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EAC refutes common currency 'start' claims

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) has dismissed a post on X, formerly Twitter, which claimed that the bloc's member countries have launched a common regional currency.

The post was shared on Sunday by a preposterous X account named "Government of East Africa," which said that the currency was called the East African Sheafra, a combination of the East African shilling and the franc, where it is used in the central African zone now part of the EAC.

The account also shared an image of a 'new' banknote of the purported single currency, whereupon it received over half a million views and was shared by some leading media outlets and online personalities in the region.

A unified regional currency is still a work in progress, the secretariat stated, dismissing reports that it was now out

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USAID provides 242m/- wildlife tracking tools



USAID-Tanzania Environment Team leader Nathan Sage (R) pictured with Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (Tawiri) director general Dr Eblate Mjingo (L) and board chairman Dr David Manyanza during yesterday's presentation in Arusha city of wildlife monitoring equipment supplied by the US government. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

"At the moment we are working hard to study animal behaviour, especially factors that contribute to their population increase in some parts and decrease in others"

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) based here with state-of-the-art monitoring equipment.

The support includes aircraft fuel pumps, portable communications systems and trackers, global positioning system (GPS) units plus sophisticated elephant collars.

Nathan Sage, the USAID-Tanzania environment team leader, said that USAID runs a specialised facility for Tanzania focused on the conservation of natural resources, thus the US agency is providing assistance to the institute "as part of its important mission of conservation monitoring in critical landscapes of Tanzania."

Underlining that the equipment represents more than a 242m/- investment, it said, expressing satisfaction for cooperating with TAWIRI on other aspects of research, including climate change projections for key habitats, in association with the US Department of Interior.

"It also represents a shared commitment to harness data, understand the importance that wildlife has for human development, and most importantly, promote conservation science for the benefit of future generations-especially Tanzanian girls and boys," it emphasised.

"Tanzania's natural landscape including savannahs, forests and coasts, magnificent as they are, it is worth noting that biological resources provide food, water, clean air, a stable climate, and livelihoods, as well as supporting more than half of global Gross Domestic Product," he said, in the handing over event coinciding with the 2024 World Wildlife Day.

He pointed out that the World Wildlife Day theme, 'Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation,' highlights the critical role that digital innovation plays in wildlife conservation efforts and how it manages and reduces human-wildlife conflicts.


He said that for over 60 years, USAID has partnered with the government to ensure that biodiversity is conserved so people and nature can thrive.

Dr Eblate Ernest Mjingo, the TAWIRI director general, said in receiving the equipment that the donation comes at the right time as the institution prepares for future wildlife census activities.

"Our old pieces of equipment are starting to wear out and in need of replacement," he said, while the board chairman, Dr David Manyanza said the facilities will also come in handy in a series of zoological researches that the national institution has been undertaking for a while.

"At the moment we are working hard to study animal behaviour, especially factors that contribute to their population increase in some parts and decrease in others," he added.

SPORTS



SIMBA SC AND YANGA TO LEARN CAF CL QUARTERFINAL OPPONENTS NEXT WEEK

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'WORLD CLASS' FODEN REACHES NEW HEIGHTS AS MAN CITY INFLICT MORE MISERY ON MAN UTD

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EU hands 414m/- to stem cholera spread

By Guardian Reporter

IN response to the recent cholera outbreak in several regions, the European Union (EU) has allocated €150,000 (about 414m/-) in health sector assistance to the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) to stem its spread.

The EU delegation to Tanzania said in a statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the support aims to assist the country in containing the outbreak, noting that it poses a significant risk to regions and districts with over 4m people.

Upwards of 13 regions have been affected since early January with regional health authorities detailing more than 1,500 reported cases and 34 fatalities as the cholera outbreak hit various regions.

The EU funding will bolster TRCS efforts in providing much-needed relief, including clean water, healthcare, sanitation and hygiene, it said, affirming that the project will run for three months, until the end of May 2024.

Up to that time it is expected to reach 178,000 people in the hardest hit enclaves of Kagera, Mwanza and Shinyanga regions, it said, elaborating that the

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TPA dispels X post on Dar port go-slow

Port managers expect to quickly resolve challenges that arise in collaboration with stakeholders involved in the removal of cargo at the port

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has clarified that the work of serving ships and cargo is going well at the port of Dar es Salaam and that there are no strikes or any sabotage going on.

On Sunday, information went viral on social media claiming that there is decline in the work of serving ships and cargo at the port of Dar es Salaam, which was apparently linked to a strike by workers having various demands, including the cancellation of their work contracts.

While no formal statement was issued by trade unions or port stakeholders on the situation, it became apparent that changes may have started being put in motion as the port concession deal is gradually being put to work.

Observers say there are chances of partial reorganisation in some parts of port operations, while the government cleared the air at the time of signing the

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EU hands 414m/- to stem cholera spread

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funding is part of the EU's overall contribution to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

At the start of the year, the country faced its most severe cholera outbreak in nearly four decades, exacerbated by heavy rainfall tied up with the El Niño weather pattern.

Waste water systems were overwhelmed particularly in densely populated neighbourhoods, with the EU affirming in the statement on the urgency of repairing infrastructure, improving water management and promoting changes in hygiene practices.

Otherwise Tanzania could face a prolonged outbreak, with certain experts fearing that it could turn into an epidemic spreading to neighboring countries, despite that ordinarily cholera spreads within neighbourhoods, not vast territories.

"The relief assistance is an expression of European solidarity with people in need all around the world. It aims to save lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard the integrity and human dignity of populations affected by natural disasters and man-made crises," it specified.

"Through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department the European Union helps millions of victims of conflicts and disasters every year. With headquarters in Brussels and a global network of field offices, the European Union provides assistance to the most vulnerable people on the basis of humanitarian needs," it elaborated.

The European Union is signatory to a €8m humanitarian aid accord with IFRC to support its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) mechanism, whose funds are mainly allocated to small-scale disasters – those that do not give rise to a formal international appeal.

DREF was established in 1979 and is supported by contributions from donors, with each time a national Red Cross or Red Crescent Society needs immediate financial support to respond to a disaster, it can request funds from DREF.

For such disasters, the IFRC allocates grants from the fund which can then be replenished by the donors, where IFRC and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) enable the latter to replenish DREF for agreed operations (that fit within its humanitarian mandate) up to a total of €8m, the statement added.

An online protest movement exposes corruption in Uganda

KAMPALA

ABUSE of public funds. Failing hospitals. Potholes in the streets of Kampala, Uganda.

These and other issues feature in an online protest campaign that is rattling government officials and others in this East African country where street protests are practically outlawed – and where corruption is widespread and often deadly.

The campaign has been trending on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, as #UgandaParliamentExhibition. It relies on leaks of official documents and has been cast as an "exhibition" – in a sequence of postings – about controversial issues.

The latest posts, about Uganda's National Assembly, purport to reveal details about abuse of public resources, nepotism in staff recruitment and even collusion between civil servants and lawmakers on oversight committees.

They also focus on Parliament Speaker Anita Among, an influential member of the ruling party, who is criticized for allegedly collecting huge sums in allowance spending on foreign travel, including trips that did not happen.

The campaign alleges Among was paid the equivalent of \$894,500 in per diems and entertainment allowances between July and January, an astonishing amount in a country struggling to implement its budget amid persistent revenue shortfalls.

A parliamentary commission which Among heads had earlier raised daily per diem rates for the speaker from \$990 to \$4,000. The annual per capita income in Uganda was \$850 in 2022, according to World Bank figures.

Among has not commented on the online campaign, and The Associated Press could not independently verify the allegations posted by its organizers, who include Jimmy Ssentongo, a prominent rights activist in Uganda.

Chris Obore, a spokesman for the National Assembly, said in a statement that "Parliament acknowledges concerns raised in the ongoing #UgandaParliamentExhibition on the institution."

"In the spirit of openness, accountability and transparency, we are duty bound to study the specifics of all concerns and conclusively address them," he said, without elaborating.

The government of President Yoweri Museveni, who has held power in Uganda since 1986, has long been accused of shielding corrupt but influential officials from criminal prosecution. After his reelection to a sixth term in 2021, Mu-

seveni promised to crack down on corruption.

But many Ugandans are not hopeful.

Local media outlets frequently report on corruption issues, but activists, opposition figures and others who try to stage street demonstrations face arrest under a law that requires them to first notify police of their plans to rally.

The online protest movement has become significant for its ability to name and shame specific individuals before an attentive audience, said Marlon Agaba, head of the Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda watchdog.

"In a country where civic space has been shrinking, citizens are finding alternative and innovative ways to express their displeasure in terms of how the country is being governed," he said. "This campaign also shows the power that new media has in shaping discourses on governance."

The #UgandaParliamentExhibition has also cast a wide net, seeking evidence of wrongdoing among both government and opposition figures.

Mathias Mpuuga, a former opposition leader in the National Assembly, was said to have received a \$131,000 "service award" for his work in Parliament.

Mpuuga denies any wrongdoing, but another opposition figure who nominated Mpuuga to the parliamentary post is accusing him of abuse of office.

"If we allow that corruption to get into us, then it's going to destroy us," said Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, a popular singer who is also known as Bobi Wine, speaking to local broadcaster NTV on Monday.

"Whenever huge sums of money exchange hands... there's something that's being given in exchange," he said.



In the spirit of openness, accountability and transparency, we are duty bound to study the specifics of all concerns and conclusively address them



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki (L) has an audience in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with a delegation led by Katja Keul (R), Deputy Minister and State Secretary at Germany's Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on collaboration between Tanzania and Germany in promoting tourism and developing conservation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPA dispels X post on Dar port go-slow

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agreement with DP World, a Dubai port operations firm, that no workers would lose their employment.

TPA acknowledged the prevalence of unconfirmed reports especially on social media on such disputes, insisting that the reports were false as none of its permanent or part-time employees were terminated for any reasons.

All employees continue to fulfil their duties fully in accordance with the schedules of their workplaces, it affirmed, insisting that

the management was keen on its responsibility to fully manage the performance of all port operations.

It oversees port departments and units all around the clock to ensure that services are professionally provided, timely and highly efficient at all times.

"Port directors, heads of departments and units are available all the time in their workplaces and through telephone communication," the statement pursued, reaffirming the procedure to publish information on the conduct of ship

servicing at the port.

This would provide customers and stakeholders with accurate information at all times, it said, reiterating current information on the number of ships being served at the port, ships outside waiting to enter and ships recently served and departed.

"No ships are served contrary to procedure," it said, alluding to behaviour that has developed in recent days "from people who do not have good intentions to cause panic by spreading false information that tarnishes the good image

of TPA in front of customers, stakeholders and the general public."

TPA vowed to take legal action on those found to be involved in this distortion of TPA conduct and situation at the port, urging its customers and stakeholders to expect port services in Dar and other ports without handicaps as the port authorities are prepared to maintain quality services.

Port managers expect to quickly resolve challenges that arise in collaboration with stakeholders involved in the removal of cargo at the port, it added.



Nenelwa Mwhambi (R), Clerk of Tanzania's National Assembly and current secretary of the Africa Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, bids farewell to the association's International Secretary, Stephen Twigg, after talks in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EAC refutes common currency 'start' claims

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of the mill and being operated.

"Kindly ignore any rumours circulating in social media on the unveiling of new banknotes for the

region," it said, with observers recalling that in 2013 EAC member countries set a target for a single currency by 2024.

The bloc missed the target and pushed the delivery time for the

single regional currency to 2031, but missing the first deadline for the attainment of a monetary union raised doubts on the project itself.

The EAC secretariat is coordinating efforts on revising the prerequi-

sites to the roll-out of a single currency in the region but monetary experts caution that the key objectives can't be watered down for the currency to be stable, sustainable.



Visiting Canadian Justice minister and Attorney General Arif Virani (gesturing) has a word in Zanzibar yesterday with Zanzibar Legal Service Centre chairman Prof Chris Peter Maina (R). Second right is Canada's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Kyle Nunas. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

TBA vows to invest in digital innovation to satisfy demand

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) has expressed commitment to continue expanding financial services to reach the unbanked populations by investing heavily in digital innovation to meet the evolving needs and stimulate economic growth.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at an event which brought together women leaders from various banks in the country to celebrate the International Women's Day 2024 (IWD), Geoffrey Mchangila, TBA Vice Chairman said that there is still a good number of people especially in rural areas who are yet to benefit from the improvements in the banking sector in the country.

He noted that the banking and financial services industry is changing rapidly globally and Tanzania is at the forefront as a few years ago, there were no contact centres making services hard to access, but now with technological changes, customers can access bank services wherever they are.

"We have continued to invest in enhancing financial inclusion for all and reducing the number of people who are financially underserved," he said.

Mchangila said that in the banking sector, women have high representation whereby 47 percent of employees in the sector are women something which translates there is equality.

She said the banking sector has continued to play a critical role in enabling women employees to learn and grow with many also taking high positions in the financial institutions.

He however called for increased multi-stakeholders approaches so as to increase women representation in leadership positions and decisions making both in the public and private sector.

The vice chairman further hailed the government for implementing

pro-business policies, something which has helped increase operational efficiency of the banks and positive performance of other economic sectors.

He said that there has been a strong performance demonstrated during the first half of the 2023 year where the government continued to implement various policy reforms to improve the business environment.

TBA executive director Tusekelge Joune said there are a number of mentoring programmes in the country which banks have been utilizing by sending their women employees to learn and firmly grow to become good leaders.

"Various studies have proved that the more women in top leadership positions, the faster the pace of development, so if we invest in women and give them more top positions, then we will witness a huge change in the country," she said.

She said that there are a number of banks in the country which are headed by women such as Equity bank, GT Bank, Azania Bank and TIB bank.

She further said the banking sector in Tanzania continues to exhibit robust financial stability with its banks maintaining healthy capitalization levels and contributing well in the country's economic development.

TBA continues representing and advocating for conducive policies that would make financial inclusion, particularly through the banking sector successful.

Brenda Msangi from CCBRT Hospital and Founder of Dear Girl Child wanted women to realise power within themselves, utilise available opportunities and work hard to reach their full potential.

"Do not close doors but be confident of what you have, add value to it for people to see differences within you, so it is better to be open-minded because you do not know who can work with you and help you attain your goals," she told the gathering.

Somalia ties up EAC membership: Sudan, Ethiopia ponder accession

By **Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha**

AS the Federal Republic of Somalia finalises official membership of the East African Community, bringing to eight the number of members, Sudan and Ethiopia are believed to be working on the idea of join the Arusha-based club.

The Horn of Africa has successfully deposited the country's Instruments of Ratification to the East African Community Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha.

A high-level delegation led by Somalia's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Jibril Abdirashid Haji Abdi, jetted into Tanzania, on Monday to deposit the instrument.

The Treaty of Accession was signed by Somalia's President

Sheikh Hassan Mohamud and the Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, Salva Kiir Mayardit, who is also the President of the Republic of South Sudan in Entebbe, Uganda on 15th December, 2023.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

In line with the EAC Admission Procedure for new members, Dr Mathuki pronounced the Federal Republic of Somalia as a new member of the Community.

The Secretary General will subsequently inform Somalia in writing that the new member has deposited the Instrument of Ratification of the Instrument of Accession and is a full member of the Community [Article 153(1) of the EAC Treaty.

The Secretary General will then deposit the Treaty of Accession with the African Union and the

United Nations expressing the new member's commitment to be bound by the Treaty [Article 153(2) of the Treaty.

In addition to the founding three EAC member states, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, the Arusha-based regional bloc currently includes Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

During their 23rd Ordinary Meeting in Arusha, the Summit of the East African Community Heads of State considered the Report of the EAC Council of Ministers on the Negotiations with the Federal Republic of Somalia into the community, and resolved to admit Mogadishu as a full member of the Community.

The Summit further directed that within six (6) months after the signing of the Treaty of Accession,

Somalia shall be required to deposit the instrument of ratification with the EAC Secretary General in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Heads of State also directed the EAC Council of Ministers to develop a roadmap for the integration of Somalia into the Community and report progress to the next meeting of the Summit.

Other Partner States of the EAC which is essentially the fastest integrating bloc in Africa include the Republic of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Also expected to join the regional block anytime soon is Ethiopia and Sudan. In fact, Sudan had shown interest to be a member of the EAC since 2011.

NAIROBI

Kenya ups diplomatic push for AU Commission chairmanship

THE Kenya Kwanza government has intensified its campaign for ODM leader Raila Odinga's bid for the African Union Commission

Led by Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign Affairs Musalia Mudavadi, the State urged African countries to support Kenya's bid to lead the African Union Commission.

Speaking during the meeting held in Nairobi, Mudavadi said Kenya will use its leadership of the AU Commission to foster ties, including in trade and investments, between African countries.

The Prime CS also highlighted the country's commitment to building a more interconnected and prosperous Africa.

"Kenya is determined to strengthen its position within the African Union Commission," Mudavadi said.

As Kenya rallies support from its African counterparts, it reaffirms its commitment to promoting solidarity, unity, and cooperation for the collective benefit of the continent.

Kenya aims to participate in the upcoming AU Commission elections in 2025 to leverage its position

within the African Union to champion institutional reforms and advance the Pan-African Agenda.

Trade and investment are key focal points in Kenya's bilateral relations, particularly within the framework of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Mudavadi noted Kenya's active participation in the AfCFTA, citing examples of successful trade partnerships with other African countries.

"Kenya, one of the pilot countries in the implementation of the

AfCFTA, exported its first goods of locally made car batteries and tea to Ghana in October 2022," he said.

Over the past year, Kenya has actively engaged in diplomatic exchanges, facilitating numerous official visits and signing Memoranda of Understanding with various African countries.

These efforts reflect Kenya's proactive approach towards advancing its foreign policy agenda, with a particular emphasis on deepening relations with its African counterparts, the Prime CS said.

"Africa forms the core of Kenya's foreign policy."

Mudavadi emphasized the significance of mutual coexistence and cooperation among African nations.

Key initiatives such as the removal of visa requirements for all African countries effective January 1, 2024, exemplify Kenya's commitment to fostering intra-Africa trade and unity.

Kenya has fronted Opposition leader Raila Odinga as the man better placed to help take the African continent to the next level.

He announced his candidature for the position on February 15, and has received support from across the country's political divide, as well as support from at least seven heads of state from the Eastern Africa region.

"I am inclined to accept the challenge and I am ready and I offer myself to be of service. I have asked my friend (Former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo) to continue to be a good ambassador and talk to other people," Raila said.

He added that he had been consulting widely among friends on whether to take the job or not.

Nigeria tightens security as food theft continues amid soaring inflation

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) announced Sunday (Mar. 3rd) it was increasing security at its facilities. Amid increased cases of attacks on warehouses.

The Director General of NEMA has instructed Zonal Directors and Heads of Operations to strengthen security in and around the Agency's offices and warehouses nationwide "to forestall any breaches".

Africa's largest economy is also the continent's most populous country. Nigerians are living through one of the west African nation's worst economic crises in years with inflation rising to nearly 30% and the consequences of monetary policies that have pushed the Naira to an all-time low against the dollar.

One of the nation's most powerful trade unions launched protests last week demanding im-

mediate measures to quell hunger.

In a letter to the president, it notably called for the "Opening of all food storage silos across the country," to ensure equitable distribution.

The decision by the National Management Agency comes after residents broke into a facility in the capital Abuja to steal food items including bags of maize.

The incident reportedly went on for hours.

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF TANZANIA AT SUMBAWANGA
CIVIL APPEAL NO. 142 OF 2021
MAYUNGA JACKSON MAGIGI AND 288 OTHERS...APPELLANTS
VERSUS
JV OF 166 NEW CENTURY COMPANY LIMITED...RESPONDENT
TO:
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
JV OF 166 NEW CENTURY COMPANY LIMITED
WHEREVER YOU ARE.
TAKE NOTICE that the hearing of this Appeal will take place at Sumbawanga on 13th day of March, 2024 at 09:00 am.
You are hereby ordered to appear on the day and time specified above.
If no appearance is made by yourself, your pleader or by someone authorized by law to act for you in this appeal, it will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 28th day of February, 2024.
A. L. KALEGEYA
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
COURT OF APPEAL

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Tanzania's education curriculum must be inclusive: researcher

By Carlos Banda

EDUCATION researcher has suggested the need for Tanzania's curriculum to be inclusive so that it embraces all children—better and poor performers.

Dr Tahir Andrabi, a researcher on education and advisor to the in Pakistan government and co-founder of the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) made the suggestion recently in Dar es Salaam when speaking on the sidelines of the Utafiti wa Elimu Conference 2024. The just-concluded conference was themed: "Climate, environment and education; implementing the new curriculum and technology to strengthen the education system. It brought on board education researchers and stakeholders from within and outside Tanzania.

He advised the government to ensure the implementation of the new education curriculum focuses on pupils of all levels including the disadvantaged ones to empower them to perform better.

"The education document must be people-centred if Tanzania wants to achieve the desired ends," he said.

"I have two points to make on the curriculum which I think are pretty vexing issues, which are true in so many places. One thing that happens in Pakistan, which is also true in Tanzania, is that the top of the distribution, I think, is very world-class; the best in Tanzania are the best in the world. So, the focus of the curriculum should be on the bottom and must be inclusive. The curriculum should not be about taking winners rather it should be about what we can do about the people who have been left behind," he said.

Dr Andrabi said that evidence showed that most kids in low-middle income countries do not get to the level of achieving mastery in education and that they don't master the curriculum.

