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Of teachers who hold onto their notes written decades ago

By Thomas Lyimo

TEACHING as a profession inherently has some elements of conservatism. And some teachers are more conservative than followers of the United States' Grand Old Party (Republican) or the UK's Conservative Party.

It is common for some teachers to use the same notes for years. When asked why, they simply answer 'The syllabus has not changed.' And a syllabus change in our country takes at least a decade unless some factors intervene. But in most cases I know, such teachers remain confident and the business continues as usual.

Most of them resort to a busy schedule which is the nature of teaching profession as a reason for failure to update notes. Teachers unlike those in other professions, are of different nature hence and different perspective and approach to issues. This is because it is experience and results that matter hence no need to change with time.

However, it is necessary to always remind such conservative teachers of the basic teaching principles which are universal so as to maintain the set standards of because education should mean more than just learners passing exams.

It is this idea of business as usual that is rampant not only in education but also in other sectors that makes teachers rigid. Teachers should know that they do not teach because they are inspected but because the government and the public at large has entrusted them with a responsibility of creating a better future for Tanzanians through education.

Some teachers argue that it is not possible to write notes regularly because there are other worthy attending to. Most of them say that they can simply update notes while teaching therefore there is no need to write new notes every year.

These folks fail to consider the fact that teachers are gifted differently. The truth is that very few are talented enough to deliver materials without notes while majority need guidance updated notes with relevant recent examples.

It should be emphasized that



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government considers employing new teachers.

The presence of new books poses a challenge to teachers who do not want to update their notes. How can learners access the new information in books that are written from time to time if teachers are not updating their notes regularly? Most learners do not read books on their own and but rely on teachers' notes. Most learners cherish teachers' notes because it is from the materials that tests and exams are set.

In the course of teaching, a good teacher must evaluate his or her teaching and progress of learners. In doing so, they may find some faults as human beings are not perfect. It may be noted or discovered that the previous notes were so bulky above learners' comprehension or they were too short to provide expected knowledge.

A teacher should consider understanding of learners in the teaching and learning process. All groups of learners, the fast ones and the struggling should be considered hence notes which meet demands of all pupils. A good teacher should be the one who promotes fast learners to excel more and help those struggling to register the best performance they can.

Teaching is balancing the interests and demands of learners. Although it is hard to satisfy everybody, regular updating of notes can reduce chances of leaving other learners behind. Learners like and enjoy new things and not the old ones.

As the world is rapidly changing with a lot of research and innovations which should reach pupils in some ways, teachers being the ones to update pupils with the new findings and innovation in education cannot escape regular update of their notes. A teacher is bound to act as a meteorological station which updates people of the weather condition regularly.

Teaching should regard the current situation with radical changes in terms of science, technology and innovation. The world has gone with online media and e-commerce. All these concepts cannot be captured if conservative teachers hold onto their neatly written but date back to decades ago. A good teacher is a flexible one.

teaching is not a competition to demonstrate brilliance or talents like in sports but concentrating in making sure that learners understand. Teachers

should consider the level of learners they teach lest they waste their time.

Some say the load is too heavy because the fee-free education policy

means more learners from primary school to form six but with the nearly the same number of teachers. That is why it is heart-warming to hear that the

Businesses have to hire communication experts or risk downward spiral

By Salutaris Liganga

IT is a foregone conclusion that for a business entity, effective communication is critical both at workplace as well as outside parties such as customers, suppliers, business partners and the general public.

At workplace level, it has been established that this boosts employee morale, engagement, productivity and satisfaction. Communication is also key for better team collaboration and cooperation. Ultimately, effective workplace communication helps drive better results for individuals, teams, and organizations.

To the contrary, lack of effective communication leads to build-up of grievances, frictions, rumours, speculations and even lies that can demoralize workers and cause poor service and finally huge losses to the company.

Effective communication is vital in every aspect of running a business. Whether it's marketing to customers, conducting sales, instructing employees or engaging in negotiations, the ability to communicate well can determine the success or failure of a business.

In 2020 for instance, the most authoritative document to elaborate



the importance of effective communication is 'The Cost of Poor Communications', a document prepared by Holmes Report—a voice of the global PR industry way back in 2011.

The report found that the cost of poor communication has hit an overwhelming USD37 billion by then. The report which can be found online further highlights that 400 surveyed corporations in the United States and the United Kingdom, each employing over 100,000 individuals, estimated an average annual cost of USD62.4 million in lost productivity due to communication barriers.

These alarming statistics highlight the urgent need for businesses to address communication challenges and find solutions. To address these challenges, implementing a formal communication plan becomes essential. It not only resolves existing miscommunication issues but also serves as a preventive measure against potential problems that may arise.

It is only a well-trained expert who can help a business develop a sound communication plan which is an official document that outlines the organization's means, techniques and proper ex-

ecution of communication with its stakeholders.

This vital document establishes clear guidelines, channels and processes that ensure information flows smoothly within and outside a specific business entity hence leading to improved collaboration, increased productivity and ultimately, better business outcomes.

One of the benefits of having a communication plan is that it can help a business establish a clear brand identity that resonates with its target audience through consistent visibility across both mainstream and online media. Its reward is trust, credibil-

ity and differentiation from competitors.

Moreover, a communication plan facilitates business entities to establish clear lines of communication between different departments and ensure that everyone is aligned. This helps to avoid misunderstandings, improve collaboration and restructure workflows, leading to solid internal communication. As well, a communication plan empowers business entities to communicate changes in policies or procedures, keep employees informed about company news and updates and encourage a positive company

culture.

Another key benefit of a communication plan is that it can help businesses build strong customer relationships. By developing a comprehensive communication strategy that incorporates social media, email marketing and other channels, businesses can engage with customers regularly, answer their questions and provide them with valuable information. This cultivates customer loyalty, generates leads and fosters business growth.

Also, it enhances employee engagement. A formal communication plan fosters a culture of open communication within the organization, allowing employees to feel valued, informed, and involved. This leads to higher levels of engagement, increased morale, and a sense of belongingness in the company's goals and success.

Finally, a communication plan enables business entities to prepare for crises and respond to them effectively. Whether it's a product recall, a data leak and information tempering or a natural disaster, having a crisis communication plan ensures prompt and efficient communication with stakeholders.

This is important because professional communication in crisis management minimizes

damage to the brand reputation and maintains customer trust. A communication plan should include clear protocols for responding to crises, including who is responsible for communicating with different stakeholders, what messaging to be used and how communication is to be delivered.

Fellows working in the field of communication such as journalists know this the hard way. When they seek certain information and every person asked says 'I am not authorized to speak.' That is effective communication plan at work. When everybody speaks, a bad situation can be made worse.

In short, a communication plan is vital for businesses to establish a brand identity, improve internal communication, enhance customer relationships and prepare for crises. By investing in a communication plan, companies build strong stakeholder relationships, achieve goals and ensure long-term success. Investing in effective communication is crucial in today's competitive landscape.

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Climate carnage: A lot of talk, little action makes things worse

By **Baher Kamal**

PLEASE stop repeating all this softened wording, such as climate change, climate-related hazards, climate crisis, or extreme weather events and just call it what it really is: climate carnage.

Indeed, several scientific findings, released ahead of the 2023 World Environment Day (5 June), staggeringly indicate that the world-spread climate carnage is predicted to hit all-time records.

See: global temperatures are set to break records during the next five years, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 17 May 2023 alerted.

Warmest year ever

“There is a 98% likelihood that at least one of the next five years, and the five-year period, will be the warmest on record.”

The world-leading meteorological body then informs that such a rise is fuelled by heat-trapping greenhouse gases and a naturally occurring El Niño weather pattern.

El Niño is a naturally occurring climate pattern associated with the warming of the ocean surface temperatures in the Central and Eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. It occurs on average every two to seven years, and episodes usually last nine to 12 months.

El Niño steers weather patterns around the world, WMO further explains, “can aggravate extreme weather events,” and its events are typically associated with increased rainfall in parts of southern South America, the Southern United States, the Horn of Africa and Central Asia.

“This year is already predicted to be hotter than 2022 and the fifth or sixth hottest year on record. 2024 could be even hotter as the impact of the weather phenomenon sets in.”

‘Staggering rise’

Mind you: This WMO report is just an update that would be logically expected. Indeed, it actually adds to earlier reiterated findings about the worse

to come.

For instance, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has now reported on the “Staggering” rise in climate emergencies in the last 20 years.’

According to its report, there has already been an 80% increase in the number of people affected by disasters since 2015.

Out of control

“However, many of the lessons from past disasters have been ignored.”

The consequences are that now a steadily increasing number of people are being affected by larger, ever more complex and more expensive disasters because decision-makers are failing to put people first and prevent risks from becoming disasters.

“Many of these disasters are climate-related, and in light of the latest warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), countries are likely to face even worse disasters if global temperatures continue to rise.”

“Brutally unequal”

The impacts are “brutally unequal,” with developing countries hit the hardest, as highlighted by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Its report multi-country review points to the rapid accumulation of risk that is building up, intersecting with the risks of breaching planetary boundaries, biodiversity and ecosystem limits – which is spiralling out of control.

Not so new, anyway. Indeed the UNDRR chief, Mami Mizutori, reminded already at the end of 2020 that the international community pledged in Paris in 2015 to reduce global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

‘Uninhabitable hell’

However, she added, “It was “baffling” that nations were continuing knowingly “to sow the seeds of our own destruction, despite the science and evidence that we are turning our only home into an uninhabitable hell for millions of people”.

One doesn’t have to



The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has now reported on the “Staggering” rise in climate emergencies in the last 20 years.’ Credit: Manipadma Jena/iPS

look hard to find examples of how disasters are becoming worse, said Mami Mizutori. “The sad fact is that many of these disasters are preventable because they are caused by human decisions.”

The point is that already a year ago, the UNDRR warned that “by deliberately ignoring risk, the World is bankrolling its own destruction.”

But this should not be surprising: many fingers have been pointing to the responsibility of the short-sighted politicians, who are too often influenced by the powerful money-making business, that they end up turning a blind eye on such mass destruction.

Drought, heat “100 times more likely”

On 5 May 2023, the World Meteorological Organization reported that climate ‘change’ made both the devastating drought in the Horn of Africa and the record April temperatures in the Western Mediterranean at least 100 times more likely.

Regarding the Horn of Africa,

it said that the drought was made much more severe because of the low rainfall and increased evaporation caused by higher temperatures in a world which is now nearly 1.2°C warmer than pre-industrial times.

Mediterranean heatwave

In late April, parts of Southwestern Europe and North Africa experienced a massive heatwave that brought extremely high temperatures never previously recorded in the region at this time of the year, with temperatures reaching 36.9 - 41 °C in the four countries.

“The event broke temperature records by a large margin, against the backdrop of an intense drought.”

“The intense heat wave came on top of a preexisting multi-year drought, exacerbating the lack of water in Western Mediterranean regions and threatening the 2023 crop yield.”

Spreading everywhere

Across the world, climate

change has made heat waves more common, longer and hotter, reports WMO based on researchers’ analysis that looked at the average of the maximum temperature for three consecutive days in April across southern Spain and Portugal, most of Morocco and the northwest part of Algeria.

Crops under threat

As other analyses of extreme heat in Europe have found, “extreme temperatures are increasing faster in the region than climate models have predicted,” said the researchers.

Until overall greenhouse gas emissions are halted, global temperatures will continue to increase and events like these will become more frequent and severe.

“The intense heat wave came on top of a preexisting multi-year drought, exacerbating the lack of water in Western Mediterranean regions and threatening the 2023 crop yield.”

And the carnage goes on

In short, the ongoing climate carnage is expected to move from the worst to the worst.

And anyway, the term ‘carnage’ should not sound at all new.

Indeed, it was already spelt out by the United Nations’ top chief, António Guterres, in September 2022, following his field visit to the vast Pakistan’s regions impacted by unprecedented devastating floods.

The people of Pakistan are the victims of “a grim calculus of climate injustice”, said Guterres, reminding that while the country was responsible for less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is paying a “supersized price for man-made climate change”.

The UN chief stated that he saw in those regions “a level of climate carnage beyond imagination”.

By the way, do you expect that the coming COP28 in Dubai (November 30th-December 12th, 2023) will come out with anything different from the usual ‘politically correct,’ “radical chic” statements?

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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Project restores hope to vulnerable girls affected by GBV

By Felister Peter

VARIOUS interventions have been taken by the government and stakeholders in ensuring adolescent girls and young women are safe, economically independent and protected from being infected with sexual diseases and HIV.

In southern highland regions—Mbeya, Katavi, Songwe, Rukwa and Ruvuma, the Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI) with funding from the US government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research- Department of Defence (WRAIR-DOD) supports adolescent girls through provision of education, vocational training and entrepreneurial skills.

Through the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) program, over 75,000 adolescent girls aged between 15 and 24 years have so far benefited in Mbeya, Kyela and Mbarali districts.

Clovetha Mathias (19) from Igurusi ward in Mbarali District is one of the program beneficiaries who joined DREAMS in June 2022 after going through various challenges associated with poor living conditions in her family.

