







Nabil Hajlaoui (C), the French Ambassador to Tanzania, makes remarks at the Second Tanzania-France Business Forum held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke triple

## Dar to hold executive director position in group of governors

By Correspondent Farida Ramadhani, Nairobi

TANZANIA is expected to hold the position as alternate executive director in the Group of East African governors in the African Development Bank (AfDB) from August, this year.

Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary unveiled this here yesterday during the meeting of the governors of the group for East Africa that are members of the AfDB in preparation for the 2024 meetings of the Board of Governors (Ministers of Finance from member countries) that kicked off yesterday in Nairobi, Kenya. The meetings are themed: "Africa's Transformation, African

Development Bank Group, and Reform of the Global Financial Architecture."

Dr Mwamba explained that the AfDB has established a system of rotation of leadership in the countries of the East African region, which is the executive director and the advisor. "In this meeting we have also discussed the cycle of leaders who are the executive director and advisor and we in Tanzania from August, 2024 will hold the position of alternate executive director in the bank who will be taking the position of executive director during emergency or excuse," said Dr Mwamba.

Dr Mwamba said that the meeting discussed the changes in the country's climate that have recently been causing various disasters and

agreed to establish a disaster fund that will help countries that will be affected by these changes including the unexpected El Nino rains.

"We have also discussed climate change and how to increase capital, but also the countries that experienced floods caused by heavy rains that occurred this year will also be on the agenda to be discussed in the General Meeting," added Dr Mwamba.

The meeting of the group of East African Countries which has involved delegates from nine countries namely Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Seychelles, is a prelude to the 59th Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Nairobi.

### UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that there is a need to embed African participation and leadership across the global peace and security architecture.

Following World War II, the mechanisms of global governance, including the UN Security Council, were designed by the most powerful countries at that time when many African countries were still in the process of throwing off the shackles of colonialism. Since then, the world has changed. But global institutions have not, he said.

"Today, African countries continue to be denied a seat at the negotiating table, including at this very council. The impacts of these structural inequalities are plain to see," he told an open debate of the Security Council on strengthening Africa's role in

## UN chief calls for African role in peace and security architecture

addressing global security and development challenges.

Africa deserves a voice in the global peace and security architecture. But strengthening Africa's voice can only happen if African countries can participate in global governance structures as equals, he said.

"This must include correcting the lack of permanent African representation at the Security Council. And it must include reforming the global financial architecture, especially its handling of debt, so African countries have the support they need to climb the development ladder."

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**SUMMONS BEFORE THE COMMISSION FOR MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION**  
(Made under Regulation 34(1)) (Imetengenezwa chini ya kanuni ya 34(1))  
Labour Dispute No. (Mgogoro wa Kazi) No./CHA/DSP/LLA/877/2023  
Between/Baina ya **BIGARI SECURITIES**, Applicant  
(Mialamiki/Huombaji)  
And/Na  
**MEDTRONIC AG**, Respondent (Mialamikiwa/Mjiibu Huombi)  
**NOTICE TO ATTEND MEDIATION/ ARBITRATION HEARING**  
(TARIFA YA KUTWA KURODHUKA KWENYE SHOURUA USULUISHI/UMIUMIZI)  
Take notice that the above mentioned Mediation/Arbitration has been fixed for hearing on...day of...year 2024 at...hours at **DAR ES SALAAM ZONE, KANDA - BIFI TITI ROAD** (Unapimwa kwa shauri (Mikojawa) hapo jao kuhaba kwa huku ya usuluhishi/umizi. Imetengenezwa kati kwa tarifa (T) Mwanzilishi/Huombaji 2024 saa 8:00 mchana mahali **KANDA YA DAR ES SALAAM, JAMBA-SALABA YA BIFI TITI**). You are required to appear before the commission in person and/or accompanied by an advocate/personal representative as instructed and produce on that day all relevant documents you intend to rely upon in support of your defence. You are further cautioned to remain in attendance until permitted by the commission (unatakwa huku binafsi ama kwa kumtutana na wakilimwizi/wakili wa Tume kamauzinyogwa. Unapimwa kuleta vifaa/vojo/nyaraka muhimu unazo kuandika kuzitima katika urefu wa. Unatahadharimwa unapigwa kuti wau huu na unatakwa kubaki kuwezo mbele ya Tume mpaka ukatajiri chuhuma kuandaka na Tume.) Given under my hand and seal of the Commission, this...day of...year 2024 (metelewa na kugogwa mchuri wa Tume leo tarehe 10...Mwanzilishi/Huombaji 2024)  
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**Nipashe** **The Guardian**













By Adonis Byemelwa

# Dar symposium paves way for African peace and prosperity as experts unveil transformative plan

**I**n a groundbreaking symposium in Dar es Salaam on May 24, 2024, Africa's foremost experts gathered to dissect the vital components of peace and security on the continent. Led by luminaries like Professor Eginald Mihanjo from the National Defense College (NDC) and Prof Adebayo Ulukoshi, a leading International Relations lecturer, the event promised transformative insights into safeguarding Africa's future.