"In Pakistan, schools were shut down for a year and a half after Covid-19. When the kids came back, I found out that the kids had lost a lot of learning," he said.

CCI empowers TFUP members with essential skills to address GBV issues

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a bid to foster inclusivity and empowerment within urban communities, the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) brought together members and leaders of Tanzania Federation for the Urban Poor (TFUP) to equip them with essential skills and to address gender-related issues.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam recently, CCI programme officer, Theresia Ntanga said the major objective is to ensure that urban poor communities develop a culture of helping each other as well as become champions of gender equality for sustainable development.

She said the initiative aimed to raise awareness about gender equality, challenge, and equip participants with the tools to address gender-related issues within their communities effectively.

"We work to ensure that we increase awareness and understanding of gender equality principles, challenging stereotypes, empowering community members to advocate for women's rights, promoting inclusivity in decision-making processes, and equipping participants with the necessary skills to address gender-based challenges," she said.

She said the participants, most of whom come from poor communities and unplanned settlements, were also trained promoting women's empowerment and integrating gender considerations into community development initiatives.

Ntanga said the gender training yielded significant positive outcomes, including heightened awareness and understanding of gender equality principles, shifts in attitudes towards gender-sensitive practices, enhanced capacity to

"So, my sense of the aspiration is that it has to be in line with the reality of the population. The population is not the same, it is very diverse. My advice is to focus on the bottom of the distribution. They are the kids that are not going to make it. You don't want to create a lost generation of kids of people who come out of school with very little skills, very little understanding. It does not matter what the ambitions of the curriculum are," he said.

Citing the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel (GEEAP) 2023 report on Cost Effective Approaches to Improve Global Learning, Dr Andrabi suggested that one major element of systemic reform, is to realign the curriculum, assessment, and examinations—and the overall orientation of the system—away from elite students, and toward the actual skill distribution in the entire student population.

"Education systems in many low-income countries (LICs) and middle-income countries (MICs) focus on schooling for the elite, at the expense of most students. This tendency may be compounded by international benchmarking against elite schools in other countries and by aspirational standards. Overly ambitious curricula, textbooks, and exams are the practical result of this focus on the elite," he said.

"Many of the most effective interventions, including some that are included in the Great and Good Buys lists below, attempt to solve this curricula problem by going around it—for example, by providing catch-up classes, or encouraging teachers to use accurate assessments of student learning to reorganize the lessons."

The report notes further that through the existence of a political appetite for systemic change, addressing the curriculum and learning standards head-on could be highly cost-effective, adding that, such approach cannot cut out cost but may still require new materials and retraining of teachers, which could involve considerable outlays; but given the impacts are felt by all students in the system, the cost per student is likely to be low.

identify and address gender-based challenges, strengthened networks among community groups, and increased advocacy for gender equality.

Husna Shechonge, TFUP coordinator said: "There is a need to continue to educate especially the lower communities on gender issues, in our communities that is where the biggest problems occur, young children and especially women must be given education on gender issues so that they can raise their voice about the violence that is taking place, this it will even help development from the family level and the nation as a whole."

She underscored the need for continued efforts to promote inclusivity and empowerment within urban poor communities.

"By fostering awareness, challenging stereotypes, and empowering participants, the programme has laid the groundwork for more equitable and inclusive communities where every member can thrive," she said.

Euster Kibona, an activist for gender issues said: "Gender equality is one of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and it aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, which is expected to end in 2030."

She said to ensure the sustainability of these efforts, regular follow-up and monitoring are recommended to assess the long-term impact of the training.

"Integration of gender training into broader community development programmes, collaboration with stakeholders, continued investment in capacity-building initiatives, and promotion of gender-responsive approaches are essential for fostering lasting change and promoting equality within urban poor communities," she said.



Faustina Urassa (2nd-L), founder and managing director of Songambe Initiative Organisation, speaks in Arusha city late last week on the importance of using "appropriate" wheelchairs. It was on the occasion of International Wheelchair Day, which is observed each March 1. The interactive session included discussions on the need to ensure sustainable supply of appropriate wheelchairs in Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Dr Samia provides printing machines to childcare centres in Tabora Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has offered printing machines to the Tabora-based childcare centres run by the Mafanikio Foundation (MF), as part of fulfilling her pledge to improve learning and teaching environment in those centres.

Presenting the machines to the Foundation on behalf of President Samia, Special Seats MP, Aziza Sleyum (CCM) said that President Samia has given the support to eliminate

the challenges they were facing especially when printing children's exams at the centres.

"President Samia asked me to handover this machine on her behalf which will benefit the children at the centre to prepare for activities and religious curricula so that these children can receive services at the centre," said Sleyum.

According to Aziza, President Samia asked parents, guardians, teachers as well as society in general to monitor the children and insist

on keeping their beliefs and good morals at all times and supervise them and provide them with a good and safe environment.

Aziza said that President Samia's goal is to ensure that children get their educational needs and fulfil their dreams.

Amiri Mikombe, MF chairman said that they have 30 education centres that serve over 930 children in Tabora Municipality, Nzege, Sikonge, Urambo districts and Usoke village in Tabora region.

Mikombe said that they had experienced challenges in preparing children's exams and various documents because the service was costly and that's why they decided to reach the President to assist them with purchasing the printing machine.

According to Mikombe, the Foundation is also in need of 1,000 chairs at its centre.

Mahafudhi Anam, Tabora regional sheikh, has argued parents and guardians to ensure that children are sent to religious training according to their beliefs and advised parents to stop the tendency of bringing teachers to their homes to teach children, but to let them socialise with their peers.



Transport deputy minister David Kihenzile (2nd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a certificate to a commuter bus operator who had just completed specialised training at the College of Business Education. Right is the college's rector, Prof Edda Lwoga. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has directed the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) to come up with a strategic plan to ensure that all drivers and public transport operators in the country are trained on how to provide first aid to passengers.

Deputy Minister for Transport, David Kihenzile made the directive in Dar es Salaam yesterday when closing the training and issuing certificates to bus operators who were trained by the College of Business Education (CBE).

Kihenzile said the safety of passengers is important, so if the attendants receive training, they will ensure that all passengers wear seat belts throughout the journey as well as first aid services.

"LATRA should submit its strategic plan to the ministry on how to ensure that all bus operators and

Kihenzile wants LATRA to ensure bus drivers, attendants undergo training

drivers are trained on best ways to serve passengers during emergencies so that we know what you will do in the first year and what you expect to achieve at the end," Kihenzile said.

He also called on other colleges to learn from CBE because the demand for such training is high and that the college alone cannot provide training for all the estimated 5,000 bus operators in the country.

CBE Rector, Prof. Edda Lwoga said since they started the training for bus operators earlier this year they have already produced 42 graduates.

the challenges in public transport. "To support the government's efforts, we decided to start this curriculum last year and it was registered with LATRA, so this training is issued in accordance with the law, that's why we encourage bus owners to bring their employees," she said.

She said the attendants have learned in practice the use of electronic ticketing systems and the values they should observe all the time they are providing services in their work places.

Human Resources Officer of the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), Herick Foya said the Corporation transports more than 1,000 passengers for each trip, and that such training is very important for the organization.

"Our new high-speed train is still undergoing testing, so we at TRC will have a lot of operators and I think it is important to bring them here to CBE to get training like this," he said.

Joseph Ndosi, Lawyer at the National Arts Council (BASATA), Joseph Ndosi commended LATRA and CBE for coming up with the training especially at this time when the erosion of morals has been great in the public transport sector.

Director of Health Department of Tanzania Red Cross Society TRCS, Dr Hilary Ngude said the plan to build the capacity of bus operators has come at the right time as the transport service to further modernise and improve services in the public transport.



Joyce Lwanji, head teacher of Bulyanhulu Primary School in Kahama Rural District, plants one of the saplings Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine and Kakola Digital Solution had just presented to the school on Saturday in supporting a tree-planting drive. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Miner in tree planting initiative meant to save environment in Msalala

By Guardian Correspondent, Msalala

IN efforts to advocate for environment conservation and help restore nature, Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine in collaboration with Kakola Digital Solution has provided a variety of tree seedlings to the new Bulyanhulu Primary School in Msalala District, Shinyanga Region.

Speaking during the handover event here, director of Kakola Digital Solution, David Semwenda said that the initiative is part of the organizations' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to the communities surrounding the mine. Semwenda noted that the initiative will also help pupils understand the importance of environmental conservation in the early stages, and to raise awareness among their parents about the importance of planting trees and conserving our environment.

"We really thank Barrick Bulyanhulu for trusting us as local youth and agreeing to work with us, these trees will bring a new outlook of a new school which also includes educating children on the importance of environmental

conservation," he said.

Joyce Lwanji, head teacher at Bulyanhulu Primary School thanked the firms for extending their support to help the school conserve the environment.

She said apart from providing the school good shade for its pupils, the trees will also help restore nature and fight climate change impacts.

"We will take good care of these trees for them to grow and benefit us and the surrounding community," she said.

Mary Lupamba, Public Relations Officer of the Bulyanhulu Gold Mine said that the company will continue working closely with the government and various stakeholders to bring development to people.

"We really thank Barrick Bulyanhulu for trusting us as local youth and agreeing to work with us, these trees will bring a new outlook of a new school which also includes educating children on the importance of environmental conservation"

Adhere to ethics, new TRC employees urged

By Correspondent James Kandoya

NEWLY recruited employees of the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) have been urged to adhere to ethics and consider personal development skills to shape their future career.

Eng. Masanja Kadogosa, TRC director general made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when launching four-day induction training to 48 new workers from different cadres.

He said after the induction course, refresher courses will later follow adding what has been done as per Public Service Act, noting that the training was very important to build their capacity and add new skills in their career.

Kadogosa said the workers were locomotive drivers, motor vehicle drivers, station masters, artisans, signal engineers, and commercial officers to mention the few.

"The training is very important for capacity building for our new civil servants to know the public service code of conduct," he said, calling on the new employees to consider personal development skills to shape their future career.

"While doing your duties, don't forget to build your career to do better in future," he said, stressing that TRC has enough experts to run the operation of the new electric train when the construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is over.

According to him, TRC plans to dispatch more experts abroad to undergo training relating to rail operations. Already TRC has received 167 experts dispatched in five countries including South Korea.

Dr Ernest Mabonesho, Acting Rector and Chief Executive Officer of Tanzania Public Service College (TPSC) said that the training was conducted as part of the Public Service Act demand.

He said that new civil servants must undergo an induction course before starting their duties, noting that the participants will be trained on ethics and public services code of conduct.

"I commend TRC for conducting training to its new employed workers to enable them to cope with the Public service Act," Dr Mabonesho said.

He said there are many changes in the Public Service Act that workers must know when performing his or her duties.

Esther Sakilari, a new worker employed by TRC as Supplies Assistant thanked TRC for conducting the induction course.

She said the training was very important for them to know the details about public service and company history.



...new civil servants must undergo an induction course before starting their duties, noting that the participants will be trained on ethics and public services code of conduct

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Expert to Tanzanians: Don't stigmatise people with bad breath, talk to them wisely

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TANZANIANS have been asked not to stigmatise people with bad breath, instead advise them to seek medical assistance.

Dr Baraka Nzobo, the Assistant Director of Oral Health Services at the Ministry of Health made the call over the weekend when speaking to this paper on oral and dental health.

He said that bad breath is a problem that affects many people, but it can be cured if the person concerned sees a dentist early.

Dr Nzobo said it was not good to stigmatise people with the challenge because it is not only caused by poor hygiene but also a number of health conditions, including dry mouth, heartburn or even disease in another part of your body.

He said that the state of oral and dental disease in the country is 62.8 percent of adults and 57.4 percent of children, which causes many of them to have bad breath.

"The bad smell of the mouth is caused by 80 to 90 percent of the bacteria present in the mouth, especially on the tongue membrane," he said.

"Unfortunately, many Tanzanians

who have problems with bad breath starting from the elite, the non-elite, the rich and the poor, many of them do not realize that their mouth smells bad, until they are told by someone close to them," said Dr Nzobo.

He said that the tooth decay problem in the country exists for 76.5 percent of adults and 31.1 percent are children, stating that poor nutrition, diseases of the digestive system, smoking, chronic flu and other problems.

He mentioned the symptoms of these diseases includes swollen gums, gums bleed easily, spitting up blood during teeth brushing lead to persistent bad breath.

The doctor said the effects of the problem is a person who is aware that his/her mouth smells bad, he/she stigmatizes himself/herself and starts to isolate.

"This challenge psychologically affects the person due to stigma from people," he said.

He urged people to go to the hospital early to have their mouth examined and they will receive proper treatment.

"Tanzanians should develop a culture of brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste in the morning and evening," he added.

CAR authorities nab prominent opposition politician at airport

BANGU

THE authorities in the Central African Republic (CAR) have detained a prominent government critic as he attempted to travel outside the country.

Crépin Mboli-Goumba - the leader of the Republican Bloc for the Defence of the Constitution (BRDC) - was arrested alongside his wife on Sunday at the main airport in the capital, Bangui.

Local media say Mboli-Goumba and his wife were headed to Douala, Cameroon, for medical reasons.

Mboli-Goumba's wife was released, but the politician remains

in custody.

The reason for his arrest is unknown, but private Oubangui Media's website reported that he had been targeted by the judiciary after he spoke of a "legal mafia" in regards to a property dispute between him and the family of former president Andre Kolingba. Mboli-Goumba accused Minister of State Arnaud Djoubaye Abazene of interfering in the dispute.

Mboli-Goumba is a fierce critic of the government of President Faustin Archange Touadera and has repeatedly criticised the presence of Russian mercenary firm Wagner Group in the country.

Chad's interim leader confirms candidacy in presidential polls

N'DJAMENA

CHAD'S interim president, Mahamat Idriss Déby, on Saturday said he will run in this year's long-awaited presidential race.

His candidacy was endorsed by representatives of the political groups that make up his coalition, For a United Chad, which claims to include over 200 parties.

"After deep and serene reflection, I have decided to accept the choice you have made to name me as the candidate of the For a United Chad coalition," he said.

The military leader's announcement comes just three days after his main rival in the polls, Yaya Dillo, was shot and killed in the capital N'Djamena in suspicious circumstances.

Déby seized power in 2021 following the death of his long-

ruling father, Idriss Déby Itno, who was killed in clashes with rebels.

He was sworn in 2022, promising a return to civilian rule within 18 months, but subsequently extended the transition by two years.

"I confess that I did not see myself as a candidate because my main concern was to bring this transition to a successful conclusion in peace and stability in a united and reconciled Chad," he said on Saturday.

Déby is almost certain to win the vote on 6 May.

While the social and political context remains tense, the Internet is back online after 48 hours of blackouts.

The capital is under heavy surveillance, with the army and government warning they will take strong action against those who threaten the security of the state.

Sudan demands full reinstatement to AU

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S Defense forces commander Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has conditioned acceptance of AU mediation on membership reinstatement.

Citing a statement from the ruling Sovereignty Council local media reported that, al-Burhan expressed "Sudan's confidence in the African Union's potential solutions, but only if the state regains its full membership and the organization treats it as such." Gen Burhan met members of the AU High-Level Panel on the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan on Sunday.

The three-member panel was established by the AU Commission in January to facilitate dialogue,

restore constitutional order and work collaboratively with all the Sudanese stakeholders meaning all civilian forces, military belligerents and regional as well as global actors including IGAD, the UN, the League of Arab States.

The panel aims to ensure an all-inclusive process towards the swift restoration of peace and stability in Sudan.

The nation was suspended from all instances of the continental body after an October 2021 takeover which saw general al-Burhan and RSF commander General Hamdane Daglo, remove the civilian government and detain its leaders. The move was widely condemned as a coup. It led to the intensification of near weekly protests.



Noel Mingwe (R) of the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute's Dar Group laboratory tests the blood sugar of a Dar es Salaam resident at a special health camp held in the city yesterday as part of the run-up to the commemoration of International Women's Day (March 8). Photo: JKCI

Vegetable centre, teams up with FAO in war on hunger in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Arusha-based World Vegetable Centre (WorldVeg) has signed a one-year contract with the World Food Organization (FAO), worth \$650,000, which looks at nutritional and genetic issues in foods.

The contract meant to increase the production of quality seeds at the centre, which will help horticulturists in the country.

Dr Gabriel Rugalema, the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Director for the World Vegetable

Centre operations said yesterday here that right now the centre has become big that's why it is entering international agreements to develop it.

He said right now they are sowing 7,000 varieties, but by next year they will reach 15,000 seeds which will be used for planting better seeds.

"We have planned to ensure that we reach that number of seed production by 2025 and all of these will be used for farmers to use in vegetable farming," said Dr Rugalema.

He said the government has planned to ensure that agriculture expands and boosts the economy of Tanzanians, especially young people who focus more on agriculture.

He further explained that they have decided to join FAO because they all have the same desire to ensure that food is safe for Tanzanians and around the world.

He also said that they have been receiving visitors to come and learn about vegetable farming but they have also been contributing to increasing the economy.

Dr Rugalema called on Tanzanians to use improved seeds, and vowed that Tanzanians would expect great things from the centre after getting the money to increase seed production.

Dr Sognigbe N'Danikou, scientist, traditional vegetable conservation and utilization, WorldVeg East and Southern Africa said that the action is to deal with hunger in Africa.

However, he said: "We're combining their forces to ensure that everything is right in all matters of food in the world."

He said that they have set their expectations two years before coming to sign the contract, that's why they have given the money, including that they will collaborate to deal with various challenges in food.



Geita Regional Police Commander Safia Jongo holds one of the children cared for at Neema House Orphanage during a recent tour of the facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ghanaian chef falls way short of cooking marathon world record

ACCRA

GUINNESS World Records (GWR) has dismissed a Ghanaian chef's attempt to break the world record for the longest cooking marathon by an individual, her team says.

In January, Failatu Abdul-Razak appeared to have broken the world

record after cooking non-stop for more than 227 hours.

The co-ordinator of Ms Abdul-Razak's challenge, Kafui Dey, on Sunday said that her attempt at breaking the record "unfortunately fell short of meeting the stringent guidelines set forth by Guinness World Records."

"A statement from the Records Management Team cited a violation of the rest break rules, resulting in an unsuccessful attempt."

A GWR spokesperson told the BBC despite the fail they "commend Failatu on her tremendous efforts with this record attempt."

Adding that it was "due to

guidelines around rest break timings not being met."

Abdul-Razak's attempt caused widespread excitement across Ghana.

Politicians, including Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia, numerous celebrities and even the Ghanaian military expressed their support for Abdul-Razak throughout the cook-a-thon.

Despite her failed bid, the chef thanked her supporters, saying that their "backing has been instrumental throughout this journey."



Caroline Magege of Nyahanga Kilimani Ward in Kahama District airs grievances over land ownership and use to Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme at a meeting the RC called yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Have regular health check-ups to battle gynaecological issues, women called upon

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

TANZANIAN women have been advised to carry out routine medical check-ups and screenings for them to easily detect various reproductive and gynaecological issues.

Bashir Khaki, Medowell Health Centre's chief executive officer (CEO) made the call yesterday when speaking here ahead of the two-day free gynaecology consultation camp, as part of the International Women's Day (IWD).

The camp will be conducted at the centre on March 6 and 7, 2024, with an emphasis on the value of preventive care and encouraging women to take control of their health, make informed decisions, and proactively address any potential health concerns, ultimately ensuring their long-term well-being.

"On this day in particular, Medowell Health Centre is expected to commemorate the International Women's Day by hosting a free gynaecology camp and raise awareness on the importance of preventive care in obstetrics and gynaecology, as it plays a crucial role in women's health and well-being," he said.

He added: "As a charitable health facility, we are driven by the strong ethics of medicine, and we believe that it is our moral responsibility and obligation to treat each patient regardless of their income, race, or social status. Also, this free camp aims at complementing our government and other partner's ongoing efforts to improve access to healthcare for women in Tanzania."

Dr Moris Mwanjika, Medowell Health Centre's obstetrician and gynaecologist, warned that

gynaecological conditions can encompass a wide range of issues, from menstrual irregularities and pelvic pain to more complex problems like endometriosis and uterine fibroids, emphasizing that, it is crucial to reveal these conditions and the various treatment options available.

"These regular visits to healthcare providers help in monitoring and managing conditions such as cervical cancer, breast cancer, sexually transmitted infections, and more. Furthermore, discussions of common preventive services, including vaccinations, pelvic exams, and pap smears, enable healthcare professionals to educate and empower women about the importance of maintaining their reproductive health, so I call upon all women to show up for this opportunity", says Dr Mwanjika.



On this day in particular, Medowell Health Centre is expected to commemorate the International Women's Day by hosting a free gynaecology camp and raise awareness on the importance of preventive care in obstetrics and gynaecology, as it plays a crucial role in women's health and well-being

Funeral of activist takes place two years after murder

HARARE

TWO years after she was brutally murdered, Zimbabwean opposition activist Moreblessing Ali was finally laid to rest in the town of Chitungwiza on the outskirts of Harare on Saturday.

Ali, a member of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) was abducted in 2022 outside a bar in Nyatsime, a neighbourhood of Chitungwiza.

Her body, which had been cut into pieces, was found two weeks later hidden in a well. Ali's family had refused to bury her mutilated

remains until Joe Sikhala, a top official and the family lawyer, was released.

He was arrested after saying she had been murdered by supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF party and spent almost two years in pre-trial detention before being released in January this year after a magistrate handed him a suspended prison sentence.