"I have both parents but they are poor and could not afford to provide me with what I needed as a girl. My dad is a farmer while my mother does not have any business," said the young girl, noting in 2021, she started engaging in sexual relationship with a man near their home; only to be given money to purchase food for her family and other necessities.

She said after months, the man started to misbehave and sometimes refused to give her money. She said the situation forced her to start dating

other men while her parents believed that she was temporarily employed at paddy farms.

"I had unprotected sex with a number of men as I struggled to look for money to feed my family. I later on suffered from sexual diseases and treated them with traditional medicines because I didn't have money to go to hospital," she narrated. Mathias added: "On June 2022, I met a peer educator from Tumaini Community Services Organization that works with HJFMRI. She told me about DREAMS and its benefits; soon after I joined the program, I was educated and assisted to go for an HIV test, but thank God the results were negative."

She said health practitioners advised her to use the pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent herself from HIV because she still had a number of sexual partners.

"I am thankful to the U.S government for funding this program because I have acquired life and business skills. I am now a tailor and an entrepreneur, selling rice, groundnuts and beans," she said adding the generated income caters for herself and her family.

Narrating her story, Juness Mwaisaka (18) from Iloilo Street in Igurusi ward said: "Things changed when my father died, my mother is HIV positive with no income generating activities, and she fully depend on me."

Mwaisaka worked as a housemaid in Tunduma town where she found herself in trouble after her boss asked her for sex. She returned back to Mbarali in 2021 where she had sexual relationships with multiple partners, some of whom did not want to use condoms.

She was enrolled for the program in July 2022 after being convinced by a friend and with the acquired skills and education from trained work-



Clovetha Mathias, a beneficiary of the PEPFAR funded DREAMS programme in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region. Photo: Felister Peter

ers, she now owns a kiosk.

"My life has changed; I am aware of GBV and could report such incidents with no fear. I have knowledge about HIV and ways to protect myself from being infected," said Mwaisaka, stressing to be a good ambassador of the program.

Data shows that adolescent girls and young women account for 74 percent of new HIV infections among all adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa and nearly 1,000 of them were infected with HIV every day.

Anuciata Mwamengo from Tumaini Community Services Organization is the DREAMS Program Coordinator in Mbarali District, said the program is currently implemented in 20 wards for purposes of reducing new HIV infections among vulnerable adolescent girls and young women at risks of being infected.

"We are targeting girls with multiple sex partners, those engaging in unprotected sex, GBV victims as well as those with a history of suffering from sexually transmitted diseases," said Mwamengo.

She said, to achieve targeted goals, girls are educated on safe sex and ways to prevent themselves from being infected that includes the use of condoms. She said the offered services are categorized in two groups—primary and secondary whereas primary services are provided to all the girls.

Primary services include HIV/Aids counselling and testing and proper use of condoms, she said, noting girls are educated on business skills as well as GBV and its impacts.

Mwamengo said secondary services include positive parenting which is provided to girls expecting kids as well as those with children. Girls under this plan attend 14 sessions.

She added that girls diagnosed with HIV are assisted to enroll for treatment at healthcare centres, while those still at risk of being infected are provided with PrEP; services to the girls are offered in a friendly environment at created tents to ensure confidentiality.

"We empower girls economically by linking them with savings and credit

groups. We train them on tailoring, hair dressing, soap and shampoo making and tie-dyeing. All these efforts are meant to make girls independent economically," she said, noting some of the girls have been registered for further training at Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA).

Dr Stella Moses, In-Charge at the Kiwanjampaka health centre in Mbeya District said: "Girls seeking medical treatment at the DREAMS special tent here are treated with confidentiality. We are thankful to PEPFAR as services were previously offered at unfriendly rooms."

Moses said they are working closely with the police gender desk and social welfare officers in offering some services including provision of PrEP and post GBV care.

Highlighting the various achievements of the program, Moses said there have been an increased number of girls seeking health services at the DREAMS created tent, linking the successes with provision of expertise friendly services offered by professional trained health

care workers.

Dr Kennedy Ojuang, GBV and DREAMS Advisor at HJFMRI commend the U.S government for the enormous support saying a lot has been done in 20 years of PEPFAR services in our country. He said the program has benefited over 75,000 girls until March this year.

Dr Ojuang said once enrolled for the program, they are linked to savings and credit groups whereas they do meet at created 'safe spaces' at different locations within the district. He said 'safe places' girls also learn about HIV and gender based violence (GBV) prevention.

"We educate them on GBV so that they are able to report such cases to responsible authorities such as the police gender desk. Most of the girls enrolled for the program have been through various forms of GBV," he remarked.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera commended PEPFAR for supporting various HIV/Aids interventions since the region ranks 3rd nationally with an infected rate of 9.3

percent. The national infection rate is 4.7 percent.

Homera said in achieving the UNAIDS 95, 95, 95 that aims at eliminating the disease by 2030, HJFMRI with funding from PEPFAR through WRAIR-DOD has until March this year reached 109,332 people out of 142,492 who are likely to be living with HIV in Mbeya.

The RC said that out of the total number of people reached, 108,197 were diagnosed HIV+ and have been enrolled for ARV drugs. The target was to enroll 109,332 infected individuals. He said on this, the region has achieved the set goals by 99.9 percent.

"One the third goal of ensuring those on ARVs have their viral load suppressed, we have achieved the set target by 98.1 percent as a total of 92,043 on ARVs had their viral load suppressed by March 2023," stated the RC.

Coordinator, Tanzania Commission for Aids (TACAIDS) in Mbeya Region, Emmanuel Petro said: "We are grateful to the U.S government for facilitating implementation of various projects towards the fight against HIV/Aids in the country."

Providing girls with behavior change education and linking them with savings and credit cooperative society helps them to establish small businesses, thus becoming financially independent, said Petro.

He said to enhance access to HIV/Aids treatment, 89 wards in the three districts have been reached while 47 health centres have been capacitated to provide all the necessary services, including provision of ARV, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and education on the use of condoms to avoid new HIV infections.

So far 200 service providers have been trained on best ways to provide medical treatment to the girls and make referrals.

Natural gas extraction benefits the villagers in Mtwara District

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MSIMBATI villagers in Mtwara District have expressed hopes of benefiting from the discovery of natural gas which includes implementation of various development projects.

They made the remarks recently when speaking in separate interviews with this paper, noting the discovery of natural gas has improved their welfare.

Zuhura Bahari, one of the villagers said natural gas has been beneficial to them following implementation of various water projects, whereas they are now getting clean and safe water. She said residents in the area have access to free gas services.

Msimbati Ward Executive Officer, Esha Chilonda said natural gas discoveries have been beneficial to the villagers as teachers' houses have been constructed. He added that through gas projects, school buildings have been renovated, classrooms, desks, pit latrines and a village dispensary.

"Not only Msimbati, other villages such as Mtande, Ruvula and Mnyuo are also benefiting from the natural gas projects," Chilonda.

He however noted that during Covid-19, implementation of most of the development projects were suspended, but, starting this year, they have started to execute them.

He said the projects are geared to improve people's welfare thus empowering them economically.

According to Chilonda, villagers are assisted to establish savings and credit groups where they can easily access loans to start small businesses. He said most of the villagers would like to do business as well as engage in commercial agriculture.

Msimbati Village Chairman, Ismail Kondo said after the start of natural gas extraction, living conditions of many people have changed economically. He said the projects have employed most of the young people from Msimbati village.

Joan Ngwale, Communications Officer from Maurel and Prom, an oil and gas exploration and Production Company, said the firm's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy requires it to support the community through provision of various services.

She said they have so far provided medical equipment to Migula dispensary, adding they are implementing a number of strategies aimed to empower people economically.

UNCDF challenges youth to utilise programmes for economic prowess

By Correspondent, Carlos Banda

THE United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Financial Expert, Paul Damocha has called on Tanzanian youth to utilize new opportunities to attain financial assistance to realize the entrepreneurial success in innovation and technology as a gateway to boost the country's economic development.

Damocha made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when launching the Second call for funding applications for impact-driven start-ups through its FUNGUO Innovation Programme (FUNGUO), a project under the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in partnership with the European Union (EU) and UNCDF.

He highlighted that the project targets to help entrepreneurs access financial support to run their businesses. "It is not easy for youths to have access to money from banking institutions. The project is a gateway to help youth meet the requirements needed from them before they become eligible for capital loans and any forms fiscal grants from financial institutions," said Damocha.

The Second call for funding applications is a progression from last year's first call launch back in June, where FUNGUO delivered the first cohort of 26 impact-driven start-ups that secured over 2.6bn/-

billion in catalytic funding, projected to create or sustain up to 2,300 jobs for young men and women by the year 2024. The ripple effects of this funding have been exponential, showcasing the tangible impact of FUNGUO's commitment to fostering entrepreneurial success.

For this year, the call is valued at 1.4bn/-, bringing the total catalytic funding commitment to 4bn/-, whereby, through targeted catalytic funding complemented with a technical assistance package, FUNGUO will aim to increase the number of successfully scaled innovation ventures that contribute to national development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals in Tanzania.

In line with boosting innovative start-ups, the program seeks to attain a conscious effort of encouraging and promoting women innovators and entrepreneurs, in which, at least 30% of the funds available have been exclusively reserved for women-founded or women-led startup ventures.

FUNGUO Program Manager, Joseph Manirakiza stated that the programme has acted as a key towards achieving early impactful success on the policy front.

"Here, FUNGUO supported the drafting of the first National Crowd-funding Guidelines with the Capital Markets and Securities Authorities. Going forward, the programme plans to leverage

its established relationships with strategic partners to continue pivoting and improving to deliver on its mandate. The programme also supported and continues to support various platforms such as the Innovation Week Tanzania, Tanzania Annual ICT Conference, Sahara Sparks and the Tanzania Youth Digital Summit, regular Innovation and Tech Forums, among others," added the Programme Manager.

Head of Cooperation at the European Union, Cedric Merel commented that the second call will include a vital section for empowering entrepreneurs sighting that doing so will help unleash the potential of Tanzania's human resources.

"We have also noted the importance of engaging women and there is a particular focus on having more women on-board. So, we think this is very important because this contributes to also unleash the potential of Tanzania's human resource sector.

"We are thrilled to have played a role in empowering these impact-driven ventures and with this Second Call for Funding, we look forward to witnessing the continued growth and positive contributions that start-ups make to society," Merel added.

Resident Representative of UNDP Tanzania Christine Musisi said: "This Second Call for Funding Applications under the FUNGUO

Innovation Programme marks another milestone in UNDP's commitment to fostering innovation and driving national development goals. "We believe in the power the many innovative young people who commit to bring about change by venturing into business. This not only creates jobs for themselves and their fellow youths, but also contributes to the sustainable development of their country. UNDP is committed to continue supporting them through initiatives like FUNGUO and others, thanks to our partners like EU and the UK Government."

"Supporting the FUNGUO programme aligns with our shared mission of fostering inclusive economic development and unlocking innovation in Tanzania," stated Ivana Damjanov, the UNCDF Country Lead. "Separately, through our collaborative efforts under the EU funded Digital4Tanzania Tanzania-Inclusive Digital Economy (D4T-TIDE) project, we strive to continue cultivating a dynamic innovation ecosystem that nurtures investment-ready, inclusive, and innovative businesses while mobilizing capital for their growth. We are dedicated to unlocking the potential of Tanzania's digital economy, bolstering fintech and e-commerce startups, fostering inclusive economic growth, and generating valuable insights that accelerate digital transformation."



Thursday 1 June 2023

DP World, Standard Bank partner to expand trade finance in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Standard Bank, the largest bank in Africa by assets, has partnered with DP World, a global leader in supply chain solutions, to offer trade finance solutions jointly with DP World Trade Finance.

The partnership will help in closing the gap in unmet demand for working capital on the continent.

African companies looking for trade finance will now be able to seamlessly access working capital from Standard Bank via the DP World Trade Finance platform.

In Tanzania, Standard Bank operates as Stanbic Bank, the Tier 1 bank with a total asset of more than 2trn/-.

World Trade Finance connects businesses with financial institutions as a fintech platform while also directly offering trade finance facilities on its own.

It offers businesses a single window to access trade finance solutions and customers can simply apply for credit on the digital platform, which will present them with the best options from global financiers who may otherwise be out of their reach.

Access to finance is one of the biggest barriers for businesses seeking global trade opportunities, evidenced by the struggle that many



Standard Bank Group head office in South Africa

businesses face in securing the upfront funds required to move cargo.

By bringing Standard Bank onto the platform, DP World Trade Finance now offers an array of financing solutions to African businesses, which face an ever-growing need for logistics and financial support to connect to global trade routes.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, said, "DP World exists to make the world's trade flow better and this partnership with

Standard Bank is a testament to that goal. Africa is a key market for us, with this partnership complementing our ongoing investment and development across the continent. Our recent acquisition of Imperial Logistics allowed us to enhance our logistics capabilities in Africa."

He said: "With the addition of DP World Trade Finance into our offerings, we aim to support African businesses of all sizes for their working capital needs. Together with Standard Bank, we will help African

businesses go from strength to strength and grow their exports to new markets."

