



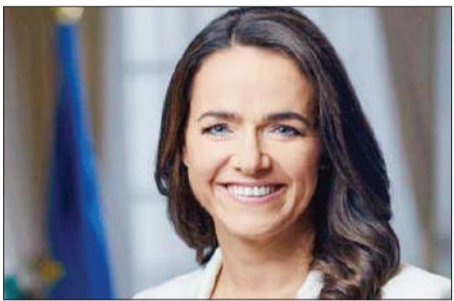
National Pg 3 Kikwete at Mandela's public lecture



National Pg 4 TARI issues 3,000 banana seedlings



National Pg 6 'Tanzania can feed the rest of Africa'



Tanzania welcomes Hungarian president

By Francis Kajubi

HUNGARIAN President Katalin Novak (pictured) was expected to land at the Julius Nyerere International Airport at midnight yesterday for a three-day official visit.

Slated to be received by Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax, the Hungarian head of state is responding to an invitation by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The visit comes at a time when Hungary is implementing a new tone in its foreign policy towards African countries seeking to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties, she said, noting that it is the first time as Hungarian president visits Tanzania since it attained its independence.

The visitor will later hold talks with President Samia at the State House, with the minister noting that Hungary-Tanzania relations date back to the 1960s.

President Novak's visit is expected to chart a new stage of relations especially for foreign direct investments, tourism and higher trade volumes, she said, noting that Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) data shows that Tanzania and Hungary trade is way lower than most other European countries.

The value of projects executed by

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TIC lists 4.5trn/- projects during Jan to June, 2023

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) has registered 229 projects pegged at \$2.2bn (4.5trn/-) in value over the January to June period, with officials projecting that 400 projects will have been registered by the year's end.

Gilead Teri, the TIC executive director, made this remark at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday to explain the center's achievements and prospects.

The projects signify a brighter future since a total of 293 investment projects were registered last year, he said, affirming that registering this number of projects in half a year was a great success.

The increase in registered projects was a result of the friendly investment environment initiated by the sixth phase government, he said, noting that during the fifth phase government, investments pegged at 45trn/- were registered.

In the two years of the sixth phase government TIC has registered 22trn/- worth projects, he said, noting that the difference was 'huge.'

President Samia has focused on putting in place friendly laws for investors as well as attractions that pull investors in

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24-hour bus runs: Traffic commanders put on alert

By Guardian Reporter



Commissioner of Police (Operations and Training) Awadhi Juma Haji (2nd-L) represents Inspector General of Police Camillus Wambura in Dar es Salaam yesterday in presenting a trophy to Superdoll chairman Seif Ali Seif in recognition of the industrialist's long-standing cooperation with police on various development-related issues, including road safety. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

REGIONAL traffic police commanders and motor vehicle inspectors must work to strengthen the fight against bribes and controlling reckless driving to reduce accidents.

CP Awadhi Haji Awadhi, operations and training commissioner at police headquarters, gave the directives in Dar es Salaam yesterday when launching a three-day training session for the two groups of road traffic law enforcers.

Traffic police reports indicate that upwards of 886 people lost their lives from January to November last year from road crashes, with 573 people injured from 1,422 accidents recorded during the period.

The frequency of accidents was an increase of 11 accidents compared to the same period in 2021, though the rate of death was higher earlier, as 1,008 people died with a more stable level of injuries at 1,496 individuals.

The commissioner asked the assembled commanders sitting for training to ensure that they utilize auxiliary skills to stem road crashes from preventable causes, by supervising compliance with road traffic regulations.

"Reckless drivers should be fought with all efforts. Those who are driving while drunk merit hefty punishments including licence revoking," he said, underlining the need to act decisively to cut road accidents.

Samia upset over tide of military coups in Africa

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFRICA has experienced a total of 21 coups in the past eight years as the

continent suffers unrest, declining democracy and economic challenges, driving the waves of public uprisings.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan

made this observation here yesterday when opening the 2023 Africa Drive for Democracy Conference, urging African

President Samia Suluhu Hassan

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience in Arusha city yesterday with former president Jakaya Kikwete and other delegates to the 2023 Africa Drive for Democracy Conference she had just opened. Those attending the second edition of the annual gathering of pro-democracy actors from across Africa include women, religious and NGO leaders, trade unionists, scholars, professionals, donors, students and representatives of farmers' bodies. Photo: State House

A total of 199 police officers from regions across the country attended the training

Traffic law enforcers need to set up a clear work plan to combat road accidents at all times as the government has permitted upcountry passenger buses to operate 24 hours, he said.

Key among these efforts is to put up robust efforts to fight corruption, by ensuring that officers don't take bribery, he said, pointing out that this habit fuels behaviour that leads to avoidable road crashes.

The regional enforcers must intensely supervise the checking of driving licences that they are issued by adhering to the set laws and regulations, he said, insisting on observing police general orders in that regard.

Proper administration of the law without fear is vital for caring for drivers whose buses are competing on the road, he said, demanding special operations to apprehend buses violating traffic rules. Officers need to collaborate with key stakeholders especially the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

Seif Ally, the Superdoll CEO had earlier said the aim of the training was to support government efforts in combating road accidents, claiming the lives of Tanzanians.

He said Tanzania was safe defense-wise but it was still lagging behind in combating road accidents, noting that he was concerned with the permit for 24 hour passenger bus operations, affirming that President Samia Suluhu Hassan was tired of repeatedly hearing

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Samia upset over tide of military coups in Africa

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leaders to find ways to meet popular demands and rapidly address their countries' needs.

She said that a working democracy is a key instrument for solving problems facing the continent. "While democracy is not exactly the perfect tool of governance, there is still no better option," she remarked.

"When it comes to good governance, there is no substitute for democracy," she stated, emphasizing that Africa has to embrace the democratic ethos.

President Samia maintained.

She all the same acknowledged that where there is a series of public protests, freedom of speech sometimes goes overboard into mass activism, which isn't a formula for solving problems.

"That is why among other things, African leaders and governments should ensure that their people's basic needs are met by strengthening economies, ensuring youth employment and striving to make their countries self-reliant," she declared.

She said Tanzania has taken great strides in implementing good governance in tandem with empowering the people economically, citing steps to review draconian laws inhibiting people's participation.

This has facilitated political parties to hold public rallies, individual self-expression and youth involvement in economic activities, she further noted.

Through hatching special projects in mining, tourism, agriculture and the blue economy, many young people will be able to secure employment that suits their individual inclinations, she said.

Former president Jakaya Kikwete said that many of the ongoing conflicts in Africa are the result of "crude dissection of the continent into territorial borders by foreigners who did not know or respect people's connection, culture, history or resources."

Former Sierra Leone president Ernest Bai Koroma had earlier pointed out that security threats and conflicts affecting Africa were being catalysed by poor

governance.

"While there are other contributing factors such as international geopolitical conflicts, recent health pandemics and effects of climate change, the lack of good governance in some states has been making things worse," he declared.

The former president insisted that 'democracy must be created,' not be expected to appear by some automatic mechanism, as Africa is facing violent extremism, civil wars, inter-occupational conflicts, transnational organized crime and health pandemics.

These threats are exacerbated by internal factors such as bad governance, corruption and community marginalization, he affirmed.

Taking place for three days here, the second edition of the Africa Drive for Democracy Conference grouping pro-democracy actors on the continent.

The 'Social Movements and Democratization in Africa' conference has brought together various activist groups from around the continent, including scholars, religious leaders, NGOs, donor agencies, trade unionists, student organisations, professionals, artists, women leaders, farmers' associations and political formations, organisers said.

The conference is the main event of the Africa Drive for Democracy network convened by the MS Training Center for Development Cooperation, the Institute for Security Studies and the Center for Strategic Litigation.

Delegates will be taking stock of the state of democracy on the continent, highlighting achievements of the African democratic movement, taking note of the challenges encountered, "and craft forward-looking approaches towards promoting vibrant and tolerant democracies," they said.

The event will also deliberate on the state of social movements in Africa, reflecting on the historical role of social movements, their successes and failures, to chart pathways for strengthening the pro-democracy movement, they added.

Tanzania welcomes Hungarian president

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Hungarian investors in Tanzania from 1997 to 2023 is valued at \$1.79bn, she said, elaborating that the two heads of state are expected to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on collaboration in the education sector through exchange of higher learning students, with the possibility of annually renewing the MoU.

The visiting president will pay a call at the Hungarian consulate at the Kawe suburb outside the central business district, she said, elaborating that the visitor will fly to Arusha tomorrow for a private tour and leave the country on Thursday from the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

The minister was also upbeat on the news that Tanzania will soon host the Africa human capital heads of state conference slated for Dar es Salaam from July 25 to 26, organized by the World Bank.

The human capital summit will focus at accelerating Africa's economic growth in boosting youth productivity by improving learning and skills, where scores of African Heads of State are expected to attend, in the hope of finding methods of stifling mass unrest with unmanageable political demands.

The minister said African statesmen will seek to shed insights on how to take up positively the growing youth population as essential human capital for socioeconomic development.

An estimated 1,600 participants will accompany top state leaders at the conference, with the World Bank notifying Tanzania as its choice to host the conference

around mid-May, thus the ministry has been working round the clock to make it a success.

Ambassador Mindi Kasiga, the ministry's director of government communications, said Tanzania was picked to host the meeting owing to its steady investments in the education sector via free primary and secondary education and transformation in the health sector.

During the summit ministers will have time to showcase achievements realized in the fight against poverty via programmes like the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), she said.

Ongoing construction projects for information and communication technology (ICT) centers in Chato and Zanzibar will be cited as centers of excellence for youth engaged in technology and innovation, she stated.

"We are well prepared to market Tanzania's uniqueness among African states," she said, specifying that tourism attractions, culture and hospitality are key elements in this unique image.

Richard Bade, external finance commissioner in the ministry, said that Africa's head of states are expected to endorse a Dar es Salaam Declaration on common grounds of capitalizing on youth for current economic and social development.

"The declaration will set common approaches towards making the youth productive instead of burdening the respective countries," he stated.

Tremendous growth in the youth population in Africa should be turned into courageous human capital asset for present and future prosperity," he added.



UNICEF acting Country Representative Maud Droogleever Fortuyn speaks at workshop on the role of parents and guardians in promoting childcare held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was organised by the Community Development, Gender, Women and Special groups. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

24-hour bus runs: Traffic commanders put on alert

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the demand. Despite that training is costly, it was important to run the clinic to

ensure similar standards in how police officers handle road traffic issues to stem road accidents countrywide, he said.

For the country to be safe regarding road accidents, drivers need to adhere to the law, undergo continuous training and vehicles be

fitted with improved technology. A total of 199 police officers from regions across the country attended the training, officials noted.



Finance ministry deputy permanent secretary Amina Khamis Shaaban speaks at a meeting of Finance, Economic Planning and Cooperation experts from African Union member states held in Nairobi yesterday. The thrust of the deliberations was on the modalities of ensuring African countries better face short-term economic challenges and setting long-term strategies to strengthen economic growth and accelerate development. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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large numbers, citing the issuance of work permits being simplified compared to the past, he said.

TIC has put in place various strategies to attract investment in various sectors including sugar production, he said, projecting that by late 2024 Tanzania will be self-sufficient in sugar.

The sugar factory project in Mkulazi is steady and production is expected to start soon, he said, highlighting pursuit of the Kibaha Industrial Park at Kwala Area in Kibaha District of Coast Region,

TIC lists 4.5trn/- projects during Jan to June, 2023

expected to house 203 industries.

Projects registered include Oil Com Ltd with a new LPG storage and processing plant at Kurasini area in the city, Lake Cement Ltd, with a new cement plant at Kigamboni also in the city, plus Lodhia Steel Ltd new roofing sheets plant at Mkuranga in Coast Region.

The Lake Cement project in Kigamboni is billed at \$101m, to which a further \$26m has been added, taking it to a \$127m investment, he said, while the LPG project is a \$111m projected investment creating 1600 direct jobs and 160,000 indirect jobs through its entire value chain, he

said. The Mufindi Paper Mills Greenfield project will inject \$24m into the economy and create 190 direct jobs plus 75 tons of oil, with TIC seeking to facilitate investment so that companies opting to invest in Tanzania achieves their desired objectives, he added.



Dr Atupakisya Kalinga (L), a coordinator with the Directorate of Academic Services at the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing visitors on the academy at the ongoing 18th edition of the Tanzania Commission for Universities exhibition on. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Foreign researchers, scientists, tourists take a leaf from forest sciences at SUA

By Getrude Mbago

SOKOINE University of Agriculture (SUA) is witnessing an increase of researchers, scientists and tourists from various countries who are coming to learn and explore more on natural forest issues and other species found in Mazumbai Training Forest in Lushoto District, Tanga Region.

Mazumbai, part of the Usambara mountains range, is depicted as East Africa's finest biodiversity hotspot as it is one of the best examples of pristine rainforest of this type remaining in the region.

Acting supervisor of Mazumbai Reserve and Training Forest, Chamalindi Bugingo told a team of journalists who visited the forest recently to witness and learn about the species.

He said that the forest has been attracting field practical training and research activities by local and foreign students, staff and researchers in the fields of botany, forestry, zoology and other sciences, including tropical forest ecology. "The major big task carried out by SUA management is to conserve this natural forest, a good number of researchers and scientists find this forest as their best place to come to conduct their studies and learn more about various living species, the forest has never been touched by human activities for more than 200 years thus leading to have big trees which may not be found in other places," he explained.

Protection and conservation of the forest also helps it to be a good bank of tree seedlings including medicinal, timber and fruits.

Dr Agnes Sirima, Principal of the SUA's College of Forestry Wildlife and Tourism (CFWT) said the forest not only serves as a sanctuary for rare and endemic plant and animal species in Usambara Mountains, but also provides water catchment properties essential to the surrounding human population.

"Apart from being used by researchers and scientists from various parts, the forest is also used to train students of various courses in the areas of forestry, conservation,

environment and tourism, this helps the students to graduate with full practical knowledge," she said.

She explained that the Mazumbai Forest Reserve was originally on the Mazumbai Coffee Estate which was presented to the company's first Swiss manager, Hugo Tanner on his retirement in 1944. In 1968 the son of Hugo Tanner, John Tanner then donated the forest to the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) with the stipulation that it be preserved and that visiting researchers would be welcome to study there. In addition in 1982 when he left the country, he donated again to UDSM a chalet which he was living at Mazumbai to serve as accommodation to visitors.

The management of Mazumbai Forest Reserve at UDSM was under the custodian of the Division of Forestry of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences at Morogoro until 1984 when the Faculty was transformed into a full-fledged University and became known as Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Division of Forestry was elevated to Faculty of Forestry. Hence SUA inherited the forest reserve which was allocated to the Faculty of Forestry (now Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation) as a custodian. Consequently forest managers, forest guards and forest attendants are employed by SUA to ensure that local villagers do not take fuel wood or medicinal herbs from the forest.

Mazumbai Forest Reserve is a haven to a variety of animal species including rock hyrax, tree hyrax, bushpig, bush baby and elephant shrew, blue monkey, Forest duiker, abbot's duiker, Suni, civet, Angolan black and white colobus monkey and squirrels.

There are also various types of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes including green mamba, green bush snake, gaboon viper, Usambara bush viper and boom slung. The forest is also a birds' paradise and has an endemic rare banded green sunbird. The forest also has many types of amphibian including the endangered Mazumbai Warty Frog (Callulina kisiwamsitu) which is both ground-dwelling and tree climbing.

JK among panelists at Mandela public lecture

By Henry Mwangonde

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete will lead panelists at a public lecture organised by South African High Commission to Tanzania and the United Nations (UN) Tanzania to share insights into the life, vision and impact on the global stage of Nelson Mandela.

Briefing journalists yesterday, South African High Commissioner Noluthando Mayende Malepe said the public lecture which will take place the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) on 20th July will serve as a platform to inspire students, academia, and the public,

encouraging them to embrace Mandela's values of compassion, equality and justice.

"The collaboration with the UN on these events is aimed at promoting social welfare and commemorating the legacy of Mandela, his dedication to the service of humanity in the conflict resolution, race relation, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups," she said.

Apart from the public lecture, the embassy and the UN will today observe the annual 67 minutes at

the Muhimbili National Hospital's children Cancer ward to honor the memory of Mandela who dedicated 67 years of his life to public service. During the event the joint committee will provide support and encourage young patients battling cancer.

Other notable speakers at the public lecture include, ambassador Ami Mpungwe, Prof. Marcellina Chijorija and Judge (rtd) Joseph Warioba.

In November 2009 - in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, the UN General Assembly

declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day".

Resolution A/RES/64/13 recognizes Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; the promotion of social justice.

The resolution acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

REGIONAL and Zonal Referral hospitals are required to put in place procedures for empowering health workers in dispensaries and health centres in order to improve health services in their areas.

Dr Grace Magembe, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Health Ministry gave the directives here at the weekend during her visit to inspect the improvement of infrastructure at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital.

Dr Magembe said the government has invested a lot of money towards the construction of dispensaries in each village, and health centres in each ward, but in

Referral hospitals told to empower their employees at health facilities

some areas health services are still wanting. She said in order to improve these services, health experts from regional and zonal referral hospitals are required to provide training to health workers in these areas. "this should be coordinated by the regional medical officer, there is some equipment we have purchased and sent to district hospitals, dispensaries and health centres, but health workers in these facilities have no experience using them, hence it is your responsibility to teach them," said Dr Grace.

She said as for now, Tanzania has made great strides in specialist services and that it

has even left far behind some neighbouring countries whose nationals come to seek these services in Tanzania.

Mbeya zonal referral hospital managing director, Dr Godlove Mbwanji thanked the government for the investment at the hospital saying it has assisted to boost its services. Dr Mbwanji said at the moment the government has purchased a new MRI machine aimed at bringing health services closer to the people of the Southern Highlands regions including neighbouring countries who used to travel to Muhimbili national Hospital (MNH) to seek specialist services.

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The Board of Directors, Management and staff of Akiba Commercial Bank Plc are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Rashid Mbuguni one of the co-founders of the Bank. He passed away on Saturday, 15th July 2023 in Dar es Salaam.

The late Mbuguni played a key role in the establishment of our Bank, from the inception of the very idea and throughout the journey of building it into the financial institution it is today. He also went on to serve as a Board member from 1997 to 2008.

His leadership, foresight, and unwavering commitment to our institution have left an indelible mark on the Bank. We pay tribute to his memory and pledge to carry forward his vision and dedication.

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JET, USAID organise editors' biodiversity conservation debate

By Guardian Reporter

THE Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) in collaboration with USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project has organised the editor's biodiversity conservation debate to be held for two days in Bagamoyo, Coast Region.

A media statement signed by John Chikomo, JET executive director said the consultative meeting aims to create an interactive platform between editors and conservation experts for purposes of increasing knowledge and creating awareness on biodiversity conservation among Tanzanians.

He said the meeting is one of strategies to increase quality and quantity of biodiversity conservation stories, influence change and attitudes towards conservation. He said the platform is an opportunity for editors to interact with resource persons on different subjects related to biodiversity conservation, thus having accurate information for their reporting.

"We aim to increase biodiversity conservation knowledge among editors to ultimately enhance conservation activities within the community," said Chikomo, noting such platforms are also expected to increase the quality and quantity of biodiversity conservation stories and features.

He added: "Editors are gatekeepers who decide what should go to the public and what should not, hence the need to equip them with adequate knowledge on the subject matter and societal needs for information. Where a journalist's story has knowledge and skills gaps, it is upon the editor to fill these gaps."

He said since one of the challenges in biodiversity conservation is lack of data, knowledge, and systematic information flow on matters related to biodiversity loss and economic value of biodiversity, the consultative meeting will be a solution as editors will be equipped with necessary data to facilitate

production of better story pieces.

Conservation challenges such as invasive species and climate change in the wildlife corridors and protected areas require dedicated efforts of conservation stakeholders to address, he added.

Chikomo said that various presentations will be made including challenges of invasive species in conservation and community development, the role of Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) in combating wildlife crimes and promoting tourism as well as awareness on human-wildlife conflicts and solutions that have been successful and unsuccessful.

Tanzania is among the world's most biodiverse countries, with over 55,000 confirmed species. The country is also home to one-third of the total plant species and 20 percent of the large mammal species in Africa.

Over the last few decades Tanzania has lost at least one-third of its important ecosystems, and experienced downward trends in both the number of species and their individual population sizes. In the last decade alone, the number of threatened species in Tanzania has tripled.

The USAID's Tuhifadhi Maliasili (Preserve Natural Resources) project is a \$30.5 million five-year conservation project that aims to address dynamics that threaten wildlife movement and the long-term preservation of biodiversity in Tanzania.



We aim to increase biodiversity conservation knowledge among editors to ultimately enhance conservation activities within the community

'Zanzibar laws about land leasing to investors undermine stakeholders'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE law governing land lease to investor has no benefit to the people and retards their development since the time the government ushered in investments in the tourism sector in Zanzibar, ACT-Wazalendo has said.

Othman Masoud Othman, party's Vice Chairman, made the observation yesterday when addressing a rally at Mkwajuni Stadium in Unguja North Region.

Othman, who is also Zanzibar's First Vice President, said the government procedures in taking up land plots and handing them over to investors instead of the people themselves entering into contract with investors is not the right procedure to develop the people from their land plots.

He said in addition to Zanzibar's opening its doors to investors, still the people owning land in beach areas have not benefited at all with the investment owing to the government's grabbing their land and giving it to investors instead of the people themselves benefitting directly from their resource.

Othman said the aim of ACT-Wazalendo is to make sure land benefits the citizens and the government should not be involved in the lease, except in regard to collecting appropriate taxes.

Speaking about the Union's contentious issues, he said two retired presidents did a commendable job in defending Zanzibar's interests in the Union, including Dr Salmin Amour Juma and Dr Amani Karume.

He said Dr Salmin was able to stand firm and made sure Zanzibar establishes its own mobile telecommunication firm, Zantel that underwent registration hurdles due to the issue being solely under the Union Government, but was

nonetheless able to clear them.

He said for his part, Dr Amani Karume stood firm in defence of Zanzibar's interests in the Union including the issue of oil and gas to be removed from the list of Union issues.

Ismail Jussa Ladhu, party's central committee member said that Zanzibar needs a president who has the ability to come up in defence of Zanzibar's interests in the Union, including the restoration of Zanzibar's seat at the United Nations.

Jussa said Zanzibar cannot get any meaningful development without having full authority in deciding its own issues including economic plans.

Pavu Juma Abdallah, ACT-Wazalendo's women wing chairperson, said poor supervision of land laws has been adversely affecting women more since they are the ones engaging in farming activities in Zanzibar.

She said the law needs to be reviewed in order to give women the opportunity to own land since they are big producers of farm crops.



...the aim of ACT-Wazalendo is to make sure land benefits the citizens and the government should not be involved in the lease, except in regard to collecting appropriate taxes



Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme (in white helmet, foreground), symbolically operates a plant at the newly built mud dam at Mwaadui Mine yesterday to launch the resumption of diamond mining at the site. Activities ground to a halt after the dam previously in place burst on November 7, last year. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

DIT, Turkey firm train lecturers on technology

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) in collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) have embarked on a programme to train lecturers and tutors from four institutions of higher learning on excellence in technology.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend head of the DIT company Dr John Msumba said the lectures are from the University of Dar es

Salaam (UDSM), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Karume Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) and DIT.