Sikhala, who resigned from the CCC following his release from prison, said Ali's death would not be in vain. "Her death will play a role in Zimbabwe's political trajectory. She is going to inspire us to remain

strong," he said at her graveside.

Wellington Ali, a brother to the slain activist, said the family was relieved that she has finally been buried, adding that they had "been through a lot."

Her sister, Mildred Ali, said the family was angry at the length of the jail sentence given to Pius Jamba, who was convicted of her murder.

"My sister was not murdered by one person. Of course one of her murderers is locked up. But some of his accomplices are still roaming around freely after they killed our relative, cutting her life short," she said.

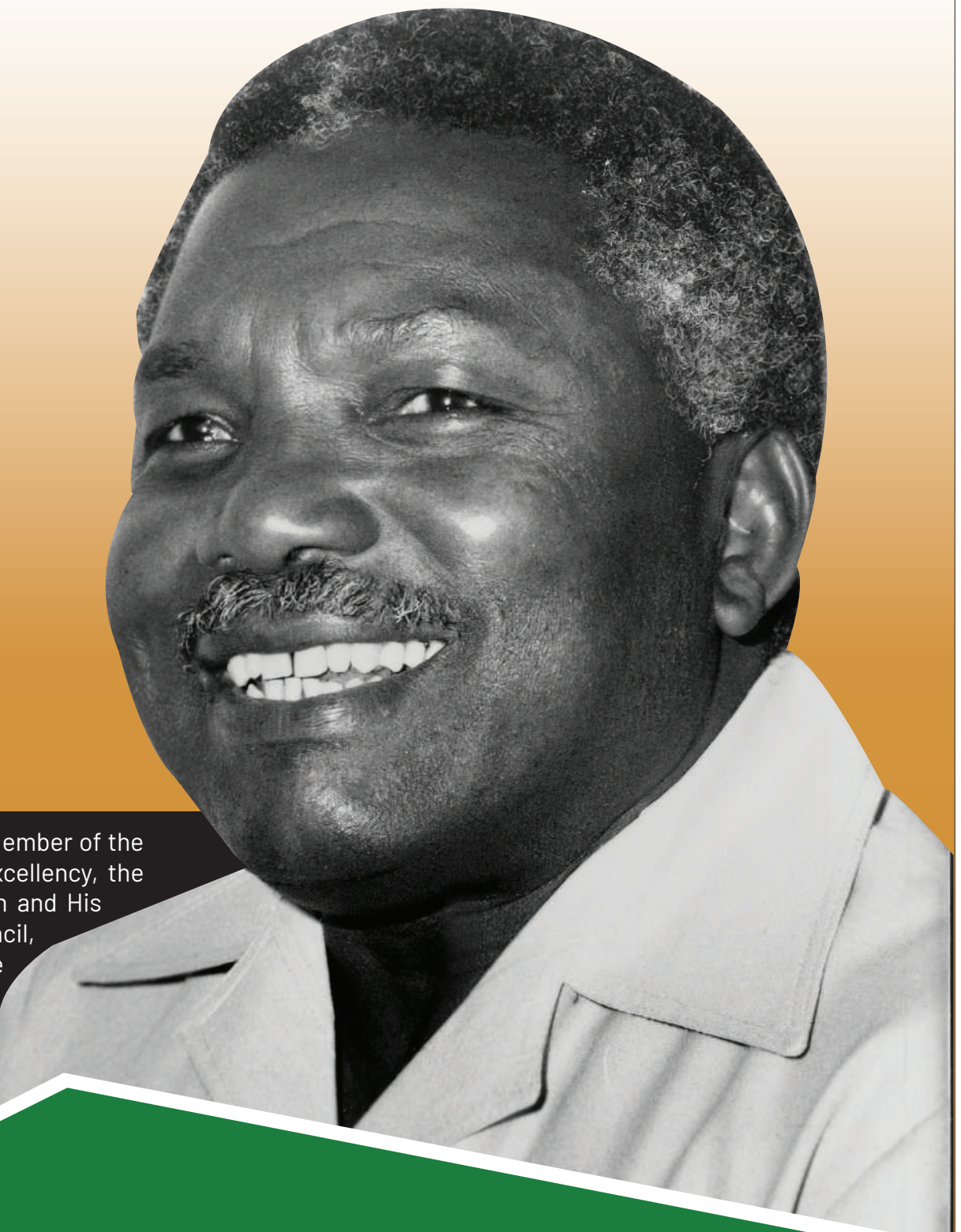
Ali's funeral was marred by clashes between different factions of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change party of which she was a member, which has struggled to remain united since last year's elections.

While the CCC took control of all major cities and towns in last year's elections, it has since split into many tiny factions after its leader, Nelson Chamisa, quit the party in January.

There are growing concerns about the state of democracy in Zimbabwe after ZANU-PF regained its two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament.



IN MEMORY OF
ALI HASSAN MWINYI
1925 - 2024
 THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF
 THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



The management and employees of SMEC International Pty Ltd - Tanzania branch (Member of the Surbana Jurong Group) extend their deepest and heartfelt condolences to Her Excellency, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Honourable Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan and His Excellency, the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Honourable. Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, family, friends and to all Tanzanians on the demise of our most loved retired President Honourable. Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

He was the icon of all Tanzanians, setting the pace as our humble, Teacher, Leader, and Advisor.

We all belong to our creator and to him we shall all return.

Valuing waste pickers not hard, but the demand note

WE obviously should do much better than looking down on waste pickers since they play a vital role in safeguarding the environment.

In standard street idiom across the country but particularly in our urban areas, picking discarded bottles, cans and tins is often a sign that someone is out of his or her mind.

That is, until one realises that it is a sphere where one can earn some money - however small the amount - without having to be employed by anyone. In that case, it would imply that those seen to be mentally disturbed surely think of survival.

There was recently a weekend event in Dar es Salaam to commemorate Global Waste Pickers Day. It brought together officials - yes, not the waste pickers per se but those who pay them.

Several companies turned up for that event, from those literally engaged in recycling to those with wider aims - the likes of JUZA Waste Pickers Initiative and Human Dignity and Environmental Care Foundation (HUDEFO). Not that many of us were aware of such activist groups.

There will be pros and cons as to what the meeting was out to discuss, which was chiefly to find ways of addressing the negative perceptions society has towards waste pickers, as indeed such individuals do a good job of keeping the environment clean.

The issue isn't really that anyone detests waste pickers but rather in relation to the pros and cons of having a special scheme to help one be assured of some form of survival.

For sure, some regular waste pickers doing various domestic chores rented places and they are not doing badly.

Without wishing to pick on that event, there is worry if there was really

an issue they were trying to solve - for instance, observing that without waste pickers, all manner of garbage would be scattered all over the place.

Thus, society needs to show it supports their work, where one participating firm said that it had handed over equipment to 80 individuals to help them "overcome the challenges they face in waste collection".

Even less clearly, having such equipment would likely help society recognize and acknowledge the waste collectors' work rather than look down upon them.

No one will say that there are no individuals with this or that attitude as there is virtually anything good or bad within individuals amidst large numbers of people which one doesn't have to care so much about.

The issue is whether direct denigration or exclusion occurs owing to the particular kind of work, and the response is in the negative just as long as one takes precautions about cleanliness after uploading or downloading garbage in a refuse truck.

We aren't a discriminatory society; we have less of colonial stereotypes of 'rodent officers' versus rat catchers.

When one consults the government to see how it can support these people, the objective is unclear: what one needs from the government is freedom to do the job, and the pay is agreed with the recyclers.

When third parties like companies come in to look for auxiliary action, one suspects that they want higher waste collection fees ostensibly to help those actually doing the job as it is decisive in its environmental impact.

This is faulty as each job has its challenges and pains, and market pressure is what pushes each to a specific task.

SADC army chiefs at Goma might not be a turning point

THINGS are moving rather rapidly in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with top army officers from the southern Africa regional bloc having visited regional capital Goma at the weekend amid fighting between government troops and M23 rebels.

That the defence chiefs of staff in the bloc held a high-level meeting in the city, capital of the embattled North Kivu province, was symptomatic of genuine desire to fully unite DRC territory. But assurance was given that the bloc would this time go sufficiently far in that quest.

A top Congolese army spokesman said the meeting focused on assessing the progress of operations on the ground and fine-tuning strategies for strengthening the various units.

Media units reporting the event quoted the spokesman as having affirmed that the visit by the defence chiefs of staff was a strong signal of commitment and determination by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states alongside Burundi and the DRC.

It was the first coordination meeting of its kind since the deployment of SADC troops in North Kivu.

Those with at least a rough idea of the diplomatic windings on the issue would admit that this newly rediscovered commitment has come a long way.

It is a complicated event because there are two related situations, one of which is available to SADC action or other regional alliances with the legitimate Congolese authorities, and the other is strictly for themselves to sort out.

What SADC can do is to check infiltration of foreign troops into DRC and even wag a finger at interested parties as it is currently evident, but not much more.

Most observers noted that the meeting came two days after SADC armoured vehicles were hit during an M23 attack on Friday, as the generals visited the strategic town of Saké. The rebels were reported to have thrown five bombs, killing and wounding several people.

In a sense, this was in the midst of chaos, and it was hard to distinguish between ending the chaos and sorting out the problem.

Yet the combined team's brief but specific mission is about ending the chaos, chiefly incessant attacks on the civilian population as the province is the rebels' playground.

Tracking issues in the other sphere, that of problems arising from Congolese political loyalties and especially the interests at play in the restive province, would be hard for anyone to be sure about anything.

One factor that has until now eluded analysts is whether government authorities in Kinshasa were really keen on ending the conflict there, or merely use it to buttress fledgling loyalties for those in power.

This issue was raised several times during the two decades of the Joseph Kabila presidency and as stridently during President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo's first term of office - from 2018 through 2023.

Ridding the north east of rebel armies was always close to what the president was saying - for instance, in replacing civilian administrators and placing military governors - but no semblance of change appears to have taken place.

If anything, the military may have had its own agenda on the issue - which expresses its outward profile not in profits and losses in illegal mining units but rather in human rights violations. Orders to the population, interested parties, can be clumsily enforced.

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By Barbra Sehlule Muzata

WITH climate change disrupting weather patterns and jeopardizing food security, scientists are equipping themselves with the knowledge and skills to leverage advanced crop models and climate data.

These models act as digital simulations, allowing researchers to assess potential climate impacts and develop tailored adaptation strategies for various scales, from individual fields to entire landscapes.

Crop modelling is no longer just a research tool. It's now empowering farmers with timely, climate-smart information.

Imagine farmers receiving personalised advisories on planting times, crop choices and management strategies in response to changing weather patterns. This is the transformative promise of crop modelling in agricultural decision-making.

These models are a game-changer and, when well-adapted, can guide farmers in making crucial decisions about resource use efficiency (water and nutrient use management), and agronomic operations (planting dates, weeding, harvesting).

This can also apply even with respect to anticipating potential pest and disease problems, ultimately helping us navigate the challenges of a changing climate.

"The application of crop models is still a developing field, but it holds immense potential for empowering farmers," explains Professor Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi from LSHTM.

This is the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - a public research university in Bloomsbury, central London, and a member institution of the University of London that specialises in public health and tropical medicine.

He adds: "By understanding the specific risks their crops face due to climate change, farmers can make informed decisions about planting dates, crop choices, and water management, ultimately increasing their resilience and ensuring better yields."

Mabhaudhi is a professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences in South Africa. He holds a BSc Honours in Crop Science from the University of Zimbabwe, and an MSc and PhD in Crop Science from University of KwaZulu-Natal with specialisation in crop ecophysiology (plant-water relations) and crop-climate modelling.

His primary goal is to work on research and development that is dynamic, transformative, informs policy and achieves real-life impacts within poor communities.

Innovations empowering farmers in face of climate change: Crop models



The professor's research has evolved from focusing on crop water use and crop modelling to multi- and transdisciplinary research covering food systems, global environmental change and the water-energy food nexus.

He is interested in working with multidisciplinary teams to conduct research and development related to global grand challenges such as food and nutrition insecurity and climate change.

He is also interested in research translation, meaning the application of research outcomes into practice on the ground to achieve real-life impact.

In that regard, the professor is very closely linked with multiple policy stakeholders in South Africa at national, provincial and local levels and regularly contributes to evidence-based policy making.

The recent advancements in crop modelling offer a transformative approach to address the ever-evolving challenges in agriculture, especially with looming climate uncertainties.

A case in point: GROWSMART

One such groundbreaking initiative is the GROWSMART advisory service, developed by the CGIAR Excellence in Agronomy Initiative, in collaboration with CGIAR Centres and partners in Southern Africa.

What sets GROWSMART apart is its robust framework, which integrates remote sensing, machine learning and crop models. This amalgamation of cutting-edge technologies provides farmers with actionable insights, not just information, to navigate the challenges of a changing climate.

Tailored for farmers and extension agents, GROWSMART utilises existing data to offer insightful agronomy support with a specific focus on El Niño, a climatic phenomenon that disrupts agricultural landscapes.

This collaborative effort is meant to empower farmers by disseminating vital El Niño information through diverse platforms, including tailored messages for various stakeholders.

Other collaborations include the Agricultural Model Intercomparison Project (AGMIP), a major global initiative linking the climate, crop and economic modelling communities of practice to develop improved crop and economic models and the next generation of climate impact projections for the agricultural sector.

While acknowledging the complexities of downscaling climate data and improving the inter-comparability of models, the practical impact resonates deeply with farmers.

Mkhize, an AGMIP beneficiary, shares her experience: "The SMS alerts are crucial for my family and me to prepare for upcoming weather conditions. Recently, I received a warning about heavy rainfall, allowing me to store rainwater for future irrigation, as advised".

Her story underscores the empowerment which farmers gain through these agro-advisory tools.

Beyond technology, the innovations showcase the practical benefits of equipping farmers with reliable information from well-adapted models.

In regions where agriculture is the lifeblood, these innovations become lifelines. The tailored messages serve as guideposts, navigating farmers through the complexities of climate change.

A holistic approach

Aligning crop modelling initiatives with global sustainability goals exemplifies a holistic approach, addressing immediate concerns while contributing to the broader dialogue on global agricultural sustainability.

Looking ahead: Reflecting on

these technology-driven agro-advisory services reveals their far-reaching impact. The transformative shift in how farmers approach their work, from anticipating rainfall for irrigation to navigating El Niño, showcases the potential of crop modelling to reshape agriculture.

These agro-advisories represent a symphony of innovations, leveraging diverse technologies and collaborative partnerships to address farmers' unique challenges. Refining and expanding such innovations remains paramount going forward - that is, as we look to the future.

Through this intersection of technology, collaboration and community engagement, we can nurture resilient agriculture and ensure a sustainable future for rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

We have a moral responsibility to leverage every tool available to build the resilience of our agricultural systems. The food security of millions of people depends on proactive solutions.

It is thus crucial to embrace crop modelling, not as a replacement but as a powerful supplement to navigate the unpredictable world of climate change. Investing in crop model development and training for farmers and advisors is an investment in our collective future.

The call to continue research and development is more than just an academic pursuit. It's a commitment to empowering the backbone of our food systems - the farmers.

Crop modelling signifies a paradigm shift towards resilient and climate-smart agriculture that leaves no one behind. It is a call to action for sustained investment, collaboration and innovation.

The CGIAR Excellence in Agronomy Initiative (EiA) was launched in 2020 to improve outcomes for smallholder farmers amidst climate change.

It is supported by the CGIAR Big Data Platform and will combine big data analytics, new sensing technologies, geospatial decision tools, and farming systems research to come up with scalable agronomic innovations for agricultural development.

The initiative is not only responding to demand from the public and private sector but will also help increase efficiencies through stronger collaboration and cross-learning among CGIAR centres and within the broader agronomy R&D ecosystem.

* A dispatch by the CGIAR Excellence in Agronomy (EiA) Initiative.

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Empowering female mining workers crucial for sustainable development

TANZANIA is estimated to have more than one million people directly engaging in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), which is a subset of the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM).

The estimated one million people directly employed in artisanal and small-scale gold mining dependent solely on the activities for their livelihood. Of the number, approximately 48.27 and 24.13 percent are men and children while 27.60 percent are female.

"Artisanal and small-scale mining is important for the country's economic development. Despite the various government efforts to improve and formalise the sector, small-scale miners still face a number of challenges. The mining industry is historically a male-dominated which has long been characterized by a pronounced gender disparity," stated Eng Theonestina Mwasha, Executive Secretary of the Foundation for ASAM Development when airing her remarks in Dar es Salaam recently during a Policy Forum's Breakfast debate themed 'Empowering women in the extractive industries: Bridging the gender gap for sustainable development'.

Eng Mwasha said in Tanzania, where mining is a significant economic activity, women participation is even more constrained due to socio-cultural and structural barriers which affects women's participation in ASM including restrictions based on cultural beliefs. Such beliefs include traditions, witchcraft and rituals.

Mwasha mentioned other social impacts on women that limit their participation in ASM as barriers to entry, economic disparities, family responsibilities, gender roles and decision making. The list also includes financial constraints, investment challenges, poor financial management, low wages and unfavourable working conditions.

"These women also face gender based violence such as sexual exploitation and discrimination as well as verbal abuse. Women struggle to get mining land and licences, inadequate support to improve skills and protection of the environment; limited access to tools and technology; and difficulty in accessing markets.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should play their roles by empowering women engaging in mining activities through provision of education to enhance their understanding on financial management, she added.

"Providing them with seed money would greatly boost their activities, thus improve their working conditions. They also require leadership training to enable them



Advocacy and engagement officer with HakiRasilimali, Lucy Shao (2nd left) insists a point during a recent Policy Forum's breakfast debate on empowering women in the extractive industries. Photo: Daniel Semberya.

manage their business properly," said Mwasha. Advocacy and Engagement Officer with HakiRasilimali, Lucy Shao urged the government to ensure gender equality in the mining sector. She was concerned that Tanzania has signed a number of conventions which requires implementation.

"One should not underestimate women's roles as they can do better than men. It is

crucial to educate the community on the importance of women engagement in various economic activities including mining," remarked Shao, urging the government and other key stakeholders to help women engaged in ASM for them to benefit from extractive industry.

She however said there are a limited number of skilled women to be employed in the

extractive sector whereas only a few have been employed by major mining companies at management level.

Shao urged banks and financial institutions to provide the women with loans to boost their capital.

Tanzania is ranked 4th in Africa in terms of its mineral deposits and small-scale mining activities. Despite significance of the sector, it is still labelled as unsustainable, environmentally unfriendly, inefficient and illegal.

ASM is a way of life, not just a sector of the economy with the potential to increase employment and foreign exchange revenues. Undoubtedly, ASM employs millions of people globally, of which about 11.5-13 million people work directly in the sector and that up to 100 million rely on it for their livelihoods

In Tanzania, there are gaps in the regulatory and legal handling of the mining sector and long-term supervision of ASM operations. Such gaps include lack of appropriate policies, regulations, or laws in a manner that they can be practically implemented.

These gaps have generally led to sustainability concerns such as poor public health and environmental degradation, challenges that are likely to remain the same for a long time.

The environmental and public health issues in the ASM sector must be addressed in an organized manner. Protection and control measures must be implemented without jeopardizing the health and economy of those directly affected by ASM activities.

There are connections within the ASM environment and if the movement of people, equipment, mined ores, and rocks are not carefully monitored, the health and safety of ASM miners may be put in danger.

Equipment used for material excavation in ASM-based activities are usually poor and rudimentary, but also material transfer is usually handled using equipment that can accelerate exposure to trace elements and heavy metals.

In some instances, ore crushers could be found to produce an enormous amount of dust at ASM sites. In other instances, it could be found that the ASM miners do not use protective gear such as masks.

When leaching ores to recover the precious metals, ASM workers normally use bare hands and, sometimes, there are infants and children in the vicinity of the leaching areas.

Potential health hazards linked with ingestion of plastic particles

By Telesphor Magobe

DESPITE presence of global and national efforts against plastic pollution and its effects on human health, the production and littering of plastic materials is still on-going everywhere across the world. This makes it almost impossible to prevent human health risks.

Plastics do not only exist as large objects, they also exist as small particles. Large objects include plastic carrier bags, plastic wrappings and plastics for various uses such as baby bottles, water or beverage bottles, toys, plastic containers and so on.

All these plastic materials even if are used in different ways release particles into surrounding water, soil and air and can easily be ingested into human bodies and into the bodies of other animals and living organisms.

Researchers say that there are many types of plastic materials, which are made up of polymers (natural or artificial compounds), but they can be categorised into two groups: plastic particles which are less than 5 millimetres and can be seen by naked eyes (microplastics) and plastic particles which cannot even be seen by a standard microscopic (nanoplastics).

A UN 2023 report entitled 'Plastic Pollution: The pressing case for natural and environmentally-friendly substitutes to plastics' says "Out of the 369 million tonnes of plastic waste generated every year about 11 million metric tonnes enters the ocean. This number is projected to triple by 2040 if no measures are adopted to halt that pace." It further says that at least 690 wildlife species and coral reefs are also affected by plastic debris. This is without mentioning plastic pollution in our neighbourhoods and in freshwater bodies like lakes, rivers and streams.

To show the magnitude of the problem, the UN report says: "Most plastic materials never fully disappear, but only break down into smaller particles. These microparticles can be found everywhere, including in the aquatic and terrestrial food systems. In addition to the ingestion of aquatic food contaminated with microplastics, nanoplastics may be absorbed into tissues or cells of other foods. Humans are also exposed to microplastics by inhaling airborne particles and fibres found in indoor and outdoor environments. Moreover, globally, over 84 per cent of drinking water samples are now estimated to contain microplastics."