Sinan Ozcan, Senior Executive Officer of DP World Financial Services, said, "Standard Bank joining the DP World Trade Finance platform is great news for businesses across Africa. DP World offers Standard Bank access to data on cargo movements, enabling them to lend with confidence. We in turn plan to co-lend and share risk with Standard Bank on deals made via the platform, whilst Standard Bank will be able to support the many suppliers in DP World's ecosystem across Africa with its strong financing capabilities."

Ozcan said this ecosystem has itself been strengthened by the acquisition of Imperial Logistics by DP World in 2022.

"Standard Bank's strong presence across countries like Nigeria, Kenya, and Mozambique will see this partnership develop further in the African market," Ozcan said.

Kenny Fihla, Chief Executive Officer, Corporate and Investment Banking at Standard Bank, said, "As Standard Bank moves forward with the ambition of becoming a digitally enabled organization, we seek partnerships with global multinationals like DP World to deliver trade

solutions to our clients across the continent. Partnering with DP World allows us to enhance how we facilitate cross-border transactions in growing key trade corridors."

Dr. Rassem Zok, Chief Executive Officer, Middle East and North Africa at Standard Bank, said, "This partnership reflects our strategic vision of driving Africa's growth. Platform businesses require strong partnerships at various levels of the value chain. The value derived from our shared knowledge, capability, and skills will create unique opportunities to deliver financial services and trade solutions to our clients. As Africa's largest bank, this is a demonstration of our commitment to the transition of financial services to platform-based ecosystems and improving client experiences."

Since its launch in July 2021, DP World Trade Finance has partnered with 23 financial institutions and generated over \$700 million in credit limit submissions.

The registration process takes less than five minutes and over 57,000 global clients have already signed up for affordable access to trade finance through the platform. DP World Trade Finance has also started directly lending to businesses since 2022.

CRDB Bank wins award as best bank across East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc has been named as the best bank in East Africa by the African Banker Magazine, winning an award presented at a ceremony held in Sharma El Sheikh in Egypt on the sidelines of the African Development Bank annual meeting.

In receiving the award from the banks' senior manager, partnership and strategic cooperation, Masele Msita, who represented the bank during the award ceremony, held on May 24th, the bank's managing director and Group CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela has therefore thanked stakeholders and customers for being part of the CRDB Bank successes.

Speaking yesterday at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam, Nsekela said customers have remained the major part of the success in implementing various business strategies, which have brought reforms in doing business.

"I thank our customers, the government, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and our business partners for the cooperation they have given us to continue enabling us to remain the best. This is not CRDB Bank award, but an award for all Tanzanians," he said.

He said during the last five years, CRDB Bank has managed to undergo major business reforms, which have helped to build sustainable value, increase financial inclusion and building inclusive economy through products, services and innovative digital system on offering services including SimBanking.

"This award testifies the successes of our previous strategic business plan of 2018-2022 and our position as the leading bank in Tanzania. Also, it shows the light in implementing of our new business strategic plan 2023-2027 which emphasizes on involvement targeting to improve the lives of Tanzanians and the economy at large," he said.

Nsekela said CRDB Bank is expected to increase its contribution in stimulating economic growth in East Africa region after acquiring the license of establish a subsidiary in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

CRDB Bank also recently became

the first Tanzanian bank to acquire a license from insurance regulatory body- Tira to establish an insurance subsidiary company- CRDB Insurance Company Limited.

"The growth of our bank put us into a good position to stimulate regional trade, helping the growth of various development sectors of the economy specifically agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, infrastructure, energy and minerals as well as businesses and entrepreneurship, which have remained the major contributors of the regional economic growth," Nsekela said.

CRDB Bank has therefore outshined other banks shortlisted for the top award including Afreximbank, Bank of Africa, Co-operative Bank of Kenya, Mauritius Commercial Bank, Trade and Development Bank and Trust Merchant Bank of DRC.

During the African Banker Live forum held on the sideline of the AfDB annual meeting, more emphasis were sensitized on supporting women led businesses, specifically Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), which is also implemented in Tanzania.

The award is the continuation of recognition of CRDB Bank Plc for having international standard, as last year the bank scooped two awards as the Best Tanzanian Bank, issued by two institutions include the UK based Euromoney Magazine and US based Global Finance.

CRDB Bank Plc, which also operates in Burundi offers its services through a network of 251 branches, 25,000 agents across the country, 550 Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and 1,800 Points of Sales (PoS).

It has also been recognised by the United Nations Green Climate Fund since 2019 and was rated BI by the global credit rating agency Moody's, the top rating score among banks and financial institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

It offers products and services to retail customer and wholesale customers, ranging from treasury services, insurance, commercial loans, trade finance, agriculture financing, sharia compliant banking services Al Mubarak and empowering small entrepreneurs.



DTB chairman Linus Gitahi (R) and CEO Nasim Devji (L). Photo by NMG

DTB Group profit jumps 11pc on larger loan book

NAIROBI

DTB Group reported a 10.9 percent growth in earnings in the first quarter ended March, helped by higher income from lending and transactions.

The bank's net profit stood at Sh2.4 billion in the review period, rising from Sh2.1 billion the year before.

Total interest income increased 32 percent to Sh12.1 billion as earnings from ordinary loans and investment in government debt securities went up.

DTB's loan book expanded 20.2 percent to Sh270.3 billion while its holdings of government bonds and T-bills declined by Sh5.8 billion to Sh131.6 billion.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm is among the lenders that have reduced their investment in treasuries in favour of increased lending to the private sector.

The strategy is aimed at raising their interest income besides reducing the risk of paper losses that face holders of fixed-income securities in a rising interest rates environment.

DTB, however, bucked the trend, recording a net gain of Sh753.8 million in the revaluation of its government debt securities, reversing a loss of Sh586.4 million recorded a year earlier.

The bank also benefitted from a 59 percent surge in non-interest income to Sh2.8 billion, with notable contributions from multiple sources including foreign exchange trading.

DTB's revenue from forex transactions nearly doubled to Sh1.4 billion, joining other lenders that have also recorded strong growth in this business line.

Banks have benefitted from the volatility in the forex markets, with the weakening of the shilling prompting businesses and individuals to initiate more transactions as they stock up on hard currencies.

The local currency has depreciated 15.7 percent against the dollar in the past 12 months alone to trade 138.4 units to the greenback.

DTB saw a 49.1 percent jump in interest expenses to Sh5.5 billion as it collected more deposits, which increased 17.9 percent to Sh404.6 billion.

The bank's loan loss provisions more than doubled to Sh1.3 billion in response to increased defaults. The lender's non-performing loans increased by Sh5.1 billion to Sh35.1 billion.

The jump in loan loss provisions contributed to total operating expenses increasing 50.3 percent to Sh5.8 billion. Other items that contributed to the higher costs include employee compensation.

DTB has increased its investment in local expansion, implementing its strategy of growing in its core areas besides recruiting clients in new sectors of the economy.

The bank will open a total of 24 more branches in Kenya this year and had already established three new branches in Kiambu town and Nairobi's Baba Doga and Kijabe Street as of March.

ECB inflation fight exposes fragilities in financial system

LONDON

The European Central Bank's fight against stubbornly high inflation has revealed fragilities in the financial system that are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

Higher interest rates are testing the resilience of households, companies, governments and property markets, the institution said Wednesday in its biannual Financial Stability Review.

That's leaving markets vulnerable to disorderly adjustments, it cautioned. And while banks have been remarkably resilient to recent turbulence in the US and Switzerland, higher funding costs and lower asset quality could still dent their profitability.

The warnings serve as a comprehensive impact report on what's already the most aggressive monetary-tightening campaign in the ECB's 25-year history. But despite the swirling dangers to financial stability and economic growth in the 20-nation euro zone, officials battling to return inflation to 2% say the spate of rate hikes since last July isn't over.

"Price stability remains as crucial as ever for durably preserving financial stability," ECB Vice President Luis de Guindos wrote in the preface of the report, before elaborating on the side effects policymakers must now accept.

"Tighter financing conditions to forcefully address high inflation have contributed to a reappraisal of the economic outlook and to a reversal of overly compressed asset-price risk premia," he said. "As financial conditions normalize, this may expose fragilities and fault lines in the financial system."

Property is one area the ECB singled out. House prices have cooled considerably over a relatively short period of time and could plummet further if higher mortgage costs continue to reduce demand.

At the same time, commercial real estate markets remain in a downturn thanks to tougher financing conditions, an uncertain economic outlook and weaker post-pandemic demand. That correction could test the resilience of investment funds, the ECB said.

It also identified some bright spots, while warning they shouldn't be taken for granted after the financial turmoil that began in the US.

"In all of these challenges, the resilience of euro-area banks has been noteworthy, but should not give way to complacency," Guindos said.

Lenders have been supported by strong capital and liquidity positions that must now be preserved, according to the ECB. Authorities should keep macroprudential capital buffers in place while some countries may also consider "targeted increases," it said.

Given the elevated risks to economic growth and recent market tensions, banks should refrain from lifting their payout ratios and focus on preserving their existing resilience instead, the ECB said.

Several large European banks won approval from the ECB's supervisory arm earlier this year to distribute billions of euros in excess capital to investors via share buybacks.

"Strengthening the banking union – and notably making progress on a common European deposit insurance scheme – will reinforce the ability of the euro area financial system to withstand risks going forward," Guindos said.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR MONEY MANAGEMENT SKILLS

By Kelvin Mkwawa

Have you ever wondered why our educational system doesn't teach money management skills? Well, I have. How you manage, spend, and invest your money can profoundly impact your life, yet very few of our schools teach these important skills. You would have thought that our education system will include what is considered to be the most important skill one can have but this is not the case. As a result, the majority of us have no money management skills but it's never too late to learn. Just because profoundly Impact didn't learn good financial skills in school doesn't mean that you can't learn them now. Learning and working on your money management skills is like trying to lose weight. You must know your weaknesses and work on them relentlessly to overcome the deficiencies to reach your financial goals.

Being able to manage your money effectively is very important to your future since neglecting financial management tasks often leads to overspending, a lack of savings, and the accumulation of significant amounts of debt. Life is much easier when you have good money management skills so it's imperative you

acquire good personal financial habits. Here are tips to improve your money management skills:

Learn to Create a Budget - If you want to learn and acquire good money management skills, you first need to learn how to create a budget and stick to it! Do you know where your money goes? If you don't, that's a problem but, don't worry it's not too late to learn. A budget is all about being intentional. It helps you create a plan to see where your money is going and how much you can save each month. Getting into the habit of tracking your expenses through a budget will help prevent a lot of financial problems for you. If you have never made a budget before, it is easier to start with a pen, paper, and a calculator and create something simple that you can remember and follow. Start creating a budget by calculating how much you make in a month - from your salary or your business. Then write down all your necessary expenses for every month and keep track of all your expenses for the next month (it is advised to do this for up to three months) to give you an idea of your average monthly expenses. Ideally, the amount you spend in a month should be lower than the amount you earn and if that is not the case, then go over your list and see which expenses



Kelvin Mkwawa,

you can cut down to ensure that you have a positive monthly cash flow. To manage your budget effectively, you must make time to do it correctly. Designating a set time each week to review your budget helps to make it routine and increases your likelihood of doing it regularly.

Think Before You Spend - Make a habit to think before you decide to spend your money and don't assume you can afford it. This habit of thinking before

you spend will make you conscious of your expenses and develop your money management skills. I have put together some of the questions that will help you think before you spend: Do you need it or do you just want to buy it for fun? Can you afford it? Can you get it for less? Always try to remember that just because the money is there doesn't mean you can spend it and buy things.

Learn to Save - Depositing money into a savings account each month can help you build healthy money management habits. You can even set it up automatically for the money to be transferred from your checking account into your savings account. Your savings goal should be between 20-30% of your income every month. I realized this might not be easy but you can start small by tweaking your daily routine to yield small savings that can add up over time. For example, you can start emptying your pockets each day and start collecting that extra change and take that collection to the bank and deposit it into your savings account; you can cut down the number of days you eat out by packing your lunch, and you can cut down the amount you spend on your entertainment activities.

Living Within Your Means - This skill is critical and a skill that most of us cannot cultivate and end up costing us our

happiness. It is very important to leave below your income (i.e. means). By so doing, you will be able to set aside some funds to provide for emergencies. You do not wait until emergencies strike to start looking for funds to finance unexpected bills. If you don't save, you are more likely to get yourself into debt.

To summarize, being good with money takes practice. While confronting your financial situation might be daunting at first, the benefits of getting a true picture of your finances will become apparent as soon as you start. In the beginning, you may not be used to planning, saving, and putting off purchases until you can afford them but, the more you make these habits part of your daily life, the more you will develop money management skills. As you become better at managing your money, you will start to have the ability to decrease and stay out of debt. Money management is not all about setting limits and controls on your spending but also about reaching your financial goals and improving your financial situation. The easier it is to manage your money, the better off your finances will be.

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BY MICHAEL CONWAY

Not a day has gone by this year; it seems, without a new headline about OpenAI's ChatGPT or its equivalents. The world has been enthralled by stories about the novel ways these new tools are used, ranging from the impressive and imaginative to the downright bizarre. ChatGPT has helped make artificial intelligence (AI) real to many people who may have been unaware of its power.

