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National Pg 3



Govt praises IMF for \$153million loan

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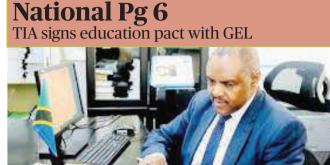
TANZANIA

WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL, 2023

National Pg 4

Cholera outbreak in Dar es Salaam









President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives a special message from United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as delivered to her by the UAE's Ambassador to Tanzania, Khalifa Abdulrahman Mohamed Al Marzouqi, at Tunguu State House in

Constitution: Samia gives 'green light' on rewriting

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE constitution amendment agenda is among priorities in the work of the Constitution and Legal Affairs ministry during fiscal 2023/2024.

Dr Damas Ndumbaro, the minister, said in tabling estimates for the coming financial year in the National Assembly yesterday that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has allowed the ministry to coordinate processes towards writing a new mother law.

"The ministry will during the 2023/2024 financial year administer a strategic initiative for sensitisation regarding the writing of a new constitution," he said, noting that the campaign will be conducted countrywide for ordinary people to grasp what is being done in the consultations.

Processes for reviewing laws governing the holding of civic and general elections will be taken up during the fiscal year, to enhance democratic space, he said.

Laws and regulations written in English will be translated into Kiswahili, he said, hinting at widening the use of Kiswahili in court rulings and other procedures related to administering justice.

Criminal investigations will be strengthened as the ministry works on separating prosecution procedures from investigation, meanwhile as the Samia Legal Aid Campaign is being geared to reach the breadth of the population.

Urging MPs to approve 383.62bn/- for development and recurrent expenditure during the financial year, he said the need to improve the delivery of legal services and administering justice is pivotal.

He saluted the president for agreeing to start the constitution review plus

WHO says 'huge biological risk' after Sudan fighters occupy lab

KHARTOUM

UN officials have said that one side in the Sudan conflict has seized control of a national health lab in the capital of Khartoum that holds biological material, calling it an "extremely dangerous" development.

The announcement yesterday came as officials warned that more refugees could flee Sudan despite a ceasefire between rival forces.

The fighting has plunged Sudan into chaos, pushing the already heavily aiddependent African nation to the brink of collapse. Before the clashes, the UN estimated that a third of Sudan's population - or about 16 million people - needed assistance, a figure that is likely

Dr Nima Saeed Abid, the World Health Organisation's representative in Sudan, expressed concerns that "one of the fighting parties" - he did not identify which one - had seized control of the central public health laboratory in Khartoum and "kicked out all of the technicians".

"That is extremely, extremely dangerous because we have polio isolates in the lab. We have measles isolates in the lab. We have cholera isolates in the lab," he told a UN briefing in Geneva by video call from Port Sudan. "There is a huge biological risk associated with the



occupation of the central public health lab in Khartoum by one of the fighting parties."

The expulsion of technicians and power cuts in Khartoum mean that "it is not possible to properly manage the biological materials that are stored in the lab for medical purposes," WHO said.

The lab is located in central Khartoum. close to flashpoints of the fighting that have pitted Sudan's military against the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group that grew out of the governmentbacked Popular Defence Forces - called "Janjaweed" by the rebels - implicated in

atrocities in the Darfur conflict. Dozens of hospitals have shuttered in Khartoum and elsewhere across the country due to the fighting and dwindling medical and fuel supplies, according to the Sudanese Doctors' Syndicate.

"If the violence does not stop, there is a danger that the health system will collapse," the UN agency warned Friday.

AGENCIES

That is extremely, extremely dangerous because we have polio isolates in the lab. We have measles isolates in the lab. We have cholera isolates in the lab

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

A TOTAL of 200 Tanzanians living in Sudan have been evacuated from the country following on-going fighting between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Khartoum.

Dr Stergomena Tax, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, t6ld journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the evacuation process started on

Monday. Upwards of 200 Tanzanians living in Sudan, including embassy staff and families have been evacuated by bus through the Ethiopian border, heading to Addis Ababa. "Initiatives by our embassy in Ethiopia will ensure they land safely in the country

through Air Tanzania," she stated. She outlined the state of peace initiatives on the conflict and progress in evacuating Tanzanians, affirming that the government was closely following the safe evacuation of Tanzanians living there.

Evacuation took place during the three days of ceasefire lasting from April 21 to

Minister: Tanzanians now on the way back

Fighting broke out in **Khartoum and many** other military locations all over Sudan on April 15, with hundreds dead and thousands injured by the start of this week

April 23 inclusive, where people of many nationalities took advantage of the ceasefire to be safely evacuated.

Earlier the government expected that Tanzanians would be evacuated by plane on the spot from Sudan, which was hindered by the fact that the international airport there is a battle zone, she stated.

No Tanzanian was reported to have been affected by the fighting, noting that there were nearly 210 Tanzanians in Sudan, 171 being students and others embassy officials and families.

Air Tanzania planes were also likely to assist in evacuating citizens of some neighbouring states still in Sudan, she said, pointing at Zimbabwe, Burundi and Mozambique. This helps to cement

TURN TO PAGE 2

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

COUNTRYWIDE data show there was a decline in malaria prevalence from 14.8 percent in 2015 to 8.1 percent in 2022, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) has declared.

Speaking at an event to commemorate the International Malaria Day in Dar es Salaam, he referred to data that there are nine regions with a prevalence rate of less than 1 percent, namely Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida, Dodoma, Songwe, Iringa, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza.

He directed that regions with high malaria prevalence rates start implementing interventions aimed at eradicating the disease by the year 2030, noting that the government aims at attaining zero prevalence by that year.

This requires ensuring access to prevention tools such as mosquito nets and clearing of breeding grounds, he stated.

Tanzania reduces malaria prevalence in seven years



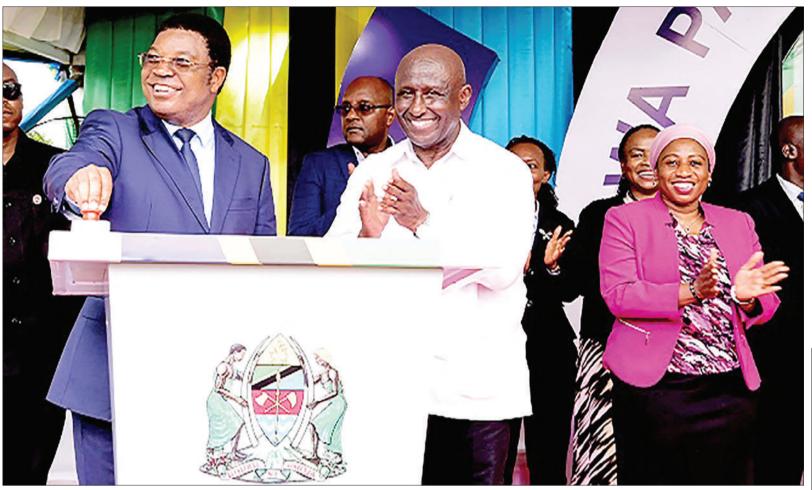
Regions with high malaria prevalence rates include Tabora (23 percent), Mtwara (20 percent), Kagera (18 percent), Shinyanga (16 percent) and Mara (15 percent).

Health minister Ummy Mwalimu said that the malaria control programme from 2021 to 2025 is aimed at reducing prevalence from an average 7.5percent in 2017 to 3.5percent by 2025.

"The strategy is to control mosquitoes which spread the disease by the provision of treated nets, spraying pest control formulas (biolarviciding) in open areas, etc.

The premier also launched the National Malaria Control Council, tasking it with

TURN TO PAGE 2



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presses a knob in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch a national council for combating malaria infections. The event formed part of the commemoration of World Malaria Day at national level, at which he was chief guest. With him (foreground) are Health minister Ummy Mwalimu (R) and the council's chairman, Leodgar Tenga. Photo: PMO

TANESCO contracts two private companies to collect 244bn/- in debts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) has contracted two private firms that will soon start collecting 244bn/- that the state-owned power utility firm owes public and private firms and individuals in accumulated debts.

Deputy minister for Energy, Stephen Byabato told the National Assembly yesterday that the outstanding debts had been accumulated for a long time and that in Public Entities TANESCO was supposed to collect about 86bn/-

and that already his ministry had written to the treasury to demand that the debts be cleared amicably.

He was responding to a supplementary question by the Special Seats MP, Asha Abdallah Juma (CCM) who had demanded to know why the government was not taking immediate legal measures to ensure that the debts were paid.

"There have been many measures taken by TANESCO to ensure that the 244bn/- accumulated in debts are paid but the pace has always stayed low, why can't we apply legal measures to have the money paid?"

queried the MP.

While responding, the deputy minister said that the court redress was not an option save for those who were reluctant to pay after being served with debt invoices.

During the main question asked on her behalf the Special Seats legislator Tauhida Gallos wanted to know the government's plans to collect the TANESCO's debt so that it can be able to stand on its own.

While responding, the deputy minister, said that as of March 2023, the state-owned power utility firms was owing a whopping 244bn/- both

public and private customers in accumulated debts.

"In preventing the debt from ballooning and putting up measures for debt collection, the government has always been allocating enough funds for electricity services to avoid accumulating debts," he said.

According to Byabato, TANESCO had put up debt collection strategies and prevented new debts by putting up LUKU Metres, and making up close follow-ups on debts as well as cutting-off power to customers with huge debts until they clear their

PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse artner Confederazione Svizzera in Tanzania

Registrar of Political Parties registrar Judge Francis Mutungi pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at the launch of a report on women's participation in leadership. The event was organised by the Tanzania Centre for Democracy, a non-religious, non-partisan and not-for-profit non-governmental membership organisation founded by political parties with parliamentary representation. He is with CCM Deputy Secretary General (Zanzibar) Mohamed Said Mohamed (R) and the centre's managing director, Bernadetha Kafuko. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Better migration policies to help boost prosperity in all countries

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By Guardian Reporter

THE new World Bank report said that populations across the globe are aging at an unprecedented pace, making countries reliant on migration to realise their long-term growth potential.

The World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies, identifies the trend as a unique opportunity to make migration work better for economies and people.

Wealthy countries as well as a growing number of middle-income countries-traditionally among the main sources of migrants-face diminishing populations, intensifying the global competition for workers and talent.

Meanwhile, most low-income countries are expected to see rapid population growth, putting them under pressure to create more jobs for young people.

"Migration can be a powerful force

for prosperity and development," said World Bank Senior Managing Director Axel van Trotsenburg.

He added: "When it is managed properly, it provides benefits for all people – in origin and destination societies."

Indermit Gill, Chief Economist of the World Bank Group and Senior Vice President for Development Economics said: "This World Development Report proposes a simple but powerful framework to aid the making of migration and refugee policy."

Gill said: "The report tells us when such policies can be made unilaterally by destination countries, when they are better made plurilaterally by destination, transit and origin countries, and when they must be considered a multilateral responsibility."

In the coming decades, the share of working-age adults will drop sharply in many countries. Spain, with a population of 47 million, is

projected to shrink by more than one third by 2100, with those above age 65 increasing from 20 percent to 39 percent of the population.

Countries like Mexico, Thailand, Tunisia and Türkiye may soon need more foreign workers because their population is no longer growing.

Beyond this demographic shift, the forces driving migration are also changing, making cross-border movements more diverse and complex.

Today, destination and origin countries span all income levels, with many countries such as Mexico, Nigeria, and the U.K. both sending and receiving migrants.

The number of refugees nearly tripled over the last decade. Climate change threatens to fuel more migration. So far, most climate-driven movements were within countries, but about 40% of the world's population–3.5 billion people–lives in places highly exposed to climate impacts.

Current approaches not only fail to maximize the potential development gains of migration, they also cause great suffering for people moving in

Tanzania reduces malaria prevalence in seven years

FROM PAGE 1

drawing up effective strategies to find resources to ensure that the disease is eradicated to zero cases by 2030.

The council has 19 members religious including leaders, ministers, deputy ministers and permanent secretaries in various ministries, chaired by Leodgar Tenga, executive director for the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

The council will chart out ways to boost stakeholder motivation to generate resources to eradicate the

Appealing to various stakeholders to enhance cooperation with the government in that effort, he said despite that statistics show declining prevalence, infections take place and our people are dying.

This leads to suffering and impairing labour capacity, which deepens poverty, "so we must put in place strategies to help us overcome this problem," he said.

Despite halving the prevalence rate we still need to work intensely to fight malaria as its effects on the population and wellbeing is still massive, he added.

Constitution: Samia gives 'green light' on rewriting

FROM PAGE 1

legal aid services, similarly pointing at cybercrime as growing at a disturbing rate. This needs more preventive measures, he stated.

MPs said in their contributions that the president had shown the political will towards amending or rewriting the mother law of the country.

Yahaya Masare (Manyoni West) said writing a new constitution will eliminate complaints from politicians and non-governmental organisations.

"It is a wise decision that every member of the community will participate in the process and develop a mother law on the basis of reconciliation," he asserted, applauding the legal aid campaign as likely to help many people to grasp their legal rights and responsibilities.

Agnes Lambert Kaiza (Special Seats-Opposition) hailed the president for fostering

justice. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance must be empowered to fulfil its duties or be suspended because it has failed to live to its core responsibilities.

Joseph Tadayo (Mwanga) said that since President Samia assumed office the delivery of justice has improved, further commended the president for providing room for reconciliation, thus promoting democracy in the country.

Dr Joseph Mhagama (Madaba), chairing the Governance, Constitution and Legal Affairs standing committee, said that during the implementation of the 2022/23 budget there were delays in disbursing funds.

"The committee advises the government to increase investment in public sensitisation programmes on media outlets related to legal issues," he said.

"The ministry should also allocate usable funds for procuring information and communication technology facilities to serve many accountability in the provision of people easily and timely," he added.

Minister: Tanzanians now on the way back

FROM PAGE 1

partnership with these countries, she elaborated, she stated.

expressed deep concerns with all over Sudan on April 15, with the deteriorating condition in hundreds dead and thousands Sudan, setting out preliminary injured by the start of this week.

arrangements to Tanzanians as the deteriorate.

Fighting broke out in Khartoum The government had last week and many other military locations

MP promises journalists assistance on media law

By Guardian Reporter

The Member of Parliament (MP) for Mlalo constituency, Tanga region, Rashid Shangazi has promised to collaborate with media stakeholders to ensure there is a better media law.

The parliamentarian promised said during his meeting with member of the Coalition on Right to Information (CoRI) in Dodoma yesterday.

During his discussion with the member of the coalition, Shangazi explained unfriendly sections of the amendments of the Media Services Act, presented in the Parliament on 10th February, 2023.

Elaborating on the amendments, the chairman of Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) Deodatus Balile, spoke on the minimum imprisonment sentence, by saying will even confuse magistrates.

"We once met with the member of Judiciary, whereby magistrates told us some challenges they face in their work; one being the minimum imprisonment sentence in the act, by saying is so confusing," he said.

Earlier, Balile explained that not every journalist is entitled for an imprisonment as the law requires.

He said, the law earlier required five years imprisonment, but after the discussion with the government, the amendments presented to the parliament have reduced the sentence to three years imprisonment.

'Not every sentence for a journalist requires an imprisonment, because they differ and sometimes there are someconvictions which requires one month of non-jail imprisonment," he said. 'This depends on the level of the conviction; but the law requires a Judge or Magistrate to sentence the convict not less than three years imprisonment, even if the conviction is minor which requires just a warning."

The member of TEF executive committee Neville Meena explained to the parliamentarian on how the act is giving the minister much power to prohibit foreign publications and its consequences.

"In this modern world whereby everything is on the internet, to put a law that prohibits foreign publication is the act of not agreeing with press freedom," he said.

"The minister can decide to prohibit the circulation of any newspaper; let's say from Kenya or any other country; because he/she doesn't like it or because of his own reasons or matters."

However, Shangazi explained that in current times, it is impossible to prohibit the foreign publications, as the implementation of the law will be very difficult.

The parliamentarian assured that the amendment of the Media Act has come to the right time, because the Minister for Information and Information, Communication technology, Nape Nnauye has a political will.

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government has lauded the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for releasing about \$153million (354bn/-) as part of three-year \$1.1billion (2.4trn-) loan in the budgetary support.

Addressing journalists yesterday in Arusha, Ben Mwaipaja, the Finance and Planning ministry's spokesman, said the money is the first tranche of the IMF money that is supposed to be released this year.

"This follows better policies including economic diplomacy orchestrated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. We've been working

Govt praises IMF for releasing \$153million

hard in this area and that's why IMF and other development partners are showing key interests to support our development endeavours," Mwaipaja said.

He stated that Tanzania has been doing creating better environment in doing business as well as creating good investment policies that in turn attract investors from all-over the world to chip in and invest in the country.

"We're happy to see that that IMF is on our side in terms of development," he said, adding that the amount is part of the \$1.1billion (2.4trn-) that is to be issued in seven phases from last year to 2025.

According to Mwaipaja, the second tranche this year is to be released in September, and the two phases next year and the last one will be released in 2025.

Mwaipaja's remarks came shortly after the executive board of the IMF approved the first review of Tanzania's three-year extended credit facility, allowing immediate disbursement of about \$153million (354bn/) in budgetary support.

In a statement, IMF said Tanzania's economic reform program is progressing well in a challenging global economic environment, but authorities should work to boost domestic revenues, while stepping up structural reforms to streamline bureaucracy and combat corruption.

The decision brings total disbursements under the \$1.04 billion loan arrangement approved for Tanzania last year to about \$305 million, the IMF said.

"Program performance has been strong. All quantitative performance criteria and indicative targets for December 2022 were met, and two of the three structural benchmarks for December 2022 were completed on time," IMF Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh said.

Efforts to enhance domestic revenue mobilization improve spending efficiency would help Tanzania finance priority investment and social spending while safeguarding debt sustainability, she added.

"Strengthening public finance management and oversight of state-owned enterprises is critical to contain fiscal risks," and authorities should clear domestic arrears and prevent accumulation of new ones by strengthening cash management and commitment controls, she said.

Sayeh said Tanzania's risk of debt distress remains moderate, but it was vital to continue prioritizing low-interest financing and ensure that risks from potential liabilities were well-contained.

Following concern by residents of Rabuor in Rorya District, Mara Region, over the speed at which quarrying in a hilly area in the village is leading to environmental degradation, Rorya district commissioner Juma Chikoka has formed a team to look into the development. The photo tells part of the story on the intervention efforts. Photo:

Rorya DC demands probe after residents protest quarrying at 'cultural monument'

By Guardian Correspondent, Rorya

formed a seven-man probe team to investigate possible environmental degradation emanating from quarrying activities undertaken by a contractor in the district.

This came after residents of Rabuor village in Rabuor Ward complained that extraction of murram from the free standing Mount Rabuor by Jonta Investment for rehabilitation of Kuruya-Utegi road at 860mn/- was a threat not only to the environment but also economic benefits as well as historical and cultural heritage.

After learning that only four people were actively involved in approving the quarrying, the DC arrived at Rabuor village on Monday and he held a meeting to listen to the residents.

Speaking in the meeting, residents said that a village meeting which approved extraction of construction materials from the mountain was not consultative and laid-down procedures were not followed.

"Water from an underground well at Buturi dispensary which is near the quarrying site changed colour days after the start of excavation and we have nothing else to suspect but the activity," said James

He added that the mountain has served as a source of fuel wood, herbs, wild fruits and free retreat location as well as cultural rituals for the community and was well preserved until the recent controversial quarrying began.

"We fear that continuation of this activity might lead to others and finally flattening of this mountain and that eventuality will mark the end of our historical and natural cultural monument," said Waritu.

Julius Nono told DC Chikoka that the mountain is surrounded by key institutions such as Buturi primary school, Buturi secondary school, a Catholic church, a Legio Maria church and Rabuor village and ward which both derive their names from the mountain.

"Our forefathers protected this mountain and we also feel duty-bound to do the same; no type of physical infrastructure in the name of development can surpass its economic, social, cultural and sentimental value to us," he said.

Another resident John Sisso lamented over deep holes created in the formerly green and serene environment, saying the ugly legacy left by excavators cannot be accepted and handed down to future generations.

"The excavation has created an artificial valley which has made it impossible for people from the other side to access their dispensary," he said.

Bahati Aliwa told the DC that there were visible signs of collusion and misconduct because whenever concerned residents raised alarm and suggested alternative sources of murram, they were intimidated

with threats of arrest and prosecution. After listening to public opinion, the DC gave the

team two days to revisit the procedure which approved the quarrying, assess its possible impact on the RORYA district commissioner Juma Chikoka has environment as well as social, economic and culture of local community, and advise his office on way forward.

> "The village government has powers to make decision on matters like this on behalf of residents but laid-down procedures must be followed. I have realized that there is a problem here because only four people made that decision," he said.

> Chikoka said members of the probe team will have representatives from Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads), National Environment Management Council (NEMC), office of Rorya District Executive Director and residents of Rabuor village.



HAPPY UNION DAY

Kamal Group Board of Directors, Management and Staff joins **HE.Dr Samia** Suluhu Hassan President of the United Replublic of Tanzania and HE.Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council and all Tanzanians in 59th Union Anniversary between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.



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Celebrating 59 years of the union of Zanziba and Tanganyika since April 26th 1964.

As Tanzanians gather to celebrate Union Day, we at Tanzania Commercial Bank Plc send our best wishes; may this day continue to be symbolic on the achievements made when people come together.

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Eight people hospitalised over cholera outbreak in Ilala District

NATIONAL.NEWS

By Guardian Reporter

EIGHT people have been hospitalized of cholera following an outbreak in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region with the government planning to deploy a technical team of experts to support regional

Cholera is a deadly diarrhoeal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated. Results from water quality surveys show that the source for the outbreak is contaminated water, usually borne out of poor hygienic practices and lack of sanitation facilities.

A Cholera situation report issued by Ilala Municipal Council, stated that the first index cases started showing symptoms on April 15, two children of the same family.