Who then can claim his or her body is free from micro or nanoplastic particles? The UN report, citing studies of Allen et al. (2022), SMEP (2022a), Barrowclough & Vivas (2021) and UNEP (2016), suggests that besides microplastic and nanoplastic particles, there are toxic chemicals "that can be mutagens, and can cause negative immunological, reproductive, teratogenic, carcinogenic and neurological effects."

Researchers have established the occurrence of plastic particles in various matrices, including biota (or gut contents), air, water, sediment and foodstuffs. For instance, Leslie et al. (2022) analysed and measured human blood to identify and quantify the mass of five high production volume polymers applied in plastic materials: poly (methyl methacrylate) (PMMA), polypropylene (PP), materials containing polymerised styrene (PS), polyethylene (PE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

"These polymers have applications in food contact materials, textiles and a wide range of other products humans come into daily contact with. PE and PP are the highest



in demand worldwide, followed by PET and polymers containing styrene such as polystyrene, expanded polystyrene (EPS) and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS). PMMA has the lowest production volume in the test set, though it was selected because it is used in various applications inside the human body, such as in dental work."

The use of plastics in agriculture also gathers momentum and soil microplastics may take up to 300 years to degrade. "It is believed that their presence alters soil characteristics such as its structure, water holding capacity, and microbial communities, and that microplastics are, in part, responsible for crop-reducing effects," a study, conducted by Staffordshire University and published in August 2022, shows.

Another study, conducted by researchers from UC San

Francisco and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and published in August 2022, shows that pregnant women exposed to chemicals like melamine, cyanuric acid and aromatic amines are at risk of getting cancer and harming child development. "People can be exposed to melamine and aromatic amines in a variety of ways: through the air they breathe, by eating contaminated food or ingesting household dust, as well as from drinking water or by using products that contain plastics, dyes, and pigments," this new study shows.

Moreover, the study says "melamine is found in dishware, plastics, flooring, kitchen counters, and pesticides; cyanuric acid is used as a disinfectant, plastic stabiliser, and cleaning solvent in swimming pools; aromatic amines are found in hair dye, mascara, tattoo ink, paint,

tobacco smoke, and diesel exhaust." The study further says melamine was recognised as a kidney toxicant after baby formula and pet food poisoning incidents in 2004, 2007, and 2008 that caused several deaths as well as kidney stones and urinary tract obstruction in some people. Other findings suggest melamine reduces brain function.

"Our findings raise concerns for the health of pregnant women and fetuses, since some of these chemicals are known carcinogens and potential developmental toxicants. Regulatory action is clearly needed to limit exposure," says Giehae Choi, postdoctoral fellow and first author of the study at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

For its part, the UN report says while the extent of economic and environmental impact of micro- and nano-plastics and chemical additives is still poorly understood, "the ingestion of such particles by aquatic organisms, including fish species destined for human consumption and of commercial importance, has been documented in laboratory and field studies, and is expected to pose severe health hazards for marine ecosystems and the food web."

Although, according to the Environment Management (Prohibition of Plastic Carrier Bags) Regulations (2019), all plastic carrier bags, regardless of their thickness are prohibited from being imported, exported, manufactured, sold, stored, supplied and used in Mainland Tanzania, "plastic or plastic packaging for medical services or industrial products or construction industry or agricultural sector or food processing or sanitary and waste management are exempted from prohibition." This makes exposure to microplastic and nanoplastic particles and the health risks they pose continue.

The UN report calls for collaboration and adoption of holistic approaches to embrace worldwide measures to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic products or products biodegradable under natural conditions. "At present, however, the most used measure has been to ban, tax or regulate certain single-use plastic objects, such as bags and disposable cutlery - as of 2021 more than 30 countries implemented this type of policy." Tanzania banned plastic carrier bags on June 1, 2019.

Yet, very little or nothing has been done to address the indigestion of micro and nanoplastic particles through the consumption of contaminated fish and drinking water which causes high human health risks. Therefore, the indigestion of micro and nanoplastic particles into human bodies and its inherent human cost is likely to continue.

By Shanna Hanbury

United States natural gas expansion would surrender world to fatal warming, experts say



Demand for liquefied natural gas infrastructure in the U.S. is soaring, following a 2016 lift of an LNG export ban. Pictured, an oil and gas complex in Texas in December 2020.

AS United States politicians, the oil industry and environmental activists debate the pros and cons of a massive expansion of the nation's export infrastructure for liquefied natural gas (LNG) – a fossil fuel made primarily of methane – the world's climate teeters on the brink, with scientific experts the world over lining up against the expansion.

In January, the Biden administration responded to concerns about climate impacts and domestic energy costs by temporarily halting licenses for new LNG export facilities. But the nation, which until 2016 had a ban on gas exports, is already on track to double its output by 2030 solely with the already-authorized and under-construction terminals.

A US natural gas fracking boom resulted in the country's first export terminal in 2016; there are now seven active terminals, with five more under construction. If Biden ultimately approves licensing, 12 proposed LNG facilities could go ahead. Over a 20-year period, methane released to the atmosphere is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide.

LNG could turbocharge the climate emergency

Green lighting licenses for more gas export infrastructure could mean up to a fourfold increase in export capacity and effectively locks in LNG dependence in Europe and other regions for decades, committing millions of tons of methane to an already overheated planet, critics of the U.S. expansion say.

"It is as if they don't realize that the climate emergency is a terrible climate war that kills millions of people," Carlos Nobre, co-chair of the Science Panel for the Amazon and a senior climate researcher at the University of São Paulo in Brazil, said in a telephone interview. "Heat waves kill more people today than all the world's wars."

A NASA analysis found that 2023 was the warmest year on record, with the Earth's average surface temperature measured at 1.4° Celsius (2.5° Fahrenheit) higher than preindustrial levels. Still, greenhouse gas emissions are projected to increase nine years after the 2015 Paris Agreement, in which world leaders committed to halving global emissions by 2030 to keep humanity safely under a 1.5°C (2.7°F) limit.

Coupled with the 2023 approval of oil and gas exploration in Alaska, U.S. emissions reduction goals are severely off track and LNG export expansion could result in an international knock-on effect of reduced climate action. "The political message is terrible," Nobre said. "The United States undermines emission reduction calls that could be made on other countries by adopting these measures."

Developed nations have yet to meet their \$100-billion-a-year pledge for fighting climate change. But spending for war and fossil fuel subsidies is in the trillions per year.

In the Amazon, global heating above 2°C (3.6°F) combined with a loss of a further 3 percent of the rainforest to deforestation could push the ecosystem past a point of no return, Nobre warned, resulting in an irreversible biome tipping point that could see the demise of up to 70 percent of the rainforest, the release of huge amounts of forest-stored carbon, mass biodiversity extinction and a region largely uninhabitable for its 30 million citizens.

"Millions of Amazonians would face a huge risk of the local climate surpassing the limits of the human body – experiencing temperatures and humidity so high that the body is unable to dissipate heat," Nobre added in a follow-up email, citing a 2021 Nature Communications study he co-authored. "In these conditions, infants and the elderly can only survive for 30 minutes. Two hours for healthy adults."

The better fossil fuel myth

Fossil fuel industry advocates have long promoted natural gas as a greener, cleaner fossil fuel. A Volkswagen energy subsidiary advertises LNG as "the fuel for change ... a perfect transition fuel on the path to clean energy." One executive went as far as calling LNG a "destination fuel."

Unlike coal, burning LNG doesn't produce soot and other dangerous air pollutants. And it releases less

carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels such as gasoline or diesel when burned by the end consumer.

But LNG has a flaw as a climate solution unspoken of by the industry that wants to export it: Many of its emissions don't come from burning.

According to a preprint study submitted for peer review in October 2023, tons of methane gases are released into the atmosphere during transport. Under the best conditions – a transatlantic trip to Europe with the most modern ships available today – the greenhouse gases emitted by LNG are still 12.3 percent worse than coal. A long-haul route to Asia with an older tanker emits at least twice as much as coal.

"It's just totally the wrong direction," study author Robert Howarth, a Cornell University professor who has researched LNG for decades, said in a telephone interview. "The IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] is telling us that we probably should cut our use of fossil fuels in the United States by half within the next decade, and instead, we're now the world's largest producer of natural gas."

Support for US allies

The Biden administration has stated that its motivation for exporting LNG is to secure energy for its allies, namely European nations, in the face of geopolitical conflicts with Russia arising from its invasion of Ukraine. But with U.S. LNG coming at higher cost and meaning more emissions, European energy experts say a switch from Russian to American gas will only create new problems. It could even hinder a rapid shift to alternative energy sources to meet an EU goal of slashing emissions by 90 percent by 2040.

"Replacing Russian gas with American gas does not solve Europe's energy dependence," Yamina Saheb, an IPCC report author and energy and climate researcher at Sciences Po in Paris, said in a telephone interview. "We could have Donald Trump again and he is already threatening us, threatening his NATO allies."

United States LNG exports reached an all-time high in December 2023, with 8.6 million metric tons leaving American ports

– 61 percent sold to Europe at a cost up to 40% higher than Russian gas.

The money the European Union has spent on gas imports, Saheb said could have been better invested on renovating and insulating European homes. Since most natural gas in the EU goes toward heating, better insulation could permanently reduce emissions and consumer costs.

"The closer we get to 1.5°C warming, the higher the impacts of climate change are on the people. One of the impacts is, for example, now there is no snow in Europe," Saheb added.

Ice in the Alps is melting, putting water supplies at risk. Drought is assailing Spain and Italy, which produce much of Europe's fruit and vegetables. "You have food prices going up, energy prices going up and housing prices going up. We could see poverty in Europe, true poverty," she warned.

For Howarth, even reopening "mothballed coal plants" to address a short-term energy crisis, would be preferable to committing to decades of LNG: "Coal's dirty, but for a year or three in crisis, while we move to a better world, why not? LNG is worse for the climate than coal anyway, and this massive infrastructure buildup locks us into the wrong approach for far longer."

Natural gas emits more than coal when liquified and shipped across oceans, recent research found.

U.S. investments in LNG worldwide

While the U.S. government pauses to consider a big boost in LNG export capacity, it continues making major investments into LNG in other countries, including those already hard-hit by climate change. In 2019, the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) put almost \$5 billion toward a huge LNG project in Mozambique, construction that has destroyed forests, shorelines and wetlands in the country's northernmost region, Cabo Delgado.

Now EXIM is planning on backing a \$10 to \$13 billion project led by multinational oil corporations in Papua New Guinea, adding to at least \$6 billion the public financial institution has funnelled into fossil fuel projects since 2017.

The Papua LNG project includes nine production wells, four electric liquefaction trains, a gas processing plant and a 320-kil-

ometer (199-mile) pipeline cutting through the coastal Gulf province. Meanwhile, several of Papua New Guinea's islands are losing land yearly to rising sea levels, and entire communities in the Gulf's Orokolo Bay area are losing their homes.

Owen Vaii, one of the leaders of the Elema Mai Lavi Council of Chiefs representing 600 clans in the region, told a local newspaper: "We are not receiving or seeing any tangible benefit coming from the developer, provincial government or the National Government. And yet, our land, water way and resources are being extracted, impacted and disrupted."

The greenhouse gas emissions resulting from allowing all currently proposed U.S. LNG projects to export gas could reach an estimated 3.9 billion metric tons per year, surpassing the entire annual carbon emissions of the European Union. All the world's emissions in 2022 totalled 36.8 billion metric tons.

For many critics around the globe, a Biden administration LNG pause is not enough, even if a signal in the right direction. "If we would like to get rid of fossil fuels, we need to forbid in law any new exploration and any new infrastructure," said Saheb

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



CAPITAL RADIO

Africa's birds of prey under threat of sure extinction

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA'S magnificent birds of prey can be found soaring above the continent's varied habitats and terrains.

From the large and majestic Martial Eagle, to the colourful Bateleur and the long-legged Secretary bird, scientists are raising the alarm, saying they're quickly disappearing from African skies.

"Basically we are losing some of our most iconic raptors," says Darcy Ogada, a conservation biologist and Africa programme director at The Peregrine Fund.

Prior studies have highlighted the severe consequences of rapid human and agricultural expansion on vultures, attributing their decline to habitat alterations and poisoning.

However, a recent study conducted by researchers at The Peregrine Fund and the University of St Andrews revealed similarly alarming declines in other sizable raptors, not reliant on scavenging and less susceptible to poisoning.

Large raptors had experienced significantly steeper declines than smaller species, and this disparity was more pronounced on unprotected land.

The study, published earlier this year in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, noted that these diminishing large birds of prey face a dual challenge: their heightened dependence on protected zones coupled with increasingly restricted habitats.

Also, despite expectations that protected areas would ensure the safety of these birds, the study found otherwise.

"Not only are birds of prey declining outside of protected areas, which is a bit expected, but we also found really quite a large - particularly the large birds of prey, like ea-

gles and vultures - have declined inside of protected areas as well. So when you look at what is happening across Africa we are seeing that some of our protected areas are not actually protecting our species. Either they are not big enough or they are mismanaged to a way that the prey populations that are needed to support these raptors no longer exist," Ogada says.

Africa boasts over 100 species of raptors, all of which are experiencing decline.

The study measured changes in population abundance for 42 raptor species Kenya, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Northern Cameroon and Niger in which it study focused on the period between 1969 and 2020, revealing alarming declines in species such as Wahlberg's Eagle, African Hawk-eagle, Long-crested Eagle, African Harrier-hawk, and Brown Snake-eagle.

The research points to two significant challenges faced by these birds: increased dependency on protected areas and reduced restricted habitats.

The study found that African raptors active during the day are particularly vulnerable, with over two-thirds of the studied species qualifying as globally threatened.

The human impact on raptors is evident through poisoning, collisions with energy infrastructure, bird killings due to traditional beliefs, shooting, and trapping.

Retaliatory poisonings by pastoralist communities, aimed at predators such as lions and hyenas, have inadvertently led to the decline of scavenging birds like vultures and eagles.

Ogada highlights the critical role scavenging birds play as the "clean-up crew," preventing the spread of diseases by swiftly consuming carcasses.



A secretary bird in the Maasai Mara reserve in Kenya

"When you think of species like vultures, these are species that have huge implications for what we call 'ecosystem services,' so benefits to mankind, because they are consuming carcasses quickly, therefore limiting the possibilities that these carcasses could spread diseases in the environment," she says.

The Soysambu Raptor Centre, under the care of renowned conservationist Simon Thomsett, provides a refuge for birds injured by energy infrastructure or community assaults.

Thomsett emphasizes the challenges faced by large birds of prey like the crowned eagle, citing reduced habitats and slow reproduction rates as contributing factors to their vulnerability.

"Things like this take about five to seven years to get sexually mature and only have one egg every two years meaning

that if you persecute them they simply cannot bounce back so that is why birds of prey are much more vulnerable than the larger carnivores in many ways," he says. Highlighting the critical issue of electrocution as a significant threat, Stephen Githenya, a veterinary technician, underscores the importance of meticulous planning in the placement of power lines to mitigate risks to birds of prey.

Githenya says birds of prey inherently favour elevated perching spots, such as pylons and distribution power lines, as vantage points to spot prey with ease.

Tragically, this preference exposes them to the peril of electrocution when settling or standing on these structures.

"Birds of prey prefer high points that would facilitate them to spot their prey items very easily and this high point include pylons and distribution power

lines so when they settle or they stand on those pylons and distribution power lines, they are exposed to electrocution," explains Githenya.

In addition to strategic planning, Githenya stresses the need to insulate power lines to prevent the electrocution of endangered raptor species.

The authors of the study advocate for an urgent expansion of Africa's protected areas, in harmony with the objectives laid out in the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) of 2022.

The convention sets a crucial goal of conserving a minimum of 30 percent of the world's surface by 2030, a target deemed vital for the preservation of global biodiversity.

Presently, Africa's protected areas encompass a mere 14 percent of the continent's land and inland waters.

UN environmental assembly seeks action to address planetary triple threat

By Maina Waruru, Nairobi

THE Sixth United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) ended with delegates calling for firm actions to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss, and pollution.

The assembly also reaffirmed its call for "environmental multilateralism" in seeking solutions to the threats, noting that time was running out fast before the threats could besiege the planet and make life a bigger nightmare, especially for the underprivileged.

The concept has been part of the main messages amplified by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Inger Anderson and part of its clarion call as well.

Also topping their calls is the plea for countries to remain on course in implementing the principles of the Paris Agreement, with many noting that the pact provided an ambitious roadmap to boldly "tame the climate crisis" by cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

While delegates at the five-day assembly at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, which ended on Friday, March 1, 2024, observed with satisfaction that efforts at curbing plastic pollution could soon become a reality, some expressed concern that a Ministerial Declaration issued at the end of the event was not explicit on the urgency of actions needed to end the plastic crisis, nor did it mention the legally binding agreement on ending plastic pollution.

The agreement is currently under negotiation, and parties meet in Montreal, Canada, in April, where a deal could be reached.

"We emphasize the importance of advancing integrated, science-based approaches, informed by the best available science and the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities, in order to strengthen resilience to current, emerging, and future challenges and promote global solidarity."

"We recall General Assembly resolution 76/300 of July 28, 2022, on the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment," the five-page ministerial statement read.

The 21-point document issued



at the closing of the event was also emphatic on the need for effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, reaffirming "all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals."

The ministers of environment from 182 member states acknowledged the threats posed to sustainable development by global environmental challenges and crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as desertification, land and soil degradation, drought, and deforestation.

The gathering passed a record 15 resolutions and two decisions, as

proposed by various delegations, with some being hailed as very critical, while others were viewed as crucial and timely.

Raising the most curiosity is a resolution by Ukraine, calling for "environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts," which was endorsed despite being introduced on Thursday. The country is involved in armed conflict with Russia, and has been exposed to risks, including nuclear accidents, by the fighting.

On its part, Saudi Arabia sponsored one calling for "strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and en-

hance drought resilience."

Others included resolutions on considering environmental aspects of minerals and metals, the call for circularity of a resilient and low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry, promoting sustainable lifestyles, an appeal for action on sound management of chemicals and waste, action on highly hazardous pesticides fronted by Ethiopia, and a call for action on combating sand and dust storms by Iran.

"I am proud to say this was a successful Assembly, where we advanced on our core mandate: the legitimate human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, everywhere," said Leila Benali, UNEA-6 President and the Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco. "As

governments, we need to push for more partnerships with stakeholders to implement these mandates. We need to continue to partner with civil society, continue to guide and empower our creative youth, and also with the private sector and philanthropies," the minister added.

Decisions arrived at the assembly are "most often" followed by actions and UNEP and member states will initiate actions based on the resolutions, assured Anderson, UNEP's Executive Director.

At the same time, the assembly was told that more than a third of the world's population is drowning in garbage, with over 2.7 billion people not having their waste collected, largely in the developing regions of the world.

Out of the number, 2 billion people are living in rural areas, while 700,000 of them are in urban areas, a new United Nations report launched at the assembly revealed.

The report, *Turning rubbish into a resource: Global Waste Management Outlook 2024* (GWMO 2024) revealed that an estimated 540 million metric tons of municipal solid waste, an equivalent of 27% of the global total waste, was not being collected, with only 36% and 37% of the refuse generated in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and South Asia regions, respectively, being collected.

This was in sharp contrast to the situation in developed and upper-middle-income countries, where almost all of the waste was collected, at admirable rates of between 83% for the Caribbean, and 99% for North America. This is against a global average waste collection rate of 75%, the report, further revealed.

It predicts that the waste generated is set to grow in volume from 2.3 billion metric tons in 2023, to 3.8 billion metric tons by 2050, worsening the burden of managing it.

"In 2020, the global direct cost of waste management was estimated at USD 252 billion. When factoring in the hidden costs of pollution, poor health, and climate change from poor waste disposal practices, the cost rises to USD 361 billion," it notes.

"Without urgent action on waste management, by 2050, this global annual cost could almost double to a staggering USD 640.3 billion," it

adds.

So far, no country in the world, including the developed ones, has managed to 'decouple' development from waste generation, with the two going hand-in-hand as they always have, noted lead author Zoë Lenkiewicz.

"We recommend that the world needs to integrate the principles of just transition and circularity to better manage waste. Note with concern that many countries need to build their national expertise in waste management," she said.

At the same time, the global production and consumption of material resources have grown more than three times over the last 50 years, growing at an average of more than 2.3 percent a year, despite the increase being the main driver of the triple planetary crisis.

The consumption and use of the resources are largely driven by demand in upper-income countries, with the extraction and processing of material resources including fossil fuels, minerals, non-metallic minerals, and biomass accounting for over 55 percent of GHG emissions, and 40 percent of particulate matter health poisoning in the environment.

Their extraction and processing, including that of agricultural crops and forestry products, accounts for 90 percent of land-related biodiversity loss and water stress, and for a third of GHG, while the extraction and processing of fossil fuels, metals, and non-metallic minerals, including sand, gravel, and clay, account for 35 percent of global emissions.

Despite this, resource exploitation could increase by almost 60% from 2020 levels by 2060 from 100 to 160 billion metric tons - far exceeding what is required to meet essential human needs, according to the UNEP report, *Global Resources Outlook 2024 - Bend the trend: Pathways to a Liveable Planet as Resource Use Spikes* tabled at the event.