Businesses, including financial institutions, have naturally viewed these developments with interest, wondering how to apply this technology to support their own digital strategies. There is good reason to be curious.

The technologies underlying ChatGPT—generative AI and large language models (LLMs)—present a huge potential for banks to take their digital customer services and overall digital-transformation efforts to a new level.

It's no secret that financial institutions of all kinds are racing to modernise digitally as quickly as possible to keep pace with their customers' expectations and continue thriving in a more digital world. A host of challenges—a high-inflation, high-cost environment, the need to meet sustainability targets and the battle for scarce skilled talent—bring added impetus.

Many firms have recognised the powerful role AI and automation technologies can play in helping them address these challenges, from removing costs by automating processes to using data-driven insights to track and reduce carbon emissions.

When it comes to using conversational AI, banks have already made brisk progress, particularly since the first COVID lockdowns rendered virtual customer-service assistants essential.

Intelligent virtual agents, such as NatWest's (National Westminster Bank's) CoraAI and TSB Bank's Smart Agent2, were deployed quickly to help bank staff handle the surging need for digital customer services, boosting the client experience and satisfaction in the process. More recently, IBM Consulting worked with Virgin Money to launch its digital host, Redi, to provide 24/7 support for the bank's credit-card customers.

Making hyper-personalised services a reality

But this is just the beginning. Advances in generative AI and LLMs are opening up powerful opportunities for banks to achieve the kind of next-level digital customer experiences that will be essential for success in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Generative AI is capable of not only creating more humanlike, intuitive customer interactions, but it can also be tailored to reflect a specific brand tone of voice. Crucially, this technology will enable banks to deliver the genuinely hyper-personalised customer services that consumers will soon expect as standard.

Imagine if your banking app could help you automatically sort out problems proactively before you even knew about them, find the right products to meet your needs and provide advice that saves you time and money—all with humanlike responsiveness. How much easier would it be if that assistant could instantly calculate the best way for you to reach a particular financial goal, which might have taken you weeks of research, and make arrangements to help you get there?

And it's not just online services that could be transformed. Generative AI and LLMs also hold the potential to help banks improve the customer experience in physical branches by assisting with tasks such as language translation in real-time for those whose native language isn't the one spoken locally during often lengthy and complex processes.

Succeeding with conversational AI for business

However, unlike the consumer use cases we've heard a lot about, businesses need their conversational-AI platforms to meet a number of requirements to capitalise on them successfully.

Here are four important principles leaders should be aware of:



HOW THE BANKING INDUSTRY CAN CAPITALISE ON CONVERSATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

It must understand the language of the business and the processes that make it useful to consumers.

An important part of productive conversational AI is understanding, relaying and applying business processes. While a generative-AI tool may be trained on massive volumes of text-based data, it does not necessarily "understand" specific business workflows. A bank wanting to roll out a customer-service assistant should invest time in refining language models around relevant financial terminology to increase the accuracy

of the AI system so that customers receive reliable, consistent information.

Enterprise conversational AI should also be fully integrated into business processes. That means it must have the breadth of understanding to meet the user at any entry point or need and the depth of integration to help the customer through the whole journey, end to end.

Details and clarification are essential compo-

nents

When your business is relied upon to conduct important financial transactions, provide essential services or deliver accurate information at speed and scale, there isn't room for these systems to work only some of the time or be inaccurate, misleading or biased. That's why the "best guess" approach of generative-AI tools for consumers is not suitable for business use unless applied with very careful consideration and guide rails.

Enterprise-grade conversational AI must have the ability to ask clarifying questions, disambiguate and understand additional details, as well as ensure the customer understands what actions will happen next. For example, if you go to a virtual assistant and say, "I need to pay my bill", the assistant must be able to clarify which bill and from what account and also check that the customer is happy at every point before any action is executed.

It should be highly personalised for the user

Strong conversational AI deployed within an enterprise will know and understand you, then contextualise and personalise. It should also be able to tailor tone, voice, personality and linguistic elements seamlessly to each organisation's requirements. Consider the example of cancelling a credit card. If you are using your bank's virtual assistant, you would expect a contextual response detailing the process of cancelling your credit card with your specific institution. You would also expect your bank to have relevant information regarding your credit cards and understand the specific process related to the card you want to cancel. You'd also want the assistant to help you complete the process. It's even better if it anticipates your needs before you even ask, like checking that your address is up-to-date before sending you a new card.

It must be explainable, ethics-aligned and non-biased

With a multitude of regulations in place or in the pipeline, financial-services businesses must be prepared to report on and defend, from an audit perspective, how specific models and AI-driven technology create their outputs. Those outputs must also be free from bias. At IBM, we have embedded our Principles for Trust and Transparency³ into how we develop AI offerings and acquire data for building and training models that power solutions, including IBM's Watson Assistant service. Organisations should own their proprietary data and insights; thus, IBM clients do not have to relinquish their rights to their data to use our services. From the beginning, we have used responsible methods of generating data to train and optimise AI models because it's critical that AI is used ethically. We bring this approach of trustworthiness and robustness to all of our deliveries, regardless of the technical stack.

Seizing the opportunity

Banks must create outstanding digital experiences for customers or risk being left behind. To make the most of the enormous opportunities presented by advances in conversational AI, leaders must look for solutions designed for the needs of businesses in highly regulated industries. They should be able to integrate with existing systems, incorporate specific governance policies and controls for accessing information within the business, and be specific to the company's contextual requirements.

Finally, working with partners that combine extensive banking-industry knowledge with deep technical and business-transformation expertise will offer financial institutions the best chance of success. Delivering delightful and novel experiences using cutting-edge AI techniques in highly regulated environments is not easy. With the right partner, however, the outcomes are incredible, and the time to do it is now.

Michael Conway is the Data and Technology Transformation Leader, IBM Consulting UK & Ireland



Uber enters race to promote cashless economy

By **Faustine Feliciane**

Passengers using Uber will now no need to carry cash for paying fares, after the global

ride-hailing company entered into an agreement with Tigo to use its mobile money platform for payments.

Uber, which has more than 5,000 drivers in Tanzania, say

has decided to venture into digital payment system in order to increase passenger conveniences and boosting drivers' uptakes.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on behalf of Uber East Africa manager Imran Manji yesterday, the Uber country's operation manager Monica Mziray said drivers who will registered on the Tigo's mobile money agency system will receive 20 percent of payment on each transaction performed by a passenger.

"This will enable driver to increase their incomes and Uber will also boost the government revenue, while enabling passengers not to carry cash when after requesting the ride," she said.

Tigo Pesa director Angelica Pesha said passengers using this service will be subjected to a reimbursement of ten percent of the amount paid to each trip into their mobile money accounts.

He said Tigo Pesa has more

than a quarter a million agents using "pay by phone" who are performing transactions amounting 3bn/- each day.

"This partnership entered with Uber testifies the aim of TigoPesa to achieve its targets of increasing access of financial services among Tanzanians," she said.

The director said Tigo is confident with Tanzanian market and the introduction of the services to Uber passengers will stimulate business growth and improve service delivery.

Uber started to offer ride-hailing services in Tanzania way back in 2009 and is currently offering services to more than 60 cities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The company resumed operations in Tanzania in January this year, after a nine-month suspension.

The companies were forced to suspend services in Tanzania following the government's regulatory changes that were enforced

Scania Tanzania turns 50, emphasises sustainability

By **Guardian Correspondent**

Scania Tanzania will commemorate its anniversary tomorrow, marking half a century of excellence in the Tanzanian market.

Since its establishment in 1973, Scania Tanzania has remained dedicated to delivering the highest quality products and services while upholding its commitment to environmental sustainability, addressing climate change, and practicing corporate social responsibility, the company said in a statement yesterday.

With a presence across the country, Scania Tanzania operates 10 strategically located outlets, providing sales, service, and spare parts for Scania vehicles.

"The company's outstanding performance has significantly contributed to the local economy, offering job opportunities and nurturing local talent through a dedicated team of over 85 employees," it said.

Over the years, Scania Tanzania has achieved numerous milestones, showcasing its enduring impact on the Tanzanian transport sector.

In 1970, Scania Tanzania delivered the first 200 tipper trucks for the construction of the Tanzania Railway (TAZARA), playing a crucial role in national infrastructure development.

In 1973, the SAAB-Scania Tanzania Branch (STB) was established, focusing on providing after-sales services, further strengthening the company's commitment to customer satisfaction.



Archived photo of Scania Tanzania headquarters in Dar es Salaam during 1970's.

In 1985, Scania Tanzania introduced a completely knocked-down (CKD) assembly plant in Kibaha, facilitating local production.

This step was followed by the opening of the Arusha Branch in 1993, expanding Scania Tanzania's footprint and customer reach. The company continued to thrive, with the introduction of the 4-series truck in 1997 and new city buses in partnership with Marcopolo in 1999.

Notably, Scania Tanzania has been a pioneer in embracing environmental sustainability.

In 2021, the company launched the first Scania truck in East Africa running on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), demonstrating its commitment to reducing carbon

emissions and promoting cleaner energy solutions.

Lars Eklund, Managing Director of Scania Tanzania, highlighted this achievement, stating, "Through the introduction of CNG trucks, we are not only helping transporters lower their operational costs by more than 45 percent, but we are also actively caring for the environment."

Speaking to our reporter, Lars says that Scania goes beyond being a company that provides sustainable transport solutions and gives back to the community.

"In addition to promoting sustainable transport solutions, Scania Tanzania has been actively involved in corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives", he said.

According to internal

annual reports and media publications, the company has collaborated with local institutions such as the National Institute of Transport (NIT) and the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) to implement trainee programs aimed at identifying and nurturing exceptional students.

"These initiatives equip young talents with the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue successful careers in the automotive industry. This is Scania Tanzania's commitment to investing in the future and creating opportunities for Tanzanian youth", Mr Eklund emphasized.

Under its CSR projects, Scania Tanzania has consistently supported the education sector in Tanzania.

Through initiatives like renovating classrooms, planting fruit-bearing and shade trees, and supplying cleaning and stationery items, the company has significantly impacted educational institutions.

In 2022, Scania Tanzania donated 60 desks for kindergarten students who were previously sitting on the floor, showcasing its dedication to providing a conducive learning environment.

These CSR efforts aim to shape future leaders, business executives, and experts who will contribute to the nation's growth.

In response to the question about operating in the Tanzanian market for 50 years and the future outlook for Scania Tanzania and the automotive industry, he stated:

World Bank approves US\$1bil.loan to Kenya

NAIROBI

The World Bank said has approved a US\$1 billion loan to Kenya to support its budget as East Africa's economic powerhouse confronts high debts and a weakening currency.

The lending will be done through an instrument called a Development Policy Operations (DPO) loan, which commits Kenya to instituting reforms aimed at creating fiscal space, improving agricultural competitiveness and improving governance.

"The government's reforms, supported by the DPO, will help to achieve fiscal consolidation, which is essential for reducing the debt burden and related risks, in an equitable and sustainable manner," Aghassi Mkrtchyan, Senior Economist for the World Bank in Kenya, said in a statement.

Kenya's President William Samoei Ruto, who was elected last year, has pledged to restore fiscal discipline after public debt surged under his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta.

But his proposal to raise taxes on a wide swathe of economic activities as part of the finance bill his government

will put forward in parliament next month has faced push-back from civil servants and political opponents.

Kenya qualified for financing under the DPO instrument in 2019 and has since received four such loans, the last in March.

Reforms that Kenya will adopt under the latest agreement include the elimination of administrative price-setting for publicly procured cereals and the streamlining of the state's exit from commercial investments, the World Bank said.

Kenya's finances have been under strain from rising debt repayments and the effects of the Horn of Africa's worst drought in four decades.

Earlier this month, global ratings agency Moody's cut Kenya's senior unsecured debt rating as well as long-term foreign-currency and local-currency issuer ratings, citing an increase in government liquidity risks.

The economy is projected to expand by 5.8 percent in 2023, the country's central bank said in March, up from 4.8 percent in 2022.

Seebait, Eskimi merger to impact global solutions to Tanzania digital advertising

By **Guardian Correspondent**

SEEBAIT, Tanzania's biggest digital advertising network, announced a merger with Eskimi, a full-stack programmatic advertising platform helping global brands successfully execute their online advertising campaigns.

This collaboration of two advertising giants will take Tanzanian digital advertising to another level, allowing brands, agencies, and publishers to adopt the latest global advertising standards and trends and increase the usage of one of the quickest-growing digital advertising channels, programmatic.

Seebait is leading the local digital advertising ecosystem with hundreds of sites in its network and nearly 4 million daily impressions across different niches, including entertainment, sports, news, fashion, and others.

Eskimi and Seebait share the same vision of delivering the best value, quality, and innovations to digital marketers in Tanzania. This partnership will simplify the process of running and optimizing advertising campaigns and boost the combined capabilities of both platforms, beginning a new era of the AdTech industry in the country.

