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TANZANIA

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY, 2023

National Pg 3
TRA to promote EFDs use



National Pg 4
Engineers pledge cooperation



National Pg 6
Suspected giraffe poacher arrested



Govt enlists youths for cattle fattening scheme

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has so far acquired 2,222 cattle for an initiative where youths taking part in a commercial livestock project are handed ten cattle each for fattening and sale after every three months.

Abdallah Ulega, the Livestock and Fisheries minister, made this observation when tabling the ministry's estimates for fiscal 2023/24 pegged at 296bn/- in the National Assembly yesterday.

He said that among key achievements in the current financial year is getting the youth involved in modern livestock keeping and fisheries sectors as key players and beneficiaries.

Up to March this year, the ministry had extended 996.5m/- in loans to cattle breeders in 13 fattening projects in Tabora, Coast and Manyara regions, he said.

In encouraging youth participation in commercializing the livestock and fisheries sectors, the intention is to guarantee supply for raw materials for meat factories, he stated, noting that the ministry shall work to strengthen its eight youth incubation centers and add eight such centers.

The current centers have a capacity to

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi welcomes the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Anthony Battle (L), to Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

TANGO hails Samia's 4Rs governance ethos

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO) has hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for reviving hope for Tanzanians in economic growth as well as social and political harmony.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, the NGO's board of directors and its secretariat expressed support for the new approach to governance and leadership.

It said the transformative philosophy of President Samia in the 4Rs philosophy has taken up a reconciliation, resilience, reform and rebuild ethos that promotes socio-economic prosperity and multiparty democracy.

This approach is creating space for different actors to come together, share their concerns and interests, express themselves and collectively play various roles in building and shaping our country for broad-based development, it said.

In the two years since taking office, the president has pursued a changed leadership ethic to solve problems in the country's economic, political and social

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Private sector to raise 21trn/- for transport, energy sectors

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is seeking a systematic review of the legal framework to attract private sector capital, with a view to raising \$9bn (21trn/-) in the next three years to finance transport and energy projects.

Jenifa Omolo, Treasury deputy permanent secretary, said yesterday in Dar es Salaam that reviewing the legal framework to attract private sector capital would enable the government to invest in



Effective PPP will improve the transportation infrastructure, facilitating the movement of goods...

areas that are less attractive to investors.

Opening the public-private partnership (PPP) project identification workshop, she said the workshop focuses on the energy and transport sectors. It marks the first step in the quest for rolling out PPP, with similar workshops planned for other sectors in the near future.

The current workshop involves CEOs, directors of public agencies such as the Tanzania National Roads Agency

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Telecom sector booming, penetration reaches 98 pc

By Guardian Reporter

TELECOMMUNICATION services are booming as countrywide penetration nears 100 per cent reach, the regulatory agency

says in a quarterly report.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general, said in the report covering January-March 2023, that Dar es

Salaam leads the pack with 18 per cent of all active subscriptions, followed by Mwanza and Arusha with 6.4 per cent and 6.0 per cent respectively.

The report, released yesterday, shows Mbeya and Dodoma featuring prominently in the ranking with 5.8 per cent and 5.2 per cent of all active subscribers, respectively.

Overall penetration is currently at 98 per cent, the CEO noted, affirming that this level

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Saidi Yakubu, the Culture, Arts and Sports ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, addresses the African Union Sports Council's Region Four meeting in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Eleuter Mangi

Govt enlists youths for cattle fattening scheme

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accommodate 240 youths annually, where they facilitate youths to learn how to engage in commercial cattle keeping by fattening cattle. By late March 238 youths were registered in the centers, located in Mwanza, Kagera and Tanga regions, he said.

Youth involvement in the livestock sectors has grown in the past year, he said, asking the House to endorse the 296bn/- estimates, where 112bn/- will be spent on the livestock sector and 183bn/- cater for fishing activities.

The minister hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for personal efforts to open up meat markets in the Middle East, saying that meat exports had increased by 46 per cent in the past two years.

Substantial meat export was conducted with Gulf countries during the 2022 World Cup finals, he said, noting that the ministry expects to generate profits in both sectors, as its activities have taken a more business outlook.

The ministry expects to make big investments in livestock fodder for the local market and for exports, he said, citing offers from Saudi Arabia who want to purchase a certain type

of animal fodder from Tanzania.

"If things will go well, our people will cultivate the fodder plenty as they will have a reliable market," he said.

Infrastructures for fattening cattle is planned in holding grounds namely like Kitaraka, Kizota and Makuyuni, with the ministry targeting fattening 12,696 cattle at the NARCO Kongwa Ranch, he said.

Upwards of 55,000 bundles of hay will be produced in Mzeri and Kongwa ranches covering 11,000 hectares, with three feedlots units to be built, he said.

Meat value exports topped \$51.89m as of last month, from \$36.26m a year earlier, he said, pointing out that 12,243.79 tonnes of meat was exported, up from 8,877.80 tonnes in the year up to April 2022, a 43.1 percent output rise, he said.

A total of 278,549.80 litres of milk priced at 944.35m/- was exported to Yemen, while importing 11.6m litres of processed milk at 22.77bn/-.

Livestock sector growth was rated at five percent during 2021, contributing seven percent to national income, he said.

The fisheries sector grew by

2.5 percent and contributed 1.8 percent of national income, with the ministry buying 53 motorcycles for district extension officers, along with 158 modern fishing boats benefiting 2,753 people.

In the fisheries sector the ministry has established aquaculture incubation centers that accommodate 500 youths, where 200 have benefited in the current fiscal year. Registering another 300 youths was in the offing, he asserted. Institutions under the ministry issued 153.20m/- in dividends to Treasury, pursuing the 2023/24 budget priorities of strengthening deep sea fishing, strengthening fishing institutions to foster the blue economy and seeking wider markets, he said.

Edward ole Kaita (Kiteto), said that cattle fattening needs substantial investments for training and empowerment of, where upwards of 400m/- was needed to fatten the ten cattle.

Initiating livestock insurance to enable youth access loans was vital as commercial banks demand security, he said, noting that equipping the youth in modern livestock keeping demands setting

up a model that is fully enabling.

"We just need 27.6bn/- to facilitate youth in 184 district councils. About 150m/- can be distributed among 50 youths and in two years the project is likely to pay off," he said.

Lucy Sabu (Special Seats) said the cattle fattening project will create more employment, but worried if the eight new centers would be enough. The project should be designed to cover the whole country, she urged.

David Kihenzile, the Industry, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock standing committee chairman, castigated delays in disbursing of development funds. Just 11.2 percent of the previous year estimates had been issued as of February this year, with 32 percent of the approved recurrent expenditure disbursed.

He was glad about reduction of levies imposed on locally processed milk where eight levies were waived. Cold storage facilities in airports for storing fish products were also facilitated, he observed;

Illegal fishing persists and thus law reforms and efficient regulation of fishing nets remain vital prerequisites in uplifting the sector, he added.

Telecom sector booming, penetration reaches 98 pc

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is close to saturation point. Dar es Salaam has the highest penetration rate at 17.71 percent of residents, followed by Mwanza and Arusha with 6.2 percent and 6.01 percent, respectively.

Katavi, Rukwa, Lindi, and Njombe regions have the lowest penetration rates, to which the CEO says the development underlines the positive strides in the telecom industry, in expanding access to communication services throughout the country.

The coverage and active use is expected to grow further as using mobile phones for voice and data services widens, he said. The telecom industry has experienced steady growth over the past five years, with subscriptions growing at 8.0 percent annually.

Telecom penetration is nearing its maximum potential, with numbers hovering around 98 percent late 2022 and in the first quarter of 2023, the report shows, indicating that year-on-year statistics show

a gradual increase in telecom penetration. The rate stood at 88 percent in 2019, 89 percent in 2020 and 91 percent in 2021.

The trend of telecom subscriptions in East Africa and Africa over the past five years has been marked by steady growth, as more and more people gain access to mobile phones and other telecommunication devices, the report asserts.

International Telecommunications Union data shows that the number of mobile phone subscriptions in Africa grew from 420m in 2015 to 477m in 2019, representing an average annual growth rate of 3.3 percent, it said.

Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa account for over half of all mobile phone subscriptions, with various countries seeing significant investments in their telecoms infrastructure in recent years.

This has enabled improved connectivity and increased access to mobile phones and other communication devices for the public, the report added.

Private sector to raise 21trn/- for transport, energy sectors

FROM PAGE 1

(TanRoads), the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) agency and the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO). Others were the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC), Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA), Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Tanzania Port Authority (TPA).

The Treasury executive affirmed that energy and transport sectors were critical in driving economic growth in emerging economies like Tanzania, thus investing in the sectors through PPP enhances the climate for higher growth.

Effective PPP will improve the transportation infrastructure, facilitating the movement of goods, while PPP in the energy sector will provide reliable and affordable energy for homes, businesses and industries, she said.

The workshop targets private investment whose objectives would be adopted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector window of the World Bank, she further noted.

The government needs to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to PPP projects with a robust pipeline of projects necessary for IFC consideration for a generalized facility, she stated.

David Kafullila, the PPP

commissioner at the Treasury, said that the aim of the workshop was to find at least two projects per contracting authority that is likely to attain financial standing and credit viability.

Treasury also needs to develop a budget for project identification and preliminary studies to establish projects to in the course of the next financial year, he said.

It expects to create an action plan based on the outcomes of sector workshops for presentation to external stakeholders for resource mobilization to support project preparation, he said.

There is already a long list of projects identified, with the workshop seeking to further develop the project pipeline. "Our focus will be on PPPs, as they are key in delivering economic reform, promoting industrial development and enhancing our knowledge and ability to participate fully in international trade," he asserted.

Frank Ajilore, the IFC resident representative, said the World Bank agency has long and in-depth knowledge and experiences in water, transport and energy, working in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"We help in project identification and implementation, risk assessment, financial modelling and capacity building," he added.

TANGO hails Samia's 4Rs governance ethos

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organisation, the statement noted.

Citing remarks the president made in her inaugural address, the NGO noted that the president from the start realised the difficult environment that surrounds the multi-party system, and expressed the wish to foster unity regardless of political, religious or ethnic differences. The changes introduced in the 24 months of the sixth phase have enhanced freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association, which had suffered a heavy blow during the fifth phase presidency, the NGO intoned.

"We have witnessed how President Samia walked the talk, accepting the October 2022 recommendations for political reforms by a high level taskforce," it said.

The president then lifted the ban on political rallies, granting freedom of assembly for all political parties, it recalled, noting that the political situation has greatly improved.

"Politicians are now happy and free to engage in daily political responsibilities due to the reconciliation initiatives undertaken," the NGO enthused, praising the commitment to improve democratic space.

This was witnessed in the

formation of an experts' panel to collect and analyse views of stakeholders regarding the need for constitutional reforms. This reactivated constitutional discussions, "raising hopes for many Tanzanians as to amending the 1977 Constitution," the statement affirmed.

It similarly cited an increase of 9bn/- in estimates of the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs for the next financial year, essentially for the constitution making effort and democratic reforms in criminal justice system that is of concern to political stakeholders and the public at large.

Civic organisations have benefited from these changes as they enable different actors to work together, express their views and share platforms with public institutions, it elaborated.

President Samia has expressed commitment to support NGOs, acknowledging the vital role they play in development, it said, highlighting that public institutions also struck a friendlier tone in working with CSOs.

Appealing for closer collaboration, the NGO urged the Treasury to address the taxation of NGOs, airing hopes that the changes will soon be adopted, improving their operating environment.



Jenifa Omolo, the Finance and Planning ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, addresses a working session of a meeting between Tanzanian government and World Bank officials involved on access to International Finance Corporation loans and technical assistance to the country's private sector. The talks were held in Dar es Salaam yesterday and mainly sought to deliberate on strategic projects the government wants to be implemented through partnerships between the public and private sectors. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry



Sumbawanga Urban legislator Aeshi Khalfan Hilaly (R) has a quick word with Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (C, in specs) earlier this week during an assessment tour of the ongoing construction of the 25-km Ntendo-Kizungu road to asphalt level. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt sets aside 3bn/- to buy five fire and rescue vehicles

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has set aside 3bn/- in the 2023/2024 budget for the purchase of five fire and rescue vehicles to be distributed in the regions and districts the House heard yesterday.

Deputy minister for Home Affairs, Jumanne Sagini told the lawmakers that the move is aimed at equipping the fire and rescue force, enabling it to work efficiently in response to public needs.

He said the government was aware of the challenges facing it thus the decision to furnish it with the needed modern equipment and vehicles.

The deputy made the statement in response to a question raised by the Igunga MP, Nicholas Ngassa (CCM), who had wanted to know when the government would provide fire and rescue vehicle to Igunga district's fire and rescue department.

"When shall the government supply the fire and rescue vehicles

to Igunga district office?" asked the lawmaker, noting that the district is in dire need of the equipment.

In response, the deputy minister noted that the government will in the coming financial year disburse 3b/- for purchase of five vehicles, one to be allocated to Igunga district fire and rescue department.

Sagini explained that the district is currently served by the fire and rescue vehicle at Tabora regional office. "The government will continue providing the modern equipment to fire and rescue departments in all districts in the country basing on the availability of funds" said the deputy minister.

He said the government was aware of the challenges and shortage of facilities facing the force in the country and is doing everything possible to improve the situation.

According to media reports, while the common perception of the force is that it fights fires, experts argue that the service's role should be much broader to reflect the new demands placed on it, where fighting fires is only part of the job.

For example, while air and sea rescue missions should be part of the force's mission, it lacks the necessary equipment, relying instead on other forces such as the police and the army, which carry out their duties professionally.

"When shall the government supply the fire and rescue vehicles to Igunga district office?"

TASAF projects impress delegates from Angola

By Getrude Mbago

IMPLEMENTATION of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) projects in the country has impressed delegates from Angola who cited the initiatives as among the best and pioneer approaches in ending poverty.

The delegates who visited the country last week to learn more on the implementation of the social protection projects, were impressed on how TASAF is uplifting the living standards of the poor populations in both urban and rural areas.

Speaking during the visit to witness progress of various poor households at Dunda village in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, World Bank (WB) Senior Economist in Angola, Boban Paul said Tanzania was one of the countries which should be emulated when it comes to the implementation of social protection

projects.

He noted that, for instance, that the programme had improved access to health care, school enrolment increased nutritional levels among beneficiary households, among other gains something which should be commended.

"We have witnessed how TASAF has transformed lives of the very poor households and this gives us courage to continue supporting the social initiatives all over the world," he said.

Deputy Director General of Social Support Fund-Angola (FAS) Rosa Teixeira de Carvalho commended TASAF on how it is implementing initiatives to lift up the lives of poor Tanzanians.

She said the team also shared with Tanzania the experience of the Angolan Social Protection Strengthening Program-KWENDA as well as interacting with local beneficiaries of Social Monetary Transfers.

"The main objective of the said meeting is to exchange experiences and provide knowledge and learning, from the Tanzanian and Angolan realities with regard to the implementation of public programmes of social protection for the most vulnerable. During the visit, issues related to the legal framework, institutional and operational organisation of social protection programmes are being addressed, among others," she explained.

Rosa called upon Tanzanian women and others all over the world to be confident, work hard to chase their dreams.

Ally Mbegu, one of the beneficiaries commended the government for the efforts saying that the project has become an ideal vehicle for poverty alleviation by engaging poor households into income generating activities thus improving their welfare.

Mwanaheri Maulidi said the cash transfer has improved food security at her home and other household level as beneficiaries use part of cash benefits to start farming while keeping on with other businesses.

"The funds and the entrepreneurship skills I got from TASAF officials have helped me embark on poultry and agriculture projects which have also been paying me a lot," she said.

Roseline Kimaro, Regional Tasaf Coordinator said that through the established Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN), beneficiaries participate in public works such as putting up infrastructures in the areas of education, health and water to improve social services and thus earn extra- income through the wages they receive after work.

She said the PSSN programme focuses more in providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-earning opportunities to enable them establish small-scale business and projects for poverty alleviation.

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TRA launches campaign to promote EFDs receipt use

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) yesterday launched the campaign to sensitise traders to issue receipts using Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) as well as reminding buyers to demand for genuine electronic receipts for every purchase.

Dubbed 'Tuwajibike', the campaign will be implemented across the country and supervised by the authority's managers at district and regional level, Richard Kayombo, director of taxpayer services and education said in Dar es Salaam when briefing journalists on the new campaign.

"We would like to call upon traders eligible for issuance of EFD receipts to do so whenever they sell their products. Buyers must also demand for genuine EFD receipts for every purchase they make to avoid unnecessary inconveniences," said Kayombo stressing the campaign will be sustainable.

He said through taxes the government will be able to deliver good services to the people, thus bringing social and economic development.

According to him, a genuine electronic receipt must meet the main criteria which includes, name of the trader or business, the actual date of sale, an actual amount of money paid for the particular product or service as well as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the buyer or both.

He said violators will be punished in accordance with the laws whereas traders who will be found not to issue genuine EFD receipts, will be penalized to pay between 3m/- and 4.5m/- or imprisonment of not more than 3 years or both.

Kayombo said that a buyer who will be proved to make purchases without claiming electronic receipt, will be fined to pay between 30,000 to 1.5m/-.

He added during the campaign, TRA officers will remind and encourage traders and service

providers across the country to make sure they issue electronic receipts.

"The law requires to make maintenance of the devices within 48hrs and thereafter they are required to record all the daily sales electronically. Traders who are eligible to use EFDs are not allowed to issue manual receipts for more than two days," he said.

He said buyers must be careful in ensuring the provided EFD receipts are genuine and the written amount of money corresponds the prices they have paid for the goods.

He urged traders to comply with the country laws in the issuance of EFD receipts warning some deceitful traders who uses a single receipt to transport goods from one place to another.

He also called upon traders conducting courier services to make sure they provide electronic receipts. He said most of the courier services providers do not issue receipts, the thing that is against the laws.



Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega tables the ministry's 2023/2024 financial year Budget estimates in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF STATIONERY SERVICES - REFERENCE NO. 00000198

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable companies to express their interest in providing stationery services to the [EACOP] project.

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- The Service Provider shall be responsible for replacement in case of breakages of any stationery items particularly before and during delivery.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Business License.
- Appropriate licensing if any from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services.
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Registration or approved application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017.
- Experience, performance, and capacity in delivering the Scope of Services outlined above at a large scale in Tanzania, in compliance with national and international standards.
- Profile of key contact personnel to be involved in the project including personal certifications as necessary and level of qualifications, and experience and capacity to deliver the required services.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
- Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to procurement.tz@eacop.com, (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on or before 16th May 2023. Email object shall be: 00000198_Provision of Stationery Services. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.

Kenya, Tanzania engineers promise cooperation to enhance competition

By Guardian Reporter

THE Engineers Registration Board (ERB) has pledged to enhance its relationship with the engineers Registration Board of Kenya (EBK) in the cooperation agreement in order to make sure they have in place competition criteria among East African countries and the world in general.

Closing a one-week workshop organised by ERB in Dodoma, the Board's Registrar, Eng. Bernard Kavisho said the aim of the workshop is to improve the profession's environment, saying it will assist engineers from Tanzania and Kenya as well as others in the East African Community (EAC) to be recognized and work in the said countries without obstacles.

"We have made this agreement since 2012 and the main aim was to assist engineers registered in these countries to interact, exchange experiences and work in the countries without hindrances," Kavisho said.

He explained that since the time the agreement was struck there have been frequent visits and workshops whereas in this year the workshop for empowering the professionals has been held in Dodoma.

He mentioned some of the criteria in the agreement as including the need for having equal level in regard to teaching, registration that will simplify their work performance and open up jobs in the EAC countries.

"We received a nine-man delegation from Kenya who have come to learn and exchange experience and we took from them what we lacked and vice versa," said Eng Kavisho.

He added that after the visit, he believed that Tanzania and Kenya engineers will equal in their work performance levels and able to compete even globally.

In the same vein, Margaret Ogai, EBK Engineer said from the workshop they have learnt various issues including the need for procedures for practical teaching for students from universities where they studied engineering, as well as creating a fund for assisting more women engineers under 35 years of age.

Another Kenya engineer, Monica Wangari said the workshop has assisted her to understand many issues which in one way or another will help in opening up employment opportunities for Tanzania and Kenya engineers and from other EAC states.

Eng Veronica Ninalo from Tanzania stressed for the government, through ERB to organise frequent workshops to enable the exchange of experience from various areas in order to develop the engineering profession.



We have made this agreement since 2012 and the main aim was to assist engineers registered in these countries to interact, exchange experiences and work in the countries without hindrances

African scientists urged to enhance preparedness to contain infectious diseases

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

SUB-Saharan African nations should intensify surveillance, and invest in new vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics in order to curb the growing threat of infectious diseases, scientists have said.

They were speaking at the just concluded 2023 Ibrahim Governance Weekend held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Tom Kariuki, executive director of the Science for Africa Foundation, a Nairobi-based non-profit lobby that advances science and innovations, stressed that enhanced preparedness will be key to averting disruption of the continent's public health systems in the event of disease outbreaks.

Kariuki said Africa continues to grapple with a growing burden of infectious diseases, fueled by climate change, disruptions of ecosystems, and pollution.

He added that the solution lies in up scaling local manufacturing of health products like vaccines, antibiotics, and greater public education.

"Innovative tools, including improved environmental protection, access to vaccines and therapeutics, can be effective in managing emerging infectious diseases in the continent," Kariuki said.

He added that governments should allocate sufficient funding toward research on novel vaccines and drugs to manage malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, and other emerging ailments like the Marburg virus, and avian flu.

Kariuki noted that anti-microbial resistance has undermined efforts to tame vector-borne diseases in Africa, stressing that academia-industry partnerships are required to address the crisis.

James Kimotho, head of the Kenya Medical Research Institute's Innovation and Technology Transfer Division, said the African governments should establish policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate clinical trials aimed at strengthening the treatment and management of infectious diseases.

Kimotho emphasized that home-grown research combined with

capacity building for scientists and public outreach will be crucial to revitalizing the war against communicable diseases taking a toll on Africa's grassroots communities.

Huwaida Bulhan, senior clinical operations team lead of Area Africa at Roche, a pharmaceutical company, said investing in modern diagnostics and drug regimens for treating infectious diseases will have spin-off effects like economic growth in the continent.

Bulhan said the COVID-19 pandemic served as a wake-up call for African countries to strengthen their disease surveillance systems besides having adequate stockpiles of critical health commodities like drugs and protective gear.

Borna Nyaoke, head of Mycetoma Disease at Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, an international drugs research entity, said tackling old and emerging infectious diseases in Africa will help reduce poverty and re-energize the continent's public health systems.

In addition, Nyaoke challenged African governments to enhance monitoring and response to sporadic outbreaks, driven by ecological pollution, climate crisis, and forced migration.

Michael Lusiola, chief executive officer of the Kenya BioVax Institute, a government-owned company charged with manufacturing health products, stressed the need for African countries to leverage data, collaborative research, and reskilling of the health workforce in their quest to boost action on infectious diseases.



Innovative tools, including improved environmental protection, access to vaccines and therapeutics, can be effective in managing emerging infectious diseases in the continent



Rev Charles Mzingo (C) of Dar es Salaam's Azania Front Cathedral of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania welcomes Sharik Choughule (R), councillor for Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni ward, to the diocese's Luther House offices in the city on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Five wards in Msalala District set to benefit from L. Victoria water project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SOME five wards of Ikunda, Mwakata, Menga, Shilela and Lunguya in Msalala district council are set to benefit from the Lake Victoria water project, it has been revealed.

Minister for Water Juma Aweso told the National Assembly yesterday that the process to get the contractor for the project has started, adding that the implementation is to begin in the 2023/24 financial year.

He made the statement in

response to a question asked by the Msalala MP, Iddi Kassim Iddi (CCM), who had wanted to know when the wards would be connected to water from Lake Victoria.

In response, the minister explained that the policy require that villages passed by water projects within a radius of 12 kilometres are support to be connected to the project.

"The aims is to help increase availability of water to the neighbouring villages as we continue with major projects

aimed at enhancing water service delivery," said the minister.