Meanwhile, UNEA-6 has elected a new president to preside over UNEA-7, Abdullah Bin Ali Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority of Oman, who takes over from Benali.

Over 5,600 people from 190 countries participated in the proceedings held between February 26 and March 1.



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Winners and losers on exported manufactured goods

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

NEARLY all manufacturers, with the exception of those of glassware and fertilizers, earned meagre incomes from exported goods last year, when compared to 2022, provisional data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations have shown.

The trend resulted into lowed income from exported manufactured goods to US\$1.36 billion 2023, compared to US\$1.4 billion recorded in 2022.

Sharp decline of exports income was recorded on paper and paper products, which its earnings dropped to five year lowest by 60 percent to US\$19.3 million last year, compared to US\$59.4 million in 2022.

The major markets for paper and paper products from Tanzania, according to data by World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), include Burundi, Rwanda, Italy, Germany, Mozambique and India.

The sharp drop was also recorded on textiles, whereby exports earning shrunk to US\$74.6 million from US\$121 million respectively. The top partner countries to which Tanzania exports textiles and clothing include Pakistan, China, Kenya, India and Malawi

Earnings from exported iron and steel, also recorded similar trend, after as it fell to US\$75 million last year, the three years lowest, compared to US\$107.3 million in 2022.

Provisional data show ceramic manufacturers also experi-



Sub-Saharan Africa experienced an extraordinary 115 per cent increase in Internet users between 2016 and 2021

enced the decline of earnings from exported products, which amounted to US\$27.3 million last year, which was four years lowest, compared to US\$49.5 million in 2022.

Tanzania exports most of its ceramic tile to Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Peru and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. In 2022, the value of Tanzania exports of ceramic products to Rwanda amounted to US\$15.49 million, which was nearly a third of total exported ceramic products.

The BoT/TRA data also show earnings from exported cement decreased to US\$47 million compared to US\$66.2 million respectively.

According to the outlook, Tanzanian export of cement is set to decrease by 2.2 percent on average year-on-year to reach \$12.5 million by 2026, but there has been an increase of domes-

tic consumption due to increased implementation of construction projects for both government and private sector.

From January to December 2022, cement production increased to 7,532,173 tonnes, up from 6,863,004 tonnes in 2021, which represents an increase of 14.9 percent (983,714 tons). Tanzania's cement consumption increased to 7,532,173 tons in 2022, up from 6,863,004 in 2021, representing an increase of 9.7 percent.

It also noted that Tanzania's per capita cement consumption of around 50kg per annum is well below the global average and low even for Africa.

Today's cement industry in Tanzania includes six integrated plants and several grinding facilities with a production capacity of around 11 million tons.

Nonetheless, it indicated that the improving performance of the Tanzanian economy has fueled strong growth in cement demand and the

prospects remain favourable, given the linear relationship between economic growth and cement consumption.

A study released by the Bank of Tanzania in 2023 reveals that the primary challenges in cement supply in Tanzania stem from domestic production constraints.

Cement factories generally match production with demand, leading to intermittent shortages in some parts of the country, followed by price hikes during periods of constraint.

The decline of exports earning trends also faced manufacturers of plastic items, which their exports earning declined to US\$377 million last year, compared to US\$40.4 million in 2022 and cosmetics, which its exports earnings amounted to US\$43.9 million compared to US\$46.3 million respectively.

The data also show exports earnings for edible oil slightly went down to US\$17.5 million, compared to US\$18.1 million.

TAWA interventions to save villagers from wild animal invasion

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

RESIDENTS of Ndti and other villages in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region, can now feel assured against wild animal invasions with the establishment of the Problem Animal Control Station.

This rapid response facility, overseen by the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), ensures swift and effective measures to address any instances of wildlife encroachment.

Abraham Jullu, the senior assistant conservation commissioner, TAWA's Southern Eastern Zone has said this came following the complaints by villagers in elephants' invasion.

"Yes we're aware of the elephants' invasion at Ndti village and their neighbours," he told The Guardian over the weekend.

Following an outcry from people and village leaders, he said, TAWA decided to build a Problem Animal Control Station at Ndti Village and deploying four conservation rangers, four village game scouts trained by TAWA and one vehicle for emergency responses, responsible for conducting patrols to chase away the elephants from the villages farms to the Selous Game Reserve as well as performing other security duties.

"Every month TAWA provides food and allowance to four village game scouts who were trained by the authority to enable them operate their work more effectively," he said.

Also a batch of nine youths from Ndti village and their neighbours are in Ruvuma Region attending 3-month course at Community Based Conser-



Problem Animal Control Station and a vehicle deployed at Ndti Village for emergency responses to elephant invasion. Photo: TAWA

vation Training Centre (CBCTC) - Likuyu Sekamaganga in Namtumbo District with support from TAWA, he said.

"After the training, the trained youths will go to join the other conservation rangers in Ndti village, Kilimalondo ward and heighten the fight against elephant invasion in villages," he said.

He noted that TAWA is planning to build another 'Problem Animal Control Station' at Kilimalondo ward.

"So far the ward has been able to provide building for conservation rangers to control the elephant that destroy crops and kill people," he added.

Since February this year, the group of elephants landed into the village, posing security concerns and destroyed crops.

To start with, a joint team comprising of the conservation rangers from TAWA, village game scouts for intervention was formed two months ago.

Reports from villagers say, since January to February this year herd of 400 elephants from Selous Game Reserve invaded farms at Ndti village, before destroying crops.

Govt: Build your own infrastructure for autonomy

By Correspondent Julieth Mkireri, Kibiti

THE government's directive to co-operative unions to establish their own offices alongside warehouses marks a significant departure from previous protocols, aimed at nurturing self-sufficiency while reducing dependence on rented facilities.

This strategic shift underscores a commitment to empowering cooperative unions with greater control over their operational spaces, ultimately promoting long-term financial stability and operational autonomy.

Abillahi Mutabazi, the dep-

uty registrar for cooperatives in the Coast Region, disclosed this information over the weekend while addressing members of the Chapakazi primary co-operative union at their general meeting in Bungu, Kibiti district, within the Coast region.

He expressed his dismay at the fact that the Cooperative party had resorted to renting offices and warehouses for storing their produce, emphasizing the importance of self-sufficiency.

Additionally, Mutabazi noted that the Coast Region Cooperative Union (CORECU), had already initiated steps to address this issue by issuing in-

structions for the construction of the said facilities.

On the other hand, the deputy registrar, commended CORECU for maintaining clean records within the region, highlighting its exemplary performance as one of the top ten co-operative parties nationally.

For Mussa Mng'eleza, who serves as the chairperson for CORECU, emphasized the significance of prioritizing members who are farmers over politicians within co-operative unions.

He firmly believes that co-operative unions serve as the economic engine driving progress, stating, "Let's embrace change; it will lead to economic

prosperity." He extended his congratulations to Chapakazi for their commendable efforts and announced plans to organize a study tour in Mtwara for board members. The purpose of the tour is to expose them to successful farming practices, inspiring them to replicate similar achievements within their own communities.

Earlier during his presentation, Hassan Tinge, the secretary of Chapakazi, revealed that in the 2023 cashew sales season, they received 12,400 packages from CORECU, which were used to collect at least 876,858 kilograms of cashews from farmers.

Tinge further elaborated

elephants, "I am not sure of what I am going to feed my family this year," he complained," he said.

Also he could not go to his farm for farming activities fearing the elephant stormed into their farms and within the village.

"Due to this challenge, I have decided to engage in poultry farming so that I can sell chicken and get funds to purchase food to feed my family, so far I have 100 chickens for business purpose," he said.

"We are scared, until now we are seeing herd of wild elephants came inside the village to search crops, water and have chased villagers away from their farms and made it impossible for farmers to plant their crops this season," he said. Villagers have stopped working their farms in the morning and evening fearing that the elephant may come back.

The incidents also occurred in Namanja, Ngamambo, Nyambie and Nyambi B villages in Ndti ward and Namapwia, Mbute, Kitandi and Nambalapala villages in Luponda ward where elephants showed up just as the maize and other crops were growing tall.

More than 14,354 villagers from both wards have been affected by the elephants' invasion.

Also a similar incident was occurred in April, 2023, herd of 200 elephants invaded Ndti, Namanja, Nambalapala and Nyambi B Villages and kill 10 people.

Among those, two people were killed in their farms while the remained eight people were killed inside their houses.

Despite the presence of conservation rangers and village game scouts deployed by TAWA at Ndti village, "We still need more 30 conservation rangers and helicopter from TAWA to move the elephant away from the village, farms to Selous Game Reserve," he said.

Also they called upon government to assist them to obtain new land for human settlements and agricultural activities because in area where they stay is not safe.

Musoma District Council approves 30bn/- budget for FY 2024/2025

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

EUROPEAN equities jumped on Monday, following fresh highs in Japanese stock markets and Friday's record close in the Nasdaq, ahead of a week brimming with central bank meetings, major economic data and corporate earnings.

THE Musoma district council in Mara region has recently finalized the adoption of its draft budget plan for the financial year 2024/2025, amounting to 30bn/- sourced from various revenue streams.

Victor Nyamhanga, acting head of the planning division, presented the draft during a meeting held last week at the council's headquarters in Suguti Village on behalf of the council's director, Msongela Palela.

Nyamhanga outlined that 2.3bn/- is anticipated to be generated from internal revenue sources, while the bulk of the budget, totaling 27.6bn/- comprises subsidy funds, sourced from both the central government and donors.

"Furthermore, there are special requests from various development stakeholders totaling 3.55bn/-," Nyamhanga highlighted. "From the central government funds, 17.4bn/- is earmarked for Recurrent expenditure, constituting 63 percent of the total central government budget allocation."

he furthermore provided a breakdown of the allocations saying: "The central government subsidy for common use (OC) amounts to 1.35bn/- representing 5 percent, while 8.8bn/- which equivalent to 32 percent of the total budget is earmarked for development projects."

"Despite these allocations, our council heavily relies on the central government for 93 percent of its funding. Nevertheless, we've allocated an additional 390.9m/- from local revenue for development activities," Nyamhanga emphasized.

Regarding challenges encountered in implementing last year's budget plan, Nyamhanga acknowledged: "We encountered delays and discrepancies in receiving funds from the central government as approved by parliament."

"We're also facing shortages of vehicles and boats, hampering the effective management of development activities. Furthermore, there is a shortage of personnel in critical sectors such as health, education, construction, land, and administration," he elaborated.

During the session, committee chairman Charles Magoma urged Palela to address loopholes leading to loss of income from fishing. He stressed the significance of fishing income as a primary revenue source for the council, emphasizing that effective management of this sector could substantially boost revenue.

"Currently, the income derived from fishing is insufficient and does not reflect the actual potential. Therefore, the Director responsible for overseeing fishing income, along with the Fisheries Officer, need to be more proactive in addressing this issue," Magoma asserted.

He emphasized that the council incurs significant income losses by solely relying on Lake Victoria, noting that out of the 21 wards comprising the council, only three are not situated near the lake.

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IT'S the balance between that increasing desire for authenticity and that it is coming right from the source so social media really enables and facilitates that but the other side of that is that we have the algorithms and what are they optimizing for or providing us, in short there is a lot to unpack there for brands or even publishers or users. This will continue to evolve and this is very visible in this report.

Podcast is the Future

The authenticity of it and the opportunity to connect with people as a brand never underestimate the value of it because when people tell you what they want you to give them and how it can add value to their lives, go with that. You need to deliver polished stuff, you can do polished, you can do live and you can do all sorts of things. For data miners they find the value incredible in terms of access and reach. The report covers the number of people that tune into blogs and live streaming. There is also a parallel insight on the number of people that use video as a source of learning and that includes live streams.

I recommend that you do a deep dive into the 2023 report if you want to understand a bit more of the business case for this but also from a learning perspective if you're not data driven to just jump or have a go at it seeing how it works for your business and your audience. In Tanzania there are many small businesses that take advantage of Facebook and Instagram to promote their businesses. If they consider this data their business decisions based on which platform appeals to their clients or reaches, can help them a lot.

If your content is compelling and adds value people will always come back to it. If it is boring or a promotional content that does not consider the clients desire it will be viewed partially then ignored because there are many choices of content to view so therein lies the trick. Don't ask yourself should I repeat this but is it worth watching more than once? If not then leave it, but if the next question that comes to mind is how can I evolve it just slightly? A content creator can come up with all sorts of different stuff and you can package that story up for different audiences at different times. Think about your marketing and the genuine advice there is. Try not to repeat repeat and repeat in the way that we used to do on television because that isn't taking advantage of the opportunity. You can do it but their better ways of using your budget to deliver better outcomes.

The Growth in Social Media Platform

Realistically there is different values in all of these different experiences and people are going to keep

DIGITAL MARKETING

Alley Mmatya



coming back to them in the same way that they keep coming back to Snap Chat and X and so forth. Users always have strong views, and they will always voice them but behind all of that are very genuine statements that we need to listen to. People value the experience they get on these platforms and they want multiple experiences so as a marketer let us not try and make it the same.

We've seen Tik-Tok continue to grow through the data its ads now reach a billion adults a month that's about 23% of adults outside of China which is very huge, what is also interesting is the amount of time users spend on Tik-Tok which is like a day a month which is 24 hours a month essentially so that is a lot of time on the platform when you think about it so in contrast to that the other set of people spend about 118 hours a month on Instagram exactly. So when you put the numbers together and contrast between each platform that is when you see that people actually spend more time on Tik-Tok, definitely a lot of money and time goes to Tik-Tok.

Behavior, Affinity and Usage

What we also see in the report is that Instagram is preferred it is favored more, if you ask someone which is their favorite platform often times it is 46% of women under 34 years of age say it's Instagram versus 20% that only say Tik-Tok. What does this really mean for brands across all of these platforms that balance the idea of usage and reach versus affinity?

The easiest advice is first to try them all out for your audience and see what the outcomes that you care about that is the only way as a marketer you're going to decide which one of these platforms is best for your product. Even from one campaign to another the same team is going to have different outcomes on different platforms. So, Yes! There is a magic answer and that you can identify and that is Tik-Tok is performing good and now your mind is settled forever. That is definitely not the way it's going to be.

Indeed try things out for your audience and see what delivers the best outcome. Let's unpack data from AI, they used to be called Apani and their mobile expects in tracking mobile app trends. Like I said earlier, almost a day a month spent on Tik-Tok but also a day a month spent on YouTube, also 19 or 20 hours spent on Facebook and you got 11.5 hours spent on Instagram. So, if you ask people how much time they spend on social media each day, GWJ survey finds that it is 2 and a half hours per user per day and that is spread across all platforms.

To be continued...

Alley Mmatya (pictured) is the Founder - Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam

'Career counselling is important for junior professionals' - Part II

By Damas Ndalechi

JOB searching, networking and job application comes in as the fourth step right after the above three steps have been done and completed successfully.

According to Ian Allan in his book titled "The Job-Hunting Book", he differentiated job searching process from the commonly used job application (resume and cover letter) by introducing researching about the industry or sector where the employer operates, researching about the employer and about the advertised job, networking with relevant professionals for getting career information and advises, uses of LinkedIn professional platform, and finally customization of cover letter and resume for job application.

At this stage the jobseeker has applied for a job and is called for the job testing and interview as the fifth stage of the career counselling. However, due to high number of applications received for the job, and after preparing a longlist from the designed screening criteria; recruiters (recruitment agencies) and employers uses written tests (aptitude, psychometric, personality assessment) for shortlisting candidates for oral interview(s), usually minimum of three (3), no maximum until they get the successful candidate(s).

An oral interview can be done twice; one with the managers and second with the Directors or Partners or Board Members. Both tests and interviews examine candidates' general and technical knowledge about the job and the employer's business, skills, competencies, attitude and behavior, ethics, teamwork, and team leadership. Candidates may need to practice different types of written tests and do oral interview simulations or presentations with their support network including family members, their mentors, or coaches before going for interviews.

The sixth step is career development and growth which refers to continuously acquiring new knowledge and developing new skills and competencies throughout your career life. This can be done through formal and informal learning processes such as attending classes for extended academic programs, short courses on leadership and management. Other approaches for consideration that promotes career growth includes acquiring work experience, job rotation and job enlargement, transfers and promotions, uses of personality assessment, psychometric tests, performance evaluation and 360 feedback for addressing your areas of improvement, uses of succession planning and the nine (9) grid-model approach, etc.

Joanna Penn in her book "Career Change", says boundaryless career means one can work in any industry, sector, and different locations geographically. Therefore, it is very important to be



aware of the reasons for, and how to manage career change and transformation process, as the seventh and the last step of the career counselling module.

People change jobs, employers, and professions for reasons such as looking for high paying jobs, promotion for seniority or fame, grow their career to the executive levels, looking for more challenges and opportunity to acquire new knowledge and developing new skills. Other reasons can be family reasons for relocations, developing secondary passions or interests), leadership and management challenges, change of work environment and work relationships, becoming an entrepreneur and not as employee, etc.

The career change process involves self-assessment on the reasons for the change, having the qualifications needed for the next job, waiting time while looking for new opportunities, enlarging your network, updating your resume, attending additional training, managing personal finance, etc.

In summary, therefore, career counselling or seeking career advice does not commence from college or university undergraduate stage.

Instead, it starts from junior secondary school education or even before depending on how quickly a teenager can catch up. Parents needs to start having conversations with their teens on their future career aspirations, by highlighting available career path options, as well as assuring them endless parental guidance and support.

It is also important for the teens and youth interests and passions to be known and considered as chances for having a successful career life is higher than been forced to pursue their parents' wishes only.

Damas Ndalechi (MHRM, BCOM) (pictured) is a Tanzanian human capital advisor working with UNDP Timor Leste (East Timor) as Career Counselling Specialist for the Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Skills (YEES) Project. This article represents his personal views and opinions, NOT that of his employer. He can be reached through dr.ndalechi@gmail.com

SaaS evolution and innovation due to accelerate in 2024

By Norman Kretzmer

THE software-as-a-service (SaaS) space is set for strong growth, with Gartner estimating that the value of the market will grow from around \$204 billion in 2023 to nearly \$244 billion in 2024. Relentless advances in technology, along with businesses' appetite for solutions that enhance operational efficiency, are among the key factors driving adoption.

But we are still in the early stages of the SaaS market. Over the next few years, we can expect the evolution of SaaS to be characterised by more innovation, flexibility, and vendor focus on delivering value to customers with specialised solutions and enhanced user experiences.

Here are some of the ways the market is changing.

1. AI everywhere

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning aren't new to software or to SaaS vendors. But the pace of innovation has dramatically accelerated over the past two years. Generative AI and large language models (LLMs) are gamechangers for SaaS vendors and their customers, helping to catalyse a new wave of innovation.

SaaS vendors are using gen AI to provide more intuitive user interfaces, design AI-powered support chatbots that are friendlier and more powerful and streamline software development. Some SaaS companies are using gen AI to create new products, such as powerful tools for automated post-signature contract management.

2. Niche is nice

A trend towards more specialised SaaS solutions is gaining momentum as vendors come to market with solutions that are designed to do one process exceptionally well or address an unmet need in a niche market. This laser-focused approach addresses major business pain points with solutions that are quick and affordable to deploy.

Our company, for example, focuses on post-signature contract management because it is an underserved market. Generalist document management and workflow applications don't address the nuances of this area well. While there are specialised solutions, most are too expensive and complex for small and medium-sized businesses to implement.

3. Fortified data protection

With high profile data breaches hitting the headlines in South Africa in recent years, data privacy and information security are high on the agenda. Given that the Information Regulator is showing a willingness to fine companies for breaching the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), organisations are taking privacy and security more seriously than ever.

Companies are increasingly turning towards secure, cloud-based platforms to help them protect their most sensitive information. Features like end-to-end encryption, two-factor authentication (2FA), and regular backups are a must. Companies also want platforms that enable them to define user permissions for privileged information.

4. True hybrid

The shift towards hybrid working models has accelerated the demand for SaaS collaboration tools, including video conferencing, project management, team communication, and virtual collaboration platforms. Since the pandemic, SaaS solutions have helped to support flexible working models, helping people and teams to collaborate from anywhere.

5. Everything automated

Automation is one of the major driving forces in today's SaaS market. With budgets under pressure and competition heating up, many organisations are looking for quick wins from process automation. SaaS solutions address inefficient manual processes and business pain points with tools to streamline work.

In post-signature contract management, for instance, manual methods like spreadsheets are sources of inefficiency, errors, and complexity challenges. Replacing manual methods with cutting-edge AI to efficiently extract and organise data helps reduce costs and improve consistency.

6. Software on demand

There is a move away from complex SaaS solutions that involve long sales cycles, extensive customisation, and lengthy implementations. Self-service SaaS or on-demand SaaS offer easy sign up without significant upfront commitments. Users can manage their subscriptions, scale services up or down, and access features on-demand, all with minimal intervention from the service provider.

Norman Kretzmer (pictured), the founder and CEO of Contract Understanding based in Johannesburg



New Brics members could provide much-needed vehicle currency

By Herbert Poenisch

IN January, five new members joined the Brics bloc: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iran and Ethiopia. This means that five new currencies are in the pot for payments and mutual holdings, joining those of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The Brics mechanism is lacking a vehicle currency like the one provided by the European Payments Union in 1950, where several currencies - weak ones as well as strong ones - were cleared. In the end the D-Mark emerged as the main vehicle currency after the dollar served in the interim.