For brands and publishers, this collaboration means better access to the necessary data, local and international ad inventory, more accurate targeting options, and creative innovations that meet the growing audience's expectations while helping publishers ensure better advertising experiences for their visitors.

"Clients are happy to save their time using only one technology instead of preparing several briefs," said Vita Pumputiene, Business Development

Director at Eskimi, adding: "The merger of Seebait and Eskimi will help advertisers and publishers better plan their online advertising campaigns and implement them more efficiently."

"We bring together global experience from thousands of advertising campaigns, local inventory, vast amounts of data and high-performing ad creatives that will now help Tanzanian brands run unique digital campaigns and bring them closer to hitting their advertising goals," the director elaborated.

Additionally, thousands of Tanzanian publishers will be able to monetise their work, and this will enable them to improve their lifestyles.

Alextair Ofio, a Seebait co-founder, meanwhile noted: "We are happy to open up the world to our local publishers. By merging Seebait and Eskimi, we enable our 1,029 local publishers to run advertisements from Eskimi, and as a result, they will be able to earn more and keep improving their work and content as well as their lives."

"This is a proud moment for them and for us as a country. We are taking steps in the right direction and keeping up with global technological advancements," Ofio added.

Seebait is Tanzania's largest advertising platform and network regarding publishers, reach, and ad inventory, launched to enable advertisers to set up and execute digital advertising campaigns efficiently and effectively.

Eskimi is, meanwhile, a full-stack programmatic advertising platform with more than 1.5 billion profiled users globally. The platform offers unique advert creatives, including high-impact and rich media, advanced targeting solutions, a variety of advertising channels & premium ad-ops services.

WORLD

US House poised to vote on urgent debt ceiling suspension

WASHINGTON

LEGISLATION brokered by President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to lift the \$31.4 trillion US debt ceiling and achieve new federal spending cuts passed an important hurdle late on Tuesday, advancing to the full House of Representatives for debate and an expected vote on passage on Wednesday.

The House Rules Committee voted 7-6 to approve the rules allowing debate by the full chamber. Two committee Republicans, Representatives Chip Roy and Ralph Norman, bucked their leadership by opposing the bill.

That vote underscored the need for Democrats to help pass the measure in the House, which is controlled by Republicans with a narrow 222-213 majority.

House passage would send the bill to the Senate. The measure needs congressional approval before June 5, when the Treasury Department could run out of funds to pay its debts for the first time in US history.

If the Treasury Department cannot cover make all its payments, or if it was forced to prioritize payments, that could trigger economic chaos in the US and global economies.

Biden and McCarthy have predicted they will get enough votes to pass the 99-page bill into law before the June 5 deadline.

The non-partisan budget scorekeeper for Congress on Tuesday said the legislation would reduce spending from its current projections by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years beginning in 2024.

The Congressional Budget Office also said the measure, if enacted into law, would reduce interest on the public debt by \$188 billion.

McCarthy called the bill the "most conservative deal we've ever had."

Nevertheless, some of the House's most conservative Republicans who sought far deeper spending reductions were not persuaded and it was unclear how many Democrats McCarthy will need to win Wednesday's anticipated vote on passage.

All four Democrats on the Rules Committee voted against the bill, as they typically do on Republican-backed legislation. It was unclear whether that might influence other Democrats to do the same on Wednesday, even as Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries said his party would provide the support McCarthy needs.

Many Democrats in Congress did not want Biden to engage in budget-cutting negotiations with Republicans until they lifted their hold on enacting a debt limit bill.

Senate battle ahead

White House Budget Director Shalanda Young, who was one of Biden's lead negotiators, urged Congress to



US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (left) looks on as US President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting on the debt ceiling, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on May 22, 2023. The deal reached between the two has passed an important hurdle late on May 30, 2023, advancing to the full House of Representatives for debate and an expected vote on passage on Tuesday. AFP

pass the bill.

"I want to be clear: This agreement represents a compromise, which means no one gets everything that they want and hard choices had to be made," Young told a news conference.

A Senate vote could possibly stretch into the weekend if lawmakers in that chamber try to slow its passage.

At least one senator, Republican Mike Lee, has said he may try to do so, and other Republicans have also expressed discomfort with some aspects of the deal.

The bill would suspend the US debt limit through Jan 1, 2025, allowing Biden and lawmakers to set aside the politically risky issue until after the November 2024 presidential election.

It would also cap some government spending over the next two years, speed up the permitting process for some energy projects, claw back unused COVID-19 funds, and introduce work requirements for food aid programs for some poor Americans.

In another win for Republicans, it would shift some funding away from the Internal Revenue Service, although the White House says that should not undercut tax enforcement.

Biden can point to gains as well. The deal leaves his signature infrastructure and green-energy laws largely intact, and the spending cuts and work requirements are far less than Republicans had sought.

Republicans have argued that steep spending cuts are necessary to curb the growth of the national debt, which at \$31.4 trillion is roughly equal to the annual output of the economy.

Interest payments on that debt are projected to eat up a growing share of the budget as an aging population pushes up health and retirement costs, according to government forecasts. The deal would not do anything to rein in those fast-growing programs.

Most of the savings would come by capping spending on domestic programs like housing, education, scientific research and other forms of "discretionary" spending. Military spending would be allowed to increase over the next two years.

The debt-ceiling standoff prompted ratings agencies to warn that they might downgrade US debt, which underpins the global financial system.

Markets have reacted positively to the agreement so far.

Agencies

India to host SCO summit in virtual format in July

NEW DELHI

INDIA will host a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in a virtual format in July, the external affairs ministry said on Tuesday, adding that heads of state of all members, including Russia, China and Pakistan were invited.

The eight-member bloc's defense and foreign ministers attended in-person meetings in India earlier this year. China's defense minister came to India in April for a meeting of the SCO's defense ministers. Pakistan's foreign minister also visited India earlier this month.

During his visit to India earlier this month, China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang put forward a five-point proposal to build a closer SCO community with a shared future. Qin said China is willing to expand cooperation with other SCO member



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang (fourth right) attends the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Goa, India, May 5, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

states, jointly move forward on the path of national development and revitalization, and work to-

gether toward building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Participants at the meeting spoke highly of the contributions to regional security and develop-

ment made by the SCO as a major regional cooperation platform.

The SCO members said they support Afghanistan in achieving national stability and reconstruction, back the SCO to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations and BRICS countries, defend the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and uphold multilateralism.

They agreed to further strengthen security cooperation and jointly combat terrorism, separatism, drug production and trafficking, and cyber crimes.

They also pledged to enhance cooperation in such areas as transport, energy, finance, investment, free trade, digital economy and environmental protection so as to achieve common development.

The ministerial meeting made full preparations for the SCO summit to be held in New Delhi this summer. India has been the chair since September. *Xinhua*

Russia to send fertilizers to Nigeria for free – Lavrov

BUJUMBURA

MOSCOW intends to deliver a shipment of Russian fertilizers to Nigeria free of charge in the near future, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday at a press conference following his visit to Burundi.

"Last September, President [Vladimir] Putin announced that we were ready to deliver 300,000 tons of our fertilizers,



illegally seized in EU ports, to African countries free of charge. Fully in line with colonial practices and habits, the EU leadership blocked this initiative.

It took us 6 months to get at least the first shipment of 20,000 tons to Malawi, and just recently another shipment of a similar amount of fertilizer was delivered to Kenya.

The same shipment is scheduled to go to Nigeria soon," he said.

All of this comes at the cost of enormous efforts by the World Food Program and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to "overcome the openly Russophobic position of EU members who oppose any initiatives that in one way or another will help developing countries, if such assistance is provided by the Russian side."

Agencies

Iranian, Turkish presidents vow to expand bilateral relations

TEHRAN

IRANIAN President Ebrahim Raisi and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday expressed willingness and determination to expand bilateral relations and regional cooperation, according to a statement published on the website of the Iranian president's office.

In a phone conversation, Raisi congratulated Erdogan on his re-election as Türkiye's president, expressing hope that the two sides could further strengthen cooperation in the economic, political, security, cultural, and trade sectors during Erdogan's new term.

Referring to the "effective role" of the two countries' regional cooperation in ensuring and improving regional stability and security, Raisi called for the acceleration of such collaboration to safeguard the interests of regional states.

Erdogan, on his part, said Türkiye's relations with Iran in different areas will "definitely" continue with greater strength.

He voiced Ankara's willingness to continue regional cooperation with Tehran to achieve "positive and effective" outcomes in terms of ensuring stability in the region.

Erdogan also voiced his country's interest in expanding economic and trade cooperation with Iran.

Erdogan was re-elected Türkiye's president in a runoff election on Sunday by winning 52.14 percent of the votes, securing another five-year term.

Raisi on Sunday sent a congratulatory message to Erdogan on his election victory, expressing confidence that the bilateral "friendly" relations will be further strengthened during his new term in office on the basis of the two countries' strong historical, cultural and religious links, good neighborliness, mutual respect for one another and common interests.



This handout photograph taken and released on July 19, 2022 by Turkish Presidential press office shows Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) and Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi giving a press conference after the 7th Meeting of the Turkey-Iran High Level Cooperation Council at the Sadabat Palace in Tehran, Iran. The two leaders on May 30, 2023 expressed willingness and determination to expand bilateral relations and regional cooperation. AFP

Time is now for Sweden to join NATO - Blinken

LULEA



THE United States has urged Turkey to approve Sweden's NATO membership, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken declaring that "the time is now" for the northern European country to join the alliance, Al Jazeera reported.

On Tuesday, the senior US diplomat said Sweden has been eligible to join NATO "from day one" and has made considerable steps to address Turkey's "legitimate" security concerns. He was speaking alongside Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. Blinken (pictured) told reporters in the northern Swedish city of Lulea, "From the perspective of the United States, the time is now to finalise Sweden's accession."

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year, Sweden and neighbouring Finland began seeking NATO membership. The alliance is commanded by the United States, and has a collective defence pact, meaning an attack on one member is considered an attack on all.

To allow new countries into NATO, all members must agree. Finland joined the alliance officially last month, while Sweden's application is still pending, according to Al Jazeera.

Hungary and Turkey have yet to ratify Sweden's accession, though Ankara is considered as the primary hurdle. Turkey has accused Sweden of harbouring members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which it regards as a "terrorist" group. Turkey, Sweden, and Finland signed a so-called trilateral memorandum in June of last year to address Ankara's concerns about banned armed organisations.

Turkey, on the other hand, claims that Sweden has not met all of its commitments under the agreement. An Islamophobic Quran-burning protest in Stockholm in January, which the government condemned, further soured relations between the two countries, as per Al Jazeera. *ANI*

Zambian start-up installs public charging stations to accelerate sustainable transportation

LUSAKA

IT is an established fact that one of the answers to climate change is the switch from gasoline-powered vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs).

This is because EVs are known to be environmentally friendly unlike internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs), whose emissions affect air quality and contribute to global warming.

Despite the benefits of EVs to individuals and the environment, many

people in Zambia still prefer buying gasoline-powered vehicles.

One of the reasons for this is the lack of access to public charging facilities for EVs. It is against this backdrop that Subilo Energy, a start-up company specializing in the manufacturing and selling of green and renewable energy products, has so far put in place two public charging stations in Lusaka, Zambia's capital.

The stations are the first-ever to be built in Zambia that operate on a pay-as-you-go basis.

According to Gregory Chama, the CEO of Subilo Energy, the setting up of public charging stations is meant to make access to charging facilities for those with EVs easier and to encourage more people in Zambia to buy EVs.

"We did a study prior to installing public charging points in January this year, and results revealed that a good number of people were willing to purchase EVs if they can be assured of accessing efficient charging stations," Chama said.

Chama further revealed that Subilo Energy plans to set up about 10 public charging stations in Lusaka in the next years and later roll out the program to other towns and cities.

"Zambia and other African countries are home to millions of gasoline-driven vehicles, which, on a daily basis, emit tonnes of carbon emissions into the atmosphere and cause global warming and adverse weather patterns.

Having a lot more EVs than ICEVs on our roads can help address these

challenges," Chama explained.

Jonathan Mulinda, a Lusaka resident who owns a hybrid car and has been using the Subilo Energy charging station for about four months, said the experience has been excellent.

Mulinda, 33, lauded Subilo Energy for setting up the charging stations, saying the idea is helping him to cut down on transport costs.

"I use only 9.5 Zambian Kwacha (about 0.49 U.S. dollars) to charge my vehicle's electric propulsion sys-

tem. With that, I am able to cover a distance of 70 kilometers. With gasoline, I would use 125 Zambian Kwacha to cover 70 kilometers." Mulinda said he was prompted to buy a hybrid vehicle almost a year ago because of the need to cut down on transport and vehicle maintenance costs.

"I also care about the environment. I know hybrid vehicles and EVs are a bit more expensive when buying, but it's worth it in the long run."

Hosting G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir will put Union Territory on International tourism map - Report

SRINAGAR

INDIA hosting a G20 meeting in Srinagar is an effort to restore the legacy of the Kashmir Valley as a destination for international tourism which also offers extraordinary touristic delights, according to Scoop.