This was followed by four more suspects (two adults male and two female) from April 19 to 21.

"All four cases are currently admitted at Kivule District Hospital. On April 22, one additional case was reported from the Kivule ward," the statement noted.

It further stated that so far there are a total of 10 cases that have been reported but there have been no deaths recorded since the outbreak began.

At regional level, resource mobilization is conducted for response activities and partner involvement, daily response meetings attended by heads of pillars (physical and virtual) and conducting active case search.

The regional team has also facilitated distribution of 40,000 aqua-tabs to households in Kivule collection of water samples in wells, tape water and other water bodies for testing in collaboration with Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA). Treatment of the all-water sources including schools, households and water kiosk, decontamination of households with reported cases.

Moreover, the government has established a Cholera Treatment Centre at Kivule District Hospital and provided 35 Cholera rapid test kits to Kivule District Hospital.

Cholera outbreaks occur regularly during the rainy season when downpours wash contaminants into wells used by families.

In 2015, the country was struck by a major outbreak of cholera which infected over 10,000 people and left 166 dead.

According to the 2015 Cholera Situation Report, the outbreak started in Dar es Salaam, in late August 2015, and progressively extended to nineteen regions of Tanzania, stretching local capacities and resources, with high risk in terms of lives and economic impact. Experts have been insisting for the public to adhere to sanitation measures to avert the disease.

Historical reports show that the first 10 cholera cases in the country were reported in 1974 and since 1977, cases were reported each vear with a case fatality rate (CFR) averaging 10.5 percent (between 1977 and 1992). The government, together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF organised an emergency strategy to combat the outbreak.





Govt to solve challenges faced by administrative institutions not to create new ones, says Ndejembi By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has acknowledged that most of the administrative institutions in the country face infrastructural challenges, declining to open new ones.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Deogratius Ndenjembi, told the National Assembly that the government is aware of the challenges and is working on improving the existing institutions.

made the statement while responding to a question raised by the Busanda MP, Tumaini Magessa (CCM), who had wanted to know if the government had plans to create a new district as agreed in the district and regional consultative

"When shall the Busanda constituency residents get the proposed Busanda district as agreed during the DCC and RCC meetings in Geita region ?" asked the lawmaker.

In response, the deputy minister said on February 24th, 2021, the Geita regional authority submitted request for the establishment of new Busanda district from the existing Chato and Geita districts.

He said the ministry, analyzed the proposal and realized a lot of limitations including the fact that establishment of a new district would merge three wards of Buseresere, Butengorumasa and Iparamasa within Chato district, reducing the area as indicted in the government guidelines.

The deputy minister noted that this would reduce the district by 2,398.40 square kilometers, equivalent to 48 percent, a situation that might affect development of Chato district.

"Since most of the new administrative institutions have a lot of challenges infrastructure. including poor administrative offices, social services, the government has prioritized improving the situation than creating new ones," said the deputy minister.

He added that upon completion of the on-going renovations, building and equipping the current administrative offices, the government will continue creating more new administration areas.



Construction of the foundation of a science laboratory building at Mtiro Secondary School in Musoma Rural constituency's Bukumi ward has begun, as witnessed at the weekend. Photo: Guardian

'Govt done with operational trials for high-speed train from Dar to Moro ahead of locomotive arrival'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has completed all needed operational trials for the high-speed train from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro and is now awaiting for train locomotives that are set to arrive in May, this year.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Atupele Mwakibete said this in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to a supplementary question by Mbulu Urban MP, Zacharia Issaay. In his question, the legislator sought to know the exact time for

the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) services as citizens are eagerly waiting for the new train. The deputy minister said the first phase of the high-speed train

services will start from Dar es Salaam and Morogoro assuring Tanzanians that every key trial has been completed.

"As I speak, we have already conducted trials in all the stations through the contractor's train. We are currently waiting for the

In his basic question, Mlimba MP, Godwin Kunambi queried when the Njage and Itongowa train stations of the Tanzania and Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) will commence operations.

Responding, the deputy minister said the government through TAZARA received requests to re-open the substations of Njage and Mtongowa since 2022 but after an analysis, it was found that there was no need for Njage station to be opened as it is near two mega stations of Mngeta and Mbingu.

"Distance between Mngeta and Mbingu is 18 kilometers and Njage station is in the middle-nine kilometers from each side. The same applies for the Mtongowa station which is located between the main station of Chita and Mngeta where there is already a small station of Ikule," he elaborated.

He added that for the train operation to be effective, long-distance rail transport is advised to have stations with a distance of at least 20 kilometers from one station to another.

In addition, the deputy minister said the stations that were requested to be restored are less than half the distance advised for long-distance trains.

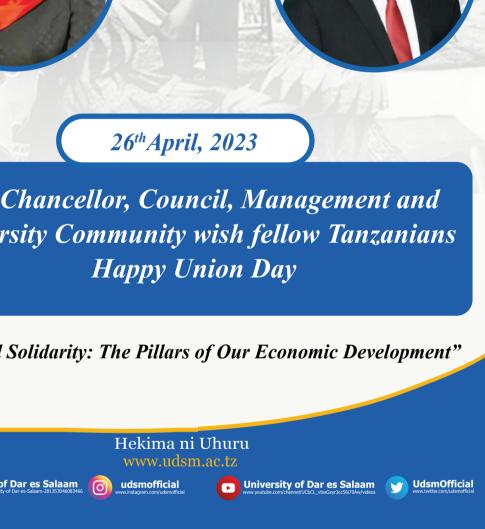
In February this year, the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) has said that 70 percent of business spaces at the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) stations for the first lot between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro was fully occupied, hoping to make fully financial sustainability sources of revenue when the train operations will start.

TRC Director General, Masanja Kadogosa disclosed this in Dar es Salaam city in a seminar organized for editors aimed to strengthen cooperation with the media.

malls, banking services and retail businesses. He said there was no way TRC could disembark from real estate investment because it was a good and sustainable source of revenues, which will supplement

the SGR's return on investments.

SGR stations have spaces for various business activities including hotels and restaurants, shopping





THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR ZANZIBAR AIRPORTS AUTHORITY(ZAA)



The president of the revolutionary Government of zanzibar. HE.Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi





President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. DR. Samia Suluhu Hassan

Board of Directors, management and the employees of the Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) conveys sincere congratulations to Her Excellency, The President of Tanzania HON Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan and his Excellency HON. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar and chairman of the Revolutionary council for Celebrating 59 years of Union.

> ZAA joins all Tanzanians in celebrating this great day **HAPPY 59 UNION DAY**

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Hans Obote (arms raised), an evaluation and monitoring programme officer with the Organisation of Women in Development Efforts (popularly known by its Kiswahili acronym WAJIKI), conducts open-air training at Dar es Salaam's Zawadi Secondary School at the weekend on ways to fight sexual corruption and gender-based violence. The training is carried out in implementation of 'Safari Salama Bila Rushwa ya Ngono Inawezekana' campaign, an initiative meant to drive home the fact that travelling doesn't have to involve sexual corruption. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt, stakeholders to review recommendations on Marriage Act before MPs have time to deliberate on proposed version'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs is convening a high-level stakeholders symposium to discuss and assess views of stakeholders on the Marriage Act, before tabling of the new Bill in the on-going parliamentary session, the House heard yesterday

The government has completed an exercise to collect views on the new marriage legislation which is due for first reading in the National Assembly.

Deputy Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Pauline Gekul said the symposium is expected to take

to air their recommendations on how the new marriage law should look like, in joint efforts to reduce bottlenecks in the current law which has elicited several criticisms from a section of stakeholders.

Gekul was responding to a question asked by Special Seats lawmaker, Yustina Rahhi (CCM) who had sought to know when the government would table a Bill to amend the Marriage Act, 1971 regarding child marriage.

According to the deputy minister,

place in Dodoma, as she invited MPs Parliamentary Standing Committee and stakeholders from all walks of in February 2021, following the life to participate at the last forum verdict by court of appeal on the case between Attorney General Versus Rebecca Gyumi which ruled that the Marriage Act 1971, be amended to allow girls to be married after attaining 18 years of age.

"After going through the Bill, the committee decided that it be taken back to stakeholders in order to receive more views," said Gekul.

According to the deputy minister, the government in collaboration with different stakeholders has already collected enough views from all stakeholders including the new Bill was presented before the religious leaders, traditional chiefs,

political party leaders, students, health experts as different groups of citizens including persons with disabilities.

It is in this regard, she maintained, that the ministry of Justice and Constitution decided to bring together all stakeholders at a highlevel symposium in the country's capital to assess all views that were presented and give final recommendations.

"Immediately after completing this crucial final exercise, the government is expected to table the Marriage Act (Amendment) Bill in the ongoing parliamentary budget session," said the deputy minister.

Samia wins accolades for investing heavily in healthcare services

By Guardian Reporter

A Dar es Salaam-based medical specialist has lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her tireless efforts to improve specialist treatments in the country's health facilities.

Dr Godlove Mfuko, acting assistant director of surgical services at the Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila made the remarks when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Dr Mfuko said availability of the best medical equipment and revamping of health facilities during the Sixth-Phase government under President Samia has contributed significantly to the promotion of specialist treatment in the country.

The specialist said that the situation has improved rapidly to provide better medical services to the extent of attracting many people as far as those from neighbouring countries.

"Tanzania has also earned praises from our neighbours on how our country invested well in the health sector compared to other African countries," he said.

"If you see now, you hear that the government is also investing in educating specialist doctors in our hospitals without forgetting the abundance of quality equipment in our hospitals, especially this one in Mloganzila, which is the first reason for us professionals to provide better medical services to our patients."

"We as specialists, we take this matter as one of the many good things done during President Samia's tenure," said Mfuko.

He said that the government has bought the best equipment to diagnose various diseases to the extent that health professionals also focus on finding solutions to medical challenges.

"A good example, until now we have performed surgery on more than 100 patients who came for weight loss by implantation (balloon) and the service has been 100 percent successful.

"If that is not enough, our hospital in Mloganzila has performed a unique kidney transplant surgery for three patients with the expertise of a small hole, it is a technology of its kind that does not leave severe pain for the donor and the recipient as well, services that cannot be successful if the government has not bought modern equipment along with putting in good infrastructure," he said.

Dr Mfuko said the health sector in Tanzania has grown significantly, a situation that brings praise to the government and the nation, while saying that there is a high possibility that the country will start receiving visitors from different countries to get medical care in the country.

He said that any nation that invests in health has a high percentage of developing its economy, because a person who is sick cannot do developmental work, considering that some diseases are expensive and time-consuming.

"Tanzanians are witnesses that a few years ago, people used to travel abroad and spend a lot of money to follow specialist treatments such as kidney, heart and others, but now they are available in the country, this is all because the government has decided to improve this important sector," Dr Mfuko emphasized.

Mloganzila Hospital is one of the important places that the government decided to invest heavily in empowering specialists to offer competitive medical services to patients in different health facilities.



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Government reiterates its commitment to help teen mothers attain their goals

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has reiterated the commitment to help teenage mothers achieve their social, economic goals through collaboration with various stakeholders, Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Mwanaidi Ali Khamisi said yesterday.

She told the National Assembly that the government has different ways of assisting teenage mothers or mothers who got married at tender age acquire skills that can help them in life.

Mwanaidi told the legislators that through collaboration with development partners, the government has enabled many young women get skills based on their own demand and choices, allowing them to be independent.

The deputy minister said such women have the opportunity to join various colleges and get skills through short courses offered by the vocational education training authorities (VETA)

They can also get training at the community development centres, institutes of social works available in different parts of the country, where they can gain knowledge and skills for self-

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employment or to be employed.

She made the statement in response to a question raised by the Special Seats MP, Hawa Mwaifunga (CHADEMA), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to help young women who got married at tender ages.

"What is the government doing to help children who are already in marriage at early ages?" she asked, adding that they are deprived of the right to achieve their

In her response, the deputy minister explained that after attaining vocational skills, they have the opportunities for employment in the public or private

She added that the government in collaboration with development partners have been conducting capacity building trainings to empower girls in different fields like agriculture, tailoring, arts and many others, depending on their choices.



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and Time

12/05/2023,

the Morning

(1000hrs)

Ten O'clock in

Date.

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA), has signed an agreement with an overseas education agency, Global Education Link (GEL), whereby the agency will be responsible for finding opportunities for students and lecturers of the institute at foreign universities.

The agreement was signed yesterday in Dar es Salaam, between TIA's Chief Executive Officer, Prof William Pallangyo and GEL's Executive Director, Abdulmalick Mollel.

Speaking after signing the agreement, Mollel said GEL for 16 years has been helping Tanzanians who wish to study abroad from Certificate level, Diploma, Degree, Master's and PhD degrees to fulfill their dreams in the professions of their choice.

He said another role of GEL is to advise the government when it sees opportunities abroad that are not here in the country and ensure Tanzanians benefit from those opportunities.

Mollel said that they have been helping to create cooperation between foreign and local universities adding that before doing so, GEL must have an agreement with the university that wants to be connected with its network of over 300 foreign universities that they work with.

He said GEL will cooperate with TIA to obtain productive agreements with foreign universities, starting from obtaining scholarships for its lecturers to study for Master's or Doctorate degrees.

"We wish to see our universities have courses that can collaborate with foreign

TIA inks contract with GEL for students. lecturers to study in foreign universities

universities whereby TIA student can study attracted various investments where others two years here and travel abroad to finish his course at foreign university using local curricula or foreign curricula and this will help us to get international students come to study here," said Mollel

Works and Transport deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (in scarf and sunglasses, facing camera) looks on in Mwanza city yesterday as Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Rogatus Mativila (2nd-L) and an AVM - Dilingham Company representative sign project documents on the construction of the 54.4-km Sengerema-Nyehunge road to tarmac level at a cost of 73bn/-. The stretch is part of the road network connecting Mwanza Region with Geita, Kagera and Kigoma regions. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

He said that many universities in the world hold international meetings where lecturers from local colleges can collaborate with lecturers from those colleges to produce various publications together and provide joint training for students of their universities.

He said such agreements will help to introduce local universities to various universities abroad so that students from those countries can be aware of the courses offered here in the country and attract them to come to study here.

"As we speak today there are exhibitions of more than 200 universities going on in China and there are enough opportunities in the exhibitions, so our universities should participate in exhibitions like this to attract people from those countries to come and study at our universities," he said.

He also said that the agreement will enable TIA to exchange students with foreign universities for its students to study here in the country for half of the semester and then go to finish it abroad and those from abroad to finish their semester here in the country.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan

have invested in modern technology, so it is important for Tanzanian youth to study technology issues and come to work with those investors.

TIA CEO Prof William Pallangyo, said this year TIA will commemorate its 50 years of teaching accounts, human resources, procurement, marketing at its six campuses in Dar es Salaam, Singida, Mwanza, Mbeya, Kigoma and Mtwara adding that next year they expect to establish a campus in Zanzibar.

He said that GEL has been helping Tanzanian students to find universities abroad so by signing that agreement it will provide a great opportunity for TIA to provide international training to the students of the college.

"This agreement is a good opportunity for our students and lecturers to find universities to develop themselves abroad for those who want to study Masters and PhD degrees and we will have the opportunity to get publications in the libraries of our colleagues abroad," said Prof Pallangyo.

"This will give our youth opportunity to grow as technology continues to change in the world because technology is changing very quickly, so if we continue to lock ourselves we will be not able to move with the speed of our colleagues, after signing this agreement we will start to implement what is mentioned in this contract," said the

professor.



By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) yesterday launched its 7th Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE 2023) set to host 200 exhibitors and 150 international buyers from primary and

emerging sources.

Damas Mfugale, TTB Director General said that SITE 2023 theme is "Responsible Tourism for Inclusive growth" and will kick off from October 6th to 8that Mlimani city in Dar es Salaam

He said the exhibitors and international buyers are from the United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), Italy, Germany, France, Netherlands, Canada, Australia, Spain, Gulf Countries, South Africa, India, Turkey, China, Brazil, Czech Republic, Poland and

The TTB boss said SITE covers exhibitors (tourism

operators and other dealers of tourism related products)

in Tanzania and from neighbouring countries to showcase their products and services, network, establish new business partnerships and strengthen existing ones. He said the SITE 2023 will feature activities such

as tourism business exhibition, investment forum, seminars and business networking and followed by familiarization trips for six days to different attractions across the country.

The National parks are Kilimanjaro, and Mkomazi parks, Ruaha National Parks in Iringa, Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Lake Zone-Saanane National Park, Serengeti and Ngorongoro, Zanzibar Island, Nyerere National Park and the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songomnara.

"Due to the multiple initiatives taken by our government to combat the pandemic; included and not limited to promotion of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism. The government reinitiated the expo that was held last year (2022) and we are expecting to host another one this year (2023)," he said.

"I call on International stakeholders particularly investors, buyers and exhibitors and Tanzania tourism business operators to embrace the economic and social opportunities that will result from this Expo," he said.

Mfugale added that SITE 2023 is aligned to the National Tourism Policy of 1999 and the international tourism marketing strategy for destination Tanzania 2020-2025 which emphasize on promoting destination Tanzania.

He added that it was associated with the National fiveyear development Plan III (FYDP III 2021/22-2025/26) that identifies MICE tourism as a strategy to increase the number of tourists and receipts to reach 5 million and six \$ billion respectively by 2025.

SITE 2023 supports the implementation of Tanzania the royal tour programme which was initiated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The 2022 SITE attracted 180 participants while this year SITE is expected to bring 200 exhibitors.

Current statistics shows that tourism earnings in Tanzania amounted to \$1.5 billion in the year ending



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TANZANIA EDUCATION AUTHORITY





Board, Management and staff of Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) joins, H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of The United Republic of Tanzania and Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar in commemoration of 59th Anniversary of Tanzania Union.

As we commemorate the day, **TEA** will continue to complement the Government efforts in providing equitable access to quality education and skills development opportunities for all Tanzanians

Tanzania Education Authority, P.O.BOX 2516, Dodoma, Tel: +255 26 2962714 | +255 26 2962715, Email: info@tea.or.tz

Experts to help govt decide on reopening of Njage and Mtongowa railway sub-stations, legislators told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is to deploy a team of experts in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region to make a thorough assessment before reinstatement of the Njage and Mtongowa railway sub-stations under the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA), parliament was told here yesterday.

the statement when responding to a supplementary question posed by Mlimba MP, Godwin Kunambi (CCM) who specifically wanted to know when operations at the substations that had been halted long time ago would resume.

Responding, Mwakibete said that the team of experts would be sent

Deputy Minister for Works and in the district this Friday and that Njage and Mtongowa sub-stations Transport, Fredy Mwakibete made it would work for one week and submit their report to the ministry on May 06, 2023. Their assessment report according to him will determine whether the two substations will be re-opened or not according to Mwakibete.

> According to the deputy minister, the government through TAZARA received a request for re-opening of

at different intervals in 2022 and that after an assessment it was established that the Niage substation was in between the main stations of Mngeta and Mbingu where a train makes stop overs.

"The distance between Mngeta and Mbingu is about 18 kilometres and Njage sub-station is in between just 9 kilometres from each side,"

Regarding the Mtongowa substation, the minister said it was in between the main station of Mngeta whereas already there was yet another sub-station of Ikule where passenger trains ought to stop.

"The distance between Chita and Mngeta is 16 kilometres and the Mtongowa sub-station is located 9 kilometres from the main station of

According to the deputy minister, for efficiency to prevail in longjourney rail transport, it is advised that there should be stations located in not less than 20 kilometres from one station to another. However, the stations that have been requested by an MP to be reinstated are a half a distance advised by railway transport experts.



Global Education Link (GEL) director Abdulmalik Mollel (C) and Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA) CEO/rector Prof William Pallangyo pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday signing an MoU under which GEL will find overseas study opportunities for use by TIA. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AU, RECs and partners discuss harmonisation of road transport regulatory frameworks in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

A continental workshop organised by the African Union Commission (AUC) in partnership with the European Union (EU)-funded Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa to examine the harmonisation of Africa's road transport regulatory

The recent workshop was intended to assess progress on the harmonisation and implementation of Vehicle Load Management (VLM) in Africa, exchanging best practices on policies and standards while soliciting realistic proposals for a continental VLM strategy.

Speaking on behalf of AUC Director of Infrastructure and Energy, Dr Kamugisha Kazaura, Acting Head of Transport and Mobility Division, Eric Ntagengerwa, emphasised the importance of harmonising road transport regulatory instruments in order to realise regional integration and aid trade facilitation by laying the groundwork for the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"Road transport facilitates roughly 80 percent of trade on the continent, and demand is expected to rise significantly in the coming years, aided by AfCFTA, which is why we need to increase the efficiency and capacity of transportation infrastructure and services for the movement of goods and people within and beyond borders," he said.

This, in turn, will stimulate economies by allowing African enterprises to expand and enter new markets, increase productivity, generate jobs, accelerate industrialisation, and contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2063 aspirations, goals, and objectives.

Petra Pereyra, EU Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, spoke on the EU's experience in integrating transport systems across the EU region.

"To enable this level of intra-European mobility, we had to work tirelessly for decades to remove regulatory impediments to transport and trade in the EU. And this is the type of hard work that the TTTFP has been conducting for the past five years in collaboration with 25 SADC (Southern African Development Community), EAC (East African Community), and COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) Member States," she said.

Bernard Dzawanda, on behalf of COMESA Director of Infrastructure and Logistics, Baptiste Mutabazi, said: "The three RECs are working toward the broader goal of accelerating continental economic integration, boosting economic growth, reducing poverty, and achieving sustainable economic development."

Ntagengerwa praised the efforts made in the tripartite region, which covers 800 million people, to harmonise transit and transportation instruments.

He added: "This is an opportune time to scale up the best practices at the continental level to address trading barriers and realise a liberalised road transport market in Africa. The AUC is ready to provide Member States and RECs (Regional Economic Communities) with the required leadership and support."