The minister outlined the various projects which have enhanced water service delivery including the Lake Victoria Water Supply Project in Kahama and Shinyanga regions and the improvement of water supply services in Dar es Salaam featuring the Upper and Lower Ruvu plant and laying down of the main pipeline.

Others are Lake Victoria Water Supply Project to Isaka and Kagongwa, Lake Victoria water Supply Project to the towns of

Tabora - Igunga - Nzega, Lindi Town Water Project, water and sanitation projects in Mwanza, Mbeya and Iringa, and the Kigoma Water and Sanitation Project.

The rest are water projects in Kibamba-Kisarawe, Misungwi, Nansio Ukerewe, Longido, Lamadi, Bokwa and Sengerema.

Highlighting the ministry's current direction, he said the docket was committed to attaining the country's Development Vision 2025, which envisages 95 percent water access in urban areas and 85 percent in rural settings.



Gema Saramba, a human resources superintendent with Barrick North Mara gold mine, addresses students of Morogoro municipality's Mzumbe University at a seminar meant to enhance their capacity to develop talents and take advantage of opportunities. Sponsored by Barrick Gold Corporation, the event was organised by the Tanzania chapter of AIESEC, an international youth-run and led, non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation that provides young people with leadership development, cross-cultural internships, and global volunteer exchange experiences. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TTB, TANAPA train journalists on how to market tourist attractions

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Tourism Board (TTB) in collaboration with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) have embarked in providing training to journalists on the better way to advertise the country's tourist attractions to the world.

TTB Director General, Damas Mfugale made the remarks at the weekend when opening the digital

training for newsmen in Dar es Salaam.

He said they believe that media people have a big contribution in advertising the attractions to the world that will see the increase of earnings in the tourism sector.

He said increasing the number of tourists corresponds to the increase of funds in the government coffers that spur the country's many development activities.

The President of Tanzania Media People Association (TAMPA), Simon Mkina said among issues aimed in the training is to empower them with the skill to write to spur great number of tourist to come to Tanzania.

"Such training has begun with journalists based in Dar es Salaam but the aim is to reach those in other regions because we believe every region has tourist attractions

that need to be advertised," he said. Meanwhile, TANAPA Commissioner General, William Mwakilema said media organs are a vital link in increasing the number of tourists so long as the tourist attractions are known to the world.

"And we at TANAPA are ready to work together with the media people to make sure this is successful, Mwakilema added.



Small-time caterers operating from Dodoma city's Majengo market prepare food for sale to patients admitted to Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital and staff, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

TANROADS called upon to speed up exercise of erecting road signs warning of wildlife crossing

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

CONSERVATION stakeholders in Manyara Region have appealed to TANROADS in the region to speed up the erection of road signs exercise for warning wildlife crossing the Manyara-Arusha road at Burunge Wildlife Management Area (Burunge WMA) as at the moment at least one wild animal is knocked by a passing vehicle each day.

Statistics from the area show that about 380 wild animals are knocked down by passing vehicles each year in the reserve area that is between Tarangire and Manyara National Parks.

Addressing a conservation stakeholders meeting in Manyara Region, Wildlife Researcher Dr Benard Kisuwi said apart from the wildlife deaths by passing vehicles there is also a challenge from wild animals.

He said the aim of the meeting is to continue with the strategies in solving conflicts pitting wildlife and human beings in the area.

Manyara Region Wildlife Officer, Felix Mwasenga said the government, in collaboration with wildlife conservation stakeholders have embarked on the control of wildlife deaths from passing vehicles by erecting warning road signs.

signs.

He said the current strategy is to increase the number of road signs in the area and call to drivers to take great care in the area between Magugu and Minjingu, the wildlife corridor area.

Senior TAWA Conservation Officer, Alininga Swai said the area has also seen an increase of human activities inside reserve areas.

He said in addition to the good work done by Burunge WMA, conservators and Chem Chem Association who have invested in the area's tourism, there are still many incidents of wildlife poaching that need to be eradicated.

Meanwhile, Chem Chem Association Public Relations Officer, Charles Sylvester appealed to the government to erect warning road signs in the area owing to the increase of wildlife population.

He said in order to reduce conflicts pitting humans and wildlife, his institution has been building steel cattle bomas for herders to prevent fierce animals including lions to attack and eat their livestock during the night.

Benson Mwaise, Burunge WMA secretary said the reserve made up of 10 villages has been faced with the increase of human activities, including farming, herding and human settlements.

Farmers challenged to make good use of govt's subsidy on fertiliser prices to boost production

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FARMERS in the country have been urged to utilise the government's subsidy on fertiliser prices to boost production as the plan aimed at supporting all farmers in the country.

Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, made the call in the Parliament yesterday, noting that the move is to ensure farmers improve production and increase agricultural sector performance.

Bashe made the plea in response to a question raised by the Lushoto MP, Shabani Shekilindi (CCM), who had wanted to know the government's plan to provide fertiliser to horticultural farmers in the country.

In response, the minister noted that the government this fiscal year (2022/23), committed itself to provide Sh150 billion as a subsidy package for fertiliser, to smallholder farmers, a response to the world's commodity price

upsurge.

He added: "The government has also reintroduced the Fertiliser Bulk Procurement System (FBPS) through which a price cap for fertiliser will take effect, to stop businesses from hiking prices as witnessed in recent months".

The minister told the Parliament that all farmers in the country are eligible to benefit from the programme, adding that horticulture farmers can arrange themselves in group and seek the

input.

A study on fertiliser supply in Tanzania estimated the average delivered cost of fertiliser to several upcountry regional trading centres to be more than \$600 per metric tonne.

Out of this price, the free-on-board (FOB) commodity price at the source accounted for 65 percent of the total price, whereas transport from the shipping port to Dar es Salaam and on to the trading centres accounted for 22 percent.

RC calls for respect of beacons around SENAPA

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

PEOPLE living in areas surrounding Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) have been told to respect boundary beacons erected by the government in order to control land conflicts and invasion of the reserve.

The call was made by Mara Regional Commissioner, Suleman Mzee on Monday at Gibaso Village when winding up beacon erecting exercise that had been in progress

aimed at setting boundaries between the reserve area and human settlements.

"Even though the exercise has been completed by 100 per cent, there are still people who are not happy by the erection of the beacons, including some councillors, but now we are supposed to unite in this issue and beacons have to be fully respected," RC Mzee said.

He also commended some village officials who made the

exercise a success and called upon Serengeti National Park officials to involve communities around them in various social activities, including the implementation of various projects including digging for them dams for their livestock, the issue that will enhance relationship between the two sides.

He said he will make sure wildlife officials continue working together with the local communities through a special organ established

in 1992 in the area for cooperating in various development projects.

Over 761m/- has been set aside for implementing social projects including refurbishing two dams and digging two more for their livestock.

Land Survey officer from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, John Sorwa said the beacon erection exercise has been completed through cooperation from the local communities.

Barrick bags six awards at Moro Osha ceremony

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

BARRICK Tanzania has managed to go away with six awards at the 2023 Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) awards presentation ceremony that was held in Morogoro with Bulyanhulu Gold Mine snatching the most coveted prize - the Top Overall winner in OHS 2023 Award.

In addition to this major win, Bulyanhulu also scooped the Best Risk Assessment Report in mining and the Best OHS winner in the mining sector.


Barrick North Mara won the top accolades in the: Most Caring for Workers with Special Needs and the Best OHS policy. It was also the first Runner Up in: the Mining sector winner.

This year Buzwagi Mine also attends the exhibition and snatched the Best Responsive OSH Action Plan.

This year's OSH exhibition was held at Tumbaku grounds in Morogoro. The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office - Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability Prof Joyce Ndalichako, was the Guest of Honour at this year's award presentation ceremony.

Barrick Tanzania's 2023 wins swoosh from the company's 2022 successes in which it won the: Overall; Best outreach; Exhibitor; and most compliant awards.

Safety is a key component of Barrick's DNA. The company has a special programme for the safety of its employees and contractors, ensuring that everybody is going home healthy and safe. On top of all that in Barrick everyone is committed to doing all that he/she can to create a zero harm workplace.



**MANTRA
TANZANIA
ROSATOM**

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PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE SERVICES

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra Tanzania Ltd invites eligible insurance companies, agents and brokers to express their Interest (EOI) for provision of Insurance Services to Mantra.

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:

- Detailed Company Information with Organization structure, List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
 - a) Brief scope of work/item
 - b) Value of work in USD
 - c) Contractual Duration
 - d) Clients name
 - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).

- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance certificate from relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and the hard copy to the below address latest on **10th May 2023 at 16.00 hours.**

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd

Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikoni, Bains Avenue-Masaki, P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255764700440, Dar es Salaam.



Exciting Employment Opportunity

Pact is an international nonprofit that works in nearly 40 countries building solutions for human development that are evidence-based, data-driven, and owned by the communities we serve. Our vision is thriving, resilient and engaged communities leading their own development. Founded in 1971, Pact works with partners to build resilience, improve accountability, and strengthen knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact. To learn more about Pact Tanzania, visit: <http://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania>. We are a recognized global leader in creating social impact. Our staff have a range of expertise in areas including capacity development, public health, governance, and civil society, climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy, women's economic empowerment, fragile states, artisanal and small-scale mining communities, monitoring and evaluation, microfinance, and more.

Project Overview

ACHIEVE is a five-year, USAID-funded global cooperative agreement with the dual objectives of attaining and sustaining HIV epidemic control among at-risk and hard to reach pregnant and breastfeeding (PBF) women, infants, children, and youth, as well as to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and prevent HIV transmission among these populations; and supporting the transition of prime funding and implementation to capable local partners in order to meet the PEPFAR goal of 70% of funding to local partners.

ACHIEVE is funded by USAID in Tanzania to implement a four-year activity (October 2020 to April 2024) which aims: (1) to improve national- and community-level social welfare systems in order to sustain support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and families affected by HIV and (2) to strengthen the capacity of local organizations to deliver OVC services and (3) to deliver high quality OVC services and DREAMS interventions for AGYW 9-14 years.

Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant position for the ACHIEVE Tanzania Project:

Position: Senior Grants, Contracts and Compliance Manager, Head Office
Contract Duration: 1-year contract (Renewable)
Reporting to: Director of Finance and Administrations

Position Purpose:

The Senior Grants, Contracts and Compliance Manager is directly responsible to and supervised by the Finance and Administration Director of Pact Tanzania. The Senior Grants, Contracts and Compliance Manager provides high-level grants and contracts management to achieve the goals of Pact Tanzania projects, working with partner organizations and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). S/he provides overall leadership and oversight for all aspects related to management of sub-grants and subcontracts. This requires close collaboration with Pact HQ to ensure compliance with Pact and USAID, DFID, and other donor guidelines. The Senior Grants, Contracts and Compliance Manager supervises all staff within the grants and contracts unit.

Key Responsibilities:

Sub-award Administration

- Develop subcontract and sub-grant award documents compliant with donor requirements and Pact standard templates and work closely with Pact HQ to execute quality sub-awards.
- Administer the full cycle of sub-award management activities beginning from solicitation through selection, pre-award assessments, negotiation, monitoring/compliance visits, and closeout.
- Utilize Pact's sub-award management system (Promise) and accounting system (Serenic NAV) for sub-award issuance and management. Ensure that all required documentation is available and stored as per Pact regulations.
- Oversee budget management of projects' sub-award pools working with the Senior Finance Manager. Work closely with the Senior Finance Manager to ensure accurate and timely disbursement and liquidation of sub-award expenses.
- Ensure timely training of grantees and Pact Tanzania staff to understand and comply fully with donor standards. Develop training materials and carry out regular trainings with grantee partners.
- Ensure that office systems for grants and contracts administration are maintained and that regular reports are provided to Pact headquarters.
- Award and administer sub-contract(s) and consultant agreements necessary to support local programs and projects.
- Develop and/or update Pact Tanzania Country Office Sub-awards Manual in compliance with Pact HQ guidance.
- Support closeout of awards, including preparation of final inventories, property disposition, etc.
- Track and update all the special wards conditions in all sub agreements and subcontracts.

Agreements Management

- Work with Pact Project Director/Program Directors and senior managers to select grantees for award under various projects. This will include conducting of pre-award assessments to determine the responsibility of prospective grantees using Pact's capacity assessments.
- Provide technical assistance to staff and grantees on administrative policies and procedures for agreements management.
- Work with Pact HQ to obtain prior approvals and waivers from donors required for administration of specific grants.
- Ensure the approved branding and marking plan is implemented by all required stakeholders of grant/contract

Contract and Consultancy Management

- Review all the contracts (lease, insurance, projects contracts etc.) as required by various projects with Pact Tanzania
- Prepare consultancy contracts and provide guidance for consultancy engagements within Pact Tanzania
- Performs contract administration activities for selected contracts and assists in the monitoring of contractor's performance, approval of progress payments, verification of deliveries, and similar activities.
- Utilizes price/cost analysis techniques to support the development of cost-related sections of solicitation documents and the analysis of cost and price data, labor and material cost, etc.
- Supports the extension of periods of performance and contract closeout processes.

Compliance

- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; advising management on needed actions.

- Ensuring compliance with financial aspects of contract requirements including liability, property, and other insurance matters, and audit requirements
- Provide support to Pact and CSO to comply with cost share policy by ensuring the policy is adhered to, and reporting are done to Pact and to the donor.
- Supports compliance to Pact Tanzania by providing information and support required to develop and implement policies, processes, and procedures necessary to achieve strategic objectives
- Reviews, analyzes and drafts contract language to ensure they comply to all applicable donor, Pact and host government regulations
- Work with/train CSOs to ensure they comply to all required rules set by the Pact, donors and the government.
- Responsible for communicating all compliance messages to Pact staff and CSOs.
- Ensure proper submission of taxes and process tax exemptions where required by the donor agreement.
- Advise and ensure compliance on cost charging to various projects as per the pact and donor policies.
- Ensure tax reporting to Pact from CSOs and to the donor as stipulated in the prime awards
- Ensure compliance to asset reporting to Pact HQ as well as to the donor as per the donor requirements.

Other Responsibilities:

- Provide effective performance management, mentoring, and coaching for staff under his/her direct supervision.
- Provide training, as required, related to areas of his/her expertise and country office needs.
- Contribute to the global Grants Management Community of Practice to share best practices and lessons learned on Pact's intranet "Mosaic."
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Minimum requirement is a Bachelor's degree but preferred is a MA/MSc/Masters in Business Administration degree or equivalent relevant qualification
- At least 7 years of relevant experience in the NGO sector within Tanzania in managing the award and administration of sub-grants funded by Global Fund, USAID, or international donors.
- Experience managing sub-award design and administration
- Experience in donor funds administration
- Understanding of local contract and procurement law
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written Kiswahili and English
- Knowledge of 2 CFR 200
- Strong knowledge of donor auditing requirements and demonstrated ability to exercise financial oversight of programs.
- Demonstrated solid knowledge of USAID and other donor regulations applicable to agreements administration.

Preference for:

- Experience assessing the responsibility and grant-worthiness of organizations through financial statements, audits, and other documentation presented in a proposal or in support of an award
- Proven capacity to design and deliver a range of training and technical assistance programs to build full range of capacities for grant management
- Proficiency in a local language

Skills and Abilities:

- Consistently works within internal process and procedures
- Strong interpersonal and team building skills
- Exceptional planning and time management skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to make a presentation
- Ability to problem-solve difficult issues
- Ability to multitask with ease, adapting to frequently changing priorities
- Good negotiating and conflict resolution skills
- Strong understanding of budgets
- Competence using common desktop applications and internal systems
- Strong analytical skills to successfully perform financial reviews and other forms of quantitative analyses.
- Effective written and oral communications skills that are essential to building relationships with donors, host country counterparts, and partner organizations.
- Ability to exercise sound business judgment to wisely prioritize and successfully perform multiple and complex tasks.
- Highly organized and able to develop and streamline systems for efficient conduct of day-to-day tasks.
- Excellent computer skills and proficient in excel, word, outlook.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks/Serenic a big plus
- Ability to challenge and debate issues of importance to the organization

Preferred Qualifications

- Tanzanian work experience is necessary; Tanzania National is preferred.

Instructions on How to Apply:

If you believe you are the ideal person we are looking for, **please submit your application letter and a Curriculum Vitae online via email** describing why you are the right candidate for this position detailing your experience and three (3) professional referees from your previous and current place of employment. Please send the application online (through Email: humanresources@pactworld.org identifying the position you are applying for in the subject line). Only the applications sent online will be reviewed.

The closing date for applications is on **Friday 12th May 2023**.

Qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Pact is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, citizenship status, genetic information, matriculation, family responsibilities, personal appearance, credit information, tobacco use (except in the workplace), membership in an employee organization, or other protected classifications or non-merit factors.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Suspected giraffe poacher arrested in Burunge WMA

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

A SUSPECTED giraffe poacher in Burunge Wildlife Management Area (Burunge WMA) in Babati District, Manyara Region, who has been on the run for a long time has finally been arrested.

The suspect, Amos Bernard Meja was arrested Sunday night in a trap set by TAWA wildlife wardens of Burunge WMA and personnel from the Chem Chem Association that has invested in tourism activities in the area.

Meja, who was being sought for hunting of giraffes and selling its

meat was arrested at around 5:00 pm in Mfulwang'ombe area near a fish camp.

He was arrested by a group of wildlife wardens comprising James Misuka, Samweli Bayo, Khamis Chamkulu, Mohamed Abdallah, Pascal Mandao, Emmanuel Duxo, Wilfred Ngitoor and Karoli Umbe after receiving a tip.

TAWA Prosecutor, Getrude Kariongi confirmed the arrest saying the suspect faces several wildlife poaching charges and has already been handed over to the police.

Chem Chem Association Manager,

Clever Zulu said the suspect's arrest was a result of concerted efforts by wildlife officials. "To us, this is a great achievement in the protection of the country's resources and we comment the wildlife wardens for the job done," Zulu said.

He said Chem Chem Association spends more than 400m/- in fighting poaching activities in the area each year and will continue doing so.

Burunge WMA is rampant in giraffe poaching due to its being home to a large population of giraffes owing to great wildlife conservation efforts.



Tigo health and safety manager Dismas Anthony (L) briefs Patrobas Katambi (R), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth Employment and Persons with Disabilities), on a 4G internet device. The latter was on a visit to the firm's pavilion during the World Day for Safety and Health at Work exhibitions held at national level in Morogoro municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Katambi lauds mining firm for giving 90 pct of jobs, tenders to Tanzanians

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has hailed the Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) Company for providing employment opportunities to more than 90 per cent of Tanzanians in the mine as well as creating vacancies for others to get tenders and sell products and services to the company.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) made the reservations after visiting the company's booth in the exhibition organised by the Occupational Health and Safety Agency (OSHA) in Morogoro Region that also coincided with the International Workers' Day, which at national level was held in Morogoro region.

"I should especially congratulate them for reducing injuries and disability at work, work-related illnesses, but also ensuring that all working environments are safe to the extent that workers return home when safe.

"I am happy to see that the

entire pavilion and even within the company, a large percentage of employees are our fellow Tanzanians, so we are increasingly emphasizing that Tanzanians be given priority in all workplaces," he said.

He noted that when a foreigner holds a job position, it means that the skills are rare and therefore, he/she should train a Tanzanian within a duration as expected by the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Katambi further said: "She has directed me to make sure at all times that if there are foreigners with skills behind a Tanzanian, the expertise should be passed to a Tanzanian."

He said that GGML has become a role model in the purchase of local goods and services, which in turn raise the livelihoods of the surrounding communities, especially through the local content programme, adding that things that are available in the country should be bought here in order to increase liquidity in the country and not have a lot of money go abroad.

GGML wins People Category at SDGs awards

By Guardian Reporter

ANGLOGOLD Ashanti - Geita Gold Mining Limited has been named the overall winner for the People Category at the Business Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) Awards by UN Global Compact Tanzania.

In a ceremony that was organised by the UN Global Compact Tanzania in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, the company scooped the award especially for supporting the communities around it and enhancing quality workplace environment, where every employee goes home safe after work.

Receiving the award, GGML

Board Director Felix Mlaki said: "This award is a testimony to our commitment to supporting the communities surrounding our mine, as well as our ongoing efforts to creating a workplace that values diversity and inclusion, and ensures that all employees are treated with dignity and respect.

"This award recognizes our efforts to uphold human rights and environmental sustainability while also contributing meaningfully to the Geita Region and Tanzania economy."

He further said after the prize, the company will reinforce its commitment as in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to implement the programmes which

complement the government's efforts to develop the community.

He noted that the company will also continue with raising the livelihoods of local contractors, including giving them priority in tender opportunities so that they enlarge their focus of employing many Tanzanians in their activities.

In a related development, during the ceremony it was noted that the UN SDG Action Awards is a signature programme of the UN SDG Action Campaign, seeking initiatives and individuals that mobilize, inspire and connect people to drive positive change. Over 3,000 applications and nominations are received annually from 150+ countries.



Tanzania Education Authority director general Bahati Geuzye (C) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend showing Skills Development Fund beneficiaries some of the items the agency was gifted during the climax of Innovation Week celebrations held recently in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Over 4,000 Vingunguti residents to gain from implementation of two-year weather project

By Getrude Mbagu

OVER 4,000 residents of Kombo Street in Vingunguti ward of Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region are set to benefit from the implementation of a two-year project dubbed: 'Developing Risk Awareness through Joint Action (DARAJA) which will drill them to become more informed on weather issues.'

Supported by German Development Cooperation (GIZ) under IKI small grants, the project which is implemented by the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI), will directly reach 4600 residents in Kombo settlements of Msimbazi River with weather and climate education to enable them take informed decisions on their daily activities.

Speaking during the training session which brought together residents and leaders of the two streets in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, CCI programme officer, Prudensiana Luckago said the project which will go until December 2024, aims to address vulnerability to extreme weather and climate impacts on the informal urban settlements.

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

In particular, the project aims at improving accessibility, understanding and mobilisation on the importance and use of weather and climate information, enabling them to take measures to reduce impacts of weather events including floods, extreme heat and others," she explained.

According to her, vulnerability to extreme weather and climate impacts is rapidly growing in informal settlements where the majority of the residents lack basic infrastructures and services including drainage.

"We will continue training residents, street leaders, school children and

disaster committees of the street, our fellow from Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) are here also to educate the residents about their operations," she explained.

Hamisi Selemani one of the residents commended CCI for coming with the project and challenged TMA to invest more in advocacy and public awareness programmes on weather issues to ensure that information reaches and is well known by people at the ground level.

"In order to reduce extreme weather impacts among communities, authorities have to invest heavily in awareness programmes, many people especially those living in unplanned settlements do not have access to the information and they are ones who experience much weather related impacts," he asserted.

Nevile Thomas, also from Kombo urged authorities to be innovative by disseminating weather information through mobile phones as the majority of Tanzanians in both urban and rural areas own mobile phones.

Kisa Kasekwa from Kombo said: "Weather and climate information is not much understood by people especially in informal settlements, so my appeal to TMA and other hazardous departments are to invest more in awareness programmes, going street to street whenever needed to educate residents."

Aboubakar Lungo from TMA, said that the authority has been timely furnishing the public with accurate weather information and warnings but the challenge remains on how they utilize the information.

He commended CCI for implementing the project saying that it has come at high time when the government is investing heavily in improving infrastructures so as to further increase accuracy of weather information.

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

20 nurses receive training on provision of services to children suffering from cancer

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TWENTY nurses from five African countries—Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania have been undergoing four-day training on how to provide services to children suffering from cancer.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) executive director said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the training organised by MNH in collaboration with the UK-based World Child Cancer organisation.

"Trainings like these are important because for a child with cancer, and how to serve them is different. This will help our nurses to learn more on how to serve a child with cancer. We are grateful for this training which they will also go to teach their colleagues," he said.

He said there is an assumption that those who suffer from this disease are only adults and not children, saying that they also suffer

from blood, bone and liver cancer, and also MNH has a special ward for that treatment with 30 beds.