Scoop is a New Zealand Internet news site run by Scoop Media Limited According to Scoop, the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting from May 22 - 24 in Srinagar came at a critical time when the Valley of Kashmir has been making persistent efforts to bounce back on the map of international tourism as an abode for domestic and international travellers.

During the meeting, Srinagar was lined with fluttering posters, welcoming the delegates from different countries to what is aptly described as a paradise.

Kashmir, because of its scenic beauty, has been a favorite among domestic and international tourists. Its mouthwatering delicacies and, most importantly, an eclectic mix of cultures presents the region as an enchanting cultural mosaic.

However, in recent years, the geopolitical din and the shadow of extremism have prevented Kashmir from making the most of its tourism economy, necessitating efforts to overcome the hurdles that keep Kashmir from thriving as "the warmest place on earth", according to Scoop.

As per Scoop, the G20 Tourism meeting was a step in the right direction. As the first international, "big-ticket" event to be organized in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370, the messaging could not have been any clearer.

From the calming rides on the wooden shikaras to sensing the whiffs of fresh, blooming tulips, experiences that had, unfortunately, been confined to old photos and memories, are now once again open for public consumption with the successful conclusion of the G20 meeting.

Meanwhile, talking about the G20 meeting in Srinagar, a resident of Ganderbal said, "We hope this will promote tourism...We also hope that such programs are held frequently and that people come here often...Foreign tourists will come and this will end unemployment here...Now, the entire country knows that Kashmiris are good hosts and we welcomed the delegates openheartedly..."

Kashmiris welcomed the G20 meetings which will boost the tourism and business sector in Kashmir. The delegates are scheduled to visit the various famous places in Srinagar. **ANI**

Nato to send 700 more troops to Kosovo after clashes

LONDON

NATO is to deploy an additional 700 troops to Kosovo after 30 Nato peacekeepers and 52 protesters were hurt in clashes on Monday.

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the attacks were "unacceptable" and "must stop".

Police and Nato troops clashed with Serb protesters in north Kosovo, where there has been unrest over the installation of ethnic Albanian mayors.

Protesters had tried to invade a government building in Zvecan.

The crisis dates back to April, when ethnic Serbs boycotted local elections in north Kosovo - allowing ethnic Albanians to take control of local councils with a turnout of less than 4%.

Both the European Union and United States have accused the Kosovan authorities of destabilising the situation in north Kosovo, and warned against any actions that could inflame ethnic tensions there.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in February 2008, after years of strained relations between its Serb and mainly Albanian inhabitants.

It has been recognised by the US and major EU countries - but Serbia, backed by its powerful ally Russia, refuses to do so - as do most ethnic Serbs inside Kosovo.

While ethnic Albanians make up more than 90% of the population in Kosovo as a whole, Serbs form the majority of the population in the northern region.

Their injuries included fractures and burns from improvised explosive incendiary devices. Three soldiers were also wounded by firearms.

Serbia and Kosovo's leaders have traded accusations over the violent scenes.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said Kosovan PM Albin Kurti "alone is responsible" for the disturbances.

In return, Mr Kurti claimed the protesters in Zvecan were "a bunch of extremists under the direction of official Belgrade".

Mr Stoltenberg of Nato said the military alliance strongly condemned "the unprovoked attacks against KFOR troops", in reference to Nato's peacekeeping force in Kosovo.

But ethnic Serbs in north Kosovo have criticised KFOR for failing to prevent armed Kosovo police from forcing their way into municipal buildings and removing Serbian flags.

Tuesday's announcement from Nato provides a significant boost to KFOR's numbers. The 700 additional troops will join the 3,800 who are already on duty in Kosovo.

An additional reserve battalion has been placed on standby and will be ready to deploy within seven days, if required.

KFOR's mission is to guarantee the safety and freedom of movement of everyone in Kosovo, regardless of their ethnicity.

So the new troops will face considerable expectations from both sides after this week's disturbances.

Agencies

China's economic rebound, technological development will benefit more Africans

ACCRA

CHINA'S rapid economic recovery and technological development will bring more benefits to African people, a Ghanaian politician has said.

Speaking to Xinhua in a recent interview, Kwaku Amponsah Asiana, the executive and political assistant to the general secretary of Ghana's ruling New Patriotic Party, said the viewpoint is anchored in his close observation in China, life and work experiences in Africa, and confidence in the evolving cooperation between the two sides.

In April, Asiana participated in the 7th China-Africa Youth Festival held in China as the sole representative of Ghanaian youths, during which he visited different Chinese cities and projects for the first time and shared his thoughts on China-Africa cooperation with other representatives.

"It was one of the best experiences I've had in my life as an individual. I was quite impressed with everything that I saw in China, and how things have been put in place in China," he said, praising the country for its hospitality, amicable environment, and vibrant economy.

Asiana said he is struck by the splendor of the Great Wall and Mount Taishan, and the scene of tourists at home and abroad now flocking to those well-known tourist attractions, mirroring a boom in China's tourism industry.

According to him, the recovery of the tourism sector bodes well for China's economy as it could fuel growth in many other sectors such as catering, hospitality and transportation.

"I must commend China for this; it is obviously still one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Things are back on track, and they're moving with a very high speed to make sure that things get to the very normal level," Asiana said.

Describing China's high-speed train as top-notch, Asiana said he was amazed at how Chinese people have leveraged their wisdom and creativity to solve residents' travel problems in the process of urbanization, which also offered a valuable experi-



Kwaku Amponsah Asiana, the executive and political assistant to the general secretary of Ghana's ruling New Patriotic Party, speaks in an interview in Accra, Ghana, on May 10, 2023. China's rapid economic recovery and technological development will bring more benefits to African people, a Ghanaian politician has said. Xinhua

ence to Africa, a continent with huge numbers of people facing various challenges in transportation.

"If you look at the quality of roads being constructed (by Chinese) in most of these African countries, there is no difference from what we see in China," he said, stressing that this trip bolstered his idea that Chinese-built projects always deliver one of the best qualities under the Belt and Road initiative.

As a crop science major, Asiana has always been itching to study China's agricultural technology and how it is being applied to feed a country with a population of 1.4 billion. Finally, the trip allowed him to take a closer look at China's agricultural development.

"China has the machinery, technology, and equipment to be able to cultivate arable crops, vegetables, or fruits in large

quantities or on a large scale production," Asiana said, noting that China's advancement in agriculture could benefit African countries like Ghana, which urgently needs to revamp its traditional farming.

"We have the rainy season and the dry season here in Ghana. So once we are out of the rainy season, how could we be able to irrigate our lands? It will need a huge irrigation system and technology to be able to cultivate (the crops)," he said.

Asiana voiced his hope that more agricultural cooperation could be achieved between the two countries to enable more low-income Ghanaian farmers to benefit from the boom in modern technology.

Asiana said the trip also reinforced his idea of being a narrator of Chinese stories in Africa. "I think that the best thing is to talk about it. The more we talk about it, the more people get to know about China."

Xinhua

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrives in San Francisco as part of his 10-day US tour

SAN FRANCISCO

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi arrived in San Francisco, US on Tuesday.

Rahul Gandhi is on a 10-day visit to the country. He will cover three cities-- San Francisco, Washington DC, and New York. During his visit to San Francisco from May 30-31, Rahul will interact with the Indian diaspora, venture capitalists, tech executives and students at Silicon Valley.

As per the itinerary of Rahul's visit, shared with media persons, he will interact with senior technology executives from Silicon Valley on artificial intelligence.

He will also address a lecture at California's Stanford University before meeting with the Indian diaspora in the evening on May 31.

In Washington DC from June 1-2, he will speak at the National Press Club on the future of Indian democracy, freedom of speech, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

He will also hold meetings with the lawmakers and think tanks in Washington DC.

Rahul Gandhi will attend a din-

ner hosted by Indian-American entrepreneur Frank Islam and top business leaders, Senators and Congressmen.

During his visit to New York from June 3-4, he will hold meetings with thinkers at the Harvard Club at Harvard University, participate in a lunch event and meet a set of successful Indian-Americans in the creative industry, and address a public gathering at the Javits Center in New York.

This comes soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-nation-Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia- concluded.

Earlier on Sunday, the Congress leader had received a new ordinary passport, after surrendering the old diplomatic passport issued to him when he was a member of Parliament.

On Friday, the Rouse Avenue Court of Delhi partly allowed an application moved by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi seeking a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the issuance of a fresh ordinary passport.

The Court granted No Objection Certificate (NOC) for a Passport to Rahul Gandhi for 3 years.

ANI



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrives at party president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Volatile ceasefire extended in Sudan as relevant parties seek to resolve conflict

KHARTOUM/RIYADH

THE Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on Monday agreed to a five-day extension of a cease-fire agreement they signed on May 20, as relevant parties, including the African Union (AU), are hammering out a road map to ending the protracted conflict.

While the two hostile sides affirmed commitment to allowing the safe passage of civilians from conflict areas and protecting civilian supplies, the truce has been constantly breached during the cease-fire period, impeding humanitarian access and restoration of genuine stability.

The Agreement on a Short-Term Cease-fire and Humanitarian Arrangements was reached through negotiations that started on May 6 in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah under a Saudi-U.S. initiative with the aim of ending the conflict in Sudan and facilitating access of humanitarian aid to civilians.

The seven-day truce, which entered into force on May 22, was scheduled to expire at 9:45 p.m. local time (1945 GMT) on Monday. Not long after the agreement took effect, sporadic clashes were reported between the army and the RSF.

In a statement last week, Saudi Arabia and the United States, two brokers of the agreement, said that the cease-fire monitoring mechanism detected serious breaches of the agreement. As relevant parties were working on the extension on Monday, violent clashes broke out in Sudan's capital Khartoum.

According to eyewitnesses, the clashes took place in Omdurman and Bahri (Khartoum North) cities, where the Sudanese Army launched airstrikes on RSF sites in the two cities, while the RSF responded with an-



This photo taken on April 15, 2023 shows smoke rising in Khartoum, capital of Sudan. (Photo by Mohamed Khidir/Xinhua)

ti-aircraft missiles.

Saudi Arabia and the United States said in a statement after the extension was agreed upon that even though the ceasefire was "imperfectly observed," an extension still can provide time for further humanitarian assistance, restoration of essential services, and discussion of a potential longer-term extension. To help restore peace in the country, the AU adopted the Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan.

The roadmap was adopted during the AU

Peace and Security Council meeting that was held at the heads of state and government level on Saturday, focusing on the situation in Sudan, the AU said in a communique issued on Sunday.

The roadmap outlined six elements that include the establishment of a coordination mechanism to ensure all efforts by the regional and global actors are harmonized and impactful; an immediate, permanent, inclusive and comprehensive cessation of hostilities; and an effective humanitarian response.

The high-level meeting underscored the overriding importance of a single, inclusive and consolidated peace process for Sudan, coordinated under the joint auspices of the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States and the United Nations, along with like-minded partners.

"The council, with deep concern, strongly condemns the ongoing senseless and unjustified conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, which has resulted in an unprecedented dire humanitarian situation, indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians," the statement said.

The deadly armed clashes which erupted on April 15 have inflicted heavy loss upon the country. According to a report of the Sudanese Doctors Syndicate on Sunday, the casualty toll of civilians since the beginning of the clashes has climbed to 866 deaths and 3,721 injuries.

The United Nations said in a statement on Monday that the Sudan conflict is already driving displacement and hunger.

"More than one million citizens and refugees are expected to flee the country, while an additional 2.5 million inside its borders are set to face acute hunger in the coming months," said the statement, requiring "urgent" action from the international community.

According to media reports, more than 350,000 people have already fled into neighbouring countries, with most heading to Egypt, Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said on Saturday that Egypt has received so far 150,000 Sudanese citizens fleeing the ongoing conflict, besides already hosting five million Sudanese.



Yanga goalie, Djigui Diarra.

Diarra strong favourite for 2022/23 NBC Premier League golden glove award

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's keeper Djigui Diarra has automatically won the race for the 2022/23 NBC Premier League golden glove prize after yet another impressive season.

The Malian shot-stopper has, once again, recorded more clean sheets than any other goalie in the showdown this season with two games left.

For the second season running, Diarra boasts 16 clean sheets, outshining six-time winner Aishi Manula now with 12 clean sheets.

Manula sustained an injury halfway through the season to drop from the race for the prize.

Had Manula been fit, the chase for the golden glove award could have been tight.

Manula and Diarra are lately role models in the NBC Premier League, inspiring the up-and-coming shot-stoppers.

The Malian goalie has had a tremendous run since he landed at the Jangwani Street side and besides making saves, soccer pundits acknowledged him for his sharp footwork.

Moreover, he can orchestrate his outfit's build-ups - he is a complete package and it is not surprising he recently sealed a two-year deal to continue serving the club.

With two games left before winding up the eventful season, Diarra enjoys 16 clean sheets to his name, making

him a key contender for the top accolade presented to the top-flight best keeper.

Vying for the best goalkeeper award in the upcoming TFF Awards is Diarra with 16 clean sheets, Aishi Manula (Simba SC) 12, and Benedict Haule (Singida Big Stars) that has posted six clean sheets.

Since Manula picked an injury and was out of action for the rest of the season, his counterpart Diarra extended his chances to win the award.