While the renminbi will be the main currency for trade, payments and settlements within Brics, the role of a new prime holding currency offers fresh possibilities. Regarding trade, Saudi Arabia and the UAE will most likely trade with China in renminbi, independent of the denominator currency. This will significantly affect the global supply of renminbi and further internationalise the currency.

The transactions will be recorded by Swift and foreign exchange reserves by the International Monetary Fund. Conducting trade in local currencies will strengthen the Saudi rial



and the UAE dirham within the Brics bloc.

Which currency will emerge as the Brics vehicle currency in the short and medium term is still open. This currency will have to be strong and offer stable relations with

the rest of the world - first and foremost the dollar - and be freely convertible. The renminbi has shown its limitations in playing this role due to depreciation and exchange rate volatility in addition to Chinese restrictions on finan-

cial accounts and a highly managed offshore renminbi market.

Only two real contenders

Among the new currencies the only ones that meet these criteria are the Saudi riyal and the UAE dirham. Both currencies have full capital account convertibility, for residents and foreigners, and have been pegged to the dollar since the mid-1990s. While the Saudi government might have some qualms about internationalising its currency, the UAE seems more market friendly, open to trading in all the other Brics currencies. As a market maker it could fulfil the role of vehicle currency in the short term.

The well-developed financial centre in the UAE would offer Brics partners cash deposits or dirham instruments, or freely convert Brics currencies into dollars. Offshore renminbi holdings were never free of restrictions and exchange rate risk. This will satisfy the need for dollars, which have been de-

nied to them by China. Buying dirham cash or instruments poses no risk as they can be freely converted into dollars at a fixed exchange rate.

The UAE financial system would have to play the role of the EPU, accepting strong and weak currencies, such as rupees for remittances or renminbi for imports from China, and disposing of them or adding to their portfolio of reserves. These will be held by private financial institutions as well as the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates. They would step in where political agreement has failed to provide a mechanism.

The only open question at the moment is in which direction the pressures for appreciation of the dirham or the depreciation of weak currencies within Brics will lead. The revaluation of the D-Mark in the European case is worth studying.

Herbert Poenisch is Senior Fellow, Zhejiang University, and former Senior Economist, Bank for International Settlements.

President Kiir opens Nilepet US\$27 million worth headquarters in Juba

By Dotto Charles

SOUTH Sudan's national oil company, Nilepet, celebrated a momentous occasion with the inauguration of its new headquarters in Juba, with President Salva Kiir Mayardit, officiating the ribbon-cutting ceremony, underscoring the significance of this milestone for the corporation.

A statement issued yesterday by the Energy Capital & Power and made available to this journalist, noted that the \$27 million project took six years to complete, over the tenure of four managing directors, with the final stages and inauguration achieved under Managing Director Bernard Amour Makeny.

At the opening, Nilepet (officially the Nile Petroleum Corporation) gathered together all international partners in South

Sudan's upstream petroleum segment, including CNPC, Petronas, ONGC, Sinopec and Tri-Ocean, as well as the joint operating companies Greater Pioneer Operating Company, Dar Petroleum Operating Company and Sudd Petroleum Operating Company. Also present were heads of Nilepet's joint ventures and subsidiary firms.

"For all the young people, this truly is the beginning of the journey of transformation of Nilepet. I want us to change our mindsets," said Makeny at the opening ceremony.

"What produces results is commitment, integrity and the love of being a citizen ... We need to prove that today we can build a better company if we work as a team. No more division. No more segregation. No more gender imbalance.

As South Sudan's primary employer, with more than 2,000 staff, Nilepet has a

fundamental role in the human capacity development of the nation.

The new headquarters, dubbed 'the Home of Transformation', can hold up to 1,100 staff. It signifies Nilepet's growing ambition across the spectrum of energy activities, in particular the upstream business, where Nilepet recently grew its stake in Dar Petroleum Operating Company from 8 percent to 10 percent.

The building further demonstrates the corporation's dedication to equipping South Sudanese nationals with the skills to build a competitive energy sector.

Makeny emphasized that it is vital for Nilepet's vision to engage further with international investors and partners, with accountability, efficiency and professionalism as core values and that its new, modern HQ marks a shift to being a more active and ambitious national company.

Apple hit with deterrent \$2 billion EU antitrust fine in Spotify case

BRUSSELS

APPLE was hit with a 1.84-billion-euro (\$2 billion) EU antitrust fine on Monday, its first ever and comprising mostly a deterrent, for preventing Spotify and other music streaming services from informing users of payment options outside its App Store.

The European Commission's decision was triggered by a 2019 complaint by Swedish music streaming service Spotify over this restriction and Apple's 30 percent App Store fees.

The European Union enforcer said Apple's restrictions constituted unfair trading conditions, a relatively novel argument in an antitrust case and also used by the Dutch antitrust agency in a decision against Apple in 2021 in a case brought by dating app providers.

The fine dwarfed the 500 million euros sources with knowledge of the matter had told Reuters they expected the Commission to mete out to Apple.

The regulator said in a statement it added an additional lump sum of 1.8 billion euros as a deterrent to Apple and because a significant part of the harm caused by Apple's conduct was non-monetary resulting in a total of 1.84 billion euros, 0.5 percent of Apple's worldwide turnover.

EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager said this was the first time the Commission has added a deterrent lump sum on top of an antitrust fine as a deterrent.

"For a decade, Apple abused its dominant position in the market for the distribution of music streaming apps through the App Store," EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

"They did so by restricting developers from informing consumers about alternative, cheaper music services available outside of the Apple ecosystem. This is illegal under EU antitrust rules," she said.

Vestager ordered Apple to remove the anti-steering provisions and to refrain from similar practices in the future.

Apple criticised the EU decision, saying it would challenge it in court. A ruling at the Luxembourg-based General Court, Europe's second-highest, is likely to take several years. Until then, Apple will have to pay the fine and comply with the EU order.

"The decision was reached despite the Commission's failure to uncover any credible evidence of consumer harm, and ignores the realities of a market that is thriving, competitive, and growing fast," the company said in a statement.

"The primary advocate for this decision and the biggest beneficiary is Spotify, a company based in Stockholm, Sweden. Spotify has the largest music streaming app in the world, and has met with the European Commission more than 65 times during this investigation," it said.

It said the Swedish company pays no commission to Apple as it sells its subscriptions on its website and not on Apple's App Store.

Vestager's order to Apple to remove its App Store restrictions echoes the same requirement under new EU tech rules known as the Digital Markets Act (DMA) which Apple has to comply with on March 7.

Apple's fine, however, is about a quarter of the 8.25 billion euro fines the EU regulator meted out to Alphabet's Google in three cases in the previous decade.

In contrast to the music streaming case, Apple is seeking to settle another EU antitrust investigation by offering to open up its tap-and-go mobile payment systems to rivals.

EU regulators, who subsequently sought feedback from rivals and users, will likely accept its offer without fining the company.

Agencies



Nile Petroleum Cooperation (NilePet) building inaugurated at the weekend.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



My life an open book, 140 crore people my family - PM Modi

ADILABAD

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi targeted the opposition coalition, INDIA bloc over nepotism and corruption during his address at Adilabad in Telangana yesterday.

PM Modi (pictured) said that the 140 crore people in the country are his family adding that his life is an open book.

"The leaders of the INDI alliance, deeply engrossed in corruption, nepotism and appeasement, are becoming nervous. When I question their 'Parivarvad', they have started saying that Modi has no family," the Prime Minister said.

"My life is an open book, 140 crore people of the country are my family. Today, crores of daughters, mothers and sisters of the country are Modi's family. Every poor person in the country is my family. Those who have no one, they also belong to Modi and Modi belongs to them. They say 'Nene Modi Kutumbam' (I'm Modi family)," he said.

"The countrymen know and understand me very well, keeping track of my every moment. Sometimes when I work till late night and the news is out, lakhs of people from across the country write to me asking me not to work so much, take some rest," he said.

The Prime Minister affirmed to continue his 'fight' to fulfil the dreams of the people.

"I live with feelings Mera Bharat, Mera Parivaar. I am living for you, fighting for you and will continue to fight for you, to fulfill your dreams with determination," he said.

He further highlighted the development initiatives taken up by the central government in the last 10 years of its governance.

"To date, over 15 lakh people have sent their suggestions for the Viksit Bharat Action Plan. Over 3,75,000 stakeholders have become active participants in this plan. Also, 3,000+ meetings have been held on the Viksit Bharat vision till now," he said.

"Around 11 lakh youth from across 1,200 universities have also become part of this journey. And this way, we are moving ahead to build a Viksit Bharat, together!," PM Modi said.

ANI

US Vice President Kamala Harris calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

ALABAMA

UNITED States Vice President Kamala Harris has urged for an "immediate ceasefire" in Gaza, which she stressed must last for at least the next six weeks. Terming the conditions in Gaza as "inhumane," Harris said that people in the region were "starving."

Harris (pictured), who was in Alabama's Selma, to commemorate the 59th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, said, "The threat of Hamas poses to the people of Israel must be eliminated. And given the immense scale of suffering in Gaza, there must be an immediate ceasefire for at least the next six weeks, which is what is currently on the table."

The US Vice President noted that the ceasefire will allow the release of hostages and aid will

enter Gaza. She stressed that Hamas needs to agree to that deal.

"This will get the hostages out and get a significant amount of aid in. This would allow us to build something more enduring to ensure Israel is more secure and to respect the right of the Palestinian people to dignity, freedom, and self-determination," Harris said.

"Hamas claims it wants a ceasefire. Well, there is a deal on the table. And as we have said, Hamas needs to agree to that deal. Let's get a ceasefire. Let's reunite the hostages with their families. And let's provide immediate relief to the people of Gaza," she added.

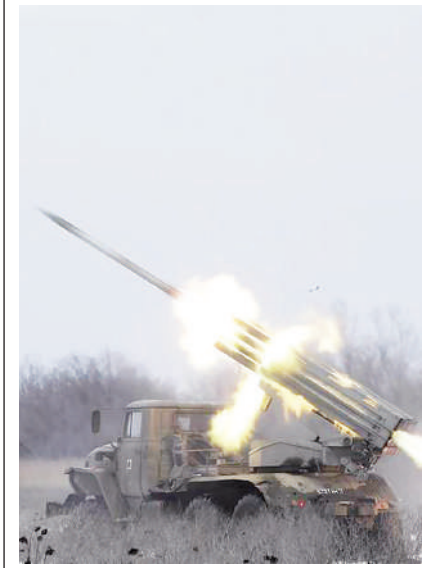


She stated that Hamas cannot control Gaza and added that the threat Hamas poses to the people of Israel must be eliminated.

She further said, "Hamas is a brutal terrorist organization that has vowed to repeat October 7th again and again until Israel is annihilated." She said that Hamas has shown no regard for innocent life, including for the people of Gaza, who she stressed have suffered under its rule for almost 20 years.

Terming the situation in Gaza "devastating", Harris said that they have seen reports of families eating leaves or animal feed, women giving birth to malnourished babies with little or no medical care, and children dying from malnutrition and dehydration.

ANI



Russian forces continue to occupy favorable positions in Avdeyevka area

MOSCOW

THE Russian armed forces continued to occupy favorable positions in the Avdeyevka area, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"In the Avdeyevka direction, Russia's battlegroup Center continued to occupy more advantageous lines and positions, defeating the manpower and equipment of the 107th Ukrainian territorial defense brigade near Tonenkoye of the Donetsk People's Republic.

Eight counterattacks by assault groups of the 24th mechanized, 3rd assault and 25th airborne brigades were repulsed near Petrovskoye, Leninskoye and Orlovka of the Donetsk People's Republic," the ministry said, adding that the enemy lost up to 160 servicemen, five armored fighting vehicles, including a US-made Bradley infantry fighting vehicle and a Msta-B howitzer.

Also, the Russian armed forces struck the Ukrainian manpower and equipment in I12 areas over the day, the Russian Defense Ministry reported.

"Russian forces hit the Ukrainian manpower and military equipment in I12 areas," the ministry said.

Kherson area

The Russian armed forces wiped out over 60 Ukrainian servicemen in the Kherson area over the past 24 hours, and destroyed an enemy ammunition depot, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

"In the Kherson area, Russia's battlegroup Dnepr defeated the manpower and equipment of the 118th Ukrainian mechanized brigade, the 35th marine brigade and the 126th territorial defense brigade near Ivanovka in the Kherson Region and Rabotino, Malaya Tokmachka in the Zaporozhye Region. The Ukrainian losses amounted to up to 60 servicemen, three vehicles and an ammunition depot," the statement said.

Donetsk area

The Ukrainian armed forces lost up to 270 servicemen and 16 units of equipment in the south Donetsk area over the past day, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

"In the South Donetsk area, Russia's battlegroup East defeated the 72nd Ukrainian mechanized, 58th motorized infantry brigades and the 121st territorial defense brigade near Novodonetskoye, Ugledar and Staromayorskoye of the Donetsk People's Republic. The enemy losses amounted to up to 270 servicemen, two tanks, two infantry fighting vehicles, three armored fighting vehicles, seven vehicles, a US-made Paladin self-propelled howitzer and a Msta-B howitzer," the ministry said.

Agencies

Nikki Haley wins Washington, DC, Republican primary

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL contender Nikki Haley won the Washington, DC, Republican primary on Sunday, her first victory in the nominating process and a symbolic win for the former US ambassador to the United Nations, Edison Research said.

Haley, the only remaining challenger to Donald Trump in the race, won 62.9 percent of the vote, versus 33.2 percent captured by the former president.

"It's not surprising that Republicans closest to Washington dysfunction are rejecting Donald Trump and all his chaos," Haley campaign spokesperson Olivia Perez-Cubas said in a statement.

Haley was the first woman to win a Republican primary in US history, her campaign said.

She still faces near-impossible odds in her quest to win the Republican nomination to take on likely Democratic nominee President Joe Biden in November. Trump won the first eight nominating contests by significant margins before losing to Haley in America's capital city.

The former president is also expected to win almost all nominating contests going forward, opinion polls show.

Washington, DC, is 100 percent urban and a relatively high proportion of residents hold a college degree. The core of Trump's base skews rural, and he



Republican presidential candidate and former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley speaks at a campaign event in Portland, Maine, on Sunday. AP

is particularly strong in areas with low educational attainment.

"I purposely stayed away from the DC Vote because it is the 'Swamp,' with very few delegates, and no upside," Trump said in a post on the Truth Social platform.

The city also is home to a significant number of federal workers who Trump allies have pledged to fire en masse and replace with loyalists if he wins in November. Some categories of federal workers have seen an increase in death threats in recent years, and Trump often refers to the DC area as the "swamp."

Haley will pick up 19 delegates from her win, a small portion of the 1,215 delegates needed to clinch the nomination.

Her victory could inoculate her from criticisms that she is unable to win a single nominating contest, though some Republicans will see her popularity in Washington as a

negative. Many party leaders - Trump included - portray the city as crime-infested and run by out-of-touch elites.

This is not the first time Republicans in the capital have rejected Trump. During the last competitive Republican nominating contest in the District of Columbia, in 2016, Trump received less than 14 percent of the vote and no delegates, even as he went on to win the nomination nationally.

Today, voters in 15 states and one US territory will participate in the biggest day of nominating contests in the presidential primary. Known as Super Tuesday, 874 Republican delegates will be up for grabs.

The Democratic primary in Washington will be held in June.

Agencies

Families of MH370 victims mark 10 years since flight disappearance

KUALA LUMPUR

FAMILY members of those aboard Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 marked the tenth year since the disappearance of the aircraft here on Sunday.

With speeches, presentations and poems, the next-of-kin marked the milestone, with Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook being in attendance.

"As we approach the 10-year remembrance of this heart-wrenching tragedy, it is a painful remind-

er of the decade-long journey of grief and resilience that loved ones of the victims have endured," he said in his remarks at the event. He added that efforts are still underway to bring closure to the incident.

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 was a tragic incident that occurred on March 8, 2014, when the Boeing 777, en route from Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia to Beijing Capital International Airport in China, disappeared with all 239 aboard.

UNECA calls for boosting intra-Africa trade to spur integrated development

ADDIS ABABA

THE African share of global trade remained at less than 3 percent as African countries continue to trade with the rest of the world more than among themselves, said a new UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) report.

The report on the assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa, among other things, showed that Africa's regional integration

agenda is progressing, albeit slowly, the UNECA said late Friday.

It said African countries have not met the macroeconomic convergence criteria despite progress in monetary and financial integration. According to the report, infrastructure development through the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) achieved mixed results, in which while roads and information and

communications technology advanced, rail transport and energy infrastructure progressed little. It said infrastructure financing remains a challenge for Africa. The PIDA is the strategic framework of the African Union (AU) for regional and continental infrastructure development.

The report indicated that there has been some progress in the fulfillment of the first ten-year implementation plan (2014-2023) of the AU's 50-

year continental development blueprint, Agenda 2063.

The achievements include the adoption of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and the creation of the Single African Air Transport Market. According to the report, despite trade under the AfCFTA having officially started in January 2021, the envisaged changes in intra-African trade are yet to appear. Intra-African trade as a share of global trade of the

continent declined from 14.5 percent in 2021 to 13.7 percent in 2022.

Over the same period, intra-African exports declined as a percentage of total exports from 18.22 percent to 17.89 percent, and intra-African imports declined from 12.81 percent to 12.09 percent, it said.

It also noted that the African continent has not performed well in bridging the gender digital divide, in which in 2023, about 32 percent of the female

population used the internet compared with 42 percent of the male population, against a global average of 65 percent of females and 70 percent of males.

According to the report, Africa still faces a "massive annual infrastructure financing gap," which is estimated between 130 billion and 170 billion U.S. dollars. It recommended innovative infrastructure financing instruments, which include blended finance, green, so-

cial and sustainability-linked bonds, and debt-for-nature swaps.

The report was released on the margins of this year's edition of the UNECA's Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which runs from Feb. 28 to March 5 under the theme "Financing the transition to inclusive green economies in Africa: Imperatives, opportunities, and policy options," in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

China still remains world's largest engine for growth

By Wu Lejun, Wu Qiuyu, Yu Yichun

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently raised its growth forecast for the Chinese economy and other emerging economies in Asia in 2024. At the same time, the IMF has increased its global economic growth forecast for this year by 0.2 percentage points to 3.1 percent due to the resilience of major economies like China.

The IMF pointed out that the lift of China's economic growth forecast reflects the continuation of the strong growth momentum in the Chinese economy last year, which exceeded expectations, as well as the stimulating effect of relevant policies implemented by the Chinese government.

In 2023, China's GDP exceeded 126 trillion yuan (\$17.51 trillion), growing 5.2 percent from a year ago. China still remains the largest engine of global growth. In January 2024, the country's economic vitality showed signs of recovery, sending positive signals for the year's economic performance.

Not only the IMF, other international financial institutions such as Goldman Sachs and UBS Group recently have also released reports indicating that China's consumption and service industries will continue its post-pandemic recovery trend in 2024.

Recently, leaders of international institutions and multinational companies have made frequent visits to China, including a Japanese economic del-



Robots dance at the 2023 World Robot Expo held in Beijing, Aug. 21, 2023. (Photo by Chen Xiaogen/People's Daily Online)

egation, a delegation led by the World Bank executive director, Danone Group from France, Amway Group from the United States and BMW from Germany. They showed confidence in the Chinese market and hoped to deepen practical cooperation with China.

At Xiaomo International Logistics Port in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, a roll-on/roll-off ship owned by Chinese new energy vehicle maker BYD set sail, carrying over 5,000 Chinese made NEVs and heading towards the Flushing Port in the Netherlands and the Bremerhaven Port in Germany.

In 2023, China became the world's largest exporter of automobiles for the first time. Statistics show that one in every three

cars exported by China is an electric passenger vehicle. Last year, China's exports of NEVs, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic modules surpassed 1 trillion yuan, leading the world in market share.

At the Alashankou port in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, China-Europe freight trains departed one after another, carrying daily necessities, automobiles and spare parts, machinery equipment, and other goods manufactured in various parts of China to Europe.

In 2023, China-Europe freight trains made 17,000 trips throughout the year, transporting 1.9 million twenty-foot equivalent units, marking a 6 percent and 18 percent increase, respectively, com-

pared to the previous year.

This "golden channel" of international land transportation has connected 217 cities in 25 countries between China and Europe, injecting continuous momentum into bilateral trade and economic exchanges.

China is the only country with industries across all categories in the United Nations (UN) industrial classification. "Chinese companies have significant advantages in terms of innovation capability, iteration, and manufacturing efficiency, and behind this is China's well-developed industrial chain and its massive market," said Tang Zhimin, director of China ASEAN Studies at the Bangkok-based Panyapiwat Institute of Management.

China is a major trading part-



Photo taken on Feb. 16, 2024 shows a scenic spot in Suqian, east China's Jiangsu province. (Photo by Ma Haifeng/People's Daily Online)

ner for over 140 countries and regions. Borge Brende, president of the World Economic Forum, noted that China is shifting from investment- and infrastructure-driven growth to innovation-led growth, and it holds a crucial position in global economy and trade. Sonali Jain-Chandra, chief of an IMF team conducting discussions on the 2023 Article IV Consultation in China, noted that the policies implemented by the Chinese government will have a positive impact on the economy.

She also said that research conducted by the IMF indicated that when China's growth rate rises by 1 percentage point, growth in other countries increases by around 0.3 percentage points.