The discussions illuminated the intricate tapestry of peace-building efforts in Africa, setting the stage for a transformative dialogue on safeguarding the region's future. Professor Mihanjo emphasized the intrinsic link between economic empowerment and peace, stating, "The foundation of economic stability lies in the employment opportunities available to citizens, particularly the youth post-graduation." He articulated this perspective during his presentation, underscoring the pivotal role of economic prosperity in fostering stability.

Echoing similar sentiments, Prof Ulukoshi stressed the imperative of investing in economic empowerment as a means to bolster peace and security. "Peace cannot be achieved solely through the proliferation of military forces or weaponry. It requires a holistic approach that addresses underlying socio-economic disparities," he asserted.

The symposium also delved into the recent coup attempt in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), orchestrated by Congolese rebel Christian Malanga, a naturalized US citizen. The audacious move on May 19, 2024, targeting the President's residence, has elicited widespread concern within the country and across the continent.

Renowned diplomat and former Tanzanian Ambassador to the US, Liberatha Mulamula, raised insightful inquiries regarding the enduring conflicts in the DRC, despite sustained efforts to pacify the region. In response, Professor Mihanjo highlighted the role of effective leadership in sustaining peace, stating, "The dearth of effective leadership exacerbates the challenges to peace in Africa. It is undeniable that a leadership vacuum contributes significantly to the perpetuation of conflict."

Prof Ulukoshi underscored the importance of fostering good governance as a cornerstone of peace and security. "Effective governance structures ensure accountability and transparency, thereby mitigating the risk of political instability and conflict," he asserted.

The dialogue also addressed the pressing issue of unemployment among African youth, particularly university graduates. Prof Adebayo Ulukoshi emphasized the urgent need to address this demographic challenge, stating, "The burgeoning number of unemployed graduates poses a significant threat to peace and security in Africa. Without viable employment opportunities, disillusioned youth may resort to illicit activities, fueling instability."

The discussions highlighted the interconnectedness of peace, economic prosperity, and effective governance in fostering stability. However, the recent coup attempt in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), masterminded by Congolese rebel Christian Malanga, who holds US citizenship, has reignited concerns about peace and stability in Africa.

In a daring pre-dawn raid on Sunday 19th May 2024, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) military



foiled a coup against President Felix Tshisekedi's government, resulting in at least three deaths in Kinshasa. The attackers, armed and wearing military fatigues, targeted the residence of ally Vital Kamerhe and breached the Palais de la Nation, although Tshisekedi was absent. Among the attackers was Christian Malanga, a former Congolese army captain and US resident, who led the failed assault.

"At about 4 am local time (03:00 GMT) dozens of men wearing military fatigues and armed with submachine guns and rifles attacked the residence of Vital Kamerhe, a federal legislator who is an ally of Tshisekedi and a favorite to become the speaker of the National Assembly," reported La Prospérité.

The incident unfolded swiftly, with gunfire erupting in the streets of Kinshasa as security forces engaged the attackers. At least three people were killed in the shootouts that ensued, including two Congolese security officials, and the leader of the attackers, Christian Malanga. Some 50 people have been arrested, the Congolese military said, including three United States citizens.

The failed coup attempt in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) reverberated across Africa, prompting renewed scrutiny of political stability in regions grappling with similar challenges.

In Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Mali, and the broader Sahel region, the specter of political unrest loomed large, with recent events underlining the fragile nature of democratic governance and the persistent threat of military intervention.

In Burkina Faso, a country plagued by recurring bouts of instability, concerns mounted over the government's ability to maintain control amid escalating violence and mounting dis-

content. The Sahel region, encompassing Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Mauritania, has become a hotspot for jihadist activity and inter-communal violence, exacerbating existing governance challenges and fueling social unrest.

The Gambia, a nation still grappling with the legacy of former President Yahya Jammeh's authoritarian rule, faced renewed uncertainty following a failed coup attempt in January 2022. The incident highlighted lingering tensions within the security forces and raised questions about the country's transition to democracy following Jammeh's ouster in 2017.

Mali, a focal point of regional instability, witnessed a military coup in August 2020, leading to the ouster of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta. Despite subsequent efforts to restore civilian rule, including the appointment of a transitional government and the scheduling of elections, Mali remained mired in political uncertainty and insecurity. The country's vast northern territories remained vulnerable to jihadist groups and ethnic militias, complicating efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability.

The broader Sahel region continued to grapple with a complex array of challenges, including poverty, food insecurity, and environmental degradation, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and fostering conditions conducive to violent extremism and armed conflict.

The presence of jihadist groups such as Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) further destabilized the region, posing a threat to regional security and undermining efforts to promote sustainable development and economic growth.

The African Union and international partners expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel,

calling for enhanced cooperation and support to address the root causes of instability and build resilience against external threats. Efforts to strengthen regional security mechanisms, including the G5 Sahel Joint Force and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), remained critical in countering terrorist threats and promoting peace and stability in the region.