Dr Msumba who was also the coordinator for the project said the training increases capacity of the lecturers to operate modern teaching machines.

"For the students to better understand what they are taught, it is important for the teachers to understand the operationalization of the machines," he said.

He said technology is changing and that Tanzania was lagging behind adding that the plan is to match with global changing technology.

He added that they will continue to offer such training to teachers and students in collaboration with TIKA where he said the new centre of technology at DIT need operators who are well prepared. "The training is part of preparations on teachers who will be operating the centre so that upon kick-off they know what to do," he said.

Turkish ambassador to Tanzania Dr Mehmet Güllüo lu said the two countries are expanding their collaborations on various sectors including education, technology, industries, trade and culture.

"We believe that through the collaboration, students will benefit, studying and increasing their knowledge on various issues related to technology and we will continue offering this kind of technology in collaboration with many others," he said.



Aretas Lyimo (facing camera), the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority's Commissioner General, has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with a delegation from HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania led by Dr Boniface Nguhuni, the acting Country Director of the latter agency's Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TARI distributes 3,000 modern banana seedlings to farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute-Uyole Centre (TARI-Uyole) has distributed more than 3,000 modern banana seedlings to farmers in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region aiming to improve banana production.

Four types of the seedlings that were researched on were distributed to farmers by TARI experts educated them on the better way to plant them.

Daud Mbongo, fruits expert at

TARI-Uyole named the types of the seedlings as including tariban I, II, III and IV that had been researched on and found to be growing well.

He said the seedlings has great capacity to withstand various plants diseases including black stripes and root worms that are the main causes for reduced banana production.

He also said the seeds has the capacity to produce big banana bunches thereby enhancing farmers' profits compared to traditional banana seeds.

"This banana type is for cooking (matoke) it produces bunches weighing 30kg to 60kg, hence they stand to increase farmers earnings from the crop," Mbongo said.

The researcher added that the reasons for distributing the seedlings in Rungwe District stems from the fact that the banana is a priority crop for farmers in the area.

For his part, Juma Mzala, Rungwe District Agricultural Officer said the crop is sustainable that will expand its production.

Lusungu Paul, Technology Development Coordinator at TARI-Uyole called on farmers to adhere to directives provided by experts on the production of the new banana seedlings, especially in regard to spaces between plants.

Elizabeth Sekile, one of the farmers from Rungwe District who received the seedlings thanked TARI-Uyole experts for providing them with the modern seedlings saying they will follow the directives provided to enhance their earnings.



Ummy Nderiananga (in yellow head-cloth), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), presents sanitary pads and various other items to Weruweru Secondary School president Teddy Molongo yesterday. She was on a routine tour of the school, which is based in Moshi municipality and where she once studied. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwadui Mines told to frequently inspect its new mud water dam

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

SHINYANGA Region Commissioner Christina Mndeme has instructed Mwadui Gold Mines to make frequent inspections to the new dam for storing mud water to make sure it does not break its bank and affect people around it as was the case with the first dam.

Mndeme made the remarks yesterday when officially re-launching production at the Mine after it suspended work for eight months after the former dam breached its banks November 7 last year.

The RC said she was happy to see the Mwadui Mine resume mineral production, as the government now stands to get its revenues and resumption of community projects under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

"As you continue using this dam, you should start feasibility studies for building a new dam so that when this one is full, you should not again suspend production," she said.

She also directed Mine's officials to increase minerals production pace and compensate for the time

lost when it remained idle.

For his part, Ayoub Mwenda, Mwadui Mines general manager said the new dam is for the period of two years before being full, and in due course they will start feasibility studies for the construction of a new dam that will last longer.

He said as for the time mining activities were suspended, they have experienced great loss of income as in one month they used to produce between 25 to 30 carats of diamonds valued at USD 270 per carat.

Aniel Macha, Consulting Engineers from City Engineering Co who built the new dam said the dam built is of high quality standard that will no longer be a threat to neighboring settlements. He added that they will be making inspections to the dam every three months to ensure its safety and allay fears from the surrounding residents.

"As you continue using this dam, you should start feasibility studies for building a new dam so that when this one is full, you should not again suspend production"

Tanzania to intensify its partnership with China for improving vocational education

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA has vowed to intensify the current partnership with China in improving technical and vocational education and training (TVET) provision in the country.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology made the remarks over the weekend in the Coast Region as he launched China-Africa TVET collaboration academic exchange seminar organized by National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).

He said the seminar is among the government's continued initiatives in strengthening collaboration with China in the areas of management and provision of TVET aim being to improve the quality of our TVET graduates in meeting both local and international standards.

"Tanzania is highly committed to strengthening the collaboration with China Vocational Colleges in order to improve TVET provision in the country and achieve the policy objectives. We are sure that the collaboration with China will not only improve the quality of TVET provision but also will produce competent human resources and attract foreign investors, including Chinese investments in Tanzania," he said.

"I hope that Tanzanian TVET colleges will utilize this opportunity to establish friendship and collaborations with TVET colleges from China in order to share the best experiences. China is a good example of a country with strong TVET systems that have contributed to the fastest economic development of China," he added.

He further noted that the seminar was in line with the government initiatives in which vocational education will now be offered from secondary education level in providing youth with skills and readiness for the job.

He added: "It is the government's wish to have a well-trained human resource at all levels in various sectors of the economy. This intention is clearly stated in Technical Education Policy 1996, National Education Policy 2014 (the 2023 Version) and Tanzania Development Vision 2025. The policies envisage the country to be a nation with knowledgeable people who can compete in the labor market and transform the country's economic development."

According to him, President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her counterpart Xi Jinping advanced China-Tanzania relations into a comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership and agreed to strengthen all-round cooperation. The consensus was reached in November 2022 during President Samia visit to China immediately after the 20th Congress of the CPC.

Dr Adolf Rutayuga, the NACTVET executive secretary said the purpose of TVET collaboration and academic exchange seminar is to strengthen collaboration and education provision between Tanzania and China so as to produce skilled graduates capable of responding effectively to national and international labor market demands.

He added: "The aim of the meeting is to give opportunities to each TVET institution to introduce itself, network with one another and share best experiences and practice," he said.

"I hope that Tanzanian TVET colleges will utilize this opportunity to establish friendship and collaborations with TVET colleges from China in order to share the best experiences. China is a good example of a country with strong TVET systems that have contributed to the fastest economic development of China"



TANZANIA PORTLAND CEMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company (TPCPLC) continues to deliver strong operating results when compared to the same period in year 2022. The Company has experienced a rather stable growth of sales volume and revenue compared to the same period in 2022. During this period revenue increased by 8%.

This increase is mainly due to the process improvement and cost control in our production. Plant availability and efficiency played a vital role to the improved performance in the first half of year 2023. On top of the operational excellence, the Company continued to improve in the area of Health and Safety, with ZERO loss of time to injury (LTI) recorded in 2023.

The Company continues to focus on customer service, selling new products within our high quality portfolio. We maintain strong customer relationships to enable TPCPLC to demonstrate its strength as the leading player in the industry.


Prospects

In spite of the cement demand growing slowly this year, we are optimistic about the second half of the year. TPCPLC will continue to work on improving efficiency and operating performance.

Appreciation

The Board would like to thank all its stakeholders for their support. We have every confidence that TPCPLC will continue to deliver value for the shareholders and community in the future.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD


Hakan Gurdal
Chairman of the Board

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

TZS '000	2023	2022
Revenue from contracts with customers	246,284,758	227,512,642
Cost of sales	(166,235,904)	(149,714,492)
Gross profit	80,048,854	77,798,150
Other operating income	1,620,524	757,134
Selling and marketing expenses	(1,468,800)	(1,413,469)
Administrative expenses	(12,026,402)	(10,468,251)
Other operating expenses	(1,294,037)	(1,502,923)
Operating profit	66,880,139	65,170,641
Finance income	1,481,873	1,710,838
Finance costs	(308,890)	(639,468)
Net gain on foreign currency translation	3,976,167	1,059,686
Profit before tax	72,029,289	65,301,697
Income tax expense	(22,026,418)	20,248,978)
Profit for the year	50,002,871	47,052,719

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

TZS '000	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	136,081,672	140,402,982
Intangible assets	797,217	909,928
Leasehold land	967,009	994,855
Right of Use assets	2,669,129	5,998,854
Other financial assets	428,000	634,000
	140,943,027	148,940,619
Current assets		
Inventories	103,507,384	86,107,493
Trade receivables	60,698,079	50,847,000
Other short-term operating receivables	14,974,204	19,540,157
Other financial assets	600,000	600,000
Cash and cash equivalent	72,379,452	58,774,862
	252,159,119	215,869,512
TOTAL ASSETS	393,102,146	364,810,131
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Authorised, issued and fully paid-up share capital	3,598,462	3,598,462
Retained earnings	275,973,475	245,519,940
TOTAL EQUITY	279,571,937	249,118,402
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	2,971,881	6,145,443
Employment benefit liabilities	5,710,604	5,545,983
Provision for quarry site restoration	4,721,748	3,778,949
Deferred income tax liability	8,624,404	10,435,603
	22,028,637	25,905,978
Current liabilities		
Lease liabilities		
Current income tax payable	-	769,868
Trade and other payables	88,607,281	86,247,190
Dividend payable	2,894,291	2,768,693
	91,501,572	89,785,751
TOTAL LIABILITIES	113,530,209	115,691,729
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	393,102,146	364,810,131

FCF, Mwiba Holdings team up to support provision of free lunch for pupils in Meatu

By Guardian Correspondent, Meatu

FRIEDKIN Conservation Fund (FCF) in collaboration with Mwiba Holdings Ltd—a tourism company has launched a project to support provision of free lunch to 856 pupils at makao primary school in Meatu District, Simiyu Region.

The project was inaugurated by Meatu District Commissioner, Fauzia Ngatumbura, with the companies committing a monthly budget of 20.5m/- for the provision of the lunch meals so as to improve nutrition and academic performance.

In addition to the meals, the conservation organizations have also constructed a modern kitchen for the school, which cost 28.1m/-, as well as implemented a rainwater harvesting project amounting to 30.8m/-.

Speaking during the event, the district commissioner commended the companies for their significant support to the district which will help children stay full and healthy.

This, according to DC Fauzia, aligns with the directives by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure students receive nutritious meals.

She stated that the project will greatly contribute to improved academic performance, reduce absenteeism, and provide a conducive learning environment for the students.

"We express our gratitude to Friedkin and Mwiba for this generous support to Meatu District, which is in line with the government's directive to ensure students have lunch at school. We encourage other investors in the district to replicate such projects, and we also call upon citizens in other areas to come forward and contribute to school feeding programs," said.

Aurelia Mtui, the project manager of Friedkin Tanzania and Sylvester Bwasama, explained that the project is part of a larger initiative implemented in more than 25 villages surrounding the area where Mwiba Holdings Ltd and Tanzania Game Tracker Safaris have invested in conservation and tourism.

"We have great confidence that this project will yield positive outcomes and be sustainable to ensure that students receive quality education without facing additional challenges," Mtui said.

Bwasama also noted that, in addition to the feeding project, they have undertaken various other initiatives. These include the successful completion of teachers'

houses and two classrooms in Mwajimoso Primary School, which is located in Mwambagimu Village.

The organizations have also implemented a rainwater harvesting system at Makao Secondary School, providing practical training in hotel management to students and young individuals to foster an understanding of the significance of tourism and conservation and later assist them in finding employment with other establishments in the area.

Bwasama added: "We are also actively supporting beekeeping projects and working with COCOBA and VICOBA groups. In collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), we assist in managing human wildlife conflict within the conservation areas, utilising electronic tracking collars on elephants."

They have also constructed a game post in Ng'hanga village as part of their support to TAWA. The purpose of this initiative is to combat poaching and minimise conflicts between humans and wildlife.

Meatu District chairman, Anthony Philipo said that successful implementation of the projects can be attributed to the strong cooperation between the investor operating in Mwiba Ranch and Makao WMA.

The chairman expressed satisfaction with the partnership, stating that the investor has provided valuable support in various aspects. He also emphasised that the community's acceptance of coexistence with animals and their recognition of the benefits they bring have led to the absence of any reports regarding human-wildlife conflicts from the village.

The Headteacher of Makao Primary School, John Saganda, commended the project, including the purchase of items such as pots, plates, spoons, and other equipment, which cost 3.7 million shillings. "We promise, as teachers, to make good use of these projects to improve students' academic performance, but also to ensure they receive proper nutrition for their health," he said.

Saganda also stated that they, as a community surrounding the areas where Mwiba Holdings Ltd conducts tourism and conservation activities, will be good ambassadors to ensure the protection of animals and the preservation of the environment.

'Use Population and Housing Census results in the execution of govt plans'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FINANCE minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has appealed to statisticians in ministries, district councils, departments and other public offices to use the 2022 Population and Housing Census results in line with the government plans.

He said they are better placed in explaining the importance of census and its results to members of the public, noting that without proper understanding people fail to cooperate with the government during and after the exercise.

According to the minister, Tanzania will get the value of investment capital if the census results will be used to plan, implement and evaluate policies and development programmes that will take into account the actual population.

He made the remarks in his speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Finance, Jenifa Omolo during the opening of a training on the use of the 2022 population and housing census results to members of the Tanzania Statistician Association (TASTA).

Dr Mwigulu said that the value of the investment can be realised if the results of the census are used for the intended purpose.

"The government's goal to conduct the 2022 Population and Housing census was to obtain data that will be used in making decisions regarding development policies and plans as well as monitoring and evaluating their implementation," he said.

Dr Mwigulu also urged stakeholders and citizens to use the population and housing

census results in planning various programmes that will enable them to achieve development for individuals and the nation at large.

"If citizens and stakeholders will be part of the process of using these results in planning, we will be able to get the value of the money provided by the government," he said.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary said that the use of census results is a collaborative issue like other statistical activities and urged the media in the country to continue participating, educating and encouraging the use of census results for the intended purposes.

Omolo said that the training is very important because participants have come from regional, district and council secretariats where they participate in making decisions on government activities and development projects in their areas as well as monitoring and evaluating their implementation.

She asked the participants to pay attention to the fact that it builds their capacity and increase their experience in the use of accurate census data, thus increasing efficiency and productivity in the implementation of their daily duties.

"This training is part of implementation of the guidelines as explained by the Government Statistician General in formulating and revitalising various development policies, plans and programmes," she said.

On her part, the Government's Statistician General, Dr Albina Chuwa said that TASTA has met for the first time since its creation in 1991 with the aim of ensuring that statistics will be used to bring development to the nation.



Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority managing director Dr Stephen Ngailo speaks at a press briefing in Dodoma yesterday on the progress the agency has made over time in the implementation of its strategies as well as its plans for financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Tanzania can feed the rest of Africa'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA is ready to feed the rest of Africa with first class protein as it hosts the Africa's Food Systems Forum, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega has said.

Speaking while calling on players in livestock and fishery sectors to register and come in large numbers to the international meeting scheduled for September in Dar es Salaam, he said livestock and fisheries have a big stake in the forum.

He said the forum provides an opportunity for locals to partner with international investors, adding: "We want people to invest in Tanzania and the time is now and these sectors have great significance as the forum is expected to bring together 3,000 stakeholders in food systems and value."

Speaking here over the weekend on how his ministry has prepared to ensure that its stakeholders

register for the summit, he said the summit among others would promote opportunities existing in the sectors.

He said those stakeholders wanting to register should visit the ministry's website and find AGRF website www.agrf-inperson.com where experts from ministry work with AGRF national preparation committee to ensure everything goes as planned.

The minister said this year's AGRF 2023 is committed to empowering youths and women to participate in food systems and value chain.

"Tanzania has made significant strides in promoting food security, sustainable agriculture and the Africa food systems summit will serve as a platform for the country to share its best practices and forge new partnerships," he explained.

He also applauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the recently launched youth agricultural programme dubbed 'Building Better Tomorrow for Livestock and

Fisheries Entrepreneurs' in which 738 youths in livestock and fishery sectors benefit from phase one of the project.

According to him, among the beneficiaries 238 were drawn from livestock while 500 from fishery sector where they were trained and imparted skills and knowledge before, they were given capital and exposed to markets.

The minister said meat and fish fillets exports from Tanzania have increased steadily from 1,774.20 tonnes in 2020/21 to 12,243.79 tonnes in 2022/23 bringing in 51,894,622.44 US Dollars which showed major transformation in the sector.

Tanzania will be the first country to host the AGRF Summit organised by Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) since rebranded to Africa's Food Systems Forum this year to promote the ambition of transformation of Africa's food system and engagement.

The historic summit among

others will attract over 3,000 delegates among them will include top leaders, thinkers, stakeholders in food systems and value chain and implementers in African food agriculture.

Earlier, the Director General of International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Prof Appolinaire Djikeng said investors want assurance and security of their investments wherever they go and invest.

"Tanzania has a conducive environment for investments and this is what investors want to see when they invest in any part of Africa. We are ready to work with the media to promote AGRF," Prof Djikeng said.

ILRI has worked in Tanzania since 1994 on issues ranging from market mechanisms to food safety and livestock policy. In Tanzania, it focuses on sustainable identification of mixed crop-livestock systems through increasing productivity and value chain development.



Dr Angelina Mabula (L, foreground), who doubles as Ilemela constituency legislator and Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, pictured in Ilemela District on Saturday inaugurating construction work signalling the realisation of the dream of establishing the Mwanza Campus of the Institute of Finance Management. Photo: Rose Jacob

Africa CDC pledges fast response to outbreaks of infectious diseases

By Special Correspondent

SWIFT response to emerging infectious diseases has been prioritized by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) as part of efforts to enhance the resilience of the continent's public health systems, a senior official has said.

Jean Kaseya, the director-general of Africa CDC, said that a robust, adequately resourced, timely and well-coordinated response to the continent's public health emergencies including disease outbreaks is an imperative.

Speaking on the sidelines of the

mid-year coordination summit of the African Union held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, Kaseya stressed that taming Africa's high disease burden is key to realizing growth and prosperity.

Based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa CDC is helping countries develop contingency plans in readiness for future disease outbreaks to avert mass fatalities and strain on public health facilities, Kaseya said.

A student receives a COVID-19 booster shot during the launch of a vaccination center at Kenya Medical Training College in

Nairobi, capital of Kenya, June 16, 2022. (Photo by Fred Mutune/Xinhua)

In addition, Kaseya said, the Africa CDC is also partnering with regional blocs to strengthen research, surveillance, reporting and monitoring of infectious diseases like Ebola, Marburg virus, Rift Valley fever and Malaria.

He added that improving local manufacturing of vaccines, therapeutics and protective gear will also strengthen the capacity of African countries to respond to health emergencies.

As an autonomous continental public health agency of the African

Union, the Africa CDC supports member states to strengthen the resilience of their public health systems through surveillance, emergency response and control of diseases.

Kaseya said that targeted funding, policy reforms, partnerships, collaborative research and public awareness are key to revitalizing action on disease outbreaks in the continent.

Governments of African countries should increase budgetary support for health while tapping into digital tools in a bid to improve disease surveillance, diagnosis and treatment, he added.

Govt purchased 25 well drilling plants - Deputy water minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

DEPUTY Water minister, Maryprisca Mahundi has said the government continues looking for water sources in various areas to make sure it solves the water woes in the country.

Mahundi gave the remarks here at the weekend at a CCM public rally and added that the government has purchased more than 25 well drilling plants that have been

distributed in every region.

She said out of the plants, five are designed for digging dams in areas of acute drought to harness rain water.

The Deputy Minister said the aim of the government is to make sure Tanzanians part with water scarcity challenge.

"We continue implementing the concept to ensure women no longer walk long distances to fetch water, as some of the plants purchased

are already in operation in various areas countrywide," she said.

She added that in regard to Mbeya Region, the drilling plant is already in Chunya District drilling for water wells in various areas.

However, she added, the government continues with its implementation of Kiwira River Water project which upon completion will solve water shortage problems in both Mbeya and Songwe Region.



Elkana Manyilizu, a school quality controller with Ubungu municipality, pictured at the weekend officiating at a ceremony marking the completion of Standard Seven for pupils of suburban Dar es Salaam's St Anne Marie Academy. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Wildlife ranger wounded in efforts to kill terrorising lion

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

WILDLIFE ranger received injuries in efforts to kill one of the lions that was threatening the lives of the people in Kilolo District, Iringa Region.

Addressing reporters at Luganga in Kilolo District, Joachim Makwai, Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) Assistant Commissioner said efforts to tame the rogue lions in the area began on June 13, this year.

He said TAWA rangers started stalking the beasts by inserting traps in all areas the lions had passed which killed livestock.

He added that three days the lions had killed pigs at Iramba village in Kilolo District, hence the rangers set traps in the area.

The efforts paid off as one of the lions was entrapped but it was difficult to go near the beast to administer tranquilisers and they decided to use firearms.

"The area where the lion was entrapped was a marshland area. It was difficulty to reach it to administer tranquilisers in order to rake it alive and opted to shoot it and in the process the beast jumped on one of our rangers, bruising him on the face and leg," said Makwai.

The wounded TAWA ranger, Charlesy Mafuru was rushed to Kilolo District hospital for treatment and later discharged.

Makwai said they are searching for other lions that had been terrorising the area for weeks.

He said the two beasts were in

different areas - one was rampaging around Maboga village in Kalenga which is believed to have returned to Ruaha National Park.

He called on the residents to continue taking precautions, especially in the evening the times preferred by lions to hunt for their prey.

For his part, Dabaga Ward Councillor Joseph Tengelapo said before the lion was killed, it had attacked and killed goats, cows and pigs in various villages in the ward.

After these incidents, the villagers in the two villages of Dabaga Ward remained indoors at all times in fear of being attacked by the lion, until two days ago when the beast killed a pig near Iramba Primary School.

The councillor thanked the government for making sure the beast was killed, saying before that great fear had engulfed the villages that stopped all economic activities.

Kilolo faults truancy among civil servants

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Kilolo

RESIDENTS in Kiwalamo village in Idete Ward, Kilolo District, Iringa Region have expressed concern over the truancy behaviour exhibited by some civil servants in the area.

They expressed their remarks before Kilolo Member of Parliament (MP) Justin Nyamoga claiming that the situation was affecting development as most of the time the servants are not at work.

The accused employees are Kiwalamo village executive officer (VEO), Fromina Mazengo and village extension officer, Pascal Ng'owo who have been absent from work for a long time.

Speaking at a public meeting with the MP here, the villagers said that the government employees have been absent from work for six months now asking the legislator to help solve the challenge.

The villagers claimed that the leaders haven't also issued the

income and expenditure report of the village for the completed financial year asking Kilolo District human resource officer, Hillary Chota to take disciplinary action against them.

Idete Ward councillor, Bruno Kauku said that the employees who are the agricultural officer and Kiwalamo village executive officer have been absent from work thus deteriorating the development initiatives.

Kilolo Member MP, Justin Nyamoga wanted the district's HR officer to take disciplinary action against all leaders accused of truancy in order to bring efficiency in the government's work.

He emphasized that the district cannot progress with such an attitude and behaviour reminding everyone that nobody from outside the district will come and develop it but it is the responsibility of the indigenous and its leaders.