The first day of the workshop focused on the causes and effects of vehicle overloading across the continent, emerging technologies and innovations, and continental initiatives on road transport and

transit facilitation, as well as lessons learned from these programmes to unlock the potential of AfCFTA, which is dependent on factors such as the removal of Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade (NTBs).

The foundations for the discussions are the recently adopted Tripartite Vehicle Load Management Agreement (VLMA), Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement (MCBRTA), and Model Laws and Regulations by the Tripartite Council of Ministers of COMESA, EAC, and SADC.

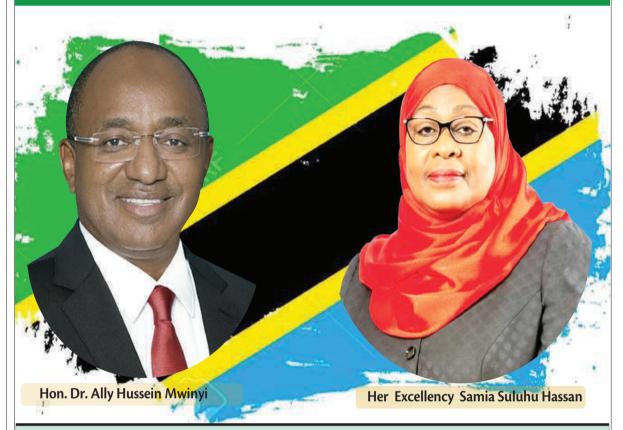
A study excursion to the Heidelberg Traffic Control Centre on the Johannesburg-Durban highway, the busiest section of the North-South Corridor, was also part of the workshop's experience-sharing initiatives, facilitated by the South African National Road Agency (SANRAL).

More than 150 policymakers, regulators, engineers, and experts from AU Member States, RECs, AUC, AfCFTA Secretariat, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Corridor Management Institutions, and international partners attended the workshop.



ZANZIBAR SOCIALSECURITY FUND (ZSSF)

HAPPY UNION DAY



The Board of Directors, management and all staff of ZANZIBAR SOCIAL SECURITY FUND (ZSSF) join Her Excellency SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN The President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Dr. ALLY HUSSEIN MWINYI President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar celebrating 59 years of Freedom and Unity. Happy Union Day





59TH ANNIVESARY OF THE UNION OF TANGANYIKA AND ZANZIBAR **APRIL 26, 1964 - APRIL 26, 2023**



H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan The President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Ministerial Advisory Board, Management, and Staff of the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), join the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan and H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council all Tanzanians in celebrating 59 years of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

> We should protect our Peace, Unity and Solidarity for the well-being of our nation.

> > We give legal life to your business



H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council

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Taking A New Look At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995

AfCFTA format helps in **Union issues tax disputes**

periodically updated on what is going on in quasipermanent discussions on solving Union issues, the latest occasion being in the presentation of budget estimates for the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) docket. MPs were told that forming a joint finance commission between the two parts of the Union, sugar importation regulations and charging goods brought into the Mainland market from Zanzibar are proving to be intractable problems. They may still eventually be resolved but failing to find a formula even at present is daunting.

For one thing, or perhaps in more than one circumstance, the current atmosphere is best for union issues there could ever be. The reason is that Zanzibar has the best hearing it could possibly have (with the Union president also hailing from Zanzibar) and secondly, the policy is the most open, liberal we ever hand. And most demands raised by Zanzibar traders basically are free trade issues, not really privileges, though that aspect can be noticed in some other institutional demands.

What elicited the more intense sentiments in the legislature about what is being done in that sphere is how rapidly many contentious issues were resolved, such that the minister says that the government had put a line under 22 contentious union matters as of this month. Key issues remaining to be resolved included four others that are on course to being resolved, he said, citing the distribution of revenues generated by shares of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (SMZ) in the East African Currency Board as one of them. That sounds a bit puzzling.

The framework of the remaining questions has a mixed outlook, between technical issues that can be resolved with a minimum of expertise and a certain amount of goodwill. The political part of the goodwill is accentuated by the sympathy at top level, while the technical part blends with reforms, for instance in the need to align the sugar import tariff structure with both the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the World $Trade\ Organisation\ (WTO)\ protocols.$ Where sugar is supposed to be zero rates for decades. Here, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is likely to play the role of restating these key protocols.

It must be admitted that there are areas where the will to reform is not as yet sufficient, and this depends on the wider productivity of various sectors. When sugar is zero charged at port, UN projections are that all families will have a usable chance of being assured a daily intake of sugar, different from the contrary scenario as it often happens. But if the level of efficiency of industry as a whole is poor, other importers will complain of being discriminated against, that there are those who don't pay tax, etc. United Nations reasoning may not easily be shared across the board, as it were, and thus this question could longer on for a while

There are still other areas where a minimum of goodwill shall be needed at the political level, not in relationship to sympathy with Zanzibar (for that is largely optimal at the moment) but in terms realism from that side. There needs to be a political decision to drop the issue of interest earnings from the old East African Currency Board, a dinosaur of issues in a way. That could finish up the matter.

Skills development in the mining sector is necessary

are increasingly promoting content requirements in their policy and legal frameworks, notably to deliver on the creation of more and better-paid jobs, the promotion of domestic supply chains and the transfer of knowledge, skills and technologies.

Mining dependent countries need to transform and diversify their economies, achieve higher living standards and reduce poverty, manage expectations of an increasingly informed population and leave a decent legacy to future

Therefore, competencies, notably acquired through effective local content policies (LCPs), are a necessary springboard for broader

One of the core pre-requisites for effective LCPs is the availability of the required skills and capabilities to meet the demands of the industry throughout the life cycle of a mine.

The ability to develop new skills sets and adapt existing ones to rapidly respond to technological changes is also crucial. Recent studies have confirmed the likely impact of new technologies on the nature of jobs, highlighting how, in the mining sector, new skills sets will be required not only for new occupations, but also for existing ones, as current operational jobs will most likely have to adapt to automation.

The mining industry offers few direct job opportunities. Yet, employment remains a major 'political' objective, for host governments and mining firms alike. For the former, this relates to meeting people's expectations regarding economic benefits derived from mining activities. For the latter, it is about obtaining and maintaining a metals sector.

"INERAL-RICH social licence to

The mining and metals industry is recovering from one of its most difficult periods in decades. Market volatility and a downturn in commodity prices have created a new normal where cost cuts, automation and operational efficiency are vitally important.

The industry specific issues related to regulation, geopolitical risk, legal limits on natural resource use, shareholder activism and public scrutiny have created additional challenges.

According to the Third National Five-Year Development Plan III, the mining sector has placed Tanzania in the higher ranks among African economies in terms of FDI attraction and non-oil economies.

Tanzania is endowed with a variety of industrial minerals and precious

metals, including iron ore, soda ash, coal, clay soil, uranium, gold, diamond and tanzanite, a rare gemstone so far worldwide found only in Tanzania thus it seeks to promote natural resources-based industrialisation.

Some of the key intervention areas in mining sector include strengthening the management and control of large-scale and medium scale mining, empower small-scale miners, including youths and women to participate in feasible mining activities by licensing areas with basic geological information, necessary training on productive mining, technologies and equipment and

mining business through STAMICO. While we believe that demand for minerals will grow in the coming years, there are several trends that will determine which types of mining companies will prevail in the future. There are seven drivers that we believe will shape the mining and **The Guardian Limited Key Contacts**

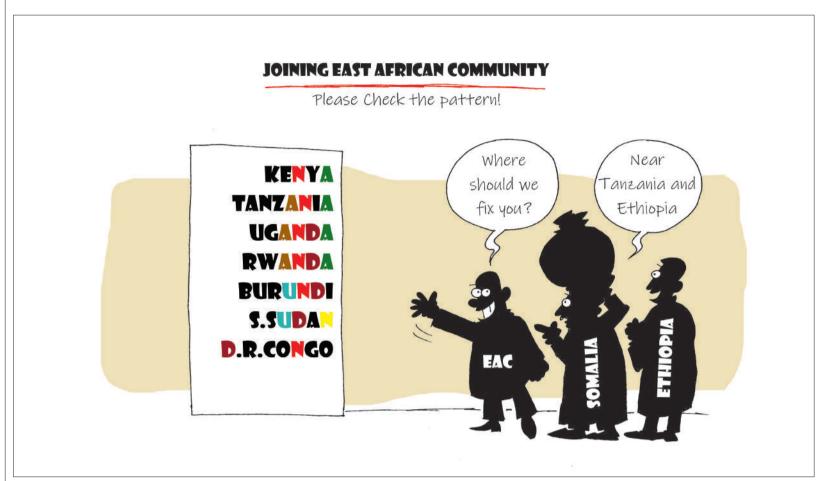
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Kidney disease: A silent killer with seven early symptoms to consider

By Teresa Zhang and Dr Jingduan

Yang

IDNEY disease is known as the "silent killer" because it often has no **∟**obvious early symptoms. It is estimated that up to 90 per cent of people in the United States with chronic kidney disease (CKD) are completely unaware that they have the disease until it is at a very advanced stage.

As the disease progresses, it can lead to kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant. It can also result in other serious health issues, including a heart attack or stroke.

Chinese and western physician Dr Jingduan Yang, founder and medical director of US-based Yang Institute of Integrative Medicine, says in the online programme "Four Dimensions of Health" that he had recently seen several patients who were not very old vet they were experiencing kidney failure.

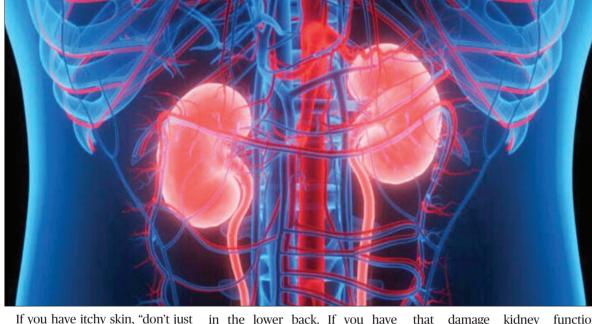
However, because those people waited too long to see a doctor, their treatment options were limited. He said had they been treated early, the deterioration of their kidney function may have been preventable.

Yang pointed out that some early symptoms of kidney disease may not seem to be related to the kidneys, but they are indeed caused by reduced kidney function.

Here are seven symptoms to watch for, ONE being nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite. Kidney failure can cause the accumulation of toxins, metabolic acidosis, and electrolyte disorders in the body, leading to gastrointestinal disorders and symptoms of nausea and vomiting, so be aware that digestive problems may be related to the kidneys.

TWO: 2. Anaemia and chronic **fatigue.** One of the functions of the kidneys is to synthesize erythropoietin, a hormone that stimulates the production of red blood cells in the bone marrow, as well as to protect cardiomyocytes and stimulate the regeneration of cardiomyocytes and blood vessels. Poor kidney function can lead to anaemia, resulting in chronic fatigue symptoms.

THREE: Itchy skin. When the kidneys are not functioning properly, toxins are not adequately excreted through the kidneys, which can result in dry, itchy skin. Kidney disease may also cause changes in the levels of certain hormones in the body that can lead to itching.



go to the dermatologist and slather on the medicine, but think about the possibility of kidney failure", notes Yang, adding that itchy skin can also be caused by a lack of vitamin B6 or zinc as well as high levels of ammonia in the blood.

FOUR: Urine change. One of the main functions of the kidneys is to produce urine. If there is a kidney problem, urine may become cloudy or foamy or may have blood in it.

Is foamy urine a symptom of kidney disease? Yang says it is normal to have bubbles in urine occasionally. Still, proteinuria (the presence of excess protein in urine) can be indicative of kidney damage and can cause urine to become foamy. If there are many bubbles in urine every time, and the bubbles do not disappear after 30 seconds, Yang recommends seeking medical attention.

If the urine is dark and yellow, it may contain blood cells, meaning there is **haematuria** (= **presence of** blood in urine). Also keep in mind that if you take vitamin B complex, your urine may turn yellow or red.

While the kidneys are responsible for producing urine, urine output may decrease when kidney function is abnormal. This is because the kidneys may not be able to filter blood effectively when damaged.

In addition, according to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) theory, frequent daytime urination, and excessive night-time urination are symptoms of weak kidney energy, called "kidney qi deficiency."

Although it may not be possible to detect kidney problems at the chemical level, they may already be present at the energy level.

FIVE: Acute and chronic low back pain. The kidneys are located the need to avoid behaviours

severe back pain, you may want to determine if there is a problem with your kidneys. Chronic low back pain should

also be taken seriously. Kidney disease can cause chronic low back pain, which radiates from the waist to the back of the legs and ankles along the bladder meridian. According to TCM, the meridians

are the channels of energy in the human body, and the energy of the internal organs will flow through the meridians throughout the body.

When a disease occurs in an internal organ, the corresponding meridian feels pain and discomfort. If there is a problem with the kidneys, it will also affect the area of the bladder meridian.

SIX: Metallic smell and taste. When there is a problem with kidney function, you will often have a metallic taste in your mouth. In severe cases, you will smell a pungent ammonia odour when you breathe. This is caused by a high level of urea in your blood.

SEVEN: High blood pressure in younger patients. Hypertension is usually seen in the elderly. If a younger person gets hypertension, it may be related to kidney disease.

High blood pressure causes damage to the elastic fibres in the walls of blood vessels. This damages the tiny blood vessels in the kidneys and prevents the kidneys from performing their filtration function.

Kidney disease can also lead to hormonal imbalance, which increases the hormones that raise blood pressure, thus creating a vicious cycle.

Avoiding factors that cause kidney disease

Yang also reminds people on

that damage kidney function, these including eating too much processed food and avoiding heavy metals, which can increase the amount of stress on the kidneys.

He is emphatic that smokers are most likely to ingest heavy metals, while nicotine in cigarettes will also raise blood pressure. In addition, melamine in plastic products can cause kidney stones and kidney failure, so avoid using plastic products for hot food.

Regarding nutrition, Yang recommends eating more foods with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, supplementing them with anthocyanins, curcumin, catechins, vitamins C and E, as well as taking a proper amount of zinc, which helps excrete heavy metals.

In addition, drinking water is essential for kidney detoxification and will help prevent kidney stones. Yang recommends drinking seven to eight glasses of water daily and more in the summer.

* Teresa Zhang is a journalist based in Hong Kong. She has written on health topics for The Epoch Times Hong Kong since 2017, mainly focusing on Traditional Chinese Medicine. Meanwhile, Jingduan Yang is a board-certified psychiatrist specialising in integrative and traditional Chinese medicine for chronic mental, behavioural, and physical illnesses. He has authored, co-authored contributed to several books on medicine alongside being the founder of the Yang Institute of Integrative Medicine and the American Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and the CEO of Northern Medical Centre, Middletown, New York, since July

* The Epoch Times

Wednesday 26 April 2023

Guardian FEATURES

Online reading is fashionable but don't throw away your books

66 I FIND television very educating but every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." American comedian, actor writer Groucho Marx famously said these words to highlight the importance of reading books which is considered threatened by digital content accessible through hand-held devices.

Most of us love to read. Can you remember the exactly name of any book you have finished reading recently? Our busy hectic lifestyle forces some of us not to choose reading books as our passion or

Instead, we opt for hard reality of advanced tech era where we love to scroll videos, audios or read something most probably on line. But do you have any idea about the difference between book reading in print form and screen reading?

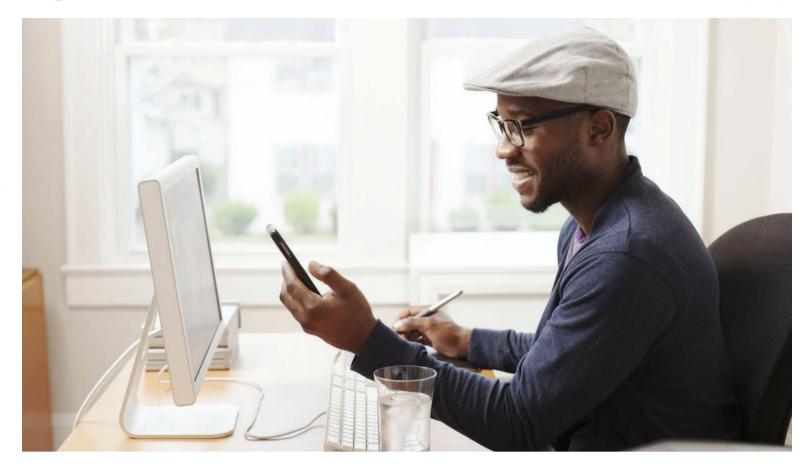
For conservatives, a book is an old friend, isn't it? By reading books we become immigrants to different countries without moving our feet. That is really exciting, isn't it? We have so many benefits of reading any good book but nowadays, it's most challenging in the era of advanced technology.

For generations growing up in a digital world with all its advantages and distractions, we need to emphasize on book reading habits especially in printed papers to deal with the online world.

In my experience, the online world is vast. We get instant knowledge of world events and everyone's reaction to them and the speed is obviously very dangerous for everyone. The speed at which events are reported gives us very little time to evaluate sources and many of us end up sharing fake news.

Recent research suggests that reading more online results in lower understanding and less critical reflection. Diversions and less concentration are the two main points of reading on line, unlike reading printed books.

Chinese-American Naomi Baron in 'Reading in a digital age' cites more recent research by Kaufman and Flanagan (2016) which found that students reading digitally did well on answering concrete questions. However, those reading in print did better on abstract questions needing inferential reasoning.



In Baron's own research between 2013 and 2015 of more than 400 university students from five countries, 86 per cent preferred reading longer texts in print and 78 per cent when reading for pleasure, with 92 per cent saying it was easiest to concentrate when reading print. Some 85 per cent of US students were more likely to multitask in an online environment and only 26 per cent when reading

On the contrary, interestingly, researchers have also found that with e-books that are carefully designed to support reading rather



Pressing Issues With **Chaitra Chatterjee**

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than distract with features that are simply entertainment, children's comprehension of a story was at a similar level.

book? Though online is Additionally, e-books and digital technology can be very engaging for reluctant readers. So, will you choose reading on screen or on print

Although computers, now very popular and smart phones are very common thing for us much part of education after the pandemic, extoday, books and paper perts advise that don't are still a good way to throw away your books. learn. Depending on the material, they can be the easiest way, studies find.

Many studies have shown that when people read on screen, they don't understand what they have read compared to when they read in print. Even worse, many don't realize they're not getting it. For example, researchers in Spain and Israel took a close look at 54 studies comparing digital and print reading. Their 2018 study involved more than 171,000 readers. Comprehension, they found, was better overall when people read print rather than digital texts. The researchers shared the results in Educational Research Review.

Patricia Alexander, a psychologist at the University of Maryland in the United States says much of her research has delved into the differences between reading in print and on screen. Alexander says students often think they learn more from reading online. When tested, though, it turns out they actually learned less than when reading in print.

Reading is important but it's not so easy like talking. Reading is not natural, according to Maryanne Wolf, who works at the University of California, Los Angeles. This neuroscientist specializes in how the brain reads. We learn to talk by listening to those around us. It's pretty automatic. But learning to read takes real work. To understand text, the brain borrows networks that evolved to do other

We need to slow down during reading, we need to concentrate, make an effort to what we read and what we want to learn from the source, be it online or print.

Nowadays both print and online reading are thoroughly established in our daily lives. We have to use both to get the best out of these two sources of information. Print and digital each has advantages. Sometimes it's best to use both.

N Tanzania, many people ignore the potential hazards associated overhead electric transmission lines, including air quality hazards associated with living or working close or under electric transmission lines. Air quality is the extent to which the air in a particu-

lar place is pollution free. Monitoring air quality along the transmission line is important because polluted air can be bad for human health and that of the environment. There are about five major air pollutants which need to be monitored along transmission lines in order to protect public health and that of the environment.

These pollutants are: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Fortunately, each of these has national and international standards which need not be exceeded. Air pollution associated with overhead electric transmission lines is becoming a significant problem amongst poor countries including Tanzania as rural electrification becomes a major economic and political

Ambient air pollution consists of a highly variable and complex mixture of different substances, which may occur in the gaseous, liquid or solid form. Several hundred different components have been found in the troposphere, many of them potentially harmful to human health and the environment. Air pollution along a transmission

Electric transmission lines may have impact on quality of air we breathe



line will be generated in all terial handling that would four phase of the project i.e. mobilization, construction, operation and decommissioning.

Mobilization and construction phases would generate dust and exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants particularly during site preparation, excavation of trenches, and installation of structure foundations.

These would be associated with travelling on unpaved roads and surfaces and ma-

create fugitive dust. The use of construction equipment and emissions from motor vehicles used to mobilize the workforce and materials for construction would result in temporary air quality impacts from dust and equipment exhaust.

During the operation phase, maintenance and inspection would generate dust and exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants. there is an overhead high voltage line generating air pollutants via ozone and nitrogen oxide as a result of corona discharge occurring around active conductors especially during humid weather.

Maintenance inspection activities would be similar throughout the project life and would be the only notable direct air quality impact sources related to the project. Mobile source emissions

clearing would also occur but only occasionally and the associated emissions would not contribute to a potentially significant impact.

The incremental increase of emissions that would be caused by vehicular traffic for inspection and maintenance activities would likely be less than the thresholds for significance. However, direct emissions from vehicular traffic for maintenance activities would cause an Along the transmission line related to vegetation adverse impact but of low

significance but of long term. Occupational safety and

health (OSH) generally is the science of anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of hazards arising in or from workplaces that could impair the health and well-being of workers, including possible impact on the surrounding communities and the general environment.

This is a cross-disciplinary area and is concerned with guarding the safety, health and welfare of people who

are engaged in work or employment. OSH is one pects of human concern. It aims at adaptation of the working environment to workers for the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and social wellbeing of workers in all occupations. In all four phases of a project there are hazardous activities to the health of people working within the transmission line or around it.