"Children who suffer from this disease are aged between 14 and 15 years and even below, their treatment requires more attention on how to use medicine."

"Most of these patients come from low-income families, not all of them, but most of them, even with middle-income, medicine are still expensive, tests are expensive, so the government contributes a lot to this treatment. But education in this treatment is a great weapon and MNH is ready to serve," he said.

According to him, MNH receives 500 new patients of cancer who are in age of adolescences, between the age of 14 and 15 years old every year.

He said that among the factors that contribute to the children suffering from that disease, are poor nutrition, which relies more on sugar and carbohydrates foods,

obesity, saying that the challenge of the disease is how to detect it in early stage.

"In the world in general, we have 400,000 new cases every year. Every year, let me talk about us (MNH) we have 500 new cases of cancer in age of adolescence," said Prof Janabi.

On prevention, Prof Janabi said that some types of cancer found in children, can be prevented and says the biggest problem is poor education among the community, especially in how to get balanced diet.

Paul Magesa, assistant director in clinical services for nursing and midwifery from the Ministry of Health, said the problem is still big so the ministry has focused on prevention by providing education.

"Cancer in its entirety is now provided by ORCI (Ocean Road Cancer Institute), MNH and Benjamin Mkapa and Bugando hospitals, so that services reach patients where they are," he said.

Magesa said the training is also currently being given to university students, at the first and second degree level, especially to learn how to provide services to patients with the disease.

TAMELASA calls on govt to introduce new curriculum for laboratory course

By Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIA Medical Laboratory Students Association (TAMELASA) has asked the government to come up with a new curriculum that will create a uniform duration for the laboratory course in all universities.

According to the association, currently, the graduation timeframe for the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science programme varies from one university to another, something which creates unwanted disturbance.

Ally Massoud, TAMELASA chairman, made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking during the Scientific Conference, exhibition and career fair event.

It was organised by TAMELASA with support from National Public Health Laboratory, DERIC 2000, Volt, and Kampala International University in Tanzania.

"We are calling for the government's intervention on this issue because in other universities, the course's duration take four years to graduate while in other universities it takes three years, as students we recommend the course duration to be four years in all universities to help Tanzania have

high qualified medical laboratory scientists who will provide accurate testing for patients," he said.

He said high quality health care begins with accurate testing; it is time for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to come up with a new curriculum that will be implemented in all universities/colleges that offer Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science within the country.

The students also called upon the government to assist them to purchase modern laboratory equipment that will be used in teaching and learning for medical laboratory scientists.

Currently, there is a shortage of modern medical laboratory equipment especially in government universities which can be used by students to put into practice the subjects they are studying.

He said, once the government purchases the modern lab equipment for government universities, "Government universities can collaborate with other universities or colleges to allow their students to use the equipment and put into practice what they have learnt and even prepare graduates to become

certified medical laboratory scientists (MLS)," he said.

According to him, the main goal is to help Tanzania to have highly qualified laboratory professionals.

He also cited lack of employment for medical laboratory scientists and volunteer work are the main challenges facing them.

"We recommend the government to provide more employment for medical laboratory scientists who will go to work in government's dispensaries, health centres and referral hospitals both in rural and urban areas within the country," he said.

Rashid Mfaume, Dar es Salaam Medical Officer (RMO) lauded TAMELASA for organizing the scientific conference that provides a platform for students and other stakeholders engaged in the health sector to share latest research, technology and best practices in medical laboratory science.

"You have done a commendable job and I was very impressed to visit the career fair and met with first and third-year students and have a face-to-face discussion with them, they are very competent for what they have learned in school, they have confidence and can explain what they have learned more effectively thanks to the universities that has offered best education for them," he said.

He called upon Dar es Salaam Based Company- Volt in collaboration with other stakeholders to sponsor students who are willing to conduct research or make presentations in local and international conferences to enable them show what they have and later on provide quality health care with accurate testing.

Mathew Mwalongo, TAMELASA's Chairperson at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) added that conference's theme was "Laboratory Diagnostic in Quality Healthcare, National Development and Global Health Security."

The theme underscores the critical role that medical laboratory science plays in ensuring quality healthcare, promoting national development, and enhancing global health security.



Nazareth Kitungulu (L) of Isaka and her mother Helena Kitungulu, both residents of Isaka village in Iringa District, pictured at the weekend heading back home from Ilambo village in Kiloilo District, where they had gone to buy beans for sowing in their family farm. Donkeys are not a very rare 'mode of transport' in the area, just as obtains in several other rural parts of Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA KILIMO
BODI YA SUKARI TANZANIA

Kumb. Na. SBT/DGO/VOL.II/40-15 Tarehe: 27 Aprili, 2023

TANGANZO LA MNADA WA HADHARA

Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa Bodi ya Sukari Tanzania anawatangazia wananchi wote wa Dar es Salaam na Umma kwa ujumla kuwa Bodi ya Sukari Tanzania itauza kwa njia ya mnada wa hadhara magari chakavu mawili (2) yaliyopo ofisi za Bodi ya Sukari Tanzania (Sukari House) Mtaa wa Sokoine Drive/Ohio **tarehe 20 Mei, 2023 saa nne asubuhi.**

Na.	Jina la Gari	Namba ya Usajili	Eneo husika
1.	Toyota Land Cruiser	SU 35667	Sukari House
2.	Toyota Land Cruiser	SU 36150	Sukari House

- Manada umepangwa kufanyika **tarehe 20 Mei, 2023 saa nne asubuhi** katika eneo la Sukari House Mtaa wa Sokoine Drive/Ohio Dar es Salaam.
- Mwananchi au Taasisi yoyote itakayooneshia nia ya kununua mali zilizotangazwa kuuzwa kwa mnada wa hadhara anaweza fika katika eneo lililotajwa hapo juu kwa ajili ya kukagua mali husika kuanzia muda wa **saa nne asubuhi (4:00) hadi saa kumi jioni (10:00) siku tano** kabla ya tarehe ya mnada.

Masharti ya Mnada:

- Gari zitauzwa kama zilivyo mahali zilipo.
- Mnunuzi atalazimika kulipa papohapo amana (deposit) isiyopungua asilimia ishirini na tano (25%) ya thamani ya gari alilonunua na kukamilisha malipo yote katika muda wa siku kumi na nne (14) kuanzia tarehe ya mnada. Mnunuzi akishindwa kutimiza sharti hilo atakosa haki zote za ununuzi wa gari husika na amana aliyolipia haitarudishwa.
- Mnunuzi atatakiwa kuondoa au kuchukua mali aliyonunua katika muda wa siku saba (7) kuanzia siku ya kukamilisha malipo.
- Mnada utanza saa nne (4:00) asubuhi siku ya Jumamosi tarehe 20 Mei, 2023 katika eneo la Sukari House.
- Gharama za kubadilisha umiliki (Transfer of Ownership), Kodi na gharama nyingine zote ni jukumu la mnunuzi.

MKURUGENZI MKUU

Barua zote zitumwe kwa Mkurugenzi Mkuu Bodi ya Sukari Tanzania, S. L. P. 4355, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Simu +255 0222111523/5, Barua Pepe: info@sbt.go.tz, Tovuti: www.sbt.go.tz

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Hopefully the 4.65bn/- being used to beef up NARCO will uplift the sector

PLANS announced recently of 1.1trn/- each year within the next three years in a bid to bail out struggling parastatals are already being put to work, as the predominantly moderate school of thought wins over the sharply reformist side. The government has thus moved to allocate 4.65bn/- to the National Ranching Co. Ltd (NARCO) for improvement of its activities, including the purchase of heifers for boosting the number of calves. They were chiefly supplied from local breeders, also an uplift.

The minister charged with the docket made this announcement whole on a tour of the flagship Kongwa Ranch in Dodoma Region lately, launching five tractors and viewing 1,000 cows purchased to improve cattle breeding at ranches operating under NARCO. It is as if NARCO was starting afresh, and given a fairly reliable meat market in the Middle East, anchoring the business with the ranch isn't quite negative, even if private producers could do the job. And they also need a market.

Hearing the minister praising the president for providing the funds to NARCO and thus enabling it to start to run commercially had a biting irony to it. Yet for lack of ability to remember or really to know, when it comes for the current generation, as to what has occurred in that parastatal agency and sector as a whole, the idea of commerce sort of beggars belief. And in strict economic that is just funding, not commercial capital as it would have to be provided on a competitive basis. Only then would it be clear it ought to be used competitively; that is what commerce is.

Were it that the conceptual parameter of the funding and of that activity itself was discussed in some detail, it would be clear that 4.65bn/- put in the central bank to beef up lending capacities of commercial banks, for meat farming or breeding for local markets and exports, would produce wonders. Borrowers who would already have farms would take up to 100m/- per ranch, and that kind of money, used in a prudent manner to buy heifers and equipment, can definitely do as much. But when a parastatal seeks money from the Treasury, the calculation is likely to be different.

In that case all other explanations are part of what is to be expected from socialist accounting, namely using public funds to boost the image of this or that agency for particular economic activity, for the simple reason that the money is ether. As this is still the dominant attitude that we as a nation still entertain, seeing things not in a commercial context but a patriotism, it isn't likely that economic reform can be pushed a great deal. That will be another business cycle, especially if the cash input doesn't make a big turnaround, or if private breeders suffice for export needs.

For reformists, the 4.5bn/- to NARCO cancels that alert that existing burdensome parastatals be privatized. There is another line of thinking which takes its cue from some of our traditional friends, that public entities be refinanced and sent rolling anew. In the circumstances it is this view of things which is likely to earn applause, as hardly anyone or group of stakeholders will query if this is credibly the best use of 4.6bn/- in liquid capital if it was placed in the banks.

Participation builds a better democracy

DEMOCRATIC societies emphasise the principle that all people are equal. Equality means that all people from around the world have identified the basic principles, which must exist in order to have a democratic government. These principles often become a part of the constitution or bill of rights in a democratic society.

As an ideal, democracy aims essentially to preserve and promote the dignity and fundamental rights of the individual, to achieve social justice.

Leaders of the Alliance for Change Tanzania (ACT - Wazalendo) have applauded Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for forming a bipartisan team to work on issues related to democracy and political harmony in the Isles. Indeed this is a welcome gesture for sustaining peace and stability in Zanzibar and Tanzania as a whole.

In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly resolved to promote and upholding the principles of democracy. The preamble of the resolution affirmed that while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region.

Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life.

Democracy may be a word familiar to most, but it is a concept still misunderstood and misused in a time when totalitarian regimes and military dictatorships alike have attempted to claim popular support by pinning democratic labels upon themselves. Yet the power of the democratic idea has

also evoked some of history's most profound and moving expressions of human will and intellect. In the dictionary definition, democracy is "government by the people in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system." In the phrase of Abraham Lincoln, democracy is a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Freedom and democracy are often used interchangeably, but the two are not synonymous. Democracy is indeed a set of ideas and principles about freedom, but it also consists of a set of practices and procedures that have been molded through a long, often tortuous history. In short, democracy is the institutionalisation of freedom. For this reason, it is possible to identify the time-tested fundamentals of constitutional government, human rights, and equality before the law that any society must possess to be properly called democratic.

Democracies fall into two basic categories, direct and representative. In a direct democracy, all citizens, without the intermediary of elected or appointed officials, can participate in making public decisions. Today, the most common form of democracy, whether for a town of 50,000 or nations of 50 million, is representative democracy, in which citizens elect officials to make political decisions, formulate laws, and administer programmes for the public good. In the name of the people, such officials can deliberate on complex public issues in a thoughtful and systematic manner that requires an investment of time and energy that is often impractical for the vast majority of private citizens.

Workers' Annual Salary Increment



Gender gap in academia: Glass ceilings and sticky floors

By Victoria Galán-Muros, Mathias Bouckaert and Jaime Roser

OVER the last decades, the global share of women among teaching staff in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) has increased from nearly 35 per cent in 1990 to close to 45 per cent in 2020. Yet, behind this overall positive trend lies a different reality for women as their career progression is often impeded by a series of 'glass ceilings and sticky floors'.

In recognition of International Women's Day last month, UNESCO-IESALC has published a policy brief to outline the current situation of gender inequalities in academia and to propose policy measures to increase women's access at all levels of academic positions.

Career progression in academia usually follows well-established paths, starting from PhD graduation to gradually move up to associate professor, full professor and academic leader positions. Each of

these steps requires going through promotion processes that can raise structural barriers to women's advancement.

To address the gender gaps in academic positions, governments can rely on a wide range of measures using five broad policy instruments: regulation, funding, information, provision of services and collaboration.

Overall, effective strategies to promote women representation in academic positions often require complementing general gender policies for the society as a whole as a baseline (by addressing violence against women, promoting work-life balance, addressing equal pay, etc.), with a range of specific measures targeting academia.

Among the policy measures targeting the academic sector, implementing monitoring systems to collect data on the distribution of women and men at different stages of academic careers is critical because the factors contributing to gender inequality in academia vary significantly between countries,

HEIs and across time.

Monitoring systems allow identifying where the gaps in gender equality occur and implement the most appropriate set of policies to address them.

If the gender gap is already present in student enrolment, policy would first need to address cultural and structural barriers that discriminate girls in the education system.

If the main gender gaps are identified at the PhD level or in early-career positions, policies should aim at increasing the attractiveness of the academic profession for women.

If the gender gaps occur at more senior academic positions, policies should focus on changing appointment practices in HEIs by requiring the use of a diversity of performance metrics or gender quotas.

Some governments also develop specific initiatives to support the progression of women in academia such as funding programmes or training, mentoring, and networking

opportunities to enhance women's opportunities to access leadership positions.

Many of these measures should be co-designed by governments and universities given the high autonomy of HEIs and their diversity.

The variety of policy options that governments can use to address gender inequalities in academia is further discussed in the latest policy brief from UNESCO IESALC, along with specific country examples.

Raising awareness on these different policies, as well as on their possible uses and limitations, is critical to feed the broader conversation about gender distribution in academia and fill the need for evidence-based strategies to end persistent inequalities.

Source: UNESCO Victoria Galán-Muros is Head of Policy Analysis and Technical Cooperation; Mathias Bouckaert is Analyst - Policy Analysis and Technical Cooperation; Jaime Roser is Junior Analyst - Policy Analysis and Technical Cooperation

By Naomi Ruth Pendle

WE all knew that there were political tensions. Yet none of us believed it enough to change our plans or everyday routines. None of us expected fighting to erupt. It was December 15 2013, and I was in South Sudan. Like many people there, I was distracted by plans for Christmas - what food would we eat, what plane would I take home. Then fighting erupted in the capital between factions of South Sudan's army. Familiar busy streets emptied to become a frightening, militarised landscape.

As governments struggle to get their citizens out of Sudan's capital Khartoum after two weeks of fighting that left hundreds dead, a friend and I have been exchanging messages about our memories of the 2013 evacuations.

In December 2013, fighting in Juba started in the evening. The next day everyone hid at home, shops closed and the streets remained empty of those who were not fighting.

From these places of temporary safety, we exchanged phone messages about who was controlling where, what might be happening, who might be fighting, and who might be fleeing. Major news outlets had no detailed information, but Twitter accounts flowed with eyewitness reporting (or claims of eyewitness reporting). We did not know and could not see what was happening. Yet people

I was evacuated from S. Sudan in 2013: Here is what I learned

started predicting if and where the conflict would spread across the country. An US food security analyst repeatedly had the best predictions. Our flimsy analysis felt less certain than ever - but also more crucial than ever.

I had been living in South Sudan, which became independent from Sudan in 2011, to research for a book on armed conflict and peace. The outbreak of armed conflict in Juba saw leaders from the areas where I had researched, and the youth they had mobilised, pitted against each other in war. Accusations quickly started flying about combatants carrying out atrocities against civilians. I fluctuated between being desperate to know friends were safe and absorbing these narratives which made villains of people that I previously trusted.

Then people started to think about provisions. Did we even know how long we would need food and water for? In 2013, my friends and I, as international researchers and aid workers, had good stocks or were staying in hotels that had food and water. South Sudanese with less money to keep their stores full, ran out more quickly. It is from these first moments of war and crisis that existing privilege intersects with safety and starts to shape who will live or die.

A South Sudanese colleague

working with me recently told me about hiding in her house in Juba in the mid-1990s during fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces and the then rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. The armed forces had told them to stay at home to avoid being caught in the crossfire and people who left their houses were shot. She described how people remained at home even to the point that some died because of the lack of water and food.

International exit plans For the US, UK and other nations, the ability to evacuate citizens to safety has become what is expected of them. In 2012, in the US mission in Benghazi, Libya, the US ambassador and three US nationals were killed. The media reported this as a political scandal tying US government legitimacy to US citizen's safety in times of war.

I am a British citizen but my evacuation from South Sudan in 2013 relied on personal contacts and friends in an NGO. We made mistakes when we negotiated our evacuation from South Sudan in 2013, but our contacts kept us safe in the end. We flew on an NGO-funded, small plane out of Juba. It was getting dark and we did not have enough fuel to fly directly to an airstrip with lighting. As we came into land on the dusty airstrip of Torit (the state capital of

Eastern Equatoria), a pick-up truck, mounted with a large gun, rushed out to meet us, its gun pointing up at the aeroplane. They did not shoot, but took us all at gunpoint to the governor. Luckily, we allowed us to stay safely for the night until we flew to Kenya the next day.

Not everyone evacuating Khartoum now will reach places of safety. Some have been evacuated to Europe. Others have found their way out to large African cities. But others who are travelling by land will end up in precarious conditions in camps or temporary settlements on the edge of cities, stuck at border points or just not knowing where to go. Hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese who have fled civil war now live in Sudan. For these people, going back to some parts of South Sudan, where war still continues, may be their best hope for safety.

For many people in Khartoum, the possibility of an embassy-led evacuation is not on offer. While the media's cameras are focused on dramatic flights out of the war zone, most of the world is not thinking about the people who are left behind in Sudan, where they will go, and how they will survive.

This article was written by Naomi Ruth Pendle, a lecturer in international development at the University of Bath.

We have to be stricter to keep out banned single-use plastics

OFFICIALLY, Tanzania banned single use plastics in June 2019. But let's be honest, are we not using plastics since the ban? When we go shopping in our suburb shops, what do we use as carrier bags?

Don't get me wrong, I don't mean all plastics but the banned ones. For, otherwise, our daily life is impossible without plastics. For food carriage, drinks, and other goods, our clothing items, in telecommunication, automobile and medical equipment, we cannot even imagine without plastics.

Like most people, we probably don't have a positive opinion on plastic packaging, do we? Plastics are stuck with a very bad reputation of destroying our environment and essentially threatening our lives. But whose fault is this? Can we really blame plastic or litter for our environmental pollution? It's really up to us and the investments we are ready to make in creating more sustainable solutions.

Many countries have started introducing laws to ban production and distribution of plastic bags to show that the problem of environmental pollution can no longer be ignored. In recent

years, plastic materials especially single use items—have been declared an enemy of the planet.

According to studies, not all plastics are an enemy of the environment. Plastics are a valuable resource that we need to keep in use but out of our environment. The problem is not the plastic, but the way we use it and dispose of it.

Let's see history behind how plastic use started. According to some studies, most items were made from wood or metal, making production times longer and transportation expensive due to their weight. Mass production of plastic promised the global population lighter and less expensive goods. This sparked a revolution to use plastics as a core material in manufacturing of toys, containers, carrier bags and much more.

We must not discourage plastic industry for all kinds of plastics because it can flourish and bring even more innovations of reusable plastics to the market. Single use plastic is the main problem that we need to solve.

Actually, plastic is a wonderful material that has made our lives better in so many ways. It is cheap, flexible, durable and inert. Plastic has been playing an important role in our day to day life



health suffers at every level of plastic products. Addiction to plastic worsens with each passing year. All kinds of cancers, diabetes, infertility, heart diseases are all linked to plastic use.

How to protect yourself from consuming poisonous polyethylene, some suggestions by studies are by limiting your consumptions of plastic packaging and your kitchen should be plastic free. In fact, we should all be involved in making simple changes to our daily life before it's too late.

Governments and local authorities should take drastic steps to control the importation and use of plastics. The future depends on us and the truth is that plastic will be with us for the next millennia. And the only option to limit the use and cleanse our planet is to completely ban the production of packaging, straws, and single use items that can be easily replaced with other materials.

Everyone can make a difference by choosing environmentally friendly products. If all of us did this, we would live in a more beautiful healthy, plastic-free world. Although indirectly plastics create problems in our lives but directly we are responsible for misusing

undoubtedly. It's very inexpensive, light weight, easy to carry and water proof. So, it is being used in all aspects of life.

But, according to studies, the problem is that plastic is not biodegradable. While degrading to fragments, it gets converted into macro plastics and nano plastics. The plastic waste is recognized as environmental hazards, as these macro and nano plastics find way from landfills to food and water.

So, it is natural to say we do not

only use plastics; we eat, drink and even breathe plastics too. According to experts, these micro plastics in body release certain hazardous chemical found to be disruptions in body functions and create diseases like diabetes, thyroid and infertility.

Disposal of plastics is an important and significant problem all over the world. According to research, out of both the domestic and industrial waste, plastics contribute to about 10 per cent of total

discarded waste and 80 per cent of it goes to landfills.

Plastic bags are the common problem among plastic use. Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine life, birds, land and sea animals, according to researchers. Same happens with plastic packages as they make mess for the marine life as well as animals on land and human beings.

Plastic is a health hazard not only to sea creatures but also to all of us. Research confirms that our



Pressing Issues
With
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How Tanzania stunned the world with Covid-19 vaccination feat

By Mark Mapambano

AS of early 2021, Tanzania had earned a tag of Covid-19 denier and vaccine hesitant country. Our country was on a list of countries that were accused of derailing global war against the pandemic.

"Tanzania's Covid-19 denial risks pulling Africa back," reads the headline of a story published online by WD on March 2, 2021 followed by this intro: "As President John Magufuli downplays the severity of the coronavirus, Tanzanians are waking up to the reality that the virus is spreading. Health experts now fear Tanzania's attitude could endanger the rest of Africa."

But a fortnight ago, the World Health Organisation declared Tanzania the best performer in the Covid-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership among 34 African nations whose vaccination rates were below 10 percent by January 2022.

Tanzania was among African countries with poor coverage of Covid-19 vaccination, with only 2.8 per cent of the total population having been vaccinated by mid-January 2022. Stunningly, this had increased to 49 per cent by the end of January 2023, according to the WHO.

So, how did our country pull off this feat? Well, according to Exemplars in Global Health magazine, the answer is political will and the new impetus brought about by then new president, Samia Suluhu Hassan, who took over on March 19, 2021 following the death of Magufuli.

"The country's new president (Samia) worked with partners, including the US Centers for Disease Control, and mobilized communities to accelerate vaccination," reads an article the magazine published on March 23 this year entitled 'After a slow start, Tanzania becomes a leader in Covid-19 vaccination.'

It should be remembered that Tanzania officially started vaccinating its population on July 28, 2021, being behind many African countries that started to roll out vaccination much earlier.

This followed the government's dramatic U-turn from rejecting vaccines which deniers, including politicians and rogue preachers, had termed as sinister plot against Tanzania and Africa.

After months of anti-vaccine rhetoric in the country fueled by fake news depicting negative effects, including possible infertility or death in future, changing the narrative was an uphill task.

In fact, there was hatuchanji (we're not getting vaccinated) movement led by rogue preachers and politicians. These folks were very loud and sought to convince Tanzanians that something sinister was behind the vaccination drive.

To debunk the myths and misinformation around vaccines, it took none other than president Samia. On July 28, 2021, Tanzania made history as the Head of State received her Covid-19 jab at State House Dar es Salaam and officially launched nationwide vaccination campaign.

Earlier, in June, Tanzania officially joined the global COVAX scheme for sharing vaccines with develop-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives Covid-19 vaccination at State House, Dar es Salaam, on July 28, 2021. File photo

ing nations, culminating in the delivery of its first batch of 1.06 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The president led top government officials, including cabinet ministers, in receiving the jab in an event that was broadcast live. To hammer the message and change the rhetoric, the president chose her words very carefully.