He urged the workers to remember their promise to work diligently and be dedicated when

they accepted their appointments.

"We want to have honest public servants who work professionally, not someone who is absent for six months and the people lack services, for example if the agricultural officer is not there, who will visit the people's farms and provide professional advice," MP Nyamoga queried.

District HR officer, Chota admitted the existence of the challenge assuring the villagers that the council was working on it.

He said that village executive officer Fromina Mazengo was transferred from Kihesamgagao village in Ng'uruhe Ward and brought to Kiwalamo village because of the same challenges of truancy and that the council is now working to take stern measures on her.

"She has a lot of challenges, this executive officer is being complained about by many institutions including the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), according to the procedure of these employees they are required to sign a book every morning when they report to work," Chota added.

Chota apologized and asked the public to be patient while various disciplinary measures are being taken against the public servants.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED



DETERMINATION NO. 6 ON COST BASED INTERCONNECTION CHARGES AMONG TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK SERVICE LICENSEES IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, ISSUED IN JULY, 2023.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Determination is made under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act, Chapter 172 of the Laws of Tanzania (hereinafter referred to as the TCRA Act). In compliance with the requirements of Section 18(2)(b) and 18 (5) of the TCRA Act, 2003 an Inquiry was conducted by a Panel of Inquiry from 13th to 26th June, 2023 to obtain inputs from telecommunication networks operators and other stakeholders on the proposed new cost-based interconnection charges. The Panel of Inquiry considered among others the report on full cost of services study on telecommunications in Tanzania undertaken by M/S Incyte Consulting Ltd. The study used the Hybrid Long Run Incremental Cost Study Methodology (LRIC+).

This Determination shall be known as Determination No.6 issued in 2023 on cost-based interconnection charges among telecommunication networks service licensees in Tanzania (hereinafter referred to as the "Determination"). This Determination shall be effective from the 1st day of January 2023 and is binding to all networks service licensees in the United Republic of Tanzania.

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE FINDINGS OF THE PANEL OF INQUIRY

After a thorough scrutiny of the Report of Inquiry on appropriate cost-based interconnection charges, the Authority concurs with the findings of the Panel of Inquiry that was appointed in accordance with Rule 6(1) of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (Procedure for Rules of Inquiry) Rules, 2004. The notice of Inquiry was published in the Government Gazette as Government Notice No.395A on 13th June 2023. The same was published in the daily newspapers namely; the Daily News, Mwananchi and Habari Leo on 14th June 2023. The Notice of Inquiry was served to all networks service licensees and other parties named in the Notice of Inquiry.

The inquiry was conducted as a condition precedent to the issuance of cost-based interconnection determination as required by Section 18(2)(b) and 18 (5) of the TCRA Act. The Inquiry process involved literature review, consultations, written submissions and public hearing to get views from networks service licensees, consumers and other stakeholders including the general public. Finally, the Panel of Inquiry produced the Report that was submitted to the TCRA Board on 26th June, 2023.

The Authority concurs with the Panel of Inquiry's observation that all networks service licensees have monopoly on terminating calls on their networks. In order to promote fair competition, there is a need for regulatory intervention on interconnection charges. Also, the Authority concurs with the Panel of Inquiry's recommendation to reduce interconnection charges.

The Authority has noted with satisfaction that the Panel of Inquiry satisfied itself that the Long Run Incremental Cost (LRIC+) methodology, which was used in conducting the cost study, is the appropriate basis for determining cost-based interconnection charges because it is forward looking and considers all relevant and efficiently incurred costs that are based on a Modern Efficient Operator (MEO).

Generally, stakeholders (Networks service licensees, Fair Competition Commission and TCRA-Consumer Consultative Council) demonstrated differing views on the proposed interconnection rate, with arguments that higher interconnection rate is needed to attract investment and maintain financial sustainability of networks service licensees whereas others were in support for lower interconnection rate to ensure services are affordable to consumers.

3.0 THE DETERMINATION

In view of a foregoing the Authority hereby determines Interconnection charges to be applied among the networks service licensees in the United Republic of Tanzania as follows:

3.1 The appropriate cost-based interconnection charges and the glide path are shown in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Glide path for cost-based Interconnection charges (TZS/Minute) with effect from 1st January, 2023 to 31st December 2027:

Year	1 st January 2023	1 st January 2024	1 st January 2025	1 st January 2026	1 st January 2027
Voice call Termination Charges	1.86	1.76	1.68	1.60	1.52

3.2 The interconnection charges shall be used for termination of domestic traffic of the telecommunication networks service licensees in the United Republic Tanzania;

3.3 All networks service licensees are free to negotiate and apply interconnection charges that are lower than those shown under this determination;

3.4 All networks service licensees are required to enter into new Interconnection Agreements and submit the same to the Authority by 31st July, 2023.

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
DIRECTOR GENERAL

TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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Today and every day, let us honour
Mandela's legacy by taking action

TODAY, the world honours a giant of our time; a leader of unparalleled courage and towering achievement; and a man of quiet dignity and deep humanity. People around the world should mark the birthday of Nelson Mandela with a day of action, charities associated with the former South Africa president.

Nelson Mandela International Day (or Mandela Day) is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009, with the first UN Mandela Day held on 18 July 2010. However, other groups began celebrating Mandela Day on 18 July 2009.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation and is hosting events this 18 July and the Day is marked every year. They want people to "help change the world" by giving 67 minutes to a good cause - reflecting the 67 years Mandela has spent as an activist.

Former US President Bill Clinton has given his backing to the idea. "We each owe it to him to support his work and legacy by doing and living our own as best we can, not just on this day, but throughout our entire lives," Clinton said.

Launching the idea, the charities said they wanted the day to inspire people to embrace Mandela's values and improve their lives through service to their communities.

They said this could include visiting someone who was ill, or helping to feed the homeless.

In a statement, Mandela said: "We would be honoured if such a day can serve to bring together people around the world to fight poverty and promote peace and reconciliation."

The Nelson Mandela Foundation promotes the legacy of the former president. The charity 46664 -

which is the number Mandela wore while he was in prison - was formed to increase awareness of HIV/Aids

Mandela Day is not meant as a public holiday, but as a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's former President, and his values, through volunteering and community service.

Mandela Day is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.

Nelson Mandela has fought for social justice for 67 years. Such a day can serve to bring people together around the world to fight poverty and promote peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity.

Talk about legacy, Mandela lived a life of humility, character and integrity. His life will be forever be celebrated and remembered for decades and decades to come because he looked beyond the humanity's differences and put the magnifying glass on our similarities. There is far more than unifies us as a human race, than that which divides us. United we stand divided we fall. He is a role model to the world!

His extraordinary leadership and life commitment to the cause of ending apartheid and bring peace and reconciliation to South Africa was an inspiration for all humanity, in particular for all of us that struggle for a world free of injustice, racism, discrimination and violence. His contribution to make this a better world for all human beings is incommensurable.

In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly formally declared 18 July to be "Nelson Mandela International Day". In 2014, the UN General Assembly established the Nelson Mandela Prize, a quinquennial award recognising the achievements of those who dedicated their lives to the service of humanity.

TIC's offer of land to steel plant
has vital lessons on investments

THERE was a new investment item on the news lately, in that a 100-acre land plot for the construction of steel rods and allied products has been handed to an Indian investor by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC). The reference relates to a foreign investor rather than a resident fellow taking up industry, and that may also explain the series of problems that he faced to arrive at that juncture. But coming from India he may not have been surprised as land there is likely to be more problematic to allocate as the level of cohesion of communities is high.

There is a considerable number especially among advanced countries where land allocation is not done by the state but market forces, in the sense that only reserved land is under the state. Here no investment is possible but by executive order if it is the United States, and elsewhere the government would have to obtain legislative permit, as part of a governance programme. There are many countries where land is rationalized and placed under individual titles, and in some others an absolute monarch owns the land, so it can be allocated at will.

The Indian investor said at a public gathering for the handing over that he was attracted to the area after realizing that the Songwe International Airport (SIA) was nearby. That has sent a boomerang signal among observers, that having a good airport nearby is vital for a good number of investors, as the matter isn't always visible, except perhaps when we think of perishable horticulture produce while it is steel that is involved here.

It is unclear if Songwe International Airport feasibility study had in mind investments or focused entirely on tourism.

Another lesson is the length at which it takes to reallocate resources from a failed investment, or whose technological structure fell out of favour with the market in terms of costs and profitability. Reports said that the area allocated to the Indian investor is located in Mbalizi town, stretching over a farm that was formerly housing a meat factory operated by Tanganyika Packers Ltd. When such situations come up we often hear of the need to evict land invaders from what is a state plot by virtue of holding assets of original occupant of the land.

There were no reports of another investor who replaced the meat packaging firm after it collapsed, which implies that the area was lying idle, with intermittent crop tillers or herders moving from time to time in the area. It comes to the fact that for upwards of 30 years where Tanganyika Packers exists on paper or had long since been liquidated, its land assets were not converted to profitable use by formal transfer. One doesn't have to look too far for the reasons, as for many years investment authorities patiently waited for another investor to be handed the premises and the machinery to improve on them, to produce the same thing.

Admittedly there are still structures in town which are more or less paralysed in relation to investment status. Finishing off legal tangles on property ownership, or a workable investment design is problematic. The old Embassy Hotel has been dormant since 1993 or so; if there is a difference it is just of late

Gender equality boasts massive power to
create world of near-infinite possibilities

By Special Correspondent

IN an unequal and diverse world of over 8 billion people, we continue to traverse our differences on the same vision-achieving rights and justice for all.

We are increasingly coming together to shape a just, resilient and sustainable world, with gender equality at the heart of it all. The World Population Day, recognises the power of gender equality in unlocking our world's infinite possibilities. We amplify today more than ever the voices of women and girls, and in particular those who are most vulnerable.

In Africa, women and girls comprise 50 per cent of the total population, which means there are about 1.3 billion women and girls living on the continent today.

In East and Southern Africa, we have many stories that tell us how far we have come, where we are and how far we need to go as the clock to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 counts down.

The story of Suzan from South Sudan is one that resonates in many parts of the world. When Suzan began menstruating at the age of 11, she was taken away from home and told to sit on a hole dug in the ground for her by aunt, until the bleeding stopped. We are talking of sitting over a hole in the dirt for

days.

This little girl assumed that by menstruating - a healthy bodily function - she must be committing some crime to incur such treatment from the women in her family and community, as isolating menstruating females was a normal practice.

In a community where cattle equate with wealth, a young girl's needs in dealing with an important bodily process with knowledge, dignity and respect was denied, due to a cultural misunderstanding attributed to menstruation.

The story of Anna from Nkhata Bay in Malawi is equally disturbing. She returned from the field one day to find her husband sitting on the veranda in a sour mood. He wanted to sleep with her and when she refused, he tried to strike her on the head with a machete, hitting her arm twice before she managed to flee. She was referred to hospital and came close to losing her hand. Her husband is serving six years in prison.

Anna and Suzan's stories, and thousands more like theirs, illustrate that when it comes to gender equality, we still have a long way to go.

It is disheartening that despite comprising nearly half of the global, continental, regional and national populations, the desires and aspirations of women and girls are often excluded from important

decisions and far-reaching actions to scale the rights-based and people-centered interventions required to ensure rights and choices are fulfilled.

Each girl shares the same dream - the opportunity to bring her dreams to fruition.

Unfulfilled dreams lead to the violation of rights across the life cycle, and perpetuate a world that marginalises and limits the potential of every individual, irrespective of gender. This is not just a problem for women and girls; it affects all of us and hampers our collective pursuit of a prosperous and peaceful future.

A pivotal question underlying the holy grail of gender equality relates to how to accelerate the pace and scale of action in complex, evolving, diverse and uncertain societies and nations.

Gender inequality remains a pervasive injustice that denies women and girls equitable access to health, education and learning; excludes them from financial inclusion, labour participation and leadership positions; and restricts their agency to make decisions about their health and reproductive lives. Moreover, it increases the vulnerability of at-risk populations to violence and harmful practices.

It is a stark reality that a woman dies every two minutes due to pregnancy or childbirth-related causes, a tragic statistic that

demands immediate action. This not only undermines the rights and choices of women and girls but stifles the progress of entire societies.

So, how do we move forward? We need a transformative process that includes the voices and change-making roles of women, girls and other marginalized individuals across all spheres of society and all stages of humanitarian, development and peace actions.

Through harnessing the power of half the planet's population, we can confront the pressing problems of our time. The creativity, ingenuity, resources and power possessed by women and girls are essential in leveraging demographic diversity, and addressing the impact of climate change and conflict on lives and sustainable livelihoods.

Ignoring their voices and contributions will be a missed opportunity for a resilient future.

Investing in gender equality today is an investment in our shared future.

Together, we can create a world where the dreams and aspirations of all individuals are realised. A diverse and thriving world of over 8 billion people, brimming with infinite possibilities, depends on our collective efforts to build a more just, resilient and inclusive future.

Lydia Zigomo, UNFPA East and Southern Africa regional director

Democracy in West Africa: The Senegalese exception

MACKY Sall's decision not to stand for a third term in the February 2024 presidential election is both a relief and a source of pride for Senegal. It anchors the West African country in the club of those where the rule of law guarantees stability.

Some actions make a politician part of the history of their country. Senegalese President Macky Sall's announcement on Monday, July 3, that he would not seek a third term in the presidential election of February 2024 was one of those. The ambiguity he had previously maintained on this issue, arguing that the 2016 constitutional revision had "reset the [term of office] counter to zero," had fed anger on the streets and threatened to plunge Senegal into chaos. Lifting that ambiguity is both a relief and a source of pride for a country often seen as a barometer of democracy in Africa.

In early June, the crackdown on the riots fuelled by the sidelining

of his main opponent, Ousmane Sonko, who was sentenced to two years in prison for "corruption of youth," led to the death of 23 people, according to Amnesty International. Sall's obstinacy was hardly understandable, especially given that he himself had been elected in 2012 by beating Abdoulaye Wade, whose constitutional fiddling he had denounced as being designed to stay in power.

On Monday evening, Sall saved his honor and, above all, the reputation of the Senegalese democratic model, a relative exemplarity in West Africa, where military regimes have proliferated. While Senegal has never experienced a coup d'état, two of its closest neighbors (Mali and Guinea) are in the hands of juntas.

Since its independence in 1960, the country of Teranga (Wolof for "hospitality") has known only four presidents, and the two political transitions it has experienced, in 2000 and 2012, took place peacefully.

From Léopold Sédar Senghor to Sall - with Abdou Diouf and Abdoulaye Wade in between - the democratic "showcase" has never been ideal. But the freedom of expression that prevails in Senegal and the dynamism of its political life have often forced leaders to listen to the population and respect the rule, or risk being punished.

A presidential election with crucial stakes

Sall's wise decision to hand over the reins in 2024 is also a shrewd political maneuver. For the first time in Senegal's history, the incumbent president will be organizing an election in which he himself is not taking part. By depriving his main opponent of his central argument, Sall has cut him off at the knees. But, with no designated successor, he is also signaling the start of a battle within his own camp for his succession.

The president may also use his prerogatives to allow not only Sonko, but also two other opponents who

have also been convicted - former Dakar mayor Khalifa Sall and Karim Wade, the son of ex-president Abdoulaye Wade - to compete in a presidential election with crucial stakes. The next president of this poor country, where 38% of its inhabitants live on less than \$1.90 a day, will have to manage the new manna from Senegalese offshore oil and gas.

Sall's salutary gesture sends a double warning, to the military leaders who are extending their hold over West Africa and to the foreign powers who, from Russia to China, are trying to convince Africans that democracy is not for them.

It anchors Senegal in the club of countries where the rule of law guarantees stability and commands the respect of the international community. But the widespread tribute being paid to a leader who has done no more than respect his country's constitution is a measure of the worrying general state of democracy in West Africa.

Latest Zimbabwean poll says Chamisa and the opposition should win next month's elections

By Peter Fabricius

OPPPOSITION leader Nelson Chamisa and his Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party would win next month's Zimbabwean elections by a margin of between 8% and 9% - if the elections are free and fair - a new poll suggests.

The poll of 2,000 registered voters, conducted by Elite Africa Research in June, found that if the elections were held then, 47.6% of respondents would vote for Chamisa in the presidential poll, while 38.7% would vote for President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Similarly, the poll found that 47.7% of respondents would vote for Chamisa's CCC while 39.6% would vote for Mnangagwa's ruling Zanu-PF party in the parliamentary elections.

The presidential, parliamentary and local council elections are all scheduled to be held on 23 August.

Even if these poll results suggest Mnangagwa and Zanu-PF would lose a fair contest, they are still quite flattering to the ruling party and president.

The poll also found, by much wider margins, that Zimbabweans believe their country is heading in the wrong direction and that the economy is getting worse.

A large majority of 69.4% said they thought the country was heading in the wrong direction, while only 27.3% felt it was heading in the right direction. Their views of the economy were even more critical, as more than three-quarters - 77.5% - said they believed the economy was getting worse while fewer than one-fifth - 19.6% - felt it was getting better.

A total of 59.8% of the 2,000 citizens polled said they hoped for a new government after the elections, while only 37% said they hoped for the same government.

Also revealing were the answers to the question of whether the respondents felt strongly favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or strongly unfavourable towards a list of political leaders and parties.

Chamisa emerged with a net positive score of 29.6%, while Mnangagwa's score was a net negative of 2.6%.

Similarly, the CCC registered a net positive score of



Zimbabwe's main opposition MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa (L) in Harare 26 November 2018. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Aaron Ufumeli) | Zimbabwe's president Emmerson Mnangagwa (R) in Cape Town on 5 September 2019. (Photo: Waldo Swiegers / Bloomberg via Getty Images)

28.6% while Zanu-PF scored a net negative of 2.7%. The net scores were derived by subtracting the unfavourable responses from the favourable responses for each leader or party.

These results taken together suggest a high level of discontent among Zimbabweans towards Mnangagwa and Zanu-PF, but also some reluctance, possibly anxiety, about replacing them with Chamisa and the CCC. Oscar Mutinda, the founder and CEO of Elite Africa Research which did the survey, confirmed this. He said that

in conversations with people during the survey, it emerged many felt that even if the current government was doing a bad job, they were not confident the opposition could do much better.

The survey results, if replicated on 23 August, would mean Zimbabweans would have to go to the polls again soon after, as no presidential candidate would have won more than 50% of votes in the first round. In that case, a second round of voting would have to be held between the top two candidates to ensure the winner gets

more than 50% of the votes.

Mutinda explained that the sample of 2,000 was selected to replicate national demographics such as the proportions of urban and rural voters as well as the proportions of voters in the country's provinces.

DM

Britain's Health service shows its age as it turns 75

By Julian Shea in London

FEW opportunities or responsibilities are given to a city as big as hosting the Olympic Games.

With much of the world watching, and waiting four years for the big event, the pressure on a host to get things right is enormous - but it is also a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase the country, how it sees itself and what it is proud of.

At the opening ceremony for the Games in London in 2012 Britain produced a dazzling piece of imaginative, witty and self-deprecating public theater, highlighting elements of its national story such as the Industrial Revolution, its rich tradition of children's literature, cutting-edge pop culture - and, no doubt to the bemusement of many of the hundreds of millions around the world watching, the National Health Service, or NHS.

The inclusion of a dance sequence inspired by a national healthcare provider in such a spectacle may have seemed bizarre to many, but it demonstrated the importance of the cradle-to-the-grave, free-at-the-point-of-use system, and its centrality to the British national identity.

The foundational document of the NHS on July 5, 1948, said: "It will provide you with all medical, dental and nursing care. Everyone - rich or poor, man, woman or child - can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a 'charity'. You are all paying for it, mainly as taxpayers, and it will relieve your money worries in time of illness."

Just to underline the national reverence for the NHS, its 75th anniversary was marked with a commemorative service at Westminster Abbey, the setting for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth and the coronation of King Charles. The abbey also provided one of the most infamous images of the European Union referendum campaign of 2016: Boris Johnson standing in front of a bus bearing a slogan about sending money to the NHS rather than to Brussels as if that were the ultimate act of goodness. Seven years later it has yet to be fulfilled.

The NHS is treated like a revered, aging family member, but as it passes such a significant milestone, the health of the healthcare system is causing more concern than ever, and its condition is critical.

Booking an appointment to see a doctor at a local surgery has become increasingly difficult, putting many people off even trying. During the pandemic, services were put to the test as never before, and long-running disputes over funding and pay for staff have led to services being overstretched with morale reaching rock bottom, culminating in bouts of strike action involving paramedics, junior doctors and nurses.

To more commercially minded people the reliance of so many people on a free-at-the-point-of-use service means a huge moneymaking opportunity is going begging. The specter of future NHS privatization haunts the British public like the third ghost in A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

The British government has become increasingly obsessed with reducing immigration. According to figures published by Parliament last year, about 16.5 percent of NHS staff are non-British, with more than 200 nationalities represented in the workforce - another red rag to some politicians.

Reliance on overseas staff is nothing new. In 1961 the president of the General Medical Council, Henry



Junior doctors and members of the British Medical Association stand on a picket line outside Leeds General Infirmary at the start of a five-day strike amid the dispute over pay, the longest walkout of its kind in the history of the NHS, in Leeds, England, on July 13, 2023. AP

Cohen, told the House of Lords: "The Health Service would have collapsed if it had not been for the enormous influx from junior doctors from such countries as India and Pakistan."

Writing in the BMJ, the British medical journal, on the NHS's 75th birthday, David Oliver, an NHS doctor of 34 years, said the service faced "an existential crisis as bad as at any time since (it) was founded".

"We have more than 7 million people on waiting lists for elective care, millions more probably missing from them, and the worst waiting times for decades.

"We have among the fewest hospital and intensive care beds per capita in the OECD, hospitals routinely running at full and unsafe bed occupancy, handover delays, overcrowding in acute care, and many acute beds occupied by people fit to leave but waiting for community services that don't have the capacity, funding or staff."

Without immediate action, he said, the NHS is unlikely to be around to celebrate its 85th birthday.

In the Health and Social Care Act of 2012, introduced by the coalition government on the watch of the then-health secretary Andrew Lansley, choice and competition were promoted in importance as a way the NHS should be run, which critics would say opened the door to

the privatization of services.

In June last year, a study by the University of Oxford published in the Lancet Public Health journal said, "The privatization of the NHS in England, through the outsourcing of services to for-profit companies consistently increased (after 2012)."

This came at the highest price possible, the study said. "Private-sector outsourcing corresponded with significantly increased rates of treatable mortality, potentially as a result of a decline in the quality of healthcare services."

A report published by the healthcare charity the King's Fund in April said the NHS had "declined since 2010, as a result of much lower funding increases, limited funds for capital investment and neglect of workforce planning".

However, in an interview with Sky News, Health Secretary Steve Barclay defended the government's handling of the NHS.

Financial crash

"In the period between 2010 and 2015, when there was a coalition government, we were dealing with the consequences of the financial crash under the previous government in 2008. And difficult decisions had to be taken in that period."

The challenges posed by an aging population meant the NHS would have to evolve into being more about prevention than just cure, he said.

"One in four of the British public now have two or more conditions, and that's why we're focused through our major conditions strategy, looking at treating people more holistically."