Construction of electric power transmission lines and associated substations brings several safety risks such as working at heights, electric shocks, traffic accidents, noise, dust, fire and explosions, such that instructions to workers provides for effective risk management and can reduce the number of accidents associated with this type of activity.

The aim of risk management is to eliminate the risks, and when it is not possible, to minimize them. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 96 per cent of accidents could be avoided by analyzing incidents or probable incidents through methods like Checklists and Preliminary Risk Assessment. The main objective of such analysis would be to promote safety in several stages of an enterprise i.e. mobilization, construction, operation and decommissioning.

The author is an environmental ecologist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0754 270 196.

Local innovations key to meeting challenges of the climate crisis

By Srilata Kammila

EVERAL years ago, on a visit to a village in rural Zimbabwe, I met a small group of women with a story to share.

Having participated in a UNDP-supported adaptation project - including drought-resistant seeds and education in climatesmart agricultural practices - the women had significantly increased the productiveness of their home gardens.

However, what really caught my attention was how the women, seeing an opportunity to help one another and scale up their returns, had set up a peer group to pool their savings and invest on a revolving basis in each other's other livelihood ventures (some agricultural, some not).

In this way, they had essentially created an enterprising model to build on and sustain the investments of the project. Local innovations such as this are key to meeting the challenges of the climate crisis

The innovations we span technologies, practices, business models and behavioural changes. These innovations are to be found at all levels, from national research institutions in the world's biggest cities to small villages, like the one I visited in Zimbabwe.

At UNDP, we are focused on scaling up and accelerating innovative

adaptation approaches that have been proven to be effective. Many of the 220 projects we have implemented around the world since 2008 have broken, and are breaking, ground in numerous

In Thailand, for instance, UNDP is supporting the government in transforming agricultural practices by harnessing the power of the Internet of Things. In Mongolia, we are collaborating with herders to track livestock products from source to end to ensure sustainability. In Cuba, we have supported the government in integrating ecosystembased adaptation with inter-sector coastal plan-

Supported by the Adaptation Fund and European Union, and in partnership with the UN **Environment Programme** and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) aims to foster more innovation at the local level.

The AFCIA funding window, managed by UNDP, was launched in 2021 and supports communities that are already responding to climate stresses in innovative ways.

Through the learnings from AFCIA, we aim to share lessons learned and best practices through an open platform called the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace, in which the International Centre



In Cuba, UNDP has the government in integrating ecosystembased adaptation in coastal plan-ning. Credit: UNDP Cuba

for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Global Resilience Partnership, Climate-KIC, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) are also founding members and key partners.

At UNDP, we are focused on scaling up and accelerating innovative adaptation approaches that have been proven to be effective.

With the first round of US\$2.2 million grant funding, the programme is supporting 22 organizations in 19 countries to foster and accelerate their adaptation ideas.

The programme aims to

develop more than 10 scalable innovative adaptation solutions, benefiting more than 175,000 people (at least 30 percent women), and supporting 2,200 hectares of land with restoration or regenerative agriculture.

Based on the progress reports from local partners, we are already seeing some impressive and scalable adaptation innovations.

For example, in Brazil, we are supporting a local partner to improve food security and protect the local ecosystem for indigenous people by introducing and expanding the production of acai berries. 115 hectares of land are now certified under sustainable agroforestry management, with 27 tonnes of acai berries processed and sold.

In Cambodia, 40 women

growing and selling crickets as an alternative food source, earning \$2,600 for the first tonne of cricket farmed, a more adaptive product due to existing and future climate trends and one with year-round availability.

In Uganda, we are supporting a local partner that is teaching communities' aquaponics technology through an innovative lease-to-own model to promote aquaponics and horticulture-related production. 2,600 aquaponic kits have been leased, and this local partner is now tar-

geting an expansion plan

of reaching \$21 million of

the local vegetable and

fish market. A second cohort of grantees is about to be announced, and we hope to provide another \$2.5 million to local organizations across the globe, including approximately 10 micro grants of \$60,000 and 13 small grants of

\$125,000. Working with partners such as ICCCAD and the Global Resilience Partnership has allowed us to showcase the work of these AFCIA grantees and replicate their innovations in a broader network of networks.

For instance, at last month's Global Gobeshona Conference, we had the opportunity to learn from four local organizations - from the first cohort of grantees from the Innovation Small Grant Aggregator Platform (IS-GAP) Programme - that are implementing solutions to build the resilience of women, youth, refugees and Indigenous communities in India, the Philippines, Uganda and in the Sahel (West Africa).

These examples are instructive. By identifying successful innovation solutions, and then scaling up and replicating them in other parts of a country or region, governments can save valuable time and money.

By establishing or accelerating pilot projects and carefully monitoring their results, insights and best practices can be fed into policy processes, helping to scale up successful approaches.

Working together with partners, I am confident we will empower local communities and stakeholders to innovate and adapt, finding more solutions for resilience build-

We look forward to working with our current partners, and new ones, to scale the impact.

Srilata Kammila is Head of Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP

Holistic education support in Colombia extended to counter snowballing learning crisis

By Joyce Chimb

ment crisis in Latin America's recent history is unfolding as countries open their borders to an influx of refugees from Venezuela following unprecedented political turmoil, socioeconomic instability, and a humanitarian crisis.

"Venezuela's ongoing regional crisis is such that more than 6.1 million refugees and migrants have fled the country, triggering the second largest refugee crisis today. Colombia alone is host to 2.5 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants in need of international protection," Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW),

Sherif applauds Colombia for opening its borders despite ongoing challenges within its borders. For, 2.5 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela are in addition to Colombia's own 5.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).

"The Government of Colombia has taken remarkable measures in providing refugees and migrants from Venezuela with access to life-saving essential services like education. By supporting these efforts across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, we are creating the foundation to build a more peaceful and more prosperous future not only for the people of Colombia but also for the refugees and migrants from Venezuela above all," she emphasizes.

An influx of refugees and IDPs has heightened HE largest ex- the risk of children and adolescents falling out of the education system. As life as they knew it crumbles and uncertainty looms, access to safe, quality, and inclusive education is their only hope.

Girls, children with disability, and those from indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples are highly vulnerable as they are often left behind, forgotten as a life of missed learning and earning opportunities beckons.

To avert an education disaster, as many children risk falling off the already fragile education system, ECW intends to continue expanding its investments in Colombia. To deliver the promise of holistic education and give vulnerable children a fighting chance.

ECW has invested close to USD 16.4 million in Colombia since 2019. The fund intends to extend its support with an additional USD 12 million for the next three-year phase of its Multi-Year Resilience Programme, which, once approved, will bring the overall investment in Colombia to over USD 28 million.

The new Multi-Year Resilience Programme will be developed during 2023 - in close consultation with partners and under the leadership of the Government of Colombia - and submitted to ECW's Executive Committee for final approval in due course.

Sherif, who announced the renewed support during her recent oneweek visit to Colombia,



In Cuba, UNDP has supported the government in integrating ecosystem-based adapta-tion in coastal planning. Credit: UNDP

stresses that ECW works closely with the Ministry of Education and other line support the government's efforts to respond to the interconnected crises of conflict, forced displacement, and climate change and still provide quality education.

This collaboration is critical. Despite the government's commendable efforts to extend temporary protection status to Venezuelans in Colombia, children continue to miss cent of ten-year-olds can-

out on their human right to quality education.

In 2021 alone, the dropministries in Colombia to out rate for Colombian children was already 3.62 percent (3.2 percent for girls and 4.2 percent for boys). The figure nearly doubles for Venezuelans to 6.4 percent, and reaches 17 percent for internally displaced children.

> "But even when children are able to attend school, the majority are falling behind. Recent analysis shows that close to 70 per

not read or understand a simple text, up from 50 percent before the COV-ID-19 pandemic shut down schools across Colombia," Sherif observes.

Against this backdrop, she speaks of the urgent need to provide the girls and boys impacted by the interconnected crises of conflict, displacement, climate change, poverty, and instability with the safety, hope, and opportunity of

quality education. ECW's extended programme will advance Colombia's support for children and adolescents from Venezuela, internally displaced children, and host-communities, as well as indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities impacted by these ongoing crises.

"ECW's investment closely aligns with the Government of Colombia's strategy on inclusion and will strengthen the education system at the national level and in regions most affected by forced displacement. The programme will also have a strong focus on girls' education so that no one is left behind," she says. As of November 2022,

over half a million Venezuelan children and adolescents have been enrolled in Colombia's formal education system. ECW investments have reached 107,000 children in the country to date.

"Financing is critical to ensure that no child is left behind. But funds are currently not enough to match the challenges on the ground and the growing needs. An estimated USD 46.4 million is required to fully fund the current multi-year resilience response in Colombia," Sherif explains.

ECW's Multi-year Resilience Programme in Colombia is delivered by UNICEF and a Save the Children-led NGO consortium, including the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), World Vision, and Plan International.

ECW investments in Colombia provide access to safe and protective formal and non-formal learning environments, mental health and psychosocial support services, and specialized services to support the transition into the national education system for children at risk of being left behind. A variety of actions to strengthen local and national education authorities' capacities to support education from early childhood education through secondary school.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Green hydrogen economy in South Africa growing from small projects

hile South Africa and the world are in the nascent stages of using sustainably produced, or green, hydrogen as an energy carrier, there are many projects across the emerging value chain highlighting opportunities for roleplayers at local and international

Experts participating in a 'Green Hydrogen: Policies to expand investment in this new clean energy source' webinar, hosted by Engineering News publisher Creamer Media, on April 19 detailed some of the challenges facing the green hydrogen sector locally.

These include 'islanding', wherein all the power and hydrogen production is contained within one site.

Energy infrastructure and Generation Company Engie South Africa business developer Shahil Juggernath highlighted Project Rhino in which the company was working alongside diversified mining multinational Anglo American to produce green hydrogen for use onsite at Anglo American's Mogalakwena platinum mine, in Limpopo.

Further, Engie is, with key partners such as the Freeport Saldanha Industrial Development Zone and Anglo American, working to create the first green iron ore corridor between South Africa and the European Union, which would include production,



transport and elements of producing and shipping iron ore.

"We are initially looking at decarbonising shipping, but the project's aims can be expanded to see how we can decarbonise elements, including the industrial development zone itself," he illustrated.

Further, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) senior researcher Dr Thomas Roos briefly highlighted that the most efficient solution was to use renewable energy directly. However, not all applications could be powered by renewable energy, such as maritime shipping, commercial aviation and certain industrial which was where green hydrogen would be

"An area of interest in the short term is the global availability of

ammonia. Ammonia is currently the easiest way to transport hydrogen very long distances, and it is also used to make fertiliser, explosives and refrigerants.

"Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the price of ammonia has sky-rocketed, so that the price of green ammonia is close to that of grey ammonia, making for an interesting economic opportunity. Longer term, the production of

green steel presents opportunities," he said. Meanwhile,

Freeport Saldanha was busy with a prefeasibility study, conducted by the CSIR, to investigate the potential for production, storage and export of green fuels, such as green ammonia and methanol from the Port of Saldanha, said Freeport Saldanha CEO Kaashifah Beukes.

However, the key questions that remained for

of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy; and Mrs. Zeneb Toure, Manager, Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, AfDB.

developers were those of public infrastructure services, such as water, a workforce and roads that could impact on the feasibility of a project, she highlighted.

Further, provinces or metropoles, to tap into the green hydrogen economy, can erect their own short-portions of the electricity grid and invest in additional electricity substations. These can then serve nodes

which green hydrogen producers can sell their excess renewable energy into the grid while drawing power from solar and wind plants further afield, noted Roos.

"(State-owned power utility) Eskom is dealing with problems, and extending the grid to farflung provinces is likely not on its agenda, but we will need the grid to get hydrogen going," he noted

multinational Stahl hydrogen and liquefied natural gas segment manager Ugur Ünal emphasised that South Africa should publish a holistic handling, storage and transportation regulation for green hydrogen, ammonia and methanol as a key first step.

"Hydrogen is highly flammable and can ignite readily in the presence of air or other oxidising agents. It is important to ensure every stakeholder understands the requirements to safely produce, handle, store and transport hydrogen," he emphasised.

Additionally, partners were key to scaling up, such as through the green iron ore corridor, added Juggernath.

"Big companies in South Africa, such as Anglo American, Stahl and Engie, are looking to find solutions together. The climate crisis will not go away and green hydrogen is something that will play a role in alleviating the climate challenge," he said.

However, he added that there were many opportunities for smaller and emerging companies in the hydrogen value chain in the local market and international markets.

Water experts urge Ethiopia to redefine conservation efforts

traditional ways of water resources management redefined for the country to effectively conserve water.

conservation involves efficient water collection, storage, and usage to reduce unnecessary wastage.

Speaking during the event to observe the 2023 World Water Day in Addis, Ethiopia, water experts in the country emphasized the need to effectively harvest surface water and rainwater for now and future use.

According them, to Ethiopia is one of the African countries endowed with water resources having many rivers and lakes: however. evidence shows that it is a water-stressed nation.

Ambassador **Asfaw** Dingamo, Drinking Water and Sanitation State Minister, underlined that apart from using its groundwaters, Ethiopia needs to maximize on effective utilization and reserving of its surface waters and even properly harness rainwater so that people would not suffer from lack of water in dry seasons.

The State Minister said, "When we say that 'Ethiopia is the Water Tower of Africa,' people think that we have excess water at hand. But this is not the case; it means that Ethiopia is the origin of many water bodies that flow down to other countries by virtue of its location of high altitude and embracing 70% of the African plateau. Otherwise, we are a water-stressed country, and we need to make maximum efforts to capture all our surface water recourses and effectively use them for our development activities.

catchments, eight of which ETHIOPIAN water sector are river basins (Upper experts want the country's Blue Nile [Abbay], Tekeze, Awash, Danakil, Genale Dawa, Wabi Shebelle, Omo-Gibe, and Baro-Akobo), one is a lake basin (Rift Valley). and the remaining three are considered dry river basins (Merebe, Aysha, and Ogaden) owing to insignificant flow

> He also indicated that as Ethiopia envisages meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 which ensures access to water and sanitation for all by 2030, employees and leaders of the Ministry should work hard with a sense of urgency and effective time management not doing things "Business As Usual" as time seems against the national target.

> Motuma Mekassa, Water and Energy Minister said the country's safe drinking water national coverage stands at 58 percent, while sanitation is much lower than this, and the target is to reach 100 percent over the rest of the seven years till 2030.

> underscored Motuma that the development of the water sector and taking the necessary strides to ensure access to all citizens is the primary responsibility of the

> This year's, 2023, World Water Day was observed across the world with the theme "Accelerating Change Required to Solve the Water and sanitation crises'

> presented papers related the thematic area during the event attended Ministry leaders, employees, stakeholders and representatives of partners UNICEF, JICA, IRC-WASH,

Experts of the Ministry

WaterAid and Ethiopian Water Technology Institute

Ethiopia has 12 major river from the drainage system.

> THE African Development Bank Country Office in Sao Tome and Principe held its maiden Open Day on Sunday to discuss its country strategy and portfolio, opportunities, and interventions for the island nation's sustainable and inclusive development.

Some 31 representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) joined the discussions, particularly on issues relating to youth employment, energy transition and support for agriculture and the marine economy. Participants included Mr.

and Ms. Zeneb Toure, Manager for Civil Society and Commu-

nity Engagement at the bank. Welcoming the participants, the Bank's Country Manager, Mr. Pietro Toigo, reiterated the Bank's commitment to engaging with civil society in Sao Tome and Principe in implementing the bank's 'High 5s' toward inclusive and sustainable growth and development in the country.

In his remarks, Dr. de Jesus reaffirmed the contribution of civil society, saying the Government cannot achieve com-

Finance and Blue Economy, only supporting the govern-national development agenda ment but also holding it to account as part of their oversight role. He said the government was open to engaging with CSOs in addressing develop-

(L-R) Mr. Pietro Toigo, AfDB Country Manager for Angola and Sao Tomé and Principe; Mr. Lindley de Jesus, Director of Planning and Economic Studies at the Ministry

Sao Tome and Principe: African Development Bank holds Civil Society Open Day

ment matters in the country. Toure said the CSO Open Day was an opportunity for sharing information on the bank's portfolio and for CSOs to provide meaningful and actionable feedback to help maximize the bank's efforts in-country. She added that the bank was looking forward to hearing more about how Civil Society is involved in the variand the Bank's High five priorities.

She recognized the critical role that CSOs play in promoting service delivery, humanitarian relief, good governance, transparency, accountability, social protection, and focusing on a people-cantered development agenda. She hoped that through this exchange, the Bank and CSOs would collaborate more in addressing the country's development challenges.

Martha Njeri Kinyoho, Senior CSO Officer at the bank,

sion moderated by the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Idalécio Viana. The panel featured case studies on some ongoing projects, notably PRI-ASA II agriculture and rural development project, a bankfunded project in the agriculture sector.

Bank also presented its work and results over the past two years. They included key considerations and economic drivers underpinning the proposed strategic approach for the 2024-2027 period. The discussion was an opportunity to receive feedback to orient the strategic choices as the country strategy is developed and

Lindley de Jesus, Director of plete and inclusive developous development initiatives made a presentation on how Planning and Economic Studment without it. He stressed and how they reinforce the the Bank engages with CSOs. ies at the Ministry of Planning, that the role of CSOs is not achievement of the country's There was a panel discusfinalized. Harrow and Pinner Company brings life-saving clean water to Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

GRANT & Stone, a builders' merchant with branches in Harrow and Pinner, has partnered with AquAid to install water coolers that make a difference in all 44 of its locations.

As part of this initiative, the company has enabled the installation of a water pump in Manicaland, Zimbabwe, that will provide clean and fresh drinking water to hundreds of people in the province.

AquAid water coolers were

installed in all of Grant & Stone's branches, with each purchase resulting in a donation to The Africa Trust, which works to bring sustainable solutions to poverty in Africa. This partnership enabled the installation of an Elephant Pump in Manicaland, which is a modified version of a Chinese rope pulley system designed to lift water.

The pump is constructed maintained using materials that are locally available in rural sub-Saharan African communities and is

capable of producing up to 10.000 litres of clean water every day.

Harrow and Pinner Company brings life-saving clean wa-

ter to Africa Harrow Online. Fern Shaw, a spokesperson from AquAid, praised Grant & Stone's efforts and highlighted the long-term benefits of building sustainable water solutions. She commented, "The positive knock-on effects of building these pumps will benefit the recipients for decades. Implementing these sustainable solutions is only possible thanks to the invaluable custom of businesses like Grant & Stone.

"We are delighted they chose to partner with us on this very worthwhile initiative and very appreciative of their sterling efforts in creating awareness around what their

custom produces.' Gavin Welch, branch manager at Grant & Stone in Pinner, expressed his satisfaction with the project, stating, "By simply installing AquAid watercoolers into all our branches, the company

has been able to make such a difference to hundreds of people's lives, and it's fantastic to see the Grant & Stone water pump up and running."

AquAid has built over 8,000 Elephant Pumps in parts of Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and has donated over £19 million to charity. This partnership between Grant & Stone and AquAid is a testament to the power of businesses coming together to make a positive impact on communities in

HE minister of elec-Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, is reportedly pushing to extend the life of Eskom's coal-fired power plants as a proposal to ease rolling blackouts. SA has already committed to decommissioning coal plants as part of its transition to cleaner energy and creating a smooth path to a different kind of sustainable economy.

The mooted plan by the government to extend the life of Eskom's coal-fired power stations could undermine and jeopardise SA's efforts to raise more money from the developed world to fund the country's Just Energy Transition investment ambitions.

It was a Herculean effort for SA to raise \$8.5-billion from international partners – including the UK, US, France, Germany and the EU to fund its decarbonisation plan, following the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in 2021.

SA, through companies such as Eskom and Sasol, is considered one of the world's worst polluters. The country is viewed as being behind regarding its transition to cleaner energy and creating a smooth path to a different kind of economy while mitigating the effect on affected communities.

Several international partners showed their unwillingness to back SA as they opted to award the country concessional loans instead of grants (the first prize) in the \$8.5-billion package. Over the next five years, the bulk of the package will go towards the electricity sector and support for two other programmes: electric vehicles and green hydrogen.

Some of the international partners pledged billions of dollars based on the commitment by the government and Eskom to decommission the oldest coal-fired pow-

Why SA's plan to extend life of coal-fired power stations will pose global challenge



Ramokgopa, South Africa's electricity minister, addresses employees during a visit to the Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd Lethabo coal-fired power station in Vereeniging, South Africa, on 23 March 2023. (Photo: Leon Sadiki / Bloomberg via Getty Images) er stations, in accordance with their scheduled endof-life cycles.

The government and Eskom would also commit to repurposing some of the sites of the decommissioned power stations into renewable energy projects. This is also in line with the Integrated Resource Plan of 2019, which is outdated but spells out the country's energy needs, the decommissioning of coal-fired power stations, and the expansion of the renewable energy procurement

These commitments by

the government and Es-The Kgosientsho kom are believed to have Ramokgopa rolling blackconvinced international outs plan funders, among them the

But talks of the government wanting to renege on its promise of retiring coal-fired power plants could scupper the goodwill it has built with international partners and hamper future efforts to raise more money.

According to several press reports, the minister of electricity, Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, is pushing to extend the life of Eskom's coal-fired plants as a way to ease rolling blackouts. The proposal to slow down the retirement of at a Cabinet meeting. The thinking of Ramokgopa is that although the retirement date of some Eskom power stations has been set, the engineering design and performance of such power stations could allow them to run for much longer than initially planned. For instance, Cam-

presented by Ramokgopa

den Power Station is a 1,600-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Mpumalanga. Camden is scheduled to be retired by 2026 (the latest time frame), removing more than 1,000MW from the electricity system at a time when SA desperately needs all the generation it can get to avoid higher stages of blackouts. But Camden is ranked among the best-performing Eskom power stations despite it being one of the oldest. Camden has an energy availability factor (EAF) of 70%.