She picked an area that anti-vaccine crusaders used to spread fear—death. The president noted that as commander in chief of armed forces, as a mother and grandmother, she was duty-bound to ensure safety of every Tanzanian and couldn't in any way put any one's life in danger.

"Since we were born we have been vaccinated against a number of illnesses, including

yellow fever. So I do not see the reason why we should fear to be vaccinated, especially after our scientists have assured us of the safety of the vaccines," she said.

By publicly receiving the jab and articulately debunking the myths and misinformation about vaccines, the president apparently succeeded in convincing Tanzanians that vaccines are safe and almost everybody already has a jab or two.

That is why it came as no surprise when WHO announced that Tanzania had emerged as the best performer in the Covid-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership among 34 African countries that were below 10 percent by January 2022.

This real-life miracle underlines the impor-

importance of the role of national leader in weighty issues of life and death such as vaccination. For, after practically declaring that she was pro-vaccination, she brought in her corner important players such as health workers, politicians, religious leaders and local government authorities.

Also, her bravery and leadership lifted the spirits of health workers at the community level and this enabled vaccine providers to reach the beneficiaries at their doorsteps in urban and rural areas alike.

It should be remembered that before president Samia took that job publicly and launched the drive nationally, even senior government officials hardly spoke in support of vaccination. But after that one move, its

effect on national psyche was both positive and massive.

Consequently, Tanzanians saw all manner of vaccination promoters speaking out publicly. On the other hand, Covid-19 deniers and jab-effect fear mongers went dead silent.

The author is a political analyst based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

Media freedom is vital but have we passed peak press?

By Farhana Haque Rahman

PEAK oil was first up, followed by peak gas, gold and others, as if the world was draining natural resources like toilet roll panic buying in a lockdown supermarket. But should we now be worried about Peak Press?

Shifting and even intangible is it possible that we are already sliding downhill, and that moment of peak media freedom is disappearing in the rear-view mirror?

World Press Freedom Day, child of the UN General Assembly, marks its 30th birthday on May 3 - still relatively young, but definitely showing signs of wear and tear.

Measuring the state of its vital organs is not an exact science. The Paris-based non-profit media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) compiles an annual and thorough medical bulletin, and the latest check-up, country-by-country, makes for mostly alarming reading.

There are common denominators in all the ailments afflicting press freedom around the world, but with each region or continent seeming to specialise in certain characteristics.

Asia is particularly worrying, with the common theme of muscle-flexing autocrats vying for absolute control of information and exercising what RSF calls a dramatic deterioration of press freedom. Post-coup Myanmar and China are the world's biggest jailers of journalists. Afghanistan back under the Taliban is brutally repressive. North Korea brings up the rear of

the rankings, again.

Hong Kong, under China's imposition of the draconian national security law, fell 68 places in the RSF league table. Vietnam and Singapore also tightened their grip on the media.

Anuradha Bhasin, executive editor of The Kashmir Times recently wrote in The New York Times that his newspaper "may not survive Mr. Modi. His repressive media policies are destroying Kashmiri journalism, intimidating media outlets into serving as government mouthpieces and creating an information vacuum in our region of about 13 million people."

This year Pakistan was placed at 157 among 180 countries on RSF's World Press Freedom Index list. The country has been ruled by the military for more than half of its 75 years of independence since 1947. In a report last year, along with a list of global leaders who suppressed opposing voices, RSF named former Prime Minister Imran Khan as one of the "predators of press freedom".

Repression is dressed up in legislation as seen in Bangladesh's Digital Security Act, passed in 2018 and applied to journalists, activists and others. Two days after a journalist with Prothom Alo was detained, the UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk called on Bangladesh to suspend application of the DSA immediately.

Where Asia can be ruthless and draconian, it is lawlessness and societal fragmentation that make parts of Latin America the most dangerous place for journalists. Mexico



Farhana Haque Rahman

and Haiti lead the way. At least 67 journalists and media workers were killed in 2022, an increase of almost 50 percent on 2021, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Research published by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism found that 30 to 42 media workers were killed in Latin America in the line of duty.

Rocio Gallegos, a journalist and co-founder of La Verdad Juárez, an investigative journalism outlet in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, was quoted as saying the situation is desperate and complex, not just due to growing conditions for violence, but because there

is "less and less support from society towards journalists and journalism."

Courageous reporters like Gallegos and the underground citizen journalists covering Myanmar's horrific civil war inspire us, and lend hope to the survival of the ideals of a free press.

But it is in the West, the cradle of a free media, that we can feel most cynicism over the frightening erosion of media credibility led by its very own moguls and conglomerates.

The wanton and deliberate peddling of conspiracy theories over the 2020 US election results by Fox News

(among others) was laid bare by the defamation case brought by Dominion Voting Systems. Fox settled out of court for \$787 million in damages. Its lies were not trivial as we know. Five people died as a result of the January 2021 storming of the US Capitol by a mob of Donald Trump's supporters.

Democracies need truth-telling media to flourish, and it was telling that much of the media coverage focused instead on 92-year-old Rupert Murdoch and his family succession machinations.

Fox News was - and quite possibly will remain - the ultimate mainstream player in

the theatre of performance media, where facts don't get in the way of a good conspiracy.

The recent demise of BuzzFeed News and its Pulitzer-prize winning department can also be seen as marking the end of an era. The suggestion by its founder, Jonah Peretti, that there may not be a sustainable business model for high-quality online news should be ringing alarm bells everywhere.

To add to this potentially toxic mix, where social media platforms become a blurry cauldron of conspiracy theories and state-sponsored disinformation, we now have to

contend with the new disruptive age of ChatGPT.

The polarisation of the press in the West and its weaponisation in superpower conflicts are highly damaging trends. Russia's arrest of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and China's detention of Taiwan publisher Li Yanhe are the most recent examples. A possible Biden-Trump rematch in the 2024 US elections, and the dangerous deterioration in Sino-US relations threaten to exacerbate both polarisation and weaponisation of the media.

As for Peak Oil - the world may have passed that point already, and economists are debating whether 2019 was when overall fossil fuel demand reached its zenith. There are many reasons for this historic shift, not least that the alternatives, such as renewable energy, are becoming cheaper.

But what is the substitute for a free and healthy press - the lifeblood of free and healthy societies? The alternatives are clearly on view all around us and they don't look good.

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By Andrew Firmin

Fiji: Is it deeper democracy or continuing danger?

IT'S been a time of significant change in Fiji following the country's December 2022 election. A close vote was followed by the formation of a new coalition government. Frank Bainimarama was out as prime minister after 16 years, replaced by Sitiveni Rabuka.

Rabuka was hardly a new face, having been prime minister in the 1990s, and both Bainimarama and Rabuka had previously led military coups. For Fiji's civil society, the question was whether this political shift would bring improvements in civic and democratic freedoms. Bainimarama's government had shown itself increasingly intolerant of dissent.

People who criticised the government were subjected to harassment and arrest. In July 2021, nine opposition politicians were arrested, questioned and accused of inciting unrest. In 2020, opposition party offices were raided by police in response to social media posts critical of the government.

The outgoing government used the Public Order Act to restrict protests, including by opposition parties. The Fiji Trade Union Congress was repeatedly denied permission

to march and its leader charged with public order offences. Police often used excessive force against protests, with impunity. There was, in short, much room for improvement.

Positive steps on media freedom

The most encouraging move so far is the repeal of the Media Industry Development Act. This law, passed under the Bainimarama government, established a highly interventionist government-controlled media regulator. Journalists could be jailed for two years and media outlets slapped with heavy fines if their reporting was judged to go against the national or public interest - vague terms open to broad interpretation. This encouraged self-censorship.

The law was one of the main reasons Fiji was the lowest-ranking Pacific Island nation on Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index. Media freedom constraints came from the top, with the government favouring state-aligned media, including by withholding advertising from more critical outlets.

Now the media and civil society will be looking for the government to go further. A seditious law that can bring extensive jail sentences remains in need of reform. And beyond this, the government needs to actively support the development of independent Fijian media, including through the fairer distribution of ad spending.

The new government has also moved to rebuild relationships with trade unions. In February it confirmed it would re-establish an effective tripartite forum that brings together government, trade unions and employers; its predecessor was accused of not taking this seriously. The new government has said it will bring to an end the harassment, intimidation and arrest of union leaders. Unions will work to hold the government to these promises.

A fall from grace

These changes have come against a backdrop of continuing political polarisation. It's been quite the journey for Bainimarama since losing power. In February he was suspended from parliament. This came after he used his first

speech as leader of the opposition to deliver a stinging critique of Fiji's president, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere.

In his speech, Bainimarama appealed to the military to 'not forsake their constitutional role'. This seemed a coded plea for military intervention: the 2013 constitution, introduced by Bainimarama, gives the military the power to intervene to ensure the 'safety and security of the country'. When he was still prime minister, as post-electoral negotiations were taking place, Bainimarama had ordered the military onto the streets.

Bainimarama's response to his suspension was to resign from parliament. But he made clear his intent to stay politically active and remains party leader.

Last month Bainimarama was charged with abuse of office while prime minister. He was granted bail after pleading not guilty. He's alleged to have intervened to stop a police investigation into alleged corruption at the University of the South Pacific. Police Commissioner Sitiveni Tukaituraga Qiliho, currently suspended, is also charged with abuse of office for the same

case and has also pleaded not guilty.

Dangers ahead

The obvious danger is that Bainimarama, no longer confined by parliamentary niceties, could seek to stir unrest through sensationalism and disinformation, which could offer a pretext for his supporters in the military to intervene. The spectre of military rule is never far away in Fiji. There have been four coups since independence in 1970. Rabuka led two in 1987 and then Bainimarama headed coups in 2000 and 2006. In this context, it's ominous that in January the head of the army expressed concern about 'sweeping changes' being introduced by the new government.

On all occasions the pretext for coups has been ethnic unrest, with Fiji's population broadly divided between Indigenous Fijians and people of Asian heritage. Civil society and the international community will need to stay alert to any attempts to foster division and mobilise one population group against the other.

At the same time the new gov-

ernment needs to beware of fueling narratives that it's being vindictive towards Bainimarama and his party. There's a need to ensure that diverse points of view can be aired - including from the new opposition. As a former coup leader, Rabuka needs to keep proving his commitment to democracy.

What happens next in Fiji is of concern not just for Fijians but for the region, since the country is a major hub and host of key regional institutions. China and the USA, along with Australia, are trying to build closer relations with Fiji as they compete for influence among Pacific Island nations. So whether Fiji becomes more democratic and opens up civic space matters.

In these early days of the new government there can be no room for complacency. Fiji's civil society must be supported and enabled as a vital democratic force. And it must keep on engaging constructively to ensure that government promises are followed by deeds that advance rights.

Andrew Firmin is CIVICUS Editor-in-Chief, co-director and writer for CIVICUS Lens and co-author of the State of Civil Society Report.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

TAHA leading the way in implementing programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE key player in horticulture industry has joined forces with Horti-Tengeru College to implement an ambitious Tanzania's Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT-YIA) programme.

Idea behind TAHA to support the Ministry of Agriculture initiated BBT-YIA programme is to impart youth with agri-business skills necessary to venture into a multi-million-dollar industry.

TAHA's agronomists are currently busy offering practical agri-business skills to 36 out of 812 youth who were selected by the Ministry of Agriculture to join the BBT-YIA programme countrywide.

"We've commenced comprehensive practical trainings on good agricultural practices through TAHA's proven technologies as well as entrepreneurship and marketing skills to 36 selected youth to empower them to tap into \$779 million industry," said TAHA CEO, Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi.

Dr. Mkindi said that TAHA also provides training on financial literacy, records keeping, contract farming, research and policy advocacy skills as part of its comprehensive training package crucial for youth to venture into horticulture value chains of their choices.

TAHA package also includes the post-harvest loss management, nutrition and gender inclusion, standards and food safety (Global.G.A.P) as well as



perishable handling skills.

Training aside, TAHA is also involved in developing the infrastructure at Horti-Tengeru, one of national incubation hubs designed for training youth in agribusiness through BBT programme.

"We have developed the key infrastructure such as green houses for seedling nursery, install drip irrigation, and cover water reservoir with green shade net to avoid algae development at Horti-Tengeru model farm to provide practical knowledge on horticultural farming

for 36 youth" Dr. Mkindi noted.

TAHA will also facilitate exposure visits to commercial horticultural estates in the northern Tanzania and to the regulatory bodies such as Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Bureaus of standards (TBS), Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) and Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Author-

ity (TPHPA).

Launched in August 2022 by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, the BBT-YIA program is poised to become a beacon of hope and inspiration for other African nations as they strive to address their agricultural challenges.

Agriculture Minister, Hussein Bashe says BBT-YIA's strategic objectives are to inspire youth through implementing behavior/attitude changing communication strategy, empower youth through training mentoring and coaching.

Engage youth in profitable and sustainable management of agribusinesses, Bashe explains, adding that enable youth-led enterprises by improving business environment; and coordinate effectively youth agribusiness support initiatives for synergy and efficiency.

BBY-YIA will see establishment and development of block farms for youth minimum of five acres in each region and later at each district.

The Minister further says that the programme will also witness the development of Youth Agribusiness Parks (YAP) to enable access of agricultural land for youth as the government has set aside over 77,000 hectares of irrigated land for youth through different schemes.

Implementations of BBT-YIA will hands-on trainings focusing on providing youth in agribusiness skills with close mentorship and coaching from experienced international and local experts in agribusiness.

Strategy is to establish BBT-YIA youth start-up and growth catalyst fund to mobilize at least 72 billion and over 15,000 start-up capital applications to be processed and access funds.

Maasai women see increased GBV: Climate change affects livelihoods

By Jenifer Gilla

BEFORE drought hit Lumbwa village in Longido District, Arusha Region, life for a 23-year-old, Naishoki Palagiki was fine.

Naishoki says in 2022, her life changed completely due to severe drought that hit the area affecting pastures for the livestock and various human activities.

She says a number of cattle died due to the challenge and these are the ones which the family was depending to survive. The cattle succumbed to death due to lack of enough pastures and water caused by prolonged drought that hardly hit the entire northern part of Tanzania.

At that time, Naishoki-mother of three started experiencing torture from her husband including beating especially when she was coming later after walking long distance to search for pasture and water.

She says life for the spouses became sour as her husband accused her of betraying their marriage.

In August 2022, after 15 cattle died due to the effects of prolonged drought, Naishoki's husband abandoned the family. Her husband was the sole breadwinner. He disappeared

to seek for greener pastures in urban centres, but life continued to be miserable on the other side and he couldn't maximise his dreams of bringing something home.

"At that time, I was spending the whole day looking for pasture for the remaining animals, however things were not good as some livestock were dying on the way. I also had to take care of our children alone," she narrates.

Naishoki is among many women in northern Tanzania who have experienced increasing abuse from their husbands due to prolonged drought. The drier it gets, the more time they spend looking for water and pasture, and the more violence they face at home.

Arusha Regional Administration Secretary (RAS), Misaila Musa once said that by December 10, 2022 up to 4,705 incidents of violence and sexual violence were reported, of which 4,013 incidents affected women and girls, while 692 related to men and boys.

Neema Saitabau, a 36-year-old has a similar story. Every day has to walk long distances to search for water for drinking and other domestic uses, but when she comes home late, her husband assaults her. "My husband beats me al-

most every day claiming that I come back home late while he is quite aware of the drought situation. We are forced to wake up every day to search for water, the journey is long, so if I leave at seven in the morning I come back at five to find the children and husband nearly starving. That is the reason for the beating," Neema says.

Neema says searching for water not only exposes women to violence at home, but also rape, especially when they seek water in the springs located nearly 12 kilometres away, near the irrigated agricultural fields of Ngarenanyuki and Ngabobo.

"My daughter has survived of being raped twice by young men who work in a tomato farm. Drought has caused water to become a problem for us, so our daughters have been waking up early in the morning to search for the basic needs," she explains.

According to a report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global warming above 1.5°C triggers an increase in natural disasters and subsequent devastation in communities around the world.

The effects also lead to a higher risk of gender-based

violence due to increased stress in communities, leading to patriarchal practices such as child marriage and intimate partner violence.

This was the case for 42-year-old Nasupati Lomnyaki of Matadi village in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region whose daughter dropped out of school last year after being impregnated by her brother-in-law.

According to Nasupati, the man lured her daughter that she would be cured of nose bleeding if she had sex with him and the young lady agreed because she had no option as the disease often worsened during hot weather.

But, instead of getting healed, the girl end-up getting pregnant.

Simel ole Kitasho, Maasai traditional leader in Siha and Longido districts says for the past ten years, drought has affected many Maasai households and many have lost their herds and livelihoods.

According to Ole Kitasho, between 2020 and 2022 herders in Arusha and Manyara regions lost 1,874 cows due to the drought that touched off widespread loss of pasture and water.

Joseph Mabiti, Siha District Administrative Secretary (DAS) says in the entire decade, many Maasai men abandoned their families and fled to urban areas and cities where they engage in petty businesses and are not supporting their families back home.

The burden of taking care of families has left in the hands of poor women and children, Mabiti says.

The DAS is of the view that climate change left Maasai women in hardships, which can be equated to GBV in that sense.

The Tanzania GBV assessment by the World Bank found that 40 per cent of women aged 15-49 years have experienced physical violence, 17 per cent have experienced sexual violence, and 44 per cent have experienced either physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Moreover, nearly one in three girls experience sexual violence before the age of 18.

Spousal violence prevalence is highest in rural areas, averaging 52 per cent while the prevalence in urban areas averages 45 per cent.

Consolatha Kinabo, coordinator for 'Promoting Equality for Human Rights Education' at TUSONGE Community Development Organisation (CDO) that provides gender awareness education in pe-

ripheral areas of the two regions, says despite the great work being done to break down stereotypes and to criticise violent actions, more effort is needed to stem increase in violent incidents.

Consolatha says TUSONGE has recommended that village and ward authorities provide legal education and explain effects of sexual violence on women and children. The organisation has also recommended a review of traditions such as polygamy, child marriage and female genital mutilation that promote gender-based violence.

"To mitigate the effects of climate change that trigger drought and violence," says Noel Kikware, the Environmental Officer for the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) in the northern zone.

He says the council is extending environmental education to the community focusing on areas most affected by the drought conditions. "Spreading education to young people and others in drought-prone areas is a helpful tool in conveying the message to the entire community of residents of the northern regions of Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara and Tanga. The

environmental agenda is for everyone. You can see for yourself that the temperature has increased rapidly and caused drought."

"The northern regions have witnessed water sources drying up. There is no feed for livestock and economic activities have declined, while women and children are victims of sexual violence in the search for water or pasture in the surrounding areas, day and night," he explains.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is also implementing a climate change project that invests in water infrastructure to reduce the interaction between humans and animals.

Novat Kessy, WWF project manager says that the project builds communities' ability to deal with climate change.

With the dams, water can be stored for use during drought and save the herders and farmers from walking long distances.

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First-ever practical training on controlled delivery for sleuths underway in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE one-week specialised training on controlled delivery is currently underway, with seventeen participants in attendance. The individuals are drawn from various agencies namely wildlife, forestry, customs, police and drug enforcement/anti-narcotics in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The programme, which is the first of its kind in Africa, is designed to provide practical training and is part of a series of capacity building events organized and facilitated by Lusaka Agreement Task Force, Grace Farms Foundation and University of Washington and funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Global Wildlife Programme and Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The aim of these programmes is to enhance skills and knowledge of law enforcement personnel, responsible for combating organised wildlife crime in the

region, in undertaking wildlife crime investigations including financial investigations and executing asset forfeiture. The programme also seeks to cultivate synergy, foster cooperation and build capacity among the participants.

It involves practical and classroom training on Controlled Delivery, Undercover, Surveillance, Financial Investigation, Search and Arrest Warrants and DNA Analysis/Forensic Examinations as well as mentoring of law enforcement officers in the three countries to effectively follow up on seaport and airport wildlife seizures and promote international cooperation on wildlife crime investigations.

Awadhi Juma Haji, Commissioner of Police - Operations and Training, representing the Inspector General of Tanzania Police Force, reiterated that bolstering capacity and collaboration among law enforcement agencies through increased surveillance and information sharing is a crucial step towards ef-



Commissioner of Police Operations and Training at the Tanzania Police Force, Awadhi Juma Haji (C) speaks during the launch of one-week training for experts from law enforcement agencies from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda on reducing maritime trafficking of wildlife from Africa to Asia in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Looking on is chief accountability officer and justice initiative director at Grace Farms Foundation, Rod Khattabi (L) and the director for Lusaka Agreement Task Force, Edward Phiri. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

fectively fighting the scourge of wildlife crime.

He observed that success in combating wildlife crime requires cooperative enforcement efforts, and we must work together and pool our scarce financial, human, and information resources.

"The sophistication and scope of organized criminal syndicates far outweigh the individual capacities of agencies and point to the fact that illegal wildlife trade is increasingly becoming a challenge and seriously undermining our law enforcement efforts. The key to addressing this challenge lies in implementing effective and best practices in cooperative law enforcement, which are essential for proactive, well-planned, and purposeful enforcement interventions," said Edward Phiri, director of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force.

He also acknowledged that the training provides an opportunity for participants to share their accomplishments, expertise, knowledge and experiences related to operations, intelligence and investigations.

Rod Khattabi pointed out that innovative training is a panacea for effective law enforcement.

He reiterated that this training, which is a first in Africa involving real time scenario planning, role

play and execution in the field, will equip the participants with requisite hands-on and practical skills in undertaking complex investigations.

The UNDP representative emphasized that law enforcement is essential in mitigating illicit wildlife trade. It is inevitable to do this through enhanced international and interagency cooperation, he added.

He affirmed that UNDP's port project will continue to support such capacity building activities nationally and internationally.

According to GEF, the value of illegal trade has been estimated at between USD7 and USD23 billion per year, making wildlife crime one of the most lucrative illegal businesses, often run by sophisticated, international, and well-organized criminal networks seeking to exploit the high rewards and low risks of the trade. Wildlife criminals target elephants, rhinos, pangolins, various bird species, timber and other assorted plants for smuggling out of Africa to a number of destinations in Asia.

Up skilling enforcement officers is therefore integral in stamping out this vice that is depriving countries enormous resources that would otherwise be useful in sustainable economic development.

Acting as a force for reconciliation, peace and harmony in the Middle East

By Lin Rui and Ni Tao

WITH China's support, Saudi Arabia and Iran held talks in Beijing from March 6 to 10. On March 10, Saudi Arabia and Iran reached an agreement, and the three countries signed and released a joint statement announcing that Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to resume diplomatic relations between them and carry out cooperation in various fields. On April 6, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang witnessed the signing of a joint statement between Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Beijing. The two countries announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with immediate effect.

China's successful mediation of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran has been highly praised by the international community. Wang Di, Director-General of the Department of West Asian and North African affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was interviewed by People's Daily. He spoke about the background and process of China's mediation to promote the resumption of Saudi Arabia-Iran diplomatic relations and what role China will play in the future Middle East.

Following is the full text of the interview:

Q: Saudi Arabia and Iran have resumed diplomatic relations. The international community highly praised China's significant role in the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries. What is the background of China's mediation efforts? Could you talk about the details of the mediation?

A: The Middle East has the most hotspot issues in the world. These hotspot issues have been around for a long time with various conflicts intertwined, making it very difficult to find a proper solution. Meanwhile, some major countries outside the region have been stirring up conflicts in this region and deliberately creating bloc confrontations for their own interests, resulting in long-term turbulence and great suffering of the people in the region.

Against this backdrop, it is the common aspiration of the people in this region to pursue peace and development and take control of their own future. Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia and Iran have the will to resolve conflicts and contradictions through dialogue and consultation. They expect that responsible major countries will actively facilitate talks for peace to promote long-term stability in the region.