The Conservative prime ministers Margaret Thatcher and David Cameron both pledged that the NHS was "safe in our hands", but the incumbent Rishi Sunak, the richest ever British prime minister, has been put in an awkward position over his use of private healthcare, and with disputes over pay, and the lingering whiff of privatization in the air, widespread skepticism remains over how much the Conservatives genuinely care for the NHS.

The NHS is facing what is being described as its longest-ever strike as tens of thousands of doctors in England launched a five-day walkout over pay on Thursday.

The British Medical Association, the doctors' union, has asked for a 35 percent pay rise to bring junior doctors' pay back to 2008 levels once inflation is taken into account.

The workload of England's 75,000 or so junior doctors has swelled as patient waiting lists for treatment are at record highs in the wake of the pandemic.

"Today marks the start of the longest single walkout by doctors in the NHS's history, but this is still not a record that needs to go into the history books," the association's leaders Robert Laurensen and Vivek Trivedi said.

They urged the government to

drop its "nonsensical precondition" of not negotiating while strikes are in progress.

The government said it had accepted recommendations from independent pay review bodies for salary increases of between 5 percent and 7 percent in the public sector.

With a general election due by the end of next year, this would seem to be handing the opposition Labour Party a gift by taking up the position of defender of the NHS, something it has been keen to do.

"The Conservative Party that's brought (the NHS) to its knees will put it in the ground," Labour leader Keir Starmer said in a recent speech. "But mark my words, if all we do in the Labour Party is place the NHS on a pedestal and leave it there, that's not good enough either."

Reform was needed, he said, setting out plans for "serious, deep, long-term changes ... a move from an analog to a digital NHS. A tomorrow service, not just a today service".

However, even those most likely to welcome such positive talk want to see more details before embracing the proposals.

"We need to see specifics on what a boost to funding would look like," said Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the umbrella group the NHS Confederation, adding that "we need to understand how Labour would achieve, and fund, such a move", when talking about changes to social care.

Nigel Edwards, chief executive of the think tank the Nuffield Trust, called the plans "welcome but extremely ambitious" and warned that delivery would need "time, staff and more long-term funding than Labour have so far pledged".

Industrial action

Members of the Royal College of Nursing recently took their first-ever industrial action, providing a barometer of feelings within the sector, and pay disputes involving ambulance drivers and junior doctors are unresolved.

This month the newspaper The Observer reported that nearly 170,000 workers left NHS jobs in England last year, a record-high turnover, with more than 41,000 nurses quitting.

Post-pandemic exhaustion was cited as having driven many out of an already overfished pool of talent, and it is not just the number of personnel that is a cause for concern, but the cumulative loss of experience that is putting further strain on the NHS.

"Staff did brilliant work during the pandemic, but there has been no respite," said Julian Hartley, chief executive of NHS Providers. "The data on people leaving is worrying, and we need to see it reversed. We need to focus on staff well-being and continued professional development, showing the employers really do care about their front-line teams."

As the spontaneous public response during the pandemic showed, the British people - and, crucially at this time, the British electorate - love the NHS, and some observers may say almost too much, meaning that it can never be seriously questioned.

But whoever next governs Britain, and whatever happens before the decision is taken on who that is, the fact that the NHS needs help summoning up the puff to blow out its own birthday candles should be a warning to everyone that awkward questions, and potentially difficult realities, remain to be confronted.

Agencies

Nigeria's so-called tax collectors: Menacing and mafia-like

By Nduka Orjinmo

H IRED as a so-called tax collector by several influential families, Captain Nwokuha has a fearsome look as he walks around with a piece of wood to enforce his authority at a busy and chaotic road junction in the southern Nigerian city of Port Harcourt.

The 34-year-old's job is to collect "taxes" for what he calls the "community" from taxis and 18-seater buses that operate in that part of the city.

Mr Nwokuha's work has its roots in an old tradition, when businesses used to pay a one-off fee, or gift a drink, as homage to their hosts for good tidings.

But now it has turned into what critics say is an extortion racket.

Some families, claiming to act on behalf of local communities, demand fees from businesses, be they taxi drivers or market traders, operating in what they see as their domain.

Mr Nwokuha says he collects 5-7,000 naira (£5-7; \$6.50-9) a day - a reasonable amount in Nigeria.

Married with two children, he keeps some of the money while the rest is given to five powerful families in the community - where it gets lost in a trail of private pockets.

So-called tax collectors or third-party agents are also used by Nigeria's states and local governments to collect some taxes.

"These agents use private accounts and make deductions before remitting to the government," says Michael Ango, a former government tax official who is now with private firm Andersen Tax.

"[Their methods] create the impression that the state is using might and muscle rather than legitimacy."

Led by new President Bola Tinubu, Nigeria's federal government has vowed to crack down on what it calls "touts, miscreants and self-imposed tax collectors".

As for Mr Nwokuha, he believes he is playing a positive role, doubling up as a traffic officer who resolves disputes in the cut-throat taxi business.

"If there is a fight among the drivers I settle it," says



Captain Nwokuha insists he is playing a positive role as a traffic officer, and is not just a collector of "taxes"

Mr Nwokuha, who patrols Port Harcourt's lucrative Rumuola interchange on weekdays from dawn to dusk in his fluorescent vest.

Before a driver sets off, the man with "task force" written on his vest receives 20% of the passengers' fares. "The taxis are not allowed to operate here," says Mr Nwokuha, pointing at a "no parking" sign painted in police colours.

"But if they choose to, then they have to pay to the community," he tells the BBC.

On the rare occasion that a driver refuses to pay, they could have a side mirror or taillight broken - or their registration plates removed.

If they dare fight back, they might feel Mr Nwokuha's wooden stick cracking their skull.

Mr Nwokuha is doing what ought to be the job of employees of the local council. Nigeria has 780 local councils but most of them are hardly functional.

The vacuum is filled by men like Mr Nwokuha - or

just about anyone who can set up a roadblock and enforce their authority.

These tend to consist of a wooden bar between two rusty barrels, and home-made spikes for drivers who want to be smart by trying to avoid them.

They are most common in the richer southern parts of Nigeria, including highways where tax collection is done on behalf of some state governments.

One lorry driver tells the BBC he pays as much as 80,000 naira (£80; \$100) as he travels through scores of roadblocks on his way from Nigeria's biggest city, Lagos, to Imo in the east: a distance of 540km (335 miles).

"Between Edo and Port Harcourt [alone, a journey of about 280km] there are 15 such roadblocks," he adds.

Expressing a similar view, a cold-chain logistics operator says: "There are numerous haulage taxes, there is one called revenue, there is a radio tax, there is a tax

for loading, another for parking, one for unloading."

And that is not including the bribes he often has to pay police officers as he drives around the country.

Clement Akanibo, of Nigeria's Chartered Institute of Taxation, describes it as "akin to collecting tax at gunpoint".

"It makes it difficult to do business and increases the final cost by as much as 15%," he says.

It is unclear how Mr Tinubu plans to end this, but he will need the support of state and local governments as these taxes fall under their jurisdiction - not that of the federal government.

At its heart lies a powerful system of patronage that sees a portion of the money going into the pockets of politicians, powerful families, and the army of unemployed men like Mr Nwokuha.

Mr Tinubu's government says it wants to overhaul the entire tax system to boost its revenue so it can increase the amount it spends on services like health and education, as well as pay off its ballooning debts.

It has set itself the target of increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio to 18% within the next three years.

Official Nigerian data shows the ratio was around 11% in 2021, lower than what the World Bank reported for Kenya (13%) and South Africa (26%).

For now, Mr Tinubu's government is focusing on the taxes it is responsible for - including Value-Added Tax (VAT).

The federal government does not use so-called tax collectors, expecting businesses to make direct payments.

In what appears to be an attempt to end tax evasion, it wants to digitise VAT payments, starting with the 40 million-strong association of market traders.

This won't be easy as most of them do not keep financial records and have never paid VAT, so might resist the move amid the current economic hardship.

But if the plan works, Mr Tinubu's government could then hope to persuade state and local governments to drop their archaic system - something that many Nigerians would welcome as it would free them from the clutches of menacing tax collectors like Mr Nwokuha.

Agencies

By He Yong

THE Global Digital Economy Conference 2023 was recently held at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing.

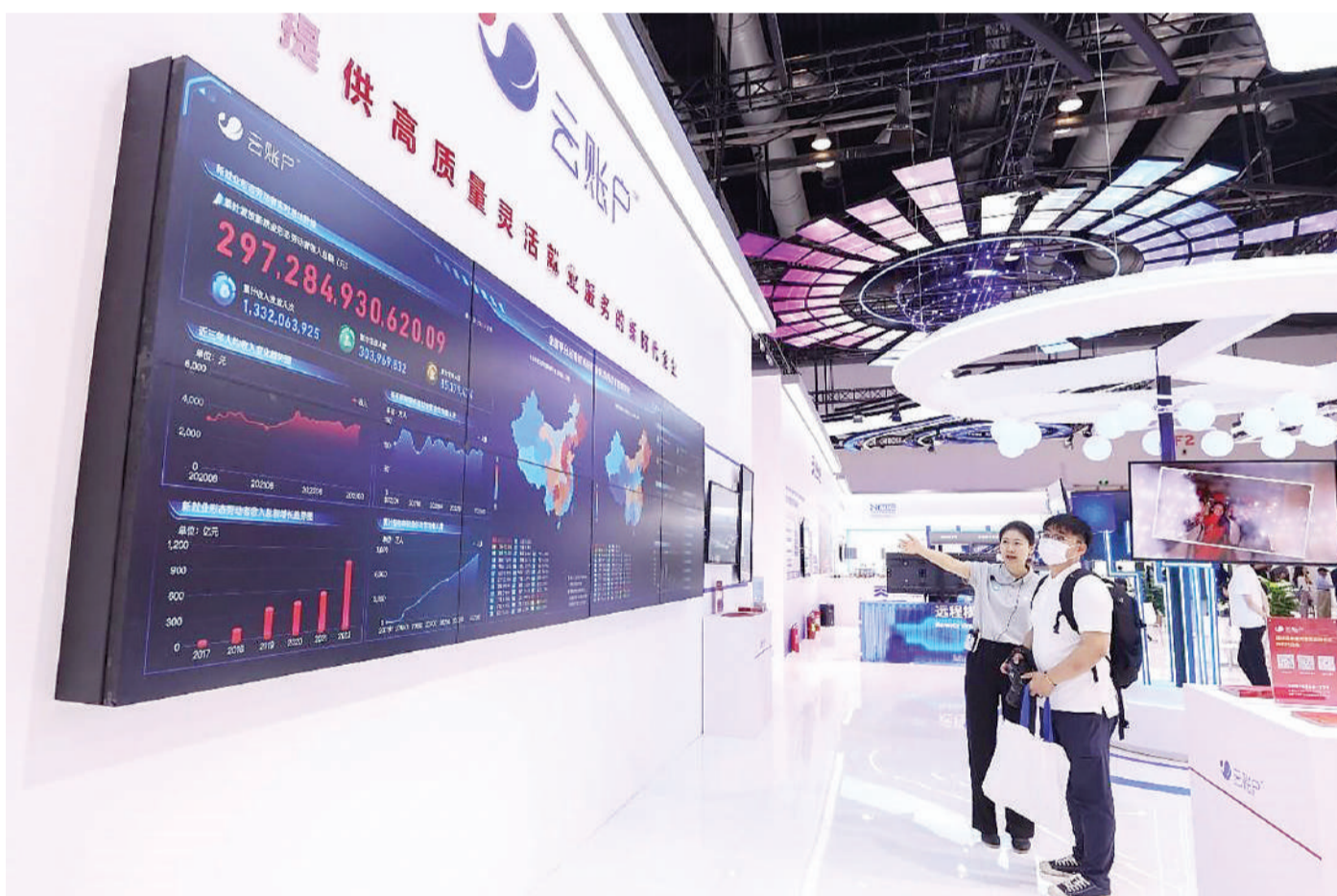
At the event, Beijing and 18 partner cities, including Abu Dhabi, jointly released the global digital economy partnership city cooperation initiative.

The initiative covers six aspects such as promoting exchange and cooperation among cities around the world, sharing and opening up mutually beneficial market environment, jointly building an innovative ecology for digital technology, accelerating the digital transformation process of cities, green development through digital empowerment, and supporting global digital inclusive cooperation. It aims to build an open innovation network for the digital economy between global cities and within multi-bilateral frameworks.

The annual event of the Global Digital Economy Conference was firstly held in 2021. Themed "Data Drives Development, Intelligence Leads the Future," the Global Digital Economy Conference 2023 aimed at vitalizing global innovation in digital technologies, promoting digital transformation of industries and building an important platform for international exchange and cooperation on the digital economy.

China is seeing a constantly reinforced foundation of digital economy. As of the end of May, the country had built a total of over 2.84 million 5G

Joint efforts to study future of digital economy



A cloud account system is exhibited at the Global Digital Economy Conference 2023 in Beijing, July 4, 2023. Photo: People's Daily

base stations, with the number of cellular internet of things end-users exceeding 2.05 billion. China is the first major economy in the world that sees more connected things than people.

According to statistics released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, digital economy and real economy are accelerating their integration in China. By the end of May, the numerical control

rate of key processes in key industrial enterprises reached 59.4 percent, and over 1,700 industry-leading digital and intelligent workshops and factories had been built across the country. Besides, China is home to more

than 240 industrial internet platforms influential to their respective regions and industries, which connect over 89 million units of industrial equipment. New applications, scenarios and business models keep emerging.

The core sectors of the digital economy are expanding, and the digital industry remains an important force driving the growth of the digital economy.

In the first five months this year, the revenue of China's software industry exceeded 4.3 trillion yuan (\$594 billion), up 13.3 percent year on year. The revenue of the information technology and services sector stood at 2.84 trillion yuan. In particular, that of the cloud computing and big data services reached 436.6 billion yuan. This has injected vitality into technological innovation as well as economic and social development.

Beijing has vigorously advanced the construction of a benchmark city for the global digital economy in recent years. The added value of Beijing's digital economy increased from 871.94 billion yuan in 2015 to 1.7 trillion yuan in 2022, and its share of GDP rose from 35.2 percent to 41.6 percent. The city is home to over 8,000 enterprises above the designated size engaged in the core sectors of the digital economy.

As a window showcasing the achievements in the construction of a benchmark city for the global digital economy, the Global Digital Economy Conference has grown into an international, high-end and professional cooperation platform for building a paradigm of global digital economy that features benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-win cooperation and common prosperity.

The conference will earnestly implement the global digital economy partnership city cooperation initiative, keep providing opportunities for relevant parties around the world, jointly contribute to and share the achievements of the digital economy, and explore the future of the digital economy, to inject new impetus into the global economic development.

People's Daily

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

EABC and WCO equip EAC private sector with AfCFTA quick guide on rules of origin

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) commenced a three-day workshop on the African Continental Free Trade Area Rules of Origin with the support of the World Customs Organization (WCO), funded by the European Union.

The workshop convened together national associations, chambers of commerce from the region, and delegates from the European Union and EAC secretariat.

In his opening remarks, EABC board member, Paul Makanza extended his appreciation to the European Union and World Customs Organisation for playing a pivotal role in implementing training on the Rules of Origin in the Region.

He said that partnership in this endeavor is of vital importance for capacity building and knowledge sharing in fostering a vibrant, inclusive trade environment.

AfCFTA represents a milestone in the quest for economic integration on our continent by creating a single market of 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of USD3.4 tril-

lion.

AfCFTA has the potential to unlock opportunities for businesses across the continent.

However, to fully realize the advantages of AfCFTA, it is crucial to understand a number of aspects related to the agreement, and the most fundamental aspect is the Rules of Origin.

It plays a crucial role in ensuring fair competition, preventing trade deflection, and safeguarding products originating from the Region.

A comprehensive understanding of this training will help the region navigate through the complexities of trading and harness the potential of the AfCFTA.

Cedric Merel, head of cooperation to EU said that Rules of Origin are a powerful trade policy instrument, as they contribute to ensuring that trade agreements are correctly implemented.

These Rules are essential to determining the customs duties and taxes to be applied to goods, as they provide significant criteria used to determine the economic nationality of the goods.

Criteria for Rules of Origin in the



context of AfCFTA cannot be underestimated, as they are used to determine which goods are produced and manufactured in Africa.

The EU, together with European member states, strongly confirms its commitment to step up support for African Countries on economic integration and trade matters in line with African Union Agenda 2063.

Donald Tindamanyire, EAC's principle customs officer said that the AfCFTA agreement is a landmark achievement in the history of Regional integration on the continent.

It is anticipated that Rules of Origin will determine trade liberalisation under the agreement, which will be a game changer in African Industrialisation by scrapping import tariffs and quotas.

It is anticipated that once we start implementing the AfCFTA agreement, trade will boost by 33 per cent once state parties fully liberalise their tariffs, which in turn will attract intra-African investment and create market opportunities to foster African Industrialization through Regional Value Chains. Implementation of AfCFTA will create a shock absorber for global

shocks that disrupt supply chains, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian and Ukrainian sanctions.

The training focuses on discussing introduction to Rules of Origin in international trade, the content of the AfCFTA Rules of Origin EPA, tripartite, and other regional free trade, origin certification and verification.

Zanzibar farmers find fortune in passion farming

By Correspondent Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

FOLLOWING impacts brought by climate change, extreme weather and global economic shocks to Zanzibar's agriculture sector, farmers are now encouraged to venture into passion farming.

In separate interviews, farmers in the Indian Ocean archipelago say passion fruit farming pays more than traditional crops, which are susceptible to climate change.

Farmers like Aviwa Songoro of Kizimbani village, West District, Urban West Region in Zanzibar have been relying on the food they grow for their families and for income for many years.

But due to challenges brought by climate change, Aviwa decided to venture into passion farming, a lucrative crop that withstands bad weather patterns.

Aviwa was previously engaged in vegetable farming, but shifted to passion fruit farming after recognizing its potential and better market.

According to Aviwa, what convinced her to cultivate her passion fruit was after she got the knowledge of modern farming of the crop which she got through a project of spices, vegetables and fruits sponsored by the European Union and implemented by People's Development Forum (PDF), Community Forest Pemba (CFP) and Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA, Zanzibar) in collaboration with the Zanzibar government through the Ministry of Agriculture.

Aviwa started farming in 2022 and at first growing vegetables but the market was poor making her fail to meet her needs.

She says that the market for passion fruit was reliable compared to vegetables as a kilo of passion fetches up to 5,000/-, but also this cultivation does not require much water and is drought tolerant.

She also states that the European Union (EU)-funded spice project is a saviour for her that has brought her out of a difficult situation in life and she is currently earning an income that helps her run his family including getting food and sending her children to school.

With a half an acre, Aviwa got 1.5m/- for the first harvest of the agriculture she got after harvesting and selling.

However, she expects to increase the production of the crop in order to continue to earn income and overcome the hard-

ships of life, but also to employ people in agriculture.

Another farmer, Soud Mohamed Salum of Kidimni Village, says that since he acquired agricultural skills through the project, he cultivates agriculture more productively than before.

He says that previously farmers were engaging in crop production without digging deep to know how to do it so as to get enough harvests but with the Spice Project, many farmers have been trained on techniques and what type of crops to cultivate for increased yields.

He says that the project has changed his life, especially through the cultivation of passion fruits while being assured of a reliable market.

Zulfa Bashiri Mbwana, spice project marketing officer said the aim of the project is to increase the value of the farm products and promote value addition.

She says that there is great success for the beneficiaries of the project, who are farmers, including taking them out of farming for home use and cultivating commercial agriculture.

For example, she says that the project has been providing farmers with various services, including seeds, education, as well as searching for markets from the farmer to the buyer directly.

According to her, the situation has contributed to great motivation including connecting farmers with markets and finding buyers and the project aims to help 21,000 beneficiaries and has currently connected 60 percent of the beneficiaries to local and foreign markets.

Shabani Peter, an expert in production technology and infrastructure for farmers from the spice project, also said that the goal of the project is to increase production for the farmer, and in fulfilling that goal is to ensure that farmers use good production technology that is compatible with climate change.

Peter also says to ensure that farmers get the best seeds and seedlings, to have the best methods of water use and to provide education on using methods for the correct use of water.

He said that more than 100 farmers have supported the irrigation infrastructure of their crops in order to have the right use of water and produce 800,000 different seedlings.

The expert says that the project has improved nurseries for producers in the community and currently there are four main



Aviwa Songoro from Kizimbani village in West District, Urban West Region attends to her passion farm. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

nurseries that produce seedlings including passion seedlings. "At the moment we want to use the best irrigation methods that use less water, due climate change impacts, many areas are facing water shortage and that is why we encourage our farmers to use less water irrigation systems," he says.

Sofia Ngalapi, spice project head of communication says that the project aims to open value chain opportunities for small farmers who grow vegetables, fruits and spices with the aim of reaching more than 57,000 beneficiaries in Unguja and Pemba for a period of four years where in June next year the pro-

ject you will reach the limit.

Sofia who also works with TAMWA, Zanzibar asked farmers, especially women, to focus on home gardening, where agriculture does not use a large area of land and helps to get better nutrition for the family and increase income.

Makame Kitwana Makame, Assistant Director (Agriculture, Natural Resources and Irrigation) reassures that Zanzibar government will continue supporting initiatives that aim to uplift peoples' lives and fight poverty.

Makame says the government was the main man-

ager in the spice project by providing farmers with training and experts so that farmers can adapt to the current times and get more crops.

He admits that climate change has brought various impacts in the agriculture sector but the government continues to work on the challenges so that farmers can find a reliable market to sell their products.

Self-serving US policies exacerbate global economic volatility

BEIJING

The IMF forecast for global growth over the medium-term is around 3 percent – well below the historical average of 3.8 percent during 2000-19. Moreover, economic fragmentation will both undermine growth and make it harder to tackle pressing global challenges.

What the IMF's Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva wrote on Thursday outlined a tottering global economic recovery with "rising economic fragmentation, slow growth, and high inflation," which, in fact, has much to do with America's self-serving and irresponsible monetary and trade policies.

From spawning unlimited quantitative easing measures to peddling "decoupling" and its more cunning version of "de-risking," the world's sole superpower has racked its brain to drop its domestic crisis into other's lap, bleeding its allies, fleeing developing coun-



International Monetary Fund managing director Kristalina Georgieva (R, facing camera) attends a press conference in Washington, D.C., the United States, on April 13, 2023. Xinhua

ing the old term "decoupling."

A change in rhetoric does not mean a difference in action. In essence, "de-risking" is hardly different from decoupling.

Under the guise of "de-risking," the United States continues forging ahead with its policy of protectionism. To further contain and suppress China, America's "de-risking" narrative has harmed its European allies and brought turmoil to the global economy.

A recent research report by an Austrian think tank estimated that if decoupled from China, Germany will see its GDP drop by 2 percent per year, equivalent to a loss of 60 billion euros (some 65 billion U.S. dollars).

Whether it's called decoupling or "de-risking," the United States is veering towards the wrong path of neo-mercantilism, said Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"De-risking" is putting all parties at risk, said the Singapore-based Straits Times in an opinion article, adding that the negative impact of "de-risking" economic links with China goes far beyond China, the United States and the EU but also affects other trading partners.