At a power station level, an EAF is an average percentage of generating units available to dispatch energy at any one time. A high EAF indicates that generating units are well operated and maintained, helping a power station to produce electricity more cheaply. Camden's EAF is higher than Eskom's over-

coal power stations was all EAF (combining the performance of its more than 10 power stations), which has been languishing below 60% for a long time. Other Eskom power stations that have a high EAF are Duvha and Matla, both based in Mpumalanga.

> So, Ramokgopa might want to extend the life cycle of Camden beyond 2026, pushing the engineering design of the power station so that it continues to generate electricity as a stopgap measure to ease blackouts. It seems that the government has taken an "it's better than nothing" approach, considering that its latest renewable energy procurement plan (Bid Window 6) bombed and previous efforts to end load shedding have been stuck in onerous regulatory processes.

Ramokgopa will want to press ahead with this plan for moments when SA faces increasing electricity demand such as during the winter season, which has historically ushered in an average demand of about 35,000MW, peaking at 37,000MW. At current levels and struggles, Eskom cannot cater to this demand.

But there are holes in Ramokgopa's power station life extension plan,

mainly where the funding will come from to keep the likes of Camden going for longer than planned.

Power stations that are pushed beyond their life cycle require increased and regular maintenance, which Eskom has neglected over the past decade. Eskom doesn't have the money for this exercise; the power utility's borrowing capabilities in the marketplace have been tightly limited by the National Treasury over the next three years as part of its plan to take over a portion of the power utility's debt.

There is also a sense that the government is willing to renege on its commitments made to international partners on the \$8.5-billion funding, including emissions reduction targets.

Ramokgopa's plan on extending the life cycle of coal-fired power stations will probably force President Cyril Ramaphosa to renegotiate with international partners the terms and conditions of the \$8.5-billion package and explain to the partners why his administration is making a U-turn.

His administration will have to explain to new and potential funders why SA's love affair with coal continues when the world has rapidly moved on to greener options. It arguably adds to the policy uncertainty and confusion that has bedevilled

UNITED NATIONS

warned the February 2022 Rusian invasion of Ukraine has threatened to force up to 1.7 billion people – over one-fifth of humanity – into poverty, destitution and hunger.

Long before the war, Ukraine and Russia provided about 30 per cent of the world's wheat and barley, one-fifth of its maize, and over half of its sunflower oil. But the ongoing 14th-month-old war has underminedand cut-off- most of these supplies.

Together, the UN pointed out, their grain was an essential food source for some of the poorest and most vulnerable people, providing more than onethird of the wheat imported by 45 African and least-developed countries (LDCs), described as "the poorest of the world's poor".

At the same time, Russia was the world's top natural gas exporter, and second-largest oil exporter.

The negative fall-out from the war, and the rise in arms spending, are a blessing in disguise for US and Western arms suppliers. The US administration alone has provided an estimated 113 billion dollars in weapons, economic and humanitarian aid and security assistance to Ukraine–and with no end in sight.

As a result of the war, world military expenditures reached a new record high, according to a report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The study, released April 24, says total global military expenditure grew for the eighth consecutive year in 2022. And an increase of 3.7 per cent in real terms last year resulted in a new high of \$2.24

The war in Ukraine triggers a record increase in world military spending

by Russian and Ukrainian spending. However, military aid to Ukraine and concerns about a heightened threat from Russia strongly influenced many other states' spending decisions, as did tensions in East Asia.

expenditure Military Europe, a new battleground since World War II, is the steepest year-on-year increase in at least 30 years.

three largest spenders in 2022-the United States, China and Russia-accounted for 56 per cent of the world total. All three, along with

Britain and France, are veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council who are expected to abide by one of the core principles in the UN charter: maintaining international peace and security.

The United States remains by far the world's biggest military spender. US military spending reached \$877 billion in 2022, which was 39 per cent of total global military spending and three times more than the amount spent by China, the world's second largest spender.

The 0.7 per cent realterm increase in US spending in 2022 would have been even greater had it not been for the highest levels of inflation since 1981, according to

the SIPRI study. Dr Nan Tian, Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production

By far the sharpest rise continuous rise in global in spending (+13 per cent) military expenditure increasingly insecure world.'

> She said States are bolstering military strength in response to a deteriorating security environment, which they do not foresee improving in the near future. military Ukraine's

spending reached \$44.0 billion in 2022. At 640 per cent, this was the highest single-year increase in a country's military expenditure ever recorded in SIPRI data.

As a result of the increase and the warrelated damage Ukraine's economy, the military burden (military spending as a share of GDP) shot up to 34 per cent of GDP in 2022, from 3.2 per cent in 2021, "The invasion of Ukraine

World Bank-led group

of multilateral lenders

in the Climate Invest-

ment Funds, to write SA a

The World Bank has

estimated that SA needs

\$8.5-trillion between now

and 2050 to meet the am-

bitious net-zero goals it

has set for itself. So, the

\$8.5-billion that SA se-

cured is a small fraction of

what is required, and the

country will still need to

convince more funders to

give it money.

cheque.

decisions in Central and Western Europe. This included multi-year plans to boost spending from several governments," said Dr Diego Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme.

"As a result, we can reasonably expect military expenditure in Central and Western Europe to keep rising in the years ahead," he said.

Some of the sharpest increases were seen in Finland (+36 per cent), Lithuania (+27 per cent), Sweden (+12 per cent) and Poland (+11 per cent).

'While the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 certainly affected military spendResearcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme.

'Many former Eastern bloc states have more than doubled their military spending since 2014, the year when Russia annexed Crimea,' while Russia and Ukraine have raised military spending as war rages on.

Russian military spending grew by an estimated 9.2 per cent in 2022, to around \$86.4 billion. This was equivalent to 4.1 per cent of Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022, up from 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2021.

Figures released by Russia in late 2022 show that spending on national defence, the largest compo-

Programme, said "the according to the SIPRI ing decisions in 2022, nent of Russian military up to 34 per cent of GDP concerns about Russian expenditure, was already aggression have been 34 per cent higher, in in 2021. was seen in Europe and in recent years is a sign had an immediate impact building for much longer,' nominal terms, than in Other notable developwas largely accounted for that we are living in an on military spending said Lorenzo Scarazzato, budgetary plans drawn ments, according to SIPRI up in 2021.

> 'The difference between Russia's budgetary plans and its actual military spending in 2022 suggests the invasion of Ukraine has cost Russia far more than it anticipated,' said Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, Director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme.

> Ukraine's military spending reached \$44.0 billion in 2022. At 640 per cent, this was the highest single-year increase in a country's military expenditure ever recorded in SIPRI data.

As a result of the increase and the war-related damage to Ukraine's economy, the military burden (military spending as a share of GDP) shot

in 2022, from 3.2 per cent

included:

** The real-terms increase in world military spending in 2022 was slowed by the effects of inflation, which in many countries soared to levels not seen for decades. In nominal terms (i.e. in current prices without adjusting for inflation), the global total increased by 6.5 per cent.

India's spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world. It was 6.0 per cent more than in 2021.

** In 2022, military spending by Saudi Arabia, the fifth biggest military spender, rose by 16 per cent to reach an estimated \$75.0 billion, its first increase since 2018.

Nigeria's military

cent to \$3.1 billion, after a 56 per cent increase in spending in 2021.

spending fell by 38 per

** Military spending by NATO members totalled \$1232 billion in 2022, which was 0.9 per cent higher than in 2021.

** The United Kingdom had the highest military spending in Central and Western Europe at \$68.5 billion, of which an estimated \$2.5 billion (3.6 per cent) was financial military aid to Ukraine.

** In 2022, Türkiye's military spending fell for the third year in a row, reaching \$10.6 billion-a decrease of 26 per cent from 2021.

** Ethiopia's military spending rose by 88 per cent in 2022, to reach \$1.0 billion. The increase coincided with a renewed government offensive against the Tigray People's Liberation Front in the north of the country.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One







BUSINESS



Bitcoin likely to reach \$100,000 by end-2024

LONDON

Top cryptocurrency bitcoin could reach \$100,000 by the end of 2024, Standard Chartered said on Monday, saying that the so-called "crypto winter"

Bitcoin could gain from factors including recent turmoil in the banking sector, a stabilisation of risk assets as the US Federal Reserve ends its interest rate-hiking cycle and improved profitability of crypto mining, Standard Chartered's head of digital assets research Geoff Kendrick said in a note.

"While sources of uncertainty remain, we think the pathway to the USD 100,000 level is becoming clearer," Ken-

Bitcoin has rallied so far this year, rising above \$30,000 in April for the first time in ten months. Its gains represent a partial recovery after trillions of dollars were wiped from the crypto sector in 2022, as central banks hiked rates and a string of crypto firms imploded.

Predictions of sky-high valuations coin's past rallies. A Citi analyst said in November 2020 that bitcoin could climb as high as \$318,000 by the end of

2022. It closed last year down about 65 percent at \$16,500.

In Monday's note, Standard Chartered said that bitcoin has benefited from its status as a "branded safe haven, a perceived relative store of value and a means of remittance."

Kendrick said the European Parliament's backing of the European Union's first set of rules to regulate crypto asset markets "should provide a tailwind" for

JPMorgan said in a note on April 5 that a technical change to the bitcoin blockchain in April 2024, known as its "halving", could boost its price by making it more expensive to produce, causing a "positive psychological effect".

JPMorgan said that cryptocurrency prices have already benefited from crypto enthusiasts interpreting the recent US banking crisis as a "vindication of the crypto ecosystem". Crypto supporters say stablecoins are "less susceptible to runs", JPMorgan said.

US regulators have previously told banks to be alert for liquidity risks comhave been commonplace during bit- ing from crypto-related deposits, such as stablecoin reserves, which could be subject to rapid outflows.

Fintech investment group secures \$10mn funding

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCIAL and capital markets fintech investment group, 42Markets Group has secured \$10 million in growth funding from Convergence Partners, a leading private equity investor dedicated to the technology sector across sub-Saharan Africa.

The move comes after the company recently closed its Convergence Partners Digital Infrastructure Fund (CP-DIF) at \$296 million.

"This is a real vote of confidence in the positive impact investment in digital financial infrastructure can have, both in developing and in mature markets." said 42Markets Group CEO Andries Brink states.

The most mature of the 42Markets Group businesses is capital markets services and advisory firm Andile (UK) that brings deep market and industry expertise to help the Trade and Treasury departments within Banks, leapfrog legacy software to streamline and automate their IT Operations infrastructure.

The business currently services Investment Banks and Central Banks, across Africa, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, and India.

Other Group companies include early-stage platform business FXFlow (SA), a FX exposure and risk management platform that creates value for importers and exporters in regulated markets, and Mesh (Netherlands) an institutiongrade, decentralized, multi-sided Financial Markets platform that bridges the gap between TradFi, (the traditional

world of Financial and Capital Markets), AltFi (a range of alternative, traditionally illiquid financial assets and investment instruments) and DeFi (the new world of Distributed Ledger Technology and Tokenomics).

Brandon Doyle, CEO of Convergence Partners, added "This is one of our first investments in the digital transformation of financial markets. We see 42Markets as an emerging winner in this space.

Their group companies have a long track record of consistent double-digit growth and a quality leadership team with deep expertise and experience in the capital markets."

Fourteen leading global development finance institutions (DFIs) based in Europe, the US and Africa are the investors in CPDIF and Brink said "this is the connected capital we have been looking for. We are proactively engaging with these investors to explore further opportunities to work together".

Christian Roelofse, Investment Officer responsible for the Netherlands DFI said "FMO is pleased with the efforts of Convergence Partners in identifying and supporting African entrepreneurs.

Through their investments in companies like 42Markets, we believe that digitally enabled financial inclusion will be advanced on the continent.

"Through our partnership with Convergence Partners, we are proud to be associated with innovative companies that are developing relevant solutions for the biggest needs of our time." he

Swissport Tanzania shareholders to pocket 1.5bn/- final dividends

By Guardian Reporter

he Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Swissport Tanzania shareholders will this year pocket dividend amounting 1.5bn/- which is more than half of the net profit recorded in 2022.

The company board chairman Dirk Goovaerts said following good performance, the dividend will be paid out on or about 21st June. No interim dividend was declared and paid during the year.

According to audited financial results for 2022, dividend per share has therefore jumped 41 percent to 42/- for 2022 compared with 29.80/-paid for the year 2021.

The results show earnings per share increased by 21 percent to 72.39/- last year compared with 59.61/- in 2021, thanks to increased profit for the year.

The company share is currently trading at 1,640/- with the market capitalization of 59.04bn/-, according to the DSE market report on Monday.

During the reported year, the company profit went up by 21 percent to 2.6bn/-, compared with 2bn/- recorded in 2021, while profit before tax growth was 93 percent.

Commenting on the business outlook, Goovaerts said both ground handling and cargo handling business have fully recovered from the impact of Covid-19 as airlines are operating at their full capacity and have plans to increase capacity.

"Planned growth of Air Tanzania is also expected to stir further growth of the aviation market," the board chairman said. "Cargo exports volume are increasing while imports are expected to remain constant and stable.'

In January 2020, Air Tanzania and Swissport Tanzania inked the



Swissport worker loading cargo into the plane

service pact at the carrier's Dar es ment over the past years are ex-Salaam and Kilimanjaro Airport

The pact includes the provision of the entire package, consisting of cargo and baggage handling, security checks, gate services, passenger check-in and the moving of aircraft on the stands.

The chairman further said the recovery of aviation, coupled with improved business environpected to increase flight frequencies and volume of cargo in 2023 and consequently, the financial performance of the company will

According to the financial results, total revenue increased to 38.3bn/- last year from 30.7bn/- in 2021, following an increased revenue, while operating profit went up by 69 percent to 4.5bn/- compared with 2.6bn/- respectively. Total assets slightly decreased by 1 percent, following the de-

crease of non-current assets, mainly slight decrease of intangible asset, property and equip-

Current asset gained to 15.4bn/compared with 13.9bn/- respectively, due to doubled trade and other receivables and increased

Shanta achieves first gold pour at its Singida mine

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

Shanta Gold has said it achieved the first gold pour at its Singida gold mine, in Tanzania, on March 30, which has increased its production to about 100 000 oz/y of gold, the company highlighted in its quarter one production report on April 24.

The ramp-up at Singida is progressing, with 2 200 oz produced in the first 22 days of April, the company reported.

"Shanta is now a 100 000 oz/y gold producer with a diversified resource base, a derisked balance sheet, and significantly more financial flexibility. Ramp up at the site is progressing well . . . We expect to announce our 2023 production guidance and fiveyear plan in this quarter," said Shanta CEO Eric Zurrin, who will be stepping down after six years with the company at the end of quarter three, once the interim results are pub-

The board has initiated a recruitment process to appoint a new CEO.

"The business today is vastly improved from that which [Zurrin] took over in 2017 and he has transformed Shanta from a single asset, single country gold producer encumbered with debt to a business with a diversified revenue base and . . . attractive exploration growth," Shanta chairperson Tony Durrant said.

The New Luika gold mine, also in Tanzania, produced 15 317 oz in the same quarter.

Zurrin noted that this figure was slightly lower than budget owing to temporarily reduced availability of underground equipment in February, which was rectified in March, and generally excessive

rains. He said that, despite this, gold production for both January and March was above budgeted production, and that April production was on track for about 6000 oz.

"We remain confident of

hitting full-year guidance at the mine of 66 000 oz to 72 000 oz," Zurrin said. In addition to Zurrin's

exit, Shanta has proposed the appointment of graphite development company SRG Mining president and CEO Matthieu Bos as an independent nonexecutive director pending the completion of regulatory due diligence.

Bos is a trained metallurgist and former mining investment banker with experience across Africa. He previously worked as a clean safety record, with Ivanhoe Mines executive VP Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Bos was a key member of the team that delivered the Kamoa-Kakula copper project in the DRC and was actively involved in \$3-billion worth of financing from various strategic and institutional investors, including Zijin Mining and CITIC Metal.

Moreover, the company said that it had received value-added tax refunds and offsets of \$5.7-million in the first quarter.

Shanta also maintained a total recordable injury frequency rate of nil for both Singida and New

Luika.

In terms of finances. the company had cash and available liquidity of \$11.5-million at the end of March, along with gross debt of \$29.1-million.

New Luika milled 217 479 t from underground and openpit sources during the quarter. The mine's average head grade was 2.52 g/t gold, with an average recovery of 87.1%. The Singida gold mine has produced an average head grade of 3.15 g/t gold and an ore stockpile level of 194 196 t, grading an average of 2.7 g/t gold.



BUSINESS NEWS

Potato stakeholders to find ways to mitigate climate change

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

HE Climate Resilient Tomorrow (CRAFT) project is set to hold a two -day climate -smart policy dialogue to discuss policy measure and find ways needed to combat the impact of climate change in potato farming.

The envisaged forum is expected to attract key stakeholders in the climate and the potato crop in Tanzania and other East African

According to CRAFT project manager in Tanzania, Menno Keizer, the forum focuses to provide a vital podium for the country's potato actors to share experiences with the relevant stakeholder and policymakers at the national level with a goal to address identified policy barriers in the potato value

He informed that the potato growing in Tanzania is being threatened by the ongoing effects of climate change, including drought, increasing temperatures, pests and

diseases and soil degradation.

"Our climate risk assessments depict that 12.3 percent of potato growing areas in Tanzania are projected to not be suitable by 2050 added that areas such as Kagera and Rukwa which are currently among the key potato producers will become less suitable," he said.

Keizer said most of potato growers in Tanzania are smallholder farmers; so they need to find ways of producing food sustainably.

Country Director of SNV The Netherlands Development Organisation- Michael M' Grath,

farmers in the potato value chain with evidence-based climate adaptation and mitigation such as use of drought and disease tolerant potato varieties, improved farming practices and off-season irrigation

"The project also contributed over Euro 320,000 in three Agri-SME include Sai-Energy and Logistics Company, East Africa Fruit Company and Isowelu AMCOS Cooperative to stimulate them to invest in climate smart

production.

detailed that, in Tanzania CRAFT is interventions which they have producer of potato, supporting supporting over 8,800 smallholder leveraged to generate over Euro 415, 000 as of September 2022," he communicated.

He stated that the initiative was also supporting at least 61,000 smallholder farmers in sorghum, common beans, and sunflower value chain.

He added: "These strategies have enabled smallholder farmers to become resilient and Agri-SMEs increase their productivity, ensuring produce potatoes without disruptions throughout the year.

Tanzania is Africa's 6th largest

more than half a million farmers.

CRAFT is a five -year project being implemented in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and the project is implemented by a consortium consisting of SNV (lead partner), Wageningen University and Environmental Research (WUR and WEnR), the CGIAR research programme on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Agriterra and Rabo Partnership, and the project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS).



Bumper orange harvests stimulating business exchanges in Muheza District

Business activities in Muheza district have improved further since the start of this month to July, following the start of orange harvests, the main com-

mercial fruit.

stakeholders in Orange Muheza district said they expect bumper harvest in the next three months, due to conducive weather, specifically good rains.

Farmers, traders, transporters, fuel stations owners and agents say their pockets will be fat during this season due to

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, high yields, although ongoing rains remain the major challenge for supplying the commodity to the markets.

> Speaking with the Guardian, Peter Issaya, the fruit grower at Mkuzi village said ongoing rains have increased yields, fearing that this might lower farm prices for the commodity, which is mostly demanded in both domestic and export markets.

> He continued explained that now the early harvesting oranges popular known as ' Mawasha taa', which are sold a farm price of between 40/- and 50/- for one

Ismail Jumaa, the orange business man said this situation has led to an increase of transport costs, good news to transporters, while an increased number of vehicles in Muheza increased fuel business.

He noted that now Toyota canter with capacity of carrying 6 tons now charges transport fee of 700,000/- for hauling oranges to Dar es salaam markets, compared with the previous fares of between 600,000/- to 650,000/-.

For lorry capacity of carrying 10 tons to 17 tons he said the transportation fares also

increased by 100,000/- from between 700,000 to 750,000/during last harvesting season to between 800,000/- to 850,000/-.

"During harvesting season at least huge percent of lorry have already being advanced booked and hired by business people to hauling their cargoes to various markets in and outside the country," he stated.

For her side, Tigo Pesa agent doing her activities at Majengo Shimoni area in Muheza Township Mwanaisha Ramadhani said that during orange harvesting season, money transactions services, through mobile phone is also increasing tremendously.

"We agents need to have enough capital to meet and satisfy increased financial service needs, because money circulations becoming very high due to orange businesses, as many people are coming to deposit and other are withdrawing," she

Orange production makes a substantial contribution of people's livelihood from the district's economy as the district council also increases its revenue collections from levying

Safaricom extends 5G coverage to 21 counties

NAIROBI

Safaricom has extended its super-fast fifth-generation (5G) network coverage to 28 towns across Kenya's 21 counties, empowering its customers in the covered areas to enjoy accelerated connectivity for both their homes and businesses.

The move grows the number up from 11 towns in eight counties covered when Safaricom first rolled out commercial use of 5G in October last year, pointing to an aggressive push by the telco to expand its data business as part of efforts to counter slow growth in voice calls revenue.

At the launch of the network last year, Safaricom listed regions that had access as including Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos, Kajiado, Kisumu, Mombasa, Kisii

The new extensions now cover counties such as Kilifi, Kwale, Nakuru, Laikipia, Uasin Gishu, Garissa, Kericho and Marsabit.

In a media dispatch on Monday, the giant telco also announced the introduction of 5G data bundles targeting its over 400,000 customers who use 5G smartphones with typical speeds of between 400Mbps and 700Mbps.

"The 5G bundles are personalised based on usage, and are available on Tunukiwa via MySafaricom App. Safaricom.com, and USSD said Safaricom.

The telco's chief executive Peter Ndegwa underscored the importance of increasing 5G coverage, saying it is key to empowering users to explore new internet-powered possibilities.