In December last year, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Saudi Arabia. In February this year, President Xi hosted Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on his visit to China. During these visits, President Xi made personal efforts with the lead-



Wang Yi (C), a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, attends a closing meeting of the talks between the Saudi delegation led by Mousa bin Mohammed Al-Aiban (L), Saudi Arabia's Minister of State, Member of the Council of Ministers and National Security Advisor, and Iranian delegation led by Admiral Ali Shamkhani (R), Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, in Beijing, capital of China, March 10, 2023. (Photo: Xinhua)

ers of the two countries to support the development of good neighborly relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. In the specific process of mediating the dialogue and promoting the resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, China has played an impartial, fair and balanced role as a reliable mediator.

As you may have noticed, at the closing meeting of the talks between the Saudi delegation and the Iranian delegation in Beijing on March 10, the seats of the Chinese, Saudi and Iranian delegations were arranged in an equilateral triangle, which reflects China's consistent position of advocating equality and mutual respect between nations.

In addition, at the group photo session of the closing meeting, China's top diplomat Wang Yi shook hands with both heads of the Saudi and Iranian delegations, symbolizing breaking the ice in Saudi-Iranian relations with the support of China. On April 6 when the Saudi-Iranian foreign ministers' meeting was held in Beijing, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang held hands tightly with his two counterparts, symbolizing melting the ice of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Qatar's Al Jazeera borrowed the famous words of the Prophet Mohammed, "Seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China" and praised "Seek peace, even if you have to go as far as China."

All this fully shows that China's mediation efforts have been fully recognized by both Saudi Arabia and Iran and are widely welcomed by countries and people in the region. China will continue to help Saudi Arabia and Iran take solid steps to improve their ties, create a better future and jointly promote security and development in the Middle East.

Q: What are China's unique advantages in the successful mediation and why did China's proposals receive positive responses from both countries?

A: Over the long term, China's diplomacy with the Middle East, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, has accumulated significant political and moral advantages.

Firstly, China upholds fairness and justice. China has always emphasized abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respecting the sovereignty and independence of the Middle Eastern countries and the independent choice of the Middle Eastern people, and promoting political solutions to hotspot issues.

Secondly, China encourages unity and self-improvement. China actively develops relations with various Middle Eastern countries, actively promotes peace talks, and supports their independent exploration of solutions that all parties can accept.

Thirdly, China seeks win-win cooperation. The fruitful cooperation between China and Middle Eastern countries in building the Belt and Road Initiative and the pragmatic cooperation in various fields have achieved a higher-quality and deeper integration of interests.

Fourthly, China advocates for inclusiveness and mutual learning. China and the Middle Eastern countries have strengthened dialogue between civilizations, exchanged experiences in governance, and jointly opposed the theory of clash of civilizations, Islamophobia and the linking of terrorism to specific ethnic or religious groups, which has effectively promoted people-to-people connectivity.

These efforts have enabled China to establish friendly relations with various Middle Eastern countries and win broad trust. Mid-

dle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia and Iran trust China as a fair mediator and are willing to listen to China's suggestions and proposals.

Q: In an interview with The Washington Post, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger compared the significance of the restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran to Nixon's visit to China. Kissinger said, "China has in recent years declared that it needs to be a participant in the creation of the world order," and "It has now made a significant move in that direction." Does the successful mediation of the resumption of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran mean that China's diplomacy will play a greater and more proactive role in international affairs?

A: The small step of shaking hands and making peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a big step for humanity to overcome conflicts and achieve reconciliation. For China, the successful mediation of the restoration of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a significant diplomatic practice in implementing China-proposed Global Security Initiative in the Middle East, demonstrating China's responsibility as a major country for promoting progress for humanity and seeking harmony for the world, and providing a significant positive impact for a turbulent world.

Today, the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century and human society is at a new crossroads. In the face of complex changes in the world, times and history, China will always adhere to its foreign policy goals of upholding world peace and promoting common development and is committed to promoting building a community with a shared future for mankind. China will stay committed to building a world of lasting peace through dialogue and consultation, a world of universal security through collaboration and shared benefits, a world of common prosperity through mutually beneficial cooperation, an open and inclusive world through exchanges and mutual learning, and a clean and beautiful world through green and low-carbon development. China will continue to play a constructive role in resolving current global hotspot issues in accordance with the wishes of all countries and will continue to bring new opportunities from the development of China to other countries including Middle Eastern countries.

Q: The relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran has experienced twists and turns in history, affected by political entanglements and religious and historical factors that have existed for thousands of years. What challenges do you think their bilateral relations will face after their resumption of diplomatic relations through China's mediation? What role will China play in promoting relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and peace and stability in the Middle East in the future?

A: Saudi Arabia and Iran are close neighbors in the Persian Gulf and have major influence in the Middle East and the Gulf region. In recent years, the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran has encountered some setbacks, but looking back on their exchanges that lasted for thousands of years, friendly exchanges are the mainstream. In particular, Saudi Arabia and Iran have jointly launched several mechanisms such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which promoted the unity and cooperation of developing countries in related fields.

The reconciliation and resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and

Iran has turned a new page in the relations between the two countries, set a good example for resolving contradictions and differences via dialogue and consultation, and strengthened the momentum of reconciliation and dialogue in the Middle East, which has been widely supported by the people in the region and highly praised by the international community. We are glad to see that after the resumption of diplomatic relations, delegations from the two countries have visited each other and the two countries prepared to reopen embassies and missions. The two heads of state have received visit invitations from each other, further consolidating the momentum of improving bilateral relations.

A long journey can be covered only by taking one step at a time. An Arab saying goes, "People who act patiently will realize their wishes", and the Persian proverb says "With time and patience, the mulberry leaf becomes satin." It is believed that with the joint efforts of the two countries, Saudi-Iranian relations will continue to take firm steps on the path of good neighborliness, and China is willing to continue to play a constructive role in this regard. Meanwhile, China will continue to uphold justice, contribute Chinese wisdom, put forward Chinese proposals and play our due role in seeking settlement of the region's other hotspot issues. China will be a facilitator for peace and stability, a cooperative partner for development and prosperity, and an enabler for building strength through unity.

Q: What are the main objectives of China's participation in coordinating regional affairs in the Middle East at the current stage? What approach has China adopted?

A: The Middle East is located in a prominent and strategic position. With its abundant energy resources, hotspot issues have emerged. Therefore, the region is in an important position in the global landscape in terms of politics, economics, energy and security. Its security and stability are not just about the residents' well-being, but about the peace and development of the whole world.

China and Middle Eastern countries are good friends and good partners. Both sides have built a strong basis for political mutual trust. We have been witnessing fruitful results yielded from the Belt and Road Initiative and exchanges between our civilizations. So far, China has established comprehensive strategic partnerships or strategic partnerships with 12 countries in this region.

In December 2022, the first China-Arab States Summit was successfully held. China and Arab states agreed to make all-out efforts to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era and to raise their comprehensive cooperation, common development and future-oriented China-Arab strategic partnership to a new level.

For years, China has been committed to promoting the political settlement of regional hotspot issues and promoting the stability and development of the Middle East. In recent years, China has proposed a five-point initiative on achieving security and stability in the Middle East, a four-point proposal for the political settlement of the Syria issue, a three-point vision for the implementation of a two-state solution between Palestine and Israel, and the establishment of a multilateral dialogue platform for the Persian Gulf region. China has also been advocating a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture in the Middle East. All these efforts have been welcomed and affirmed by the Middle Eastern countries.

People's Daily

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

BUSINESS

Economists divided over global economic recovery

GENEVA

THE continuing uncertainty of the global economic outlook is reflected in the striking spread of responses to the latest Chief Economists Outlook, released yesterday.

In a survey featured in the report, experts are evenly divided on the prospects for the global economy, with equal shares of 45 percent saying that a global recession this year is likely or unlikely.

Chief economists expect both growth and inflation dynamics to vary widely across regions, while on the economic policy front, 72 percent predict proactive industrial policy to become an increasingly widespread phenomenon over the next three years.

Although the majority do not see recent financial-sector disruption as a sign of systemic vulnerability, further bank failures and turbulence are considered

likely this year.

There has been a notable strengthening in growth expectations since the Chief Economists Outlook: January 2023, but the outlook differs sharply across regions.

The most buoyant activity is expected in Asia, with China's reopening expected to drive a significant rebound for the country and to bolster activity across the continent.

More than 90 percent of the chief economists expect at least moderate growth in both East Asia and Pacific and South Asia.

At the other end of the spectrum, three-quarters of the chief economists still expect weak or very weak growth in Europe.

In the United States, respondents were more optimistic in March-April than in January but are still divided on the outlook, with US growth prospects clouded

by heightened uncertainty on financial stability and the likely pace and extent of monetary tightening.

On inflation, there was a marked uptick in all regions in the proportion of respondents expecting high inflation in 2023, and 76 percent of chief economists said they expect the cost of living to remain acute in many countries.

Headline rates have begun to ease, but core inflation has been stickier than many expected.

The dynamics are particularly stark in Europe and the US, where large majorities of the

chief economists (90 percent and 68 percent respectively) expect high or very high inflation this year. China remains an outlier on inflation, with only 14 percent expecting high inflation this year.

In the wake of recent bank collapses and financial market turbulence, chief economists expressed confidence in the systemic integrity of global markets.

However, two-thirds highlighted the likelihood of further bank failures and disruption, while more than 80 percent said they expect businesses to find bank loans more difficult to secure as a result of tightening lending

criteria. They also pointed to the knock-on effects of high interest rates, notably in the property sector, where two-thirds expect high rates to cause significant disruption in 2023-2024.

The chief economists were unanimous in anticipating further changes in the structure of global supply chains. When asked which business strategies they expect to contribute to this recon-

figuration, they highlighted adaptation to geopolitical fault lines (94 percent), the prioritization of resilience over efficiency (91 percent), diversification of suppliers (84 percent) and an increased fo-

cus on environmental sustainability (77 percent).

They also pointed to the increasing significance of proactive industrial policy, with almost three-quarters expecting it to become a widespread approach to economic policy around the world.

Respondents were divided on whether industrial policy will act as an engine of innovation, but they highlighted several potential concerns, including a deepening of geo-economic tensions (91 percent), the stifling of competition (70 percent) and a problematic increase in sovereign debt levels (68 percent).

"The latest edition of the Outlook highlights the uncertainty of current economic developments," said Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, World Economic Forum. "Labour markets are proving resilient for now, but growth remains sluggish, global tensions are deepening, and the cost of living remains acute in many countries. These results confirm the urgent need for both short-term global policy coordination as well as longer-term cooperation around a new framework for growth that will hardwire inclusion, sustainability and resilience into economic policy."

The World Economic Forum's Growth Summit, taking place in Geneva 2-3 May, will address the global growth outlook, hotspots in the global economy, and questions of competition and cooperation, as well as employment, skills and equity.



Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, World Economic Forum.

AfDB, Africa fintechs network sign \$525,000 grant agreement

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank has signed a \$525,000 grant agreement with Africa Fintech Network (AFN) for the setup of the Africa Fintech Hub, an online portal that will serve as a one-stop shop for all fintech activities in Africa.

The Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Facility (ADFI) will provide funding and technical assistance to the Africa Fintech Network to host and manage the African Fintech Hub.

The hub is a digital platform that will enable fintech associations across Africa to pool resources and knowledge, strengthen relationships and partnerships, as well as showcase the work of fintech on the continent, including those which are female-led or owned.

The African Fintech Hub will be delivered through a strategic partnership between AFN and the Centre for Financial Regulation and Inclusion (Cenfri), which will provide technical support in the development of the Hub, as well as promote research, knowledge creation and other innovative initiatives.

Lamin Barrow, Director General of the African Development Bank's Nigeria Country Department, underscored the importance of the Bank's support to the project, saying it would contribute to strengthening the fintech ecosystem in Africa, boost competitiveness in the digital world, whilst leveraging partnerships.

"At the African Development Bank, we recognize



African Development Bank headquarters in Abidjan

that we have a major role to play in helping to create a robust, efficient and sustainable fintech ecosystem across the continent. We are accelerating the delivery of our High 5 strategic priorities through our various innovative interventions. These have helped improve access to digital infrastructure, including Information and Communications Technology linkages to landlocked countries and broadband internet services. The need to leapfrog barriers and scale up inclusive digital financial solutions to accelerate economic resilience across Africa has

become even more urgent."

The African Development Bank, together with its partners, launched the Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Facility to make catalytic investments in support of innovative ideas such as the Africa Fintech Hub Project aimed at expanding access and usage of digital financial solutions to meet the needs of all Africans.

Dr Segun Aina, President of Africa Fintech Network, commended the Bank for supporting the initiative.

"We are truly excited about this partnership with the African Development Bank, and the possibilities of working in partnership with Cenfri on multiple initiatives with fintech across Africa to further our mission to drive Africa-led fintech solutions, stimulate information exchange, ideation and the support and to promote innovative technologies within the financial services sector across Africa and beyond."

ADFI Coordinator, Sheila Okiro, said the Bank, through the partnership of the Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Facility, is delighted "to support this project to strengthen the fintech sector, furthering our work to leverage technology to contribute to closing the financial inclusion gap and creating employment across Africa."

Currently, ADFI-supported projects are enhancing digital financial infrastructure and regional interoperability through the development of payment systems and infrastructure in Ethiopia and the ECOWAS region. Other projects are equipping financial sector regulators with innovative technology to strengthen consumer protection in Ghana, Rwanda and Zambia.

The Facility is also supporting projects to enhance the deployment of digital micro-insurance to smallholder farmers in Nigeria, Zambia and Kenya, as well as to build capacity for cyber resilience and help to remove barriers to access to fintech services across the continent.

Although fintechs have great potential to contribute to digital financial inclusion across the continent, the African fintech sector significantly lags behind those in other regions such as Latin America and South-East Asia.

In 2019, AFN and Cenfri conducted a survey that demonstrated the need to establish and coordinate local fintech chapters, recruit new members, profile members' achievements, link them to market access and investment opportunities, as well as advocate on behalf of members to local and regional regulators.

Oil slips on weak China data, rate hike expectations

LONDON

OIL prices fell on Tuesday on weak economic data from China and expectations of interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank (ECB) this week.

Brent crude fell 42 cents, or 0.53 percent, to \$78.89 a barrel by 1037 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude lost 46 cents, or 0.61 percent to \$75.20.

Both benchmarks fell by more than \$1 in the previous session.

Price pressure followed official data on Sunday showing manufacturing activity in China, the world's top crude importer, fell unexpect-

edly in April. This marks the first contraction in the manufacturing purchasing managers' index since December.

"Most sub-indicators show that this might not be a short-term aberration," said Iris Pang, Greater China chief economist at ING, pointing to a weakening export market, lower imports in March and falling wages.

A cloudly economic outlook in other parts of the world also weighed on prices, analysts said.

"The unpredictable action of central banks in their mission to tame elevated consumer and producer prices, the rhetoric and action of consuming and producing

nations have all cast a rather long shadow of doubt on prospects going forward," oil broker PVM's Tamas Varga said.

Investors will look for market direction from expected interest rate hikes by inflation-fighting central banks, which could slow economic growth and dent energy demand.

The US Federal reserve is expected to increase interest rates by another 25 basis points on Wednesday.

The ECB is also expected to raise rates at its regular policy meeting on Thursday.

Euro zone inflation has slowed sharply from double-digit readings late last year but remains high,



The Bryan Mound Strategic Petroleum Reserve is seen in an aerial photograph over Freeport, Texas

making another rate hike a necessity and leaving only its size up for debate, with ECB

policymakers split between a move of 25 or 50 basis points.

A poll on Monday showed that US crude oil stockpiles, meanwhile, are expected to have fallen for a third consecutive week, providing some oil price support. [EIA/S]

The poll was conducted ahead of reports from the American Petroleum Institute, due at 4:30 p.m. EDT (2030 GMT) on Tuesday.

University don suggests ways to reduce corporate financial management risks

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A Renowned Lecturer from Groningen University in Netherlands Prof Mains Hermes has advised the government to form independent boards in mind in relation to manage to reduce crisis and financial mismanagement scandals.

He said that in Dar es Salaam in a Public Lecture "Challenge to Corporate Governance" that was organized by Institute of Finance Management (IFM) and

brought together players in the financial sector, academicians, researchers and students.

The lecture was presented under subtopic corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the Firm purpose, Artificial Intelligence and governance and behavioral governance and board processes.

Hermes said that the government must work out on regulations that hinder the performance of the board such as lack of independence in mind.

The don mentioned some of

the factors that led to dysfunction of most boards as lack of diversity, lack of change of existing board culture, lack of taking responsibility, and lack of independence of mind.

He advised the government on how to build a better board to realize the intended goals of supervising the management to avoid crisis or financial mismanagement scandals.

"It is very important to be aware of behavior biases and how they influence board work and analyses the impacts," he

said "Overcome behavior biases (social influence, conformity, group of think and better evaluation of board effectiveness," he said.

Others are more and better training, professional board workers, increase diversity, gender, and ethnicity and stakeholders representations.

Better recruitment, less focus on status, more on diversity experience, less (former CEO) and better regulations with teeth and with attention to board cul-

ture in code. Building independence, diversity and safeguarding the interest of all stakeholders and a functioning board that help to reduce financial mismanagement scandals.

IFM Acting Rector Dr Emmanuel Mzava said that the institute organized public lectures as part of a mandate of higher learning institutions.

He said the institutes collaborate with other institutions for the purpose of sharing the experiences.

"IFM is lucky to host the public lecture that will be presented by visiting professor Hermes from and the visiting professor Hermes from Groningen University in Netherlands who will share challenges facing corporate governance," he said.

"The public lecture has come at the right time and is very important for the country, students and lectures since it adds more experiences to the tutors and lectures," he added.

According to him, the board must be trained throughout,

laws should be flexible and also focus on the performance of the board.

Dr Mzava said that the public lecture reflected on the challenges facing corporate governance and present potential means to respond to those challenges.

He shared ideas on possible transformations for better boards such as policies and structures as well as for the institutions themselves.

700 women, youths apply for seed capital from CRDB Bank Plc

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank has received 700 applications from entrepreneurs who are seeking seed capital to develop their businesses through the bank's iMBEJU programme.

The banks acting communication director Emmanuel Kiondo gave the update yesterday during his meeting with members of the press, a month since the initiative was launched.

"I would like to inform you that since April 12 when the initiative was closed, a total of 709 applications were received of which 369 applied through Costech and 340 through ICT Commission. I also thank Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa for launching the window for application by women and youths," Kiondo said.

Since the iMBEJU programme was launched with the theme

"Enabling capital for women and youths", implemented by CRDB Bank Foundation, the window for application from innovators and small entrepreneur was opened for women and youths to apply for seed capital, professional skills and marketing.

Kiondo said receiving applications was first step which goes hand in hand with training, advisory services and enabling capital. The bank is partnering with Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) and ICT Commission.

"In the period of one month, youths were given opportunity for application. Applications were received from all regions as 70.6 percent were from male youths and 29 percent were from women. Costech selected 116 applications and ICT commission selected 80," he elaborated.

Kiondo said applications on



CRDB Bank Plc acting communications director Emmanuel Kiondo speaking with journalists on the updates of the selections of candidates for iMBEJU programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

agriculture sector was leading with 31 percent followed by manufacturing by 14 percent, e-commerce by 18 percent and fintech applications accounted for 13 percent. "For those who did not succeed, I advise them to continue keeping alerted because iMBEJU is sustainable programme, so

they should be for the new round of application. Being not selected for the next step gives them opportunity to open iMBEJU account which has a lot of benefits that will enable to proper manage their businesses including payment systems and business insurance and life insur-

ance," he said.

Costech's director of technological innovation Dr Gerald Kafuku said lack of capital is among of the major challenge facing innovators to send their products into the market.

"Normally, Costech is providing grants to develop innovative ideas. For this stage implemented by iMBEJU, innovators will be ready to enter into the market and what they need is production capital. For a long time, innovators are not qualifying for loans because of lack of collaterals. I thank CRDB Bank for removing this obstacle," Dr Kafuku said.

Jason Ndaguzi, who represented the national ICT commission director general said the programme has given them experiences when it comes into analyzing innovative ideas

"We have started to register projects by last year universities students. We want to have a database of areas of research and in case there is an opportunity for seed capital like iMBEJU, it will be easy to identify them," he said.

Rate of commodity price increase drops in Uganda

KAMPALA

DETAILS released by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (Ubos) at the weekend indicate that an increase in supply and decline in prices for raw materials used for making cooking oil and laundry soap saw a decline in inflation to 8 percent in the period ended April from 9 percent in March.

This is the third month inflation, or the rate at which prices of commodities and services increase, has been moving southwards.

However, the rate remains above Bank of Uganda target of 5 percent.

Commodity and service prices had been increasing throughout 2022, peaking to record levels in the last quarter of the year.

Speaking during release of the Consumer Price Index in Kampala at the weekend, Mr Edgar M Niyimpa, the Ubos principle statisticians price statistics, said during April, there was "a decrease in prices and increased supply of crude palm oil

from Malaysia, a key ingredient in the manufacture of laundry soap, cooking oil and other processed food items", noting that the main driver of the decline in inflation was laundry soap, which fell to -6 percent and refined cooking oil, which declined to -9 percent from 2.8 percent in March.

Similarly, the rate of increase for sugar prices reduced, falling to 31.4 percent from 38.7 percent.

Core inflation, which Bank of Uganda uses to measure movement of commodity and service prices, fell to 6.8 percent from 7.6 percent in March, while food crops and related items inflation slowed to 25.3 percent from 26.7 percent in March due to a fall in whole cassava inflation to 51.7 percent from 65.8 percent, tomatoes (to 26.3 percent from 33.3 percent) and egg plants and bitter tomatoes (to 13.0 percent from 30.1 percent).

Other food crops that posted reductions included rice, whose inflation fell to 42.2 percent from 50.1



percent.

Energy and Utilities inflation, which includes petroleum products, slowed to 2.1 percent from 4.4 percent in March due to a fall in the movement of petrol inflation, which slowed to -2.9 percent from 0.2 percent, while diesel inflation reduced to 7.3 percent from 16.9 percent in March.

Geographically, Arua registered the highest rate of price increase during April, with inflation standing at 11.2 percent, followed by Fort Portal at 10.4 percent, while Kampala High Income registered the lowest inflation of 6.5 percent.

Average retail prices of selected item

Facebook employees in Kenya fight to save jobs

NAIROBI

MORE than 180 Facebook moderators working in Kenya have obtained orders preserving their immigration status after their employer issued termination letters.

The employees initially worked for Samasource Kenya EPZ (Sama), which was contracted by Facebook owner Meta Platforms Inc and Meta Platforms Ireland Limited to work in Kenya as moderators.

The workers say in an urgent petition filed at the Employment and Labour Relations Court that they were given nine working days to clear with Sama, after which they will have no status to stay in Kenya.

Their lawyer Mercy Mutemi termed the move as "a blatant show of disregard to the Court orders and the sanctity of the judicial process and a clear intimidation by the Respondents."

"Terminating the contracts of the petitioners in this manner is gravely prejudicial considering there is a live petition before this Honourable Court challenging the termination of contracts and the interim orders subsisting," Mutemi said in the petition.

Justice Byram Ongaya on Friday issued new orders preserving the immigration status of all foreign petitioners and allowing them to remain in Kenya lawfully.

"That pending the inter-partes hearing or further orders by the Court, orders are hereby granted preserving the immigration status of foreign petitioners herein being Facebook content moderators and allowing them to remain in Kenya lawfully," the judge said.

The judge directed the case to be mentioned on May 11.

It was further revealed that Sama has also withheld salaries for a section of moderators with some being asked to clear before receiving their dues.

The Facebook moderators moved to court in March and blocked their termination but Meta challenged the case, arguing that Kenyan courts do not have jurisdiction to determine a case brought against foreign entities.

The application was rejected, with the court saying the dispute revolves around the employer-employee relationship and it is immaterial whether the alleged violations occur in physical or virtual space within Kenya.

"The court will consider the nature and extent of liability with regard to the alleged breaches and violations of the Constitution arising and or related to employment and Labour relations in Kenya," Justice Mathews Nduma said.

The content moderators initially worked for Samasource Kenya EPZ (Sama) but they claimed Meta terminated the contract and was planning to hire new people.

