

PROPERTY WATCH

NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO CREATE LESS-POLLUTING CEMENT

UNPAID WORKERS: China's property woes hit Country Garden

US landlords with \$1.2tn debt may face default risks

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the three-day (Aug 22 to 24) BRICS Summit 2023 in Johannesburg yesterday. The summit was expected to draw more than 40 heads of state and international dignitaries. South Africa is this year the rotating chair of the group of emerging economies. Photo: State House

'El-Nino is in sight by late September, we must be ready'

By Henry Mwangonde

Regions likely to experience that situation are Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, southern parts of Simiyu, northern parts of Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast (including Mafia Island), northern parts of Morogoro region along with Unguja and Pemba islands

MOST parts of Tanzania are likely to receive above normal rains influenced by El-Nino ocean conditions late next month.

Dr Ladislaus Chang'a, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) acting director general, made this assessment at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, when releasing the seasonal rainfall outlook for October to December.

As most parts of the country are set to receive above normal rains there is need for preparedness against floods, he said, noting that the usually short end of year rains are likely to be influenced by El-Nino conditions.

The end of year rains are specific for areas that receive rains twice a year, which includes the north eastern highlands and few areas of eastern part of Lake Victoria basin, he said.

Regions likely to experience that situation are Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, southern parts of Simiyu, northern parts of Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast (including Mafia Island), northern parts of Morogoro region along with Unguja and Pemba islands.

However, more normal rains with inclination to increase are anticipated over Mara, northern parts of Simiyu region, Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions.

The TMA chief who is also part of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as among the vice chairmen, said El-Niño will touch off occasional rainy periods next month in various areas. Seasonal rains formally commence mid-October or thereabouts, in many areas, he stated.

Rains may start late next month or by the first week of October for most of Kagera Region, and spreading to other areas in the zone, he said.

The late year seasonal rains are expected to continue through January, especially over the north eastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast (northern part of Morogoro region, Coast (including Mafia Island), Dar es Salaam and Tanga.

Other regions are Unguja and Pemba islands, Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and the northern part of Kigoma region. The rains are likely to cause impacts on weather sensitive sectors such as agriculture, with periods of excessive soil moisture affecting farming activities.

'Water levels in the rivers and dams are likely to increase, he said, cautioning on possible outbreak of vector and water borne diseases arising from contamination of water.

He urged the disaster management department to continue coordinating the implementation of plans that will help reduce the effects that may arise.

The relevant authorities at the regional, district, ward and village levels need to cooperate to spread awareness and guidance to the public, he added.

Z'bar eyes motorcycles, cassava, soybeans factories

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A delegation from 15 Chinese companies has arrived in Zanzibar and expressed readiness to invest in cassava and soybean farming as well as in motorcycle assembling.

The visit comes in the wake of a recent tour conducted by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in China, holding deliberations with various top leaders and business groups and encouraging them to invest in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Shariff Ali Shariff, Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) executive director, said at a meeting with the delegation here yesterday the delegation has responded well and expressed interest to invest in agro-processing.

A number of Chinese firms have expressed interest in setting up factories for motorcycles (fuel and electric-powered)

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UNIDO manual, local refinery to boost sunflower processing

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PRODUCTION of edible sunflower oil in the central zone will be boosted as three double refinery plants open in Dodoma Region, thanks to the United Nations Industrial

Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Dr Hashil Abdallah, the Industry and Trade permanent secretary, made this remark at the inauguration of one of the plants in Kongwa, an energy efficient 1,000 litres sunflower

oil refinery plant priced at 17.9m/-.

Each of the plants has been fabricated by the Dodoma Region vocational training and service centre (DRVTSC), part of the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA).

One processing plant would cost not less than 40m/- if the equipment were to be imported, he said, urging small-scale sunflower processors to adopt quality

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Capital Markets and Securities Authority CEO Nicodemus Mkama (C) presents green bond worth 780bn/- million to CRDB group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (R) and the bank's board chairman, Dr Ally Hussein Laay in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CMSA nodes to 780bn/- CRDB green bond

By Guardian Reporter

THE Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has approved 780bn/- (US\$330m) to be issued by the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange listed CRDB Bank Plc.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, CRDB Group chief executive officer, said after receiving the CMSA approval certificate, that the bond is the first of its kind not only in Tanzania, but also across sub-Saharan Africa. The multi-currency bond, whose proceeds will be

invested in sustainable green projects, will be traded at the DSE and the London Stock Exchange (LSE) in a bid to attract buyers from a wide range of countries. The medium term note (MTN) is also the largest among corporate bonds floated at

the DSE and more than half of the bank's equity market capitalisation. Issuing the bond is not only to seek to raise financial resources but facilitate take up of green-led projects as part of climate change mitigations, he said, noting

that the bank is not new in financing implementation of green projects. In 2019 the bank obtained recognition and struck an accord with the United

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Zbar eyes motorcycles, cassava, soybeans plants

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and crop processing, he said. They expect to make considerable investments in cassava farming and processing, part Chinese strategy to obtain the crop with high demand, he said, urging the youth to grab employment opportunities when the firms start those activities. They need to have prepared themselves by having the required skills in a number of vital fields, he stated, with John Rwehumbiza, a member of the Diaspora community in China, urging farmers to now focus on the areas with high market demand as indicated by investors. These include cassava, sesame and soybeans farming as the crops have high demand in China and capable of making a difference in agro-sector activities in Zanzibar, he said. China leads in high demand for cassava, so farmers should take advantage of this opportunity, he emphasized, elaborating that

sesame and soybeans demand in China exceeds 2m tonnes, which means the door is open for optimal production. Upwards of 15 Chinese investment firms are in the country for industrial sector activity, starting with building two factories to assemble motorcycles, both fuel and electric varieties. He referred to farmers in Thailand who cultivate one acre of soybeans and harvest 20 tonnes while in Tanzanians farmers harvest only one tonne per acre. "We need to adopt technologies to boost cultivation and yields," he stated, while William Chu, the delegation leader, said they were ready to commence investment projects in Zanzibar "as it has an attractive environment." The delegation responded positively from the president's call during his China visit recently. "We are satisfied with the farming environment as well as the investment climate," he added.



Tanzania Investment Centre executive director Gilead Teri (3rd-L) poses for a photo at the TIC offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday with some recently appointed Tanzanian ambassadors and high commissioners who had just completed training on ways to promote investment opportunities. Right is the centre's investment promotion director, John Mnali. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

UNIDO manual, local refinery set to boost sunflower processing

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and standard requirements to tap into local and international oil markets

The ceremony followed the closure of training for 20 small-scale sunflower processors on quality and standards requirements, based on a UNIDO-compliant manual.

The manual helps to enlighten small scale-sunflower processors on decision making criteria for investing in processing plants by feasibility and profitability projections, he said.

The manual was developed to contribute to elevating the knowledge of such processors on quality and standards, as well as criteria for investing, as many face such challenges, he said.

Making the refinery units sought to reduce challenges of imported technology such as incompatibility with the local environment, high importation costs and limited access to post installation maintenance and repair services, he pointed out.

The capacity of the refinery matches with the needs of the majority of small-scale processors, thus domestic manufacture of the refinery will facilitate a big number of processors to obtain such equipment to enhance their businesses, he stated.

Developing the manual and training 20 small-scale sunflower oil processors on good processing practices, and manufacturing of the refinery by VETA and the DRVTSO was funded by the

government and a range of donor agencies.

UNIDO coordinated by project with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), a unit of the United Nations System (UNS) in Tanzania and the government, a project stretching from 2022 to 2027.

He encouraging more training and research institutions to invest in domestic manufacturing of equipment to contribute to faster economic growth.

Sunflower oil refinery helps to sustain the livelihoods of various segments of the population involved in the sunflower value

chain, creating employment opportunities, he said.

Sunflower processors need to use the manual and the highly affordable appropriate technology for sunflower refining now locally available, to improve their businesses, he said.

As the global demand for refined sunflower oil is on the rise, and world market prices poised to rise, investing in domestic sunflower oil refining is highly desirable, cutting expenditure on edible oil imports for up to 60 per cent of the country's demand for edible oils.

Gerald Runyoro, national programme officer for the UNIDO field office lauded the collaboration in developing the manual and producing the sunflower oil refinery.



Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman (L) listens as PACT president and CEO Dr Caroline Anstey, who led her delegation on a visit to his office for discussions yesterday, makes remarks. Hers is a US-based global social and economic development NGO. Photo: ZFVPO

Talks start on second phase of ATMIS troop drawdown in Somalia

MOGADISHU

Senior officials of the African Union, Somalia, and the United Nations have started consultative meetings to deliberate on the upcoming second phase of the troop drawdown in September, the AU mission said.

The AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) is expected to scale down its troop numbers next month by a further 3,000 personnel after successfully withdrawing 2,000 troops and handing over six military bases in June.

Mohammed El-Amine Souef, the special representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Somalia and head of the ATMIS, said a joint technical committee with its membership from the ATMIS, the government, and the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) has been meeting

to map out the military bases where the 3,000 troops will be drawn from.

"Since we have active combat operations ongoing, the planning of the drawdown must be well synchronized and seamlessly executed so the gains made thus far are not jeopardized," Souef said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, Wednesday evening.

During the meeting held in Mogadishu, Souef lauded the UN and the government for their steadfast support and collaboration with the ATMIS to ensure the success of the first phase.

Head of UNSOS Aisa Kirabo Kacyira told the technical committee to take into consideration the lessons learned from the first phase of the drawdown to ensure the success of the second phase.

Agencies

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CMSA nodes to 780bn/- CRDB green bond

Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF) for investing in sustainable projects, he said. It was the first time for a Sub-Saharan commercial bank to attain that status and since then the bank had been financing sustainable projects, he declared, pointing out that last year CRDB Bank issued 6.9trn/- credits, taking up 26 percent of total credits issued by financial institutions countrywide. Out of issued credits, 1.4trn/- was allocated to the forest sector, equivalent to 55 percent of forest sector credits from financial institutions countrywide, he

said. Agriculture, a key sector in environmental protections, job creation and foreign exchange earnings, received credits amounting to 1trn/-, equivalent to 43 percent of total credits to that sector from local banks, he said, while 55.8bn/- credits were issued for projects in alternative energies. These efforts apart, there is still need for more funding than the resources CRDB Bank disposes, thus seeking to find friendly means of facilitating greater access to credit, he said.

To meet the demand, CRDB Bank sees the corporate bond as key to finding new sources of funding the projects, which is now fruitful after CMSA agreed to float the green bond, he said, noting that it will be sold in five phases, with the first phase expected to raise 55bn/-.

Nicodemus Mkama, the CMSA chief executive officer, thanked CRDB Bank for this initiative, meant to raise funds for financing green and sustainable projects likely to bring positive results to the community.

CRDB Bank mete eligibility requirements for issuance of green, social and sustainability corporate bond

instruments, like compliance with the CMSA guidelines for issuance of corporate bonds, municipal bonds and commercial paper, adopted in 2019;

CMSA instituted a green, social and sustainability bond framework aligned with recommendations of the International Capital Markets Association (ICMA), he said.

CRDB Bank has been accredited by the Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Africa and the UK based Sustainability, with the bank's operations regarded as part of implementing the financial sector development master plan spanning the cur-

rent decade.

The plan is aimed at enabling access to financial resources for public and private projects in line with a competitive economy, with bank's MTN becoming the first bond with green, social and sustainability components to be issued in Tanzania and the largest to be issued in sub Saharan Africa, by a corporation listed on a stock exchange. "CRDB Bank Plc is listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) and is one of the largest commercial banks in Tanzania that raised funds

from the public by selling shares by way of initial Public offer (IPO)," he said. The bank is credit rated with a stable outlook by Moody's credit rating agency and is also accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) operated by the World Bank as a directed access accredited entity (DAE). In addition, MTN will facilitate mobilization of resources to finance multiple large-scale climate-change adaptation projects with high impact for social and economic development.

Dr Ally Laay, the board chairman thanked CMSA and DSE for enabling the success of the planned green bond.



Implementation by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) of the city's 'PSSSF Sinza-Kijitonyama' sanitation project is well under way, as captured yesterday. It is chiefly meant to curb environmental pollution and benefit 1,000 people when completed next month. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

President Samia to launch the first Pan-African Crypto Stamp in Arusha

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is on September 02, this year expected to launch the first ever Pan-African digital crypto stamp in Arusha.

The maiden piece of continental digital artwork is being commissioned through the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), currently holding its 41st Administrative Council meetings in the northern Tanzania safari capital, and will be part of the climaxing events.

The Meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Permanent Secretary, in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Selistine Kakele, who insisted that postal corporations on the continent need to transform their services in order to compete with emerging digital trends.

Kakele said the meeting will climax with the grand ceremony for the

inauguration of the PAPU Tower, the new complex that serves as the headquarters of the Pan African Postal Union.

The event will run in sync with the launching of the commemorative stamp both in physical and digital formats and this will be graced by President Samia.

Mulembwa Munaku, director of communication services in the Ministry of Information Communications and Information Technology, said a total of 26 countries, members of the Pan African Postal Union are attending the week-long sessions.

"There are four technical committees working in sessions all expected to come up with recommendations on how to transform postal services on the continent to keep them afloat in the highly competitive digital world," said Munaku.

He named the committees as those of Strategy, Operations and Technology, Finance and Administration, as well as Policy and Regulations.

The proposed launching of the joint stamp is one of the reports expected to come from the Operations and Technology Committee (OTC) sessions.

Therefore in line with the consolidated PAPU Action Plan for 2022-2025, the Pan African Postal Union will participate in joint stamp issues to promote African heritage and events.

To that effect, the promotion of philately working group established a Task Team to propose Annual Themes for joint stamp issues.

2022-2032 Environmental Management Grand Plan has robust planning and inclusive budget - Jafo

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Government says the 2022-2032 Environmental Management Grand Plan has put in place foundations for planning and an inclusive budget for environmental management at all levels while abiding by various other sectors.

Dr Seleman Jafo, VPO Minister (union and Environment) made the remarks at the meeting for the submission report on the implementation of the plan to the Parliamentary Water and Environment Standing Committee in Dodoma on Wednesday.

Jafo said in recognition and abiding by existing opportunities and challenges, his Office will continue to work together with various stakeholders to make sure priority areas identified by the Plan are implemented.

He said that the Grand plan is being im-

plemented while abiding by other essential sectors such as farming on which great investment has been made including the digging of dams for irrigation in areas affected by drought due to effects of climate change.

According to him, the increase to the Agriculture budget from 261bn/- to more than 900bn/- reflects great work being done, especially irrigation activities.

"Today we say the digging of 114 water dams costs almost 236bn/-, in fact we have to thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan as that is a huge investment," he said.

He added that already the Agriculture ministry has provided training on farming that withstand the effects of climate change to 1,500 farmers in Hanang, Kongwa, Kilombero, Kahama, Babati, Makambako, Ludewa, Makete, Kyela, Mbinga and Nyasa districts as well to 30 officials from Tarime, Rorya and Serengeti districts.

DR Jafo also cited other sectors, including the energy sector where a huge investment has been made in regard to clean cooking energy and continuing to reduce the use of wood fuel.

He said the Ministry for Livestock and Fisheries has provided training to 183 herders on sustainable livestock keeping that adheres to environmental conservation and withstand the effects of climate change.

In addition, he said, training has been provided to 204 fishermen at Nyumba ya Mungu dam and I17 at Mtera Dam to reduce the effects of environmental destruction due to unsustainable fishing.

Said he: "The community continues to be urged to value the environment and support government efforts against its destruction in order to spur economic growth, community development and to make Tanzania green."

SUMMONS FOR APPEARANCE AND FILING WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DEFENCE (UNDER O.V.I.R./2 OF CPC 1980) IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA CIVIL CASE AT ARUSHA CIVIL CASE No. 4 OF 2023 JOHN BEATUS KASENGENYA.....PLAINTIFF VERSUS AFRICAN ARTEMISIA LIMITED.....DEFENDANT TO: AFRICAN ARTEMISIA LIMITED WHERE AS the above - named Plaintiff(s) has/have instituted a suit against you upon the claim, the particulars of which are set out in the annexed copy of the plaint. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you must file your WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DEFENCE in duplicate within twenty days of service of this notice upon you. If there are more than one plaintiffs, additional copy of your Written Statement of Defence must be filed sufficient for service on each of the Plaintiff(s). If there are more Defendants than one and the defence is not a joint defence, there must be filed sufficient copies for service on each of the other Defendants. TAKE NOTICE that the case also has been fixed for Mention/Hearing on the 20th day of 08, 2023 at 8:30 o'clock in the forenoon. AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your attention is specifically drawn to para 3 of the INITIAL NOTICE attached, and that if you default in filing of the Written Statement of Defence within the time specified the court may pronounce judgment against you. GIVEN under my HAND and SEAL of the COURT this 22nd day of AUGUST, 2023.

BBC MEDIA ACTION
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD

A National Conversation- Phase 5 (NC5)

BBC Media Action is happy to announce an extension for the project A National Conversation- Phase 5 (NC5) funded by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland. The Project total budget is Euros 300,000 for the period of 12 months.

The project objective is to address climate change adaptation, gender equality and good governance. The project focuses on capacity building of local partners to produce content around climate change, gender and governance while enhancing their commercial skills for partner stations

Responsible Parenting and Family Care Project.

BBC Media Action is happy to announce an extension of the project Responsible Parenting and Family Care, funded by UNICEF and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in Tanzania. The project budget for the multimedia component that BBC Media Action is delivering is TZS 1,548,777,216 for 12 months.

The project objective is to encourage parents and primary caregivers of children 0-18 to adopt positive parenting approaches. It works with local partner stations to produce weekly radio show and broadcasts a weekly national edition of the show.

21757001

TRADE MARK AFRICA

ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

TENDER TITLE: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING OF PETROLEUM TESTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE ETHIOPIAN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT ENTERPRISE.

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20220216

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit www.trademarkafrica.com.

TMA has received funds from the Agence Française de Développement (the French Development Agency) towards the cost of Djibouti Corridor Standards and as a result would like to invite interested and qualified firms to participate in the tender opportunity for Supply, installation, and Commissioning of Petroleum Testing Equipment for the Ethiopian Conformity Assessment Enterprise.

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>.

All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrica.com

The closing date for submission is on **23 October 2023 on or before 11:00 am (Ethiopian Time)**

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums MUST submit bids physically as indicated in the tender document. Bidders "shall not" have the option of submitting their bids electronically.

TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.

AFD

21757001

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REQUEST FOR BIDS GOODS

Country: The United Republic of Tanzania
Name of Project: Higher Education for Economic Transformation
Contract Title: PROCUREMENT OF ICT EQUIPMENT, CENTER FOR DIGITAL LEARNING EQUIPMENT P. 166415
Credit No.: TZ-SUZ-372401-GO-RFB
RFB Reference No.: TZ-SUZ-372401-GO-RFB
Issued on: 24 August 2023

be by Bank through control number by requesting it from this email pmu@suza.ac.tz.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below:
Secretary of the Tender Board,
The State University of Zanzibar,
Translead Building, TR-05- PMU,
Tunguu Campus,
Zanzibar, Tanzania.

on or before 10:30am, 13 September 2023. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the below address:

**Secretary of the Tender Board,
The State University of Zanzibar,
Translead Building, TR-05- PMU,
Tunguu Campus,
Zanzibar,
Tanzania.**

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee of Five Million Tanzania Shillings only (TZS. 5,000,000) for Lot 1 ICT EQUIPMENT and Two Million Tanzania Shillings only (TZS. 2,000,000) for Lot 2 CDL EQUIPMENT and One Million Tanzania Shillings only (TZS. 1,000,000) for Lot 3 FURNITURE FOR COMPUTER LABS.

8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

9. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

**Vice Chancellor
The State University of Zanzibar
P.O.Box 146, Tunguu, Zanzibar
vc@suza.ac.tz
www.suza.ac.tz**

1 Substitute "contracts" where Bids are called concurrently for multiple contracts. Add a new para. 3 and renumber paras 3 - 8 as follows: "Bidders may Bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the request for bids document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid."

5. The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Tanzania shillings One Hundred Thousand only (TZS. 100,000). The method of payment will

2 The fee chargeable should only be nominal to defray reproduction and mailing costs. An amount between US\$50 and US\$300 or equivalent is deemed appropriate.

21757001



Exim Bank retail banking head Andrew Lyimo (C), Indesso director Feri Agustain (R) and Amani Essence partner Desdery Rutta display partnership agreements they had just signed on the sidelines of the Indonesia-Tanzania Business Forum held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Story on page 6. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Youths with disabilities told to grab training opportunities

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PROF Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of state in The PM Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) has called on youth with disabilities to grab training opportunities for developing their skills provided by the government through her office for their economic wellbeing.

Prof Ndalichako made the appeal during students undergoing training at Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST), saying President Samia Suluhu Hassan vows to make sure there is inclusive education in order to give priority people with disabilities in gaining skills for their income generation.

She also called on the youth to grab loans opportunities provided by local councils as well as Youth Development Fund (YDF) under her office in order to get capital to enable them employ themselves from the skills gained.

Govt introduces electronic system to curb court case delays

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has come up with a solution regarding case delay through an electronic system dubbed Case Management Information System (CMIS) that connects all criminal institutions.

George Simbachawene, Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good

Governance) revealed this here on Wednesday at the launching of the system created by e-Government Authority (eGA) in collaboration with the National Prosecution Office (NPO).

Simbachawene said the system has now been completed as President Samia Suluhu Hassan continues with efforts to strengthen the country's criminal justice system.

"CMIS is connected to the main government system that enables them to exchange information with the Government Enterprise Service Bus (GovESB) and has started to exchange information with some criminal justice institutions including the police, PCCB and the Judiciary," he said.

The minister said so far 17,411 criminal cases have been registered

in CMIS out of which, 7,361 have been finalised and judgements given and 10,050 others are in various stages of completion.