Those who use such intoxicated terms as rivalry, competition, decoupling or "de-risking" to describe ties with China would "risk a further decline of our economy," said Michael Borchmann, former head of the European and International Affairs Department of the federal German state of Hesse.

Keith Bennett, vice chair of Britain's 48 Group Club, shared the same view. "De-risking" is the "wrong term," he said.

Citing Britain-China trade data, Bennett stressed the figures show "how unrealistic it is to talk about ideas of decoupling or de-risking. It's a backward way of looking at the world because no country can develop sustainably and prosperously in isolation."

"The situation of slower growth in trade would be made far worse if the world were to decouple or fragment," warned Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization.

Through word games, the United States has concealed that it is the biggest risk and source of global chaos.

CHINA'S RESILIENCE

Amidst mounting global economic uncertainties and a surge in unilateralism and protectionism, China's resilient growth injects impetus and certainty into the global economic recovery.

While experiencing a minor deceleration, China's economic growth remains strong compared to many other major economies. It bolsters domestic consumption and investment and provides a lifeline for global economic stability.

Noting that "almost 30 percent of global growth depends on the success of the Chinese economy," World Economic Forum President Borge Brende said, "China is taking many right steps to support growth. In the medium term, I'm optimistic about Chinese growth. Long-term, I'm very optimistic about China's growth."

Multiple international organizations also back Brende's confidence. The World Bank, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations lifted their prediction on China's economic growth, projecting that it would grow by more than 5 percent this year.

Observing that "the Chinese economy will be innovation-led and technology-led," Wilson Lee Flores, a columnist for The Philippine Star, said, "all the technological innovations will push long-term sustained economic growth of the Chinese economy."

With boosting innovation emerging as a major solution to drive global economic recovery, China collaborates on technology with over 160 countries and regions and is actively involved in more than 200 international organizations and multilateral mechanisms related to science and technology that contribute to global economic and technology innovation.

Industry giants in multiple sectors, like automobile manufacturing giants BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Tesla, are upbeat about the prospects of the Chinese economy and have enhanced R&D investment in the country.

Ola Kaellenius, chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, said with its dynamic economy and a clear focus on innovation, "China is and will remain an important pillar of our long-term global strategy."

Xinhua

tries, rocking global supply chains, and eventually triggering global economic volatility.

TOXIC MONETARY POLICY

To address the high inflation caused by its unlimited quantitative easing measures implemented during the pandemic and to avoid domestic economic recession, the United States has initiated a new cycle of interest rate hikes since March 2022, shifting its crisis to the world.

So far, the U.S. Federal Reserve has raised interest rates 10 consecutive times, with a cumulative increase of 500 basis points, the fastest pace of hikes since the 1980s.

The United States once again wielded its monetary policy to fleece other economies, especially emerging markets, causing global economic volatility.

As early as April last year, Malhar Nabar, a division chief at the IMF's Research Department, hit the nail on the head, pointing out that the Fed's more aggressive rate hikes could add pressure to capital outflows in emerging markets, push up imported inflation, increase debt vulnerabilities and reduce policy space.

Noting that U.S. monetary policy is responsible for skyrocketing inflation in Argentina, Herman Bergstein, an economics professor at the National University of Quilmes in Argentina, said, "U.S. interest rate hikes imply less investment worldwide and may also mean that we will have difficulties exporting our products."

Echoing Bergstein, Adel Mahmoud, chairman of Cairo Forum for Economic Researches, said the United States has been exporting its domestic crisis to other countries by taking advantage of the dollar's dominance.

Similarly, Dr. Waleed Gaballah, a member of the Egyptian Association for Political Economy, Statistics and Legislation, said the United States seeks to save its economy at the expense of the global economy through over-printing U.S. paper dollars and raising interest rates, exporting economic crisis to many countries.

The words of former U.S. Treasury Secretary John Connally in 1971 ring true: "The dollar is our currency, but it's your problem."

Many countries have suffered the devaluation of their currencies, capital outflows, rising debt service costs and intensified imported inflation. Some have even fallen into a currency or debt crisis.

Data from the IMF showed the pressure on debt repayment for countries denominated in the dollar has increased sharply. More than 60 percent of low-income countries are already at high risk of or in debt distress.

Recalling the global financial crises of 1971 and 2008, both of which started in the United States, Professor Bruno Colmant, a member of the Belgian Royal Academy, said that Washington never ends its wars or pays off its debts.

"D" WORD GAMES

The United States is causing global economic instability with its toxic monetary policy. It's also using word games to manipulate international public opinion.

The economic term "de-risking" had long been criticized by the United States, the EU and the World Bank. However, some Western politicians, particularly American ones, have recently embraced the term to counter China's rise, replac-



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS OF VALUE OF THE SOFTWARE IMPORTED THROUGH MEDIA CARRIERS/DEVICES

Dar Es Salaam, 17th July, 2023.


Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to remind the general public and importers on the legal and procedural requirements to follow during importation of software. Kindly be made aware that, software imported using media carriers are to be declared under **H.S Code 8523.80.10** and should be cleared through customs using normal procedures including declaration of customs value. The value should be based on the price actually paid or payable for both the carrier medium (the hardware) and the software as per requirement of Section 122 read together with the Fourth Schedule of the East African Community Customs Management Act, 2004 (as revised).

TRA wishes further to inform that, import documents such as Invoices and Tanzania Single Administrative Documents (TANSADs) should be maintained as evidence for the purpose of input tax credit as stipulated under section 68 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2014 or other tax matters stipulated under other tax laws.

All importers are hereby enjoined to comply with the requirements of this notice in order to avoid the consequences that may arise out of breach of the provisions of the tax laws

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Issued by:
TAXPAYERS EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Graduate gains fortune through cage fish farming

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

SINCE he was a primary school pupil, Elpidius Mpanju (34), resident of Mkolani suburb in Nyamagana District, Mwanza Region, had a dream.

He has since then, managed to accomplish what he was dreaming at, through 13 years of his journey as an entrepreneur.

After his bachelor's degree studies in public relations and marketing in 2014 at Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) in Mwanza City, Mpanju opted not to seek employment in the government or the private sector. His target was to be self-employed.

"When I was in primary school, my dream was to establish own company and contribute to the economy through paying tax, creates employment opportunities for other people, through the value chain of my business activity", he says.

Two years after graduating his degree programme, he decided to establish "My Fish Tanzania" Company, which is dealing with fish farming, now operating at Lucheleele area, along Lake Victoria; some few kilometres from Mwanza city centre.

The company currently operates approximately 70 cages of Tilapia producing more than 10 tonnes of the fish per month, with each fish weighing one kilogramme.

His company has a total of 23 employees, with almost half of them are women.

His future plan is to produce at least 100 tonnes of the fish monthly, as he looks forward to growing and becoming among the leading fish farming companies that meets international standards,

thus adequately contributing to raising national revenue, as well as increasing employment opportunities.

"With the production of 100 tonnes per month, we will be able to employ not less than 50 people, and as we grow further, we will increase the employment opportunities and helping to reduce poverty among them and their dependents," he said.

"Thank God for leading me to start this company and manage the project that has helped to improve the standard of living my family and a reliable source of income for the member of the community, through retail fish businesses."

He notes that with the current shortage of fish stocks in the lake, members of his community around are trading fish from his project, particularly the women; which ensure them sustainable incomes for their families.

He says that the company sells fish to the wholesalers are retailers at an affordable prices' which enable them to get profit through selling to consumers; and enable them to feel that they are part and parcel of the fishing farming project operating in their area.

Currently, he says he do not sell the harvest to the processing factories or big businesses, because it takes too long to receive payments and sometimes it is complicated procedures, but through retailers, he is paid in cash on the spot.

He advises the youths to try fish farming business, especially Tilapia as it is easy to manage it and helps to fight poverty, noting that it is time now for them to their change mindset to think of entrepreneurship, instead of waiting for formal employment opportunities from the government of the private sector.

He appeals to the government to encourage the people to carry out fish



Cage fish farming Myfish Tanzania Company managing director Elpidius Mpanju (R) points one of the company's cages at Lucheleele area in Lake Victoria in Mwanza. Photo by Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda

farming to help reducing excessive harvest of fish in the lake, as well as protecting biodiversity for sustainable development.

Citing an example, he says; "with fish farming people can have an alternative way of getting fish for diet, without necessarily catch them in the lake, which is causing dwindling of their stocks in the water bodies".

Two much dependency on the lake for harvesting fish to meet the growing demand driven by the increased populations, obviously leads to overfishing of the aquatic species and the only way to arrest the situation, fish farming is the solution, he says.

Overfishing also negatively impacts on the biodiversity of the lake due to gears used for harvesting the marine species and sometime catches immature fishes.

Usually many people prefer Tilapia to Nile perch harvested for commercial value, specifically fillet ex-

port, but they just consume Nile perch as an alternative of Tilapia, he says.

In other words, increased Tilapia farming, Nile perch stocks will increase in the lake and therefore processing industries will get reliable supply of fish for fillets.

This will also boost export and create multiplier effect on the economy through employment in factories, taxes and foreign exchange earnings.

According to the Secretary of Tanzania Industrial Fishing and Processing Association (TIFPA), Onesmo Sulle, supply of Nile perch to the factories has declined to a big extent in the recent months.

The processors are now processing an average of 25 percent of their capacity, a situation that has negatively affected their operations and also lowers fillets exports volumes.

This is due to illegal fishing using undersize nets and

sardine fishing whereby 30 percent of the catches are immature Nile perch.

Sardine fishing now uses solar lamps that lead to a massive harvest of immature Nile perch and other small species of fish, he says.

Also Mpanju says that the government should also ensure that foreigners with interest to invest in fish farming in the country have their own markets outside and not depend on local market, as this will bring fair competition in business between them and local entrepreneurs who have small capitals and technology.

They should not also be left to fix prices they want as they can even come with small rates, with a view to win the market, in which local entrepreneurs can find it hard to operate based on their small capitals.

One of the problems constraining youths to engage in entrepreneurship is lack of capital and the government can solve it by establishing a guarantee scheme to enable them to access bank loans.

If they stand alone without support from the government on the issue of capitals, they will remain behind in business, as most of them are unable to get collateral to be granted loans by banks, he says.

Oil surge to \$80 shows long-awaited market

LONDON

BETTING on a tighter oil market has been a bad trade for most of this year. But there are signs it's finally paying off.

After languishing for months, crude surged above \$80 a barrel in London last week as fuel demand in China and elsewhere recovers from the pandemic to reach new highs. That's happening just as production cutbacks by Saudi Arabia and its OPEC+ allies are set to rapidly drain storage tanks around the world.

"We're expecting a sharp tightening of the market," Toril Bosoni, head of oil markets at the International Energy Agency in Paris, said in an interview with Bloomberg television. "As demand increases seasonally, we do think there's a risk that prices will continue to increase into the third quarter."

Besides rewarding bullish traders, that would boost energy producers from Texas to Moscow. It would also endanger the global economy, which has benefited recently from easing fuel costs and cooling inflation, and affect the fortunes of political leaders – from the reelection bid of President Joe Biden, to the war waged in Ukraine by Vladimir Putin.

It's still far from clear whether Brent crude's return to \$80 a barrel is a turning point that heralds a major price rally. Economic storm clouds still darken the horizon, from shaky Chinese indicators to rising interest rates, and barrels of cut-price crude continue to flood from Iran and Russia.

But at the very least, the market appears to have found a floor.

Oil-watchers spent the first half of the year lowering their price expectations. They abandoned initial calls for a return to \$100 a barrel in the face of lackluster economic growth, even as Saudi Arabia made repeated efforts to juice prices with production.

Yet analysts held onto the view that the coming six months would deliver a stronger market, and last week the pieces began falling into place. Brent futures, the main international benchmark, soared to the highest since May.

"It is the tipping point the market was expecting," said Jorge Leon, senior vice president of oil market research at consultant Rystad Energy A/S. "It looks like the start of the hot summer in the crude market."

OPEC+ cuts

The crunch comes as output cuts made by the Saudis and others in the Organization of

Petroleum Exporting Countries are finally having an impact.

Price differentials for crude grades chemically similar to those shipped by Riyadh are climbing in the cargo market. The kingdom gave markets another boost last week by announcing that an extra, unilateral cut of 1 million barrels a day launched this month would continue into August.

Even Russia, after much delay, appears to be playing a part. For much of this year, Moscow was boosting crude exports and maximizing sales in order to fund its war against Ukraine, even as it was pledging to cut production. Tanker tracking data compiled by Bloomberg shows that, in the four weeks to July 9, the country pared exports by roughly 25%.

The balance of supply and demand already swung from surplus to deficit in June, according to Standard Chartered Plc. The shortfall will more than double in coming months, draining oil inventories by a hefty 2.8 million barrels a day in August, the bank estimates.

"All the micro-fundamental factors are finally turning bullish," said Trevor Woods, chief investment officer at commodities hedge fund Northern Trace Capital LLC. "I mean, these draws are gonna be huge."

Skeptical banks

Many oil traders are still skeptical about the prospects of a price surge.

Demand remains at the mercy of an uncer-

tain economic environment, from contracting Chinese manufacturing to sluggish growth in Europe and fears that rising US interest rates could trigger a recession. Last week, the IEA trimmed forecasts for world fuel consumption this year.

On the supply side, output is climbing from the US to Brazil and Guyana. Even within OPEC+, members such as Iran and Venezuela, exempted from making production cuts, are ramping up oil sales. Tehran's exports have reached a five-year high, according to consultant Kpler Ltd.

Some of the Wall Street forecasters who once predicted \$100 crude are darkening their outlook. JPMorgan Chase & Co. contends that OPEC+ will need to slash output further, while Morgan Stanley sees the market back in surplus next year.

"Much depends on demand," said Martijn Rats, Morgan Stanley's London-based global oil strategist. "But supply seems to be there to meet it."

Even so, plenty of market watchers see significant upside. And, of course, the most powerful actor in the oil market is on that side of the bet.

Saudi Arabia, which needs ample oil revenue to fund Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plans for economic and social transformation, has said it will do whatever is necessary to keep the oil market in balance and could further prolong its voluntary cuts.



DSE's weekly total market cap gains by 1.44 per cent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) total market capitalization increased by 1.44 percent to 15.30trn/- last week, compared with 15.09trn/- recorded during the previous week, thanks to the increased share prices, both local and cross listed companies.

The DSE market report shows the domestic market capitalization also gained by 0.19 percent after closing at 10.86trn/- last week compared with 10.04trn/- recorded at the end of the previous week.

Top gainer during the reviewed week, according to the weekly report by Exodus Advisory, the DSE member and brokerage firm, was Nation Media Group (NMG), the cross listed, after its share price increased by 6.45 percent to 330/- from 310/- respectively.

Swissport Tanzania was the second top gainer after its share price recorded an increase by 6.25 percent to 1,700/- compared with 1,600/-, followed by KCB, another cross listed which recorded the highest gain of its share price by 6.12 percent after crossing at 520/- at the end of last week, com-

pared with 490/- recorded during the previous week.

Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL), the cross listed company followed after its share price closed by four percent to 3,120/- at the end of last week, compared with 3,000/- recorded during the end of the previous week.

Other companies which recorded the increases of their share prices according to the weekly report were East African Breweries Limited (EABL) by 3.85 percent, CRDB Bank Plc by 2.13 percent, and NICO, the collective investment scheme by 2.11 percent.

Trading activity during the reviewed week increased by 114.88 percent over the week where total market turnover totaled 1,183.38mn/- compared with 550m/- recorded during the previous week. CRDB accounted for 75 percent of the trading activity followed by NMB (7 percent), SWIS (6 percent) and NICO (5 percent).

The Banking sector saw an increase of 0.53 percent where Bank, Finance & Investment Index closed at 3,953.19 points, while the Industry & Allied sector remained constant at 5,122.32 points and Commercial Services closed at 2,163.74 points which shows an increase of 0.19 percent.

DIGITAL MARKETING

Brand strategy (the franchise war)

By Alley Mtatya

ONE popular example of a franchise that has engaged in advertising and marketing wars is the ongoing rivalry between Coca-Cola and PepsiCo.

Known as the "Cola Wars," these two beverage giants have been competing fiercely for decades to dominate the global soft drink market.

The rivalry between Coca-Cola and PepsiCo can be traced back to the late 19th century when both companies were founded. Over the years, they have used various advertising and marketing strategies to outdo each other while gaining a larger share of the market.

One notable aspect of the Cola War is the emphasis on celebrity endorsements. Both Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have enlisted numerous famous personalities to promote their respective brands. Some of the most memorable advertisements have featured celebrities like Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, Beyonce, and David Beckham. These endorsements have helped create a strong association between the brands and popular culture.

Another strategy employed by both Cola giants is the creation of their advertising campaigns. Coca-Cola's iconic "Hilltop" commercial in 1971, featuring the famous jingle "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," is still considered one of the most successful and influential ads of all time. PepsiCo has also produced notable campaigns. Such as the Pepsi Challenge in the 1970s and 1980s, where blind taste tests were conducted to prove that Pepsi was preferred over Coca-Cola.

Coca-Cola's "Share a Coke". In 2014 Coca-Cola launched the "Share a Coke" campaign, which personalized their bottles and cans with popular names and phrases. The campaign encouraged consumers to share personalized Coca-Cola bottles and cans with their friends and loved ones. The campaign incorporated digital elements, such as a dedicated website where users could create virtual custom bottles and share them on social media. I remember this



campaign as I also had my Coke can customized. It was a truly unique experience.

PepsiCo's "Pepsi Emoji". In 2016, PepsiCo introduced the "Pepsi Emoji" campaign, capitalizing on the popularity of emojis in digital communication. The campaign featured limited edition Pepsi cans and bottles adorned with popular emojis. PepsiCo encouraged consumers to share their experiences with Pepsi using the #PepsiMoji hashtag on social media, promoting engagement and user-generated content.

Coca-Cola's "Taste the Feeling" campaign, launched in 2012, aimed to evoke emotions and create a personal connection with consumers. The campaign utilized various digital channels, including social media, online videos, and interactive experiences. Coca-Cola encouraged consumers to share their moments of happiness and

connection with the brand using the hashtag #TasteTheFeeling.

PepsiCo's "Pepsi Generations". In 2018 PepsiCo launched the "Pepsi Generations" campaign to celebrate its 120-year history. The campaign featured a series of digital ads that showcased Pepsi's iconic moments and collaborations with pop culture icons throughout the years. PepsiCo engaged consumers by encouraging them to participate in interactive online experiences and share their own memories with Pepsi.

The efforts of Coca-Cola and PepsiCo in creating engaging digital campaigns that leverage personalization, user-generated content, and social media interactions to connect with consumers while also embracing the change in culture has evolved throughout time.

By studying the marketing strategies employed by Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, marketers can gain valuable insights into effective brand differentiation, emotional branding, engagement tactics, digital marketing approaches, consistency, and the importance of innovation and evolution in the ever-changing marketplace.

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US dollar's biggest weekly drop and end of an era

JOHANNESBURG

IT just may have been the week that broke the dollar.

The greenback's worst slump since November has a bevy of strategists and investors saying a turning point is finally at hand for the world's primary reserve currency. If they're right, there will be far-reaching consequences for global economies and financial markets.

The US currency is teetering at the lowest level in more than a year after signs of cooling inflation bolstered bets that the Federal Reserve will soon stop hiking interest rates. Dollar bears are looking even further ahead, to what they say are inevitable rate cuts, something the market consensus sees happening at some point in 2024.

"Our call for the dollar to enter a multi-year downtrend is partly based on the fact that the Fed's tightening cycle will morph into an easing cycle, and this will pull the dollar down even as other central banks cut as well," Steven Barrow, head of G-10 strategy at Standard Bank, said in a note on Friday.

The Bloomberg dollar gauge was little changed in early Asian trading Monday. It tanked 2% last week, the biggest weekly drop since the five days through Nov. 11.

It's hard to overstate the potential ripple effects from a long-term greenback slide. It would reduce import prices for developing nations, helping ease their inflation pressures. A greenback reversal also stands to bolster currencies like the yen, which has been tumbling for months, and upend popular trading strategies tied to a weaker yen. More broadly, a softer US currency would tend to boost American firms' exports at the expense of their counterparts in Europe, Asia and elsewhere.

The Bloomberg dollar index's 2 percent decline last week also contributed to gains in greenback-priced commodities such as oil and gold.

Many investors have been waiting for a downtrend in the dollar for months and the selloff has fund managers from M&G Investments to UBS Asset Management bracing for an outperformance in the likes of the yen and emerging-market currencies.

"The most likely path forward is the dollar remains weak throughout the coming months," said Peter Vassallo, a fund manager at BNP Paribas Asset Management. He's betting on gains for the Australian dollar, New Zealand dollar and Norwegian krone.

Bloomberg Strategists says the prevailing downwards trend in the dollar is primed to remain intact while the real yield curve flattens. One of the best leading indicators for the dollar, for instance, is the real yield curve. The intuition is the dollar is

driven at the margin by the real return of foreign investors into US yields.

Simon White, macro strategist says: "Of course, there's a long history of investors getting burned by premature bets on Fed rate cuts that would sink the dollar. That was the case early this year, when the currency seemed to be on the verge of a protracted downtrend only to stabilize as US economic data drove home that the Fed wasn't about to stop hiking".

For the bears, the threat is that dynamic repeats itself, especially with the Fed likely to tighten further as soon as this month.

At Invesco Asset Management, Georgina Taylor isn't prepared to reduce her dollar exposure just yet. Still firmly in data-watching mode, she's not ready to conclude the battle to tame inflation is over.

"The interest-rate differential story is wavering but I wouldn't give up on the dollar," she said, given that the absolute difference in real yields remains high.

US economic resilience is the reason Michael Cahill at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. expects any dollar downturn will likely be shallower than in past cycles. Dollar support could crumble, however, if the Fed calls an end to its inflation fight even as the European Central Bank is compelled to keep rates higher for longer.

"The biggest risk that could lead to more dollar downside is that the inflation picture diverges," said Cahill, a G-10 FX strategist. The bank forecasts the dollar will weaken to \$1.15 per euro in 2024, from about \$1.12 now, and that the yen will strengthen to 125 per dollar, from roughly 139 now.

Dollar bears can also lean on valuation measures. The currency's strength has been particularly pronounced against the yen, to the point where the real effective exchange rate has Japan's currency trading near its lowest level in decades.

"From a valuation perspective, the dollar is still very overvalued," said Paresh Upadhyaya, director of currency strategy at Amundi Asset Management. "I think markets are going to start to fade that."

He points to the US's twin deficits – its trade and budgetary shortfalls – as structural headwinds. But he also has in mind another dynamic that market watchers often cite, the dollar smile theory.

The thinking there is that the greenback typically gains when the US is either in a severe slump or a robust expansion – and falters in times of moderate growth.

"If the US engineers a soft landing, that is probably the best case for a weaker dollar you can ask for," Upadhyaya said.

Europe, Asia stocks lower on weak China's economic data

LONDON

EUROPEAN stocks followed Asia lower on Monday, as weak Chinese economic data reinforced investors' concerns that the world's second-largest economy was struggling to bounce back after three years of severe pandemic restrictions.

Europe's regionwide Stoxx 600 lost 0.5 per cent at the opening bell, extending losses from the previous session, as the index was dragged down by steep declines in consumer cyclical and energy companies.