"As a digital lifestyle enabler, we are excited about a 5G future, which makes it possible to close the digital divide in underserved communities, provide access to critical services such as healthcare or spur economic growth by connecting small businesses to new opportunities," said Ndegwa.

In efforts to have Kenyans get a taste of the 5G capabilities. Safaricom has partnered with Chinese tech firm Huawei to set up three 5G experience centres in Nairobi.

The services located at Safaricom's Village Market, The Hub and Buruburu Shops, contain virtual reality gaming zones, showcases of smart capabilities for homes and businesses and speed-testing booths.

Costly 5G smartphones slowed down the telecom's initial rollout plan of the 5G service, forcing it to shift

J&J seeks \$3.5bn in Kenvue consumer health spinoff



NEW YORK Johnson & Johnson is seeking to raise as much as \$3.5 billion in the spinoff its consumer health business, which would be the biggest US initial public offering

Kenvue Inc., as the company will be known, filed Monday to sell more than 151 million shares for \$20 to \$23 each.

At the top of that range, Kenvue would have a market value of almost \$43 billion based on the outstanding shares listed in its filing.

The spinoff will include compared with \$15 billion

dozens of J&J brands that are household names, including Tylenol, Listerine, Neutrogena and Nicorette, according to its filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Kenvue's IPO could be the biggest since Rivian Automotive Inc.'s \$13.7 billion offering in November 2021, providing a long-awaited spark for investors.

The filing follows the slowest start to a year for US IPOs since 2016, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Since Jan. 1, only \$4 billion has been raised 60 companies,

in 104 listings during the consumer health comsame period last year, the data show.

To help finance its separation from J&J, Kenvue tapped the US investment-grade market in March, selling \$7.75 billion in bonds.

Kenvue's business, on a pro forma basis, had net income of about \$1.5 billion on sales of almost \$15 billion for the year ended Jan. 1, according to its fil-

With more than 22,000 employees and 25 inmanufacturing house sites, Kenvue said it does business in more than 165 countries and is the world's largest pure-play pany by revenue. North America accounts for half of Kenvue's sales, with 21 percent in Asia and Europe, the Middle East and Africa accounting for another 21 percent and Latin America the remainder.

Proceeds from the share sale will go to J&J, along with proceeds from related debt financing transactions, according to the filings. J&J will own 92 percent of Skillman, New Jersey-based Kenvue's shares after it's public.

J&J, with a market value of more than \$426 billion, has been saddled by thousands of lawsuits alleging talc in Johnson's baby powder cause cancer. That's contributed to a 9.8 percent decline in its share price in the past year in contrast to the 1 percent gain in S&P 500 Health Care Index. While J&J is retaining liability for the talc cases, Kenvue cautions that it may be subject to claims arising outside the US and Can-

Kenvue's IPO is being led by Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Bank of America Corp. Kenvue plans for its shares to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol KVUE.

BUSINESS NEWS

Guardian

Only 10 carmakers will survive EV battle, says Xpeng

The world's car industry will shrink to only 10 companies over the coming decade, a Chinese rival to Elon Musk's Tesla has said, as intense competition in China's electric vehicle market spills on to the global stage.

Brian Gu, vice-chair of Guangzhou-headquartered Xpeng, said for Chinese companies to be among the last carmakers standing, they would need to have annual sales of at least 3mn vehicles, underpinned by global exports. The world's largest carmaker Toyota sold 10.5mn cars in 2022, while Tesla sold 1.3mn.

The warning comes at a historic juncture for the global car industry. China is on the cusp of overtaking Japan as the world's biggest exporter of cars by volume after passing Germany last year. At the same time, slowing growth and an intense price war is pushing low-cost carmakers to the brink of collapse in China, the world's biggest car market.

"To be in that '3mn club' you cannot be a China-only player, you have to be a global player. We think in that scenario, maybe close to half your volume is

coming from outside of China," Gu said in an interview with the Financial Times.

"In five to 10 years, it's going to be a much more concentrated market. I think the [number] of players will probably be reduced to less than 10 at the global stage,"

Xpeng, which was founded in 2014 and raised \$1.5bn in a 2020 initial public offering in New York, has been hit by intense competition in China.

It ranked 12th by sales among electric-vehicle makers in China during the first three months of the year. The company, which sold more than 120,000 vehicles in 2022, has been hit by an almost 50 per cent decline in firstquarter sales this year after Tesla cut prices. In January, Xpeng was forced to follow suit, slashing the prices of three of its four models by as much as 13 per cent.

Gu, formerly JPMorgan's managing director and chair in Asia, struck a defensive tone over the sales slump, blaming the timing of the company's new model launches. But he forecast that the market would stabilise in the second half of this year.

"This year, I think we're



faced with a very competitive landscape," he said. "There's obviously [price-cutting] pressure...which not only causes competition but also creates hesitancy among consumers."

Gu acknowledged that deteriorating US-China relations complicated the company's overseas expansion plans.

Xpeng, which is backed by Alibaba and has invested heavily in autonomous driving, is targeting growth in Europe this vear but does not have immediate plans to sell cars in the US.

Entering the US for Chinese brands "may be difficult today", Gu said. "We need to take time to study it and find a way to access that market."

Despite the challenges, Gu growth opportunities outside of made cars.

Xpeng, as with all Chinese electric-car producers, depends on US chip designers including Nvidia and Qualcomm for advanced semiconductors. This has fuelled concerns that Chinese carmakers could be exposed as the US government expands restrictions on China's access to cutting-edge US chip technology.

"So far, none of our partnerships has been impacted by any of the political noise," he said, adding that, if the restrictions did start to have an impact on the company, "the whole China industry will find a solution".

Domestically, Xpeng has also hit speed bumps. Last September, customers complained about the automaker's "confusing" models. The company was forced to rename its luxury sport utility vehicle less than 48 hours after its launch.

Shortly after the naming controversy, Xpeng restructuring. The company recruited as co-president Wang Fengying, a former chief executive at Great Wall Motor who helped that company become the first said the company saw "plenty of Chinese group to export locally

More banks join European instant payments initiatives

LONDON

An initiative to offer an instant payments service in Europe from the end of 2023 said on Tuesday it has acquired two payment firms and obtained the backing of more banks after scaling back ambitions to take on US payments giants Visa and Mastercard.

The European Payments Initiative (EPI) said it planned to acquire Dutch payments scheme Currence iDEAL, and PQI, a Luxembourgbased payment solutions provider that services iDEAL.

Amro and Rabobank have joined existing backers which include BNP Paribas, BPCE, Credit Agricole, Deutsche Bank and Societe Generale.

"We are developing a new, scalable platform to address the modern and evolving payment needs of European consumers and merchants in the best possible way, with efficient, state-ofthe-art technology," said Martina Weimert, chief executive of EPI

EPI's ambitious aim of creating

a European alternative to dominant cross-border card payments systems Visa and Mastercard was due to become operational last year, but collapsed after half of its member banks left.

EPI, which had appealed for public money because banks were not prepared to stump up all the cash needed, then refocused more narrowly on developing a digital wallet by creating a single brand for instant, account-to-account payments across European coun-

The wallet will be launched for EPI said Belfius, DZ Bank, ABN the first users in a pilot phase by the end of 2023 across France and Germany, with a broader market launch that includes Belgium in early 2024.

"These markets together represent more than half of all non-cash payments in the euro area. Expansion to other European countries will follow," EPI said.

Online and mobile shopping payments will be added later on, along with subscription installments, and services such as buy now, pay later, over time.





CBK loans to banking up on liquidity crunch

An interbank liquidity crunch pushed banks to borrow a record Sh40 billion from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) in six months to December last year.

A CBK report shows that advances to commercial banks rose from Sh71.8 billion in June last year to a record high of Sh111.7 billion by end of December.

The interbank market for foreign currency has been muted, with analysts blaming it on fresh market restrictions by the central bank, which has been keen to curb speculation in the foreign exchange market.

The interbank liquidity crunch shortage, with the CBK forced to price.

"Advances to commercial banks partly resulted from open market operations that remained active during the period," said the CBK in its Quarterly Economic Outlook for the period between October and December 2022

Open market operations are conducted by the CBK to either increase or reduce money in the financial system.

Through the open market operations, achieved through the repurchase agreements of Treasury Bills and Bonds, the CBK provides temporary liquidity by temporarily holding a security on behalf of the commercial bank for cash with an agreement to buy it back partly triggered a biting dollar in the future at a pre-determined



WEDNESDAY 19 April Soap rpt: Uzalo Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI

Kumekucha HABARI Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo Soap: In Love with Ramon

Habari za saa Watoto wetu Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt Habari za saa Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt Habari za saa 11:55

12:00 Al Jazeera Bundesliga na DW rpt 12:30 12:55 Habari za saa Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt

14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu Music: The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu

Kipindi maalum: Nyota Rays 18:15 18:20 Utalii Popote 18:30 Jarida la wanawake Kipindi maalum: BOT 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon

20:00 Habari Aibu Yako 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco 21:10 21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta 22:00 Ripoti maalum

22:30 Soap: Uzalo Habari 23:00 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera

DWTV THURSDAY 20 April

02:00

12:00

Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:00 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo

9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu

10:30 Shamba lulu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Ripoti maalum rot 11:55 Habari za saa

Al Jazeera

Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT 13:30 Kipindi maalum: Brela

13:45 Shamsham za pwani rpt 13:55 Habari za saa Shamsham za pwani rpt 14:00 Habari za saa

15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu

Mapishi Kipindi maalum: TMDA 18:30 Usafiri Wako 19:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon 19:30

20:00 Habari 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja Habari 23:00 23:30 Music: The Base

00:30 Al Jazeera DWTV 02:00

FRIDAY 21 April 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha HABARI 7:30 Kumekucha Michezo

8:00 Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon 9.55 Habari za saa

10:00 Watoto wetu Usafiri Wako 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 laizo: Mizenawe rpt 11:15 Jungu kuu 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera

12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco Habari za saa Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni 13:00 Nyumba rpt 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na

Mahakama ya TZ Habari za saa Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na 14:00 Mahakama ya TZ 14:30 DW: Afrimaxx rpt 15:00 Meza huru:

16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kiislam Jiii Letu 18:00 Kipindi maalum: REA 18:15

Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet 18:45 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto

Habari

23:00

02:00 DWTV SATURDAY 22 April 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI

Kumekucha 7:00 Habari Al Jazeera 8:00 9.00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO Shika Bamba 5 10:05 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt

11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:00 Hawayumi lakini wamo 13:00 Usafiri wako 13:30 Jagina

14:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon 16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe Igizo: Rebeca 16:30 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani

18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt 19:00 Junau Kuu Shika Bamba 19:30 20:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka 21:05

21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen Art and Lifestyle 21:40 22:10 ITV Top 10 22:50 Hawayumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt

SUNDAY 23 April Uwanja wa Mazoezi 5:30 HABARI

01:15 DWTV

6:00

Kumekucha 7:00 Habari Al iazeera 8:00 Watoto Wetu 09:00 10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon

Bongo Movie rpt: 11:50 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza ITV Top 10 rpt 16:30

17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki Igizo: Slay Queen 19:30

20:00 Habari Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology Kipindi maalum: Mchezo 21:15 Supa Jackpot

Igizo: Mizengwe 21:45 Mjue Zaidi 22:20 Bongo movie:

02:05 Al jazeera

CAPITAL TV Wed 19 April

06:00 Al jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital 07:00 Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera

11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt 12:00 Dw News Africa rpt 12:30 Our Earth 13:00 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 14:00

16:00 Bussines Edition Rpt Culinary delight rpt 16:30 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu

Monday Agenda Rpt 20:00 Telenovela: The Three Sides 20:45 of Ana Capital Prime News 21:30

23:15 Al Jazeera Thurs 20 April 06:00 Al Jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital 07:00

Radio)

09:00 Dw

22:00 Dakika 45:

22:45 The Décor

11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Spots gazette 12:00 Innovation 12:30 Culinary 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana 16:00

Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Tommorrow Today 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Out & About Rpt 19;30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Our Earth Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides

of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 21 April 06:00 Al Jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital 07:00 Radio)

09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Capchat 12:30 Decor

Telenovela rpt The Three 13:00 Sides of Ana

The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:Out & About Rpt 20:00 Aibu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition

20:45 Telenovela The Three Sides Capital Prime News Malumbano ya hoja rpt

Sat 22 April 08:00 Al iazeera 09:00 Rev rpt

Jagina rpt 09:30 Culinary delight rpt 10:00 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Our Earth rpt

13:00 Business edition rpf 13:30 Aljazeera 14:30 Telenovela rpt The Three Sides of Ana

17:15 Eco@Africa 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizenawe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Ripoti Maalum 20:30 Tommorrow Today

21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Music Club 101 rpt 23:00 Capchat Rpt 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 23 April 08:00 Aljazeera

09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Dw 12:00 Jagina rpt

12:30 Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Dw 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Rev rpt

16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt

17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Eco@Africa 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights

20:00 Jagina 20:30 Out & About rpt 21:00 Dw News Africa 21:30 Capchat live

Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana 00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Biden, 80, makes 2024 presidential run official

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said on Tuesday he will seek a second White House term in 2024, a decision that will test whether Americans are ready to give the 80-year-old Democrat, already the oldest US president ever, another four years in office.

Biden made his announcement in a slickly produced video released by his new campaign team, in which he declares it is his job to defend American democracy. It opens with imagery from the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by supporters of former President Don-

"When I ran for president four years ago, I said we're in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are," Biden said. "This is not a time to be complacent. That's why I'm running for re-election."

Biden described Republican platforms as threats to American freedom, vowing to fight efforts to limit women's healthcare, cut Social Security and ban books, while blasting "MAGA extremists." MAGA is the acronym for the "Make America Great Again" political slogan of Trump, who may well be Biden's Repubrecord shows that he is mentally sharp on Ron DeSantis, want to limit the president.

lican opponent in the November 2024 election.

In the two years since he took over from Trump, Biden won Congress' approval for billions of dollars in federal funds to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and for new infrastructure, and oversaw the lowest levels of unemployment since 1969, although a 40-year high in inflation has marred his economic re-

Biden's age makes his re-election bid a historic and risky gamble for the Democratic Party, which faces a tough election map to hold the Senate in 2024 and is the minority in the House of Rep-

Biden's approval ratings were stuck at just 39 percent in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on April 19 and there are steep concerns about his age among some Americans; he would be 86 by the end of a prospective second term, almost a decade higher than the average US male's life expectancy.

Doctors declared Biden, who does not drink alcohol and exercises five times a week, "fit for duty" after an examination in February. The White House says his



US President Joe Biden

enough for the rigors of the job. Biden will be joined in his 2024 quest by his running mate, Vice-President Kamala Harris.

Trump matchup again?

Biden's entry into the race follows Trump's announcement in November that he would seek a second term after losing the 2020 contest to Biden.

Biden, running as an incumbent, is unlikely to face much competition from inside his party. No senior Democrats have shown signs of challenging him and he has compiled a board of rising-star Democrats to advise his campaign, including governors JB Pritzker of Illinois and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania.

Potential and declared Republican presidential candidates have begun framing the 2024 election around cutting back government spending amid still-high inflation, restricting abortion, crime in Democratic-run cities and illegal immigration.

The two leading Republican contenders, Trump and Florida Goveraccess of trans children to sports teams and gender-affirming medical care, and restrict how schools teach LGBTQ+ issues and America's history of slavery and racial disparities.

Not a 2020 recap

Biden ran a mostly virtual campaign to defeat Trump in the 2020 election as COVID raged, saying he sought to unify the country, rebuild the economy, and better control the virus. With pandemic restrictions mostly over in the United States, the 2024 race is likely to be a much different, more physical affair.

After losing by 7 million votes to Biden in 2020, Trump refused to concede defeat, falsely claiming that there had been widespread electoral fraud.

His supporters stormed the US Capitol building in Washington on Jan 6, 2021, in support of his claims but they failed to halt certification by Congress of Biden's win.

Biden's campaign video suggests he plans to remind voters of these actions, while lauding his handling of the economic recovery from the pandemic slump, especially the strength of the labor market.

Other Biden themes may include strong US support for Ukraine and what the White House says are Republican plans to unravel federal healthcare and programs popular with older voters.

This summer, Biden is challenging Republicans to find common ground on raising the US debt ceiling before the country goes into default in a matter of months.

Fifty-nine percent of Democrats polled by Reuters/Ipsos in February said the phrase "Joe Biden is too old to work in government" describes the Agencies

Ethiopia's peace a victory for unity, dialogue, says Chinese envoy

ADDIS ABABA

XUE Bing, special envoy for the Horn of Africa Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Monday that Ethiopia's peace is a victory for unity and dialogue.

The Chinese special envoy made the remarks after attending a ceremony held on Sunday afternoon in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, which aimed to recognize indi-

viduals, groups and governments who have contributed to the peace efforts in the country.

At the ceremony, the Ethiopian government also recognized China's contribution to the peace process in the East African country

"Ethiopia's peace is a victory for unity and dialogue. By bearing in mind the fundamental interests of Ethiopia and the well-being of its people, the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) chose to resolve differences and reach reconciliation through political dialogue," Xue told journalists.

Xue said the peace process in Ethiopia has not only brought many benefits to peace and development in the Horn of Africa, but also set a fine example for other regions to solve internal disputes by peaceful means. Ethiopia's peace is also a victory for African autonomy.

Facts have proven that the Ethiopian people have the capability and wisdom to independently solve their internal differences and achieve domestic peace, he noted.

Xue said the condition has also proven that the principle of African solution to African problems is feasible and should become an important guidance for the international community's constructive participation in Africa's peace and security affairs.

Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, has seen a devastating conflict between government-allied troops and forces loyal to the TPLF since November 2020, which has left millions in urgent need of humanitarian as-

On Nov. 2, 2022, the Ethiopian government and the TPLF announced an agreement to end the two-year-long conflict in northern Ethiopia under the African Union (AU)-led mediation efforts in South Africa.

Noting that the agreement is being implemented smoothly, Xue said humanitarian assistance to the Tigray region has been gradually resumed and that infrastructure and public services have been restored in an orderly manner along with the establishment of the Interim Regional Administration of Tigray Region.

He said Ethiopia is back on the right track of peace and development. The efforts and achievements of the two sides have won extensive recognition from the international community.

"China is truly heartened by this. We once again send our warmest congratulations to the Ethiopian government and people, as well as our deep appreciation to the AU and other international partners who have been dedicated to Ethiopia's peace process," he said.

China always believes that peace and stability underpin a country's development and prosperity, said Xue, adding that dialogue and negotiations are the right way to solve differences and disputes as they serve the fundamental interests of the people.

He said after the conflict broke out, China, on the basis of respecting Ethiopia's sovereignty, actively promoted peace talks for the benefit of the Ethiopian people's fundamental interests and the region's peace and development, playing a constructive role in Ethiopia's peace process.

Xue further noted that in order to promote long-term peace and development in the region, China put forward the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa, supported Ethiopia in successfully hosting the first Horn of Africa Peace Conference, and facilitated relevant parties' efforts to reach important consensus on realizing regional development through unity and cooperation.

He stressed that as a good brother, good friend and good partner of the Ethiopian people, China stands ready to work with the rest of the international community to support Ethiopia in cementing peace, conducting post-war reconstruction and accelerating economic recovery in the process of implementing the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa. Xinhua



China to further optimize remote COVID test arrangement - spokesperson

BEIJING

STARTING from April 29, airlines will no longer check COVID test reports of inbound passengers taken before boarding, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said yesterday.

To help facilitate personnel exchanges between China and foreign countries, Mao said China will further optimize the arrangements for remote COVID-19 testing in a scientific, precise, safe, and orderly manner.

From April 29 on, all in-self-health management and

bound travelers can show COVID-19 antigen tests results taken within 48 hours before boarding flights instead of nucleic acid test results, Mao said at a daily press briefing.

"We remind both inbound and outbound travelers to do monitoring well before traveling, strictly comply with China's national and local requirements on epidemic prevention, and ensure a healthy and pleasant trip and a safe return home," said the spokes-

person.

entifically optimize its prevention and control policies in light of the epidemic situation and better ensure safe, healthy, and orderly exchanges between Chinese and foreign personnel, she added.

UN chief proposes way forward on Black Sea grain deal

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio very noticeable." Guterres has proposed to Russian President Vladimir Putin a "way forward aimed at the improvement, extension and expansion" of a deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain, a UN spokesperson said on Monday.

Guterres outlined his proposal in a letter that he asked Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to deliver to Putin, deputy UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said in a statement after Guterres and Lavrov met in New York.

Lavrov did not answer questions on his way in or out of the 90-minute meeting with Guterres. Guterres took note of Russia's concerns about its own grain and fertilizer exports, Haq said. "He provided a detailed report on

the progress already achieved in this regard and reiterated the United Nations' commitment to continue working to address remaining issues," Haq said.

Lavrov was quoted by TASS news agency as saying that Moscow would study the letter.

"The secretary general talked about the efforts he is making to move the Russian part of this deal as far as pos-

CHINA'S foreign trade, after experi-

encing a 7 percent year-on-year drop

months, respectively. It manifests the

country's confidence in ensuring steady

and high-quality foreign trade growth

Recently, Chinese enterprises just

wrapped up their exhibition at The

World Smart Energy Week 2023 run-

ning from March 15 to 17 at the Tokyo

International Exhibition Center features

top-notch energy technologies and

products in various categories. Many of

them engaged in the new energy sector

have signed major deals and met with

Japan is an important market for

Chinese new energy products. Many

Japanese companies have cooperated

with their Chinese suppliers for over a

new and old partners.

against a complicated background.

sible," TASS quoted Lavrov as saying. "So far the progress, frankly, is not

Russia has signaled it will not allow the deal - brokered by the UN and Türkiye and agreed by Russia and Ukraine in July last year - to continue beyond May 18 because a list of demands for its exports has not been met.