For his part, Deputy Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs, Pauline Gekul said the ministry is set to boost efforts to ensure it creates a robust ICT system in order to provide better services to the people.

"Justice is a very important issue and should be handed out in time as justice delayed is the same as justice denied, hence through the ICT system we want to make sure justice is meted out in time," she said. Earlier, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sylvester Mwakitalu said CMIS will maintain all records including charge sheets and rulings and will be able to show where

the case file is, possessed by which State Attorney and for how long.

He said they will make sure the system is used fully to remove complaints from members of the public.

For his part, eGA Director General, Benedict Ndomba said the launching of the system is in the implementation of the government aim to improve work performance.

Govt vows to ensure all people get better healthcare services

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government will continue strengthening its readiness to deal with public health emergencies including epidemics by providing required training to regional coordinators in public health emergency operation centres (PHEOC).

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr Grace Magembe said this yesterday in Dodoma when opening a training session for regional coordinators of public health emergencies.

She said the government's zeal is to ensure that Tanzanians are safe from various health challenges and remain strong to enable them to engage in daily social and economic activities.

According to her, capacitating the servants with the skills to improve their daily operations will greatly help in timely processing of information and take immediate measures in controlling health emergencies.

Grace said the capacity building for the servants has been conducted in 11 regions and will continue expanding it to all other regions across the country. He added that the training was part of the government's strategies to overcome various public health emergencies and disasters such as epidemic diseases.

The training has included public health coordinators from 11 regions both in mainland and Isles under the funding of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the United States (US CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Dr Grace further said that Tanzania was recently assessed to identify its capacity and readiness to respond to various public health emergencies. "In the last time when we were assessed in 2006, our capacity was at 48 percent, but the current assessment has found that we have improved now our readiness capacity is at 63 percent," explained Dr Grace.

According to WHO, Tanzania has been vulnerable to several disease outbreaks for decades. Recently, the country has faced several public health emergencies including COVID-19, Leptospirosis, Marburg, Measles, and Cholera.

The International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities emphasize key areas including detecting, assessing, notifying and reporting events, and responding to public health risks and emergencies of national and international concern.



Sister Euphrasia Julius, supervisor of Dodoma city's Matumaini Sisters Child Care Home, takes Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups ministry permanent secretary Dr John Jingu (L) around the centre yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chart out ways to overcome climate change impacts, centre urges communities

By Getrude Mbagi

THE Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) has urged residents in various communities to develop a culture of meeting, discussing and figuring out their own ways to prevent or overcome impacts of climate change.

Speaking at a workshop which brought together members of disaster committees from Karakata Street (Kipawa ward) and Majimpya of Mnyamani ward in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, CCI executive director Dr Tim Ndezi said that it was high time now the residents to be more innovative while waiting for greater measures to the government and stakeholders.

The workshop which also brought leaders from Ilala municipality and from the two wards as well as communities, focused on deep discussion on how residents can stand themselves to overcome climate change impacts while also bringing development in their localities.

The workshop was part of the implementation of the second phase of the Daraja Project which aimed to strengthen weather education and awareness among residents in Mnyamani and Kipawa wards in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region.

It is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with its execution expected to go until

the end of this year.

"Everyone has role in fighting climate change, majority of our people have been waiting for players or authorities to act on problems in their homes, climate change impacts such as floods, extreme heat and relates ones have great impacts to people especially those living in unplanned settlements, CCI is implementing project to help these people have broader awareness on weather issues and thus enable them to take action by themselves in their areas," he explained.

He said the climate change-community based adaptation workshop with a purpose of identifying community adaptation issues which citizens

can implement within their areas to reduce impacts of climate change.

Mathayo Nyauleni, member disaster committee at Karakata Street said the locals have been most of the time using affordable and locally available materials as a measure to control floods along this river.

"We have been struggling ourselves to reduce impacts of floods by conducting cleanliness, controlling wastes as well as putting sand sacks along the river," he said.

He also noted that town planners and government officials have been promising to address the issue and their strategies have also shown the need for more investment to address the problem.

Hamis Amani from Mji Mpya urged authorities to control vegetable farming along Msimbazi River as this was affecting the river and thus increasing flood risks.

"I have every year been spending my money to fill in sand in packs and place them in the banks of the river to prevent water from coming in my house, life is not that easy because during heavy rains, many people lose their precious properties, but with this education I am sure that it will make me help others to overcome the disasters," he explained.

Halima Kidimo also from Mji Mpya said: "At our area, we have developed a culture of meeting every Saturday to

discuss various issues including environment cleanliness and sanitation, this includes conducting deep cleanliness in our surroundings and houses as in canals," she said.

Husna Chechonge, from Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF) also commended CCI for coming up with the project as it will help stimulate access of weather information among the population in informal settlements.

"We thank CCI for this project and continued training to capacitate residents with skills to overcome climate impacts and hazards, but what is needed now is for people to utilise the knowledge by educating and encouraging others in their areas on ways to ad-

dress the impacts which include adaptation measures," she said.

CCI programme officer, Prudensiana Luckago said the project aims to address vulnerability to extreme weather and climate impacts on the informal urban settlements.

"Our aim is to increase understanding of weather issues and information among the public and ensure that the residents effectively use information on weather forecasts to mitigate climate change related disasters," she said.

Reports show that Dar es Salaam is among 15 new Africa's rapidly expanding cities that face huge threats from climate change over the next 30 years.

Ethiopian Prime Minister hails BRICS membership

JOHANNESBURG

ETHIOPIA'S admission to the BRICS, a bloc of emerging countries that until now has included Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is a "high point" for Africa's second most populous country, rejoiced its Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (pictured) yesterday.

Meeting at their summit in Johannesburg, the BRICS, which aim to increase their influence

in the world, announced yesterday that they would welcome six new members in January: Iran, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"An important moment for Ethiopia, the BRICS leaders accepted our entry into the group today. Ethiopia stands ready to cooperate with all for an inclusive and prosperous world order," wrote Abiy Ahmed on his X (ex-Twitter) account.

"Congratulations to all Ethiopians!" also read the X account of the Ethiopian Prime Minister's office.

Traditionally non-aligned, Ethiopia maintains close ties with Russia and China - its main trading partner - but also with the United States, even if relations with Washington became strained during the two-year conflict in the Tigray region (northern Ethiopia), which ended in November 2022.

Ethiopia was one of the world's most dynamic economies during the 2010 decade, but its growth was curbed by the Covid-19 pandemic, climatic calamities, the conflict in Tigray and the global shockwave of the war in Ukraine.



Political Parties Registrar Judge Francis Mutungi (facing camera) holds talks with opposition Chedema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe (3rd-L) and Secretary General John Mnyika (2nd-L) in Dar es Salaam yesterday primarily on ways to strengthen relations between the registrar's office and political parties. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ECOWAS slams 'unacceptable' Niger transition plan

NIAMEY

THE West African bloc ECOWAS rejected the proposal by Niger's mutinous soldiers for a three-year transition to democratic rule.

The bloc's commissioner for peace and security said it was 'unacceptable.'

The door for diplomacy with Niger's junta remained open but the bloc is not going to engage in drawn-out talks that lead nowhere, Abdel-Fatau Musah, the ECOWAS commissioner for peace and security said.

"It is the belief among the ECOWAS heads of state and also the commission that the coup in Niger is one coup too many for the

region and if we allow it then we are going to have a domino effect in the region and we are determined to stop it," Musah said. While direct talks and backchannel negotiations are ongoing, he said the door to diplomacy wasn't open indefinitely.

"We are not going to engage in long, drawn out haggling with these military officers ... We went down that route in Mali, in Burkina Faso and elsewhere, and we are getting nowhere," Musah said.

His comments came days after an ECOWAS delegation met the head of Niger's military regime, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, for the first time since the mutinous soldiers ousted President Mo-

hamed Bazoum in July.

After last week's meeting, Musah said the ball is now in the junta's court.

Coups and sanctions

The junta has been keeping Bazoum and his wife and son under house arrest, and ECOWAS has demanded Bazoum be freed and constitutional order restored.

ECOWAS has used Niger as a red line against further coups after several in the region, including two each in Mali and Burkina Faso since 2020.

The bloc has imposed severe economic and travel sanctions and threatened the use of military force if Bazoum is not reinstated, but the junta has dug in.

It has appointed a new government and said it will return the country to democratic rule within several years.

Niger was seen as one of the last democratic countries in the Sahel region below the Sahara Desert that Western nations could partner with to beat back a growing jihadi insurgency linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. France, other European countries and the United States have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into providing equipment and training for Niger's military and in the case of France have conducted joint operations.

The 2023 Global Terrorism Index estimated that Sahel ac-

counted for 43% of global terrorism deaths in 2022. With 8,564 victims, Burkina Faso ranked 2nd just behind Afghanistan.

Somalia, Mali and Syria occupied the 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively. Next came Pakistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Burma and Niger according to the document.

Since the coup those military operations have been suspended while both sides decide what to do. France and the U.S. have some 2,500 military personnel in the country and the U.S. operates two key drone and counter-terror bases.

Musah said ECOWAS was not discussing military plans with any external partners and everything it was planning is based on

the resources of member states. Earlier this month, ECOWAS said 11 of its 15 member states had agreed to intervene militarily if talks didn't work.

ECOWAS is banking on a combination of external pressure through sanctions and internal unrest within Niger's security forces and the fact that Tchiani, the junta's leader, met with ECOWAS face to face after multiple attempts, is a sign that the coup leaders are feeling the pressure, said Nate Allen, an associate professor at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

"Nonetheless, it is clear that the two sides remain very far apart and the risk of conflict is high," he said.

House Panel commends TAA for scooping 4th position in Africa for quality services at JNIA

By Guardian Reporter

THE chairman of the Parliamentary Infrastructures Standing Committee, Selemani Kakoso, has commended Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) for grabbing Fourth position in Africa for safe aviation transport from inspection done by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in 2023.

Speaking in Dodoma yesterday after receiving a report on the country's airports operations, Kakoso said in addition to better services provided at JNIA, the Organisation should enhance its innovation in order to attract more international airlines to use the airport in order to spur economic growth through the country's aviation sector.

"I commend the government for investing in airport infrastructures as the results are already being discerned through inspections made by ICAO," he said.

Kakoso also called on ICAO to speed up the exercise to find land title deeds for the country's all airports in order to ward off land conflicts from people invading airports land areas.

He also called on the government through the Works and Transport ministry to allocate funds for areas that have no airports in order to ease passengers and cargo air transport as the government continues purchasing new planes.

Deputy Works and Transport minister Atupele Mwakibete said the aim of the government is to make sure all airports in the country provide quality s that satisfy international standards in accordance set by ICAO.

He added that as for now the government is speeding up the completion of the installation of lights at Dodoma Airport to enable it to operate 24 hours by the end of September this year.

TAA Acting Director General, Hamisi Amiri thanked the government for continuing to allocate funds for refurbishing infrastructures at the country's airports and pledged that all recommendations of the parliamentary Infrastructures Standing Committee will be worked on.



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (4th-R, foreground) and Babati district commissioner Lazaro Twange (to her left) lead members of the Sigino Secondary School community in celebrations at Wednesday's launch of classrooms at the school. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Govt calls for collaboration against poaching and trafficking in trophies

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE government has said that poaching, illegal trading in government trophies and forest products have been affecting community development and the country's economy, hence collaboration against the crimes cannot be avoided.

Kiza Baraga, representative from the wildlife department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism made the observation here on Wednesday when opening a training workshop for empowering officials from Task Coordination Groups (TCGs)

against wildlife poaching trade.

He said collaboration in winning the war is essential as poaching networks and trophy trafficking are planned in urban centres, outside reserve areas but implemented inside them and shipped to illegal markets foreign countries.

He said poaching has been marring Tanzania's good image especially in regard to trophies and forest products especially when these are seized in foreign countries.

In the circumstances, he said the government has started empowering various institutions involved in the fight against the challenge

in various areas of the country.

He named the institution as including defence and security organs, and others concerned in the protection of wildlife and reserve areas.

"These poaching networks involve criminals at various levels and sponsored by wealthy people, hence any achievements thereto depend on the capability of law enforcement organs in all areas," said Baraga.

He added: "We have also been able to establish the National Task Force Anti-poaching (NTAP), and Tasking and Coordination Groups (TCGs) which involve defence and

security and law enforcement organs to boost the war against poaching."

For his part, Project Manager for the project against Poaching and wildlife trophies (IWT-Project), Theotimos Rwegasira said in fighting poaching in the country, the government launched the national anti-poaching strategy (2014-2019) with the aim to curb poaching.

He said the government sought stakeholders for collaboration, among them UNDP. He added that in collaboration with UNDP, the Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism is implementing the anti-poaching war through cooperation

"The six-year project (2020- 2026) aims to supplement government efforts to fight poaching in the country," he said.

He stressed that through the implementation of the project already the ministry has identified NTAP and TCCGs requirements and already the government has made preparations to empower them

The workshop has been organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism through the IWT Project.

The workshop is the continuation of the plan to empower law enforcement organs to fight poaching in the country.



Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (Ruwasa) Board chairman Ruth Koya helps a resident of Makatapola village in Iringa Region carry a bucket of water. It was yesterday, as members of the board made an inspection tour of Mkumbwanyi water project. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

RITA salutes Bukoba and Misenyi councils for 100 percent registration of under-fives

By Guardian Reporter

THE Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) declared here yesterday that it is happy with the way Kagera Region residents and leaders are implementing the special programme for registering children under five years but saluted Bukoba and Misenyi District Councils for a 100 percent win.

Rita Chief Executive Officer Frank Kanyusi said here yesterday that before launching the programme on July 4, this year only 10.5 percent of the region's under-fives had been registered and given birth certificates.

But as of yesterday, a total of 260,786 (67.7 percent) have been registered, given birth certificates free of charge and registration continues.

In the first two weeks of the launch that sought to clear the registration backlog, he said, people were very enthusiastic and 110,246 children were registered and given birth certificates.

"Bukoba and Misenyi District Councils have achieved 100 percent of the registration target. The rest of the councils have already achieved 57 percent and work is progressing

well despite unavoidable challenges the councils are facing," Mr Kanyusi explained.

Kagera, a border region, is the 24th region in implementing the special programme, he explained adding that Kigoma and Dar es Salaam "will follow and the two regions, like Kagera, face the challenge of sizeable immigration challenges. We shall bank on Kagera experience while implementing the programme in these last two regions, he asserted."

As of yesterday, a total of 8,560,694 children countrywide had been registered and given certificates free of charge.



Bukoba and Misenyi District Councils have achieved 100 percent of the registration target. The rest of the councils have already achieved 57 percent and work is progress-

Mine security team intercepts stolen gold worth 9.2bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

BULYANHULU Gold Mine's security team has intercepted what they believed to be gold bearing material in a bulldozer owned by one of their contractors at the main gate of the mine on August 9, 2023.

General Manager Cheick Sangare said in a statement that the team reported the matter to the po-

lice in Shinyanga and the regional minerals officer.

According to him, the material weighing 6,753 grams was tested and the results showed that it contained: Gold, Silver, Copper, Iron, Nickel, Iridium, Manganese and Zinc in varying quantities.

The total value of the minerals was 9,213,116.13/- (approximately USD 3,400).

Sangare said: "The mine will not tolerate the pilferage of minerals and is committed to working with all the state organs to ensure that the minerals in its license area are always safeguarded."

Addressing reporters here on Tuesday, Shinyanga Region Police Commander, Janeth Magomi said police seized various stolen items including gold bearing rocks weigh-

ing 6,753.4 valued at 9.2bn/- believed to have been stolen from Bulyanhulu Gold Mine.

RPC Janet said this follows crackdown and patrols conducted between July 26 and August 22 this year.

She said during the crackdown the police seized various stolen goods including gold bearing rocks and carbon sand containing miner-

als believed to be gold weighing 261 kgs from Manzese area, Kahama District. "We seized these minerals as they were being smuggled after having been stolen from Bulyanhulu Gold Mine and we have detained the suspects thereof," she said.

The RPC mentioned other stolen items seized as including a rifle with S/No. 2/49PF78701 that was being used in militia patrols but without

permit, 71 gm. of marijuana, 603 litre of diesel stolen from SGR project, a computer set, three motorcycles, 14 boxes of tiles and six steel pipes.

Other stolen items seized included 17 iron roofing sheets, two bags of cement, seven bags of whitewash, and 120 packets of cosmetics as well as arresting 31 suspects for being involved in robbery incidents.

Exim Bank signs MoU to encourage agriculture development in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indesso and Amani Essence to cooperate in promoting agriculture sector development in Tanzania.

The MoU that was signed on the sidelines of the Indonesia-Tanzania Business Forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday aligns with Tanzania's agriculture sector 'Agenda 10/30' that seeks to attain an impressive 10 percent annual growth rate for the sector by 2030.

Speaking shortly after the signing ceremony, the Exim Bank Retail Head Andrew Lyimo said the move is a significant step towards value addition and empowering clove dealers with easy access to credit.

"As per the MoU, Exim Bank will be a working capital financier to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) dealing in processing of cloves leaves to extract and refine essential oil that will later be exported to Indonesia," said Lyimo.

Lyimo said the bank is committed to support the development of the agribusiness sector across the country adding that it will provide finance for the purchase of the field distillation units (FDU) that will extract the essential oil from the clove leaves.

He said the fallen clove leaves before had no use and were treated as waste adding that with the new breakthrough, farmers dealing in clove production can convert their fallen leaves into money.

"Clove farmers will now be able to furnish the leaves and sell them at a price to an SME with a field distillation unit to extract essential oil" he said.

Lyimo stressed that the bank will continue investing in the development of the agribusiness and the agriculture sector as a whole.

"This new partnership will start in the regions of Tanga and Morogoro and compliments the ongoing efforts by the sixth phase Government to support development of the agriculture sector to its full potential," he stressed.

He re-affirmed that the bank will continue working closely with players in the agriculture sector value-chain to contribute to the development of Tanzania's agriculture sector through lending and investment.

"As a bank, we are devoted to providing innovative financing mechanisms to provide SMEs dealing with processing of cloves access to customized finance solutions and ensure they increase production. We believe our efforts will go a long way in increasing their income levels," he added.

Indesso President Director Feri Agustain during the event said: "Indesso is pleased to strengthen our partnership with Exim Bank as we look to support a sustainable agriculture sector in Tanzania."

Agustain said scaling up partnership with Exim Bank is key to developing innovative financial solutions that facilitate clove farmers' access to finance.



NBC Bank director of retail banking Elibariki Masuke (L) and Taifa Gas chief operations officer Devis Deogratius in jovial mood in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing an agreement paving the way for the bank to issue loans for cooking gas and related items such as cylinders to schools, hospitals, prisons, industries, universities and food service providers in various parts of the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NBC, energy firm partner to issue gas system loans to institutions

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has partnered with LPG supply company Taifa Gas, to offer loans for cooking gas systems to various institutions, including schools, hospitals, prisons, factories, colleges, and food service providers.

The operational agreement not only supports the government's eco-friendly initiatives by promoting the use of clean cooking energy among Tanzanians, but also aims to alleviate the high costs associated with energy con-

sumption for the institutions.

The signing ceremony for the groundbreaking agreement took place earlier yesterday in Dar es Salaam, uniting key representatives from both organizations. NBC's Director for Retail Banking Elibariki Masuke, spearheaded the NBC delegation, while Taifa Gas delegation was led by its Chief Operating Officer, Devis Deogratius.

Masuke explained that the venture is in line with the bank's strategy to bolster President Samia Suluhu's endeavors to encourage clean cooking energy usage, starting with institutions that ca-

ter to large populations.

"Under this plan, a range of institutions, including schools, hospitals, prisons, factories, colleges, and food service providers, can secure loans from NBC. These loans will allow them to acquire Taifa Gas's comprehensive gas service and make gradual payments through NBC without disrupting their day-to-day operations. All they need to do is open our 'Kua Nasi' accounts to access this service," Masuke stated.

Elucidating the Kua Nasi account, Masuke highlighted its benefits, such as no monthly operating costs, reasonable

transaction fees, and an interest rate of up to 2% for balances exceeding Tshs 100,000.

Deogratius expressed Taifa Gas company's commitment to providing high-quality gas systems to energy users in various institutions and offering comprehensive education on cost-effective management. He said the initiative aims to enhance the beneficiaries' experience by promoting efficiency, safety, and reducing energy costs in their respective institutions.

"While we are a business, Taifa Gas is dedicated to supporting environmental

policies through the adoption of clean energy. We prioritize educating our customers and the community about the significance of clean energy for the environment, economy, and safe usage," he emphasized.

The collaboration between NBC and Taifa Gas follows the government's recent call to financial institutions, through the Ministry of Energy, to contribute to their efforts by developing specialized banking services that facilitate the purchase and accessibility of clean cooking energy equipment.



Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (Tarura) CEO Victor Seff briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on how the agency has fared in carrying out its activities so far in financial year 2022/2023, while also shedding light on strategies and projections for the current (2023/2024) FY. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

BRICS bank can help African countries tackle urgent challenges

JOHANNESBURG

THE New Development Bank created by a group of the world economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) countries in 2015 can help finance African countries' projects to tackle their most urgent challenges, the bank's president Dilma Rousseff has said.

The BRICS countries are "good partners" for Africa, former Brazilian President Rousseff said in a speech in Johannesburg, adding the bank would finance physical and digital infrastructure projects in Africa as well as educational ones.

"The New Development Bank has the potential to be the leader of projects that address the most urgent challenges of African countries," she said, pointing out that although Africa's share of foreign direct investment (FDI) rose to 8.8% of global FDI in 2021 from just 4.9% in 2010 it "can and must rise much more."

One of the challenges to be overcome "is the expansion of payment mechanisms, notably local currencies and other financial instruments that may eventually be created in order to build a new, more multilateral and inclusive financial system," she added.