The employees said they were engaged as Facebook content moderators.

They told the court that the Content Moderation Centre in Nairobi serves the larger Eastern and Southern Africa.

They further revealed that considering the variety of languages spoken in the region, workers are drawn from different countries to moderate posts in the local language.

BP posts \$5 billion quarterly profit

LONDON

BRITISH energy giant BP posted a strong quarterly profit on Tuesday even as oil and natural prices that soared after Russia's war in Ukraine last year have eased off.

London-based BP said it earned \$5 billion in underlying replacement cost profit in the first three months of the year, up from \$4.8 billion in the previous quarter. The figure excludes one-time items and fluctuations in the value of inventories.

The company said the earnings report "reflects an exceptional gas marketing and trading result" and a "very strong oil trading result."

"This has been a quarter of strong performance and strategic delivery," CEO Bernard Looney said in a statement.

Oil companies around the world have been reporting bumper earnings in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which sent energy prices soaring and curtailed some of Moscow's supplies to the world.

The fat profits and resulting hefty pay for energy company bosses have spurred demands that the companies do more to protect consumers squeezed by surging energy bills that have sent inflation skyrocketing.

The latest profit numbers were lower than the \$6.2 billion BP posted in the first quarter of 2022 but still beat analyst expectations even as oil and gas prices have declined since spiking in the first half of last year.

The earnings report reignited a debate in the U.K. over imposing higher taxes on companies getting a windfall from high energy prices amid Russia's war. British opposition leader Keir Starmer told the BBC that BP's profits are "over and above" what the company expected and should contribute to a "proper windfall tax."

BP said it expected oil demand to "remain elevated" in the second quarter because of a recent decision by some OPEC+ nations to restrict production, combined with strengthening Chinese demand.

The company also has come under fire recently for scaling back its climate goals - watering down its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a third, while planning to pump more oil and gas by the end of the decade than it previously forecast.

BP also announced further plans to reward shareholders, buying back an additional \$1.75 billion of stock, though that was lower than the \$2.75 billion buyback in the previous quarter.

The energy giant's rivals have posted similarly whopping financial results in recent weeks. Exxon earned a record \$11.4 billion in the first quarter, and Chevron raked in \$6.6 billion.

Saudi Aramco said in March that it earned \$161 billion in 2022, the highest-ever recorded annual profit by a publicly listed company.

Shell, another London-based en-



IMF raises Asia's economic forecast on China recovery

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised Asia's economic forecast on Tuesday as China's recovery underpinned growth, but warned of risks from persistent inflation and global market volatility driven by Western banking-sector woes.

The reopening of China's economy will be pivotal for the region with the spillover to Asia seen focused on consumption and service-sector demand rather than investment, the IMF said.

"Asia and Pacific will be the most dynamic of the world's major regions in 2023, predominantly driven by the buoyant outlook for China and India," the IMF said in its regional economic outlook report.

"As in the rest of the world, domestic demand is expected to remain the largest growth driver across Asia in 2023."

Asia's economy is expected to expand 4.6 percent this year after a 3.8 percent increase in 2022, contributing around 70 percent of global growth, the IMF said, upgrading its forecast by 0.3 of a percentage point from October.

China and India will be key drivers with an expansion of 5.2 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively, though growth in the rest of Asia is also expected to bottom out this year, the report said.

But the IMF cut next year's Asian growth forecast by 0.2 of a point to 4.4 percent, and warned of risks to

the outlook such as stickier-than-expected inflation, slowing global demand as well as the impact of U.S. and European banking-sector stress.

"While spillovers to the region from stress in U.S. and European financial sectors have been relatively contained thus far, Asia remains vulnerable to tightening financial conditions and to sudden and disorderly repricing of assets," the IMF said.

And while Asia has strong capital and liquidity buffers to fend off market shocks, the region's highly leveraged corporate and household sectors are "significantly" more exposed to a sharp increase in borrowing costs, it added.

The IMF also urged central banks in Asia - excluding Japan and China - to keep monetary policy tight to bring down inflation, which could remain stubbornly high due in part to robust domestic demand.

"The costs of failing to bring inflation below target are likely to outweigh any benefits from keeping monetary conditions loose," the IMF said.

"Insufficient tightening in the short term would require disproportionately more monetary tightening later to avoid high inflation becoming ingrained, making a larger contraction more likely."

While China will be a key driver of the region's growth, the country's property sector remains a risk that policy makers need to address to ensure an even recovery in the sector, the IMF said.



Recent moves by the government to ease financing to developers had largely benefited bigger developers. Still, regions in China with smaller, weaker players had yet to show signs of a recovery, said Thomas Helbling, deputy director of the Asia and Pacific Department at the IMF.

"While the government's (recent) effort has stabilised

the market, it should proactively support the restructuring of weaker developers which are still suffering," said Helbling at a media briefing in Hong Kong.

China's policymakers have been trying to stabilise the sector that accounts for a quarter of national GDP after a string of defaults among developers and a slump in home sales.

"For regions with weaker housing markets the recovery has yet taken place. We need further policy measures to limit potential risks," said Helbling.

UK house prices rise unexpectedly in April

LONDON

UK house prices unexpectedly rose between March and April, according to data from mortgage provider Nationwide that suggests the property market is stabilising as borrowing costs ease.

Prices increased 0.5 per cent last month, ending seven consecutive months of decline and beating analysts' forecasts of a 0.4 per cent fall.

Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist, pointed to "tentative signs of a recovery" in the property market reflecting recent improvement in consumer confidence and an easing of mortgage rates after the peak reached in the autumn following Liz Truss's mini-Budget.

Consumer confidence rose to its highest level in more than a year in February. Mortgage approvals are expected to show the second consecutive increase in March, according to analysts' forecasts of Bank of England data that will be published on Thursday.

"Buyers are finally making their move after months of waiting and stalling," said Tomer Aboody, director of property lender MT Finance. He attributed the trend to expectations that inflation would fall sharply by the end of the year and that the Bank of England's bank rate was approaching its peak.

House prices were down 2.7 per cent compared with April last year, Nationwide said. This is smaller than analysts' forecasts of a 3.6 per cent fall and the 3.1 per cent drop in the previous month when it marked the largest contraction since the 2008-09 financial crisis.

Tom Bill, head of UK residential research at Knight Frank, said the property market was "returning to Earth rather than falling off a cliff".

The average house price rose to £260,400 in April. While this is down from the peak of £274,000 in August, it is still £44,000 above the level in February 2020, before the first Covid-19 restrictions. This reflects the boom in the market boosted by record-low interest rates, making properties unaffordable for many households.

Solid nominal wage growth and easing mortgage rates could help affordability in the months ahead, but many economists said April's rise in price was unlikely to be the start of a significant rebound.

Nationwide's Gardner said any upturn was likely to remain "fairly pedestrian" as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis and because mortgage rates were still higher than last year's.

Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at the consultancy Pantheon Macroeconomics, said he expected the housing market to bottom out only at the end of this year, resulting in an 8 per cent peak-to-trough fall in prices.

"Demand likely will remain weak enough to ensure that the stock of unsold properties continues to creep up and prices continue to fall," said Tombs.



Buyers are finally making their move after months of waiting and stalling," said Tomer Aboody, director of property lender MT Finance



WEDNESDAY 3 May		THURSDAY 4 May		FRIDAY 5 May		SATURDAY 6 May		SUNDAY 7 May		MONDAY 8 May		TUESDAY 9 May		WEDNESDAY 10 May		THURSDAY 11 May		FRIDAY 12 May		SATURDAY 13 May		SUNDAY 14 May	
5:00	Scop rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Scop rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Scop rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanga wa Mzeezi	5:30	Uwanga wa Mzeezi	06:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	06:00	Dw	06:00	Dw	06:00	Dw	06:00	Dw	06:00	Dw	06:00	Dw
5:30	Uwanga wa Mzeezi	5:30	Uwanga wa Mzeezi	5:30	Uwanga wa Mzeezi	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	Al Jazeera	6:00	Al Jazeera	6:00	Al Jazeera	6:00	Al Jazeera	6:00	Al Jazeera	6:00	Al Jazeera	6:00	Al Jazeera
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Al Jazeera	6:40	Al Jazeera	6:40	Al Jazeera	6:40	Al Jazeera	6:40	Al Jazeera	6:40	Al Jazeera	6:40	Al Jazeera
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7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera	7:30	Al Jazeera
8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:30	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Kumekucha Kishindo	8:40	Kumekucha	8:40	Kumekucha	8:40	Al Jazeera	8:40	Al Jazeera	8:40	Al Jazeera	8:40	Al Jazeera	8:40	Al Jazeera	8:40	Al Jazeera	8:40	Al Jazeera
9:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Al Jazeera	8:55	Al Jazeera	8:55	Al Jazeera	8:55	Al Jazeera	8:55	Al Jazeera	8:55	Al Jazeera	8:55	Al Jazeera
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10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	9:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	9:30	Al Jazeera	9:30	Al Jazeera	9:30	Al Jazeera	9:30	Al Jazeera	9:30	Al Jazeera	9:30	Al Jazeera	9:30	Al Jazeera
10:25	Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	10:25	Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	10:25	Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Al Jazeera	9:55	Al Jazeera	9:55	Al Jazeera	9:55	Al Jazeera	9:55	Al Jazeera	9:55	Al Jazeera	9:55	Al Jazeera
10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Al Jazeera	10:00	Al Jazeera	10:00	Al Jazeera	10:00	Al Jazeera	10:00	Al Jazeera	10:00	Al Jazeera	10:00	Al Jazeera
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	10:30	Uzafiki Wako	10:30	Uzafiki Wako	10:30	Al Jazeera	10:30	Al Jazeera	10:30	Al Jazeera	10:30	Al Jazeera	10:30	Al Jazeera	10:30	Al Jazeera	10:30	Al Jazeera
11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Al Jazeera	10:55	Al Jazeera	10:55	Al Jazeera	10:55	Al Jazeera	10:55	Al Jazeera	10:55	Al Jazeera	10:55	Al Jazeera
12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:00	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt	11:15	Jungu kuu	11:15	Jungu kuu	11:15	Al Jazeera	11:15	Al Jazeera	11:15	Al Jazeera	11:15	Al Jazeera	11:15	Al Jazeera	11:15	Al Jazeera	11:15	Al Jazeera
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13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco	12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera	12:30	Al Jazeera
14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Al Jazeera	12:55	Al Jazeera	12:55	Al Jazeera	12:55	Al Jazeera	12:55	Al Jazeera	12:55	Al Jazeera	12:55	Al Jazeera
14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:00	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	13:00	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	13:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Al Jazeera
14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	13:30	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fiesta	13:30	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fiesta	13:30	Al Jazeera	13:30	Al Jazeera	13:30	Al Jazeera	13:30	Al Jazeera	13:30	Al Jazeera	13:30	Al Jazeera	13:30	Al Jazeera
15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Al Jazeera	13:55	Al Jazeera	13:55	Al Jazeera	13:55	Al Jazeera	13:55	Al Jazeera	13:55	Al Jazeera	13:55	Al Jazeera
16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco	14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco	14:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Al Jazeera
17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	14:30	Habari za saa	14:30	Habari za saa	14:30	Al Jazeera	14:30	Al Jazeera	14:30	Al Jazeera	14:30	Al Jazeera	14:30	Al Jazeera	14:30	Al Jazeera	14:30	Al Jazeera
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Al Jazeera	14:55	Al Jazeera	14:55	Al Jazeera	14:55	Al Jazeera	14:55	Al Jazeera	14:55	Al Jazeera	14:55	Al Jazeera
18:15	Kipindi maalum: Nyota Rays	18:15	Kipindi maalum: Nyota Rays	18:15	Kipindi maalum: Nyota Rays	15:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	15:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	15:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Al Jazeera
18:20	Utalii Popote	18:20	Utalii Popote	18:20	Utalii Popote	15:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	15:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	15:30	Al Jazeera	15:30	Al Jazeera	15:30	Al Jazeera	15:30	Al Jazeera	15:30	Al Jazeera	15:30	Al Jazeera	15:30	Al Jazeera
18:30	Jarda la wanawake	18:30	Jarda la wanawake	18:30	Jarda la wanawake	15:55	Habari za saa	15:55	Habari za saa	15:55	Al Jazeera	15:55	Al Jazeera	15:55	Al Jazeera	15:55	Al Jazeera	15:55	Al Jazeera	15:55	Al Jazeera	15:55	Al Jazeera
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	16:00	Watoto wetu	16:00	Watoto wetu	16:00	Al Jazeera	16:00	Al Jazeera	16:00	Al Jazeera	16:00	Al Jazeera	16:00	Al Jazeera	16:00	Al Jazeera	16:00	Al Jazeera
19:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	19:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	19:30	Scop: In Love with Ramon	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Al Jazeera	16:30	Al Jazeera	16:30	Al Jazeera	16:30	Al Jazeera	16:30	Al Jazeera	16:30	Al Jazeera	16:30	Al Jazeera
20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)	17:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	Al Jazeera
21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako	21:05	Albu Yako	17:30	Kisiam	17:30	Kisiam	17:30	Al Jazeera	17:30	Al Jazeera	17:30	Al Jazeera	17:30	Al Jazeera	17:30	Al Jazeera	17:30	Al Jazeera	17:30	Al Jazeera
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Al Jazeera
21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fiesta	21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fiesta	21:40	Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fiesta	18:15	Kipindi maalum: REA	18:15	Kipindi maalum: REA	18:15	Al Jazeera	18:15	Al Jazeera	18:15	Al Jazeera	18:15	Al Jazeera	18:15	Al Jazeera	18:15	Al Jazeera	18:15	Al Jazeera
22:00	Ripoti maalum	22:00	Ripoti maalum	22:00	Ripoti maalum	18:45	Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet	18:45	Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet	18:45	Al Jazeera	18:45	Al Jazeera	18:45	Al Jazeera	18:45	Al Jazeera	18:45	Al Jazeera	18:45	Al Jazeera	18:45	Al Jazeera
22:30	Scop: Uzalo	22:30</																					

WORLD

Initial autopsies show kids starved and asphyxiated in Kenyan cult

NAIROBI

THE bodies of several children exhumed in eastern Kenya showed signs of starvation and in some cases asphyxiation, a government pathologist said on Monday, as investigators began the first autopsies on over 100 people linked to a doomsday cult.

On Monday investigators said they had completed 10 autopsies, comprising nine children aged between 18 months and 10 years, and one female adult, from the 101 bodies discovered last month in shallow graves in Shakahola Forest, Kilifi county.

Authorities say the dead were followers of the Good News International Church, led by pastor Paul Mackenzie,

whom they accuse of instructing worshippers to starve themselves to death in order to be the first to go to heaven before the end of the world.

Eight cult members who were found emaciated in the forest died later. So far, 44 people have been rescued.

Mackenzie has been in police custody since April 14 alongside 14 other suspected cult members.

"Generally, most of them had features of starvation. We saw features of people who had not eaten. There was no food in the stomach," chief government pathologist Johansen Oduor told reporters.

Two showed signs of asphyxiation, he added.

The deaths amount to one of the



Police and local residents load the exhumed bodies of victims of a religious cult into the back of a truck in the village of Shakahola, near the coastal city of Malindi, in southern Kenya, April 23, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

worst cult-related tragedies in recent history and the toll is expected to rise further, with the Kenyan Red Cross saying more than 300 people have been reported missing.

Mackenzie has made no public comment. Reuters spoke to two lawyers acting for Mackenzie but both declined to comment on the accusations against him.

Children account for most of the bodies recovered so far, Interior Minister Kithure Kin-

diki said on Friday.

Oduor said the government was collecting DNA samples from people who had reported missing relatives. He said the matching process would take at least a month to complete.

On Sunday, President William Ruto said he would appoint a judicial commission of inquiry this week to probe what happened in Shakahola.

Agencies

Yoon: Nuclear consultative group upgrades US alliance

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea has upgraded its US alliance, President Yoon Suk-yeol said yesterday, as he briefed his cabinet on a trip to the United States.

Calls have been growing in South Korea, even among some senior members of Yoon's party, for it to develop its own nuclear weapons. The US opposes that, assuring South Korea of protection under the US "nuclear umbrella".

"The alliance has a nuclear-based upgrade and has expanded to include supply chain, industrial and science and technology alliances," Yoon told his cabinet.

Yoon held a summit with US President Joe Biden in Washington last week, and they agreed in a "Washington Declaration" to launch a Nuclear Consultative Group to give South Korea more insight into, and a voice in, US contingency planning to deter and respond to any nuclear incident in the region.

They also agreed on new partnerships on supply chains and science and technology, including cyber security, electric vehicles and batteries, quantum technology, foreign assistance and economic investment. Yoon said the nuclear planning mechanism would be more effective than NATO's Nuclear Planning Group by facilitating more frequent high-level bilateral discussions.

More US "strategic assets" would be regularly deployed to South Korea to maintain an "overwhelming retaliatory posture", he said.

"We will build strong security, peace based on overwhelming strength, not the fake peace that relies on the good faith of the other party," Yoon said.

Some South Koreans, especially younger voters, have welcomed the summit's achievements, including Yoon's speech to the US Congress and surprise singing at a White House state dinner.

But the opposition Democratic Party criticized a lack of progress on new US rules on electric vehicle subsidies, which South Korea fears could hurt its automakers.

A Democratic Party spokesperson said Yoon "only sang a song at the world's most expensive karaoke" in return for billions of dollars of South Korean corporate investment.

Yoon's approval ratings slightly rose to 34.5 percent, a poll released on Monday by Realmeater showed, marking their first rebound in four weeks. **Agencies**

Kuwait again dissolves reinstated parliament by decree

DUBAI

KUWAIT'S parliament was dissolved by royal decree on Monday, state news agency KUNA said, having only been reinstated in March based on a Constitutional Court ruling after a previous dissolution.

Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah said last month the legislature would be dissolved and that new parliamentary elections would be held in coming months.

The Gulf Arab state, an OPEC member, has seen prolonged bickering between the government and the elected parliament that has hampered fiscal reforms.

The parliament first elected in 2020 was dissolved last year in a bid to end the feud, and a vote was held in September in which the opposition made gains. But the Constitutional Court in March annulled those results and restored the previous assembly.

Sheikh Meshal, who signed Monday's Emir's decree, was handed most of the duties of the ruling emir, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in late 2021. The cabinet had submitted the decree to Sheikh Meshal earlier in the day, according to a previous statement by KUNA.

Sheikh Meshal had said last month that the "will of the people" required new elections that would be "accompanied by some legal and political reforms to take the country to a new phase of discipline and legal reference". He did not go into detail on the reforms, however.

Kuwait bans political parties but has given its legislature more influence than similar bodies in other Gulf monarchies, and political stability has traditionally depended on cooperation between the government and parliament.

The US-allied state has strong fiscal and external balance sheets, but the infighting and political gridlock have hampered investment and reforms aimed at reducing its heavy reliance on oil revenues.

Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah, the emir's son, had in January submitted his government's resignation due to friction with the parliament elected in 2020. He was renamed premier in March and a new cabinet was announced this month.

Relations have also been strained between the prime minister and the speaker of the now twice-dissolved parliament. **Agencies**

Chinese leadership analyses economic situation, work

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Friday presided over a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee to analyze the current economic situation and economic work.

The meeting noted that since the beginning of the year, China's economy and society have fully resumed normal operations.

With frontloaded and synergized macro policies, the "triple pressure" of shrinking demand, supply shocks and weakening expectations has been eased, while economic growth has been better than expected, market demand has been gradually recovering, economic development has shown an upward momentum, and economic operation has got off to a good start, the meeting said.

China's economy is still recovering, with yet-to-be-strengthened intrinsic impetus, insufficient demand and new headwinds in economic transformation and upgrading, the meeting said, noting that there are still many difficulties and challenges in the country's pursuit of high-quality development.

The meeting called for coordinated efforts to promote sustained improvements in economic operations, intrinsic impetus and social expectations, as well as to continuously defuse risks and hidden dangers.

It urged riding on the upward

momentum to effectively upgrade and appropriately expand the economy.

China should accelerate the building of a modern industrial system underpinned by the real economy, make breakthroughs in areas of weakness and further expand and enhance its areas of strength, according to the meeting.

It is necessary to consolidate the foundation of self-reliance and strength in science and technology, and to cement and expand the advantages in new-energy vehicle development, the meeting said.

It called for attaching importance to artificial general intelligence and working to foster an innovation-friendly environment and ward off risks.

Reviving and expanding demand is the key to a sustained recovery in the economy. China should pursue a proactive fiscal policy with greater intensity and enhance its performance, and keep the prudent monetary policy targeted and effective, in a bid to create synergy for increasing demand, the meeting said.

It urged efforts to boost residents' incomes through multiple channels, improve the consumption environment and promote service consumption in such fields as culture and tourism.

The guiding role of government investment and policy incentives should be well played to effectively stimulate private investment, the meeting said.

It stressed work to unwaveringly



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee,

consolidate and develop the public sector and to encourage, support and guide the development of the non-public sector. The country should take down all legal and regulatory barriers and hidden constraints that hinder enterprises of all types of ownerships from seeking common development through fair competition, it said.

Efforts should also be made to continue boosting the confidence of business entities and help companies recover strength for development, as well as to foster the well-regulated and sound develop-

ment of platform companies, and encourage leading firms in the sector to explore and innovate, the meeting noted.

The country should deepen reforms in all respects and promote high-standard opening up, according to the meeting.

The plan on reforming Party and state institutions should be well implemented to advance the modernization of the governance system and capacity, it said.

More importance should be attached to drawing foreign investment, the meeting said, urging

support for pilot free trade zones and free trade ports to align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and to trial reform and opening-up moves.

Efforts should be made to effectively prevent and defuse risks in key areas, the meeting pointed out.

While adhering to the principle that housing is for living in, not for speculation, China should adopt city-specific measures, support people's demand for essential housing and their need for better housing, and ensure timely deliveries of pre-sold housing, according to the meeting.

It demanded efforts to promote the stable and healthy development of the property sector and forge a new development model in the sector.

The meeting also called for strengthening the management of local government debt and resolutely curbing new hidden debt.

Continuous efforts should be made to properly prevent and control the COVID-19 epidemic, it noted.

It is necessary to guarantee and improve people's livelihoods, strengthen the employment-first policy, broaden the employment channels for college graduates and maintain stable employment for key groups including migrant workers, the meeting said.

It also stressed the importance of work safety and the power supply during the summer peak time. **Xinhua**

Four Russian military Il-76 planes evacuate 200 people from Sudan to Russia – statement

MOSCOW

THE Russian Defense Ministry is evacuating from Sudan more than 200 people: employees of the Russian diplomatic mission, Russian servicemen and their family members, citizens of Russia, CIS countries and several friendly foreign states, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry reported that following a Russian president's decision, "the people are being evacuated on the military trans-

port aviation of the Russian Aerospace Forces."

"Four Il-76 aircraft are carrying more than 200 people, as well as accompanying persons and cargo, from the Republic of Sudan to the Russian Federation," the statement said.

The Belarusian Foreign Ministry said on Monday evening that 10 citizens of Belarus, including pilots, who were in Sudan, flew from Khartoum to Moscow on an evacuation flight.

The situation in Sudan escalated amid disagreements between the army chief, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who also heads the ruling Sovereignty Council, and the head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (known as Hemedti), who is al-Burhan's deputy on the council.

The main points of contention between the two military organizations pertain to the timeline and methods for unifying the armed forces of Sudan, as well as who

should be appointed as commander-in-chief of the army: a career military officer, which is al-Burhan's preferred option, or an elected civilian president, as Dagalo insists.

On April 15, armed clashes between the rival military factions erupted near a military base in Merowe and in the capital, Khartoum.

According to the country's health ministry, several hundred people have been killed since the fighting began. **Agencies**

China to continue to play constructive role for political settlement of Ukraine issue

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held phone talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky on April 26. The two sides exchanged views on China-Ukraine relations and the Ukraine crisis.