She believes that China's economic growth in 2024 will still surpass the global average, making China a major contributor to

global economic growth in that year. In the new year, various regions in China have outlined their "roadmaps" to build a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized.

Shanghai has proposed further advancing high-level reform and opening up, enhancing development momentum and competitiveness, and vigorously promoting pioneering reforms and leading opening-up initiatives in all aspects.

Guizhou province will implement actions to improve the quality and efficiency of foreign trade. Chongqing municipality will advance high-level construction of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor to build itself into a highland of opening up. China is focusing on accelerating the development of new

productive forces and embracing innovation and transformation as important new trends in its economy.

The country is actively promoting digitalization and green, low-carbon transformation in industries. Xiao Song, global executive vice-president of Siemens, said that foreign companies deeply feel China is becoming an "innovation field" for cutting-edge technologies.

"The fundamentals sustaining China's economic recovery and long-term growth remain unchanged. As an open country, China will continue to bring more cooperation opportunities to the world. The future of China's economy is bright, and we are full of confidence in it," said Liu Sushe, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission.

Xiamen takes multiple measures to promote harmony between human, sea

By Liu Yi, Chang Qin

XIAMEN, in southeast China's Fujian province, is a typical bay city. It rises from the sea, drawn into its embrace.

The ecological conservation of bay cities is a global issue. These cities feature dense populations and industrial clusters, with significant pressure on resources and the environment. The challenges such as environmental pollution and biodiversity reduction often hinder their economic and social development.

How has Xiamen tackled these challenges and promoted harmony between human and the sea?

In June 2002, Xi Jinping, then deputy Party chief and governor of Fujian, proposed the idea of shifting Xiamen's urban planning from island-based to bay-based.

A development strategy was made to combine the development of Xiamen with the expansion of bays, combine urban transition with economic transition, combine rural industrialization with urbanization, and combine urban characteristics with the protection of bay ecology.

Xiamen has pioneered the concept of comprehensive bay-area governance in domestic coastal regions. It adopts a tailored approach for each bay.

Since 2002, the city has undertaken a succession of comprehensive renovation and development projects in five bay areas, namely Haicang Bay, Wuyuan Bay, Xinglin



Dolphins are seen in the waters of Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian province. (Photo by Zhou Daoxian/People's Daily Online)

Bay, Tong'an Bay and Maluan Bay. By dredging seawall openings, restoring mangrove shorelines, and revitalizing beaches, Xiamen has created a pleasant living environment around the bays.

In the past, a large area of water in Maluan Bay was transformed into shrimp ponds and fish farms, leading to deteriorating water quality. To address the issue, Xiamen rolled out a comprehensive "combo" of initiatives, including returning reclaimed land to the sea, watershed management, and ecological water replenishment.

"The birds know the best about ecological conditions. Rare bird species like the oriental stork and black-faced spoonbill now flock to Maluan Bay to

overwinter," said Guo Qiang, director of the bird-watching association in Xiamen, while snapping photos of the birds.

Guo told People's Daily that an ecological park has been built in the bay after dredging, and now it has become the top bird-watching spot for him.

Daitou Creek in Xiamen's Tong'an district was once heavily polluted. The district implemented initiatives like full collection and treatment of sewage, clearing sediments from all waterways, and constructing wetland parks, to strengthen ecological protection and restoration.

The once black and stinky creek has now become a sound place for citizens, and its water quality was maintained at

Class IV throughout last year.

Xiamen has carried out coordinated advancement in water resources, water environment, and water ecological management, to improve urban sewage collection and treatment capabilities, provide whole-area rural wastewater treatment, and prevent land-based pollutants from entering the sea. The proportion of wastewater discharge reaching standards into the sea has increased to 99.3 percent across the city.

The Xiatanwei Mangrove Park in Xiamen's Xiang'an district presents a beautiful seaside scene with mangroves flourishing on the tidal flats, which sway gently when brushed by sea breeze. Through a series of ecological restoration projects, the total mangrove area in Xiamen has increased from 32.6 hectares in 2000 to 173.9 hectares in 2023, with the ecological vitality and resilience along the coastline significantly enhanced.

Peter Thomson, the United Nations secretary-general's special envoy for the ocean, has visited the Xiatanwei Mangrove Park twice. He highly commended the balance achieved by Xiamen between ecological protection and economic development, saying he looked forward to Xiamen providing

a model for international marine ecological governance.

"Look! White dolphins!" On a boat ride to a rescue and breeding center for Chinese white dolphins in Xiamen's Huoshaoyu Islet, people saw some Chinese white dolphins in the sea.

They joyfully swam in the water, occasionally leaping out of the sea. People couldn't help but cheer excitedly, snapping photos and videos.

The Chinese white dolphin is guarded under first-class state protection in China. Since 2000, Xiamen has established a national nature reserve for 12 rare marine species, including the Chinese white dolphin and European lancelet, as well as their living environment, with an area of 7,588 hectares.

Chinese white dolphins like to inhabit and breed in bays at river estuaries, precisely where human activities are frequent, posing huge protection difficulties.

Xiamen enacted China's first local rules and regulations on Chinese white dolphin protection and built the first Chinese white dolphin rescue and breeding center. After years of efforts, the Chinese white dolphin population in Xiamen has gradually increased, from 60 in the early 1990s to over 80 now.

By Wang Junling

China sees more and more 'gigabit cities'

NINETY-SEVEN Chinese cities have newly become "gigabit cities" in 2023, meaning they gained the capability to offer gigabit 5G and gigabit optical fiber services, known as "dual gigabit", said China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) recently.

Building gigabit cities is a landmark project of new digital infrastructure development in China. As of the end of October 2023, all households in China's gigabit cities had been covered by gigabit optical fiber services. On average, there were 21.2 5G base stations per 10,000 people in gigabit cities. The average proportion of 10G-PON ports stood at 53.7 percent. The average proportion of users with speed of 500Mbps or higher reached 33.2 percent, and the average 5G users account for 49.2 percent.

In gigabit cities, over 99.5 percent of public hospitals that rank at the top of China's three-tier grading system, key universities, cultural and tourist areas, as well as train stations (above second class) offering passenger services, main airports, and key roads were covered by 5G network, the MIIT said, adding that the accessibility rate stood at 100 percent in 91 of these cities.

Gigabit cities have vigorously pro-



A mobile telecommunication technician tests 5G network on a 5G base station in Ganzhou, east China's Jiangxi province. (Photo by Zhu Haipeng/People's Daily Online)

moted the innovation and application of gigabit 5G and optical fiber technologies, and actively explored the deployment and construction plans as well as business models for the coordinated development of "dual gigabit." This has enabled various industries to improve productivity and efficiency.

For example, in Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan province, the efficiency of topcoat painting quality inspection has been improved by 30 per-

cent thanks to the application of 5G+ smart factories. Shijiazhuang in north China's Hebei province has leveraged "dual gigabit" networks to build intelligent hospitals, leading to a 50 percent improvement in the efficiency of X-ray image processing. In Ziyang, southwest China's Sichuan province, technologies such as 5G, Internet of Things, big data, and cloud computing have been utilized to enhance the Internet plus government services.

How the list of gigabit cities in



A 5G-enabled intelligent robot conducts routine inspection of electrical equipment at a 220kV substation in Dingyuan county, Chuzhou, east China's Anhui province. (Photo by Song Weixing/People's Daily Online)

China is getting longer and longer? According to an official with the MIIT, those new gigabit cities continuously increased policy support to encourage various market entities to actively participate in the construction of gigabit cities. Efforts have been made to address the bottlenecks, difficulties, and pain points in the construction and application of "dual gigabit" networks.

For instance, some gigabit cities

have strengthened policy support by incorporating fiber optic network construction and 5G site planning into the same-level national territory spatial planning. Baoji in northwest China's Shaanxi province and Lhasa, capital of Xizang autonomous region have introduced relevant policies to support the development of "dual gigabit." Zhongshan in south China's Guangdong province and Danzhou in south China's Hainan province

have included fiber optic network construction plans in the same-level national territory spatial information platform.

In addition, in terms of reducing the construction costs of "dual gigabit," some gigabit cities have exempted or reduced rental fees for occupying public places to construct fiber optic networks, 5G base stations and other communication infrastructure.

Harbin in northeast China's Heilongjiang province has opened up tourist attractions, parks, green spaces, street lamps and other public facilities for free 5G base station construction. Zhumadian in central China's Henan province, Anshan in northeast China's Liaoning province and some other places have promoted unconditional free opening of facilities owned by government agencies, public institutions, as well as public places like airports, train stations, high-speed rail stations, etc. for 5G base station construction.

The MIIT said it will leverage the exemplary and leading role of gigabit cities, strengthen exchanges of typical experiences, promote a pattern where key cities take the lead and other cities develop simultaneously, and foster a favorable environment for development.

SPORT



Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro.

Minister counsels All Africa Games-bound squad

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has urged Team Tanzania to make the country proud by winning many medals in the coming All-Africa Games set to get underway on Thursday in Ghana.

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro made the call yesterday, pointing out it is high time local athletes performed well in top international events.

Athletics, boxing, cycling, swimming, and judo are some of the sporting codes that have athletes that are to carry the East African country's flag in the Games.

"I'm calling on all the athletes who will represent the country at the coming All Africa Games in Ghana to fight for the national flag," the minister noted.

"The government has provided all the necessities for the teams, it has sponsored a more than one month camp for all athletes and it is time for them to prove to the nation that they are competent, winning medals is the only way for them to prove that," he said.

Boxers and judo players will leave on Saturday while the athletics team is set to depart next Wednesday.

Announcing the national boxing team on Sunday, Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) president Lukelo Willilo thanked the government for its overwhelming support for the team.

The eight boxers picked for the African Games are males Abdallah Mohammed- Flyweight, Ezra Paul-Lightweight, and Abdallah Mfaume- Welterweight.

Yusuf Changalawe-Light Heavyweight, Musa Maregesi-Cruiserweight, and Mhina Magogo-

Heavyweight complete the male boxers' list.

Female boxers making the team are Miriam Maligisa-Minimumweight and Zulfa Macho-Flyweight while coaches are Samuel Kapungu and Muhsin Mohamed.

The judo team constitutes France-based Andrew Mlugu, Thomas Mwenda, Raphael Daudi, Khamis Hussein Ali, Ibrahim Muhammad, and Adam Mwakisoma.

Others are Asiatu Juma, Anangisye Pwele, Abubakar Mcheteko, Nicholas Gregory, Oscarius Ponsian, Rahim Kinyaga, and Salmini Bunu.

The technical staff is made up of Mallya as head coach, Team Manager Zaidi Hamis, Physical Training Coach Omari Mgone, and Team Doctor Aziz Kitengo.

The athletics team is made up of male runners Twahir Haji Ame, Peter Gidoska, Josephat Gisemo, Samir Sululu, Mao Hando, John Wele, Ally Gullam, and Gasisi Geagase.

Female runners are Mwanaamina Mkwaju, Transfora Musa, Anastazia Dolomongo, Winfrida Makenji, Elizabeth Ilanda, Hamida Nassoro, and Neema Kisuda.

Maselina Gwandu, Francis Nade, Alfredo Shahanga, and Makame Hassan Juma are the squad's coaches.

Tanzanite Queens ready for All-Africa Games

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WITH a few days before Tanzania's U-20 women's football team jets off for the All-Africa Games to be held in Accra, Ghana from March 8-24, 2024, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo has confirmed preparations are in top gear.

Tanzanite Queens, under the tutelage of Bakari Shime, are in Group A of the showdown with hosts Ghana, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

In Group B, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, and Cameroon complete the set of eight teams slated to take part in the tournament.

The Tanzania envoys secured the spot for the women's soccer category after participating in the fourth qualifying round of the 2022 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup, which took place in Costa Rica.

According to TFF information officer, Ndimbo, the players have camped in Kigamboni at the TFF Technical Training Center.

He said that according to the ongoing preparations, TFF has high expectations the team will do well in its group and advance to the semi-finals.

"We believe the U-20 team has what it takes to do well in the tournament because some of the players- who have been included in various Twiga Stars fixtures- are in the team seeking to make up the Tanzanite Queens, I am sure the experience they got with Twiga Stars will help the team," Ndimbo revealed.

"You can see how competitive the clubs are, with the vast growth of continental football

especially at women's ranks with us contributing to the evolution," he disclosed.

Ndimbo maintained: "We believe we will have coach Shime and his technical bench, these players play in our women's premier league which is pleasing in terms of competition."

He said TFF will continue to be close to the team and other national teams so that they can do well in various competitions.

Tanzania will open its campaign with a tie against hosts Ghana before taking on Uganda and Ethiopia in the other Group A games.

“

We believe the U-20 team has what it takes to do well in the tournament because some of the players- who have been included in various Twiga Stars fixtures- are in the team seeking to make up the Tanzanite Queens, I am sure the experience they got with Twiga Stars will help the team,

SPORTS

Tanzanians basking in the glow of Simba SC and Yanga's unprecedented feat

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

TIME is gone when local clubs would routinely receive a severe drubbing in the hands of the so-called titans of African football.

Indeed, these seemingly unbeatable clubs primarily hailed from West and North Africa and there is no denying the fact that they gave our foremost clubs a torrid time for decades.

However, during the last couple of years, the winds of change have been blowing through local football and, as a result, our clubs have increasingly started to claim significant and morale-boosting victories against the continent's most prominent teams.

This was very evident last weekend when Simba SC and Yanga took on different opponents in the final matches of their CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign.

Granted, although Yanga suffered a razor-thin 1-0 loss to the highly touted Egyptian juggernaut, Al Ahly, last Friday, the Jangwani Street side was still able to make merry as it had qualified for the quarterfinals of the continental championship.

Therefore, although it was not a victory for Yanga, it was an admirable triumph in the big picture as they had sealed a berth in the last eight of the CAF Champions League for the first time in many years.

You may pose the query, Dear Reader, what about Simba SC? Well, heading into the squad's last Group B football contest against Jwaneng Galaxy of Botswana at the beautifully grand Benjamin Mkapa stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday, the task facing the Msimbazi Street outfit was really simple- either win or be ousted from the competition.

With a sea of passionate Simba SC fans clad in their trademark red and white jerseys in attendance, it soon became apparent that the Msimbazi Street side was impressively outplaying their hapless Botswana visitors.

Having seized the clash by the scruff



Simba SC footballers are pictured celebrating a goal netted by their teammate when it came up against Jwaneng Galaxy in the 2023-24 CAF Champions League Group B match in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Simba SC thrashed Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

of its neck right from the get-go, Simba SC went on to absolutely pummel the luckless Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0 in what was a decidedly one-sided match.

Following their pleasingly triumphant exertions last weekend, both Simba SC and Yanga progressed to the knockout stage of the CAF Champions League for the first time in Tanzania's football history, which is indeed a mightily outstanding accomplishment.

It is hoped then that the successful run that Yanga and Simba SC have had in this season's CAF Champions League manages to continue and is not cruelly halted at the quarterfinal stage.

Speaking of being cruelly halted, we now turn to the tragic news of the saddening demise of the late Ambassador Diodorus Kamala, who passed away lately.

Ambassador Kamala, who was a Yanga fan through and through, will be remembered especially fondly by

the club's faithful for his tireless efforts to raise funds for the Jangwani Street outfit during the club's financial crisis.

Others will recall Ambassador Kamala for his laudable efforts to improve sports as a whole in Missenyi Council, Kagera where he provided support to several clubs.

Fare thee well Ambassador Kamala. May your memory be an enduringly special blessing.

Coach Gamondi lauds Yanga players for tremendous CAF CL Group Stage campaign

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach Miguel Ángel Gamondi has asserted his side has learned tremendous lessons heading into the quarterfinals of this season's CAF Champions League.

The Argentine gaffer stated after the culmination of the premier continental club showpiece's Group Stage fixtures held last weekend- ending with Yanga's 1-0 defeat to Al Ahly in the stage's last round match.

Al Ahly hosted Yanga at the Cairo International Stadium where 30000 fans were allowed due to security reasons.

Forward Hussein El Shabat scored a goal via a solo effort to ensure the 'Red Devils' amassed 12 points which guaranteed it a place at the top of Group D while second-placed Yanga picked eight points.

Gamondi asserted that his side has picked massive lessons during the Group Stage run and he believes they have a chance to improve as they eye progression to the semi-finals.

The Argentine said: "After a wonderful campaign in the Group Stage with results we got in our final match against Al Ahly, we have picked massive reasons and projected how the semi-final ties look like with the level that Al Ahly showed us in our last match."

"With the absence of their key players they still played possessive football which was the difference between us in the match," the tactician noted.

"We tried to close gaps but they still found a way to play short passes and exploit us to their advantage, which was a massive lesson for us on what to improve," he stated.

Gamondi said despite failing to play their attacking brand of football, he will not switch to a defensive style during the quarterfinals.

The tactician disclosed: "I will live and die to attacking style football, I am a believer in my philosophy and my players provide me with the edge to do that, their passion is second to none in their commitment to implement our tactics."

"I will wait and know which team we will face and start preparing for the match while we also keep tabs on the Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup fixtures," Gamondi said.

Yanga is now on the verge of facing



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Ángel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

either South African club Mamelodi Sundowns, Petro de Luanda of Angola, or Ivorian side, ASEC Mimosas, in the quarterfinals.

The last-eight phase's first leg has been slated to be played in Dar es Salaam between March 28-31.

In another development, it is the first time that Tanzania has deployed two flag bearers in the CAF Champions

League quarterfinal matches.

It is, in this case, an indicator that football standards have scaled up this season.

Bayern's Lazio clash offers outgoing Tuchel lifeline

MUNICH

Bayern Munich's home clash with Lazio in the Champions League today offers coach Thomas Tuchel a chance to help salvage his reputation as he makes his way out of the club.

Mired in mid-table in Serie A, Lazio – who had three players sent off in Friday's loss to Milan – are also under pressure, but take a 1-0 first-leg lead in the last 16 tie to the Allianz Arena.

Hired two-thirds of the way through last season after Bayern surprisingly fired Julian Nagelsmann, Tuchel is on his way out, having struggled to keep Bayern on track for the Bundesliga title with Leverkusen comfortably in pole position.

Two early German Cup exits, and elimination at the hands of eventual champions Manchester City in Europe last season, means that Tuchel's only trophy was last year's Bundesliga, somewhat gifted on goal difference by Borussia Dortmund's final-day collapse.

Nagelsmann lost just 10 of 84 games in charge of Bayern.

With largely the same squad, plus England captain Harry Kane and South Korea defender Kim Min-jae, Tuchel has already lost 11 of his 45 matches.

– ‘Buzz in the air’ –

Friday's 2-2 draw with Freiburg and Leverkusen's 2-0 win at Cologne on Sunday mean Bayern are 10 points behind with 10 league games remaining in the Bundesliga title chase.

Despite Tuchel's side winning just one of their past five games, the Bayern hierarchy promised the coach will see out the season.

German media however have claimed the only thing keeping Tuchel in a job is the lack of a reasonable interim alternative.

All of Bayern's assistant coaches came to the club with Tuchel. The club is reluctant to appoint a permanent coach, with sights firmly set on a move for Leverkusen's Xabi Alonso in the summer.

After Friday's game, Tuchel said

his side were not lacking “desire” but rather “discipline”, saying “we played completely without structure” while criticising his team's “body language”.

“We did things we've never trained, that we've never even spoken about. From the beginning, we played like it was the 85th minute and we were a goal down.”

Inconsistency is not a new theme at Bayern, with the club leaning heavily on Kane's 27 league goals to bail them out.

Bayern veteran Thomas Mueller, a two-time Champions League winner, said Sunday: “The excitement is palpable for everyone, whether fans or players. There's a buzz in the air.”

Tuchel on the other hand seemed unsure of what to expect ahead of Lazio's visit.

“The ups and downs have been with us for a long time,” he said.

– ‘Pressure from within’ –

After the decision to part ways was made in late February, Tuchel said both he and the club could move forward with “clarity”.

The coach also said he could be more “ruthless” in his decision making, perhaps best exemplified by moving Joshua Kimmich to his unfavoured right-back position.

Another problem for Tuchel is depth. Dayot Upamecano, who saw red when giving away the decisive penalty in the first leg against Lazio, will miss the match.

Kingsley Coman, Serge Gnabry, Sacha Boey and Noussair Mazraoui also look set to miss out, while Leroy Sane is under an injury cloud having not played against Freiburg.

Tuchel conceded the situation was “weird” but denied he was under pressure to prove something to the club in his final months.

“The pressure comes from within, within myself,” he said.

“I put the most pressure on myself and I like to live with that pressure, which is a privilege because you're working at the highest level.”

“That's what I expect from myself – to handle that pressure.”

AFP

‘World class’ Foden reaches new heights as Man City inflict more misery on Man Utd

LONDON

PEP Guardiola said Phil Foden has become a “world class” talent capable of deciding big games after the 23-year-old scored twice in Manchester City's 3-1 win over Manchester United on Sunday.

Marcus Rashford's wonder strike had fired United into a shock lead at the Etihad.

Erling Haaland was then guilty of a miss that will go down in Premier League folklore when he fired over an open goal just before half-time.

But Foden ensured City ceded no ground in the title race as he blasted into the top corner to level and then produced a composed finish 10 minutes from time.

Haaland atoned for his earlier miss in added time as City moved to within one point of Liverpool ahead of a top-of-the-table clash between the two next Sunday.

“I always had the feeling he would score goals and now he is winning games. To become a world class player at that age you have to win games,” said Guardiola. “He lives to play football. That's why with 18, 19 years old he proved things but now he's more mature.”