Rousseff also pointed to the need for joint infrastructure projects between several countries, noting that Africa has the world's greatest untapped hydroelectric potential.

Education NGO provides 100 computers to secondary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

CAMARA Education Tanzania, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has provided 100 computers valued at 37m/- as assistance to four secondary schools in Tanga and Coast regions.

Every school will get 25 computers that will enable students to learn Communications and Information Technology (ICT) subjects.

Jokate Mwegelo, Korogwe District Commissioner, Tanga Region said here on Wednesday that the assistance has been given by Camara education Tanzania through Tanzania education Authority (TEA) that has legal responsibility to collect contributions on behalf of the country's education sector

Before handing out the computers to Semkiwa Secondary School, DC Mwegelo urged students to study

hard owing to the good environment in place for both learning and teaching.

"The only way to express your gratitude to the sponsors who brought the computers to your school is to continue doing better in your studies," she said.

At the event, DC Mwegelo handed out the computers to Semkiwa Secondary School of Korogwe Town and Kwalunguru Secondary School

of Handeni District.

In regard to the Coast Region, the schools to benefit include Rafsanjani Soga Secondary school and Simbani Secondary School both in Kibaha district.

Before the handing over, Representative of Camara education Tanzania, Asia Bonanga said the institution vows to take ICT to school to help in efforts to get good education for the country.

According to him, the vision of her institution is to see that no student is to be left behind in ICT subjects.

For his part, TEA's Acting Director of Projects Resources Search and Projects Supervision, Masozi Nyirenda thanked the Camara education Tanzania for the assistance and reminded all the schools which have benefitted to use them well in order to last long.

TEA is a public institution under

the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, which through the National Education Fund sponsors the construction of education infrastructures including classrooms, teachers' houses and pit latrines.

The Fund has been constructing dormitories, dining halls and kitchens, laboratories and various teaching tools at all education levels in Tanzania Mainland and higher education levels for Zanzibar

IAA announces scholarships offer for Tanzanian students

By Jenifer Gilla

THE Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA) has announced to offer scholarships in five new bachelor degree courses to complement efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in increasing numbers of experts in the country.

Prof. Eliamani Sedoyeka, the Institute's Rector told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the courses include bachelor degrees in accounting, credit management, multi-media and public communication, librarianship and document management.

According to Sedoyeka, the move is aimed to serve students with financial challenges and provide equal opportunities to anyone who meets the criteria to study the courses.

"President Samia, through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, this year has issued scholarships to students who are taking science courses (Samia Scholarship), we have also seen it better to back these efforts," he said.

He said the college recognizes the challenges that many young people are facing in fulfilling their educational dreams which include lack of funds, something which affects their progress.

Sedoyeka said the scholarships will target six graduates for the year 2022 and 2023 with dreams and goals to study the named courses and are facing financial challenges.

"For applicants to meet the scholarship criteria, they have to apply and get admission. I would like to welcome all qualified graduates to join our college at the first-degree level in the mentioned areas," he said.

He said that through the funding, they are expecting to see great success for the students in achieving their educational goals and contributing to the development of society and the nation in general.

In addition, he encouraged the graduates who already made admission in the first window for the mentioned degrees to apply for the scholarship as they are qualified.



Mwanza mayor Sima Constantine (L) symbolically bestows upon the Head of the worldwide Dawoodi Bohra Community, His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Freedom of the City in recognition of the latter's dedication to the fostering of peace and advancing societal wellbeing globally. It was during yesterday's inauguration of Burhan Mosque in the city's plush Capri Point suburb. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Msomera Village residents learn modern farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

RESIDENTS of Msomera Village in Handeni District, Tanga in Region have said shifting to the area has enabled them learn about farming activities different from livestock keeping they used to do.

Speaking in a special interview with this paper on Tuesday, the villagers said it is a year since they shifted to Msomera and started farming whereby at present it has started raining and expect to harvest maize and beans.

Pastor Peter Kitui, said one of the opportunities

they used to miss is farming, as they were depending on pastoralism, and added that for a normal person, he must have more than one economic activity for their wellbeing.

He said for starters he has cultivated three acres and planted maize, beans and some sunflower, the crops

that grow well in the area.

For his part, Joannes Tiamas, Councillor from Ngorongoro District appealed to agriculture officers to visit them from time to time, to enable them benefit from their new preoccupation.

"In Ngorongoro our preoccupation was livestock

keeping, hence many of us used to depend on livestock to keep our lives going, but this farming activity is new, but we trust it to change our lives," said Tia mas.

For his part, Deputy Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), Elibariki Bajuta explained the reason for the government to

move them to Msomera after discovering both livestock and farming activities can be carried out at Msomera.

He said experts on land issues passed through the area and identified soil fertility for the people to cultivate various crops, as well as continuing with their livestock keeping activities as it was

for Ngorongoro.

Another Msomera resident, Moi Molel said apart from farming opportunities, they also benefit from various small businesses including motorcycle business for transporting passengers.

It is one year since the villagers shifted to Msomera Village from Ngorongoro.

FRIDAY 25 AUGUST 2023

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

Any utility in resuming talk on popularising sisal roofing tech?

EVEN at the lowest levels of sophistication, development or civilisation, human beings have always seen some form of accommodation one of the basic necessities. It's no wonder, then, that there are many spots even in our very own country where some households still make do with houses built using mud, poles and grass.

Generally speaking, this practice is being increasingly abandoned, superseded by the widespread use of cement, mud or burnt bricks, timber, corrugated iron roofing sheets, etc.

Unfortunately, whatever the combination of building materials people now prefer will entail the wanton felling of trees and the general clearing of forest cover - and therefore would remain far from environmentally friendly. The consequences have been horrific, to say the least, this including having led to large-scale deforestation. And this is now a major cause of the climate change which Tanzania, like other countries, is grappling with.

There was one time light at the end of the tunnel for Tanzania, though, going by reports confirmed by Tangabased Katani Ltd. It was reported that sisal-based building materials could slash the cost of building a house by up to 60 per cent.

It was said that the technology was not new, as it was pioneered in China decades ago and has since been adopted in Ethiopia and in both countries had been used to enhance people's access to decent housing at affordable prices.

In the specific case of Tanzania, the technology was identified as the brainchild of Katani Ltd, a firm that taken over sisal estates previously run by the public-owned Tanzania Sisal Authority and had since invited well-placed stakeholders including the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

A senior Katani Ltd executive had later occasion to tell journalists that

the grand plan was to produce enough sisal materials for the construction of 5,000 affordable houses every year.

This pointed to an innovative spirit worth maximum support because it promised to benefit the nation a great deal if translated into the concrete action and adopted as expected.

If a good enough number of people adopted the technology, it was safe to presume that fewer people would thereafter be felling trees. Instead, they would conserve forest cover and spare the country the impact of climate change. By all accounts, this technology was worth pursuing and adopting across Tanzania, but most especially so by the construction sector.

That would be so particularly for such entities as the National Housing Corporation, whose plans include building low-cost houses for sale to hundreds of workers in local authorities throughout the country.

If the plans are implemented with as much vigour and seriousness as one would hope for, the technology would reduce prices the houses would attract. This would, in turn, scale down the burden of repaying the loans involved.

The technology promised massive utility and relevance and surely merited being as widely publicised as possible particularly in rural areas, where the vast majority of Tanzanians live.

Enabling these people to live in decent houses rather than in the ramshackle houses some still spend their lives in would be a great step towards making them add value and meaning to their lives.

That would be a true case of social, cultural and economic emancipation. But it is quite some time since the days of Katani Ltd's talk of tapping the wizardry in the Chinese technology to revolutionise housing in Tanzania. It would be time well spent following up the issue.

Mental disorders are integral part of public health we must live with

THE magnitude, severity and prevalence of challenges associated with mental ailments in Tanzania have for long continued to trigger serious discussions - and very understandably so.

It was once during ordinary sessions of the National Assembly in Dodoma city that it all began - with a legislator seeking to know from the government the types of mental illnesses afflicting most people in the country and the kind of treatment the patients got.

Responding, the Health and Social Welfare deputy minister of the time told the august assembly that the number of people down with mental health challenges was rising by roundabout six per cent a year on average.

Referring specifically to mental patients attended to in hospitals in a previous five-year period, she said the number had shot up by that much for those admitted and by four times as much for outpatients.

Going by the remarks, the factors most commonly triggering the challenges included alcoholism, drug abuse and stress resulting from harsh social, health and economic conditions.

But the deputy minister quickly added that some mental disorders were hereditary, suggesting that there was a limit to what human ingenuity in general and science and technology in particular could do to help.

The elaboration excellently tallied with the explanation given by the World Health Organisation in a message to coincide with celebrations to mark World Health Day several years back.

The organisation had noted that there were probably very few people who had not experienced a period of depression, if not actually a nervous breakdown. But it added, in a way diplomatically, that nature had its own way of dealing with things like the

shock of bereavement, the collapse of a marriage, natural catastrophes and the horrors of war so that normality eventually returned to the troubled spirit.

According to the UN agency, it was important to show that mental health could be talked about and could be stored to sufferers by the very fact of being discussed. That could be done among friends, within the family or, if need be, with professional help.

The agency distinguished between psychiatry and mental health programmes, saying both played a priceless role in society: the former dealing with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and the latter in part concerned with ways of reducing the incidence of psychiatric disorders.

Medicine and science have surely performed wonders over the centuries, with the public health sector clearly one of the biggest beneficiaries. However, alcoholism, drug abuse and other forms of reckless living have kept eating into the giant strides made.

Even worse, as sadly noted by WHO: "A stigma still attaches to mental ailments, to the nervous breakdown, and to anyone who has ever been in hospital suffering from a mental complaint."

One reason for this is that society is often unaware of the size of the problem and of the possibilities of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and therefore remains prejudiced against mental illness.

This can - and must - change if community leaders, experts, politicians and all other players join the struggle. Where the problem is due to risky lifestyles, safety valves are ready at hand, at times with counselling working miracles. It can be that easy, both the body and the spirit willing.

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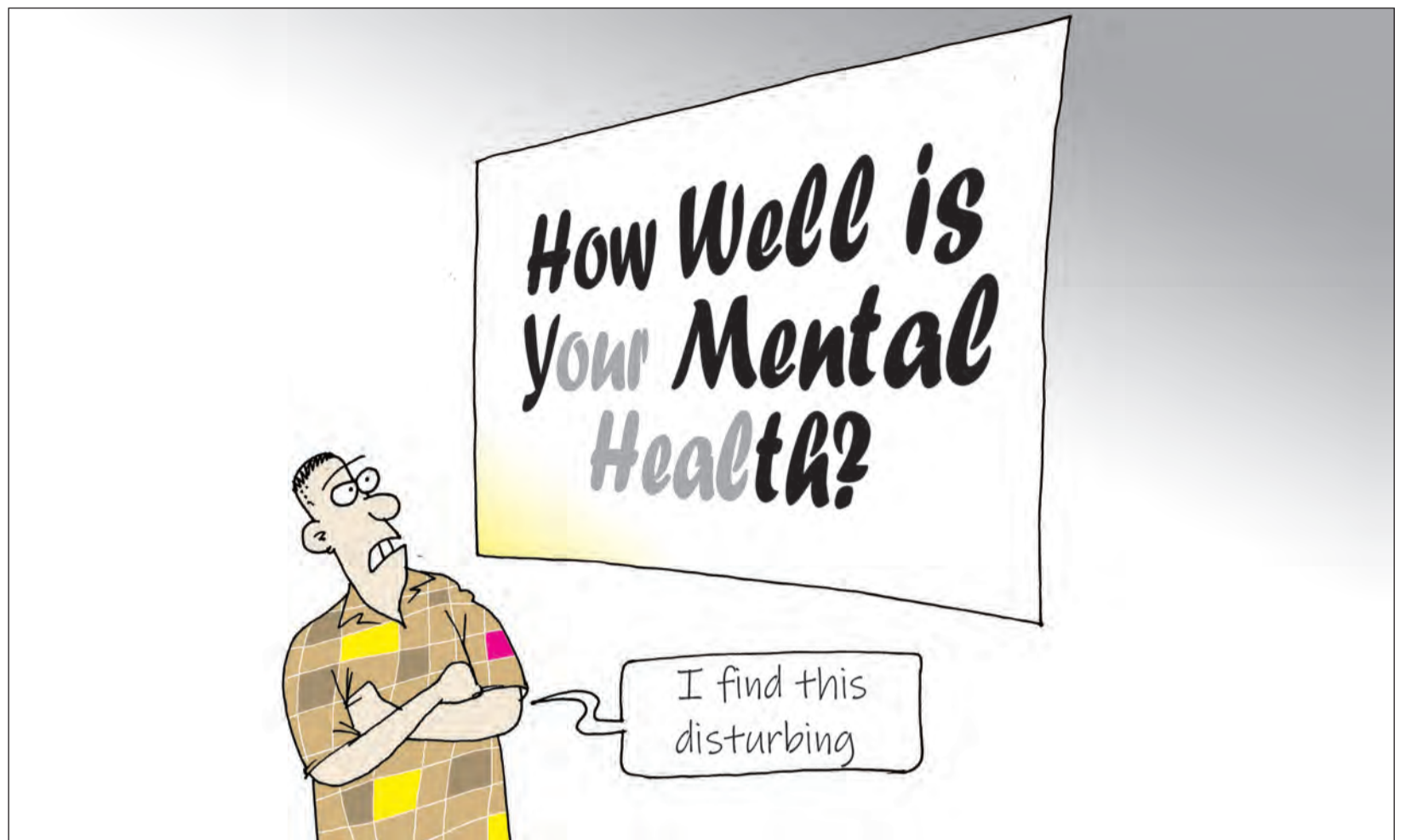
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We should transform our food systems for human, animal and environmental health

By Dr Hope Ferdowsian

FOR most of the twentieth century, scientists were confounded by a mysterious virus that was first identified in US military personnel in 1918.

Over two to three years, the virus spread across the globe to become the most severe pandemic in recent history. The virus infected about one-third of the global population, and at least 50 million people died. Mortality was especially high among children younger than five, young adults, and people over the age of 65.

The US had been drained of physicians and nurses due to military service during the First World War, so calls were made to anyone with medical training to help fight the pandemic.

Part of the mystery surrounding the virus was solved in 1997 when scientists were able to genetically sequence recovered pieces of lung tissue infected by the microbe - which we now know was an influenza A H1N1 virus, the cause of the Great Influenza epidemic.

Today, scientists continue to debate the precise origins of the 1918 pandemic and what made the virus so deadly. That is still a mystery. However, we now know that humans, birds and pigs were all involved in one way or another.

The human virus was likely derived from an avian influenza virus - and pigs were infected by humans. The 1918 virus then diverged into two independent lineages - one in humans and one in pigs.

Since 1918, all subsequent influenza A pandemics and seasonal epidemics have been caused by descendants (human and pig lineages) of the 1918 virus.

Over the years, scientists have pieced together more information about the 1918 pandemic and its connection to subsequent pandemics - including the 2009 H1N1 "swine flu" pandemic.

The first human infection with "swine flu" was detected in children in California in April 2009. And by June of the same year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a global pandemic. Schools were closed and doctors struggled to identify treatment strategies.

Two waves of the pandemic passed before the WHO announced an end to the pandemic in August 2010. Nonetheless, this virus continues to circulate and cause illness, hospitalisation and deaths worldwide every year.

Of course, all of this sounds too familiar. The exact origins of the 1918 virus and SARS-CoV-2 - the virus that causes Covid-19 - are still under investigation, but what has become crystal clear is that the poor treatment of animals and the environment increases the risk for outbreaks.

In fact, all human-animal interfaces

pose a risk, and 99 per cent of all human cases of recurring zoonoses (animal-borne diseases) come from domesticated animals and their products.

As scientist Matthew Hayek pointed out in the *Nature* journal *Science Advances*, infectious diseases have emerged following deforestation, ecosystem degradation, encroachment into animals' habitats, the commercial trade in animals, and intensive animal farming, creating an "infectious disease trap of animal agriculture".

Food systems - including the global nutrition transition, in which diets have shifted from plant-based diets to diets laden with animal products - fuel the risk for multiplying emerging infectious diseases.

The influence of a shift to diets high in animal products extends well beyond communicable disease risks to include non-communicable disease risks such as obesity, heart disease and cancer - while also failing to solve the problem of malnutrition.

Diseases such as heart disease and cancer are now the top killers in the US where, on average, one person consumes about 100 kg of meat each year. And this trend has expanded to other countries.

In the early twenty-first century, concern about rising chronic disease rates prompted the WHO to issue a *Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity, and Health*.

This recommended that governments create "supportive population-based environments through public policies that promote more fruit and vegetables, as well as nuts and whole grains...moving away from saturated animal-based fats to unsaturated vegetable-based fats".

That's a critical message and strategy, especially since the global health-related costs of red and processed meats in 2020 alone was 285 billion US dollars.

The *Global Strategy* is also important to ending hunger. Numerous UN bodies, including the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), have indicated that food systems are key to ending hunger.

But, currently, almost half of the world's cropland is used to feed animals for food production. Studies have shown that if grains currently used in industrial animal farming were used to feed humans, they could feed more than 3 to 4 billion people each year and free up billions of hectares for natural vegetation, forests, and ecosystems.

A shift in agricultural land use and practices could also help reverse greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet in deadly ways.

Greenhouse gas emissions from

animal-based foods are twice those of plant-based foods, primarily owing to differences in methane production and carbon sink loss through rainforest destruction for grazing and grain production.

Meanwhile, those who contribute the least to climate change suffer the most from health risks that include heart and lung disease, infectious diseases, and injuries or deaths from extreme weather events.

As legal scholar Charlotte Blattner has pointed out in the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*, just transitions in agriculture are a critical step in tackling climate change.

Just transitions away from intensive animal farming would also benefit workers and communities disproportionately affected by air, water and land pollution associated with animal waste, agrochemicals, and antimicrobial use in industrial animal farming.

However, the benefits of just transitions in the food sector don't stop there. Transforming our food system could help workers and communities in other ways. It could save workers' lives.

According to a US report released earlier this year, meatpacking companies "continue to be among the most dangerous industries", increasing the risk for lacerations, infections and amputations.

More than 100 years after author Upton Sinclair declared the massive slaughterhouse complex in a major US city as a "jungle", scientists have documented numerous negative effects of slaughterhouses on workers and communities.

But the risks aren't just physical. For example, in 2009, sociologist Amy Fitzgerald and her colleagues published an eight-year analysis of more than 500 US counties, which found that slaughterhouse employment increases arrests for violent crimes, including sexual violence.

And earlier this year, Jessica Slade and Emma Alleyne published a review showing that slaughterhouse workers have a higher rate of mental health disorders. Animals also suffer tremendously in slaughterhouses and factory farms. Just as humans would, animals feel pain from disease; cuts and burns; losing their fur, feathers and skin; and being killed.

Animals, including birds and mammals used in farming, are also vulnerable to fear, depression, anxiety, acute and post-traumatic stress, and grief - particularly when they are separated from their families, hurt and deprived of a natural life.

In my book *Phoenix Zones*, I ex-

plore the science of physical and mental suffering and resilience in human and non-human beings.

There, I describe how the freedom to lead one's life as one chooses and to be free from exploitation are critical to physical and mental health and wellbeing - and how the rights, health and wellbeing of all species are connected.

The interconnected problems that humans, animals and the environment face may seem overwhelming - but complex crises offer opportunities for bold solutions.

At PZI (Phoenix Zones Initiative), we have argued for a Just One Health approach, which recognizes that humans and other animals must be free from exploitation to meet their self-determined needs to thrive in natural, safe and healthy environments. Only then can individuals, communities and society be healthy.

A Just One Health approach offers a framework for just transitions away from human, animal and environmental exploitation in animal farming and towards nature-based solutions - including plant-based agriculture, which doesn't pose the same risk of disease, hunger, global warming, or violence.

A Just One Health approach offers a lens to assess and improve proposals and policies that cover food and agricultural subsidies; industry regulations and oversight; the priorities of international finance institutions; and other legal and economic drivers of worsening production and consumption patterns.

Historically, the meat and dairy industry has received sweeping legal and regulatory exemptions, which has had negative consequences for workers, animals, communities and ecosystems.

However, as Charlotte Blattner has pointed out, the international legal basis for just transitions in the agriculture sector are already in place, based in part on lessons learned through the energy sector.

We must make those changes now. We keep trying to outrun the risks created by exploitation of animals and the environment. But it isn't working.

We are smarter than this. If we can sequence viruses from a century ago, we can be smarter about our food systems. The stakes are too high to be anything other than boldly defiant against the status quo.

* A medium.com dispatch. Dr Hope Ferdowsian is an internal medicine, preventive medicine and global public health physician as well as president of Phoenix Zones Initiative.

General overview of insurance law in Tanzania

MODERN ways of living cannot be safe and meaningful without some form of risk protection, particularly when loss is likely to occur in the future.

Substantial capital is being invested in various projects around the world on material things while no one is aware as to when loss or accident might occur in which the entire project or part of it could be destroyed.

Before modern times, upon occurrence of loss, there was no compensation but in modern times, existence of various insurance covers ensures that people can reduce or mitigate the magnitude of the risks in various business transactions or in normal life.

Due to existence of various insurance products in the market, tears of many people have been wiped after insuring their business transactions and properties with insurance companies.

Due to its significance in day-to-day activities, insurance industry worldwide is regulated by the governments through various enacted legislations. In Tanzania, there is Insurance Act of 2009 Cap 394 R.E 2019, Motor Vehicle Insurance Act Cap 169 R.E 2019 and others.

The core intention of the state is to ensure that its citizens are well covered and protected for various unforeseeable risks which might have impact on their social and economic life.