France's Cac 40 dropped 0.8 per cent, Germany's Dax gave up 0.4 per cent and London's energy-heavy FTSE 100 fell 0.3 per cent.

The declines echoed Asian markets, where China's benchmark CSI 300 index slipped 0.8 per cent on Monday, after official data showed the country's second-quarter growth rate slowed considerably from the previous three-month period.

China's gross domestic product expanded 0.8 per cent in the three months to July, down from 2.2 per cent in the previous quarter, as falling exports, weak retail sales and a moribund property sector weighed on growth.

China's "revival is losing steam after the initial release of pent-up demand built during the zero-Covid policy era, while exports are falling amid ebbing global demand", noted Duncan Wrigley, chief China economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

The disappointing data weighed on oil prices, with Brent crude, the

international benchmark, falling 1.2 per cent to trade at \$78.93 per barrel, while US marker West Texas Intermediate fell by the same margin to \$74.52. China is the world's second-largest oil consumer after the US.

Investors' focus will switch to the upcoming meeting of China's ruling politburo later in the month, where policymakers are expected to consider further possible support for the economy.

Elsewhere in Asia, South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.4 per cent, while Hong Kong's stock exchange suspended trading owing to a weather warning and Japanese markets were closed for a holiday.

Meanwhile, traders readied for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to issue its Empire State Manufacturing Survey later in the day, with the index expected to have come in at minus 4.3 in July, down from 6.6 in the previous month.

The negative reading means the majority of survey respondents reported an overall contraction in factory activity, as the sector faltered following a prolonged period of rising US interest rates.

US futures were mixed, with contracts tracking Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 losing 0.1 per cent, while those tracking the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 gained 0.1 per cent ahead of the New York open.

With the earnings season well under way, traders turn their attention to tech companies this week; the electric-car maker Tesla is on Wednesday the first of the sector's giants to report results.



Major charts to watch in global commodities

LONDON

THE world's two biggest polluters are meeting for talks on global warming amid ongoing tensions between the US and China.

The Asian nation accounted for the largest share of global carbon dioxide emissions in 2021, according to European Commission data, while the US was a distant second at almost 13 percent.

Even so, the US has by far the biggest share of historical, cumulative emissions, having relied on the unfettered burning of coal, oil and gas to fuel its economic growth for decades.

Any meaningful progress on tackling harmful greenhouse gases will require the cooperation of both countries, especially ahead of a UN climate conference in the United Arab Emirates starting in November that is already being dogged by a host of concerns.

Metals

Alcoa is set to release its second-quarter earnings as global aluminum prices continue a pullback. The largest US producer has seen shares drop 24 percent this year amid weak fundamentals and as uncertainty in US economic growth squelched robust demand for the metal used in everything from automobiles to skyscrapers to consumer appliances.

Aluminum consumption has also lagged due to a sluggish recovery from pandemic-related restrictions in China, the world's biggest metals user.

Investors will be focused on Alcoa's latest forecast on aluminum shipments, as well as any commentary Chief Executive Officer Roy Harvey may have regarding a buildup of worldwide metal stockpiles coming from Russia. Harvey in April warned that Russian-origin metal threatened to distort the global benchmark price as more customers refuse to take delivery of it in the wake of the nation's ongoing conflict with Ukraine.

Grains

Wheat and corn futures edged higher Monday after Russia ended the international deal that allows the safe export of Ukraine grains through the Black Sea. Moscow had repeatedly threatened to leave the pact, which had been extended three times. The deal has been limping along due to red tape and slow vessel inspections, causing total exports to drop considerably in recent months, according to United Nations data. In total, nearly 33 million tons of crops were exported since the agreement was signed last July. Russia's move jeopardizes a key trade route from Ukraine, one of the world's top grain and vegetable oil shippers just as its next harvest begins.

Oil

Crude oil futures have been in the doldrums for most of this year, but are staging a recovery in July. Through Friday's settlement, West Texas Intermediate is up almost 7 percent this month and flirting with a breach of its closely watched 200-day moving average, a feat that hasn't been done in almost 11 months.

CURRENT NEWS



How can I tell if I'm actually rich?

By Ashley Kilroy

OPENLY discussing the topic can be uncomfortable. But you've probably wondered who can be considered truly rich and whether you fit that definition (or ever will).

According to Schwab's 2022 Modern Wealth Survey, the average American thinks being rich means having a net worth of \$2.2 million. However, wealth has no universal definition. Just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, being rich depends on your personal definition and circumstances.

Here's what you need to keep in mind when determining whether you are rich and what most people consider to be rich.

Schwab's survey showed Americans' conception of being rich means having a net worth of \$2.2 million. This number represents a \$300,000 increase from the survey's results last year.

Additionally, statistics show that the top 2 percent of the United States population has a net worth of about \$2.4 million. On the other hand, the top 5 percent wealthiest Americans have a net worth of just over \$1 million. Therefore, about 2 percent of the population possesses enough wealth to meet the current definition of being rich.

That said, Americans' feelings about wealth go beyond dollar figures. For instance, the survey indicated that over half the country's workforce would take lower pay for employment with a company aligning with their values. Additionally, almost 90% of employees want fulfillment from their work and orient their careers around their beliefs.

As a result, while Americans have a defined dollar number for being rich, they prioritize their principles as highly in the workplace, going so far as to take a pay cut to work for a company that resonates with their ideals.

And because being wealthy is subjective, some Americans might also believe that being financially comfortable is identical to being wealthy. Specifically, participants in Schwab's survey reported that a net worth of \$774,000 or more means being comfortable. Therefore, you might have a lower target for what it means to become wealthy - it depends on your lifestyle and financial priorities.

If you're ready to be matched with local advisors that can help you achieve your financial goals, get started now.

Factors determining you're rich

Since the dollar amount regarding wealth is subjective, you can analyze your financial situation in multiple ways to determine if you're rich. Different facets of beliefs about wealth include the following:

You're able to save

A rule of thumb for accumulating wealth is to spend less than you earn. In other words, if you can meet your monthly expenses and deposit surplus income in a savings or investment account, your net worth can rise in the millions within a couple of decades. As a result, financial habits, such as budgeting



and setting goals, are essential to becoming wealthy, no matter what dollar amount you have in your head.

You live below your means

Fintech company Lending Club recently reported that almost two-thirds of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. This financial approach can be stressful and unsustainable, and it's unlikely you'll save a significant amount of wealth. So, monthly cutting expenses - whether you reduce monthly subscriptions or eat dinner at home more often - can help create room in your budget to save money and pay for necessities. Plus, you'll be prepared for financial emergencies.

You can afford the things you want

If you save money and live below your means, you'll likely be able to afford what you want. Whether it's a new car or a Caribbean cruise, setting a financial goal and meeting it requires wealth-building habits. So, being financially capable of accomplishing your short- and long-term goals is a sign of wealth.

You're motivated by the life you want

Your ideal life might look like you running your own small business. Or, it could mean getting out of debt and saving a specific amount for retirement each month. But, whatever your vision might be, it's more vital that you simply have one. In other words, your motivation is fundamental to becoming wealthy. Greed isn't sufficient fuel for making tough financial decisions. From restricting luxuries in your budget to taking a business risk, your choices will be strongest when they come from your vision for your life.

You're on the path to afford the retirement you want

How much you need to save for re-

irement can be challenging to discern. But, once you set your retirement goal by consulting with a financial advisor or estimating your expenses in your golden years, it's crucial to start saving now. Being wealthy means preparing for retirement with a solid financial foundation.

You know money is a tool

Financial struggles can create the perception that money is your problem. Unfortunately, this mindset can bar you from the reality that money is your way to a better life. For example, if you're living paycheck to paycheck and have serious credit card debt, thinking about money might be the last thing you want to do because it's so stressful. However, avoiding the topic is going to keep you from becoming debt-free.

Instead, set a small goal, like putting an extra \$25 per month toward the debt with the highest interest rate or lowest balance. This approach helps you see that money is not your enemy - it's your means of building a brighter future.

You have options

Wealth means flexibility in meeting life's challenges. For instance, you might want to take several months off work for the birth of a new child. Or, you want to fund a business idea with your savings. In any case, a reliable sign of being rich is exercising options to improve your life, learn a new skill, or expand your wealth.

Being rich currently means having a net worth of about \$2.2 million. However, this number fluctuates over time, and you can measure wealth according to your financial priorities. As a result, healthy financial habits, like spending less than you make, are critical to becoming wealthy, no matter your definition.

China growth disappoints as Beijing hints at muted stimulus

BEIJING

CHINA'S economic recovery lost momentum in the second quarter, putting Beijing's growth target for the year at risk and adding to concerns about a slowdown in the world economy.

Gross domestic product grew at a slower-than-expected pace of 6.3 percent in the second quarter compared with a year earlier, when dozens of Chinese cities were in lockdown, but just less than 1 percent from the first quarter.

Deflation is a major risk now, the data showed, with economy-wide prices declining for the first time since 2020, while youth unemployment climbed to above 21 percent.

The data intensified calls for more stimulus for the Chinese economy, with attention now shifting to a meeting later this month of the Communist Party's Politburo, which will decide economic policies for the rest of the year. Beijing has hinted, though, that stimulus measures this year will likely be limited in scale, reflecting its relatively modest growth target of around 5 percent for the year.

Even that target is now at risk, according to economists at Citigroup Inc., who lowered their forecast for China's growth this year to 5 percent from 5.5 percent. Morgan Stanley cut its projection to 5 percent from 5.7 percent, while UOB Ltd. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. see the same expansion this year, down from previous estimates of 5.6 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

Data for June released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed a slowdown in growth of consumer spending, which has been the main driver of China's economy this year. Retail sales rose 3.1% in June from a year earlier, down from 12.7 percent in May.

"What we all expected was a consumption and service-led recovery. If that is sputtering, then there's no engine left for the recovery," said Louis Kuijs, chief economist for Asia Pacific at S&P Global Ratings. "We never want to read too much into one month's data. But if the June data on consumption is representative, then that's not a good sign."



To account for the base effects from last year's lockdowns, economists have focused on quarter-on-quarter and two-year average growth rates. Both those measures showed a slowdown in the second quarter compared with the first three months of the year.

Investment by China's vast property sector also worsened in June from the previous month, a sign of ongoing pain in the housing market.

"Property is the key to resolving the various current problems," said Jacqueline Rong, chief China economist at BNP Paribas SA. "The central bank needs to put a floor to the credit crisis among developers to help them survive."

China's benchmark CSI 300 Index of stocks closed 0.8 percent lower on Monday as Asian peers broadly dropped. It was the index's first decline in three sessions. The onshore yuan weakened 0.46 percent at 7.1742 per dollar as of 3:51 p.m. local time.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 nations are meeting this week in India against the backdrop of slowing global growth.

The world economy is expected to grow 2.8 percent this year, lower than its pre-pandemic pace, and recent high frequency indicators show weakness in manufactur-

ing, the International Monetary Fund said last week.

While speculation has grown that Beijing will deliver more stimulus to the economy, officials are reluctant to drive up debt, especially in the property sector. That suggests any support measures may be smaller in scale than previous years and targeted toward specific industries.

A pickup in industrial production points to some stabilization in the manufacturing sector, a sign that the economy's growth engine is shifting from consumption to production. But flagging domestic and external demand are obstacles to sustaining the recovery. The weak data strengthen the case for more policy support.

The People's Bank of China, which cut its key policy rate in June, refrained from easing policy on Monday, although many analysts expect a move in coming months.

"We do expect Beijing to introduce a raft of supportive measures in the second half of the year including two 10 basis-point rate cuts," said Lu Ting, chief China economist at Nomura. "However, these measures may not turn things around."

Underlining the weak sentiment, fixed asset investment by private companies declined in June and the household savings rate remains elevated.

Indonesia upbeats 5pct growth despite gloomy China's outlook

JAKARTA

INDONESIA Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said she was optimistic about the 5 percent economic growth target this year despite the darkening global outlook, especially from China.

"We are optimistic for 2023 because we see the figures on the first half," Indrawati said on Sunday in an interview with Bloomberg Television's Haslinda Amin ahead of the G-20 finance chiefs' meetings in India.

Southeast Asia's largest economy flashed another round of warning signs on Monday, with exports plunging 21 percent in June due to the sharp drop in global commodity prices. More worryingly, soft domestic demand pushed imports down 18 percent last month, lower than all the forecasts in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

"The second half, there is a positive side from our own side, explicitly on household consumption," Indrawati said, adding that elections next year will spur the economy thanks to extra spending from the government as well as political parties.

Her comments came as finance chiefs from the world's largest economies grapple with the risk of a global recession, brought about by high interest rates and still-elevated inflation. Indrawati said Indonesia was looking to strengthen its ties with India as both economies look for ways to shield against the impact of China's lackluster performance.

"Their economic growth is remarkably very strong. And that's why they need quite a lot of imported commodities from Indonesia," she said in reference to India. "We're here trying to discuss on the partnership which is going to be much benefiting both sides."

China is grappling with several challenges, including the looming prospect of deflation, subdued economic growth and a faltering property market. India on the other hand is posting one of the fastest growth rates in the world thanks to the expansion of its services sector, cushioning the impact of elevated interest rates.

Indonesia has slashed its 2023 budget deficit estimate to 2.3 percent of GDP, from an initial forecast 2.8 percent, as the fiscal balance remains at an ample surplus through the mid-year. That's a timely move given major economies are raising interest rates, which pushes up borrowing costs.

A smaller-than-expected budget gap could also give Indonesia's government some breathing space before tapping global markets again for bond sales.

"From the fiscal point of view, we have a quite comfortable level of revenue in dollars," Indrawati said. "That's helped us in terms of serving our debt for this year even for the next year."

Indonesia has been reducing its weekly bond sales as the finance ministry halved its sovereign bond issuance target for this year and will rely on cash reserves to finance the budget. The government has sold \$3 billion dollar bonds and 104.8 billion yen-denominated debt in the Japanese market so far this year.



Russian state takes control over Carlsberg and Danone

COPENHAGEN

ASSETS belonging to two major European companies in Russia were seized through a presidential decree signed by Vladimir Putin.

Moscow has taken over assets of the French giants Danone and Danish Carlsberg in Russia.

The move was a fait accompli, meaning it had already been decided with their foreknowledge, leaving the European companies no choice but to accept.

Both had previously announced they would exit the Russian market following the invasion of Ukraine.

According to a decree signed by President Vladimir Putin, 98.56% of the shares of the Russian brewery Baltika, owned by Carlsberg, were now "temporarily" under the control of the Russian state, plus tens of thousands of shares belonging to the Russian subsidiary of Danone.

In June, Carlsberg said it had found a buyer for its activities in Russia, without naming them. This came more than a year after announcing its withdrawal from the country.

Baltika had around 8,400 employees in Russia, which Carlsberg brought in 2000.

"Following the presidential decree, the prospects for this sale process are now highly uncertain," Carlsberg acknowledged in a statement on Sunday.

The Danish brewer said it was not informed by the Russian authorities of the presidential decree.

On Sunday evening, Danone said it had "taken note of the decree" and was "currently studying the situation".

In mid-October 2022, the French food titan announced its intention to withdraw from most of its activities in Russia.

The group, which initially entered the Russian market to meet "essential food needs of civilian populations", said it planned to cede control of its "dairy and vegetable products" branch, retaining only that of infant nutrition.

In October, Danone said withdrawing from Russia could "lead to a depreciation of up to 1 billion euros" in its accounts.

But on Sunday it noted Moscow's decision will have "no impact on Danone's financial objectives for the year 2023".

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

NATO plan for Japan office can endanger Asia-Pacific stability

TOKYO

THE plan of North Atlantic Treaty Organization to open a liaison office in Japan is likely to aggravate preexisting tensions in the Asia-Pacific region, according to analysts.

During a NATO summit held in Lithuania last week, French President Emmanuel Macron reiterated opposition to the NATO's move to open a liaison office in Japan, insisting that the alliance should focus on its responsibility of protecting the Euro-Atlantic area.

Since a unanimous agreement of all NATO members is required for the establishment of a new liaison office, a decision was not made at the summit. However, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the issue is still on the table and will be considered in the future.

The plan deviates significantly from NATO's original concept, and if pursued deliberately, will fundamentally alter the nature of NATO, said Akira Yamada, a professor of modern Japanese history at Meiji University.

There are concerns that if Russia is provoked more than necessary, it will deepen the ties with China even further. China will perceive the creation of a sig-

nificant encirclement against them, according to Yamada, the Japanese daily newspaper Tokyo Shimbun reported.

Chen Xiang, an associate research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Japanese Studies, said NATO's eastward expansion will lead to mutual suspicion and distrust among countries in the Asia-Pacific region, reinforcing their independent strategies in security and military domains. "Following the Russia-Ukraine conflict, countries in the Asia-Pacific region have made significant adjustments in their perception of the post-Cold War international situation.

"Some countries and regions in East Asia may feel anxious about NATO's eastward expansion, including its plans to open a new liaison office in Japan, which will lead to a tough response, thereby making the already tense and complex situation even more difficult to ease," Chen said.

Recently, there have been intensive diplomatic activities among the United States, Japan and South Korea, aiming to make the Asia-Pacific region a focal point for strategic adjustments in major power competition.

"The US is attempting to reshape the international order in the Asia-Pacific



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg speaks during a press conference to present the next North Atlantic Council (NAC) Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting at the NATO headquarters in Brussels on April 3, 2023. File photo

region since the Cold War and strengthen its objectives through strategic tools outside the region. This indicates that NATO's eastward expansion is likely to create a familiar scenario of camp confrontation in the region," Chen said.

Today, Asia has become one of the most important regions in the global supply chain and industrial chain, playing a crucial role in world peace and stable development.

"After expanding eastward into the Asia-Pacific region, NATO will inevitably interfere in regional affairs, disrupt the peace and stability of the region, and trigger increased political and military sensitivities among countries in the region," Chen said.

At regional level, a NATO office in Japan creates unease, said Jean-Loup Samaan, a senior research fellow at the Middle East Institute of the National University of Singapore and a former research advisor at the NATO Defense College (2011-16).

Like in Africa or the Middle East, the alliance suffers from a negative perception across Asia: the organization is usually seen as a mere extension of US foreign policy.

Some commentators fear NATO would spread to Asia a destructive militaristic culture. This reflects the desire of Southeast Asian countries and also India to avoid importing a Western template for Asia's security architecture, Samaan wrote on the web-

site of The Diplomat.

NATO's expanding military presence and practical cooperation with Pacific countries will likely be interpreted as offensive and threatening and, in turn, elicit backlash and counterbalancing, including increased Sino-Russian collaboration and cooperation, said Kelly Grieco, a senior fellow with the Reimagining US Grand Strategy Program at the Stimson Center in Washington, DC, in an opinion piece published on the website of The Diplomat.

She noted that the result will be a destabilizing action-reaction cycle with a reduction in stability and security in Europe and the Indo-Pacific region.

At the same time, NATO has little to contribute toward stability in the Asia-Pacific region. While the US already maintains a large military presence, the force projection capabilities of its European partners are rather limited, said Mangantar Simon Hutagalung, who serves in Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an article from Nikkei Asia.

As Europe has little to add to deterrence against aggression in the region, a more effective strategy would be to engage with Asian states via the European Union to boost stability. An EU focus on economic and diplomatic outreach and other soft power means could help ensure broader cooperation, he said.

Agencies

Chinese economy to forge ahead with full confidence in H2

BEIJING

GUEST speakers of the China Economic Roundtable have full confidence in the Chinese economy during the second half (H2) of 2023, as the resilience, potential and vitality of the economy will ensure its further recovery and economic fundamentals that will sustain long-term growth remain unchanged.

Fu Linghui, spokesperson of the National Bureau of Statistics, said at the talk hosted by Xinhua News Agency that the Chinese economy has gradually entered a stage of restorative growth after the pandemic and will transition to expansionary growth as it gradually returns to a normal track.

The speakers during the roundtable talk unanimously agreed that the Chinese economy has strong resilience, great potential and enough vitality, and hence they have confidence in the prospects of China's economy in the second half of the year.

The role of consumption in driving the economy will continue to be evident. As production and demand cycles become smoother, residents' consumption willingness and confidence are expected to stabilize and increase.

Investment in infrastructure and manufacturing will gradually help expand domestic demand and stimulate economic growth.

"The momentum of consumption growth will continue in the second half of the year, and it will continue to fuel the economy," said Fu.

With better economic operation in the country, more service industries will recover and help stabilize the economic growth.

In the long term, China enjoys increasingly stronger innovation-driven growth, enormous potential, a solid foundation, a super large market, and a complete industrial system, as well as ever-improving labor forces.

"Although the Chinese economy faces some difficulties and challenges, the economic performance will gradually improve in the second half of the year, and certain macro indicators will gradually stabilize. The development momentum will remain positive," said Fu.

"We should deal with the short-term fluctuations in the Chinese economy, but also firmly believe in the bright future of it," said Li Hui, a senior official with the National Development and Reform Commission.

"With the further implementation of the central policies, we have confidence and capability to constantly optimize the economic structure, strengthen the driving force of growth and maintain a positive development trend," she added.

Xinhua

What we know about latest Crimean Bridge emergency incident

MOSCOW

A COUPLE was killed in an emergency incident on the Crimean Bridge early yesterday morning, with their daughter being injured. Traffic across the bridge has been suspended, Governor Sergey Aksyonov reported.

No official information about the cause of the incident is available yet. The Russian Transport Ministry said the roadway had been damaged but it did not confirm reports saying that any bridge span has been damaged.

TASS has put together highlights of the situation at the Crimean Bridge.



Circumstances of emergency incident

- An emergency situation near the 145th span of the bridge was reported by Governor Aksyonov at about 4:20 a.m. Moscow time. He didn't specify what exactly had happened.

- Russia's Transport Ministry said the roadway had been damaged from the Crimean side. The spans of the bridge are intact, according to the ministry.

Casualties

- A man and a woman from Russia's borderline Belgorod Region were killed in the incident, Belgorod Region Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

- The pair's minor daughter was injured. Officials have said that the child has been diagnosed with a head trauma and that arrangements are being made to transport her to southern Russia's

Krasnodar Region on board an air ambulance. She is in a condition of moderate severity.

Crisis response

- Igor Mikhailichenko, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea, has departed for the scene. Senior officials and investigators of the Crimean branch of Russia's Investigative Committee have gone to

the scene as well.

- An emergency crisis headquarters has been set up in the Temryuk District of the Krasnodar Region for assistance to people stuck in a 3 km traffic jam at the approaches to the bridge.

Road traffic suspended

- Drivers have been recommended to refrain from crossing the bridge, with a bypass route

running across Russia's new regions being available for them.

- A Moscow-bound train from Simferopol has departed from Kerch, the operator said. However, four more trains to Crimea and a train from the peninsula have been delayed.

- No ferry service between Crimea and the Krasnodar Region has been available since Sunday evening.

Situation in Crimea

- The Crimea governor has asked residents to stay calm and rely on verified sources for information. Officials have also urged tourists to stay at hotels wherever possible.

- Oleg Kryuchkov, an advisor to the Crimea governor, gave assurances that all necessary assistance will be given to tourists.