Haq said the letter to Putin takes "into account positions recently expressed by the parties and the risks posed by global food insecurity." He said similar letters have also been sent to Ukraine and Türkiye.

To help persuade Russia to allow Ukraine to resume Black Sea grain exports, a separate three-year pact was also struck in which the UN agreed to help Russia export food and fertilizer.

Lavrov is in New York to chair two UN Security Council meetings on Monday and Tuesday because Russia holds the monthly rotating presidency of the 15-member body.

Turkish banks

The United Nations has said that there were still impediments to the agreement, particularly in relation to payment systems.

Russia's demands include allowing the Russian Agricultural Bank to re-



Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General (right) and Sergey Lavrov, Russia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, current president of the Security Council, shake hands at the top of a meeting at the secretariat offices on Monday, at United Nations headquarters. (PHOTO / AP)

turn to the SWIFT banking system, allowing the supply to Russia of agricultural machinery and spare parts and a lifting of restrictions on insurance.

Moscow also wants access to ports for Russian ships and cargo, a pipeline that delivers Russian ammonia to a Ukrainian Black Sea port to be restarted, and accounts and financial activities of Russian fertilizer companies to be unblocked.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday that late last month Guterres proposed that Turkish banks could help process payments to Russia, but Türkiye wanted assurances that its banks would not face sanctions.

Cavusoglu told TV 100 channel that the Turkish Banks Association was working on a possible formula.

During a Security Council meeting on Monday, Guterres urged the parties to continue with both grain and fertilizer agreements.

Agencies

China's foreign trade sector strives for steady, high-quality growth

in January this year, went up 8 percent and 15.5 percent in the following two

"Chinese enterprises rushed to visit their Japanese clients at the earliest time possible immediately after China optimized its COVID-19 response last December," said Meng Jing, general manager of the business department of Grand International Exhibition Co., Ltd.. the company that led the Chinese enterprise delegation to Japan this time.

A high passion for joining overseas exhibitions has been observed among Chinese enterprises. The total exhibition area of Chinese enterprises at The World Smart Energy Week was expanded to 7,000 square meters from 2,000

square meters last year. According to Meng, Chinese enterprises shone through at The World Smart Energy Week, thanks to their deli-

cately decorated booths, well-prepared exhibits and sales strategy. Compared with that at the event held before CO-VID-19, the number of visitors this year rose 10 percent. Chinese new energy enterprises just received high attention.

Market expansion and order seeking have remained keywords for the Chinese foreign trade sector this year. Some regions have sent business delegations overseas for business negotiation and exhibitions, and some hosted brick-and-mortar economic forums, trying to gain an initiative as external demand weakens.

Expanding the foreign trade market is important for relevant enterprises. According to statistics, 457,000 foreign trade enterprises in China registered import and export performance in the

first quarter, up 5.9 percent from a year ago.

In the first three months, China's trade with ASEAN, its largest trading partner, stood at 1.56 trillion yuan (\$226.15 billion), up 16.1 percent yearon-year, 11.3 percentage points higher than the country's overall trade growth rate. It accounted for 15.8 percent of China's total foreign trade in the same

period. China's trade with the EU, the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea reached 1.34 trillion yuan, 1.11 trillion yuan, 546.41 billion yuan and 528.46 billion yuan, respectively, during the three-month period, accounting for 35.6 percent of the country's foreign trade.

From January to March, China's

imports and exports with economies participating in the Belt and Road Initiative surged 16.8 percent year-on-year to account for 34.6 percent of its foreign trade, while trade with other participating countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership rose 7.3 percent from the first quarter of 2022. The country's total imports and exports with emerging markets in Latin America and Africa grew 11.7 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively.

Development

Bai Ming, a senior researcher with a Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) think tank, believes that developing countries and ASEAN make a huge market, and foreign enterprises should take the opportunities of the China-ASEAN free trade area and the RCEP to work for win-win results.

As the Philippines ratified the RCEP agreement, the trade pact has taken effect for all 15 member countries, which significantly widens market access for Chinese enterprises. Wang Shouwen, vice commerce minister and China international trade representative at the MOFCOM, noted that relevant departments are still negotiating over and signing new deals of free trade, to create a better external environment for China's foreign trade.

As a barometer of China's foreign trade, the China Import and Export Fair, also dubbed as the Canton Fair, is currently being hosted in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province. The event has resumed physical exhibition and is joined by hundreds of thousands of exhibitors from more than 220 countries and regions.

People's Daily

Emirates Skywards partners with Dilmah Tea

EMIRATES Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, has partnered with Dilmah Tea to offer members an exciting opportunity to experience the lush tea plantations in Sri Lanka.

Starting from the 14th April 2023, members can bid Miles with Skywards Exclusives for a chance to win a Tea Maker's Private Retreat package. The once in a lifetime opportunity includes a tea-making masterclass, a unique culinary experience inspired by tea, food pairing experiences with tea and a visit to explore the

Ring in International Tea Day in the heart of a tea plantation

Starting from 200,000 Miles, Emirates Skywards members can bid and win an all-expenses paid trip to Sri Lanka, including 2 round trip Business Class tickets on Emirates from Dubai to Colombo, a 3-night stay for 2 guests at Hilton Colombo, a 3-night visit to tea plantations at Ceylon Tea Trails, a relais & Châteaux property which consists of five restored historic tea planter residences in the Ceylon tea region, a master class with Dilhan C Fernando, the son of the founder and CEO of Dilmah, to enjoy an educational session on how to taste tea and brew the perfect cup, a special food pairing with tea-inspired gastronomy with the Dilmah family and a 7-course tea-inspired dinner "Camellia Epicurean" where tea is used as an ingredient for all the dishes.

The package also includes transportation to and from the airport, meals at the all-day dining restaurant at Hilton Colombo, and all meals and beverages at the Ceylon Tea Trails. Travel dates will be from 18 May until 24 May 2023. What better way to celebrate International Tea Day on 21 May than by being at the heart of a tea plantation!

According to the statement, Emirates and Dilmah Tea have enjoyed a successful partnership for more than three decades, brewing the finest teas on-board and in Emirates' airport lounges worldwide. The airline continues to take the Dilmah brand name to 140 destinations across six continents through its extensive net-

Each year, the airline brews 33 million cups of Dilmah tea for its customers from a specially curated tea menu available in all classes. More than 10 different varieties of tea are available on-board, including popular choices like Dilmah Ceylon Black Tea, Moroccan Mint, and Breakfast Tea.

Premium passengers can also savour the aromatic flavours of Emirates Signature tea blend made exclusively for the airline by Dilmah and served only in First Class. Inspired by flavours of the UAE - the exquisite tea has rich aromatic notes of

Emirates Skywards continues to offer more than 30 million members worldwide unmatched rewards in the air and on-ground.

Skywards Exclusives is a distinctive airline loyalty programme initiative that provides access to exclusive experiences from Emirates' expansive sponsorship portfolio. Members can bid and redeem Miles for some of the world's most prestigious sporting and cultural events, including exciting events featuring Real Madrid, AC Milan, Dubai World Cup, SL Benfica, Emirates FA Cup, and other sports such as golf, tennis, and cricket.

Death toll in Kenyan starvation cult rises to 73

NAIROBI

KENYAN police have recovered 73 bodies, mostly from mass graves in a forest in eastern Kenya, thought to be followers of a Christian cult who believed they would go to heaven if they starved themselves, a police officer said on Mon-

The death toll, which has repeatedly risen as exhumations have been carried out, could rise further. The Kenvan Red Cross said 112 people have been reported missing to a tracing and counselling desk it has set up at a local hospital.

The cult's leader, Paul Mackenzie, was arrested on April 14 following a tip-off that suggested the existence of shallow graves containing the bodies of at least 31 of his followers.

"The death toll now stands 73 people." Charles Kamau, head detective in Malindi, Kilifi County, told Reuters via telephone.

He said three more people had been arrested, without giving details. Privately-owned NTV channel reported that one of those arrested was being held on suspicion of being a close associate of the leader of the cult.

Followers of the self-proclaimed Good News International Church had been living in several secluded settlements in an 800-acre area within the Shakahola for-

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations said on Twitter that 33 people had so far been rescued.

Earlier on Monday, the country's police chief Japhet Koome, visiting the scene, said most of the people were nental cargo ship departing found in mass graves as well as eight who were found alive and emaciated, but later died.

Koome said 14 other cult members were in police custody.

Mackenzie was arraigned on April 15 at Malindi Law Courts, where the judge gave police 14 days to conduct investigations while he was kept in detention. Kenyan media have reported that he is refusing food and water.

Reuters was not able to reach any lawyer or representative for Mackenzie.

President William Ruto said Mackenzie's teachings were contrary to any authentic religion.

"Mr Mackenzie ... pretends and postures as a pastor when in fact he is a terrible criminal," said Ruto, who was delivering a speech at an unrelated public event just outside Nairobi.

He said he had instructed relevant agencies to get to the root cause of what had happened and to tackle "people who want to use religion to advance weird, unacceptable ideology in the Republic of Kenya that is causing unnecessary loss of life".

Agencies



The local spiritual leaders from Kaya-Giriama ethnic group wait for the transport to visit the strengthening whole-process mass-grave site in the forest in Shakahola, outside the coastal town of Malindi, on Apr 24, targeted management and

WHO seeks to reverse falling childhood vaccination rates

LONDON

THE World Health Organization is working with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other not-for profit organizations and agencies to reverse a pandemic-driven decline in routine childhood vaccinations.

The initiative was launched on Monday by the WHO, UNICEF, the GAVI vaccine alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation among others, and seeks to protect countries from vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks such as measles and yellow fever.

The efforts will focus on boosting rates in 20 countries, which account for 75 percent of the children who missed vaccinations in 2021.

"WHO is supporting dozens of countries to restore immunization and other essential health services. Catching up is a top priority. No child should die of a vaccine-preventable disease," WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Vaccination rates in children during the pandemic took a hit due to over- year from 86 percent in 2019.



A child receives a shot in Gisambai, Kenya on Mar 7, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

burdened clinics, lockdown restrictions and disruptions in transport of vials, syringes and other medical supplies.

According to the WHO, 25 million children under the age of 1 year did not receive basic vaccines in 2021 and global immunization coverage for children dropped to 81 percent that

People all over the world lost confidence in the importance of routine childhood vaccines against killer diseases such as measles and polio during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a report from UNICEF last week.

China's consumption rebound to boost economic vitality

BEIJING

AMIDST the reopening of theaters packed with moviegoers, lengthy lines of eager diners flocking to restaurants, a resurgence in holiday travel excitement, and an uptick in shopping sprees, China's consumption sector is experiencing a flourishing period of vitality and this surge is providing a significant boost to the country's overall economic growth.

According to the latest official data, China's retail sales of consumer goods rose 5.8 percent year on vear to 11.49 trillion yuan (1.67 trillion U.S. dollars) in the first quarter, reversing a decline of 2.7 percent in the final quarter of last year.

Jan.-Feb. period.

This is the first time since July 2021 that the pace logged doubledigit growth, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

"Consumption growth has picked up significantly in the first quarter as COVID-triggered restrictions on consumption gradually waned and pro-consumption policies paid off," said NBS spokesperson Fu Linghui.

He added that consumption is playing an increasingly prominent role in driving economic development, contributing to 66.6 percent of China's growth in the first quarter, which is a remarkable improvement from last year.

The consumption of catering, entertainment and tourism grew In March alone, retail sales rapidly in the first quarter with the jumped 10.6 percent year on year, revenue of China's catering sector up 7.1 percentage points from the increasing by 13.9 percent from a further enhance their consumer Wednesday.

year ago.Commodity sales also improved during the period.

Besides a continued increase in the sales of grain, oil and food, sales of consumption-upgrading goods like jewelry and cosmetics expanded quickly, NBS data showed.

Retail sales at brick-and-mortar stores went up significantly, and online retail sales maintained steady growth, indicating rising consumer confidence, Fu said.

Since the beginning of this year, overall consumption has shown recovery momentum thanks to a range of supportive measures rolled out nationwide, including launching consumption promotion festivals and issuing vouchers for automobile purchases.

At present, solid efforts are needed to increase people's income to confidence and capabilities, while combining consumption expansion with supply-side structural reform to unleash consumption potential, said Yang Guangpu, a researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council.

Indeed, expanding consumption has become a policy priority. China's top economic planner is formulating plans to boost the recovery and expansion of consumption.

"We are working on drafting documents on the recovery and expansion of consumption, mainly focusing on key areas such as stabilizing big-ticket consumption, enhancing service consumption and expanding rural consumption," Meng Wei, spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission, told a press conference on

Hainan works to promote high-level opening-up

RECENTLY, an intercontifrom Brazil for the first time arrived at the Yangpu international container port in the Yangpu Economic Development Zone in Danzhou, south China's Hainan province.

This was the third intercontinental container shipping route that passes the Hainan Free Trade Port after the first two to South Pacific and West Africa, said Zhou Changmao, head of the port logistics development office under the Yangpu Economic Development Zone's transport and port

As of the end of 2022, 481 new vessels had been registered at the Yangpu international container port, whose total shipping capacity added up to 11.65 million tons. In particular, 34 of them were from foreign countries, with total shipping capacity of more than 4.9 million tons. This makes Hainan one of the largest provinces in China in terms of the total tonnage of international vessels.

Hainan has adopted a more proactive opening-up strategy over the recent years, to accelerate the building of a new system of an open economy, forge a new paradigm of comprehensive opening-up and build a globally influential free trade port with Chinese characteristics.

In recent years, Hainan has given high priority to institutional integration and innovation. As of now, a total of 134 cases of institutional innovation have seen success in Hain-

Aiming to finish building all the necessary infrastructure for independent customs operations by 2023, Hainan is



Chinese and foreign guests pose for a picture at the China International Consumer Products Expo 2023 held in Haikou, south China's Hainan province, April 10, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Zhang Junqi)

making continuous efforts. At present, 25 projects of independent customs operations are under construction and expected to be completed this year.

Hainan sent a business delegation to Indonesia and Vietnam to promote the Hainan Free Trade Port this February. At the promotional event in Indonesia, 13 cooperation projects were signed, covering international shipping, purchase of natural rubber materials, plant building and cross-border e-commerce. The total value of the deals reached nearly 3.5 billion yuan (\$509 million).

"The rapid development of the Hainan Free Trade Port has created rare opportunities for our business expansion, " said Go Tek Yok, chairman of Indonesia's coffee brand Kapal Api. This largest coffee producer of Indonesia recently opened its first shop in Hainan.

More and more internationally renowned brands and enterprises are trying to get a share in the Chinese province. Tapestry, Inc., a New York-based house of modern luxury lifestyle brands has inaugurated its China travel retail headquarters in Hainan, and Estée Lauder Companies, Inc. has registered a company

in the province's Haikou Integrated Free Trade Zone.

In the recent five years, Hainan's trade in goods and services grew 1.8 and 1.2 times, respectively, and the province's foreign direct investment, in actual use, exceeded that in the previous three decades. Besides, the ratio of Hainan's foreign trade to the province's GDP increased 15 percent in the same period.

Meanwhile, to make foreign investment via Hainan province has become a choice for many enterprises, which is injecting new impetus into the province's opening-up and development.

On Indonesia's Sulawesi Island, a modern coking industrial park has been built recently. "This is our first overseas park, and will be put into use this May," said Xiao Wei, vice general manager of a Hainan-based international investment company.

Hainan enjoys a great geographical location in doing business with Southeast Asia, as well as favorable tax policies and investment facilitation measures, said Xiao.

Many enterprises, after settling in Hainan, have made active moves to invest in the foreign market, including Zijin Mining Group, Nanjing Iron

pharmaceutical company Yunnan Baiyao. Last year, Hainan reported outbound foreign direct investment of more than \$1.89 billion, up 137.46 percent year-on-year.

and Steel Company and

Hainan is working to build itself into a base of headquarters from which Chinese enterprises enter the global market and foreign enterprises enter the Chinese market. Besides, it is establishing an air and maritime transport network and an international economic and trade cooperation network.

Since 2018, Hainan has introduced 4,790 foreign enterprises from 127 countries and regions. Last year, its total trade in goods grew 36.8 percent to 200.95 billion yuan, and the growth was among the highest in China.

People's Daily

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Guardian



TOC mourns athletics coach Francis John

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) has revealed it has learned with sadness the passing of the former national athletics team's head coach Francis John.

Filbert Bayi, TOC secretarygeneral, described the passing of John as a big loss to the committee.

He said during John's life, he Tanzania's athletics team which took part in the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, and the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Bayi also said John and the late John Bayo, also the respected athletics coach and administrator, were the advisors of the annual Karatu Festivals that are taking place

The TOC official noted: "The TOC is very saddened by the death of coach John, he was a legendary coach, he coached Tanzania's team in the Manchester Commonwealth Games and Rio Olympics."

"He was always available for the country's sports, together with the late John Bayo were advisors of Karatu Festivals, it is a big loss to the country as both have passed away,"

The TOC official also said John during his time as president of Athletics Tanzania, was attending all TOC meetings, unlike many other leaders of the remaining national sports associations.

"Our constitution stipulates that leaders (presidents) of every national

sports association and the body's

secretaries-general should attend

meeting without delegating

anybody," the TOC official noted. "The late Francis John was always available, that is unlike many leaders

who delegate others," he said. John, who was also a veteran athletics coach, died in the early hours of Saturday at KCMC Hospital in Kilimanjaro after sustaining

injuries in a road accident. Athletics Tanzania (AT) acting secretary-general Jackson Ndaweka, on Sunday, described the death of John as a big loss to the country. Ndaweka said until his death John was the Race Director of the NBC Dodoma Marathon.

The AT official said the late John will also be fondly remembered for training a prominent marathoner, Alphonce Simbu, and will moreover be remembered for his contributions to the game.

According to the association, John will be buried at his home at Moshono, Boma ya Siara in Arusha today.

legend, Athletics Suleiman Nyambui, also remembered the departed coach as someone that worked tirelessly with him to transform athletics in the country from amateur to professional.

Nyambui noted: "He was AT president and I was secretarygeneral, that was from 2006 to 2012, we worked closely together, and we did a lot for the benefit of athletics and athletes in the country."

Simba SC and Yanga triumphantly bedazzle in magnificent first leg displays

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AST weekend, our two most celebrated football clubs faced a tough test of their football prowess in the greatly anticipated first legs of their quarterfinals in this season's CAF inter-club competitions.

Indeed, Simba SC was the first to head into battle against continental champions Wydad Casablanca in the first leg of their either-do-or-die quarterfinal clash in the CAF Champions League at the magnificent Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

It should be noted here that Wydad Casablanca is the reigning champions of the CAF Champions League.

Delightfully though, despite Wydad Casablanca's sterling reputation, Simba SC were pleasingly undeterred by the reality of going up against the African champions, and significantly, this bold fearlessness must have helped the Msimbazi Street side to carry the day in a deeply encouraging albeit slim 1-0 victory.

It is crystal clear then that Simba SC faces a truly herculean task to overcome Wydad Casablanca in the key and allimportant second leg in the latter's backyard in Morocco on

With the hopes of hordes of local unbridled football fans resting on Simba SC ahead of the crunch second leg, it is expected that Simba SC will put up a strong fight to win and hopefully, that will tip the scales in favor of the Tanzanian giants.

Pleasingly, our country's flagbearers in the CAF Confederation Cup, Yanga, also had sufficient cause for sheer bliss last Sunday after outclassing Nige-



Tanzania's Yanga center-back, Ibrahim Abdallah (R), outfoxes Nigeria's Rivers United forward, Malachi Ohawume, when the clubs locked horns in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal match that took place at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo, Nigeria on Sunday. Yanga commanded a 2-0 victory over Rivers United. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

first leg of their quarterfinal at the latter's home ground.

In what was a superb and splendid display, Yanga outstandingly produced the goods en route to securing a crucial 2-0 win in the first leg against Rivers United.

Naturally, given the ferociously competitive nature of continental football, the prospect of the second leg being a completely different kettle of fish cannot entirely be ruled out.

This then means that Yanga must avoid braggadocio at all costs and approach the second leg with a mixture of wariness and self-assuredness.

Speaking of self-belief, one suspects that the Tanzanian thon. rian outfit Rivers United in the marathoner Gabriel Geay must

now be feeling a lot of self-confidence following his sublime exertions at the Boston Marathon last Monday.

Indeed, despite competing against a star-studded field of contestants at the Boston Marathon that included the men's marathon world record holder, Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge, Geay remained utterly unfazed by the roll-call of famous runners in the race, which most likely helped him to admirably finish in second place in Boston and ahead of the great Kipchoge to

In truth, Geay had shown telltale signs of his inherent talent before this year's Boston Mara-

For instance, Geay is present-

ly the national marathon record holder, which is quite a feat.

In addition, the gifted athlete excellently finished second at the Valencia Marathon in Spain last vear.

Thus, it can be seen that Geay has loads of talent as a marathoner.

However, a pertinent query is: how can Geay capitalize on his brilliant coup in Boston and rise to even greater heights in global marathon running?

Well, one obvious answer is that the talented Tanzanian running great will simply have to work tremendously hard if he is to stand in the winner's circle again at a major marathon on the global stage.

Tanzania Film Academy in the offing

By Correspondent Joseph Mcheka-

SOUTH Korea has reaffirmed its commitment to the development and improvement of the modern film industry in Tanza-

A team of film experts from South Korea's Busan Foundation for International Cooperation (BFIC) that are in Tanzania on an official tour disclosed the details in Dar es Salaam on Sunday night.

The BFIC delegates are made up of Chii Woo Lee, Professor Jay Gill Pyeon, Jihye Ahne, and Sim Yeon.

One of BFIC members, Yeon,

said while in Tanzania they will conduct a feasibility study on the film industry and sign a Memorandum of Understanding through their foundation and Tanzania's government through the Tanzania Film Board (TFB).

He said under the MoU, Tanzania will have its first film academy.