However, despite the existence of various laws and regulations along with establishment of the regulatory authority, namely Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), only a very small fraction of the population in Tanzania has subscribed to various insurance covers mostly motor (which is mandatory for every owner of motor vehicle) and health insurance which was also made mandatory for all civil servants.

On our quick research, some of the major hurdles to subscription of insurance products is lack of knowledge in pursuing their legal rights in insurance matters, bureaucracy in pursuing their claims and attitude of insurers of not being willing to compensate the insured sufficiently.

In this article, we shall point out some of the relevant issues people need to understand in the context of compensation in insurance claims.

First and foremost, insurance is described as a financial arrangement between the insured and the insurer to cover certain types of risks by providing compensation when loss occurs.

The word 'insurer' means a company which provides financial compensation and the 'insured' is the person or institution which is required to be compensated by the insurer. Policy holder is also used to mean the same.

Generally, the purpose of insurance since its inception is to cover unexpected risk or loss. However, there are special categories of products to cover expected risks such as life insurance which is also called life assurance. Here, compensation is always provided upon the death of the insured or maturity date.

Insurance is a business of large numbers in the sense that many people are required to be covered in certain risk with expectation that only a few of them will be subjected to the actual occurrence of the



events which entitle them to provision of compensation. Essentially, capital investment of insurance company largely depends on good number of premiums from the insured and not shareholders' funding. For example, expectation is that out of 100 insured, either 10 or five people only may be subjected to actual occurrence of events which entitle them to compensation.

Therefore, even amount of compensation claimed either in court or otherwise should be reasonable since the same fund is required to compensate others within agreeable time. The intention of insurance compensation is to indemnify the victims and not to enrich them.

Further, for a person to be covered with insurance product, they are required to have insurance contract with the insurer, namely insurance company. This is what is called insurance policy.

This is a formal written legal documents or agreement which stipulates terms and conditions which the policy holder is required to comply with within the agreed time so that he or she can be entitled to compensation upon occurrence of events which entitles him or her to compensation.

One of the paramount conditions is payment of consideration known as premium. So, every insured person is required to have policy as evidential proof that their property, goods or life has been insured.

Practically, in most cases, particularly motor vehicle insurance, insurers have developed the habit of not issuing policy to the insured but only cover notes. This is not right because once the insurer accepts the insured to be his or her client, then as an insured person, they are entitled to policy either comprehensive or third party containing rights and obligations of the parties.

In most cases, noncompliance with the terms and conditions provided in the policy may result into the insured not to be entitled to the financial compensation available during occurrence of events or insurable risks.

Normally, policy documents contain standard terms which sometimes do not even require the insured person to sign in order to signify their consent to the same.

What is important to understand in pursuing compensation is that what we explain herein is more general because each insurer has got their own way of dealing with claims depending on the category of risk or insurance products involved but terms and conditions must be included in the policy documents.

Claim notification

The insurer is required to be notified of when the accident or events occurred. Some insurers demand informal reporting should be done within 48 hours from the time of accident or occurrence of the events by way of calling or sending normal texts to the insurer while formal reporting should be done within seven days.

Most insurance companies have special forms which the insured is required to fill details and the same need endorsement of the insurer. It is important to note that the sup-

plied details in the claim or report form are very relevant for the insurer to commence process of provision of financial compensation and they should be genuine and accurate because the same can be used against the insured.

One thing which needs to be clearly understood is that insurance contract is premised on the fundamental principle that it is a contract of utmost good faith as provided in Latin words *uberrimae fidei*.

This is a very fundamental principle when entering into contract by ensuring correct details are supplied to the insurer and in the course of discharging terms and conditions of the contract. In some circumstances, we have seen the said claim form being used against the insured in the court of law for the purposes of denying the insured their rights.

Appointment of an assessor

Assessors are one of relevant persons in the process of handling financial compensation claims. They are the ones who initiate the process of compensation once an accident occurs. In our jurisdiction, they are appointed by insurance company (insurer) different from other jurisdictions but they are regulated by laws and regulations which among others, requires them to be independent when discharging their statutory duties.

Their major function is to provide expertise, guidance and support regarding the accident to ensure fair compensation is paid to the insured. In discharging their tasks, they are responsible for assessing the accident, collection of documents and photographs if any, estimates of what is required to be

paid and sometimes they may mediate between the insurance companies and the insured as to which amount is fair entitlement for the compensation.

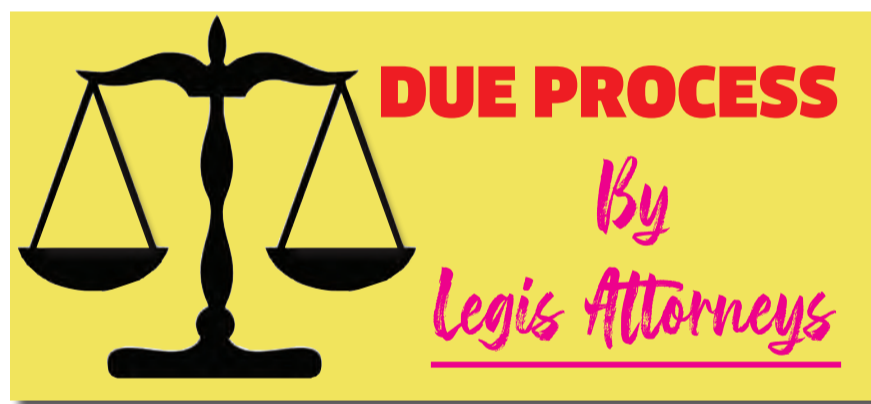
So, it is important to accord the loss assessor maximum cooperation when attending the accident because sometimes without their report, the insurance company may not pay the claimed compensation.

Settlement of claim
Upon receipt of the comprehensive report from the loss adjuster, the insurance company may opt to settle the claim, reduce it or to deny the same depending on the report received.

The insurer may provide offer to settle the claim to the insured if it is not fixed compensation, then the insured may accept what is offered or ask the same to be increased. Upon disagreement of the amount offered, then the insured may opt to take the matter to the court of law or if circumstances allow, to the ombudsman.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

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Tanzania's Jakarta embassy and seven MoUs point to economic diplomacy

By Mark Mapambano

ON June 22nd this year, Tanzania officially opened its embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Exactly two months later—on Tuesday this week—the two countries signed seven memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in Dar es Salaam to strengthen bilateral ties and promote economic cooperation.

The agreements were signed at State House Dar es Salaam in the presence of President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Indonesian counterpart, Joko Widodo, who was in the country on an official visit since Monday.

Folks who know a thing or two about diplomacy can attest that it is not a mean feat to pull off such a visit and goodies that come with it in such a quick succession. Going by the events, it's safe to say that Tanzania's economic diplomacy is in full swing, which is a good thing.

For, the pacts inked include an agreement to establish a joint commission for bilateral cooperation, an agreement on visa exceptions for holders of diplomatic and service passports and the establishment of cooperation in the field of health.

Others are cooperation in the energy sector, an agreement between State Mining Corporation (Stamico) and PT Mineral, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) and PLM Company and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation's agreement with PT Pertamina.

In a nutshell, the seven MoUs are all about enhancing trade and investment between the two countries, strengthening diplomatic relations, improving healthcare services, attracting investment in our mining sector as well as boosting energy production and distribution in our country.

Economic diplomacy includes building international coalitions to help countries boost their coffers through trade and investment. It entails convincing governments and leaders to apply policies and measures most likely to strengthen their economies and provide jobs for their people.

President Samia is known to be passionate about economic diplomacy. Last week, she expressed her unhappiness with some diplomats she termed as a burden to the country given their below par performances at their stations of work.

Speaking while swearing in the newly appointed



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Indonesian counterpart, Joko Widodo, witness the signing of bilateral agreements by Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Stegormena Tax (right) and Indonesian's Retno Marsudi at State House in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. File photo

envoys, she said that at certain point she was asked to change an ambassador in one of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member country.

"In other countries, our ambassadors don't know what they are doing, they are just there. I met with my fellow president from a SADC country, and he told me to change the ambassador I appointed to his country. This is because the one there was not working as expected, she president said without naming the country.

And going by her speech at the signing of the seven MoUs, one can assume

that she wants results in matters investment and trade to create jobs and boost state coffers through taxes and levies.

She mentioned that the aim of the MoUs is to strengthen cooperation between Tanzania and Indonesia further in industries, energy, minerals, oil and gas, fishing, tourism, and the hospitality sector, including the exchange of knowledge and technology."

She added that Tanzania is keen on knowledge exchange on the production of palm oil, of which Indonesia is the world's largest producer. It should be remembered that Tanzania's annual total

demand for cooking oil is about 600,000 tonnes and over 300,000 tonnes are imported.

On the other hand, Indonesia produces more than 30 million tonnes of palm oil alone per year, generating 4.5 percent of its gross domestic product and giving employment to over three million people.

"More collaboration is envisioned in agriculture transformation, the private sector, and efficient management of state business enterprises. Indonesia is one of the best-performing countries when it comes to running commercial enterprises such as the success of Pertamina," President Samia said.

According to London-based think tank Chatham House, the emergence of a multipolar global economy in which the US is no longer the main engine of growth has boosted the role of economic diplomacy in the setting of foreign economic policies.

"While the EU remains the world's biggest economic bloc and the US is still an economic powerhouse, it is Asia - China in particular - which has created hundreds of millions of new middle-class consumers, helping to drive global economic growth," it states in a publication titled 'Economic Diplomacy in the Era of Great Powers'.

This shift, it adds, has ignited an era of competition between the US and China and, by implication, a debate about the merits of different political and legal systems. The difficulty for the rest of the world is how best to navigate this highly polarized climate - in recent history, only the Cold War comes close to having matched the adversarial dynamics of such a divided international community.

"In conducting economic diplomacy, governments should consider their economic strengths, the importance of transparency, and how best to operate in a fragmented international system," the document states.

By citing the success of China whose economic model is different from that of the West in general and the US in particular, experts at the think tank are simply saying that what is important in economic diplomacy is the cat that catches the mouse and not the colour of the cat.

Mark Mapambano is a commentator on current affairs. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

Nepal's Covid-19 immunisation campaign - An unlikely frontrunner

By Tanka Dhakal

BADRI Acharya is currently at the helm of the public health office in Pokhara, a prominent city within Nepal's Himalayan region and a renowned tourist hotspot.

However, in the past, he worked in the field, leading and delivering essential public health provisions in the isolated and demanding terrain of the Manang district-some 198 km north from Pokhara during the tumultuous period of the Covid-19 pandemic and the extensive devastation triggered by climate-induced flash floods.

"I walked for two days with our medical team to reach the remote village, Naar, up to the mountain, and did Covid-19 vaccinations," Acharya explained. He described the perilous journey, which navigated through active landslides and steep slopes, saying, "We walked that path with courage, relying on tree roots to avoid falling into deep crevasses."

Manang is known for its beautiful Himalayan terrain and the livelihood of locals, which is primarily based on indigenous knowledge. During the Covid-19 pandemic, places like Manang, Mustang, and Humla, became locked and isolated, where access to basic necessities was already nearly out of reach for villages like Naar and Fu.

However, these places managed to provide jabs smoothly during the high influx of Covid cases, showcasing the dedication of healthcare workers. "It was because of micro planning and coordinated efforts from every stakeholder," Acharya added. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognized it as "exemplary efforts in ensuring vaccine equity" and stated, "which helped protect communities that might otherwise have been overlooked."

Unlikely frontrunner

In 2021, the infection rate was going upward, and there was a limited vaccine supply; still, places like Manang and Mustang were able to carry out immunizations without disruption.

How?

Thanks to a well-coordinated implementation plan of vaccination from the federal to provincial to local levels. According to Dr Abhiyan Gautam, the head of the Child Health and Immunization Service Section at the Department of Health Services, it was an uphill battle to combat the pandemic situation, especially for a country like Nepal where resources are limited, and distribution is challenging due to difficult road connectivity.

"Vaccine supply is always a major issue in geographically challenging areas, and with Covid, there was added pressure to vaccinate all eligible individuals," Gautam said. "Thanks to back-and-forth discussions on policy, continuous guidance from experts, and dedication from healthcare workers on the ground, we were able to overcome challenges."

There were existing challenges, including the lack of a cold chain to safely store vaccines and vaccine carriers to reach villages in the mountain region. In the midst of the pandemic, mountain districts like Manang and Mustang faced flash floods in 2021 that swept away roads, bridges, and houses. Public health expert Gautam said, "At that time, it was difficult to transport vaccines. Health workers used ropes to transfer vaccines from one place to another."

Acharya, who was the head of the Public Health Office in Manang for two years (from November 2020 to March 2022), recalls the distress he experienced and how he and his team navigated that pressured situation.

"Already difficult situation worsened due to the flash flood," he recalls, "there was no electricity for a week, and solar power also didn't work for an extended period. We sought help to bring ice packs from Pokhara to preserve the vaccine."

Physical distancing and other COVID-related precautions were impossible during the flood, adding the risk of infection spread and other public health concerns.

"We didn't halt the vaccination drive and pursued an equity-based approach to vaccine rollout," Acharya explained, "The situation in Manang and Kathmandu (the capital city of Nepal) differed; treatment access was available in Kathmandu but not feasible in Manang, so we emphasized preventive measures, fo-



Healthcare worker of Manang Delivering vaccine through risky road after flood in 2021. CREDIT: Badri Acharya/IPS

cus on vaccination for all eligible individuals."

Initially, there was no formal authority from the federal level, but the provincial authority provided enough vaccines to cover all eligible individuals. "Only a few thousand individuals were eligible for the vaccine, yet we provided jabs to all village residents," Acharya recalls, "A later federal-level decision was made to ensure vaccine equity in remote areas, which greatly aided us."

According to the 2020 census data, Manang is the least populated district in Nepal, with 5,658 people, while Mustang is the second least populated, with a population of 14,000. In the first week of August 2021, Manang became the first district to vaccinate all individuals aged 18 or above (4,198), followed by Mustang, which administered jabs to 9,300 eligible residents at that time. As of July 2023, the Family Welfare Division of the Department of Health Service states, "The Government of Nepal vacci-

nated 83.9% with the first dose and 83.4% with the full/second dose for the total population." Gautam said, "Nepal achieved the milestone of vaccinating 70% of the total population (30.03 million) with the full dose on July 20, 2022, thanks to the exemplary work carried out by the unexpected frontrunners, Manang and Mustang."

Lessons for the future

Both Gautam and Acharya, who invested long hours heading vaccination efforts during the pandemic era, emphasize that the battle is not yet over, but they harbour less concern about the situation now and hold hope for the future.

"The health institution itself was destroyed by the flood in some villages. However, the health workers did not give up," Acharya recalls. "We provided encouragement. Health workers take pride in being part of this endeavour and remain prepared to act whenever required."

Detailed micro-planning and the dedication of healthcare workers to serve the public good are the factors that enabled success in hard-to-reach areas of the upper mountains.

"We are now better equipped to store vaccines, with ultra and supra cold chain facilities," Gautam added. "We feel more prepared than ever to confront a pandemic-like situation in the future. The Covid-19 pandemic tested and enhanced our ability to combat wide-spread infections."

This story was supported by the Sabin Vaccine Institute and Intertnews.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Badri Acharya (second from right in front row) with his team heading to Meta Village at NaarFu, Manang. CREDIT: Badri Acharya/IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Adam's inspiring journey in overcoming drug addiction

By Guardian Correspondents

ON July 14th 2023, Adam Bhanji walked from his peers to the front to begin a new chapter in his life. The applause filled the room as he shook hands with Dr. Erasmus Mndeme, the Coordinator for Mental Health and Drug Abuse from the Ministry of Health who was the guest of honor at a certificate awarding ceremony at the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) in Dar es Salaam.

He received his certificate and smiled for a picture; his eyes were full of hope for the new adventure. Adam graduated with skills in photography.

The program was initiated after the visit of the Director of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC), Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky in 2022. During the visit, Dr. Walensky confirmed support for technical skills development for Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) clients.

The intervention is implemented by Management and Development for Health (MDH) through the 'Afya Kwanza' project by providing short course training at VETA institutions.

Adam is among 41 others who graduated from VETA with technical skills that will sustain their lives post Methadone treatment.

For Adam, it has been a bumpy ride after years of drug addiction and on-and-off treatment. However, things are beginning to look promising.

Four years ago, Adam took a leap of faith and walked into Temeke Regional Referral Hospital and willingly asked to start Methadone treatment after years of drug abuse. He was anxious, exhausted, insecure, and bankrupt; but he knew that his problems will be fixed since he tried for years and failed.

His woes began almost two decades ago when he first noticed

skin changes on his body. His skin changed from its natural chocolate color to white patches; almost as if he was recovering from a burn injury.

"I was ashamed. I could not look someone in the eyes", he narrated, adding the situation got worse as the disease affected most of his body. The unsolicited questions and stares from strangers made him insecure and anxious.

He was diagnosed with vitiligo, an autoimmune disorder that causes patches of skin to lose pigment or color. Despite not being contagious, vitiligo patients face mental health issues including anxiety, stress, and neglect. Vitiligo affects over 70 million people globally and has no known cure. Anyone can get vitiligo at any time in their lives, be as a child or an adult.

He began to spend most of his time indoors, however, one of his friends was concerned. He wanted his friend to feel confident and lively again but unfortunately, he led him to a dark turn. That is how Adam was introduced to drugs, from alcohol, marijuana and eventually heroin.

"I felt the sensational pleasure of drugs. It was a huge relief for me at that time. I felt born again, there was no shame in me, drugs blinded me I could not see the vitiligo that has affected most of my body. I felt relief for the first time after months", said Adam.

A year after Adam began using drugs, his family noticed his newfound habit. He was shamed and discriminated against; feeling like an outcast, he left home to live alone. As years passed by, his family pled with him to seek help to no avail. Eight years after he left home, Adam went back and joined Bububu sober house in Zanzibar.

He did that only to satisfy his family. He finished three months in a sober house and returned home drug-free; everyone was impressed.

Unfortunately, that did not last



Adam Bhanji receives his certificate of completion of VETA training. From left is the MDH Chief Executive Officer, Dr David Sando Coordinator for mental health and drug abuse from the Ministry of Health, Dr Erasmus Mndeme, and Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer, Dr Rashid Mfaume. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

long before he went back to drug use.

"Society and family were the main reason for me to go back to drugs", he said, noting that his family showed signs that they did not trust him and that he had stopped using drugs.

Adam was blamed and mocked for using drugs. He was excluded from the community and family affairs.

As a test, his family gave him certain responsibilities to fulfill such as giving him money to feed his siblings, to see if he had really stopped using drugs. Like many people recovering from drug addictions when they are happy, anxious, or sad, they are at a higher risk of relapsing. Therefore, he relapsed.

Six years after relapsing, Adam sat down and began to rethink his

life choices. He reflected on how drug use never really fixed any of the issues he was trying to mask. The anxiety and insecurity were still there, drugs only ensured that he was bankrupt too; only worsening his situation.

On that fateful day, Adam gathered himself and walked into Temeke Regional Referral Hospital; he had one goal in mind, to get help for his drug use. This is his fifth year of treatment, and he is in the final steps of completing treatment.

His recovery journey has not been as smooth as a tarmac road, but it has shown the power of free will in improving one's life.

A year after beginning Methadone treatment, Adam started volunteering to educate other people who use drugs, convincing them to join MAT and begin treatment.

He volunteered whenever needed for community outreach to at-risk and vulnerable people. He is now a founder of a non-profit organization focusing on harm reduction to youth using drugs and plans to keep on helping others in their recovery journey.

He is married and blessed with a beautiful child and lives a peaceful life with his family in Dar es Salaam. Adam is looking forward to putting his photography skills to use to support his family.

Speaking after the ceremony, Dr David Sando, the CEO of MDH gave his remarks saying: "MDH has taken a bold step to plant a seed through this training. And I believe that we have opened a door for the continuance of this training to others to come."

The 'Afya Kwanza' project im-

plemented by MDH with funding from President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through US CDC, in collaboration with the government through the Ministry of Health supports MAT services to mitigate the impact of drug abuse in Tanzania.

From 2014 to date MDH has facilitated enrolment of 10,137 former drug users on MAT treatment. Currently over 4,172 are receiving methadone on daily basis at three facilities in Dar es Salaam.

MDH continues to work to support MAT clinics and community engagement to strengthen prevention, improve treatment and stop discrimination against people who use drugs.

The efforts to end drug addiction and drug use continue until everyone is healthy.

Improving early childhood development centres is best possible start for children in Tanzania

By Getrude Mbagi

THE United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's Education 2030 Agenda and the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for 2030 Roadmap provide guidance to national governments on achieving inclusive and quality education for all.

Target number 4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4) calls out the need to adopt a comprehensive integrated approach to Early Child Development (ECD) and learning stating: "By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education."

Reports show that more than 50 percent of the world's pre-primary-age children do not have access to pre-primary education programmes. In Tanzania as well, there is progress, with a 9.5 percent increase in net enrolment ratio in pre-primary schools between 2014 and 2021. However, the current ratio of 35.4 percent indicates that many children are still unable to access pre-primary education.

Despite investing in various projects and programmes to improve the education sector in Tanzania, funding for early years education remains in short supply while most public schools do not offer classes for children under the age of five. This excludes many families who cannot afford to pay for private pre-primary education.

To help reduce the gap in provision of early childhood education, BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania, has invested and seen first-hand how early childhood development (ECD) programmes can play a key role in narrowing education gaps and creating more equitable learning opportunities for all.

In an interview with this paper recently, Susan Bipa, country director, BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania said the organization has been working hard to support quality and sustainable children learning for the country's development.

She said through the support of Yidan Prize funds, BRAC has facilitated establishment of 30 Play Labs in Tanzania many of which are co-located with pre-primary and primary schools in the Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions.