“He always scored goals but now scores goals that win games and when you do this, you reach another level as a player.” An 11th league defeat of the season for United leaves Erik ten Hag's men 11 points adrift of the top four with 11 games remaining. United could have few complaints after being outplayed and having just one shot on target, even if it was a spectacular one.

Rashford rounded on his critics this week as he hit back at questions of his commitment.

The England international has been a pale imitation of the forward who scored 30 goals last season for most of this campaign, but showed a glimpse of the quality by smashing in off the crossbar from long range.

Guardiola's men dominated from that moment on, but were kept at bay for nearly an hour by wayward finishing and some fine goalkeeping



Manchester City's Phil Foden celebrates his first goal against Manchester United during their Premier League match at Etihad Stadium in Manchester on Sunday. Agencies

by Andre Onana.

Twice the Cameroonian foiled Foden when clean through, while Rodri was also denied by a smart stop low to his left. United's lead remained intact until half-time but only thanks to a moment that will be replayed for years.

City finally cut the visitors' massed defence to shreds as Rodri's cross was headed back across goal by Foden, inviting the finishing touch from Haaland. However, he incredibly turned the ball over with the goal gaping from point-blank range.

The rearguard action from the Red Devils was finally undone as Foden produced a strike to match Rashford's in the first half.

Ten Hag was furious that a foul had not been awarded to Rashford at the other end, but he appeared to go to ground too easily under contact from Kyle Walker.

Rodri picked out Foden, who cut inside and arrowed a blistering shot into the top corner.

A slick one-two between Foden and Julian Alvarez opened up the United defence for the decisive goal as the England international fired in his 18th of the season.

“That's my aim, to turn up in the big games,” said Foden, who has now scored six goals in nine Premier League games against United. “That's what I want to do. I think this season I'm proving that.”

“I understand what it means to the fans. It means everything to me. To score is even better, but it was all

about the win today.”

Haaland's redemption rounded off a fine afternoon for the English champions. Rodri dispossessed Sofyan Amrabat and teed up the Norwegian to curl beyond Onana for his 28th goal of the season.

Meanwhile, Pep Guardiola said Erling Haaland's response to an awful miss in the first half of Manchester City's 3-1 win over Manchester United on Sunday showed the mental strength of a sporting great.

The Norwegian somehow managed to spoon the ball over the bar with the goal gaping from Phil Foden's header across goal when United still led through Marcus Rashford's stunning strike.

Foden spared his teammate's blushes by scoring twice to turn the match around before Haaland made amends by scoring his 28th goal of the season in stoppage time.

Haaland seemed to have hit top form when he scored five times in a 6-2 FA Cup rout at Luton in midweek. Guardiola's ashen-faced reaction to his miss was in keeping with a collective screech of disbelief around the Etihad.

“That might be the worst miss I've ever seen at this level,” former England striker Gary Lineker posted on X. “@ErlingHaaland has to head it. Incredible.”

But Guardiola said Haaland's reaction was in keeping with what he has seen from top sports stars.

“The great players I met have this incredible ability to forget in an in-

stant,” said Guardiola. “It's painful, yes, but (he) had to forget it as quick as possible.”

“The best basketball players, golfers, tennis players, they miss, every-one misses. Ok, smile, positive and go for the next and that defines the great players.”

Victory kept City on the tail of Liverpool at the top of the Premier League, just one point behind the Reds ahead of a clash between the two at Anfield next weekend.

United have not been involved in a title race since Alex Ferguson's departure as manager in 2013 and an 11th league defeat of the season turns up the spotlight on Erik ten Hag.

Rashford's goal was the visitors' only shot on target as they managed barely 25 percent of possession.

Ten Hag said the match had been decided by “small margins”.

The former Ajax boss was unhappy that Rashford was not awarded a foul in the build-up to Foden's equaliser. The coach dismissed suggestions his side's latest defeat to City was another reminder of the gulf that now exists between the sides.

“Football is not only about possession,” said Ten Hag. “You see we have many problems now in injuries and still we had an opportunity.”

“By a really small margin we could have scored the second goal. You have to remember, City is in this moment the best team in the world.”

Defeat leaves United 11 points adrift of the top four and six behind fifth-placed Tottenham, who have a game in hand.

Fifth could be enough for a place in next season's Champions League, but there is little evidence Ten Hag is capable of turning United's season around.

The Red Devils have a goal difference of -2 and have scored the same number of goals as 18th-placed Luton. “It can be a quick turnaround. We have to try to get closer to them,” added Ten Hag. “Fifth spot can also be a Champions League spot. We have to go for it and win our games. I think we can score enough goals to win the football games.”

Bayern most at risk in Champions League as Real Madrid, Man City, PSG take leads into return games

LONDON

THE four European soccer powers that lead UEFA's club rankings return to the Champions League round of 16 in midweek with Bayern Munich looking out of form and at risk of a stunning elimination.

Real Madrid, Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain all take a lead into second-leg games and all are unbeaten in 2024 in their domestic leagues.

Bayern, however, has lost three Bundesliga games since January and three of its last five in all competitions including a 1-0 defeat at Lazio in the first leg.

Bayern has reached the Champions League quarterfinals in each of the last four years and went on to win the 2020 final against a PSG team then coached by Thomas Tuchel. But the current slump has seen Bayern already announce Tuchel will leave at the end of the season after just over a year in charge.

Bayern's home game against Lazio shapes as the game most in the balance this week. Also today, PSG takes a 2-0 lead to Spain against another slumping team, Real Sociedad.

PSG is dealing with the fallout of Kylian Mbappé's upcoming exit at the end of the season but still has a four-month unbeaten run while Real Sociedad has lost two more Spanish league games since the first leg in Paris.

The two standout teams in the Champions League this season – and the past two title winners – play at home tomorrow.

Madrid has a 1-0 lead over Leipzig from the first leg that was the record 14-time European champion's seventh straight win in the competition this season.

Man City also made it seven in a row beating Copenhagen

3-1 in Denmark three weeks ago.

REST OF THE ROUND

The rest of the round of 16 is completed next week, ahead of the quarterfinal draw on March 15 at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland.

On March 12, Arsenal hosts Porto trailing 1-0 from the first leg and Barcelona faces Napoli after a 1-1 draw in Italy.

Inter Milan takes a 1-0 lead to Atletico Madrid on March 13, when Borussia Dortmund hosts PSV Eindhoven tied at 1-1.

CLUB WORLD CUP

The 21 games left in this Champions League will finalize the 12-strong European challenge at the 2025 Club World Cup that FIFA is relaunching in the United States.

Borussia Dortmund or Leipzig will qualify, and it's Atletico Madrid or Barcelona, unless Real Sociedad wins this edition of the Champions League. Juventus will go if Lazio or Napoli don't progress much further in this Champions League.

FIFA has rebooted its club event as a 32-team tournament from June 15 to July 13 next year in the same format as the men's World Cup has

been since 1998.

It promises tens of millions of dollars in prize money and a brand-building opportunity to play competitive games in the coveted American market.

Europe's entries are the Champions League winners from 2021 through 2024 – Chelsea, Real Madrid and Manchester City so far – plus the highest ranked teams based on all results in the competition over the same four-year period. The limit is two teams per country, unless Arsenal wins the Champions League this season.

Four entries are still open because five clubs already secured their place on ranking: Bayern Munich, PSG, Inter Milan, Benfica and Porto.

EUROPA LEAGUE

Liverpool and Bayer Leverkusen carry their remarkable league-leading domestic form back into European competition after a pause of almost three months.

Liverpool relied on untested teenagers to help win three straight games without conceding a goal in the past week in three different competitions, including lifting a trophy

at Wembley Stadium in the English League Cup final.

Jürgen Klopp's injury-hit team goes to Sparta Prague on Thursday in the first leg of the Europa League round of 16. The second leg at Anfield is one week later.

Like Liverpool, Leverkusen has an early kickoff at 1745 GMT on Thursday, going three time zones east from Germany to Azerbaijan to face Qarabag in Baku.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso's team is now unbeaten in all 34 games this season and leads the Bundesliga by 10 points over Bayern as it seeks the first league title in club history.

Also Thursday in the Europa League round of 16, Milan hosts Slavia Prague and Roma hosts Brighton.

EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Eight first-leg games Thursday in the round of 16 of the Europa Conference League include Ajax vs Aston Villa and two Israeli teams in action.

Maccabi Haifa hosts Fiorentina in neutral Budapest, and Maccabi Tel Aviv is at Olympiakos.

AFP

How Arsenal's defence became three times better than anyone else's

By Sam Dean

A FEW years ago, in the summer of 2019, Dani Ceballos experienced the full horror of Liverpool's defensive intensity. The Spaniard was playing in just his third match for Arsenal, on loan from Real Madrid, and he was left gasping for breath as red shirts swarmed all around him at Anfield.

“I have never seen anything like that,” he said a few weeks later. “They take the air from you. You spend so much time defending and when you want to do something with the ball, when you want to breathe, they are back on top of you.”

Arsenal's manager at the time was Unai Emery, who always wanted to instil a similarly aggressive, hounding approach in his team. Sadly for him, he never managed it. But four years later, his replacement in the Arsenal dug-out is now succeeding where Emery failed.

Since the turn of the year, no team in the Premier League has defended as intensively and effectively as Mikel Arteta's Arsenal. They are pressing higher and faster than ever, suffocating their opponents and blocking all exit routes. No way through, no way out.

In six league games in 2024, Arsenal have conceded just three goals. That is impressive enough, but the underlying numbers, which provide a better reflection of their dominance, are extraordinary when compared to the rest of the division.

Since returning from a mid-season break in Dubai, Arsenal's expected goals against – a measure of the quality of the chances they are allowing their opponents – is just 1.88, or 0.31 per game. Prior to this weekend, the next best defensive team in the league in 2024 has been Manchester City, who have an expected goals against figure of 6.83, or 0.98 per game.

In other words, Arsenal's defence has not just been the best in the league since the start of 2024. It has been more than three times better than their nearest competitor.

Last weekend, Newcastle United were the latest victims of Arsenal's intensity. In the first half, Newcastle did not register a single shot, for the first time in a Premier League game since March 2014. Overall, Arsenal regained possession 11 times in the final third, the joint-most of any team since this data was first tracked by Opta in 2009.

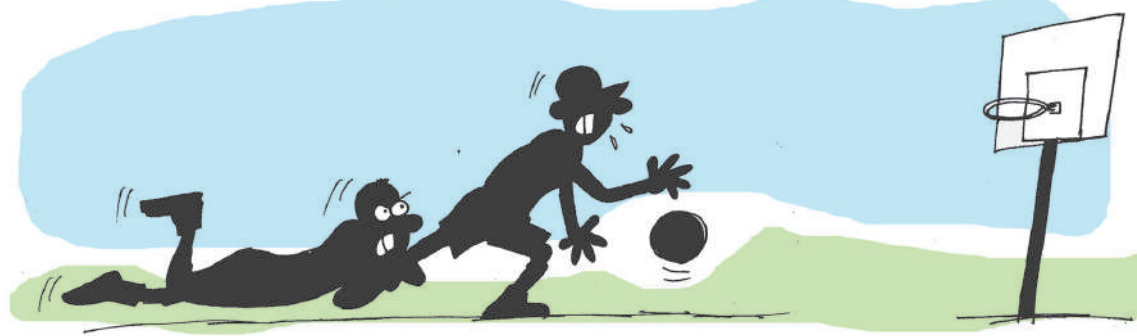
The tone was set by Kai Havertz and Martin Odegaard, who led Arsenal's pressing efforts. Behind them, Declan Rice and Ben White crunched into their opponents. It was aggressive, fast and relentless. Newcastle, in the words of Ceballos, simply had the air taken away from them.

Pressing from the front requires all 11 players to be fully invested in the strategy. It also requires the defence to push high up the pitch, closing the space in the opposition half. In 2024, Arsenal's defensive line has been the highest in the division: their average starting distance from their own goal has been 46.3 metres (Liverpool have been the second highest, on 45.5 metres).

“It is the approach of the players,” said Arteta. “It is up to them. Eleven players are taking ownership and they are responsible for everything that happens on that field. And then their attitude, their love, that love for defending. You have to love it.”

“When you put something into their system and they enjoy doing that and take pride in doing that, and they celebrate their defensive actions as they do an assist or a goal, you can take that to a different level. I think it is spreading amongst the team. That is contagious.” **THE TELEGRAPH**

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'World class' Foden reaches new heights as Man City inflict more misery on Man Utd

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Salum steps up quest for PL Golden Boot

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC midfielder Feisal Salum has boosted his quest for this season's Premier League top goal scorer's award after netting two goals in his outfit's tie against Dodoma Jiji FC last weekend.

The midfielder has, for that matter, outshone his closest challenger, Young Africans SC's Burkinabe midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki, by surpassing the latter's goal tally in the Premier League.

Aziz Ki, who led for a significant period with 10 goals, has been overtaken by Salum, who has now scored 11 goals this season.

Salum's impressive performance came during Azam FC's decisive 4-1 victory against Dodoma Jiji FC.

The midfielder, popularly known as 'Fei Toto', demonstrated his prowess by netting two goals in quick succession in the 62nd and 64th minutes of the game.

Azam FC's Ayoub Lyanga and Kipre Junior also netted and sealed the side's win, while Dodoma Jiji FC managed to salvage some pride with a penalty kick converted by left-back Emmanuel Martin in the 84th minute.

This season has marked a significant improvement for 'Fei Toto' compared to his time at Yanga two seasons ago. Previously, he had never scored more than seven goals in a season.

In the 2021-22 season, Salum played 2044 minutes in 26 games for Yanga, scoring six goals and providing four assists.

Similarly, in the 2022-2023 season, he also scored six goals. However, his current tally stands at an impressive 11 goals for Azam FC.

Azam FC capitalized on the club's home advantage at the Azam Complex Stadium, securing the convincing 4-1 drubbing of Dodoma Jiji FC.

The victory came after Azam FC endured two consecutive draws, a goalless draw with Tabora United and a 1-1 draw in a duel against Tanzania Prisons.

The last weekend's win solidified Azam FC's position in the Premier League standings, maintaining second place with 43 points whilst being level with Yanga.

However, Azam FC holds an edge in goal difference and goals scored. The side's performance in terms of wins, draws, and losses also distinguishes it from Yanga.

In 19 games played, Azam FC has secured 13 wins, posted four draws, and conceded two losses.

Conversely, Dodoma Jiji FC, under the tutelage of Kenyan Francis Baraza, has faced a challenging season.

With five wins, five draws, and eight losses in 18 matches, Dodoma Jiji FC currently occupies 12th place in the standings with 20 points.

Despite Dodoma Jiji FC's recent struggles, the outfit managed to maintain an unbeaten streak of five games in the Premier League.

The side's last victory, a narrow 1-0 win against Ifu SC, came in a duel that took place at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on December 18 last year.

Salum's outstanding performance and Azam FC's determined efforts have undoubtedly influenced the dynamics of the Premier League this season.

As the competition progresses, fans eagerly anticipate further displays of skill and resilience from both players and teams.

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kati Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (I)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SILECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kati Za Wana
18:30 PHASITAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Kopunovic credits Tabora United's win to fighting spirit

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli



Tabora United FC's head coach, Goran Kopunovic.

TABORA United FC secured a crucial 1-0 victory over Coastal Union, putting an end to the club's eight-game winless streak in this season's NBC Premier League.

The decisive goal came in the third minute of the duel, courtesy of the team's star forward, Andy Bikoko.

This victory marked a significant turnaround for Tabora United, which had struggled to find success since garnering a 2-1 win over Mtwara Sugar in December last year.

Tabora United's head coach Goran Kopunovic, commenting on his club's victory which came after an eight-game winless streak, stated: "Before the game, I attributed our lack of victories to a confidence issue."

The outspoken gaffer revealed: "Today, we secured a win, which is a true reflection of life's balance. Just as there are bad days, there are good days too."

"This victory holds immense significance for my team and my players, as it will instill confidence for upcoming matches," he pointed out.

He continued: "My boys displayed immense fight in this game, executing everything I instructed. This is crucial, and I am incredibly proud of them. I believe this marks a new beginning for my team."

He maintained: "It is empowering us to continue performing well, even with two upcoming away games against Dodoma Jiji FC and KMC FC at the Azam Complex Stadium."

This win was a much-needed morale boost for Tabora United, currently positioned ninth with 21 points after 19 games this season, having secured four wins, nine draws, and suffering six losses.

Coastal Union, on the other hand, experienced the first defeat in six consecutive Premier League matches in the showdown, having previously enjoyed a strong run of form since commanding a 2-1 victory over Singida Fountain Gate FC on November 27 last year.

Coastal Union's head coach David Ouma expressed his sentiments, stating: "First and foremost, I would like to extend congratulations to Tabora United for their victory in this match. In football, it is crucial to respect your opponent."

The gaffer noted: "However, it cannot be denied that we had a significant opportunity to level the score at 1-1. Nevertheless, in football, as we are aware, there are three possible outcomes- win, lose, or draw."

The Kenyan coach, moreover, conveyed his appreciation towards his players, highlighting their commendable feat of going six games without conceding a goal.

He remarked: "As a coach, I view each game as an opportunity for learning. It allows me to identify areas where I may have erred and strive for improvement in subsequent matches."

Reflecting on the unsuccessful changes made during the second half, the coach acknowledged: "I endeavored to make the right decisions as a coach."

The gaffer said: "However, in football, there comes a time when individual brilliance must shine through for the team to achieve results."

"Nonetheless, it is imperative to recognize that learning from mistakes is fundamental in football, and it provides the foundation for resilience and progress," he noted.

Despite the loss, Coastal Union maintains a respectable fourth place in the standings, having amassed 26 points from 18 games.

The Tanga club's recent performances have been impressive, having won five out of the six games played at home, with only one draw against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on February 12 this year.

Looking ahead, Tabora United is set to face Dodoma Jiji FC at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, while Coastal Union will take on Azam FC at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Both matches are scheduled to take place on March 6, promising more exciting football action for fans across Tanzania.

The victory for Tabora United not only boosts the club's confidence but also sets the stage for an exciting second half of the season as the outfit strives to climb higher in the standings.

Coastal Union, despite the setback, remains a formidable opponent and will be looking to bounce back swiftly as the squad aims to cling to a position near the top of the table.

Simba SC and Yanga to learn CAF CL quarterfinal opponents next week

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's envoys in the 2023-24 CAF Champions League, Simba SC, and Yanga, are set to identify their opponents in the continental tournament's last-eight phase in Cairo, Egypt on March 13.

According to the Confederation of African Football (CAF), the premier continental tournament's quarterfinals are set to start at the end of this month.

The phase's first leg duels have been scheduled for March 29-30 and the rematches are scheduled for April 5-6.

Teams that finished on top of groups A, B, C, and D will be seeded in the first pot against teams that finished second and are set to be seeded in the second pot.

Simba SC, which has made it to the continental showpiece's quarterfinals on four occasions, is likely to face Petro de Luanda (Angola), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), or Al Ahly (Egypt).

Yanga is set to face Mamelodi Sundowns, Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas, or Angola's Petro de Luanda.

Simba SC, as is the case for Yanga, has never met Mamelodi Sundowns in the former's respective histories.

Statistics show Mamelodi Sundowns, established in 1970, has won 16 South Africa Premier League top honours, winning back-to-back since the 2017/18 season.

Mamelodi Sundowns has an illustrious record- winning the inaugural African Football League (AFL) this season.

The club's record in the CAF inter-club showdowns has, as a result, become better- given it had so far clinched its first and only CAF Champions League silverware in 2016.

Angolan outfit- Petro de Luanda- has set a new club record in the CAF Champions League after playing six games without conceding a single goal with six clean sheets notched.

Petro de Luanda has yet to cross paths with Simba SC in the competition, albeit it is familiar with Yanga.

The Angolan side has a record with Yanga, having locked horns with the Tanzanian club in the qualifying round as the former won 2-0 at home but suffered a 3-0 loss to the latter in Dar es Salaam.



Simba SC's midfielder, Said Ntibanzonkiza (L), jubilates with his teammate, Pa Omar Jobe when the former scored for the outfit in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B clash against Jwaneng Galaxy in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Simba SC defeated Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

The 1997 CAF Cup finalist has made seven appearances in the CAF Champions League, including the 2021/22 semi-final, and- in the domestic league- the outfit has won 17 league titles and 14 FA silverware.

ASEC Mimosas is likely to face Yanga. In 1998 Yanga lost two CAF Champions League group games against the Ivorian side, 3-0 home and later 2-1 away.

The two sides may meet in the next round depending on the draw, with vast changes having taken place in the two sides in the showdown.

ASEC Mimosas is one of the strongest teams in this season's competition- finishing first with 11 points in Group B- while Simba SC can hardly face the Ivorian outfit, given it finished with eight points in the same group.

Simba SC is likely to face Al Ahly in the

CAF Champions League quarterfinals, they are two teams that are familiar with each other- having met five times since 2019 and ending with two wins for either side and one draw.

Initially, the two sides met in the AFL, whereby Simba SC was knocked out in the quarterfinals via away-goal rule after settling for a 2-2 draw in the first-leg duel at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Al Ahly later secured progression to the inaugural showpiece's next stage thanks to an away goal following a 1-1 draw in the rematch which took place at Cairo International Stadium.

The Egyptian outfit boasts a record 11 CAF Champions League top honours and is ranked first in Africa with 78 points.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