"We are here to work and strengthen the cooperation between our countries and also improve the film industry in Tanzania," the official pointed

The BFIC officials will, according to TFB, further have discussions with Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana, tour higher learning institutions that offer film courses like the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), University of Dodoma (UDOM), and Bagamoyo College of Arts (TaSUBa).

They will also meet film stakeholders to, among others, discuss how to cooperate for the improvement of the film industry in the country.

Busan City which is the second largest city in South Korea has a strong film industry and culture, with its motto being 'Film for All'.

The city has its vibrant film

commission, namely which supports film production and it plays a pivotal role in solidifying its foundation in the film and video industry.

Busan was made a United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNES-CO) film city in 2014.

It now plays host to international film festivals and it is further home to the Busan Asian Film School and international film business academy.

The academy is, among others, tasked with educating the next generation of filmmakers who can contribute to the international film industry.

Athletes set for 2023 CAA Junior Championships

TANZANIA's national junior athletics teams departed for Zambia yesterday to battle it out in this year's edition of the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) African Junior Athletics Championships.

National Sports Council of Tanzania (NSC) official, Charles Maguzu, during a function for handing over the national flag to the teams in Dar es Salaam a day back, challenged the junior athletes to work hard to bring pride to the country.

The NSC official, representing Secretary-General Neema Msitha in the function, said the country expects a lot from the athletes.

"We expect a lot from you, we want medals and I'm confident you will bring the medals, go there and fly the country's flag high," he said.

The government has provided the national junior athletics squads with

jerseys and other necessities. The athletes have been accompanied by head coach Alfredo Shahanga, his Championships have been slated to take



National Sports Council of Tanzania (NSC)'s official, Charles Maguzu (3rd L), presents the national flag to the national junior athletics teams' skipper, Gasis Gesasa, at a ceremony for bidding the squads farewell in Dar es Salaam on Monday. The team will take part in the 2023 Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) African Junior Athletics Championships that will take place in Ndola, from April 29-May 3. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ATHLETICS TANZANIA

assistant Asha Abdallah, team doctor Cosmas Kapinga, and team manager Aman Ngoka.

The 2023 CAA African Junior Athletics

place in Ndola, from April 29-May 3. National junior athletics teams' head

coach, Shahanga, said he is confident

of witnessing the runners achieve good

results in Zambia.

I have said so because all athletes are in high spirits, the environment in the camp was superb, we had some trials with Filbert Bayi Foundation's athletes and my athletes did well," he said.

The 15 athletes are camping at Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) in Dar es

They are Said Ali who will compete in 100m and 200m races in U-18 and U-20, Alex Sezario (U-20's 100m), and Nicodemus Joseph will battle it out in U-18's 1500m and 5000m races.

Gasis Gesasa will represent Tanzania in U-20 Boys' 100m and 200m races and Elia Clement will compete in U-20's 100m

The other U-20 competitor making the squad is Benedict Martius that will feature in the 200m race, while Hafidh Talib is to compete in U-20's discus.

In Boys U-18, Mpaji Gipson will take part in the long jump and Samir Sururu will put his skills to show in the shot put. In Girls U-20's javelin, Mwanaamini

"I can assure you that we will do well, Mkayu will be the country's envoy, whereas Brethe Everist and Salma Charles will compete in the category's 200m and 800m races respectively.

> Nasra Abdallah will compete in U-18 Girls 100m and 200m races, and compatriot Siwema Julius will feature in the category's 100m race.

> The 15 athletes were selected in the trials organized by AT in Dar es Salaam recently, with more than 100 junior athletes from across the country putting their skills to show in the showdown.

> Initially, AT was set to use this season's East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR), held in the city recently, to select junior athletes that will represent the country in the CAA Junior Athletics Championships.

> However, there was no local athlete to have managed to meet the qualifying time for the continental showpiece.

A total of 50 African nations are expected to enter athletes in CAA Junior Athletics Championships.

Mayor: Napoli title will set off 'big earthquake of joy'

NAPLES, Italy

Before Gaetano Manfredi was elected mayor of Naples in 2021, he was a university professor specializing in seismic engineering – preparing and designing buildings to withstand earthquakes.

As Manfredi rose up to become chancellor of the University of Naples Federico II, a study was commissioned to measure the impact of fans celebrating goals scored by the Napoli soccer club inside what is now known as the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.

"The engineering department building is near the stadium and there's a seismograph there that whenever Napoli scored would record enough shaking that it nearly registered as an earthquake," Manfredi told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

So what magnitude might the university seismograph record when Napoli wins its first Italian league title in more than three decades? With a 17-point lead and seven games remaining, the first chance to clinch comes this weekend - a long holiday weekend for May Day (Europe's Labor Day).

"We can't predict what the number will be but there will definitely be a lot of vibrations," Manfredi said, flapping his hand up and down to simulate the trembling. "An earthquake. A big earthquake of joy."

The mayor isn't exaggerating.

Support for Napoli is akin to religion in the southern city and the team hasn't won Serie A since Diego Maradona led the club to its only two Italian championships in 1987 and 1990.

"The passion for soccer in Naples is one of the biggest passions in the world," Manfredi said.

It's so great that Neapolitans have cast aside their superstitions about celebrating - or even mentioning - the word "scudetto," or title, before it happens and have been decorating the city with streamers, banners, flags and life-size cardboard replicas of Napoli players – all in Napoli blue.

The title could also be a lift socially for Naples, a city that has had problems with trash removal and crime and is seen as a poor southern cousin to the traditional northern soccer capitals of Milan and Turin.

"If we do this thing, we'll remain on the walls of Naples forever," Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti said - avoiding the word "scudetto."

Every neighborhood in the city, from the steep and narrow alleyways of the characteristic Quartieri Spagnoli to the more modern Fuorigrotta area where the stadium lies, has its own style of

One banner stretching over the street in the Forcella neighborhood of the historic center, which is known for its mural of San Gennaro, the city's patron saint, reads "Scusate per il ritardo" or "Sorry for taking so long" – a reference to the title of a 1983 film directed by and starring local actor Massimo Troisi, as well as the 33 years since

"We're unique. There's no other place in the world like Naples. Naples is an open theater," local taxi driver Giovanni Murri said, in a reference to a poem by Neapolitan playwright Eduardo De

A saying heard often these days in the city goes, "Celebrations in Naples are unlike anywhere

As the mayor explained: "It's because Neapolitans are cheerful. The cheerfulness of Naples is famous around the world."

GOMORRAH'S FOOTSTEPS

Naples has waited so long for this that the city is preparing for multiple celebrations.

There will be the spontaneous eruption when

the team clinches the title – which could go on for days, weeks, or even months.

"Obviously we don't know when that will happen or what will really happen," the mayor said.

Then an organized celebration will be held downtown in Piazza Plebiscito on June 4 after the club is awarded the Serie A trophy following the final game of the season.

"It's going to be like celebrating New Year's Eve twice – actually (bigger) than New Year's," said Vincenzo Masiello, who runs the 'O Vesuvio trattoria and pizzeria in the Quartieri Spagnoli.

In order to avoid congestion downtown and a scene like the chaos when Argentina's squad returned home with the World Cup trophy, simultaneous celebrations will be organized by the city on June 4 in different neighborhoods, including one in Scampia, the gritty northern suburb exposed as a crime-infested underworld in the "Gomorrah" book, film and TV series.

MARADONA'S LEGACY

Even 2½ years after his death, Maradona's legacy remains a strong attraction in Naples.

In the Quartieri Spagnoli, a huge mural of Maradona acts as an unofficial museum to the former Argentina great.

"It's a problem in terms of overcrowding," Manfredi said. "It's a sort of secular cult, which is really appreciated."

The mayor said that on days of big Napoli games or in holiday periods, up to 30,000 people visit "Piazza Maradona" daily, which makes it one of Italy's most visited attractions.

"Even after his death, he still brings people to Naples," said Antonio Tortora, another local taxi driver. "He's a saint."

Arsenal on the ropes as Man City aim for knockout blow in Premier League title race

LONDON

RSENAL's trip to Manchester City today has been circled for months as a potentially decisive date in the Premier League title race, but the Gunners must now wrestle back a huge swing in momentum towards the defending champions.

Mikel Arteta's men travel to the Etihad five points clear at the top of the table, yet many see the title as City's to lose thanks to two games in hand and home advantage in midweek.

Arsenal could have amassed an 11-point advantage in recent weeks to pile the pressure on City, as they try to balance their effort in a bid to win a treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

Instead. Arteta's young guns have showed their inexperience of dealing with a title race in the run-in as three consecutive draws have gifted



Pep Guardiola

City back control of their own destiny.

Twice Arsenal blew 2-0 leads to draw at Liverpool and West Ham. On Friday, it was the league leaders' turn to produce a late fightback from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 against Southampton. But the silence that greeted the final whistle at the Emirates, accompanied by Arteta's head in his hands and Arsenal bodies strewn across the turf illustrated that even salvaging a point felt like

defeat against a side sitting bottom of the table. The consistent prob-

games has been Arsenal's inability to defend. William Saliba's absence due to a back injury has proved a massive blow, with the Frenchman not expected back

lem across all three

in time for Wednesday. Saliba had been an ever-present in the Premier League prior to suffering the issue in a Europa League clash against Sporting Lisbon

Mikel Arteta

in mid-March.

In five games since, Arsenal's number of goals conceded and big

chances on offer to the opposition has doubled compared to the first 27 Saliba started. "We have to look in

the mirror because we gave three really easy goals away and when you do that it's extremely difficult to win in this league," said Arteta after his side's struggles against Southampton.

"The confidence is firepower, Mahrez is still

there, it's those moments that we need to cut back. At this level, we cannot give away the goals that we have given. It's as simple as that." - 'It's a final' -

Showing any weakness against Pep Guardiola's men in a title race is likely to prove fatal, but Arsenal simply cannot afford a similar defensive display against City's array of attacking talent.

The English champions have won all 11 of their games at the Etihad in 2023, scoring 43 goals in the process.

Erling Haaland is just two goals away from matching the all-time Premier League record of 34 goals in a season and 50 in all competitions in his first year in English football.

Even when the Norwegian drew a blank in Saturday's 3-0 win over Sheffield United. Rivad Mahrez stepped up with the first FA Cup semifinal hat-trick since 1958.

As an example of City's

likely to drop back to the bench with the inform Jack Grealish, Kevin De Bruvne and Bernardo Silva supporting Haaland in attack.

Haaland's arrival precipitated Gabriel Jesus' departure from City after winning four Premier League titles in the past five years.

The Brazilian is one of the few Arsenal players with experience of getting over the line to win trophies and issued a rallying cry for his side to bounce back on the biggest stage.

"We have to manage ourselves to come back and be focused again and strong, because anything can happen from now until the end of the season," said Jesus.

"Even if you don't drop the points we dropped in the last games, nothing changes - it's a final. Each game is a final, we have to face them like a final. This is the most important game of the season for us."

AFP

Kolo Toure interview: 'I was as passionate as Adebayor - but sliding did him no favours'

By Jim White

Kolo Toure shares a rare distinction with Gael Clichy: they are the only two footballers in history to win the title with both Arsenal and Manchester City. And for Toure, who was an integral part of both Arsene Wenger's Invincible champions in 2004 and Roberto Mancini's last gasp winners in 2012. Wednesday's showdown at the Etihad has particular resonance.

"It's money time, really," he says "You cannot say it is over completely if one side wins because you remember when Man City won [in 2012] it was never over. But I believe it [a victory for either side] can be a big statement."

Though he adds whatever happens at the Etirepeat of perhaps the most memorable incident in which he was involved in games between the two clubs. It came in 2009, when another Arsenal veteran Emmanuel Adebayor scored for City against his old club and ran the entire length of the pitch before sliding on his knees to celebrate in front of the visiting supporters. Toure was the first City player to catch up with him, and, demonstrating his significantly more diplomatic approach to life, gave a sheepish look to the Arsenal contingent as he lifted his colleague to his feet.

"In the game, I have to be honest, I was as passionate as Adebayor," he recalls. "When you play against your old club, you really want to show them how much they miss you. Adebayor was young and passionate and was taking his hunger out, really. For me, as his brother, his friend and his colleague I didn't



that] because it wasn't doing him any favours. It was just creating more drama.'

And on Wednesday, had, there will not be a Toure is not expecting Gabriel Jesus to pay homage to the Adebayor celebration should he score for Arsenal against his former employers.

> "I don't think he'll do that," he smiles. "There's only one Adebayor."

Besides these days there is little need for such provocation. These are two clubs with very close trading links. Toure was the first to head from the Emirates to the Etihad, as City sought to buy in title-winning experience. That traffic along the M1 has been reversed recently, as Arsenal have taken Jesus, Oleksandr Zinchencko and even the manager Mikel Arteta off their rivals' hands in a similar bid to inject know-how. And Toure believes the fact Arteta was previously Pep Guardiola's assistant, gives Arsenal not just motivation, but invaluable inside knowledge.

"For Arteta right now, what he has done this season has been unbeneed to help him [in lievable," he says. "He has inspired a team to fight for the title against his mentor. I would say Arteta is the best guy who can find a trick to get at Pep, because he has been working with him, they were really close. He must know a lot of things. Everyone has something that can get into their skin." Though he acknowledges the scale of the challenge facing Arteta goes beyond anything that can be overcome with a bit of psychology. Not least in the presence of Erling Haaland, a forward he admits he would have struggled to contain even in his centreback the member of the curprime.

"Haaland is a very quick player and very strong, so you cannot get too tight to him, because if you get too tight to him too early, he can roll you," he suggests. "You have to make sure you have at least one metre between you. When the ball is at his feet, you can go tighter because you have to make sure he does not set that twostep away from you."

But he insists that Arsenal too have players to cause opposition headaches. Not least Bukayo Saka, who he reckons is rent team who would have most improved the Invincibles.

"It's not about age. It's about talent," he says of Saka. "He has unbelievable talent and desire. He loves that club and I'm sure this is a player who can really push the team up."

Toure, who was dismissed by Wigan after just nine matches in charge earlier this season, is now looking for another managerial opportunity. And he says he would relish the chance to take control of either team in a confrontation like this. Though he suggests as a manager, he would say very different things in the two dressing rooms.

"For Arsenal, I would make sure they enjoy the moment. Praise them. When you praise people you make them feel better. of pressure, it's an opportunity, this is a great opportunity to win a trophy. If you do it great, if you don't you have other chances. It's not the end of the world. You have to not make it a big deal, but you know deep inside it is a big deal. City: they know what to do. They have done it before. City can just keep going."

So, as a man who has enjoyed success with both clubs, who is he tipping ultimately to come out on top in this title race?

"The Arsenal players, now, in their head, there is a lot of doubt there. It's not easy right now. Especially as they have young players. And now Arsenal have slipped a few times, they feel like: Oh my God they're catching us. They are looking behind. When you look behind you, you slow down. My opinion would be Man City. Because the momentum is with City.'

THE TELEGRAPH

by David Chikoko WeigHT LIFTING FINALS

Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Yanga's coach explains Bernard Morrison's latest omission

Arsenal on the ropes as Man City aim for knockout blow in Premier League title race



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Ruvu Shooting yet to give up on PL survival, says official

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

DESPITE languishing at the bottom of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League table with three games remaining, Ruvu Shooting spokesman Masau Bwire insists they would not give up in their bid to survive relegation this season.

The 3-1 home defeat to Azam FC at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro on Saturday left the Coast Region club in danger with 20 points from 27 games.

With two upcoming matches against Simba SC next week and Singida Big Stars at home on May 3, plus a final home game with Dodoma Jiji FC who are also fighting relegation, Bwire said nine points will be enough to avoid dropping to the Championship League next season.

"We have not given up yet and we are urging our stakeholders, Ruvu Shooting's followers, and fans not to give up, we still have a chance," the official noted.

"At the moment we are fighting on all frontiers, we are in prayers, we are in ordinary prayers, we are even preparing the squad in alternative ways, probably better than what was happening before,' Bwire revealed.

"We are in that attitude at the moment, that we should do everything possible so that we can earn nine points in these three remaining matches."

The official said: "If you look at the way these other teams are doing as well, then nine points will be enough to keep us in the Premier League next season. So we have not given up and we will not give up as long as we still have a chance."

Ruvu Shooting has only managed to win five of their 27 league games this season, recording five draws and 17 losses along the way.

The army outfit also holds the fourth-worst defensive record in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, having conceded 36 goals this term.

Worse still, Mbwana Makata-coached Ruvu Shooting is the worst home team this season having collected just 11 points.

No team has lost more games at home this season than Ruvu Shooting (nine). Goals have also been a rarity for Ruvu Shooting, with the league's toothless attack so far with a mere 18 goals registered.

Ruvu Shooting's issue now is that only one of their remaining three games is scheduled for home, while two of them are against teams in the top four. Even if they pick up nine points they cannot move to outright safety. The best they can hope for is to

avoid automatic relegation. The bottom two teams will be automatically relegated to the Championship League while the 13th and 14th-placed sides will play in the relegation playoffs at the end of the season.

By Correspondent Michael

ANZANIA's Yanga Cedric Kaze has revealed that Bernard Morrison was left out of the squad that faced Nigeria's Rivers United in Uyo on Sunday to protect the winger.

Morrison was not even on the bench as Yanga defeated Rivers United 2-0 to earn a precious first-leg advantage in the quarterfinal of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation

Fiston Mayele scored a second-half brace to see Yanga put one foot into the semifinals advantage heading into next weekend's return fixture in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking on Morrison's latest omission, Kaze admitted



Yanga's winger, Bernard Morrison. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

the Ghanaian winger has ries but insisted he remains been in and out of the Yanga squad because of inju-

an important player due to his experience and style of

Kaze went ahead to explain Morrison was part of the plan for the Rivers United game but they had to withdraw him after he suffered a muscle issue during the last training session in Uyo, Nigeria.

The coach pointed out: "Morrison is a player who has been injured for a while, he has recently started to play. He has played two matches in the past against Geita Gold FC and Kagera Sugar and, for this Rivers United game, he was in our plan but, unfortunately, he got a little muscle problem when we were doing the last training."

"We decided not to take a risk, allow him to rest and we will use him in future matches," Kaze noted.

The gaffer added: "We believe in him as a player who has experience and has also played matches like this one. He is a player who can decide a match at any time due to his style of play, one against one, knowing how to get to the box and force opponents into committing mistakes.'

The coach stated: "All these things we believe we are struggling with in these matches, that's why we didn't want to take a risk because we believe he is a

good player who will help us in future matches.'

Morrison first played in Tanzania as a Yanga player in January 2020 before he controversially switched to the squad's age-old rivals, Simba SC, six months later.

It was a move that took a protracted court battle that saw Yanga move to Tanzania Football Federation and later Court for Arbitration for Sports (CAS) as they felt that the player did not follow the right channels, however, they lost both cases.

The winger, who formerly turned out for South Africa's Orlando Pirates, spent two years at Simba SC, but the Tanzanian outfit opted not to renew his contract.

In a late twist of events, Morrison crossed the divide once again to rejoin Yanga at the start of this season.

On Sunday, Yanga will host Rivers United in the second leg of the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals, needing to avoid a defeat of a three-goal margin to qualify for the continental showdown's semi-finals for the first time in their history.

The team arrived in Dar es Salaam back from Nigeria on Tuesday dawn ready to start preparation for the crucial game that will be played at the Benjamin Mkapa

Two Simba SC stars included in 2022/23 CAF CL Team of the Week

By Correspondent Michael

TWO Simba SC players have made the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Team of the Week after their side's 1-0 quarterfinal first-leg victory over Moroccan giants, Wydad Athletic Club, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Congolese forward, Jean Baleke, scored the winner to take his tally to four goals in the competition and level Clatous Chama as the Tanzanian club's leading goal

Baleke scored the winning goal on the half-hour mark when he did well to turn home a Dennis Kibu ball into the net.

Baleke and Chama are now only one goal behind Mamelodi Sundowns' attacker, Peter Shalulile, who scored a brace to take his tally to five goals in the competition, and Raja Athletic Club star, Hamza

As a consequence, it hardly surprises that Baleke makes the premier continental club competition's Team of the Week.

Alongside him is his teammate



Tanzania's Simba SC forward, Jean Baleke (2nd L), dribbles past Morocco's Raja Club Athletic players, midfielder Walid Sabbar (L), and defender Ismael Mokadem as the two outfits took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C tie at Mohammed V Stadium in Casablanca on March 31. Raja Club Athletic recorded a 3-1 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

Congolese Henock Inonga. Baleke, who joined Simba SC on a two-year loan deal from DR Congo's TP Mazembe in January, has now scored 12 goals in his last seven games including a hat-trick against

Ihefu SC in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinals.

African record champions, Al Ahly, produced most of their players in the selection with four stars.

The Egyptian giants kept their chase for a recordextending 11th title alive with a 2-0 victory over Raja Club Athletic.

Mohamed Abdelmonem and Hamdi Fathi were on ben Cherifia.

target in either half in Cairo to give their side an early advantage heading into next weekend's return fixture in Casablanca.

Unsurprisingly, the goal scorers Abdelmonem and Fathi were joined by right-back Mohamed Hany and midfielder Marwan Attia in the Team of the Week.

Mamelodi Sundowns' performance in the 4-1 demolition of CR Belouizdad in Algiers on Saturday was enough to earn them three players a place in a CAF Champions League team of the week.

Shalulile's excellent display saw him joined by teammates Aubrey Modiba, who assisted his first goal, and Teboho Mokoena in the Team of the Week.

Tunisia's Esperance, who drew first blood against Algeria's JS Kabylie, winning 1-0 away from home to earn a precious first-leg advantage, has two players in the squad.

Mohamed Ali Hammouda, who notched the vital goal in the second half to give Taraji the slim advantage heading into next weekend's corresponding fixture in Rades, was included alongside goalkeeper Moez

Fexibles by David Chikoko