"These centres give children living in hard to reach areas a vibrant space to engage in playful learning, helping prepare them for primary education and beyond," she said.

She noted that addressing the needs of children in the most disadvantaged communities has always been a core priority for BRAC.

Susan said the organisation has provided the basic training to all educators regardless of their educational level and their experience where a total of 50 educators (play leaders) have been trained and are currently leading



the 30 play labs in Dar es Salaam reaching 1,608 children in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam.

"We need to expand our pool of passionate and qualified early childhood educators. This means investing in specialized training to boost their understanding of basic child development therapies and play-based learning techniques," she said.

According to her, teachers can also learn how to create a gender responsive environment that encourages all children to participate, contribute, and develop to their full potential.

Susan said the organisation was also providing mental health and psychosocial support training to the play leaders (MHPSS) which is important for supporting parents and children on mental related problems.

She noted that in Tanzania, there are formal ECD college programmes from government institutions, such as the Open University of Tanzania's Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education. "Widening access to such courses through funding grants and remote learning opportunities is therefore an

important step. Likewise, training should be backed up by community support networks where teachers share knowledge and co-construct solutions to classroom challenges."

She encouraged play leaders who have the required qualifications to apply for such programmes as part of their career growth.

"It is also important for all aspects of a community-parents, teachers, local leaders, and more to be united in ensuring a fair start for every child. Community leaders have a deep un-

derstanding of the educational challenges faced by their community and should therefore play a central role in developing local early years education programs. This includes developing holistic learning models for teachers and students and helping tackle gender stereotypes that often see girls afforded fewer educational opportunities than boys," she explained.

Through innovative learning models and solutions, organizations such as BRAC are delivering better outcomes for young children and driving social pro-

gress, even in areas where resources are limited.

For example, during the Covid-19 pandemic, our Radio Play Labs programme gave children wellbeing guidance on national radio in a variety of local languages.

"By collaborating with government bodies, community leaders, families, and schools, we can boost awareness of the importance of early years education and inspire collective action and investment," she noted.

She added: "Improving access to early childhood education in Tanzania is a challenging task, but it can be achieved. ECD programs are already helping bridge learning gaps, address inequities, and bring holistic learning opportunities to even the most underserved communities.

Progress must now be built on and accelerated. That means taking an evidence-based approach to the development of young children, shining a light on positive outcomes, training quality ECD educators, and engaging our communities to support future generations.

Late 2021, Tanzania became the first country in Eastern and Central Africa to launch a national multi-sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme implemented from the financial year 2021/2022 to 2025/2026.

The National Multisectoral ECD Programme seeks to ensure that all children in Tanzania are developmentally on track to reach their full potential. Building on Every Woman and Every Child Strategy of Survive, Thrive, and Transform and nurturing care framework, the programme will address systemic and programmatic challenges that affect growth and development of young children 0-8 years.

Speaking at the launch held in Dodoma city, the then Minister for Health, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima expressed joy that finally the ECD programme has matured and has participation beyond the health sector.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO CREATE LESS-POLLUTING CEMENT

By Yusuf Khan

Rising demand for housing in most major cities around the world is increasingly at odds with efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions, as the literal building blocks—concrete and cement—of the construction projects are extremely polluting.

Roughly 7 percent of all carbon emissions today come from cement production, making it one of the highest-emitting industrial sectors, according to the consulting firm McKinsey.

“Concrete is an essential building material,” said Claude Loré, director of cement, innovation and ESG at the Global Cement and Concrete Association. “Three-quarters of the infrastructure that will exist in 2050 has yet to be built.”

About 90 percent of the emissions in traditional portland cement come from producing clinker—the binding agent that holds the water, gravel and sand together—that makes up nearly three quarters of the final product.

Typically, clinker is made by heating limestone and clay in a rotating kiln to temperatures above 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit. Coal is often used to power these kilns. About two thirds of the clinker emissions are released by the limestone when heated while the rest come from the combustion of fuels to create the heat.

That process has been replicated for millennia but companies now are looking to change it. Approaches to the problem include improving energy efficiency, using cleaner fuels, capturing the carbon emissions produced and switching to alternative raw materials.

Increased efficiency



One way the industry is looking to improve sustainability in cement production is by targeting efficiency gains.

British startup Carbon Re is aiming to optimize the use of fuel by employing artificial intelligence and machine learning. One of the industry’s main issues is fuel wastage, according to Carbon Re co-founder Aidan O’Sullivan, who said that differing qualities of coal mean most producers often use too much of it to produce clinker.

The startup is analyzing a number of producers’ actual fuel usage to train its machine-learning algorithm to predict the optimal fuel needed for a given fuel source and production target. “We are looking to optimize the fuel-consumption process so you use just enough energy to get the chemical reaction you need,” he said.

Small improvements can add up to a sizable emission effect. “A 2% of fuel saving translates to tens of thousands of tons of carbon per plant being saved,” O’Sullivan said. He added that the development has wider implications too: “There is a huge opportunity to use AI in heavy industry where their contribution is 20 percent of carbon emissions.”

New fuels

Others are looking to change the fuel type altogether. Cemex, one of the world’s largest cement producers, has been working with Switzerland-based Synhelion to produce clinker using solar energy rather than coal. Last year, the two companies said their trial project in Spain produced clinker without fossil fuels.

Under the approach, mirrors concentrate sunlight into Synhelion’s solar receiver which

is used to heat a kiln to around 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit to create a clinker without fossil fuels. “We are eliminating combustion of fossil fuels while also having high temperature heat,” said Gianluca Ambrosetti, co-chief executive and co-founder of Synhelion.

The two companies are now working to see if the process can be done on a continuous cycle by adding thermal energy storage to its process. It aims to produce solar-powered clinker commercially by 2030.

Carbon capture

Synhelion is also looking to add carbon capture to its model to absorb the CO2 released by the limestone, alongside cutting those emissions from the combustion to produce the heat.

The International Energy Agency considers carbon capture, use and storage as a means of reducing emissions for the industry, but at the moment uptake has been slow. In its Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario, the IEA says “8 percent of CO2 from the sector needs to be stored globally by 2030, up from negligible levels today. But progress on deployment and investment in this area is as yet limited, with these technologies still at relatively early stages of development today.”

Heidelberg Materials, one of the world’s largest cement producers, is looking to change that. Heidelberg is currently building a carbon capture and storage facility to run alongside its plant in Brevik, Norway. It aims to start capturing emissions from production by the end of next year with the capacity to absorb roughly 400,000 tons a year when fully operational. It would be the world’s first large-scale carbon-capture site at a cement plant.

Heidelberg has opted for so-called

amine capture, which uses chemical solvents to capture and absorb CO2 emissions through a chemical reaction. The CO2 is then liquefied and shipped by a new partnership of Shell, Total and Equinor to be stored under the seabed close to the city of Bergen.

“Basically, when we look at how we decarbonize, it’s one sizable lever in the [cement] industry,” said Christoph Beumelburg, director of communications at Heidelberg. “If you want to tackle those emissions, CCUS is one technology we need to take a look at,” he added.

New materials

Another idea the industry is exploring is doing away with traditional materials altogether, thereby avoiding the clinkering process.

Delaware-based Partanna, avoids using portland cement as a binder and instead relies on natural chemistries. Co-founded in 2020 by former National Basketball Association player Rick Fox, the company uses a combination of brine from desalination plants and waste products from steel production called slag to create a new form of cement.

“We take the slag and we take brine, which are two recycled materials, put them together and mix them at just ambient temperatures, so we don’t need the excess heat that’s used to generate cement,” said Fox. In addition to creating an alternative cement, the process also absorbs carbon dioxide as the two materials react.

Partanna says the new cement is as strong as the traditional portland form and because it uses brine as a raw material, it gets stronger if exposed to seawater—a particularly useful trait for sea walls, flood defenses and walls in areas affected by storm surges or hurricanes.

UNPAID WORKERS:

China’s property woes hit Country Garden

TIANJIN

At an unfinished Country Garden residential complex on the outskirts of the northern Chinese metropolis of Tianjin, construction has slowed to a dull whirr and a few idle workers roam a near-empty site.

“They haven’t paid us since Chinese New Year (in January). We are all worried,” said a labourer surnamed Wang, 50, who said he had stopped work at the Yunhe Shangyuan site last week.

The sprawling complex is one of two projects Reuters visited on Friday in Tianjin, a port city of 14 million people about 135 km (84 miles) southeast of Beijing. Both sites are run by Country Garden, China’s largest developer by sales volume before this year, now mired in

a debt crisis threatening to spill over to the wider economy.

Construction had partially or fully stopped at both sites - the larger one with a few rows of unfinished five-storey apartment blocks and the other with lifeless cranes and thick green scaffolding hanging over skeletal high-rises. Workers at dorms on the sites complained of months without pay.

“I’m under a lot of pressure,” said a worker at the Yunhe Shangyuan site surnamed Wei, also in his 50s, who added that he had only received a one-off living stipend of 4,500 yuan (\$618) so far this year.

“I have a wife and kid who’s about to return to school, as well as elderly parents ... Workers can’t live on this.”

Once considered one of the more financially sound develop-



ers, Country Garden is now a bellwether of how the cycle has turned for developers.

Its financial woes have added to the debt crisis in China’s real estate sector, which accounts for roughly a quarter of the world’s second-largest economy, currently losing steam amid a housing slump and weak consumer spending.

A representative of Country Garden’s Yunhe Shangyuan project said in a Wechat statement its “registered employees” were all being paid.

At the Yunjing Huating site, the government in June ordered construction to be suspended to fix management problems, a project representative told Reuters in a separate statement. It has since passed inspection and work is expected to resume next week, the person said, adding the suspension would have no impact on the targeted completion date of October 2024.

Some workers are not employed directly by the developer, the Yunjing Huating representative said, but by its contractor, which “has promised to pay the workers’ wages by the end of this month.”

The project contractor, Shen-

yang Tengyue Construction, did not pick up calls from Reuters or respond to emails seeking comment.

The housing ministry did not comment on Reuters queries about halting of construction in the property sector in general or Country Garden in particular.

Country Garden has nearly 1 million homes to complete, according to estimates from Japanese investment bank Nomura. It has not publicly acknowledged whether any of its projects have halted construction due to financial constraints.

In an exchange filing on Aug. 10, Country Garden said it would “spare no effort to ensure delivery” of apartments and that it would “ensure the operation of projects nationwide” to fulfill its commitment to home buyers.

Country Garden built its success by quickly selling a large number of units for low margins and by promising “five-star living” in less popular, smaller cities.

Tianjin has about a dozen Country Garden projects, with the majority finished and delivered, said Gao Fei, investment advisory manager at the Tianjin branch of Centaline Property

Agency.

Gao said halted construction projects were “relatively rare” in the city, representing about a dozen out of 300 sites for sale, but “there are indeed projects whose development progress has slowed down”.

“In China, it is a common phenomenon because now all developers control the rhythm of construction based on the sales rate ... so once sales slow down, so will construction,” Gao told Reuters.

Confidence in the sector took a big hit last year after many Chinese homebuyers threatened to stop repaying mortgages, as developers stopped building pre-sold housing projects due to strapped liquidity and strict COVID-19 restrictions.

China’s real estate market slightly rebounded in the first quarter of 2023 but transaction volumes have since declined, with the majority of city housing markets remaining in a “depressed” state, said Gao.

“We have seen that many home buyers are affected by a lack of income, and their home buying choices and what they can afford have been impacted in turn.”

US landlords with \$1.2trn debt may face default risks

NEW YORK

About \$1.2 trillion of debt on US commercial real estate is “potentially troubled” because it’s highly leveraged and property values are falling, according to Newmark Group Inc.

Offices are the biggest near-term problem, accounting for more than half of the \$626 billion of at-risk debt that’s set to mature by the end of 2025, the brokerage estimates.

Office values have tumbled 31 percent from a peak in March 2022, when the Federal Reserve started raising interest rates, according to property analytics firm Green Street.

Concerns are mounting that defaults will increase as property values fall and costs rise for landlords who need to refinance at higher interest rates.

Overleveraged owners are often more motivated to stop payments than sink money into buildings with diminished prospects for returns. Blackstone Inc., Brookfield Corp. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. are among investors that have defaulted or relinquished offices to lenders this year.

“They’re going to have every incentive to hand back the keys to lenders,” David Bitner, global head of research at Newmark, said in an interview. “I’m shocked that hasn’t happened a lot more.”

Newmark defines “potentially troubled” as properties where debt represents at least 80 percent of the real estate’s marked-to-market value, based on price indexes including Green Street’s.

Banks, which have tightened lending since this year’s collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, carry the biggest share of at-risk debt, with \$303 billion of potentially troubled loans maturing through 2025, according to Newmark.

After offices, apartment buildings are the next-biggest category of potentially troubled properties, with \$192 billion in debt needing to be refinanced through 2025, Newmark estimates.

Landlords who try to hang on and weather the storm are likely to take a bigger hit than those who cut their losses more quickly, according to Bitner.

“There’s going to be a reckoning,” he said, “and everybody that waited to deal with the problem is going to regret they did.”

RUFJI BASIN WATER BOARD TAKES BOLD INITIATIVES TO PROTECT WATER SOURCES

By Francis Kajubi

TWO residents of Mwatenga village in Mbeya region have been sentenced to serve two years in prison after being convicted for causing damages to water sources that flow into the Rufiji basin.

Florence Mahay, Director of Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB) said in an interview with the reporter of this article earlier this week that the two criminals were proven guilty of illegally conducting drip irrigation farming within the prohibited 60 meters of the Great Ruaha river.

"We are waiting for the ruling of another case to be read earlier next month. We have been sensitizing communities living along feeder rivers of the Great Ruaha river, Kilombero river, Lower Rufiji and Luwegu rivers not to conduct human activities especially those involving illegal water use," said Mahay.

According to him, the engagement of water users associations have played a major role in reducing cases related to illegal use of water from rivers that feed the Rufiji basin.

He said the associations have further contributed in sensitizing people on the essence of sustaining water sources hence reducing conflicts by the board against pastoralists and irrigation farmers.

Mahay asserted that in a move to prevent water sources invasion by humans for economic activities, the board has been constructing dams to serve for irrigation farming and livestock

keeping.

For instance, he said, the board has constructed the Masaka reservoir in Malota village in Iringa region for the purpose of drip irrigation farming and fishing.

He said the reservoir has so far been filled with water from streams surrounding the village by 70 percent. After it has been filled with water by 100 percent, he said, investors can be allowed to set up drip irrigation infrastructure.

"The only economic activity which has so far taken place at the Masaka reservoir is the introduction of tilapia fingerlings which has been done twice with a total of 12,000 fingerlings," said Mahay.

On March 24th this year The Guardian published a special report on initiatives taken by the Rufiji Basin Water Board in protecting water resources and sources against economic activities by people living along the Rufiji basin for present and future sustainable use.

Mahay emphasized on the protection of water sources for the benefit of future generations.

According to the study dubbed 'Impact of Human Activities on Water Resources around Lake Victoria in Misungwi District, Tanzania 2014' by Alex William and Jumanne Kalwani that was also featured in the African Resources Development Journal, Volume 4, No. 1, December 2019, highlighted the threat of human activities to water resources sustainability.



Wildlife captured along the Great Ruaha river.

The study was carried out in Misungwi District and geographically the district shares a border with Sengerema and Nyang'hwale districts to the west, Shinyanga Rural to South, Mwanza city to the North, and Kwimba district to the Northeast.

The district is basically in semi-arid with the average rainfall between 700mm and 1000mm. The district has an area of 2,555 km² including around 175 km² of Lake Victoria.

Observations and studies have shown that the wetland area of Lake Victoria in Misungwi is continuing to be degraded due to human population settlement and human associated activities including bad agriculture practices and over[1]stocking causing

silting.

From observation point of view; one respondent during the study explained: "Water level was not reaching here [pointed at the shore line]. It was near that small mountain and we used to fish there but as you can see today here we stand there is no water at all" reads part of the study report.

It states that human pressure regarding water resources account for the degradation of the Lake Victoria water resources and consequent negative effects to the physical environment and the local ecosystem.

Growth in economic activities like agriculture, mining, animal keeping and bricks making which have direct relationship with use of water resources. Consequent-

ly, it negatively affected the quality of lake water and the existing limited water supply and distribution plan of Misungwi district.

The study recommends the way forward should be for the local government to draw comprehensive policies and environmental laws to check expansion of human settlement into the lake environment to safeguard water resources under threat.

"More emphasis should be placed on continued awareness building on sustainable use of the water resources of Lake Victoria and its wetland at large lest the environment deteriorates at the expense of the inhabitants' livelihoods," concludes the report.

On the other hand, climate change is turning into a growing threat of water resources availability, sustainability and safe consumption by humans around the world.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report for 2021, only 0.5 percent of water on earth is usable and available freshwater while climate change is dangerously affecting that supply.

It states that over the past 20 years, terrestrial water storage including soil moisture, snow and ice has dropped at a rate of 1 cm per year, with major ramifications for water security.

The report emphasizes that extreme weather events are making water scarcer, more unpredictable, more polluted or all three. These impacts throughout the water cycle threaten sustainable

development, biodiversity, and people's access to water and sanitation.

However, the United Nations Water (UN Water) 2021 report states that over a fifth of the world's basins have recently experienced either rapid increases in their surface water area indicative of flooding, a growth in reservoirs and newly inundated land; or rapid declines in surface water area indicating drying up of lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, floodplains and seasonal water bodies.

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) 2021 report suggests that the ambition of new climate change mitigation pledges for 2030 by UN member states need to be four times higher to limit global warming to 2°C and seven times higher to get on track to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

It further recommends that the way forward should be for climate policymakers to put water at the heart of action plans. Politicians must cooperate across national borders to balance the water needs of communities, industry, agriculture and ecosystems.

"Sustainable water management can help societies adapt to climate change by building resilience, protecting health and saving lives. It also mitigates climate change itself by protecting ecosystems and reducing carbon emissions from water and sanitation transportation and treatment," reads part of the report.

By Correspondent Beatrice

Philemon

ZANZIBAR is inviting foreign investors from Asia, Europe and the US to invest in a state-of-the-art spice, seaweed and fruit processing plant and invest in climate-smart agriculture.

Hamad Hamad, Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce, (ZNCC)'s executive director said this recently during the Afro World Afri Food 2023 International conference, exhibition and awards took place at the Diamond Jubilee involving potential buyers, economists, experts and investors from Asia, Africa, USA and Europe Continents.

"Zanzibar is rich in cloves, seaweed and fruits resources, that's why is currently looking for more investors to build processing plant in their localities so that they can add value of their produce, create employment opportunities, increase foreign currency and expand trade with other countries," he said.

He said, during the event, they had market trends in spice panel discussion with different experts involved in spice industry whereby they discussed the market issues, spice trade, quality of raw materials and price, packaging, storage facilities and aflatoxin.

The panel discussion proved fruitful as the European and Asian businesspersons were more interested to purchase cloves from Zanzibar, because of the uniqueness and high quality it has and health



Zanzibar seeks investors for spice processing plant

benefits it has as well.

He lauded Tanzania Pulses Network (TPN) and TASO Events Private Ltd for organizing this event in Tanzania for the first time that in turn has helped him to meet with different potential buyers, economists, experts and investors from Asia, Africa, USA and Europe Continents who want to purchase cloves from Zanzibar.

He called on them to visit at Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) or Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) offices to obtain information on how they can invest in Zanzibar.

Currently the government has put in place all the necessary incentives to support industrialization and strive to ensure Tanzania becomes a fa-

vorable place to set up industries and do business for both local and foreign investors.

"Investors keen to invest in Zanzibar to build processing plant or engage in climate-smart agriculture, cloves cultivated in Zanzibar is organic by default because we don't use pesticides and herbicides in our farming activities, he said.

So far Zanzibar has smallholder farmers engaged in clove farming in Pemba Island who mostly depend on clove production as the source of income, employment and household earnings.

Right now farmers have been able to establish farmers association dubbed: 'Pemba Clove Growers Association.

"As Zanzibar resi-

dents we want businesspersons who can purchase our crops and investors who will add value to our produce to help farmers raise their income, create employment for youth, promote business links with other countries and increase foreign currency," he said.

Apart from cloves, they can also venture into seaweed and fruit processing because are the investment opportunities that are now available in Zanzibar and right now seaweed farming provides income for women who are engaged in this farming. Both investors and businesspersons can team up with local partners and exploit this market.

Tanzania is a beautiful country enjoyed peace,

political stability and has good relationship with different countries across the world.

For his part, Vijay Sardana, Techo legal expert for Agro-Industries, New Delhi called on farmers, exporters, importers including other people who are in spice trade to be carefully especially who are exporting to Europe market.

"If you are exporting spice to Europe or America, please start focusing on quality of raw materials if you really want to benefit from spices trade," he said.

Majority of farmers who are engaged in this farming are not take spices seriously because if there is quality problem in your spices, the consignment will be rejected.

Southern African bloc backs \$17bn gas infrastructure plan

JOHANNESBURG

A southern African bloc of nations backed a \$17-billion natural gas infrastructure plan to bolster energy supplies on a continent where almost half of the population lacks access to power.

The 16-member Southern African Development Community approved the blueprint to invest in infrastructure such as pipelines and terminals for local and imported supplies. While not yet a major source of gas, the bloc is home to some significant discoveries with projects in various stages in Mozambique, Tanzania and South Africa.

The SADC endorsed the 15-year plan to coordinate resources, it said last week after a

meeting between heads of state in Luanda, Angola's capital. It focuses on the use of gas from northern Mozambique and southern Namibia, as well as import terminals in southern Mozambique and South Africa. With new coal projects unlikely, nuclear power considered costly and climate change threatening hydroelectric generation, "this leaves few options," according to the plan.

The plan still requires funding, at a time when the financing of fossil-fuel supplies grows increasingly challenging due to environmental concerns and a global shift to cleaner sources of energy.

