Stars cricketers hold sway in 2022 SiSi Cup 50-Over League

By Guardian Reporter

PAK Stars Cricket Club has maintained winning ways in this year's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) SiSi Cup Division A 50-Over League, notching an eight-wicket victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue early this week.

It was a commanding display shown by the match's eventual winners as they comfortably got down to the successful chase of their opponents' score.

The SKLPSC cricketers were skittled for 107 runs in 28.2 overs of the 50-over duel, with Naran Vekariya ending as the only cricketer that chipped in with a meaningful contribution.

The captain, deployed as one of the top-order batsmen, ended three runs short of a half-century, clearing the boundary on three occasions.

The club faced a setback in the early stages, as Vipul Pindoria and Dinesh Rabadiya that had opened the innings were dismissed in quick succession.

Vipul posted five runs, his fellow opener was sent back for naught, leaving their squad with 18 runs after 5.2 overs.

Athumani Siwa, placed at number three, to a great extent, pushed the score, posting 17 runs that consisted of two fours.

The SKLPSC suffered batting collapse after Vekariya's dismissal, given the middle and low-order batsmen could not withstand Pak Stars Cricket Club.

The SKLPSC's experienced



Pak Stars Cricket Club's players pose with a trophy once the squad emerged champion of the 2021 50-Over Plate Cup tournament, beating Upanga Sports Club in the final which took place in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR ES SALAAM CRICKET

batsman, Hassan Rahim, chipped in with eight runs in his short stint, ending with one four.

Experienced player, Nisar Ahmed, was Pak Stars' cricketer with impressive bowling performance, as the performer took three wickets, leaving 26 runs in 6.2 overs.

The bowler was ably assisted by Rana Waqas that notched two wickets leaving 14 runs in

five overs.

Pak Stars later confidently mounted the chase, amassing 109 runs dropping two wickets in 13.1 overs.

Openers, Ivan Ismail and Ahmed, put solid shots to show and propelled Pak Stars to success, recording unbeaten 45 runs and 42 runs respectively.

Maqsood Alam chipped in with a two-digit figure, recording 12 runs, Sheraz Khan

ended with unbeaten five runs.

Pak Stars cricketers, as well, posted a 155-run drubbing of Caravans Cricket Club in their second tie, which took place at the University of Dar es Salaam ground on February 13.

Pak Stars had earlier won against the tournament's defending champions, Aga Khan Sports Club, by seven runs in a tightly contested affair held at Leaders Club venue.

SiSi Group of Companies is the tournament's title sponsor, Revive Physiotherapy Clinic, Airah's Galore, and Shack Dar are the showpiece's co-sponsors.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC), Caravans Cricket Club, Upanga Sports Club, Pak Stars Cricket Club, and Aga Khan Sports Club are battling it out in the showpiece.

**EATV**  
**MONDAY**  
11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurosa  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**UJENZI**

Tonight on EATV  
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

**eastafrika RADIO**  
06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM



Taliss-IST Swimming Club's Nathan Kagoro competes in a past event that took place in Dar es Salaam.

## All set for Taliss-IST Swimming Championship

By Guardian Correspondent

THE anxiously-awaited Taliss-IST Swimming Championship takes place at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki in Dar es Salaam today.

The event will feature 165 swimmers from 10 clubs from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. The event will end tomorrow.

Taliss-IST Swimming Club's Manager, Hadija Shebe, mentioned the clubs as Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC), Bluefins Club, Arusha Swim Club, FK Blue Marlins, and Morogoro International School (MIS) 'Piranhas'.

Also on the list are Mwanza Swimming Club, Wahoo Club from Zanzibar, Moshi Swimming Club, Champion Rise Club, and hosts, Taliss-IST Swimming Club.

Hadija said the swimmers will start competing from 8 am whereby five swimming styles would feature in the showdown.

The swimming styles are Butterfly, Individual Medley, Freestyle, Backstroke, and Breaststroke.

The swimmers will also compete in both relay and mixed relay aiming to spice the competition which is made up of 105 disciplines.

She said preparations for the showdown are complete and they expect to have a thrilling event that is one of the premium swimming galas that all the clubs look to feature in.

Hadija said all swimmers are currently honing their skills ahead of the event that is backed by Jubilee Insurance, Azam, Pepsi, Auric Air, Dolphin Tours and Safari Ltd, Burger 53, Easy Buy, Dar Youth Club, and Knight Support.

She also said the swimmers will compete in various events according to age categories for both boys and girls, namely U-8, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, 13 and 14, 15 and older.

Hadija noted the event will have the country's top-ranked swimmers, who will compete with other swimmers from other clubs in the country.

The official added that the event is aimed at promoting the sport in Tanzania.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