- The peninsula has enough supplies of fuels, food and factory goods, acting Industrial Politics Minister Yelena Elekchyan said.

- Checkpoints on the border between Crimea and the Kherson Region are operating normally.

Agencies

Israeli PM Netanyahu discharged with implanted heart monitor after overnight hospital stay

TEL AVIV



ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was discharged on Sunday afternoon following an overnight hospital stay with a heart monitor implanted on his chest, Al Jazeera reported.

The 72-year-old Israeli Prime Minister was rushed to Sheba Medical Center on Saturday following a dizzy spell. His office said that he was discharged from the hospital on Sunday after stating earlier that his test results were normal and that he was feeling "very good". PM Netanyahu had "completed a series of tests and is in excellent condition," said Dr Amit Segev, Sheba's head of cardiology.

"Our diagnosis, at the end of all the tests performed, including the laboratory tests, is that the reason for the hospitalization was dehydration," Dr Segev said in a video statement, as per Al Jazeera.

As part of the cardiological tests, Sheba opted for "a subcutaneous (implanted) Holter" on PM Netanyahu to "continue regular monitoring" of his heart, Dr Segev added.

According to Netanyahu's office, he spent the previous day at the Sea of Galilee, a popular vacation destination in northern Israel where temperatures spiked to near 40 degrees Celsius amid a heatwave. The veteran Israeli leader was dehydrated following a series of tests.

Last night, after Netanyahu was hospitalised, he released a video message on social media. With a smile on his face, he said he had been out in the sun on Friday without wearing a hat and without water. "Not a good idea," he said, reported Al Jazeera.

Doctors told him he needed to stay in the hospital overnight for further evaluation. Israel's weekly cabinet meeting, which is traditionally conducted on Sundays, has been moved to Monday, according to his office.

Netanyahu is thought to be in good health overall, however, he was temporarily hospitalised last October after feeling ill during Yom Kippur rituals, a day when devout Jews fast.

Furthermore, he is on trial for several corruption charges in a case that has polarised the country. His government's harsh tactics towards Palestinians have sparked international condemnation and strained relations with the US, Israel's closest and most crucial partner.

ANI

'Appreciate India's leadership on debt issues as G20 president'

GANDHINAGAR

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen yesterday said that Washington appreciates India's leadership during its G20 Presidency and New Delhi's demonstrated leadership on debt issues.

Yellen said, as the world is looking forward to the G20 to make progress on key chal-

lenges like climate change and pandemics, both countries would take significant, concrete steps forward in meetings ahead.

"The United States has appreciated India's leadership during its G20 presidency, and we will continue our close cooperation. The world is looking to the G20 to make progress on key challenges

like climate change and pandemics as part of our work to strengthen the global economy and to support developing countries.

I am hopeful we can take significant concrete steps forward in our meetings," Yellen said while addressing a press conference earlier today in Gandhinagar.

The US Treasury Secretary

delivered the remarks after a meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today.

Speaking on the Multilateral Development Banks (MDB), Yellen said, "I appreciate India's demonstrated leadership on debt issues as G20 president, including your support for G20 efforts to improve the multilateral debt restructuring process. I also welcome India's

focus on advancing the evolution of the multilateral development banks, or MDBs," adding that it is very important to use meetings like this to strengthen the coalition of shareholders that are working to bring reforms with respect to the MDBs' vision.

"We estimate that the MDBs as a system could unlock USD 200 billion over the next de-

cade just from the measures already being implemented or under deliberation as part of this process.

The recently released G20 MDB Experts Group report is one recent useful input to this work, though we must only explore capital increases after the reforms in these areas have progressed further," Yellen continued.

ANI

Ruins of ancient port evidence to prosperity of Maritime Silk Road

ON the vast blue sea, the Maritime Silk Road is a link between different civilizations, bearing witness to the communication and exchanges between the Chinese nation and the world with rich cultural heritage resources.

The ruins site of the Shuomen ancient port in Wenzhou, a city in east China's Zhejiang province, was discovered by archeologists between 2021 and 2022, bringing back to life the bustling scene of Wenzhou, a node along the Maritime Silk Road, back in the day.

During the archaeology project, important remains related to the port were unearthed, including eight docks and two shipwrecks dating back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), tons of stacked porce-

lain pieces belonging to the Song Dynasty and the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), and lacquered woodware.

Barbican ruins built in the Song and Yuan dynasties and in the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911) were discovered, and remains of dikes, bridges, sluice gates and piers that witnessed the change of the coastline over the course of more than 1,000 years.

"The ruins site of the Shuomen ancient port is one of the most important archaeological discoveries at ancient port sites along the Maritime Silk Road to date. The discovery has outstanding value in world navigation history and will become an

important cultural heritage site supporting the Maritime Silk Road's application for world heritage," said Jiang Bo, vice president of the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

The ancient city of Wenzhou has a history of 1,700 years. The city is surrounded by mountains on its eastern and western sides, with deep water and a stable shoreline.

The favorable geographical condition makes the ancient city closely defended and gives it natural advantages in building ports. Since its establishment, the city's location and the port site have basically remained unchanged.

Sitting in the middle of China's eastern coastline with favorable conditions as a port, Wenzhou has long been a node along the Maritime Silk Road.

In 2018, a frosted glass bowl, originating in the Sasanian Empire, was unearthed in a tomb of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) at a cluster of ancient tombs in Oubei township, Yongjia county of Wenzhou. The cultural relic is important evidence of Wenzhou's earlier participation in trade along the Maritime Silk Road.

In the late Tang Dynasty (618-907), Wenzhou was one of the major ports hosting Japanese merchants. Between the late Northern Song Dynasty (960-

1127) and the Yuan Dynasty, Wenzhou entered a period of great prosperity following the rise of the Longquan kiln.

The mountainous coastal geography and open economic structure have shaped the unique regional culture of Wenzhou.

The ancient people here were adept at operating boats and sailing in the sea, and they were influenced by the concept that smooth trade is conducive to industry and commerce. Wenzhou has long been an important shipbuilding base in China and maintained a leading position in shipbuilding technologies.

The two shipwrecks found in the dis-

covery adopted the most advanced innovative technologies in the Song Dynasty, including the keel structure and the water-tight bulkhead. Porcelain pieces, from Yuan Dynasty, were mostly found stacked in rows, and at least 90 percent of them were produced at the Longquan kiln.

Longquan porcelain products were the main export porcelains during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) and the middle of the Ming Dynasty. Wenzhou, an important port and hub for maritime and inland waterway transportation, became a major distribution center and a point of departure for the export of Longquan porcelain products.

People's Daily

India, UAE will keep working closely to further global good - PM Modi

NEW DELHI



AFTER concluding his official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday shared a video bearing highlights from his trip to the Gulf nation and said both the countries will continue to work closely for global good.

Sharing a video on Twitter on Sunday that featured him attending important events in the UAE, PM Modi wrote, "India and UAE will keep working closely to further global good! Here are highlights from yesterday..." On July 15, Prime Minister Modi reached Delhi Airport after successfully completing his France and UAE visit.

"Concluding a productive UAE visit. Our nations are working together on so many issues aimed at making our planet better. I thank HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the warm hospitality," tweeted PM Modi.

Before PM Modi departed for New Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said the trip was "short but very significant, a landmark in the partnership between India and the UAE."

Briefing about PM Modi's UAE visit, Kwatra said PM Modi held "extensive discussions with the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan."

He also termed the visit to be of "tremendous strategic significance" as it showcased the "deep bond of friendship and trust" between the Prime Minister Modi and the UAE President.

India and the UAE signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) last year and since the signing of that important strategic landmark agreement between the two countries, the trade and economic partnership and engagement has grown significantly between the two countries, Kwatra said.

He noted that "visit this time puts together another pillar of that strategic economic partnership in a couple of important ways."

The Foreign Secretary also said that PM Modi's visit will perhaps open-up "new pathways for India" to look at structuring similar partnership with other countries both in the region and beyond.

PM Modi arrived in UAE on Saturday and was received by Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi at the airport.

On his arrival at the Abu Dhabi airport, PM Modi also received a ceremonial welcome.

During his visit, the Prime Minister met the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Further, COP28 President-designate, Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber also called on PM Modi and the two leaders held discussions on wide-ranging issues.

PM Modi assured India's support to UAE for its COP28 Presidency as well.

Prime Minister Modi was accorded a grand welcome in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where the iconic Burj Khalifa was illuminated with the colours of the Indian flag.

As a part of the light-and-sound show at the Burj on Friday, setting the stage for PM Modi's arrival to the Gulf nation on an official visit, the skyscraper also showcased his picture, followed by a text that read, "Welcome Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

The PM planned for the UAE on Saturday after concluding his two-day visit to France.

John Kerry's visit: Clean energy, climate issues key on agenda

BEIJING

THE visit to China by John Kerry, the United States' special presidential envoy for climate, is expected to focus on enhancing engagement on climate and clean energy issues between the two countries, while possibly addressing how they can coordinate for the success of the upcoming COP28 United Nations climate change conference, experts said.

Kerry arrived in Beijing on Sunday and is scheduled to leave on Wednesday.

China suspended climate talks with the US following the visit by Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives, to the Taiwan region in August last year.

Kerry previously held discussions with his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua on the sidelines of COP27 in Egypt in November. The two envoys also talked via video link in early January, discussing joint efforts to address global climate in a multilateral manner.

Joanna Lewis, director of the Science, Technology and International Affairs Program at Georgetown University in Washington, said, "As this is the first face-to-face meeting in several months, I expect this trip to be focused on discussing how to restart engagement on climate and clean energy both at the high level and at the working level."

Lewis said she is looking forward to witnessing discussions between the two nations for COP28, formally known as the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is scheduled to be held in the United Arab Emirates later this year.

"As we have seen in the past, if the US and China are not able to discuss key issues on the table at COP28 in advance of the meeting, it could lead to challenges in achieving successful outcomes," she said.

It is important that both sides discuss some of the issues in advance and try to find ways to work together to assemble support from other countries on key issues such as the Global Stocktake, loss and damage, and climate finance,



US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry testifies during a hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee in Washington DC, the United States, on July 13, 2023. XINHUA

she added.

Wang Yi, deputy director of China's national expert committee on climate change, said COP28 is a key topic for the two sides to discuss, though it's also important for them to hold talks on how to continue the implementation of the China-US Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s, which was reached in 2021 at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Through bilateral efforts, China and the US laid the foundations for international support for the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change, which was adopted by

196 parties in 2015.

The world's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases should make full of this legacy to ensure a successful COP28, Wang said.

COP28 has an important role to play in the Global Stocktake process of assessing every country's progress toward reaching its existing 2030 targets, according to Thom Woodroffe, a senior fellow and founding director of the Asia Society Policy Institute's Climate Hub.

Woodroffe, who is also a former climate diplomat, said that a shift to "tackling the climate crisis as a stand-alone issue" in the

bilateral relationship would be the "holy grail" of Kerry's visit, but that is unlikely.

"While this is unlikely, a good outcome would be an agreement by both sides to return to where they got to at the end of 2021 at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow," he said in an email.

Dimitri de Boer, regional director of programs for Asia at environmental law organization ClientEarth, said he hopes to see China and the US prioritize cooperation on accelerating global energy transition to help tackle the global climate crisis.

"We're now seeing the effects of climate change in countries around the world, and we urgently want to see the world's largest economies cooperate to address it," he emphasized.

Poor US-China relations have been the key factor holding this back, but we've recently seen some hopeful signals. The top priority should be for both sides to coordinate on accelerating the global energy transition," he added.

Agencies

Senior doctors in England eye more strikes, refusing pay deal

LONDON

SENIOR doctors in England will hold two days of strikes in August, their union the British Medical Association (BMA) said yesterday, dismissing a 6 percent pay rise announced by government last week as a "savage" real-terms wage cut.

Consultant-level doctors in Britain's publicly funded National Health Service (NHS) will strike on Aug 24 and 25, adding to previously announced strikes on July 20 and 21 and underscoring the failure of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's bid to fully end months of industrial action across public services.

Sunak last week described recent public sector pay increases as a final settlement, warning they would cost billions, require budget cuts elsewhere, and would not be subject to further negotiation.

While teaching unions paused strikes and recommended accepting their deal, doctors' unions were unimpressed after what they say have been years of pay erosion for their members.

"The government has once again imposed a savage real terms pay cut on consultants," said Vishal Sharma, the BMA's consultants committee chair.

"In the face of a government intent on devaluing con-



In this file photo dated Jan 18, 2023, people hold placards at the end of a protest march, outside 10 Downing Street in London on. AFP

sultants' expertise and impact this is having on their lack of regard for the the NHS, we have been left with no choice." Britain's inflation rate

has been elevated for well over a year, peaking above 11 percent in October and most recently at 8.7 percent in May - the highest of all major developed economies.

This week's strikes will be the first by consultants in the current pay dispute and are expected to put the NHS under serious strain. Most routine and elective services will be cancelled but emergency cover will remain.

Separately, junior doctors in England - qualified physicians who make up nearly half of the medical workforce - are in the middle of a five-day walk-out described by the BMA as the longest single strike in their history.

ANI

Tunisia and EU sign pact to stem migration

TUNIS

TUNISIA and the European Union signed on Sunday a "strategic partnership" deal that includes combatting human traffickers and tightening borders during a sharp increase in boats leaving the North African nation for Europe.

The deal follows weeks of talks and Europe's pledge of major aid to Tunisia amounting to 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion) to help its battered economy, rescue state finances and deal with a migration crisis. Most funds are contingent on economic reforms.

"It contains agreements on disrupting the business model of people smugglers and human traffickers, strengthening border control and improving registration and return. All essential measures for bolstering efforts to stop irregular migration," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said on Twitter.

The European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc will allocate 100 million euros to Tunisia to help it combat illegal migration. The deal promotes macro-economic stability, trade and investment, green energy transition and legal immigration.

Thousands of undocumented African migrants have flocked to the city of Sfax in recent months seeking to head for Europe in traffickers' boats, amounting to an unprecedented migration crisis for Tunisia.

"We are very pleased, it is a further important step towards creation of a true partnership between Tunisia and the EU, which can address in an integrated fashion the migration crisis," Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Miloni said.

Meloni, whose country has suffered a sharp increase in immigration boats, said that there would be an international conference on migration in Rome next Sunday with a number of heads of state, including Tunisian President Kais Saied.

Some 75,065 boat migrants had reached Italy by July 14 against 31,920 in the same period last year, official data showed. More than half left from Tunisia, overtaking Libya, which has traditionally been the main launchpad.

Saied said this month his country would not become a border guard for Europe.

By Andrey Avetisyan

WE all remember the outcry initiated by Western politicians and media after beginning of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine concerning the risk of hunger it could cause.

What is important here is that such a reaction came from those who are in fact responsible for both crises - the current lack of food security and the situation in Ukraine that made it necessary for the Russian Federation to start the military operation to protect the people in the former South-East Ukraine regions on their request against the aggressive nationalist and openly neo-nazi regime in Kiev.

The international food market crises has broken out long before the beginning of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine and emerged because the Western countries - both the United States and the European Union - began printing money in a way that was not justified economically to deal with their problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Printing such a huge amount of money (9 trillion US dollars in the United States and about 5 trillion euro in Europe) - allowed them to suck up all the commodity goods in the world market to their benefit just like a vacuum cleaner, abusing their monopolistic position and putting developing countries at a disadvantage.

Now let's move onto the grain deal. We surely understand that at no circumstances must developing countries including African ones suffer due to any reasons connected with the conflict in Ukraine.

But the thing is that supplies of Ukrainian grain to the global markets cannot resolve or even serious-

One noble cause that ended up as a commercial project



ly impact the issues of poverty and hunger. Nevertheless, we conceded to proposals of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and did everything possible to ensure supplies of Ukrainian grain to, first and foremost, the poorest African countries.

What is the result? Let me cite the figures. As of June 15, 31.7 million tonnes of agricultural products were exported from Ukrainian ports with the assistance of Russia and Turkey.

Only 976,000 tonnes of this amount were shipped to African countries, that are Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Ethiopia. This is only 3.1 percent. The USA and the European neo-colonial powers have once again deceived the international community and the African countries in need: 31.7 million tonnes were exported and only three percent of this volume reached Africa's needy countries.

Western powers got used to lying to the entire world for centuries and they continue to do it today. Meanwhile, 38.9 percent of the grain from Ukraine - 12.3 million tonnes - was shipped to the EU states, 11 percent to Turkey, and the rest to other

countries. Supplies of Ukrainian grain to the global markets do not solve the issues of the food security of African countries. Ukraine is mostly exporting fodder grain, which is different from Russian deliveries that consist mostly of wheat.

In order to help the Kiev regime the European Union has established so called "solidarity lanes", apart from the Black Sea route. These lanes are a combination of land and river routes designed to deliver Ukrainian grain to Europe.

Many European countries are angry about cheap and low-quality Ukrainian grain that filled their markets. Five European countries have refused to accept this situation demanding a compensation from the European Commission. If they have more than they need, they can send the surplus of grain to Africa and other countries in need for free.

But the whole scheme is not about helping the poor; it is about earning money to sustain the regime in Kiev. Ukrainian authorities unashamedly and openly talk about their purely "commercial interests, profits for

openly sabotaging all efforts of the UN Secretary-General in this regard.

A scandalous example of the West's indifference to the food problems in Africa is blockade of Russian fertilizers delivery to the poorest countries.

Almost 300,000 tonnes of fertilizers have been stuck in the EU member-states' ports because of their illegitimate anti-Russian sanctions. Although President Putin declared that Russia will give these fertilizers to those in need for free, it took enormous efforts to bring one batch of 20,000 tonnes for Malawi.

A second batch of 34,000 tonnes is on its way to Kenya, and another 34,000 tonnes for Nigeria are waiting for dispatch. These problems are happening despite the Russian initiative being a purely humanitarian act that should not be subject to any restrictions, and all shipping and transportation costs are being covered by Russia.

The logical conclusion is that the package deal proposed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and signed in Istanbul last year is ineffective. The proclaimed humanitarian mission of the initiative itself has been fully and irreversibly discredited. Ukraine and its Western sponsors may go on with their commercial endeavors but they cannot continue deceiving the world about the noble causes of the Grain from Ukraine project.

Whatever the fate of the grain deal may be, Russia, as President Putin has stated, will be ready to substitute what comes from Ukraine to the poorest countries with its own grain for free.

SPORT



Azam FC players congratulate the club's forward Prince Dube (2nd R) that notched a goal in a friendly match against Sudan's Al Hilal which took place in Tunisia last weekend. Azam FC won 3-0 in the friendly used by the outfit to shape up for the 2023/24 season. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Charity Shield pairings and puzzle of wider loyalties for the Dar city rivals

By Correspondent John Kimbute

SOCCER pundits are on a betting or guessing game as to what may happen first in the Charity Shield knockout contest and more significantly, projections of the same clubs for the next season.

There is a feeling that it is the continental tournaments that offer a chance to see the potential of the outer circle of the city rivals, namely Azam FC, as another version of the Msimbazi Street-based Simba SC, and Singida Fountain Gate FC reflecting Jangwani Street-based Young Africans SC (Yanga) loyalties.

In past years, it was also believed that Coastal Union was a shadow of the Msimbazi Street side, but not now.

The question that comes up is whether loyalty to the city rivals is a kind of umbilical cord that an emerging club eventually disrupts, apparently in the manner of Coastal Union as they also had moments to assert their presence in the Premier League.

Much of the same could be said of some Zanzibar clubs, as in the past there was 'Small Simba' as a Premier League side, while other loyalties are a matter of guesswork or folklore if they ever existed.

But for the two sides that are contesting both for the Charity Shield and then continental tournaments, it seems the issue is real.

A section of the pundits are especially worried about Azam FC's ability to climb to their potential, seemingly due to unflinching loyalty to Simba SC, into merely as

a matter of sentiments but as a business model.

The same was not quite said of the hard-hitting Singida side but instances were mentioned, as with Azam FC, where they gave away a match to Yanga, just like the Chamazi-based side had 'donated' a match to Simba SC, for an undeserved win. It is by careful watching.

The issue is whether Azam FC has real plans for success or those plans stop when the elder club comes up, which means battling with Yanga and all other clubs but not Simba SC.

Similarly, while the potential for the Singida side is not as acutely visible as the Chamazi group, it goes without saying that they have what it takes not just to aspire but also to impress.

The issue is how far they will also be guided by a rule of 'stopping halfway' if it comes to halting Yanga from victory.

As it was noticed in the case of the Tanga-based Premier League side, these loyalties may not go beyond a certain generation, in which case when the post-independence generation of leaders not just retired but also passed away, the club drifted into new zones.

One reason was the failures of imitations of the city rivals. They died early.

In that case, the perceived loyalty of the Chamazi area side to the Msimbazi Street outfit's bigwigs is the presence of its founders, not able to shed the skin of their adult life in the soccer fraternity until they had the savings to put up a sort of rival club side.

Such loyalty is neither imposed nor negotiated as it flows from being hurt when the big side loses, and the same applies to the Singida outfit.

Here the matter is even more pointed at it is not just a matter of sympathy of the founders with the big city side but actual involvement in its affairs, in the expression of loyalties, etc.

One questionable aspect about how the matter is being discussed with soccer pundits on FM radio stations is that there is a narrow perspective where achieving requires that the club attains the championship.

This is sort of compulsive, where the more realistic aspiration is to perform well and not just remain in the league, but obtain a chance to play in continental competitions, for the Chamazi and Singida sides.

Whether either had the mettle to take the title but fretted before Big Brother is a different matter, as two matches with the clubs they are affiliated with decide no titles.

Still, having reached third and fourth respectively, at the expense of Geita Gold FC which unfortunately is not being sponsored by the mining firm but the municipality that earns its 'ten percent' in the cash arising from corporate social responsibility.

This lacuna in sponsorship meant there is more of a Geita FC than a Geita Gold FC as they lack 'golden' sponsorship.

That implies the clear possibility of being overly askance about excessive expenditure on players, thus upsetting the chance of setting high flung goals, as they do not have a brand they are promoting.

That means there is an open-ended possibility for achievement, as having been 'cast aground', not in the sense of being grounded by being pushed to take their place in the competition, so being compelled to stand their ground so to speak, they may still unlearn a few things.

All it requires is either the capacity or psychological ability to be happy at the expense of Big Brother or accommodating displeasure or even actual disappointment on the part of Big Brother if the loyalty to the city club is not well-shared well-shared upcountry.

If what impedes either Chamazi or Singida from this or that title or honour is merely upstaging Big Brother, a time will come, during any season and including the coming season, when they may just be ready to swallow this too.

SPORTS



A section of National Bank of Commerce (NBC) Limited staff and soccer followers in Mwanza hold the NBC Premier League new trophy during the trophy tour in the region. The tour was coordinated by the institution, the NBC Premier League main sponsor, to allow its customers and soccer fanatics to watch the trophy and take pictures with it. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Mwanza hosts NBC Premier League trophy tour

By Guardian Correspondent

NATIONAL Bank of Commerce (NBC), the main sponsor of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League, known as the NBC Premier League, has sent the top flight's new trophy to soccer followers in Mwanza.

The institution stated the trophy tour seeks to offer Mwanza residents, including the bank's customers, an opportunity to watch the trophy and take pictures with it.