Project delays could also present an obstacle, as demonstrated by liquefied natural gas pro-

jects by TotalEnergies and Shell in the region that have fallen years behind their initial target to start production.

"SADC member states have growing populations and an urgent need to drive inclusive economic growth, reduce poverty and income inequality, and create prosperity and wellbeing for all," the group said. Gas can provide a complementary source of energy, "expediting the development of the power grid in renewable resource rich areas," it said.

The plan allocates more than \$9-billion of investment in Mozambique that's needed to build power projects and infrastructure, leveraging discoveries offshore the north of the country.

Construction work begins on 220.5 MW wind farm

LONDON

The project is the 20th Scottish wind farm for principal contractor Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK

Construction works on the 49-turbine North Kyle Wind Farm in East Ayrshire, Scotland has begun according to Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK.

The company has been appointed as principal contractor for the US \$381m project near Dalmellington.

According to the firm, the project

will have the capacity to power more than 160,000 households. The firm completed enabling works in May, which included the construction of the SP Energy Networks (SPEN) substation platform and construction compound.

The Brockwell Energy-led development, which was first devised in 2016, is said to be capable of generating 220.5MW of renewable energy, with plans to provide \$82.7mn in community benefits over 40 years.

CONSTRUCTION

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS YOUTH-LED AGRITECH SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICA'S FOOD SYSTEMS AT AGRF 2023

By Guardian Correspondent

Heifer International, a leading global nonprofit working to end hunger and poverty in low- and middle-income countries, is heading to this year's AGRF Africa Food Systems Forum in Tanzania to engage agriculture sector stakeholders on how increased innovative financing and support for youth-led transformative solutions can improve African food systems.

The AGRF 2023, taking place September 4-8 in Dar es Salaam, is Africa's leading venue for agriculture stakeholders to come together and agree on practical actions to transform food systems and end hunger.

This year's summit will convene more than 3000 attendees from over 70 countries.

More than 350 experts and policy-makers will present on ways that Africa can build back better food systems and strengthen the continent's food sovereignty - with youth and women at the centre.

Heifer International has been working with farmers and communities in Africa for nearly 50 years to help them build



Pitch AgriHack winners

resilient food systems that can withstand shocks and stresses. Heifer has also ramped up innovative investments in young Africans working on transformative solutions and products within the agriculture ecosystem that have led to improved livelihoods, increased climate-

smart and sustainable practices, job creation and improved food productivity and storage infrastructure.

"We believe that the gathering of vital stakeholders for Africa's agricultural development at the AGRF 2023 is a critical opportunity to share our knowledge

and experience in leveraging innovative funding and strategic partnerships to build more-resilient and sustainable food systems," said Adesuwa Ifedi, Senior Vice President, Africa Programs, Heifer International.

Ifedi added: "The summit also presents an exciting opportunity for us to show the critical role that young innovators and technology are playing in helping Africa's smallholder farmers increase their productivity and incomes, catalysing improvements across the agricultural value chain and improving food systems."

Heifer International will host a side event at the summit on Sept. 4 that will bring together youth innovators, policy-makers, experts in finance and technology, and other stakeholders to discuss leveraging innovative capital for youth in agriculture.

A second Heifer-hosted event will be the Pitch AgriHack/AYuTe Showcase on Sept. 6, promoting ICT innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture by identifying and amplifying efforts of young innovators using technology to reimagine farming and food production across the continent.

These events are aligned with the summit's theme of Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation," focusing on building back better food systems and food sovereignty with youth and women at the centre.

"Young Africans are not only the future of the continent's agricultural transformation, but are leading present developmental efforts," said Ifedi. "By leveraging innovative capital, young innovators are empowered to see agriculture as a viable career path and sector to scale tech products that build systems and markets. This leads to solutions that enable more productive market systems that transform our food systems, such as our AYuTe Africa Challenge program that focuses on creating opportunities for young African innovators to transform the agricultural landscape."

Heifer's AYuTe Africa Challenge is one of the most ambitious agriculture competitions on the continent, combining the power of African youth with the many possibilities of emerging technologies to support smallholder farmers across Africa to grow their businesses and incomes - a transformative force called AYuTe.

Dubai set to witness housing shortage as population explodes

DUBAI

Dubai's residential market could be facing a shortfall in the long-term with a projected population growth fuelling the need for a development boom.

According to a forecast by real estate consultancy Knight Frank, external drivers such as the recently announced Dubai Economic Agenda 'D33', which outlines a roadmap for the emirate to double its GDP by 2033, will result in a demand for human resources. The population by this stage is expected to approach six million, up from 3.5 million today, with the Dubai Urban Master Plan 2040 taking this number to 7.8 million a few years later.

"The predicted growth in the city's inhabitants will warrant the need for a large-scale residential development boom. Indeed, the city's current housing stock will virtually need to double if the population targets are to be met, which the government expects to swell to 7.8 million by 2040," said Faisal Durrani, Partner - Head of Research, Middle East & Africa for Knight Frank.

"The signs are already pointing to the projected shortfall in homes over the long-term. First there is Dubai's GDP which grew by 2.8 percent in the 12 months ending Q1, with sectors like retail, trade, aviation, and hospitality continuing to dominate, driving the city to earn the accolade of the highest average hotel occupancy levels in the world during H1 at 78 percent across the emirate's nearly 150,000 rooms. Furthermore, the emirate's non-oil sector PMI has remained in expansionary territory for over two and a half years. Businesses are actively recruiting and expanding, resulting in a Grade A office supply crunch," he added.

Although supply already remains tight in prime neighbourhoods across Dubai, the construction pipeline for new homes across the rest of the city continues to expand, according to experts.

By the end of 2028, Knight Frank expects 85,200 homes to be delivered, with 69% of them being apartments (59,000 units). About 40,000 homes are projected for completion this year alone, with a portion likely delayed to next year.

"Excluding 2023 and assuming all 40,000 homes forecast to be completed this year are delivered on time, 42,500 units are scheduled for

completion between 2024 and 2028, representing an average of just 8,500 homes per year - a 75 percent reduction on the long-term rate of home deliveries," said Shehzad Jamal, Partner - Head of Strategy & Consultancy, Middle East & Africa, Knight Frank.

The industry expert added this momentum was strongly hinting at a continued upward pressure on prices as well, particularly as population continues to swell.

Sustained demand

According to figures released by the Dubai Land Department, the real estate sector in the emirate saw 76,119 transactions worth 283 billion dirhams (\$77 billion) in the first half of the year, with the coveted Golden Visa also boosting demand amongst foreign investors.

Latest findings by Knight Frank revealed that a continued sustained demand has driven up the price of homes across Dubai, with the sector recording a 4.8 percent increase in Q2 2023 over the first quarter, with a 17 percent spike reported over 12 months.

Data revealed that apartment prices recorded an uptick of 21 percent since January 2020 and currently average AED 1,290 per square foot. Villa prices, which remain in demand, have experienced an even stronger growth of 51 percent over the same period and are currently priced at an average of AED 1,520 per square foot.

"Despite the substantial increase in prices, city-wide values still trail the 2014 peak by 11 percent. And as things stand, the relatively long-run of price growth is showing no signs of slowing. If anything, all the market dynamics continue to point toward further increases, particularly when it comes to villas as the supply-demand dynamic remains out of kilter," said Durrani, adding this was especially true in the city's prime markets of Jumeirah Bay Island, Emirates Hills and the Palm Jumeirah, where villa prices are up by 11.6 percent in Q2 and by 2125 percent since January 2020.

"Not to be outdone, villa prices across the rest of the city too remain supercharged and are 5 percent higher than the 2014 peak. More affordable locations, on a price per square foot basis, are also experiencing strong price increases. Villas in Dubai Hills Estate, for instance, have registered 24 percent growth in values in the last 12-months alone; the fastest rate of growth in the city," he added.



UK construction companies go under at fastest rate in a decade

LONDON

Construction companies in the UK have gone out of business at the highest rate in a decade as a result of persistent cost inflation, a slowdown in housebuilding and delays to government infrastructure projects.

Figures from the government's Insolvency Service show about 4,280 operators became insolvent in the 12 months to June, 16.5 per cent more than the same period a year ago.

Last week Buckingham Group, which has worked on the new HS2 railway line and the Anfield football stadium in Liverpool, became one of the largest contractors since the collapse of Carillion in January 2018 to stop trading.

Buckingham, which employed 660 people, attributed its troubles to a "combination of unexpected impacts", including "extreme inflation".

Rising material costs, planning delays and skills

shortages have all contributed to contractors' financial difficulties, said Professor Noble Francis, economics director at the Construction Products Association.

The government has also delayed a series of large road and rail projects as it grapples with rising costs, while housebuilders have announced a slowdown in new building. Crest Nicholson issued a profit warning this week as rising interest rates slowed buyers' appe-

tite. The number of failures in the 12 months to June was the highest since the 4,537 recorded in 2012, when construction insolvencies peaked following the effects of the financial crisis.

The worst hit companies were smaller, specialist subcontractors. They accounted for 2,499 insolvencies, or about 60 per cent of the total, in the period.

However, main building contractors were also affected as they were unable to pass their problems on to others in the supply chain, Francis said.

Groundworks specialist Allma Construction and its sister company Centre Plant collapsed into administration last week with the loss of more than 180 jobs. Allma, which specialised in the housebuilding sector, has been hit hard by the residential downturn.

Although construction materials prices have fallen from highs reached after Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed up energy and commodity costs, they are still 42.7 per cent higher than before the pandemic in January 2020, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Some materials prices are still rising at double-digit percentage rates. Ready-mixed concrete prices rose 19 per cent in the year to June, while bitumen and precast concrete prices rose 12 per cent.

The government in March announced a two-year delay to phase 2a of the high-speed railway line HS2 between Birmingham and Crewe, citing "significant inflationary pressure and increased project costs".

It has also stopped work on the HS2 terminal at Euston station in central London.

Some road projects have also been held up. Ministers have delayed by two years work on the £9bn Lower Thames Crossing, a planned 14.3-mile motorway east of the Dartford bridge in London.



Moldova's construction outputs decline by 8pc

MOLDOVA

Moldova's construction output fell by an annual 8 percent in the first half of 2023, the country's statistical office, BNS, said.

The volume of new construction works decreased by 13 percent on the year in the first six months of 2023, BNS said in a press release on Monday.

The volume of maintenance and current repair works also fell by an annual 23 percent in January-June, while capital repair works jumped by 26 percent. Other construction

works inched up by 1 percent on the year.

The volume of works performed on residential buildings shrank by 23 percent in the six months through June, while works on non-residential buildings rose by an annual 6.5 percent. Works performed on engineering constructions saw a 7 percent drop compared to the same period of last year.

Moldova's construction output fell by an annual 14 percent in 2022 after edging down by 0.3 percent in 2021.

WORLD

Xi hails BRICS expansion as 6 countries invited to join bloc

JOHANNESBURG

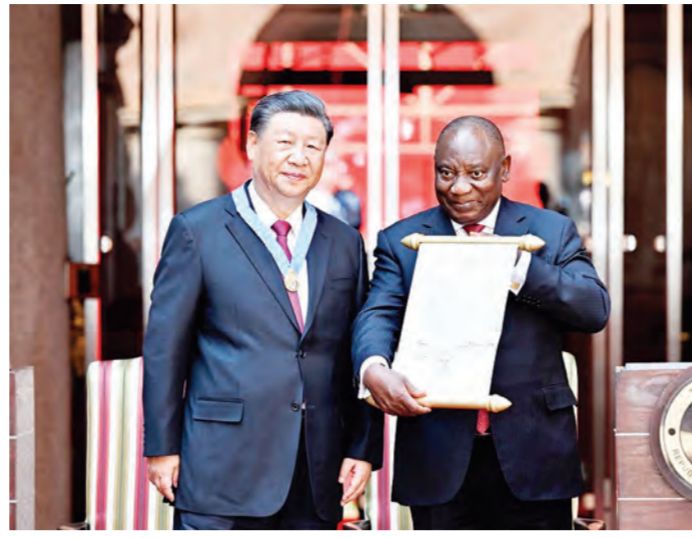
BRICS leaders agreed yesterday to invite six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to join the group.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said the BRICS expansion is historic and a new

starting point for BRICS cooperation.

The six countries' membership will take effect on Jan 1, 2024, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced at a press conference during the 15th BRICS Summit.

"We value the interests of other countries in building the partnership of BRICS," said Ramaphosa.



Chinese President Xi Jinping receives the Order of South Africa, the highest decoration and the highest honor that South Africa awards to an important and friendly head of state, from South African President Cyril Ramaphosa after their talks in Pretoria on Tuesday. Xi, who is paying a state visit to South Africa, held talks with Ramaphosa. Xinhua

BRICS leaders met here from Aug 22 to 24 to discuss issues including deepening BRICS cooperation and the group's

expansion. Xi was speaking at the press conference after Ramaphosa announced the extension of invitation to the six

countries to become new BRICS members.

The expansion reflects the resolution of the BRICS countries to unite and cooperate with other developing countries, meets the expectations of the international community, and serves the common interests of emerging markets and developing countries, Xi stressed.

He added that the expansion will also inject fresh vitality into the BRICS cooperation mechanism, and further strengthen the forces for world peace and development.

The press conference was hosted by Ramaphosa, and also attended by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Russian President Vladimir Putin participated online.

Xinhua

Putin: BRICS nations to counter hegemony, support multipolarity

MOSCOW

THE BRICS group supports the rise of a multipolar world order, and opposes attempts made by some countries to assert their hegemony, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday at the 15th BRICS Summit during a virtual address.

"We are all unanimously in favor of the formation of a multipolar world order that is truly just and based on international law," the Kremlin reported Putin as saying at the summit.

"We are against any kind of hegemony, exclusivity, which is being promoted by some countries," Putin said.

Putin noted that the BRICS group, which is composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is strengthening economic cooperation in such fields as supply chain diversification, de-dollarization and transition to national currencies in mutual settlements.

Putin outlined the importance of enhancing cooperation in other fields such as innovation, and in the creation of safe transport routes.

The future-oriented strategic course of BRICS meets the aspirations of the global majority, Putin said, adding that the BRICS group is tackling some of the most pressing issues on the global and regional agenda. Agencies



'BRICS platform for cooperation among developing countries'

ADDIS ABABA

BRICS has become a major platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries, Hu Changchun, head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union (AU), has said.

Further developments are expected to emerge as the 15th BRICS Summit takes place in Johannesburg from Aug 22 to 24, with particular emphasis given to cooperation with Africa, said Hu while addressing the press on Tuesday.

"Taking this BRICS summit as an opportunity, China looks forward to strengthening the partnership between BRICS and African countries, boosting African integration, and building a prosperous Africa," Hu told reporters.

Over the past 17 years, noted Hu, with its growing influence, BRICS has become a major platform for cooperation among developing countries, where BRICS nations adhere to the right path of win-win cooperation and make positive contributions to building a



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (3rd L) delivers his remarks in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Lula da Silva and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during a media conference on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS Summit, in Johannesburg yesterday. ANI

better world.

"The BRICS countries adhere to genuine multilateralism, remain focused on common development, defend the interests of developing countries within the global multilateral frameworks, and make efforts to promote the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," he said.

BRICS countries are committed to innovation and exploration, building

new industrial revolution partnerships, closely following the trend of the digital economy, and creating a talent pool for sustainable development and innovation cooperation, he added.

According to Hu, since its founding, the BRICS cooperation mechanism has been closely linked with the destiny of developing countries.

"Africa is home to the largest number of developing countries. The BRICS

countries and Africa are natural partners for cooperation," he said.

The theme of this year's summit is "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism." During the summit, the BRICS Plus dialogue and China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue will also be held.

Responding to questions on China-Africa cooperation, the head of mis-

sion said China and African countries have always been good friends, good partners and good brothers.

"Thanks to the joint efforts of both sides, the comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership has developed rapidly and formed a wide-ranging cooperation pattern. It benefits millions of Chinese and African people," Hu said.

According to Hu, over the past decade, China and Africa have worked hand in hand to extend cooperation, achieved fruitful results, and provided vivid examples for building a China-Africa community with a shared future.

As the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) marks its 10th anniversary this year, Hu said the initiative has become a new engine driving the economy along the routes.

Africa is an active and important participant in the BRI, Hu said, noting that 52 African countries and the AU Commission have signed cooperation documents with China.

Xinhua

Russian, South African top diplomats discuss cooperation on international platforms

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor during a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg discussed the need to coordinate the countries' actions in the UN, BRICS and other international platforms.

"The sides touched upon various aspects of the Russia-South Africa strategic partnership, including the strengthening of the political, trade and economic and humanitarian ties. The sides pointed to the determination of the two countries to further coordinate actions in the UN, BRICS and other platforms on the topical issues of the international and regional agenda," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry pointed out that Lavrov highly praised South Africa's efforts in presiding over BRICS and emphasized that the meeting in Johannesburg will be "a very important step forward on the way to deepening interaction in the BRICS-Africa format." Agencies



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov with South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor

Modi, Xi Jinping shake hands, greet each other at BRICS

JOHANNESBURG

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping were seen exchanging a handshake and in brief conversation with each other yesterday at the BRICS Summit in the South African capital city of Johannesburg.

Before issuing a joint statement of 15th BRICS Summit by the leaders of the grouping, PM Modi and the Chinese Premier were seen walking and chatting before they took their designated seats.

Also, post the briefing, the two leaders were seen exchanging a handshake on the stage.

In November 2022, Prime Minister Modi and Xi Jinping exchanged pleasantries at the G20 dinner hosted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Bali, Indonesia.

Notably, this was the first the two leaders had met and greeted each other since the standoff between China's Peoples Liberation Army and the Indian forces in eastern Ladakh in April 2020.

India and China have been in a stand-off situation for the last three years and relations at all levels have deteriorated due to tensions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The two sides have held 19 rounds of talks so far to address the boundary issues in eastern Ladakh since 2020, post the Chinese aggression there.

PM Modi arrived in South Africa for the 15th BRICS Summit on Tuesday.

The opening day of the summit in Johannesburg saw the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue which PM Modi addressed but Xi Jinping skipped the event, sending his com-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping engage in a brief interaction at the 15th BRICS Summit, in Johannesburg yesterday. ANI

merce minister Wang Wentao to represent him.

Meanwhile at the Summit today it was announced that Argentina, Egypt, Ethi-

opia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will join the BRICS from January 2024.

In a statement in the

presence of other leaders from BRICS countries, PM Modi said India has always believed that adding new members will strengthen BRICS as an organisation.

"India has always supported the expansion of BRICS. India has always believed that adding new members will strengthen BRICS as an organisation," he said.

PM Modi said India has "historic ties" with all the new members of BRICS.

He said India will also contribute to other countries wanting to join as partner countries of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

In his remarks, South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the outcomes of the 15th BRICS Summit and said the grouping will be expanded.

"We've reached an agreement to invite Argentina,

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE to become full members of BRICS. The membership will come into effect from January 2024," Ramaphosa said.

Participating in the BRICS Summit on Wednesday, PM Modi had said India fully supports the expansion of the BRICS membership and welcomes moving forward with consensus in this.

"In 2016, during India's chairmanship, we defined BRICS as Building Responsive, Inclusive, and Collective Solutions. After seven years, we can say that BRICS will be - Breaking barriers, Revitalizing economies, Inspiring Innovation, Creating opportunities, and Shaping the future. Together with all the BRICS partners, we will continue to contribute actively in making this new definition meaningful," he said.

ANI

ON August 21 local time, the Central American Parliament adopted the resolution of revoking the "permanent observer status" of the so-called "Legislative Yuan" of the Taiwan region and accepting the National People's Congress (NPC) of China as a permanent observer.

It once again indicates that the one-China principle represents the unstoppable trend of the times.

The one-China principle was confirmed by Resolution 2758 adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1971 and represents the universal consensus of the international community.

There is but one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chi-

One-China principle an unstoppable trend of times

na's territory, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. This is an indisputable historical and legal fact.

Taiwan has no international legal status other than being a part of China, and has no right to join international organizations whose membership is confined to sovereign states.

In recent years, many Central American countries including Panama, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras have chosen to establish or restore diplo-

matic ties with China, which demonstrates that the one-China principle has become a broad consensus in the region.

The decision of the Central American Parliament, a parliamentary body of Central American sovereign states, to revoke Taiwan's observer status and accept the NPC as an observer conforms to the trend of regional countries establishing or resuming diplomatic relations with China, and meets the expectation of peoples in the region to strengthen cooperation with China.

The vast majority of Central American countries adhere to the one-China principle, which creates political conditions to enhance cooperation with China in various fields and delivers tangible benefits to their people.

Since Panama established diplomatic ties with China, the two sides have launched broad mutually beneficial cooperation in economy, trade, finance, agriculture, tourism, transportation, and maritime affairs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, China provided strong support to the

Dominican Republic, for which the Dominican Republic Senate specially commended China.

Since establishing diplomatic relations with China, El Salvador has witnessed steady progress in its cooperation projects with the latter, including a National Library and a pier in La Libertad.

Laureano Ortega Murillo, Advisor to Nicaraguan President on Investment, Trade and International Cooperation and Coordinator for Cooperation with China, described the development of Nicaragua-China ties since the re-

sumption of diplomatic relations as "fast," "efficient" and "fruitful."

Honduras established diplomatic relations with China in March this year.

It has signed a memorandum of understanding on Belt and Road cooperation with China, and the first round of negotiations on China-Honduras free trade agreement kicked off in early July.

Central American people can see that strengthening cooperation with China benefits national development and improves people's livelihood, and is in the fundamental interests of their countries and the region as a whole.

People's Daily

US says stolen COVID relief funds seized so far top \$1.4b

WASHINGTON

THE US Justice Department said on Wednesday it has seized over \$1.4 billion in COVID-19 relief funds that criminals had stolen, and charged over 3,000 defendants with crimes in federal districts across the country.