The international community paid high attention to the phone talks and fully recognized China's objective and fair position on the Ukraine crisis and the country's efforts in promoting talks for peace.

Xi said China's readiness to develop relations with Ukraine is consistent and clear-cut, and no matter how the international situation evolves, China will work with Ukraine to advance mutually beneficial cooperation.

Xi stressed that on the Ukraine crisis, China always stands on the side of peace, and its core stance is to facilitate talks for peace.

China will send the Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs to Ukraine and other countries to have in-depth communication with all parties on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Xi said.

Zelensky thanked China for providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and welcomed China's important role in restoring peace and seeking diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Since the full escalation of the Ukraine crisis, China has been actively speaking out for peace and facilitating talks

for peace. Xi has put forward four principles, called for joint efforts in four areas and shared three observations on Ukraine.

Chinese Foreign Ministry has released a 12-point position document on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, including respecting the sovereignty of all countries and resuming peace talks.

China's efforts to promote peace talks are broadly understood and recognized by the international community.

This March, Xi paid a state visit to Russia and had an in-depth and candid exchange with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. The two heads of state signed joint statements, stressing that responsible dialogue is the best way for

appropriate solutions.

The Russian side highly praised China's objective, impartial and balanced position, and expressed that Russia has carefully studied China's position paper, and is open to talks for peace. Russia welcomes China to play a constructive role in this regard.

China's objective and fair position on the Ukraine issue and efforts to promote talks for peace are recognized and supported by both Russia and Ukraine.

A prolonged Ukraine crisis serves no one's interests. An early ceasefire will serve the interests of all parties concerned and also the whole world, and political settlement is the only right way out.

In April this year, Xi held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in Beijing. During a trilateral meeting with Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Xi reiterated that China independently decides its position based on the merits of issues, and China's position on Ukraine boils down to supporting talks for peace.

Von der Leyen and Macron said they appreciate China's efforts to promote a political settlement and look forward to China playing a more important role. They also said that they are prepared to work with China to find a way to facilitate talks for peace.

When Xi and Brazilian President Lula da Silva held talks in Beijing, the

two sides also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis. They appealed to more countries to play a constructive role for a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. The two presidents agreed to stay in communication on the issue.

China believes that with rational thinking and voices now on the rise, it is important to seize the opportunity and build up favorable conditions for the political settlement of the crisis.

China did not create the Ukraine crisis, nor is it a party to the crisis. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a responsible major country, China would not sit idly by, nor would it add oil to the fire, still less exploit the situation for self gains. **People's Daily**

Türkiye's massive quake rubbles raise environmental concerns

ANKARA

HIT by devastating earthquakes in early February, Türkiye now faces environmental challenges on the disposal of the waste and rubbles left over from the destroyed buildings and roads.

Two massive earthquakes destroyed cities on large swaths of land in southern Türkiye on Feb. 6, killing nearly 51,000 people. Referred to as "the disaster of the century" by the Turkish government, the catastrophe caused some 227,000 buildings to collapse or sustain heavy damage, according to data from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has promised to rebuild new homes for the millions of people affected by the disaster within a year. In the cities ravaged by the tremors, where reconstruction are currently underway, workers had started to clear a staggering amount of rubbles about two weeks after the disaster.

"In my city Kahramanmaraş, there are literally mountains of rubbles in the open, and it's causing a serious problem," said Durmuş Sezgin, a resi-

dent and civil engineer from Kahramanmaraş, one of the places hit hardest by the February earthquakes.

He said that hundreds of excavators are working round the clock, kicking up plumes of dust while sifting through the wreckage, demolishing any remaining building that local authorities considered unfit for habitation.

The rubbles that have been stored in temporary dumps have raised concerns about pollution from different chemicals such as asbestos, a cancer-causing fiber used in the past as insulation material, but now banned in most countries, including Türkiye, said Sezgin.

"People have been breathing dust from the rubbles in the dumps continuously, and they are worried about being exposed to hazardous chemicals, lead, and microplastics," said Selim, a doctor from quake-hit city of Hatay who wishes to be identified by his given name.

Responding to criticism, Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Mehmet Emin Birpınar tweeted on April 27 that dust suppression systems were being used to stop the spread of po-



People walk past the rubble in the quake-hit city of Antakya, Türkiye, on Monday. Xinhua

tentially hazardous materials like asbestos.

However, Selim said that measures taken by authorities may not have been enough and that "in a couple of years we might see the negative health effects."

The colossal challenge that Türkiye is facing has also been highlighted by the United Nations.

The scope of the challenge is almost beyond comprehension, Unit-

ed Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative Louisa Vinton said in a statement on Feb. 24.

The UNDP said the February tremors produced at least 10 times as much rubbles as the big Turkish earthquake that struck the country's industrial northwestern region in 1999.

Early in April, Yasin Ilmen, a scientist and scholar from the western

Mugla Sitki Kocman University, warned in a tweet that uncontrolled waste dumping could have dangerous consequences for both human beings and wildlife.

The voice of Ilmen and other environmental activists were heard in Hatay, where local authorities eventually removed debris dumped in a local bird sanctuary, bird watcher and wildlife expert Emin Yöğurtcuoglu told Xinhua.

"I tweeted about this problem in April, and I rapidly got feedback from the authorities who removed the rubbles in the Milleyha Bird Sanctuary," he said, calling on authorities to be vigilant for uncontrolled rubble dumping.

Scientists are still concerned, though, because Türkiye cannot handle a problem of this magnitude on its own, said Sedat Gundogdu, a plastic pollution specialist at Cukurova University in the southern province of Adana.

Because the earthquakes affected a very big zone, and the debris was handled and stored in a rush, such practice has to be rectified for public health safety reasons, Gundogdu told online news site Diken on April 10. "Unfortunately, if rubble management is not controlled in 10-15 years, we will face an increasing number of deadly lung diseases and cancer cases," Gundogdu added. Xinhua

Australia to pay soldiers bonus to stay as strategic risks rise

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA said yesterday it will pay military personnel A\$50,000 (\$33,165) to stay beyond an initial service period, days after a review found its defense posture was "not fit for purpose".

Defense Minister Richard Marles said the number of defense personnel was 3,400 below the positions funded, and there was a retention problem.

"We have an issue in terms of making sure that we are recruiting the number of defense force personnel that we need," he told reporters in Canberra.

The retention bonus will be paid to personnel who stay after completing a mandatory period of service, which is typically three years.

The government last week backed the recommendations of a Defense Strategic Review, which said Australia must prioritize long-range precision strike capability, domestic production of guided weapons, and diplomacy.

Marles said the review had made clear Australia's defense posture "is no longer fit for purpose, by virtue of the complexity of the strategic circumstances that we face".

"We're now working through with a sense of controlled urgency to reshape our defense force," he added.

The review showed the United States was no longer the "unipolar leader of the Indo Pacific", that the major power competition had "potential for conflict".

Australia and Singapore held bilateral defense, trade and foreign policy discussions on Monday in Canberra.

Singapore's Minister for Defense Ng Eng Hen told reporters that Australia, as an Asian country, can play a bigger role in regional security.

"When your submarines are ready, we would welcome them to call on our ports, we'll facilitate," he said, referring to the nuclear-powered submarine fleet Australia will acquire in the next decade through the AUKUS partnership with the United States and Britain. Agencies

UN allows Taliban envoy to meet Pakistan, China ministers

UNITED NATIONS

A UN Security Council committee on Monday agreed to allow the Taliban administration's foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to travel to Pakistan from Afghanistan next week to meet with the foreign ministers of Pakistan and China, diplomats said.

Muttaqi has long been subjected to a travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo under Security Council sanctions.

According to a letter to the 15-member Security Council Taliban sanctions committee, Pakistan's UN mission requested an exemption for Muttaqi to travel between May 6-9 "for a meeting with the foreign ministers of Pakistan and China."

It did not say what the ministers would discuss. It said Pakistan would cover all costs associated with Muttaqi's trip.

Chinese and Pakistani officials have both said in the past that they would welcome Taliban-led Afghanistan into the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure project, part of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Afghanistan sits as a key geographical trade and transit route between South and Central Asia and

has billions of dollars of untapped mineral resources. The Taliban seized power in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years of war.

The Security Council committee allowed Muttaqi to travel to Uzbekistan last month for a meeting of the foreign ministers of neighboring countries of Afghanistan to discuss urgent peace, security, and stability matters.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres began a two day meeting on Monday in Doha with special envoys on Afghanistan from various countries that aims "to achieve a common understanding within the international community on how to engage with the Taliban," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Dujarric said the closed-door meeting would discuss key issues, such as human rights - in particular women's and girls' rights - inclusive governance, countering terrorism and drug trafficking.

Taking part are China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Britain, the United States, Uzbekistan, the European Union and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi (center) arrives to attend an inauguration ceremony of a 5000 bed rehabilitation camp for drug addicts, at the interior ministry in Kabul on Feb 1, 2023. AFP

China's consumption shows sound momentum of recovery

AS a series of policies took effect, China has witnessed expanding scenarios and improved expectations in consumption, which led to a rebound in market sales and a steady improvement in service consumption, according to its Q1 consumption data.

The country's consumption, in general, is showing positive signs of recovery.

The retail sales of consumer goods totaled around 11.49 trillion yuan (about \$1.66 trillion) in the first quarter, up 5.8 percent year-on-year. The revenue of the country's catering sector increased by 13.9 percent from a year ago.

The Q1 growth was obviously higher than the growth in Q4 of 2022, said Hong Yong, associate researcher with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

In March this year, the retail sales of consumer goods registered a year-on-year growth of 10.6 percent, 7.1 percentage points higher than that in the January-February period, he said, adding that these figures indicated a recovering and improving consumption of China.

He told People's Daily that multiple factors contributed to the recovering consumption. A slew of policies have been issued this year to promote consumption, and stable employment has been maintained, which has laid a solid foundation for the steady recovery of residents' income and consumption, Hong explained.

In the first quarter, China's per capita disposable income stood at 10,870 yuan, up 5.1 percent year-on-year in nominal terms, with 0.1 percentage points higher the previous year. After deducting price factors, the figure grows 3.8 percent year on year, 0.9 percentage points faster than the whole-year figure of 2022.

Consumption is playing an increasingly prominent role in driving economic growth. In the first three months, final consumption contributed to 66.6 percent of economic growth, which is a remarkable improvement from last year. It serves as the most important factor driving economic growth among the three major demands.

"Demands of Chinese consumers are more diversified and personalized. Only by developing more new products can we better meet their demands," said an executive of dairy company Hoeslandt China at the recently held third China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE).

The launches of new products at the CICPE mirrored a new trend of consumption upgrades in China.

The Q1 data indicated an encouraging momentum of rebound in the Chinese consumption market, and China's consumption still maintained strong resilience, great potential and huge vitality, said Zhang Jixing, deputy director of the market research department of the Academy of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The fundamentals sustaining China's long-term consump-



People shop in a duty-free plaza in Haikou, south China's Hainan province, April 1, 2023. (Photo by Su Bikun/People's Daily Online)

tion growth remain unchanged, and so does the general trend of consumption upgrade, he added.

Commodity sales maintained a steady recovery in Q1. With the gradual release of residents' consumption potential, the consumption of upgraded goods picked up speed and that of everyday commodities kept growing.

In the first quarter, retail sales of goods increased 4.9 percent from the previous year. Nearly 70 percent of the 18 categories of retail sales above the designated size achieved year-on-year growth. In particular, the retail sales of jewelry and cosmetics went up 13.6 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively.

Both online and offline consumption saw faster growth. As market circulation improved, online consumption kept a growing momentum. In the January-March period, the online retail sales of physical goods nationwide increased 7.3 percent year on year, continuing to maintain rapid growth. Besides, offline consumption was also on a steady recovery.

Zhang believes that consumption, as a major engine driving economic growth, will play a bigger role in the future. In terms of medium- and long-term de-

velopment, China is at a phase of rapid consumption upgrade with bright prospects, he explained.

"It's great that I can experience the traditional culture while watching the beautiful flowers," said a man named Hao Wei when visiting rape flower fields in Jining, east China's Shandong province.

A series of themed activities such as poem exhibitions and immersive stage plays were launched around the rape flower fields to give better experiences to tourists.

According to statistics, the consumption of services, including tourism services, has significantly recovered. In the first quarter, in-person consumption in the catering, entertainment and tourism sectors grew fast.

The revenue of the country's catering sector increased by 13.9 percent from a year ago to more than 1.21 trillion yuan. Statistics from e-commerce service platforms Meituan and Dazhong Dianping indicated that the number of reservations for domestic accommodation, transportation and tourist site tickets for the upcoming May Day holiday had tripled compared with the same period in 2019 as of April 10. People's Daily

African scientists urge enhanced preparedness to contain infectious diseases

NAIROBI

SUB-SAHARAN African nations should intensify surveillance, and invest in new vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics in order to curb the growing threat of infectious diseases, scientists said on Sunday evening at the just concluded 2023 Ibrahim Governance Weekend held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Tom Kariuki, executive director of the Science for Africa Foundation, a Nairobi-based non-profit lobby that advances science and innovations, stressed that enhanced preparedness will be key to averting disruption of the continent's public health systems in the event of disease outbreaks.

Kariuki (pictured) said Africa continues to grapple with a growing burden of infectious diseases, fueled by climate change, disruptions of ecosystems, and pollution. He added that the solution lies in upscaling local manufacturing of health products like vaccines, antibiotics, and greater public education.

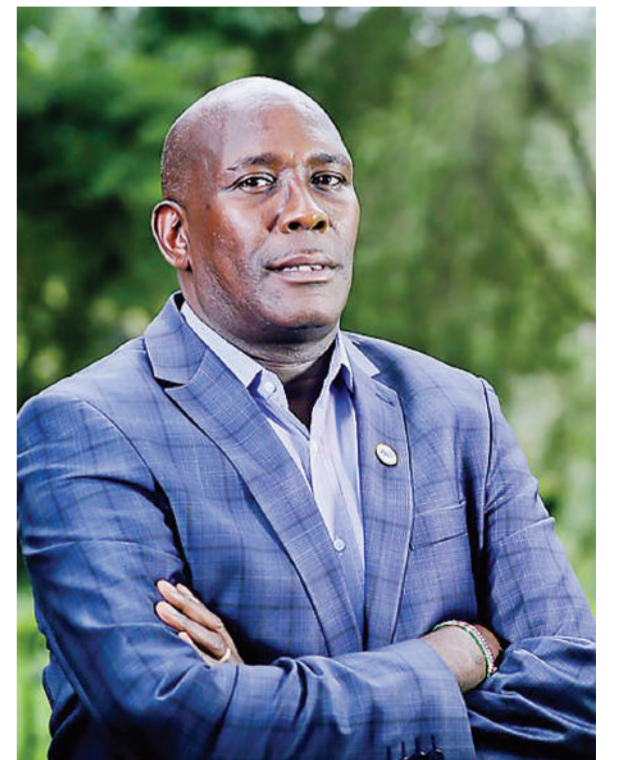
"Innovative tools, including improved environmental protection, access to vaccines and therapeutics, can be effective in managing emerging infectious diseases in the continent," Kariuki said.

He added that governments should allocate sufficient funding toward research on novel vaccines and drugs to manage malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, and other emerging ailments like the Marburg virus, and avian flu.

Kariuki noted that anti-microbial resistance has undermined efforts to tame vector-borne diseases in Africa, stressing that academia-industry partnerships are required to address the crisis.

James Kimotho, head of the Kenya Medical Research Institute's Innovation and Technology Transfer Division, said the African governments should establish policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate clinical trials aimed at strengthening the treatment and management of infectious diseases.

Kimotho emphasized that home-grown research combined with capacity building for scientists and public outreach will be crucial to revitalizing the war against communicable diseases taking a toll on Africa's



grassroots communities. Huwaida Bulhan, senior clinical operations team lead of Area Africa at Roche, a pharmaceutical company, said investing in modern diagnostics and drug regimens for treating infectious diseases will have spin-off effects like economic growth in the continent.

Bulhan said the COVID-19 pandemic served as a wake-up call for African countries to strengthen their disease surveillance systems besides having adequate stockpiles of critical health commodities like drugs and protective gear.

Borna Nyaoke, head of Mycetoma Disease at Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, an international drugs research entity, said tackling old and emerging infectious diseases in Africa will help reduce poverty and re-invigorate the continent's public health systems.

In addition, Nyaoke challenged African governments to enhance monitoring and response to sporadic outbreaks, driven by ecological pollution, climate crisis, and forced migration.

Michael Lusola, chief executive officer of the Kenya BioVax Institute, a government-owned company charged with manufacturing health products, stressed the need for African countries to leverage data, collaborative research, and reskilling of the health workforce in their quest to boost action on infectious diseases.

SPORT



Home Affairs Ministry team's player, Sonisha Ally (2nd L), outfoxes the President's Office (State House) side's players (in green jerseys) as the former's teammate, Bahati Mahenga, looks on during the 2023 May Day Cup tournament's netball event final which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro last weekend. President's Office (State House) squad cruised to a 37-36 victory. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Ministry holds sway in May Day Cup tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

MINISTRY of Home Affairs' team has won this year's soccer event of the May Day Cup tournament after garnering victory over President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) squad in the showdown which culminated in Morogoro last weekend.

The Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) squad ended third in the May Day Cup soccer showdown.

The May Day Cup tournament, which took place at Jamhuri Stadium, concluded with winners being presented with trophies, medals, and certificates.

The tournament was part of celebrations for the World Labour Day that reached its climax on Monday.

The squads competed in netball, soccer, and tug-of-war for both men and women.

Ministry of Home Affairs Permanent Secretary, Kaspar Mmuya, said during the tournament's closing ceremony that it has helped staff to improve physical and mental health. Mmuya noted that the showdown has moreover increased the employees' desire to work and offer appropriate services to people in the workplace.

"Employers should continue to give employees, including those in ministries, institutions, regions, government agencies, councils, regional and private sector, the opportunity to participate in the May Day tournament every year," the Permanent Secretary said.

"Offices should allocate time and allow staff to participate in the tournament every year when they take place in national celebrations,"

Mmuya stated.

May Day Organizing Committee's National Chairperson, Roselyne Masamu, said this year's games involved athletes from various ministries, organizations, institutions, and private sectors.

According to Roselyne, 39 clubs made up of a total of 2330 players battled it out in various sports in the showdown.

"The May Day Organizing Committee is encouraging ministries, departments, and institutions that have not participated in the tournament to allocate a budget that will enable their teams to participate in the tournament considering the games bring excitement to work," Roselyne stressed.

Ministry of Home Affairs teams held sway in various events to, ultimately, see the ministry end as the overall winner.

The tournament's second place was won by the Ministry of Construction and Transport (Transport) team.

In netball, President's Office (State House) squad beat the rest to the trophy, followed by the second-placed Ministry of Home Affairs squad, whereas the Ministry of Defense and National Service's team ended third.

In men's tug-of-war, the Ministry of Construction and Transport (Transportation)'s team lifted the title, followed by the Ministry of Home Affairs team which came second, and President's Office (State House) squad took third place.

Women's tug-of-war showdown saw the Ministry of Construction and Transport (Transport Sector) team emerge as champion, the second spot was won by Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) team, whereas the Ministry of Health's squad finished third.

Paralympic leadership seminar gets underway

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE three-day Paralympic leadership seminar got underway at Uhuru Stadium, in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) vice-president Vincent Kaduma revealed all was set for the seminar which has attracted 20 leaders from various national Paralympic sports associations.

He said the seminar which has been sponsored by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) ends tomorrow afternoon.

Kaduma said the seminar is aimed at equipping and empowering leaders of the associations on how best to run and manage their associations.

"All is set for the three days seminar, we are happy that 20 leaders of National Para Sports Associations have confirmed their participation at the seminar," the TPC official revealed.

"It is vital in the running of the associations and it will also help them prepare their Paralympic athletes for the Paris Paralympics," he said.

He said the seminar's instructors are Allen Alex from the National Sports Council (NSC) and Bahati Mgunda, one of the qualified Paralympic sports coaches in the country.

Meanwhile, Kaduma said the National Paralympic Championships will get underway at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow afternoon, adding more than 100 Paralympic athletes are expected to battle it out in various sporting events.

He said TPC extended invitations to all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

This year's edition of the showdown will be the second National Paralympic Championships organized by the current TPC leadership.

The first edition was held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last year and Dar es Salaam emerged as the overall winner.

The last year's National Paralympic Championships saw Paralympic athletes from Iringa, Morogoro, Tabora, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, and Zanzibar battle for medals.

The National Paralympic Championships also attracted students from Pugu Secondary School, Jangwani Girls Secondary School, and Salvation Army Primary School.

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It is vital in the running of the associations and it will also help them prepare their Paralympic athletes for the Paris Paralympics

SPORTS

Gut-wrenching heartbreak for Simba SC but Yanga now happily in uncharted territory

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AFTER deservingly earning a wafer-thin 1-0 win over Wydad Casablanca in the first leg of their 2022/23 CAF Champions League quarterfinal, Simba SC fans had been feeling sanguine about their beloved team's chances of success in the second leg held in Morocco last Friday.

Unfortunately, though, this bullishness proved to be sadly fleeting as Simba SC was booted out of the CAF Champions League last Friday after bitterly losing 4-3 in a wholly nail-biting penalty shootout to their hosts Wydad Casablanca.

With the score deadlocked at 1-1 on aggregate in the second leg after the required 90 minutes, a penalty shootout was needed to decisively settle the contest and Wydad Casablanca displayed nerves of steel to emerge victorious 4-3.

That notwithstanding, ardent Simba SC fans can take comfort in the fact that their club produced blemish-free showings in both the first and second legs but significantly, lacked the favor of Lady Luck.

Interestingly, Simba SC was not the only Tanzanian football behemoth to be involved in an all-important second leg of continental football competition.

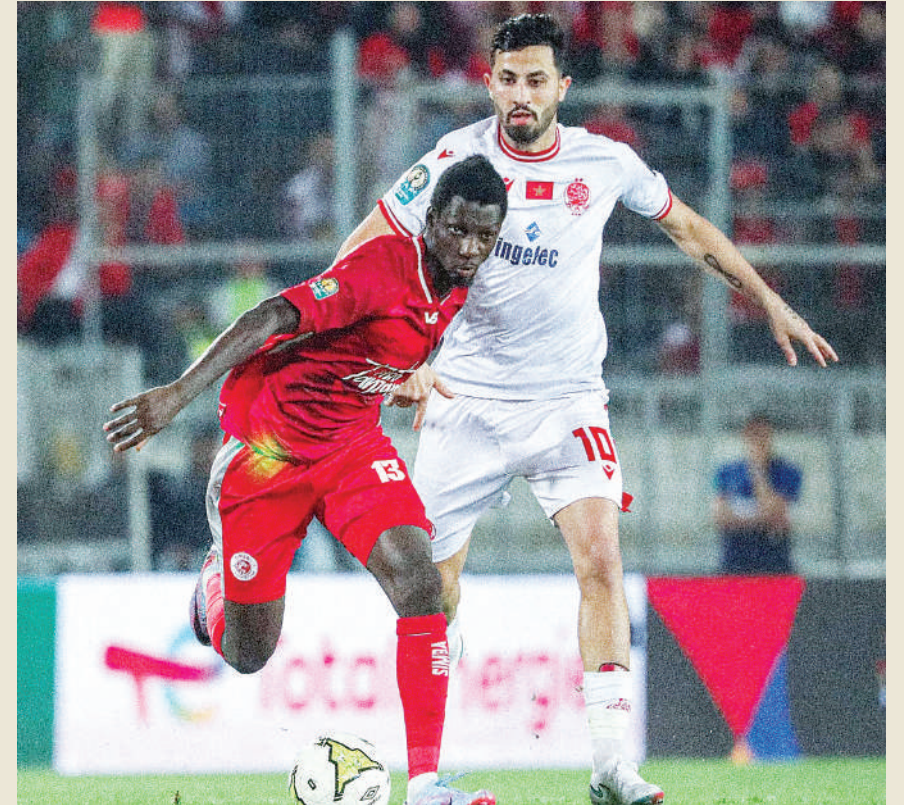
Indeed, Yanga was involved in a match of epic proportions last Sunday as they faced off against Rivers United of Nigeria in the consequential second leg of their 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals.