Azam FC's Ali Ahamada enjoys eight clean sheets to occupy the third place, while Yanga's other goalkeeper Metacha Mnata is sitting fourth with seven clean sheets.

Benedict Haule (Singida Big Stars), Mohamed Mrovili (Coastal Union), Fikirini Bakari (Ithefu SC), and Saidi Kipao (Kagera Sugar) have recorded six clean sheets each.

Finishing the game without conceding a goal is not an easy task - fulfilling the feat is a cumbersome responsibility bearing in mind that the opponents are also hunting for the achievement.

The mentioned goalies have helped their teams win matches at the ending season, which is good for them.

Next season, the marathon for the golden glove honour will likely be competitive as goalkeepers will be keen on efficiently battling for it by ensuring that they record as many clean sheets as possible.

Does Yanga have Fiston Mayele's replacement?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, was recently asked if the club will be able to keep Congolese talisman Fiston Kalala Mayele after the goal-getter had yet another impressive season. Mayele's future was also a subject of discussion, with football big guns in several parts of the continent rumoured they are after his signature.

The Yanga coach revealed: "I am happy for him and how he is performing. I signed him from (DR Congo's) AS Vita, and I am glad he has repaid the faith I had in him."

"He has a year left on his contract, and of course, there is so much interest in him, but hopefully, he can stay," Nabi stated.

Nabi is aware of the threat Yanga faces in either losing Mayele to soccer big guns or having to pay him more when he sees off his contract next season.

Big teams with great financial muscles will look for his stats in his previous seasons, they will analyze and see Mayele boast six goals in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

They will realize that he is a top goal scorer in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League. This season he is leading the race for the top flight's top goal scorer's prize.

Last season he was just one goal adrift of Tanzanian goal-getter George Mpole then featuring for Geita Gold FC - that notched 17 goals to grab the prize.



Yanga's goal-getter, Fiston Mayele.

Before arriving in Tanzania, Mayele finished second in the goal scorers' list in his last season with AS Vita Club. The past is probably just adding to his profile.

Above all, if a player has the footballer's goals in one video clip, he/she will realize that the out-and-out striker is a pure goal scorer.

Yanga should prepare to receive a good offer from a club wealthier than it that will need Mayele.

When I say a club above Yanga, I hardly mean a club that was founded before it, I imply a club that has a bigger income than Yanga.

Such a club is not the one that has won more titles in its country than Yanga has done in Tanzania, the outfit may be a new club like Pyramids FC but has more money than Yanga.

There will be a test for Yanga's leaders - they will desire to do business but will be keen on retaining Mayele.

One of the reasons that will prompt the officials

to be keen on sealing the deal is the fact that they probably got Mayele cheaply and then suddenly someone puts 700,000 dollars on the table for the forward.

They will ask each other about the goal of staying with a player like him, right away it nevertheless should be remembered that the player has interests.

The club seeking his services can offer him a salary of 30,000 dollars per month (69m/-). Is Mayele paid such an amount of money at Yanga? What about his terms? What would Yanga do should the attacker ask for 200,000 dollars?

A soccer lover can agree with Yanga if they reject such an offer, such a decision should come about because Mayele is one of the reasons why the club garnered a lot of money from CAF so far.

Every step the Jangwani Street side has taken up to this point has brought in a lot of money.

The problem will boil down to fighting for the player's terms.

Most of the time a club is forced to let its footballer go where he wants to because the squad cannot compete with the teams that have offered a salary of 25,000 dollars per month for the footballer.

This is where the big fish eats the small fish, it has also been like this even in domestic football.

Modest clubs are forced to lose their best players to Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC because they cannot pay what these prominent sides put on the table to settle such footballers' terms.

The worst thing for Yanga when it comes to Mayele is that there are few attackers in the world recently.

Few strikers can guarantee an outfit six goals in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Yanga cannot hide Mayele for long, lately, several teams are looking for his signature.

He has successfully promoted his potential, recently he enjoyed the spotlight during Yanga's rematch for the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup last-four tie against South Africa's Marumo Gallants that took place in the latter's backyard.

There are wealthy outfits that do not have fear-some attackers...the likes of South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs, Mamelodi Sundowns, Orlando Pirates, and others.

The worst thing for Yanga is that if the side sells Mayele, it will have trouble filling the void left by the attacker.

This is the biggest problem in Tanzania's football market at the moment, a club might sell well but will then face the problem of get-

ting a better replacement.

This problem exists especially when clubs have strikers like Mayele and agile goalkeepers. Finding mature players that can quickly adapt to the environment is rare.

After enjoying success in the CAF Confederation Cup, Yanga will be out to keep on enjoying success for a long time.

One of the biggest battles the squad will face is keeping the best players like Mayele.

This is where the club is judged on whether it has entered the list of prominent clubs or not.

There is a difference between a high-profile club and an old club. The oldest club is the one that was established long ago.

Simba SC and Yanga were lately assessed when prominent outfits on the continent - RS Berkane of Morocco and Al Ahly of Egypt knocked on the former's door asking for Luis Miquissone, Clatous Chama, and Tuisila Kisinda, neither Simba SC nor Yanga dared to stop the ballers from leaving.

Domestic soccer followers hardly know what will happen if the door is knocked right now, especially if an outfit will seek Mayele's sign.

Yanga members and followers will want to know if the side's leaders have what it takes to ensure the team continues flourishing without a striker of his caliber.

There are few competent attackers in both domestic football and Africa. If a domestic soccer club lets its top goal-getter leave, it should not expect to easily find an equally efficient forward.

Morogoro junior tennis players shine in Arusha tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MOROGORO junior tennis players have performed well in the just-ended Eddies Kiddies showdown which took place at Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC) recently.

Tennis coach Harun Samwel, who trains the Morogoro juniors, said his charges performed well in the tournament which attracted more than 100 juniors.

He said the Morogoro juniors emerged winners in U-6 Boys and Girls categories and U-8 Boys category.

The coach mentioned Amatullah Bhajjee as the winner in the U-6 Girls category, Burhanuddin Dossaji as the winner in U-6 Boys, and Saifuddin Bhajjee as the winner in the U-8 Boys category.

"We are happy with the performance of our junior players, it means that we are doing well in grooming our juniors who will be future players of the national team," he said.

This was the 15th successive year the showdown took place, involving U-6, U-8, U-10, U-14, U-16, and U-18 categories for both boys and girls.

The Eddies Kiddies junior tournament is vital to the development of the sport in the country, with the

organizers saying it allows juniors to compete against each other.

Tennis is a racket sport that is played either individually against a single opponent (singles) or between two teams of two players each (doubles).

Each player uses a tennis racket that is strung with a cord to strike a hollow rubber ball covered with felt over or around a net and into the opponent's court.

The object of the game is to maneuver the ball in such a way that the opponent is not able to play a valid return.

The player who is unable to return the ball validly will not gain a point, while the opposite player will. Tennis is an Olympic sport and is played at all levels of society and all ages.

The sport can be played by anyone who can hold a racket, including wheelchair users.

The original forms of tennis developed in France during the late Middle Ages.

The modern form of tennis originated in Birmingham, England, in the late 19th century as lawn tennis.

It had close connections both to various field (lawn) games such as croquet and bowls as well as to the older racket sport today called real tennis.



Morogoro tennis youngsters are pictured with their coach, Harun Samwel, when they took part in this year's Eddies Kiddies tournament that took place in Arusha. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Juventus fined, avoid points deduction in false accounting trial

MILAN

JUVENTUS escaped an additional Serie A points deduction but agreed to pay a fine of more than 700,000 euros (\$751,000) for lying about players foregoing wages during the Covid-19 pandemic after a plea bargain approved Tuesday by the Italian Football Federation tribunal.

The plea deal, which Juventus had requested, brings to an end a series of cases in Italy's sporting courts involving the Turin club.

Last week they were given a 10-point deduction in Serie A after a revision of their initial 15-point penalty inflicted on the club over illicit transfer activity.

Juventus have agreed not to appeal that penalty as part of Tuesday's deal.

The disciplinary tribunal of the Italian federation (FIGC) said in a published decision that it had fined the troubled club 718,240 euros, while seven of its management figures were ordered to pay fines ranging from 47,000 euros to 10,000 euros.

Excluded from the plea agreement, however, is former chairman Andrea Agnelli, who jointly requested along with prosecutors that his hearing be postponed to June 15, given what the tribunal called "advanced talks" on potential sanctions.

The federation had been tasked with considering the deferred payment of certain players' wages by the club and its key figures, as part of a wide-ranging scandal involving false accounting and transfer trickery that has rocked Italian football.

Newspaper La Stampa, which, like Juventus, is owned by the Agnelli family, wrote on Tuesday that the club had accepted the deal to avoid another points deduction, which could have pushed it further away from the European places in Serie A.

Juventus are seventh in Serie A with one game of the season remaining, after the imposition of the 10-point deduction.

If they hold that position on the final day, they will qualify for next season's Europa Conference League, but they still have a chance of finishing as high as fifth and going into the Europa League.

Juve faces separate criminal proceedings in the affair, with 12 current and former key club figures including former chairman Agnelli potentially facing trial.

- Losses artificially reduced -

The plea bargain agreed Tuesday relates to the Turin club having communicated that players were giving up salary payments during the pandemic in 2020, while privately assuring those players they would only miss out on a portion of what was publicly announced.

AFP

Sports minister: Djokovic must abstain from political messages at French Open

PARIS

FRENCH Sports minister Amelie Oudea-Castera said Wednesday that Novak Djokovic's political message about Kosovo was "not appropriate" and warned the former top-ranked Serb player that he should not do it again.

Speaking on TV station France 2, Oudea-Castera said French Open director Amelie Mauresmo spoke with Djokovic and his entourage to insist on the principle of "neutrality" on the field of play.

"When it comes to defending human rights and bringing people together around universal values, a sports person is free to do so," she said. But Oudea-Castera added that Djokovic's message was "militant, very political" and "must not be repeated."

Djokovic has drawn criticism from Kosovo's tennis federation after offering his thoughts on clashes in northern Kosovo between ethnic Serbs and police and NATO peacekeepers.

After a first-round victory in Paris on Monday, Djokovic wrote in Serbian on the lens of a court-side TV camera: "Kosovo is the heart of Serbia. Stop the violence."

Kosovo's tennis federation said Tuesday that Djokovic's comments were "deplorable" because he was stoking tensions between Serbia and Kosovo.

A former province of Serbia, Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence is not recognized by Belgrade. Ethnic Albanians make up most of the population, but Kosovo has a restive Serb minority in the north of the country bordering Serbia.

Djokovic, who has won 22 Grand Slam titles, is scheduled to play in the second round at Roland Garros on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters in Serbian, Djokovic said Monday that he thought what he wrote on the TV camera was "the least I could do. I feel responsibility as a public figure... as well as a son of a man who was born in Kosovo."

Without mentioning Djokovic by name, French Open organizers indicated in a statement issued Tuesday that no rules had been broken, saying: "Occasionally, discussions about international news events enter the realm of the tournament, which is understandable."

AP

The NBA Finals are set: It's the Heat and the Nuggets for the Larry O'Brien Trophy

By TIM REYNOLDS

CANCEL that flight plan, Denver. Turns out, the NBA Finals are starting in the Mile High City after all.

And Jimmy Butler was proven right.

Finally, we have a title-series matchup: The Miami Heat, champions of the Eastern Conference even after getting in as only the No. 8 seed, will take on the Western Conference champion Nuggets in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. The series starts in Denver on Thursday night.

The Heat got there by winning Game 7 of the East title series in Boston on Monday night. It came one year to the day after the Celtics won a Game 7 on Miami's floor to win the East title a year ago.

"Next year, we will have enough and we're going to be right back in the same situation, and we're going to get it done," Butler vowed that night.

The Heat made those words prophetic.

The Nuggets had a flight to Boston tentatively scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, just in case they would be facing the Celtics — who would have had home-court advantage in the title series.

But the Heat had other ideas, won the deciding game to avoid becoming the first team in NBA his-



Denver Nuggets head coach Michael Malone holds the conference championship trophy after Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series against the Los Angeles Lakers Monday, May 22, 2023, in Los Angeles. Denver won 113-111 to win the series. (AP Photo)

tory to fall after claiming a 3-0 series lead, and Nikola Jokic and the Nuggets now await. The Heat are in the finals for the seventh time and seeking their fourth championship; the Nuggets are in the finals for the first time in franchise history.

"When we wake up tomorrow morning, we know who we're playing," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Monday, a few hours before the Celtics and Heat tipped off in Game 7. "We know who we're preparing for and we can kind of turn the page and really focus in on that. The Eastern Conference finals has been a hell of a series."

Malone will try to win an NBA title for the first time, and if Denver prevails he'll become the 36th coach in league history to win a championship. Miami's Erik Spoelstra is seeking his third title as a head coach; if he wins it, he'd join only Phil Jackson, Red Auerbach, Heat President Pat Riley, John Kundla, Gregg Popovich and Steve Kerr as three-time champion coaches.