The Justice Department disclosed the results of a nationwide enforcement action to combat coronavirus fraud, including federal criminal charges against 371 defendants for offenses related to over \$836 million in alleged COVID fraud.

"This latest action, involving over 300 defendants and over \$830 million in alleged COVID-19 fraud, should send a clear message: the COVID-19 public health emergency may have ended, but the Justice Department's work to identify and prosecute those who stole pandemic relief funds is far from over," US Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

A total of 119 defendants pleaded guilty or were convicted at trial during the sweep, according to the Justice Department.

The United States is probing many fraud cases pegged to US government assistance programs. In May 2021, Garland launched a COVID fraud enforcement task force.

Last year, the US Justice Department tapped federal prosecutor Kevin Chambers to lead its efforts to investigate alleged fraud schemes targeting pandemic assistance programs.

Over \$200 billion from the US government's COVID-19 relief programs were potentially stolen, a federal watchdog said in late June, adding that the US Small Business Administration had weakened its controls in a rush to disburse the funds.

In September 2022, the inspector general for the US Labor Department said fraudsters likely stole \$45.6 billion from the United States' unemployment insurance program during the coronavirus outbreak by applying tactics like using Social Security numbers of deceased individuals.

Earlier this year, a separate watchdog report said the US government likely awarded about \$5.4 billion in COVID-19 aid to people with questionable Social Security numbers.



In this file photo taken on May 12, 2020, healthcare workers wait for patients to be tested at a walk-in COVID-19 testing site in Arlington, Virginia. AFP

First US Republican presidential primary debate focuses on abortion and Trump

WASHINGTON

THE first US Republican presidential primary debate on Wednesday night revealed the GOP divide on abortion and former President Donald Trump.

The debate held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin saw the participation of eight White House contenders from the Grand Old Party: North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former South Carolina Governor and former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, former Vice President Mike Pence, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, and South Carolina Senator Tim Scott. Trump, the runaway favourite among Republican voters in national and state polls, skipped Wednesday night's debate.

In a pre-recorded interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, which was posted on social networking platform X, formerly known as Twitter, Trump attacked his Republican challengers. Abortion was a hot topic at the debate.

The candidates held different opinions on a 15-week federal abortion ban. No candidate said they would sign a six-week federal abortion ban. Pence endorsed a 15-week federal abortion ban while Haley questioned the possibility of passing such legislation, pointing out that there are not enough Senate votes.

DeSantis and Burgum, who have signed six-week abortion bans into law in their own states, stopped short of saying they would do the same federally. Trump was another topic that drew heated exchanges among the candidates.

When asked by a moderator for a show of hands on whether they would support Trump if he eventually wins the Republican nomination, six candidates raised their hands, some of them hesitantly.

Christie and Hutchinson spoke against Trump. Pence defended his decision to reject Trump's pressure to overturn the 2020 presidential election. "He (Trump) asked me to put him over the Constitution."

And I chose the Constitution. "DeSantis tried to dodge the question of whether Pence did the right thing on Jan. 6, 2021 by carrying out his duty to verify the election of Joe Biden as president."

DeSantis argued that a "rehashing" of the issue would play into the hands of the Democrats. Pence dug in and asked DeSantis to answer the question. "I've answered this before ... Mike (Pence) did his duty."

"I've got no beef with him," DeSantis said and quickly moved on. The exchanges over Trump triggered jeers and boos from the audience.

At a point, a moderator had to intervene to ask the audience to stop booing Christie and to allow the debate to continue. Other topics included climate change, homelessness and crime, education, the Ukraine crisis, and foreign policy.

Xinhua

Chandrayaan-3: India lunar rover Pragyaan takes a walk on the Moon

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S Moon rover has taken first steps on the lunar surface a day after the country made history by becoming the first to land near the south pole.

Chandrayaan-3's rover "ramped down" from the lander and "India took a walk on the Moon!", the space agency said.

The Vikram lander successfully touched down as planned on Wednesday evening.

With this, India joins an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.

The 26kg rover called Pragyaan (the Sanskrit word for wisdom) was carried to the Moon in the Vikram lander's belly.

After the dust raised by last evening's landing had settled, panels on one side of Vikram opened to deploy a ramp to enable Pragyaan to slide down to the lunar surface.

It will now roam around the rocks and craters, gathering crucial data and images to be sent back to Earth for analysis.

Pragyaan is carrying two scientific instruments which will try to find out what minerals are present on the lunar surface and study the chemical composition of the soil.

Pragyaan will communicate only with the lander which will send the information to the orbiter from Chandrayaan-2 - which is still circling the Moon - to pass it on to the Earth for analysis.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has said that the rover will move at a speed of 1cm per second - with each step it will also leave on the Moon's surface the imprint of Isro's logo and emblem embossed on its six wheels.

The landing coincides with the start of a lunar day - a day on the Moon equals a little over four weeks on Earth and this will mean the lander and rover will have 14 days of sunlight to charge their batteries.



Soon after the touchdown, Isro released an image of the Chandrayaan-3 landing site with one of the four legs of the lander on the right

Once night falls, they will discharge and stop working. It is not yet clear whether they will come back to life when the next lunar day starts.

The lander is also carrying several scientific instruments which will help find out what goes on the Moon's surface and above and below it.

Moon is thought to hold important minerals but one of the major goals of Chandrayaan-3 is to hunt for water - scientists say the huge craters in

the south pole region which are permanently in shadow hold ice which could support human habitation on the Moon in future.

It could also be used for supplying propellant for spacecraft headed to Mars and other distant destinations.

On Wednesday, tense moments preceded the touchdown as the lander began its precarious descent. The lander's speed was gradually reduced from 1.68km per second to almost zero, enabling it to make a soft

landing on the lunar surface.

The historic moment was greeted with celebrations across the country, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying "India is now on the Moon" and that "we have reached where no other country could".

The landing came just days after Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft spun out of control and crashed into the Moon.

The crash also put the spotlight on the difficult terrain of the south pole region where the surface is "very uneven" and "full of craters and boulders".

India's latest Moon mission sends first photos

India's second lunar mission, which also attempted to soft-land there in 2019, was unsuccessful - its lander and rover were destroyed, though its orbiter survived. It continues to circle the Moon even today and is helping the Vikram lander send images and data to Earth for analysis.

India is not the only country with an eye on the Moon - there's a growing global interest in it, with many other missions headed to the lunar surface in the near future. And scientists say there is still much to understand about the Moon that's often described as a gateway to deep space.

Agencies

Technologies powering cut flower industry in China's Yunnan

YUNNAN province in southwest China is an important producer of flowers thanks to its unique natural and climatic conditions. It produces flowers all year round.

Today, technological advances have breathed new life into the cut flower industry in the province. Modern agricultural facilities allow for precise control over the flowering, and advanced cold chain logistics can enable consumers thousands of miles away to receive bouquets freshly cut from plants within 48 hours.

Yunnan has built a complete industrial chain of cut flowers, including a flower trading market and a distribution system that serve not only China, but also the rest of Asia. The province produces 18 billion stems of cut flowers annually, and ranks first in China in terms of cut flower production and sales for 28 consecutive years.

At 9 a.m., endless rows of roses were growing vigorously at a demonstration garden for modern floriculture in Kunming, capital of Yunnan province. The park was managed by Yuntianhua, a company engaged in the manufacturing and selling of chemical products.

The massive greenhouses here have intricate networks of pipes and equipment. Picking up an irrigation tube from a flower planting tray, Lyu Jinlong, the operations director of a Yuntianhua subsidiary, told that the tube is over 100 meters long and can feed the flowers with water-fertilizer mixture from more than 500 separate outlets at the same time.

"We collect environmental data and flower growth information using sensors installed in the greenhouses, which will then guide an integrated water-fertilizer system to blend water-fertilizer mixtures in different ratios," Lyu noted, adding that the fluids are applied directly to the roots of the flowers.

There are plenty of other high technologies inside the greenhouses, including adjustable roof panels that can control lighting intensity, films that can form diffused light, decay-resistant coconut husks for soilless cultivation and heating pipes that can regulate interior temperature and humidity.

Lyu said the company makes agricultural products with an industrialized approach, using computers for high-precision control over the greenhouse environment to achieve automated and intelligent production. This allows the company to grow plants in optimal conditions with less energy and fertilizer, he noted.

According to Lyu, with this system, daily water and fertilizer management for 107 mu (7.13 hectares) of flowers can be handled by just one person.

It is learned that under the intelligent planting mode, the quality and yield of flowers have been greatly improved. The rose yield per mu is 30,000 to 50,000 stems under traditional cultivation methods, while intelligent reforms have increased this number to 140,000 stems.

At 1 p.m., the auction hall of the Kunming International Flora Auction Trading Center (KIFA) was filled with people. All of its over 900 seats were occupied.



Photo shows flowers at the Kunming Dounan Flower Market in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province. File photo

On a huge electronic screen in the front of the hall, real-time auction information was displayed, including varieties, grades, flaws and more information about the flowers. Nearly 1,000 flower brokers were concentrating on the information, getting ready to bid for their pre-selected flowers.

On average, a deal was made every four seconds. The intense and lively auction hall seemed like a stock exchange trading floor.

Flower brokers serve as a bridge between flower suppliers and source markets. They distribute flowers to regions across China after the auction.

About 5 to 6 million stems of cut flowers are up for auction every day, with transaction values exceeding 4.5 million yuan (\$625,495), and all the flowers are evaluated by the KIFA with open and transparent prices, said Zhu Qi, who is in charge of planning at the KIFA.

Over 3,000 varieties of cut flowers under some 40 categories are entering the domestic market and more than 40 other countries and regions including Thailand, Japan, Singapore and Australia, according to Zhu.

The Kunming Dounan Flower Market where the KIFA is located is China's only national-level flower market. In 2022, its trading volume reached nearly 11.04 billion stems, with a total transaction value of more than 12.14 billion yuan. At least seven out of every 10 stems of cut flowers in the Chinese market come from the Dounan market.

ket.

In the market, flower trading is conducted mainly through face-to-face transactions, auctions, and e-commerce. Traditional face-to-face transactions account for around 70 percent of the total.

"In the past, due to underdeveloped land-based cold chain logistics network, 90 percent of the flowers were shipped by air from the market, resulting in high logistics costs that drove up flower retail prices," said Qian Chongjun, executive president of Dounan Flower.

Now, with the joint efforts of many parties, cold chain logistics systems have gone through accelerated development. Over 200 logistics companies have entered the Dounan market. Today, more

than 80 percent of flowers are shipped via land-based cold chain logistics networks from the market, which significantly reduces logistics costs, Qian said.

The Yunnan branch of SF Express is a major carrier for fresh flower logistics in the market. Zhu Li'na, customer manager of the company's sales department, said that flowers shipped by air can reach 146 cities within 24 hours, and 310 cities within 48 hours.

With regard to land transportation, SF Express has set up a daily refrigerated train line. Additionally, it also operates over 100 refrigerated trucks and 18 cold chain routes to ensure flower delivery, which are able to send flowers to 267 cities within 48 hours. *People's Daily*

UK PM breaches parliament's code of conduct inadvertently

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak did not properly declare his wife's shareholding in a childcare company which stood to benefit from new government policy but the failure was inadvertent, parliament's standards watchdog said on Wednesday.

Parliament's Commissioner for Standards began investigating Sunak in April, after opposition parties raised questions over media reports Sunak's wife Akshata Murthy was a shareholder in a company set to benefit from support for the childcare sector.

The commissioner, Daniel Greenberg, is responsible for the



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (left) and his wife Akshata Murty wave as they board a plane following the G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 21, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

House of Commons code of conduct and investigates any alleged breaches.

Publishing the conclusions of his investigation, Greenberg said Sunak should have declared the shareholding when being questioned on the policy by a committee of senior lawmakers but that he was satisfied the British leader had confused the rules on registering and declaring interests.

"Having considered the information available to me, I have decided that the breach of the code appears to have been inadvertent," Greenberg said. "I confirm that the matter is now closed."

Greenberg, who can refer lawmakers who breach the rules to a

committee which has the power to suspend or expel them from parliament, said he had instead decided to conclude the inquiry via a rectification procedure.

Rectification procedures can include offering advice to the lawmaker, requiring them to apologize or to correct the register of members' financial interests.

In a letter to Greenberg, published by the commissioner's office, Sunak apologized for confusing the language of registration and declaration.

"I am pleased that this matter will now be concluded by way of rectification," Sunak added. *Agencies*



Bruno Gomes

Gomes admits to facing stiff competition at Singida Fountain Gate

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC midfielder, Bruno Gomes, has admitted to facing stiff competition for a place in the starting lineup after delaying joining the club's pre-season training camp.

Gomes said he is yet to hit his fitness level, adding it is the reason he is yet to take part in competitive games for the side this season.

The Brazilian footballer, Singida Fountain Gate FC's top goal scorer last season having notched 10 goals, tied the knot with his fiancée in Brazil in the summer and was, as a result, late to join the pre-season training camp.

The midfielder, for that matter, found himself unable to play in all matches the outfit participated in.

They include international friendlies, Community Shield ties, Premier League duel, and the first leg tie of the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary round.

The midfielder pointed out: "I have joined the team late, I am still not fit but I believe that I have to keep on training hard to get my game time back. I believe I have the time and opportunity to show what I have."

"The registration of new players has increased the challenge for me to step up and will give me the strength to develop due to the need for a chance to play in the first team," Gomes added.

Midfielders, Marouf Tchakei and Yusuf Kagoma, have occupied Singida Fountain Gate FC's midfield pivot in the opening games of the season, the position that was successfully graced by the Brazilian midfielder last season.

Singida Fountain Gate FC's head coach, Hans van Pluijm, revealed the influx of quality footballers in the squad makes it difficult for him to find the first team due to having players with similar quality and standards.

Pluijm said that the outfit's leadership, in collaboration with him, has succeeded to a large extent in getting a good and competitive team, and the remaining task is how he will find a team that will give him good results.

"I have 31 players, and the players' quality is largely the same, until now I don't have a first team because I am trying to see who can be better than the other," the gaffer noted.

"It's not easy but I will surely find what I am looking for, what I enjoy the most is that every player I give a chance fights to get a good result and that is the most important thing," the tactician- also the former Yanga and Azam FC gaffer- said.

Singida Fountain Gate FC kicked off its campaign in this season's NBC Premier League wobbly, managing to register a 0-0 draw with Tanzania Prisons at Liti Stadium in Singida early this week.

Azam FC's inconsistency clear despite commendable pre-season work record

By Correspondent John Kimbute

CHANCES that Azam FC climbs out of its perennial underdog image that has stalked the side since it started making a name in the local premier league and making forays in continental competition, as the Mainland Premier League has four chances, are at a crossroads.

No one can say in tatters yet but it will take a lot of confidence-building measures to turn around a clear defeat into a convincing win that the side needs, it fell 2-1 to Bahir Dar Kenema FC, a well-rated Ethiopian side, in a 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary round's first leg.

Azam FC has had either mixed blessings or ability to perform, as in the past season there was a time it won over Simba SC, and, in its pre-season outing, it lost 3-0 to Tunisian giants Esperance FC but stood its ground with US Monastir, even if this was a friendly match.

It fell to a dazzling Young Africans SC (Yanga) in this season's Community Shield tour of elimination and may have been even less effective in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary outing. How far it can remake its game and come back is tricky.

What brings up Azam FC for particular worry is the fact that they put up either more work or more resources, to prepare for the start of the season, in which case the modest to mediocre results are disappointing.

Ironically, this kind of situation comes up all too often, making an objective assessment of preparations, as a basis for projecting readiness and chances of getting good results, a hopeless enterprise.

It is happening at the start of this season as was the case for last season, in that the opening performance is at odds with the level of preparations during pre-season.

At the start of the season, opening matches involving the city's most ambitious club, Sim-



Tanzania's Azam FC right-back, Lusajo Mwaikenda (L), shoots past Ethiopia's Bahir Dar Kenema player as the clubs locked horns in a 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary round's first leg that was played at Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa last weekend. Bahir Dar Kenema won 2-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

ba SC, have shown that can be described as modest to average performance, within range of a powerful side but not altogether exciting.

The opposite can be said for their next-street rivals, Yanga, that despite their having a decidedly less expensive side compared to their rivals, their performance can be said to have largely been optimal so far.

Either pundits or fans could wish for better outcomes, but it is hard to say that camp is disappointed or in soul searching.

These results more or less reverse bookmakers' expectations, namely to award points for its component in building a good side.

It includes registration, pre-season, and team continuity, especially with players and the technical bench.

In all these areas Yanga scores poorly compared to Simba SC and still it has done much better.

As the pre-season drew to a close, many of us were under the impression that the registrations at Jangwani Street-based Yanga were lack-

luster, unlike their rivals, in which it was clear they were on solid grounds in terms of personal abilities.

Yanga has a depleted technical bench, strictly speaking, and ordinarily, it could be projected that the new bench will take time to grasp what they need from one another, from the players, and indeed from each player.

That no longer seems to be the case, after the Community Shield encounters where they equal their rivals in most departments.

In that case, the technical bench and officials at Azam FC will have somewhere to stand, not in positively assessing what happened as it is somewhat confusing, but in picking parallels somewhere.

The other CAF Confederation Cup contenders, Singida Big Stars (as CAF still knows them) did something utterly convincing in the first leg of the First Preliminary round against JKU SC of Zanzibar to close in on making it to the Second Preliminary round, reversing the situation in the second leg is virtually impossible for the

Isles side.

Similarly, is virtually out of the question for the Djibouti side, ASAS Djibouti Télécom, to overturn the tables in the second encounter against Yanga, as a done deal.

This situation responds to a rather familiar psychological rule, but each time it comes up it is in the image of a shock.

France won the 1998 World Cup and qualified for the next finals automatically and then exited the tournament, hosted by South Korea and Japan, without scoring a goal.

It led to a change of rules to have the defending champions qualify as well, as the shocker was unexpected.

The point is that those who believe they are on top of the situation often do not give enough of themselves, before a shock.

Only on that account is it possible to project some corrections later, but it is hard to foretell what they will be, for each round that is to be played has its particular rules at the psychological level.

In the past season, Yanga had consecutively won against Simba SC at home while the latter put up a much better performance in the CAF Champions League, with Yanga stealing the limelight in dropping to the second-tier tourney, a non-existent option this year. Under pressure, it looks like it may give way.

That would also help out with a preliminary query as to how the Msimbazi Street side was putting on modest to average sides in Premier League matches but more or less consistently did well in the CAF Champions League.

Without insisting on that point, it appears as if it could be on the way to being replayed if not repeated.

The reason is that a good caliber side may not put up a consistently good show of soccer in regular matches but it can adapt to tough opposition, while others buckle.

Dar set to host kabaddi course

By Guardian Correspondent

TWO kabaddi coaches from India are expected to arrive in Tanzania tomorrow to coach local players.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently, Tanzania Kabaddi Sports Association (TKSA)'s Chairman, Abdallah Nyoni, said India's government- through the Sports Authority of India (SAI)- has brought the coaches.

Nyoni mentioned the coaches as Nidhiyanandham Soundararajan, a male, and female coach Simrat Satish Gaikwad.

"On Saturday (tomorrow) we expect to welcome coaches

from India to impart the sport's skills, they expect to come aboard Air Tanzania flight- arriving at Julius Nyerere International Airport at 3 am," Nyoni noted.

He said that the tacticians' arrival would help to boost local players' knowledge and get the best national team players to take charge of programs in schools, and armies, and hold courses for schools' teachers.

Kabaddi- also known as kaudi- is a contact team sport played between two teams of seven players.

The objective of the game is

for a single player on offense, referred to as a 'raider', to run into the opposing team's half of the court, touch out as many of their players and return to his/her half of the court, all without being tackled by the defenders in 30 seconds.

Points are scored for each player tagged by the raider, while the opposing team earns a point for stopping the raider.

Players are taken out of the game if they are either touched or tackled, but are brought back in for each point scored by their team from either a tag or a tackle.

It is popular in the Indian sub-continent and other surrounding Asian countries. Although accounts of kabaddi appear in the histories of ancient India, the game was popularised as a competitive sport in the 20th century.

It is the national sport in Bangladesh. It is the state game of the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

There are two major disciplines- 'Punjabi kabaddi', also called 'circle styles', which comprises traditional forms of the sport that are played on a circular field outdoors, and the 'standard style', on a rectangular court indoors, which is played in major professional leagues and international competitions



Tanzania Kabaddi Sports Association (TKSA) Chairman, Abdallah Nyoni.

such as the Asian Games.

This game is known by numerous names in different parts of the Indian subcontinent, such as 'kabaddi' or 'chedugudu' in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, 'kabaddi' in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, 'kabaddi', 'komonti' or 'ha-du-du' in West Bengal and Bangladesh, 'baibalaa' in Maldives.

The sport is further known as 'kauddi' or 'kabaddi' in the Punjab region, 'hu-tu-tu' in Western India, 'ha-do-do' in Eastern India, 'chadaku' in South India, 'kapardi' in Nepal, 'kabadi' or 'sadugudu' in Tamil Nadu, and 'chakgudu' in Sri Lanka.

Simba SC, Yanga urged to make use of new Dodoma gym

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

SIMBA SC, Yanga, and other clubs participating in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League have been invited to set up training camps at the Markdon Village Gym located in Dodoma to prepare for various matches.

Markdon Village Gym's Manager, Joram Lemanya, extended the invitation while addressing journalists in the region recently.

The facility, according to the official, can be used by soccer outfits to set up camps to prepare for various competitions.

"I am asking the clubs to bring their players for camping at Mark-

don Village, they will have a place to do physical exercises before heading to the stadium as well as playing friendly matches in the grounds found around the area," Lemanya noted.