Following an uplifting 2-0 win in the first leg in Nigeria a week ago, Yanga squared off against a resolute Rivers United in the second leg of their CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal at the stately Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Thankfully, despite starting the high-stakes clash with a clear eagerness to emerge on the winning side, Rivers United proved to be incapable of doing so as they shared the spoils with a 0-0 draw with Yanga in their second leg encounter last Sunday. This then effectively meant that Yanga had advanced to the semi-finals of the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time, which is a historic milestone for the Jangwani Street side.

Hope springs eternal so that Yanga can continue on their glorious and record-breaking run through the CAF Confederation Cup in the next round of the championship.

Moving on, the ceaselessly scintillating



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Sadio Kanouté (L), attempts to outfox Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club midfielder, Ayman El Hassouni, when the sides met in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League last-eight rematch in Casablanca last weekend. Wydad Athletic Club commanded a 4-3 victory over Simba SC in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

European football season is nearing its climax and this writer is elated to report that some African stars have played an instrumental role in the remarkable progress of their football clubs.

One such African football icon is the incredibly skillful Algerian winger Riyad Mahrez, who is on the books of the high-flying Manchester City in the perennially pulsating English Premier League.

Famous for his trademark mesmerizing dribbling skills, Mahrez has been a painful thorn in the side of many a team this season both in the English top flight and on the grand European football stage.

Just recently, the Algerian football luminary netted a fabulous hat-trick in Manchester City's utterly comfortable 3-0 victory against the unheralded Sheffield United in the semi-finals of the English FA Cup.

Perhaps not to be outdone, the devastatingly deadly Nigerian marksman Victor Osimhen has been amazingly prolific in front of goal this season as his goals have propelled Napoli to the brink of their first Italian Serie A trophy since 1990.

Tall and lanky, Osimhen has been abundantly blessed with an uncanny sense of timing which allows him to always be in the right place at the right time before notching up goals.

Indeed, judging from his spectacular outings this season, one expects that Osimhen will play an overwhelmingly influential role in the coming years

as the Super Eagles of Nigeria boldly attempt to regain their place at the apex of continental football.

It should be noted here that other major African football protagonists who have blossomed this season include the Ghanaian Thomas Partey, who has kept Arsenal's midfield ticking over nicely, and the Nigerian Kelechi Iheanacho, who has been his usual menacing self in Leicester City FC's attack.

With the European football season now in the home stretch, one expects that either two or three African football icons will be fortunate enough to claim top honours by the time the season comes to an end.

ABSA Bank dishes out 45m/- sponsorship for ABSA Dar City Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIANS have been advised to value their health by participating in running and exercises given health is valuable.

ABSA Tanzania Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aron Luhanga, issued the advice in Dar es Salaam yesterday while addressing the bank's sponsorship for the 21km race, known as ABSA Dar City Marathon, slated to take place in the city on Saturday.

Luhanga said ABSA Bank Tanzania recognizes that health is a capital for workers, customers, and Tanzanians, adding that people cannot do economic activities smoothly should they not be in good health.

The official revealed his institution, as a result, has resorted to presenting 45m/- sponsorship for the ABSA Dar City Marathon.

"We feel happy to join the organizers of the Dar City Marathon as the main sponsors for this race, providing sponsorship amounting to 45m/- to help the community fight non-communicable diseases," the official stated. "I call on Tanzanians and our clients to come out in large numbers to participate in the race, when someone is practicing, he improves health and is immediately getting his wealth," the official insisted.

"After this race, we will join the Runners Club to head to the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital to hand over the equipment accrued to help to fight non-communicable diseases," Luhanga disclosed.

Runners Club's Head of Media Godfrey Mwangungulu, whose outfit has organized the event, congratulated ABSA Bank Tanzania and other firms



ABSA Bank Tanzania Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aron Luhanga (2nd R), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the announcement of the ABSA Dar City Marathon slated for May 6 in Dar es Salaam. Others are (L-R) The Runners Club's Secretary Scola Kisanga, Marketing and Sales Manager of Alliance Life Assurance Ltd Jawa Masomo, The Runners Club's Head of Media Godfrey Mwangungulu, and Britam Insurance Marketing Manager Leoncia Makobo. ABSA Bank Tanzania has offered a 45m/- sponsorship for the event. The race announcement function took place in the city yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

for sponsoring the race, which is expected to involve over 3000 people.

The Runners Club leader stated the 21km event will, among others, help advertise the tourist attractions found in Dar es Salaam because they will pass through the city's most famous streets.

"We join other cities in various parts of Africa to be part of history to advertise various tourist attractions in Dar es Salaam, this is the first time this race has been held in the city center," Mwangungulu disclosed.

"I call on people to come out and participate, there will be a variety of entertainments at the Mnazi Mmoja ground," he said.

The ABSA Dar City Marathon will include a 21km race, a 10km race, and a 5km race in which various prizes will be presented to winners garnering top to 10th place in both men's and women's categories.

Ref's error casts pall on Bundesliga race; no help from VAR

BERLIN

A REFEREEING error has become the focus of attention in the Bundesliga after it helped Bayern Munich regain the lead from Borussia Dortmund with four rounds of the league remaining.

The video assistant referee didn't intervene to award a penalty in Dortmund's game on Friday as the team was held to a 1-1 draw with Bochum on Friday night, a result that could have a major impact on the title race.

The German soccer federation acknowledged Saturday that referee Sascha Stegemann should have given the penalty "without the need for support from the video assistant." However, it did not say why there was no support from the video assistant.

Stegemann failed to spot the foul in the area in the 65th minute when Bochum's Danilo Soares plowed into Karim Adeyemi from behind and brought the Dortmund forward down without touching the ball. Soares was already booked and could have been sent off with a second yellow card.

"We would probably go in front and you're playing against 10 men, it's a whole other game," Dortmund coach Edin Terzic said.

But Stegemann allowed play to continue and received no indication from video assistant Robert Hartmann that he should do otherwise. The video assistant is there to inform a referee of any clear mistake, and video replays can then be used to recheck the incident. But Hartmann apparently felt the possible foul on Adeyemi wasn't a clear mistake.

The federation disagreed.

"It's a foul and therefore a penalty, as the TV pictures also show. The expectation has to remain that such events are decided cor-

rectly by the referee on the field," the federation said.

The decision was one of three that Dortmund complained about as it slipped to a draw that allowed Bayern to retake the lead on Sunday.

Stegemann, who acknowledged "several mistakes" among the match officials and said he could understand Dortmund's anger, told broadcaster Sport1 that threats have been made against him and his family. It led him to file a criminal complaint and seek temporary protection measures.

The referee said he is thinking about "whether a break makes sense or whether it's better to continue straightaway."

Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke condemned those threats on Sunday.

"Dear soccer fans, of course we are all still very disappointed with how Friday night went," Watzke said in a statement published on the club website. "We discussed our point of view with the referee immediately after the game, and he assured us then how sorry he was. With that, the matter is closed for us."

There was no comment on the matter from Bayern, which holds a one-point lead as it bids to win a record-extending 11th consecutive league title.

Dortmund must now hope for a favor from Werder Bremen, Schalke, Leipzig or Cologne if it is to end the Bavarian powerhouse's 10-year reign - while also winning its own remaining games against in-form Wolfsburg, Borussia Mönchengladbach, Augsburg and Mainz.

"We won't let any opponent, any referee or any illness stop us," Dortmund youngster Youssoufa Moukoko said. "We believe in it, we're convinced of it."

AP

Sir Jim Ratcliffe: Give me immediate control of Man Utd transfers

By Sam Wallace

SIR Jim Ratcliffe's Ineos bid for a majority stake in Manchester United includes a demand for immediate control of transfers from the moment a potential deal is agreed in the coming weeks, Telegraph Sport understands.

Requests for complete control of the club prior to sale completion are unlikely to be accepted by the Glazers, but both leading bidders are understood to stipulate they want influence as soon as their offers get the green light.

While Ratcliffe is focused on immediate player dealings, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, leading the rival Qatari bid, wants even wider oversight of club affairs if his offer for a full buy-out for United is accepted.

Under that request, the current Glazer family ownership would be running any potential financial commitment past the Qatari banking executive as soon as a deal got the green light.

One key figure was dismissive over whether the requests have merit. Requests for full control of club dealings could be a legal and theoretical impossibility prior to a deal being closed, the source added. However, the requests could be raised during wider commercial negotiations with the Glazers. Such demands are not uncommon in major acquisitions when there is expected to be a significant period between agreeing the outline of a deal and the formal closing of all terms when legal control of the entity transfers to the new owner. Corporate specialists added that buyers can ask for some approval rights to ensure a company's accounts are not drained before completion.

The stipulations included in the latest round of United bids suggest that both bidders are planning for the possibility of the process potentially lasting beyond the end of the season and into the summer transfer window that opens on June 10.

In the case of Ineos, one option being proposed is to keep some of the Glazer siblings on, most likely

Joel and Avram, as minority shareholders. Nevertheless, the terms of the agreement would make clear that Ratcliffe, who also owns Ligue 1 Nice and another club in Switzerland, would seek to be in charge of recruitment. It is that core aspect of building a successful club that any new owner would see as fundamental to future success.

Every summer window is important but this one looks poised yet again to be another key moment in the development of the club. Erik ten Hag has been clear that he needs a No 9, and would not rule out the prospect of moving for Harry Kane in what would surely be a club record deal - even with a year left on the England captain's current deal.

The club must also move on players to earn fees that will reduce their profit and sustainability - financial fair play - calculation under Premier League and Uefa rules. Harry Maguire, Victor Lindelof, Antony Martial, Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Fred and Donny van de Beek are all potential departures. Eric Bailly and Alex Telles have been on loan this season and are also likely to leave. United announced losses in September of £115.5 million for last season.

Currently, United's recruitment staff have no alternative but to plan for the summer. Yet any new owner will come with clear ideas about who they wish to pursue and at what cost.

A debt-free ownership, of the type that Sheikh Jassim is proposing through his Nine Two Foundation, would still be limited by the restrictions on owner spending. However, the club would benefit from no longer having to serve the Glazers' interest payments and dividend pay-outs which currently total around £45 million annually.

On Friday, after the submission of third and final bids, it emerged that only Ratcliffe's had valued United, of which the Glazers siblings own 69 per cent, above £5 billion. It had been anticipated that Sheikh Jassim would be the most likely winner although the picture is still unclear.

Harden scores 45, hits late 3 as 76ers down Celtics 119-115

BOSTON

JAMES Harden was asked for most of this season to be a facilitator for a 76ers team built around big man Joel Embiid.

With the MVP finalist sidelined for the opener of his team's second-round playoff series with the Celtics, Philadelphia called on a vintage version of Harden.

He happily obliged. Harden matched his playoff career high with 45 points and hit a go-ahead, step-back 3-pointer over Al Horford with 8.7 seconds left as the 76ers rallied without Embiid to beat Boston 119-115 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night.

"We didn't come into the game expecting to lose. We came in here to win," Harden said. "Whether Jo comes back or not, we're going to be ready to go."

Tyrese Maxey added 26 points and Tobias Harris finished with 18 for the Sixers, who made 17 3-pointers with Embiid watching from the bench. He sprained his right knee in Game 3 of Philadelphia's first-round sweep of the Brooklyn Nets.

After the Sixers endured an early scoring onslaught from the Celtics, 76ers coach Doc Rivers said Harden was patient and knew when to attack and when to pass.

Rivers said having a week to prepare for the likelihood Embiid would be out was key.

"That's the difference between this year's team and last year's team. We have a bunch of street fighters," Rivers said. "If we could get to the fourth quarter, we were going to win the game. That's how we felt."

Jason Tatum led the Celtics with 39 points and 11 rebounds. Jaylen Brown added 23 points and Malcolm Brogdon finished with 20.



Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) drives between Philadelphia 76ers' Jalen McDaniels (7) and Georges Niang, right, during the first half of Game 1 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals playoff series, Monday, May 1, 2023, in Boston. (AP Photo)

"They hit big shots and I think they were just in a rhythm throughout the whole game," Tatum said.

Boston hosts Game 2 on Wednesday night.

Harden previously scored 45 points for the Houston Rockets in a Western Conference Finals win over Golden State on May 25, 2015.

Trailing 117-115, the Celtics had one final chance and got the ball to Tatum, but he lost the ball to Paul Reed, who was fouled and hit a pair of free throws. The game was tied at 87-all entering the back-and-forth final period.

Tatum gave the Celtics their final lead, 115-114, on a pair of free throws with 26.1 seconds left.

Before that, Boston took the shot clock down before Maxey intercepted a pass by Brogdon and drove in for a layup to put the 76ers in front, 114-113.

"I was about to pick the ball up, but I'm glad I kept running," Maxey said. Boston led 108-107 when Harden was called for an offensive foul on Horford. On the ensuing possession, Horford found Marcus Smart, who was fouled on a layup. He completed the three-point play to make it 111-107.

Maxey responded with a three-point play of his own.

The game was knotted at 102 when Brogdon got free on a fast break, took a pass from Tatum and dropped in a layup with 5:04 remaining.

After the play, P.J. Tucker appeared to swing wildly in frustration and made contact with Tatum. It led to a brief scum that was broken up by officials.

Reed took Embiid's place in the starting lineup, like he did with Embiid out for the final game of the Nets series. As expected, Embiid's absence in

the middle contributed to a faster pace. Both teams used it to their advantage.

The Celtics attacked the paint, connecting on 13 of their first 14 shots. The 76ers made eight of their first 10 attempts, spacing the floor and spreading out Boston's defense.

Harden led the attack early for Philadelphia, hitting his first five attempts, including two 3s. Brown started 6 for 6 from the field for a Boston team that thrived without Embiid protecting the rim, going on an 11-0 run at one point.

Boston shot 74% for the half but took only a 66-63 lead into halftime after the 76ers went 11 for 19 (55%) from the 3-point line.

"It was a dogfight," Maxey said. "Everybody that stepped on the court for us was a fighter and we came out on top."

AP

Napoli to shake off title blow with one more point to go

MILAN

NAPLES woke up on Monday still digesting the disappointment of Napoli not sealing their first Serie A title in over three decades, but knowing glory is just a few more days away.

Everything was set up for Napoli to win their third Scudetto a record-breaking six matches before the end of the season on Sunday when their closest challengers Lazio collapsed late on at Inter Milan, leaving Luciano Spalletti's side needing a win over Salernitana to seal the deal.

And when Mathias Olivera headed Napoli into the lead the city exploded in celebration, with blue smoke engulfing the Stadio Maradona and fireworks being let off outside with the rapidity of machine gun fire.

However all that joy had to be bottled back up, ready to be unleashed at Udinese on Thursday, after Boulaye Dia's superb equaliser six minutes from the end spoiled the party and pushed Salernitana further towards safety.

Fans were not too downhearted however, hardcore supporters marching back from the Stadio Maradona into central Napoli with flares lit and in fine voice, the festivities in the city only dampened by a Spring downpour later in the evening.

"From my point of view we've just postponed the party, I'm very comfortable with where we are in the league," Spalletti told DAZN with a wry smile.

"All it's doing is lengthening the party."

To say that Napoli are close to their goal of emulating the 1987 and 1990 triumphs led by Diego Maradona would be an understatement.

Spalletti's team, who are at Udinese on Thursday, need just one more point from their final matches to be crowned champions.

And even though results have dipped, and the ferocious attacking play which bewitched Europe has become more stilted, since the



Napoli fans will have to wait a few more days at least for their title party. (Agencies)

March international break it is borderline impossible that Naples does not get its long-awaited party.

- Title glory close -

A 17-point lead on Lazio means Napoli could even win the league without kicking another ball, as the capital city club must beat Sassuolo on Wednesday in order to mathematically stay in the fight.

But in reality the Scudetto has been a near-certainty for months, as Italy's traditional big three have failed to keep up with the runaway leaders' blistering form in the run up to and aftermath of the World Cup.

Between the start of September and end of February Napoli won 19 of 20 league matches, a run which left soon-to-be-dethroned champions AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus trailing way off in the distance.

That trio are now involved in a six-team battle for the three remaining available Champions League positions, with six points separating Lazio from seventh-placed Atalanta.

Inter currently hold the final spot in fourth ahead of their trip to survival-seeking Verona on Wednesday, but only lead Mi-

lan and Roma on goal difference with potentially season-defining fixtures coming up over the next fortnight.

Saturday is a repeat of this weekend's clash between the cities of Rome and Milan as Roma host Inter and Lazio travel to the San Siro for the second time in seven days, while Atalanta host third-placed Juve who have collected just one point from their last four league fixtures.

The two Milan clubs then have to prepare for the biggest derby for a generation in the first leg of their blockbuster Champions League semi-final.

Roma, who drew 1-1 with Milan on Saturday despite Tammy Abraham opening the scoring in the 94th minute, also have their Europa League last four clash with Bayer Leverkusen next week with a raft of injuries complicating their run-in.

Jose Mourinho's Roma travel to Monza on Wednesday without defenders Rick Karsdorp, Chris Smalling, Diego Llorente and Marash Kumbulla, while Netherlands midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum and Andrea Belotti are also sidelined and Nemanja Matic is suspended.

Fixtures (times GMT)

Today

Atalanta v Spezia, Juventus v Lecce, Salernitana v Fiorentina, Sampdoria v Torino (all 1600), AC Milan v Cremonese, Monza v Roma, Verona v Inter Milan, Lazio v Sassuolo (all 1900)

Tomorrow

Empoli v Bologna, Udinese v Napoli (both 1845)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Harden scores 45, hits late 3
as 76ers down Celtics 119-115**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga's winger, Bernard Morrison (L), dribbles past Singida Big Stars' fullback, Paul Godfrey, as the outfits faced each other in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on November 17 last year. Yanga cruised to a 4-1 victory over Singida Big Stars.

Yanga's ASFC semi-final against Singida Big Stars postponed

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YANGA'S Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final clash with Singida Big Stars has been postponed after the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) seemingly agreed to reschedule so the defending champions can focus on their 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup tasks.

Singida Big Stars were set to entertain Yanga in an ASFC semi-final game on May 7, three days before the latter, Tanzania's sole representatives in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup, are set to face South Africa's Marumo Gallants in the first leg of the continental showdown's semi-final at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

After the reschedule, Yanga will now honour their 2022/23 NBC Premier League game against Singida Big Stars at Liti Stadium, Singida tomorrow before embarking on a trip back to Dar es Salaam to resume preparation for next week's crucial continental tournament assignment against Marumo Gallants.

TFF released a statement confirming that the ASFC game to be played at Liti Stadium will now be rescheduled to a yet-to-be-confirmed date in the interest of the nation.

The federation's statement read: "The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has pushed back game number 096 of the semi-final of the Federation Cup (Azam Sports Federation Cup) between Singida Big Stars and Yanga scheduled to be played on May 7, 2023, at the Liti Stadium, Singida until a new date is announced."

"The change has resulted from the request by Yanga through letter Ref. And. YASC/TFF/2023/120 pleading for more time for the preparation for their CAF Confederation Cup (CAF-CC) semi-final first leg game against Marumo Gallants of South Africa," it disclosed.

"TFF, considering the country's broad interests, has agreed to postpone the (ASFC) match which will be rescheduled for another date," TFF noted.

In a related development, TFF has also moved the other ASFC semi-final match involving Simba SC and Azam FC from the initial scheduled date of Saturday to Sunday at the Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium, Mtwara.

These changes have been made to allow Azam FC and Simba SC to have ample preparation time for the game.

Simba SC which is scheduled to play Namungo FC in an NBC Premier League fixture in Lindi on Wednesday will now have extra recovery hours before participating in the ASFC duel against Azam FC to be played at Majaliwa Stadium.

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TFF, considering the country's broad interests, has agreed to postpone the (ASFC) match which will be rescheduled for another date

Simba Queens, JKT Queens footballers scoop Women's Premier League monthly awards

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA Queens SC's striker Jentrix Shikangwa and JKT Queens' Stumai Abdallah have won this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League Player of the Month awards for March and April respectively.

Simba Queens SC kept the side's winning streak going in March with three victories, with Jentrix scoring three goals.

The Kenyan striker who joined in the mini-transfer window is now the second Simba Queens SC player to win the monthly awards this season.

She follows in the footsteps of Opah Clement who won the December award for Simba Queens SC before her move to Turkish side Besiktas WFC in January.

The left-footed attacker is leading the scoring charts with eleven goals to her name. She will be hoping to stretch her lead on the chart when Simba Queens SC takes on Alliance Queens tomorrow.

Stumai won the April Player of the Month prize after scoring three goals to help JKT Queens to establish a one-point lead over reigning champions Simba Queens SC at the top of the table.

The experienced striker, who is as well turning out for the national women's squad 'Twiga Stars', is on nine goals as she and other veterans in JKT Queens are pushing to reclaim the Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League title from Simba Queens this season.

The battle for the Serengeti Women's Premier League trophy will go to the wire, with JKT Queens, Simba Queens, and Fountain Gate Princess having been separated by two points with only three rounds of matches to go.

JKT Queens lead the log with 37 points, defending champions Simba Queens are sitting second with 36 points while Fountain Gate Princess is sitting third after posting 35 points.

Leaders JKT Queens have back-to-back difficult games against fellow title rivals, Fountain Gate Princess, and Yanga Princess.

They will finish the season against already relegated Mkwawa Queens. Simba Queens has to face Baobab Queens, Alliance Queens, and Ceasiaa Queens.

Fountain Gate Princess, now chasing their first-ever top-flight title, has to contend with games against JKT Queens, Ceasiaa Queens, and The Tigers Queens.

The three teams will all be keen to get wins in their games as any slip-up could be costly at this point of the season.

Simba SC out to maintain strong league form over Namungo FC



Simba SC's right-back, Shomari Kapombe (L), shoots past Namungo FC players, left-back Emmanuel Charles (C), and center-back Frank Magingi, when the clubs met in a past Premier League match that took place in Lindi.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

AFTER exiting the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, Simba SC now shifts attention to the 2022/23 NBC Premier League as the club visits Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa, Lindi this evening, with kickoff slated for 7 pm.

Simba SC, also nicknamed 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', have not been in league action since the club's 2-0 victory over age-old rival, Yanga, on April 16 and are currently second on the table with 63 points, five behind the leaders.

With only four games remaining, the title is seemingly out of reach for Simba SC but the team will be aiming to extend their unbeaten league run to 20 games.

The visitors from the commercial city have won 15 of their last 19 matches and drawn four with

their last league defeat coming in October last year against Azam FC.

In addition, Simba SC has won eight of their last 10 matches on their travels in the Tanzanian top flight.

And on top of all that, they have a dominant head-to-head record against Namungo FC over the years.

In seven league clashes against Namungo FC, Simba SC has won five and drawn two to remain unbeaten in the rivalry.

They have also enjoyed an Azam Sports Federation Cup victory over Namungo FC, as well as another one in the Community Shield.

Better still, Roberto Oliveira-coached Simba SC has scored the most number of goals in the NBC Premier League this season.

Even without the service of out-of-favor Moses Phiri who decided the last encounter between the two sides in Dar es Salaam, Simba SC can still count on Jean Baleke, Saidi Ntibazonkiza, and John Bocco to deliver the much-needed goals.

It is also worth noting that Simba SC has kept three consecutive clean sheets in the previous away league games, preventing Mtibwa Sugar, Ihefu SC, and Dodoma Jiji FC from scoring.

They boast the league's second meanest defense having conceded 14 goals in 26 games.

On the other side, home side Namungo FC is eight points clear of the relegation zone and looks unlikely to be dragged into the fight for survival at this late stage of the season.

However, they are also 15 points adrift of the top-four spot, so they are not in the race for a continental ticket this season.

The Ruangwa-based outfit's recent form has been inconsistent, although a 2-1 victory over Mbeya City FC last time out was the former's second in the three previous games.

Their home form is also unconvincing, winning just five of their last 10 matches in their backyard.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (I)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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