Apart from enjoying the trophy tour, the Lake Zone region's residents have had the opportunity to get various banking services from NBC Bank, the oldest bank with a wide network of branches in the country.

Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, emerged as the 2022/23 NBC Premier League champion, followed by age-old rival Simba SC, which took second place.

Chamazi-based Azam FC settled for the third position and Singida Fountain Gate FC, then known as Singida Big Stars, finished fourth.

The four outfits have secured the opportunity to battle it out in 2023/24 Africa inter-club tournaments, as Simba SC and Yanga will participate in the premier continental showpiece, CAF Champions League.

Azam FC and Singida Fountain Gate FC will represent Tanzania in the second tier of the club tournaments, CAF Confederation Cup.

Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League is lately one of the best leagues in Africa, having been ranked fifth out of the best soccer leagues on the African continent.

The ranking is based on the performance of the country's league outfits in various domestic and international competitions.

The rankings are compiled by organizations such as the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS) and are updated annually.

Egyptian Premier League (Egypt) occupies the top spot

followed by Algerian Ligue Professionnelle 1 (Algeria), Botola Pro League (Morocco), Sudan Premier League (Sudan), and NBC Premier League (Mainland Tanzania).

South African Premier Division PSL (South Africa), Girabola/Campeonato Nacional de Futebol em Séniores Masculinos (Angola), Tunisian Professional Football League NPFL (Nigeria), and Zambia MTN Super League (Zambia) wind up the top 10 of the continent's best leagues.

Great things expected from Yanga and Simba SC in new season

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipoke

LAST season was undeniably a positively rewarding football campaign for domestic football where CAF's inter-club championships are concerned.

Indeed, our two most storied clubs Yanga and Simba SC justly earned the admiration of loads of African football devotees following their exceptional showings in the CAF Confederations Cup and CAF Champions League respectively.

Although Simba SC rightly gained the respect of many football followers for progressing to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League last season, it was Yanga who unquestionably stole the show after coming within touching distance of claiming the CAF Confederation Cup (CAF Confed Cup) title.

Despite narrowly losing the CAF Confed Cup final on the away goals rule, Yanga had decidedly demonstrated that Tanzanian football clubs were utterly capable of securing continental football's most valuable trophies.

Viewed against this promising backdrop, then, it seems entirely natural that great things are expected from those two familiar nemeses Simba SC and Yanga in the upcoming season.

With both clubs having already kicked off their preparations for the new 2023/24 football season, the gaze of local football connoisseurs will be firmly fixed on how Simba SC and Yanga will fare in the new season.

Indeed, the two juggernauts will have to shoulder the burden of expectations of local fans who will be hoping that one of the pair of clubs will end up lifting one of continental football's most sought-after trophies.

Bearing this in mind, one would like to exhort our two biggest clubs not to feel any trepidation as they embark upon another quest to soar to the apex of continental football.

After all, they have clearly shown that they can hold their own against the continent's foremost football clubs.

Therefore, one hopes that Simba SC and Yanga will fearlessly head into the new season with great self-belief as they ready themselves for whatever challenges the new campaign has to



Simba SC footballers Kibu Denis (L) and Sadio Kanouté are pictured engaging in drills in Turkey recently as the club has gone for pre-season preparations for 2023/24 showdowns that include Premier League and CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC offer.

Let us now turn our attention to global women's tennis where the year's most coveted grand slam, Wimbledon wrapped up last weekend in exhilarating style.

For those still in the dark, the grand slams are tennis' most prized championships and they are the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open.

Out of this quartet of greatly esteemed competitions, Wimbledon is the tournament that is held in the highest regard.

And, last Saturday, the women's Wimbledon final pitted the Tunisian tennis gem, Ons Jabeur against the Czech giant-slayer, Marketa Vondrousova.

Heading into the final, Jabeur had been hoping to clinch the Wimbledon title after devastatingly losing to Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in last year's finale.

Unfortunately, though, Jabeur lacked inner calm for long stretches of this year's final and her opponent Vondrousova proved to be masterful at taking advantage of the Tunisian's inner demons.

After losing the first set 6-4, the writing appeared to be on the wall for Jabeur midway through the second set as Vondrousova's confidence levels soared.

In the end, it proved to be a distinctly uncomfortable sense of déjà vu for Jabeur as the Tunisian ended up losing this year's final 6-4, 6-4 to her Czech opponent, which meant that she had lost two consecutive Wimbledon finals in as many years.

Thus, as the dust begins to settle on this year's Wimbledon championship, it is hoped that Jabeur will be able to transform her bitter heartbreak into resounding success come next year.

World Cup set for lift-off with women's football at all-time high

SYDNEY

THE first 32-team Women's World Cup kicks off in Australia and New Zealand on Thursday, with the United States favourites to win an unprecedented third consecutive title in a landmark month for women's football.

It has been a rapid expansion for a tournament that started in 1991 and featured only 16 teams as recently as 2011, then 24 in France four years ago when the USA retained the trophy.

That reflects a dramatic rise in interest in women's football over the last decade beyond its traditional heartland of the United States, and a swarm of European sides will be aiming to snatch their title.

Australia, led by the prolific Chelsea forward Sam Kerr, will hope to make the most of home advantage and go all the way to the final in Sydney on August 20.

This World Cup is not just bigger in terms of the number of competing nations.

FIFA has tripled the prize money compared with 2019 and the total pot, which also covers compensation for clubs releasing players, is up from \$50 million four years ago to \$152 million.

It is a vast hike on the \$15 million offered in 2015, and confirmation that it is a boom time for women's football.

Big crowds at club and international matches, particularly in Europe, are more evidence that the game is at an all-time high.

- TV blackout averted -

Nevertheless, the prize pot still pales in comparison with the \$440 million dished out at the 2022 men's World Cup in Qatar.

Meanwhile, a stand-off over the sale of broadcast rights in the biggest European countries -- Germany, the UK, France, Italy and Spain -- was only resolved last month.

The threat of a TV blackout was averted late in the day after FIFA president Gianni Infantino had openly criticised the amount of money being offered by broadcasters.

"FIFA is stepping up not just with words but with actions. Unfortunately, this is not the case of everyone across the industry. Broadcasters and sponsors have to do more in this respect," Infantino said in March, adding that world football's governing body was receiving offers amounting to just one percent of what was being paid for the men's tournament.

In Japan, a deal to avoid a blackout was only reached last week.

"It is actually terrible business if you are not tuning in," said Megan Rapinoe, the veteran superstar of the United States team and a cultural icon who transcends the sport.

"You are missing out on a large cultural moment. This is the premier women's sporting event in the world bar none and this is a paradigm shift globally, not just in the US."

It will be the 38-year-old's last World Cup after she announced she plans to retire at the end of this season.

- Knee-injury plague -

Rapinoe was one of the USA stars who led their fight for equal pay, resulting in a landmark collective-bargaining deal last year, meaning the country's men and women would evenly share World Cup prize money paid by FIFA. The build-up to this tournament also saw Canada's national team, the Olympic champions, threaten to strike in a row over pay, funding and contractual issues.

Meanwhile, France players rebelled over conditions in their national team set-up, and a change of coach followed.

That meant some of France's top names would be at the tournament after all, having threatened to pull out, but the World Cup will still be marred by the absence of numerous leading players because of serious knee injuries.

England captain Leah Williamson and star striker Beth Mead have been ruled out, as have prolific Dutch forward Vivianne Miedema, French forwards Delphine Cascarino and Marie-Antoinette Katoto, and USA duo Catarina Macario and Mallory Swanson.

Spain's Alexia Putellas, the reigning Ballon d'Or winner, will be there though, fit again after spending nine months out with an anterior cruciate ligament injury.

- England lead charge -

Together with Australia, European sides will be the chief threat to a US team bidding to become the first to win three Women's World Cups in a row.

European champions England lead the charge, together with Spain, Germany, Sweden and 2019 runners-up the Netherlands.

"The expectations are really high and yes, we have a dream," said England coach Sarina Wiegman.

England play their first game against Haiti -- one of a raft of World Cup debutants -- in Brisbane on July 22, while the USA begin their trophy defence the same day against another debutant in Vietnam.

The tournament kicks off with New Zealand facing the Norway of 2018 Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg in Auckland, and Australia playing Ireland in front of a sell-out crowd of more than 80,000 in Sydney.

Meanwhile, Australia's Matildas urged FIFA on Monday to help close international football's gender pay gap, while calling on more countries to strike collective bargaining agreements to make the women's game "as big as it can be".

In a team video message ahead of the Women's World Cup, the side highlighted a general lack of equal pay conditions for women's teams globally.

"Seven hundred and thirty-six footballers have the honour of representing their countries on the biggest stage this tournament," they said of the showpiece event, which kicks off on Thursday in Australia and New Zealand.

"Yet many are still denied the basic right to organise and collectively bargain.

"Collective bargaining has allowed us to ensure we (the Matildas) now get the same conditions as the Soccerroos, with one exception -- FIFA will still only offer women one quarter as much prize-money as men for the same achievement.

"We call on those in positions of power across football, business and politics to come on the journey with us to make women's football as big as it can be, here and around the world," they added.

Prize money at this year's Women's World Cup, which features 32 teams for the first time, totals \$152 million -- triple that of the last edition in France in 2019.

But the figure still pales in comparison to the \$440 million in prize money put up at the 2022 men's World Cup in Qatar.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino last year said the world governing body had invested a billion dollars into women's football, and its "ambition" was for equal prize money at the 2026 and 2027 men's and women's World Cups.

- 'Fight for recognition' -

Currently, the Matildas are one of only a few national teams with a collective bargaining agreement in place, as is the US women's team after it was successful in a high-profile lawsuit in 2022.

Australia struck their deal in 2019 to earn the same as their male counterparts under a centralised contract system negotiated with Football Federation Australia.

During Monday's video, the side listed several key dates that paved the way for the conditions the team now enjoy. "Those that came before us showed us that being a Matilda means something," captain Sam Kerr said in the video.

"They showed us how to fight for recognition, validation, and respect." Their message was reminiscent of one released by the Australian men's team before the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, which highlighted human rights concerns.

Women's football is enjoying a surge in popularity in some countries, and the World Cup looks set to spark further global interest.

Earlier this year, FIFA's chief women's football officer Sarai Bareman predicted it would be a "watershed" moment that propelled the game to another level, with more than two billion viewers expected to tune in.

Five players to watch at FIFA Women's World Cup

SYDNEY

THE top women's footballers on the planet will be in action when the World Cup kicks off on Thursday in Australia and New Zealand.

AFP Sport picks out five players to watch:

- Alexia Putellas (Spain) -

The 29-year-old attacking midfielder is considered by many to be the best women's footballer in the world.

Winner of the Women's Ballon d'Or in each of the last two years, in February she retained her crown as The Best FIFA's Women's Player for 2022, despite missing the second half of the year with a serious knee injury.

Barcelona star Putellas is the first woman to reach 100 caps for Spain and they badly missed her creativity and goals at the 2022 European Championship, where they lost to eventual champions England in the quarter-finals.

Putellas was among the Spanish players demanding change within the national side, but did not join in with 15 players who last year asked not to be called up, amid differences with coach Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation.

- Sam Kerr (Australia) -

If the co-hosts are to go far at the World Cup they will need Chelsea forward Kerr firing on all cylinders.

The 29-year-old Australia skipper made her international debut aged just 15 and has played over 120 times for her country, averaging a goal every other game. She scored five times at the 2019 World Cup.

Her numbers are just as impressive at Chelsea, hitting 29 goals in 38 appearances this season.

Kerr is such a big name at home that she was Australia's flag-bearer at the



Spain's Alexia Putellas is one of the stars of the Women's World Cup. Agencies

coronation of King Charles.

- Megan Rapinoe (United States) -

She needs little introduction as the most instantly recognisable player in women's football.

The attacker has scored 199 times for the United States, scoring 63 goals and making 73 assists. She has won the World Cup twice. Now Rapinoe plays in the United States for OL Reign.

She is set for retirement at the end of this season and is something of a fading force at 38, but she remains the face of women's football for the casual fan.

Off the field, the openly gay Rapinoe is outspoken on a number of issues that go beyond sport, including advocating for LGBTQ rights.

- Keira Walsh (England) -

England's hopes of winning the

World Cup for the first time have taken a hit with the injury loss of several key players, putting even more onus on midfielder Walsh.

Barcelona snapped her up from Manchester City for a reported 400,000 pounds (\$508,000) last September, a world record for a woman footballer.

With her passing, reading of the game and ability to win the ball back, Walsh was instrumental in Sarina Wiegman's England winning the Euro on home soil in 2022.

She was named player of the match when England defeated Germany 2-1 in the final at Wembley in extra time.

- Ada Hegerberg (Norway) -

The Norwegian was the first winner of the Women's Ballon d'Or, in 2018, and

is a prolific striker with leading French side Lyon.

Her Norway career has been stop-start, however. She withdrew from the international scene in 2017, citing concerns over the inequality of treatment given to men's and women's teams by the Norwegian federation. She only returned last year.

The 28-year-old forward has also been dogged by injuries.

But when on form and firing she is one of the best players in the world, and averages more than a goal a game for her club.

She is the all-time top scorer in the UEFA Women's Champions League with 59 goals.

AFP

Harry Maguire's fall from grace shows Man United captaincy is

By Richard Jolly

In some respects, it was merely a confirmation of the inevitable; in another, an indication of the dramatic pace of change Erik ten Hag has brought to Manchester United. Harry Maguire had barely returned to pre-season training when he was informed he was being stripped of the captaincy.

Which, as he finished last season as the fifth-choice centre-back, behind not just Lisandro Martinez and Raphael Varane but also Victor Lindelof and left-back Luke Shaw, may simply feel logical.

Especially as United are open to offers to Maguire, as Gareth Southgate has warned he needs to play to retain his England place and as there is little prospect of him upturning the pecking order at Old Trafford. It may have been another way of ushering him towards the exit. Yet it completes a two-year unravelling: Maguire had been the endearing underdog, the former Sheffield United and Hull player who had become an unlikely national hero -- 'Slabhead', the ungainly surprise star of a run to the 2018 World Cup semi-finals, then the world's most expensive central defender, then an anointed successor to Bobby Charlton and Bryan Robson, Roy Keane and Nemanja Vidic.

After the rapid rise came the precipitous fall from grace. Ten Hag often praised Maguire's attitude; off the field, he was a fine ambassador last season. On the pitch, however, he lost his place after August's 4-0 embarrassment at Brentford; just when it seemed Maguire may at least rehabilitate himself as a decent deputy, he was horribly culpable for United's Europa League exit at Sevilla. As with David de Gea, another supposed talisman who was at fault then, this summer has brought an end to an era.

Maguire's problems arguably date back to the summer of 2021; a few weeks earlier, he had reached a personal peak, named in the team of the tournament for Euro 2020, he had excelled for England. If Cristiano Ronaldo's arrival altered the trajectory of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's reign at Old Trafford, so, too, for the Norwegian's chosen captain. The sense was that Ronaldo saw himself as a more fitting skipper.

Maguire's form fell off a cliff; he came to look more clumsy and cumbersome, haunted and hapless. He was sent off in



Harry Maguire has become a scapegoat at Man Utd in recent times (Getty Images)

Solskjaer's final game, the thrashing at Watford; a few weeks earlier, he was terrible on his return to Leicester.

He was not aided by the manager rushing him back when semi-fit; just as he had done when fast-tracking Maguire to the captaincy after only a few months at Old Trafford, Solskjaer seemed to overestimate him.

It may have made Kean's criticism more vitriolic; certainly Maguire was not flattered by comparisons with predecessors. The status of the United captaincy and the size of the club and his £80m price tag configured a pressure that, ultimately, felt too much. There was, though, something sad about the way he became a figure of fun.

The United captaincy has felt something of a hospital pass in recent years.

Maguire at least prospered for much of his first 18 months with the armband, if not the last two years. Before him, United's official skipper tended to be injured, ageing or otherwise sidelined: Michael Carrick made just five appearances in 2017-18, Antonio Valencia just nine the following season and Ashley Young lost his place after inheriting the mantle from the Ecuadorian.

Go back to 2016-17 and Wayne Rooney spent much of the second half of the campaign outside Jose Mourinho's preferred side. Maguire's powers waned, too, but at a younger age.

If United have spent large swathes of the last 16 seasons being led by vice-captains and senior professionals, now Maguire has had two terrible seasons: one in the team, one outside it.

Now, too, a team who have looked rudderless at times, especially in the torrid 2021-22, seem to have several leaders: Bruno Fernandes, the de facto skipper for much of last season, Varane, who wore the armband against Leeds last week, the charismatic Martinez, the hugely experienced Casemiro.

The probability is that Fernandes will become Maguire's full-time successor: an automatic choice who appears immune to injury and takes responsibility, he has a compelling case, despite his occasional petulance.

It is apparent Ten Hag felt the situation with Maguire was unsustainable. He acted decisively. And in the process, he has pushed Solskjaer's United further into the past.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Five players to watch at FIFA Women's World Cup

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Zambia clinches record seventh COSAFA Cup tournament title

DURBAN

MOYELA Libamba scored the only goal as Zambia claimed a record seventh Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup title with a 1-0 victory over Lesotho in a thrilling final played at a packed King Zwelithini Stadium in Durban on Sunday.

It was a tense and hard-fought decider that could have gone either way, but defending champions Zambia retain their crown and move ahead of Zimbabwe on the all-time winners' list.

Lesotho was hoping to become the sixth nation to lift the coveted Southern African title but, like in 2000 in their only other final appearance, they have to settle for the silver medal.

So still only Zambia (seven titles), Zimbabwe (six), South Africa (five), Angola (three), and Namibia (one) have been victorious.

Lesotho thought they had the lead in the second half when Motebang Sera had the ball in the back of the net, a 'goal' that would have taken him to within one of Felix Badenhorst (nine) in the all-time goal scorers charts in the COSAFA Cup.

Instead, it was ruled offside in the tightest of calls, showing the thin margins between success and failure.

It was therefore Zambia's moment to celebrate as Libamba Moyela rose powerfully to head home a corner on 78 minutes and provide what proved the pivotal moment in the game.

Earlier, South Africa picked up the bronze medal after they triumphed 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out following their goalless draw with Malawi in the third-place play-off.

The fact that neither side was able to find the back of the net was quite remarkable given the attacking verve they both displayed and the number of chances created.

Both goalkeepers, South Africa's Olwethu Mzimela and Brighton Munthali from Malawi were in superb form and made incredible saves through the 90 minutes.

The decisive miss in the shootout came as Malawi's Jacama Kumwembe crashed his effort onto the underside of the crossbar and it narrowly stayed out.

Malawi's Chawanangwa Kaonga was named Player of the Tournament by the Technical Study Group, while Lesotho gloveman Sekhoane Moreane was the Golden Glove winner.

Tshegofatso Mabasa from South Africa and Zambia's Albert Kangwanda shared the Golden Boot after they each scored three goals in the competition.

The individual award winners each walk away with R20,000, while Malawi also claimed the Fair Play prize.

AGENCIES

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dandao Za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
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



Players making Mainland Tanzania's U-18 women's football squad are pictured participating in training in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam recently, shaping up for this year's CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship that will take place in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship moved to Tanzania

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) has moved the CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship from Kenya to Tanzania.

This means the Tanzania U-18 team's players will resume their camp after forfeiting it due to uncertainty of whether the tournament will go through.

Auka Gecheo, CECAFA Executive Director, confirmed yesterday that the tournament will now take place from July 25-August 7 in Dar es Salaam.

Kenya will not take part in the CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship with CECAFA saying the situation has been brought about by ongoing school games and examinations around the same period.

Kenya was meant to host the championship from June 29-July 11 in Nairobi, but the competition was pushed further ahead because of a delay in funding.

However, after CECAFA members met in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire last week on the sidelines of the CAF Ordinary Assembly, it was decided that the Championship be hosted by Tanzania at the Azam Complex Stadium.

The teams expected to participate in CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship include Mainland Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, and Zanzibar.

Mainland Tanzania's U-18 women's team is now in a training camp at the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) technical center, located in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam to stay in good shape ahead of the CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship.

In another development, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has announced a vacancy for the Administrative Manager, to be posted at the Secretary-General office.

According to the confederation, soccer fraternity members in Africa that believe they have the educational background and professional experience to elevate the organization to the highest international standards are free to apply for the job.

The Administrative Manager's responsibilities include fulfilling secretarial duties such as writing correspondences, coordinating tasks, taking minutes, managing files, and planning the calendar of meetings and travels.

Prioritizing and responding to all communications sent to the office of the Secretary-General timely, while ensuring that all relevant information is properly escalated, documented, and filed for future reference are also among the employee's duties.

He/she is further required to create and maintain databases as needed, and draft and finalize templates for various communications, in English and French, including but not limited to internal memos, external correspondences, and reports.

The employed Administrative Manager will as well be required to develop and implement policies and procedures to ensure the office operates efficiently and effectively.

The employee will be working with the head of the Secretary-General office to ensure that all communications with external stakeholders are handled professionally and by the organization's policies and procedures.

Creating weekly activity reports and other daily reports as required, as well as ensuring follow-up with different divisions and independent functions to achieve timely completion of tasks and projects are the other duties.

The Administrative Manager will equally be responsible for assisting the head of the Secretary-General's office with any additional tasks necessary to deliver the organization's strategic and administrative objectives.

He/she will be required to assist with translations as necessary and create communication templates as necessary.

Mayele to sign for Pyramids FC after verbal agreement with Yanga



Fiston Mayele

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's talisman Fiston Mayele is on the verge of joining Egypt Premier League outfit, Pyramids FC, on a deal worth around 2bn/- after a verbal agreement between the two sides.

Mayele has reportedly turned down a substantial salary increase from Yanga, despite it being twice as large as his current earnings.

The Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions knew the future of their star striker Fiston Mayele hangs in the balance as the player contemplated lucrative offers from abroad.

The club will soon confirm the departure of the striker that had an impressive tally of 17 goals in the domestic league and 14 goals in

various continental competitions, including the CAF Confederation Cup.

Mayele has, in the process, emerged as one of the most sought-after talents in African football.

The striker's incredible contribution to Yanga cannot be overlooked, having netted an impressive tally of 33 goals during his two-year stint with the club in the NBC Premier League.

His goal-scoring exploits extend beyond the domestic league, with notable achievements in the Community Shield, Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), CAF Champions League, and CAF Confederation Cup. Nevertheless, sources suggest that Mayele has been presented with a blasphemous offer, including a staggering USD 600,000.

Despite Yanga's desire to retain the services of their star striker, the prospect of earning a monthly salary of \$75,000 and

a total income of \$900,000 within a year seems too enticing for the 29-year-old Congolese international who is now on his way to Egypt's Premier League.

In preparation for Mayele's potential departure, Yanga has already initiated a covert process to identify and secure a replacement striker.

Yanga is likely to replace Mayele with Burundian striker Sudi Abdallah, now a free agent after his contract with Malaysia Super League side, Kuching City FC, expired.

Abdallah is expected to be handed a two-year deal, this year he scored one goal in seven appearances for the Malaysia top-flight club.

Zambian forward Kennedy Musonda, roped in by Yanga in the 2022/23 mini-transfer window, will likely be switched from a wide forward role to a striker after proving to be a threat in front of goal.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