Lemanya also asked Dodoma Jiji FC, the region's club, to make use of the facility for preparation for various Premier League matches.

He said when Dodoma Jiji FC is scheduled to take part in a league match at its backyard, Jamhuri Stadium, the club should use Markdon Village Gym as a facility for physical training for the club's players.

Lemanya revealed they have also been organizing a children's bonanza for various sports in-

cluding swimming, swinging, and driving games.

The official, therefore, called on the community to bring children to participate in the games to improve their health, given participating in games is a healthy endeavour.

"I ask parents to bring their children to participate in the bonanza every Sunday, it will not only help the children get excited but also improve their health," Lemanya disclosed.

He said the bonanza aims to bring people together to, among others, exchange ideas on various development opportunities.

The official also said Markdon Village Gym has been hosting en-

tertainment events, which include inviting various comedians to entertain revelers. He said Markdon Village is a facility for the provision of various sports and entertainment for the community, supporting the government's efforts to encourage the community's participation in sports.

Meanwhile, the official has called on the NBC Premier League side to prepare well for their respective matches to put themselves in a good position to win.

The official pointed out that when the clubs arrive in Dodoma, Markdon Village is a gym they should use for preparations due to the presence of many modern facilities in the area.

Rubiales faces calls to be sacked after 'disgusting' World Cup kiss

MADRID

SPAIN's women's football league on Wednesday demanded Spanish federation president Luis Rubiales be sacked for kissing star player Jenni Hermoso on the lips after the country's World Cup victory, describing his behaviour as "disgusting".

Spanish football federation (RFEF) chief Rubiales, 46, has been heavily criticised for planting a kiss on the lips of Hermoso following her team's 1-0 triumph over England in the Women's World Cup final in Sydney on Sunday.

Rubiales initially attacked his critics before eventually apologising but the criticism of his behaviour has not abated.

La Liga F said in a statement: "The Professional Women's Football League has lodged a complaint with the President of the Superior Sports Council (CSD) after the very serious actions and behaviour of the president of the Spanish Football Federation, Luis Rubiales, at the final of the Women's World Cup, and is calling for his dismissal.

"One of the greatest feats in the history of Spanish sport has been tainted by the embarrassing behaviour of the highest representative of Spanish football who, once again, and guided by his continuous and habitual desire for leadership, has revealed to not be up to the position he occupies," the women's league added.

"A boss grabbing his employee by the head and kissing her on the mouth simply cannot be tolerated.

"It's not just about the kiss. Celebrating the triumph on the presidential balcony while holding his genitals next to the queen is unacceptable and disgusting."

That criticism was a reference to another incident on Sunday evening, broadcast around the world, which appeared to show Rubiales grab his genitals with both hands to celebrate Spain's victory.

Less than two metres away from his seat were Spanish Queen Letizia and her daughter, Infanta Sofia, who were also watching the match.

"It's an incident which has entered the history of world sport and, more seriously still, will forever be linked to our national women's team," said La Liga F who described it as a moment of "unprecedented international disgrace for the 'Spain brand', for Spanish sport and for women's football in the world".

Government demands 'urgent' investigation - Earlier on Wednesday, the Spanish government demanded transparency and urgent action from the football federation.

The RFEF on Tuesday called an emergency meeting for Friday and activated an internal investigation into the incident.

Victor Francos, Spain's secretary of sport and president of the country's sports council (CSD), said the council would take action if the RFEF did not -- they can raise the case to Spain's Administrative Court for Sports.

"I imagine that what the responsible people will do is talk to the two parties involved and issue a report," Francos told radio station Cadena Ser.

"I have personally told the federation this report has to be transparent and urgent, because, if it is not, obviously we are obliged to take the corresponding additional measures."

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Tuesday that Rubiales' apology for the kiss was insufficient.

"The government has said what it has said -- it is an unacceptable act, more steps (are happening) and we will use our instruments to prove transparency in the process and the corresponding resolution, if the time comes," added Francos.

American forward Megan Rapinoe, the world's highest-profile women's player, was similarly scathing in an interview with The Atlantic on Tuesday.

"What kind of upside-down world are we in? On the biggest stage, where you should be celebrating, Jenni has to be physically assaulted by this guy," said Rapinoe.

She referred to Rubiales' behaviour at the final as portraying "a deep level of misogyny and sexism".

Meanwhile, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti criticised Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales on Thursday for kissing a female player on the lips after Spain won the World Cup.

The federation (RFEF) chief kissed midfielder Jenni Hermoso during the gold medal ceremony on Sunday in Sydney after Spain beat England to win the World Cup, provoking outrage.

Hermoso released a joint statement Wednesday with her players' union Futpro, which called for action to be taken against the president -- the RFEF have called an emergency meeting on Friday and started an investigation into the incident.

"It's a very delicate topic, like most people it was behaviour that I obviously did not like," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"It was not the behaviour of a president of the federation."

The Italian coach would not be further drawn on the issue.

"I don't know if he should resign or not, I think he will take the most adequate decision," added Ancelotti.

Real Madrid play Celta Vigo in La Liga on Friday and the Galicians' manager Rafa Benitez also spoke about Rubiales.

There is an ACL epidemic in the Premier League - here is why

By Sam Dean

IN normal times, the news that Chelsea midfielder Carney Chukwuemeka required knee surgery this week would be a source of significant concern. Chukwuemeka, after all, is only 19. But these are not normal times in elite football and for the midfielder to be ruled out for around six weeks instead feels like a cause for mild relief.

Strange as it might sound, Chukwuemeka is one of the lucky ones. In recent weeks, an extraordinarily high number of top players across Europe have not been quite so fortunate. The list of stars who have suffered serious knee injuries since the start of pre-season is unusually - and worryingly - long.

At Aston Villa, they have had two anterior cruciate ligament injuries already (Emi Buendia and Tyrone Mings). There have also been two ACL injuries at Real Madrid (Thibaut Courtois and Eder Militao). Arsenal's Jurrien Timber has suffered an ACL injury, too, as has Chelsea's Wesley Fofana. Monaco's Brel Embolo had an ACL rupture earlier this month, while former Manchester City midfielder David



Jurrien Timber suffered an ACL injury on his Premier League debut for Arsenal. Agencies

Silva has retired after an ACL injury of his own.

Analysis by Ben Dinnery, of Premier Injuries, shows that only four ACL injuries were reported in the Premier League in the entirety of the 2022/23 season, and only five in the season before. This time around, including pre-season, there have already been four.

The issue is not limited to ACLs. Chelsea's Christopher Nkunku, a £52 million signing from RB Leipzig, has been ruled out until December after surgery on a knee injury that he picked up in pre-season. Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus has also had a knee operation, although he is expected to be out for weeks rather than months. Kevin De Bruyne has been ruled out for months after surgery on his hamstring.

There is an acceptance within the game that serious injuries are more likely at this time of the season than at any other point of the campaign. This is largely due to the sudden increase in intensity when competitive action begins.

But to see so many issues, so early in the season, is unquestionably strange. Telegraph Sport spoke to one physiotherapist at a Premier League club who was taken aback by the sheer amount of significant injuries already, particularly involving knees.

What, then, is going on? In the eyes of certain managers, including Pep Guardiola and Mikel Arteta, these problems are the result of the enormous physical demand on players. "Look

how many ACLs there are," said Guardiola last week. "They make you go to Asia, to the United States, really tough matches, derbies, big games, and people fall, and they will keep falling and falling, because the show must go on."

Asked last week about the spate of serious injuries, Arteta said: "There is something there. The games, plus the tours, plus the World Cup in December, plus internationals - it is a lot. It is too much for the players. It is incredibly demanding. When you see the next 36 months of the calendar for those players, it is just better not to look at it, because it is incredible what they are going to have to be doing."

Maheta Molango, the chief executive of

the Professional Footballers's Association, said that the "number one topic" in his meetings with players and managers is the issue of injury prevention and protection from burn-out. "An increase in player injuries is a natural consequence of an increasingly crowded football calendar that shows no sign of slowing down. Players feel like they are being pushed to breaking point, with one season blurring into the next," Molango told Telegraph Sport.

"They are saying that they sometimes feel like they are simply focusing on making it through game by game. They have no time for proper recovery and are constantly fatigued or carrying injuries. It is a situation that is just not sustainable."

When it comes to ACL injuries in particular, the situation is not simple. According to consultant knee surgeon Saket Tibrewal, more research is required for the sporting world to fully understand the cause of such serious knee problems, which are even more prevalent in the women's game.

"ACL injuries are not really related to fatigue, as far as we know," said Tibrewal. "More of the injuries happen in the first half of matches

compared to second halves, which does not fit in with that theory. We have the National Ligament Registry and we are collecting data to look for trends. In the future we will have a better idea."

There are theories, of course. One is that this hotter time of the year leads to harder pitches, which could play a role as a firmer surface results in more force going through the leg.

There are also risk factors - "having an ACL injury on one leg puts you at higher risk of getting a second ACL injury on the other," said Tibrewal - and other possible explanations. One of which, as unsatisfying as it might be, is coincidence. "It could just be bad luck," said Tibrewal.

Work is being done to find solutions, and to hopefully unearth a way to better protect footballers from these injuries. It is too late for those already on the treatment table, though, and the fear in the game is that this run of injuries is a worrying sign of things to come this season.

"How we predict who it is going to happen to is the tricky bit," said Tibrewal. "And then how do we prevent it happening? That is the next stage."

THE TELEGRAPH

Messi gets 2 assists as Miami beats Cincinnati and reaches US Open Cup final vs Houston



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, right, tries to avoid a tackle from FC Cincinnati defender Bret Halsey during the second half of a U.S. Open Cup soccer semifinal Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in Cincinnati. AP

CINCINNATI

LIONEL Messi had two assists and converted in a shootout to lead Inter Miami over MLS-leading Cincinnati 5-4 on penalty kicks after a 3-3 draw on Wednesday night and into a U.S. Open Cup final against Houston.

Miami remained unbeaten in eight matches with Messi heading into his Major League Soccer debut on Saturday at the New York Red Bulls. The 36-year-old, a seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, joined the team last month and led it to the title of the Leagues Cup.

Cincinnati led 2-0 on goals by Luciano Acosta in the 18th and Brandon Vazquez in the 53rd before Messi set up goals by Leonardo Campana in the 68th minute and seventh minute of stoppage time.

Josef Martinez put Miami ahead 3-2 three minutes into extra time, but Yuya Kubo tied the score in the 114th minute. Messi made Miami's first attempt in the shootout, and the teams were perfect through four rounds. Herons goalkeeper Drake Callender saved Nick Hagglund's kick in the fifth round, and Ben Cremaschi made his PK to send Miami to another tournament final.

Houston won the other semifinal, beating visiting Salt Lake 3-1 in extra time. The Dynamo got goals from Héctor Herrera in the fifth minute of first-half stoppage time, Adalberto Car-

rasquilla in the 105th and Luis Caicedo five minutes into the second extra session. Anderson Julio scored an equalizer in the 64th.

Miami will host the final on Sept. 27.

Cremaschi quickly was met by his teammates after the ball hit the back of the net, and they danced around in a group circle on the field while Cincinnati players knelt in disappointment.

"I think we were lacking sharpness to navigate that first half," Miami coach Tata Martino said through a translator. "We were a step off. I saw a team with one gear less than our rival. The good thing about all of this is that we didn't drop our shoulders, we pressed on. It's not easy in a semifinal to turn things around the way we did. We adapted a lot. I think we were controlling the game well in the second half. And the penalties,

after that ... If I'd had this kind of luck in penalties for the rest of my career, things would have been a lot less stressful."

Messi scored 10 goals in seven League Cup matches and was held scoreless for the first time since joining Miami. His first assist came off a free kick and his second on a long cross

into the penalty area set up Campana's second goal on a header.

Before the penalty shootout, Messi gathered his teammates and appeared to be giving a speech. After Kubo made the first attempt, Messi placed his spot kick low to the left corner while backup goalkeeper Alec Kann, who starts

cup matches, dove the other way.

"He's a leader on the pitch and with the group he's shown it for a long time, not only here with Miami but also with Argentina," Martino said. "Luckily, players get behind his leadership and enthusiasm in his response for every moment, no matter the circumstances, and today he showed it more as a conductor than a finisher, and you saw that with the pass late in the match but he makes difficult plays look easy."

Messi didn't attempt a shot until right before the final overtime whistle, an attempt easily saved.

Throughout the first half, FC Cincinnati had done well to close the space whenever Messi got on the ball.

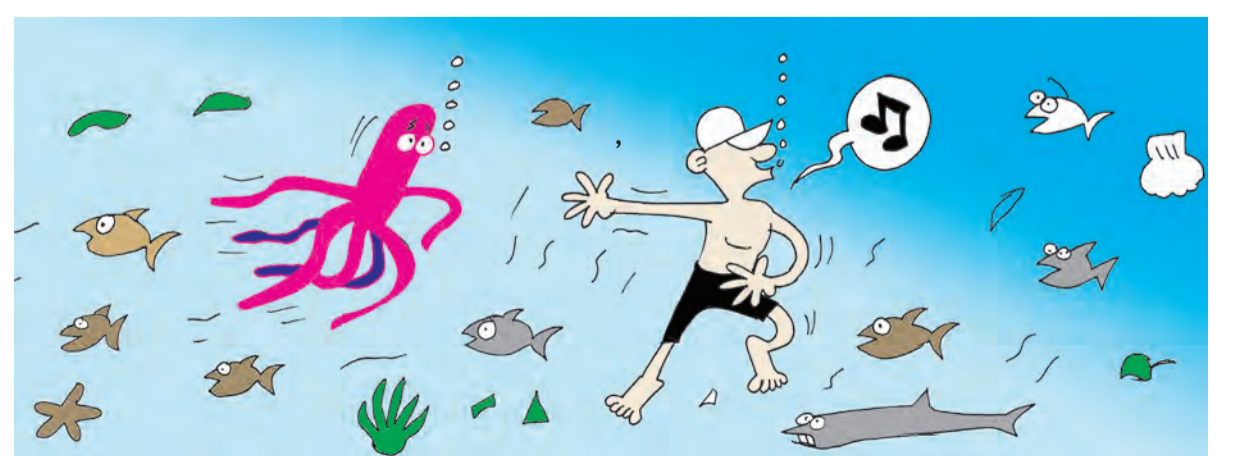
"He makes the delivery on the plays that matter, and that's where he's a difference-maker," Cincinnati coach Pat Noonan said. "I thought

as a whole the guys did a pretty good job of limited moments where he could be in dangerous spots to cause us problems, at times, having him drift a little further from goal and be a playmaker.

"I thought we handled those moments pretty well along the back line and I thought the 1 versus 1 moments and when we could double, we got a lot of those moments right to be able to win the ball, so we knew it was going to be a difficult challenge, but I thought overall the guys had some good discipline in trying to limit a very elite player."

Acosta scored his 14th goal in all competitions, a header from Aaron Boupendza's feed. Vazquez, a U.S. national team forward, scored from outside the penalty area off a low cross from former Atletico Madrid and Colombia international defender Santiago Arias. AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Do or die for Azam FC in 2023/24 CAF CC First Preliminary Round



Tanzania's Azam FC forward, Prince Dube (L), seeks to get the better of Ethiopia's Bahir Dar Kenema player as the clubs locked horns in the first leg of the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup's First Preliminary Round which took place in Ethiopia last weekend, ending with Azam FC conceding 2-1 loss to Bahir Dar Kenema. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Akaminko, should make up the engine room, while central attacking midfielder Feisal Salum will no doubt pull up the strings in the mid-field again.

Congolese striker Idris Mbombo will surely come into Dabo's thinking for a start after coming off the bench to good effect last time out.

As for Bahir Dar, they are yet to kick off their campaign in the Ethiopian Premier League for the 2023/24 season, with the team finishing second in the last outing separated from eventual champion- St. George- by four points.

The club, nicknamed "Tana Waves", was fighting to avoid relegation in the 2021/22 season, but ended the 2022/23 season as runners-up to the champions, courtesy of impressive performance under the tutelage of coach Degereg Yigzaw.

The Ethiopians secured a commendable home triumph in last week's encounter and hope to prevent any Azam FC's fightback in the reverse fixture.

A brace from Fitsum Tihlahun was instrumental in the eventual results, and the striker could reprise his role again.

Should Azam FC complete a possible turnaround, they would face Tunisia's Club Africain in the Second Preliminary Round, with a first-ever CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage ticket at stake.



Yanga's Ghanaian striker, Hafiz Konkoni. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Azam FC will be aiming to overturn a narrow deficit when it hosts Ethiopian outfit, Bahir Dar Kenema, in the second leg of the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary Round in Dar es Salaam in the evening.

Bahir Dar Kenema will bring an advantage into the second leg of the clash, having recorded a 2-1 victory in Ethiopia last week, with Congolese striker, Idris Mbombo, coming off the bench to reduce the deficit for Azam FC.

The pressure is mounting on Azam FC's head coach Youssouph Dabo as the ice cream makers find themselves in a do-or-die situation at Azam Complex Stadium.

The stakes could not be higher for the club, failure to overturn the deficit would result in an unfathomable early elimination from the CAF Confederation Cup.

The Tanzanian envoys were terrible in their first game against Bahir Dar Kenema, as two goalkeeping errors by Ghanaian import Abdulai Idrissou compounded their problems.

They allowed their hosts to play short, unhurried passes and lost control of the game.

Dabo is likely to utilize a similar squad to the one that succumbed to the loss a

week ago, thus approaching the game with a 4-3-3 today. Abdallah Kheri and Daniel Amoah will continue as the central defensive partners.

Defensive midfielders, Sospeter Bajana and James

Konkoni admits to feeling pressure to replace Mayele

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC's newly signed striker Hafiz Konkoni has revealed that he felt pressure to fill the void left by Congolese talisman, Fiston Mayele, who was sold to Egyptian giants Pyramids FC.

The lanky Ghanaian opened his goalscoring account for Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, after coming from the bench in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening.

He also laid on an assist for midfielder, Mudathir Yahya, as Yanga started their NBC Premier League title defense with a resounding 5-0 victory over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC.

The 23-year-old player- who made the move to the Jangwani Street club from Ghana's Bechem United last month- claimed that scoring his first goal has eased pressure on him to replace Mayele as the club's go-to guy up front.

The Ghanaian said: "Scoring the first goal in such an atmosphere is not easy, coming to this Young Africans team, they had one of the best strikers in the continent, Fiston Mayele, coming to fill his void comes with a lot of pressure."

"I needed this goal just to ease the pressure, scoring here is an amazing feeling for me and I will make sure I keep on scoring," the forward pointed out.

Konkoni also spoke of drawing inspiration from Mayele's legacy at Yanga- and is confident his first competitive goal is the beginning of something special that might make the fans forget about Mayele's departure.

The goal-getter revealed: "Coming here and watching Mayele's videos I realized that between his play and mine, the difference is not that great, so, I said let me try and learn, I have learned something from him actually as a striker."

"He is a great striker, he motivated me a lot and I will make sure I also repeat his form here so that Yanga fans will forget Mayele," the Ghanaian stated.

On playing in Tanzania for the first time, Konkoni was impressed by the media buzz around NBC Premier League, claiming it is one of the best in the continent and gives hard-working players a big platform to stardom in Africa.

Konkoni noted: "I have played in a lot of leagues but this one is on a different level. How the media hype the league and when I looked at all these things I said this league is on a different level. It motivated me a lot."

"If you put the hard work here the whole world will hear about you because the league is one of the best in the continent. I want to achieve a lot playing in the Tanzanian league," Konkoni concluded.

Gamondi impressed with Yanga's commanding victory over KMC FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi was left excited after his side began the 2023/24 NBC Premier League title defense with a resounding 5-0 victory over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening.

Abdihamid Moallin's Kinondoni Municipal Council FC proved dogged and determined opponents but Young Africans's class- the hallmarks of the club's last season's historic campaign- was again evident from the off.

The reigning Premier League champions, also known as Yanga, only needed 16 minutes to open the floodgates when central defender, Dickson Job, was quick to follow up on his backheel attempt to find the bottom corner.

A close-range finish from midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki, in the 58th minute put Yanga 2-0 at the hour mark.

Hafiz Konkoni, Pacome Zouzoua, and Mudathir Yahya then added further gloss to a



Yanga's Ivorian midfielder, Pacome Zouzoua (2nd L), races past Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's players when they took on each other in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League clash at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Yanga walloped Kinondoni Municipal Council FC 5-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

thoroughly professional performance to get Gamondi's side's pursuit of a third consecutive Premier League title off to a convincing start.

Reflecting on the game, Gamondi acknowledged that Kinondoni Municipal Council FC was organized in the first half but insisted that Yanga was brilliant during the 90 minutes.

The Argentine pointed out: "Three points and confidence for the team, we showed we are on the right path, we played a very good brand of football."

"The players gave their best, don't forget we played against a very good team. They were organized in the first half but we were brilliant, we are fit as well," he noted.

The tactician revealed: "I am very happy because we brought joy to our fans, they are more than happy and this is the football we want to play, we celebrate today and tomorrow we need to think about the next game on Saturday."

Gamondi also spoke about the importance of making a fast start to the league sea-

son and was delighted that his charges came away with maximum points from Azam Complex Stadium- which is a big confidence booster.

"There are 29 more games, we will play to be champions but we need to respect all teams, most of the teams want to do well," the Argentine revealed.

The tactician added: "Don't forget Yanga are the defending champions and every team wants to beat them, it is a long way but starting this way is important for confidence, getting three points is very important and is a motivation to everybody and even the fans too."

Wednesday's win marked Yanga's fifth consecutive triumph over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in all competitions.

Throughout that winning run, the aggregate scoreline now stands at 11-0 in Yanga's favour.

The results were the biggest winning margin in the two opening rounds of the 2023/24 NBC Premier League.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