Denver hasn't faced any real trouble yet in these playoffs. The Nuggets are 12-3 in the playoffs, winners of their last six games — and grabbed control of their matchups against Minnesota in Round 1, Phoenix in Round 2 and the Lakers in the West finals right away.

Two-time MVP Jokic averaged a triple-double against both the Suns and the Lakers, and enters these finals averaging 29.9 points, 13.3 rebounds and 10.3 assists per game. One of his signature moves of late has been pointing to his ring finger while looking at his family; he's now four wins away from the piece of jewelry he wants most.

"Nikola is still a humble, selfless person and he cares about home, he cares about family, he cares about his horses — the guy is just who he is," Malone said. "I couldn't have more respect for him as a man because of that."

A week ago, Miami was in position to do what Denver did — get to the finals with a sweep. It's almost like the Heat forgot they were a 44-38 team that needed two play-in games just to get into the playoffs; they ousted

No. 1 overall seed Milwaukee in Round 1, got past New York in Round 2 and then avenged last season's loss to Boston in the East finals by somehow going onto the Celtics' home floor and winning a Game 7 to avoid the permanent stench of being the first team in NBA history to waste a 3-0 series lead.

"Everybody rallied around each other," Heat center Bam Adebayo said.

Miami has three players with championships — Udonis Haslem has been part of all three Heat titles, Kevin Love won a championship with Cleveland and Kyle Lowry got a ring with Toronto. The Nuggets have one champion on their roster; Denver's Kentavious Caldwell-Pope got one with the Lakers at the NBA's restart bubble in 2020 against the Heat.

Also back from that Heat finals team: Butler, Adebayo, Duncan Robinson, Tyler Herro and Gabe Vincent. The only Denver player besides Caldwell-Pope with finals experience is Jeff Green, who played in

the title series alongside Love with Cleveland in 2018.

So, most players will be seeking their first ring. Haslem is trying to end his career with a fourth, and Lowry is among the lucky few who are trying to smudge the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the second time.

He remembers how long it took him in 2019, after the Raptors won their title, to start thinking about winning his next one.

"Maybe like the day after," Lowry said. "And every champion, every NBA champion, would tell you this: There's a high that you never have felt and you want that high again. And there's nothing like that."

Denver swept both games against Miami in the regular season. And both sides will inevitably say that those games won't matter much starting Thursday.

"The Heat are playing an unbelievable high level," Malone said. "Jimmy Butler, what he's been doing since Round 1 against Milwaukee, continued that Round 2 against New York and now what he's doing against Boston is just historical in nature. And Erik Spoelstra... obviously Spo is one of the best coaches in the league, someone who I have a tremendous amount of respect for as a coach but also just as a friend." AP

A year later, LIV Golf is fitting into golf landscape as an island

By DOUG FERGUSON

THE catchphrase at LIV Golf seems to have changed in recent months to a bolder tone. Gone is Greg Norman's tired pitch that "Golf is a force for good." More common these days is the pronouncement that "We're not going anywhere."

That appears to be true. Much to the chagrin of the PGA Tour, there is no indication the Saudi-funded league is about to fold.

But is it going anywhere?

LIV Golf in just one year has managed to fit into the golf landscape, even if it remains on an island. The majors have played the most significant role in this process by doing what's best for them — and for golf — and leaving their criteria alone.

Otherwise, LIV Golf marches on to its own beat, a legitimate league with top players that doesn't look like any of the other tours except for 14 clubs in the bag. It's appealing to some, unappetizing to others, and the decision to watch is open to all.

There have been LIV events in Arizona and Oklahoma, Florida and Virginia, the same group of 48 players (with occasional withdrawals for injury and capable substitutes) playing for a \$4 million winner's check, sparkling wine sprayed for the winning team, music blaring and then it's on to the next town.



Former President Donald Trump, Greg Norman, LIV Golf CEO, right, and Paul Myler, deputy head of mission for the Australian Embassy in Washington, left, watch the second round of the LIV Golf at Trump National Golf Club, Saturday, May 27, 2023, in Sterling, Va. (AP Photo)

Golf as a whole only suffers because a small group of the best players at LIV — such as Brooks Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau and Cameron Smith — don't get to compete more than four times a year against the much larger group of the best on the PGA Tour.

Koepka winning the PGA Championship — and leading after 54 holes at the Masters — was more about the return of Koepka to good health and major mojo than it was the viability and validation of LIV Golf.

Smith said it best at Oak Hill: "We haven't forgotten how to play golf. We're all great golfers out there, and we know what we can do, and I think that's what we're trying to do."

It was one year ago on Tuesday that an email from LIV Golf announced its initial roster of players, with Johnson being the biggest shock because he was

(is) among golf's biggest talent, who only a few months earlier said he was fully committed to the PGA Tour.

The inaugural event was a week later outside London. More defections followed (Koepka, DeChambeau), and then came the antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour by 11 players — all of whom have removed themselves as plaintiffs and turned it over to LIV.

The lawsuit and the tour's countersuit are caught up in discovery disputes in federal court. Any trial is more than a year away. To no one's surprise, attorneys might be making more money than the combined LIV Golf earnings of Danny Lee and Pat Perez. It's a lot.

Another thing that surprised no one: PGA Tour players are benefiting as much as anyone.

The Memorial was an elite tournament with a \$12 million purse last year. Now it's one of eight elevated events that offer \$20 million in prize money, and that doesn't include \$20 million prize funds at the FedEx Cup playoff events or a bump to \$25 million at The Players Championship.

Jordan Spieth was among those who saw this coming, even if he didn't know the details.

It was at Kapalua in January 2022 when Spieth said, "For us players... it's been something that has kind of helped the PGA Tour sit and say, 'Hey, where can we look to satisfy our membership and potentially make some changes going forward?'"

The tour returns to a traditional calendar schedule in 2024 — January to August, with a choice to play the rest of the year without the risk of starting too far be-

hind. There will be eight elevated events (not including the majors or postseason) with smaller fields that are still determined by performance, keeping the crucial meritocracy in golf.

None of this would have happened without LIV.

Golf is a force for good, all right. With three months left in the season, Scottie Scheffler (\$14.9 million) and Jon Rahm (\$14.5 million) already have set the record for single-season earnings.

The issue for LIV Golf is measuring its relevance beyond money.

The problem is not a 48-man field. The Tour Championship only has 30 players, and the BMW Championship this year will have a 50-man field. But on the PGA Tour, those fields are derived from a membership of more than 150 players who start each year with no guarantees. AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

The NBA Finals are set: It's the Heat and the Nuggets for the Larry O'Brien Trophy

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Yanga regroups with high morale for CAF CC final rematch with USMA



Tanzania's Yanga left-back Lomalisa Mutambala (R) negotiates his way past Algeria's USM Alger midfielder Akram Djahit during the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Young Africans SC resumed training with high morale despite suffering a 2-1 defeat at the hands of USM Alger of Algeria in the first leg of their 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final on Sunday.

Following the home loss at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Young Africans SC, nicknamed Yanga, will need a victory of more than two goals to progress, while a 2-1 normal time win will force the game to extra time and penalties.

Yanga's team manager

Walter Harrison said that morale is high in the camp and the entire team remains confident in its abilities as they regroup for the second leg to be held in Algiers on Saturday.

The manager pointed out: "We have recovered a little bit and have resumed training for the return game against USM Alger. The important thing to note is that the players are focused and very positive despite losing the first leg against USM Al-

ger." The official revealed: "They are positive, they believe they can correct the shortcomings that were exposed on Sunday and be able to do well in the return game."

"The technical bench feels the same way, they are positive and believe they are going to cooperate with the players to address the shortcomings that appeared in the first game," he disclosed.

The official noted: "They are working in training to see how they are going to analyze the previous game, look at the shortcomings and correct them so that at the end of the day, they give the players a good strategy for the return game."

He added: "Morale is high and that's what we all have, it's not just the players as we all believe we can change the results and the goal of bringing the African Cup to the country can be real-

ized."

Harrison also revealed the Tanzanian giants will fly out today and have only one training session before facing USM Alger on Saturday.

The official revealed: "We had a break on Monday and today and tomorrow we will continue training, on Thursday we will start the journey to Algeria for the return game. We are ready to make sure we regroup well to fight for the Tanzanian flag."

In a related development, the CAF Confederation of African Football (CAF) has appointed referee Beda Dahan from Mauritania to take charge of the second leg of the CAF Confederation Cup final set to take place at July 5 Stadium.

He will be assisted by referee Garson dos Santos from Angola and Arsenio Marangol from Mozambique.

Egyptian referee Mahmoud Ashur has been appointed as the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

He will be assisted by two Egyptian referees, Muhammad Abdel-Sayed Hussein, and Mahmoud Ahmed Abdel-Ragel.

5 NIRVANA
EATV THURSDAY
TO NIGHT @ 9:00
NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 WEEKEND MOVIE (r)
13:30 Kali za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
14:30 Ujenzi (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 NIRVANA
21:30 TOP 10
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1

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12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
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20:00 Kipenga
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88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

USMA rejects stadium change request for Yanga's game

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

USM Alger has turned down the Algeria Football Federation's request to host Tanzania's Young Africans (Yanga) at the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Algiers for the second leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final on Saturday.

The Algerian federation proposed the 40,000-seater Nelson Mandela stadium, named in honour of the former South African President and anti-apartheid activist and is located in Baraki - a suburb of Algiers following a decision by the government of the North African country.

The Nelson Mandela Stadium hosted its first official international match on January 13, 2023, when Algeria took on Libya in the opening match of the 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) and also hosted the final on February 4.

However, USM Alger rejected the federation proposal and instead prefers to remain at the July 5 1962 Stadium where they have hosted their CAF Confederation Cup games this season.

The July 5 1962 Stadium is also located in Algiers but has a bigger capacity than Nelson Mandela Stadium.

USM Alger president Ahmed Arab explained that the club refused the offer to play the CAF Cup final second leg at the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Baraki.

The Algerian leader explained that the club would rather play at the July 5 Stadium.

The official pointed out: "We preferred the July 5 stadium because it's our stadium, we know it and it's big. The Baraki stadium poses a problem, especially for the supporters who cannot park there, they have to leave their cars at the beach and then take a bus, that's not okay."

USM Alger is utterly dominant at home, where they have won all seven CAF Confederation Cup games, scored 16 goals, and conceded only two this season.

The Algerians, who lost the 2015 CAF Champions League final to TP Mazembe of DR Congo, are seeking a first continental title and may well be on course to clinch the silverware. They need to avoid a defeat against Yanga.

Aces outfit garners first victory in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tourney

By Guardian Reporter

ALL-rounder Jeremiah Makanya starred with the bat as the E-Parking-backed Aces outfit notched its first victory in the 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, commanding a 13-run drubbing of All Season Lions last week.

The success has witnessed the Aces squad sitting third in the showdown's Group A, after garnering victory in one tie and conceding a loss in another clash.

Aces outfit scored 106/8 in the allotted 20 overs once the club won the toss and elected to bat in the match that was held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

The batting team seemed to have got off to a slow start, given the opener Nassib Kelvin could so far record 12 runs and suffered an early exit.

The fellow opener, Ankit Baghel, endured a shorter stint, considering the cricketer notched only one run off two shots.

A significant improvement was in view once Zimbabwean player Makanya laid his hands on the bat, with almost all Aces side's top-order performers having returned to the pavilion.

The all-rounder put his resoluteness to work and went on to record 32 runs not out which included a boundary.

The Zimbabwean ended with the most impressive



E-Parking-backed Aces side's pacer, Ally Mpeka (R), and wicketkeeper, Nassib Kelvin (L), appeal for a wicket as the squad locked horns with All Season Lions in a 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup showdown tie held last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

statistics during the squad's batting spell, with captain Mohammad Ali and Aisah Chibanda posting 10 runs apiece, and Kibwana Salum ending with 16 runs.

Saleh Imran had a field day during All Season Lions' turn with the ball, notching four wickets in four overs.

The cricketer was ably assisted by promising cricketer Abubakar Selemani that took two wickets in overs.

Even though All Season Lions was presented with an achievable target of 107 runs,

the side frustratingly lost steam in the chase, ending with 93/4 in 20 overs.

Experienced cricketer, Mohamed Salim, had the most significant showing in the fruitless chase, ending with 34 runs not out, blasting two boundaries.

Salim did all he could to see to it that All Season Lions end with a respectable total much it ended as the losing side, especially after the side had experienced a less impressive start to the chase.

The team had earlier seen its

opening cricketers, Gulraiz Haideri and Karim Kiseti, leaving the crease in quick succession, after failing to withstand the Aces outfit's onslaught.

Umar Shaikh, placed at number three, made his presence felt at the crease after notching runs, somewhat improving his club's score.

Goodluck Andrew was the other performer that boasted a not-out spell, as he was four runs short of a two-digit figure, and Safvan Annarathodika chipped in with 10

runs.

Azania Bank Upanga SC is sitting at the top of the group, commanding victory in two ties it has participated in and notching a 2.0750 net run rate.

Alliance Caravans, JiuZhou Gymkhana, and All Season Lions are positioned second, fourth, and fifth in the group.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, Ras Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, JiuZhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, Honeywell, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, Samaki Samaki, and Tanzindia Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