Regional integrations such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) played a pivotal role in retaining peace and stability in Africa amid the fallout from the failed coup attempt in the DRC and other regional challenges.

The AU, Africa's premier intergovernmental organization, leads efforts to promote peace, security, and development. Through its Peace and Security Council and African Standby Force, it facilitates conflict prevention and peacekeeping operations, bolstering regional stability. The AU's commitment to democratic governance and human rights underscores its role as a custodian of African values.

ECOWAS, comprising 15 West African nations, is pivotal in maintaining regional peace. Swiftly condemning the DRC coup attempt, ECOWAS upholds democratic principles and governance. Similarly, SADC fosters peace in Southern Africa through dialogue and mediation, enhancing economic development. African leaders prioritize collective action and inclusive governance to make the continent move towards a brighter future.

The failed coup attempt in the DRC served as a stark reminder of the fragility of peace and democracy in Africa. However, it also underscored the resilience of African leaders and regional organizations in confronting such challenges with determination and resolve.

All and sundry, by embracing the principles of collective action, inclusive governance, and regional integration, Africa could overcome its current trials and emerge stronger, more united, and better equipped to tackle the complex issues of the 21st century. The continent embarked on this journey, the promise of a brighter future beckoned, driven by the shared vision of peace, prosperity, and progress for all Africans.

## Resettlement in Ngorongoro: A government initiative to safeguard wildlife and enhance community welfare

By Correspondent Constantine Akitanda

**T**HE Ngorongoro Conservation Area, located in northern Tanzania, is one of the world's renowned sites, listed among the Wonders of the World due to its unique beauty and ecological significance.

Tanzania takes great pride in this exceptional heritage site, as it attracts researchers, tourists, and environmental fans from around the globe, showcasing the country's natural wonders to the world.

The Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest inactive volcanic caldera, resulted from a massive volcanic explosion approximately two million years ago. With a diameter of 20 kilometers and a depth of 600 meters, it creates a unique ecological environment.

Ngorongoro is home to a rich biodiversity, hosting wildlife such as lions, elephants, black rhinos, buffaloes, zebras, antelopes, and numerous bird species.

This biodiversity is a major draw for tourists and researchers in ecology and biology, making investment in its protection and conservation imperative.

The conservation area is also crucial for human origin studies, with Olduvai Gorge, located within the conservation area, being the site where the skull of *Zinjanthropus* was discovered by Dr. Louis and Mary Leakey in 1959.

This discovery provided significant insights into human evolution and the development of early human technologies.

Ngorongoro's landscape is attractive, featuring a mix of highlands, hills, valleys, and water sources, offering excellent opportunities for tourism activities such as wildlife safaris, walking tours, and nature photography.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) works closely with local communities to ensure natural resources are used sustainably for the benefit of future generations.

Recently, the Tanzanian government, through the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority Area (NCAA), announced its goal to improve the living conditions of residents in the Ngorongoro division, especially those living within the conservation area.

This initiative aims to separate human and wildlife habitats to enhance conservation efforts. The reality is that human life within the conservation area is challenging, and residents lack complete freedom due to interactions with wildlife, with incidents of attacks by dangerous animals being reported.

The government's strategy includes educating and voluntarily resettling residents from the conservation



The Ngorongoro crater

area to Msomera village in Handeni, Tanga region, and other areas in the country. This move aims to provide residents with better and safer living conditions outside the conservation area.

Speaking to the residents of the Ngorongoro division at various times during the awareness, resettlement, and registration process, the Acting Public Relations Manager of the NCAA, Mr. Hamis Dambaya, states that the awareness campaign would continue until every resident of the Ngorongoro division understands the importance of voluntary resettlement.

The government has conducted extensive research on this initia-

tive, and the concept of resettling residents from within this cherished world heritage site should not be misunderstood, because the natural wealth at stake requires decisive action to ensure its preservation.

Dambaya adds that the government is genuinely committed to this initiative, hence the efforts to educate residents on the risks of continuing to live within the conservation area, the benefits they will receive by agreeing to resettle, and the reliable infrastructure prepared for them in the new locations.

"You live in difficult conditions due to the lack of freedom to enter and exit the conservation area, fearing dangerous animals that pose a threat

to your livestock, property, and even your lives, the government has made the right decision to encourage you to seek better and freer lives outside the conservation area, just like other Tanzanians," emphasizes Dambaya.

However, the initiative to educate and voluntarily resettle residents from within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area has sparked various debates and opinions; this situation necessitates the government to continue providing education along with accurate answers regarding its purpose of protecting and conserving this area.

Critics of the government's efforts to encourage residents to resettle outside the conservation area, par-

ticularly in Msomera, Handeni district, appear to misunderstand the challenges faced by those residing within the conservation area.

Dambaya further stresses that the government is determined to ensure that every resident who agrees to relocate receives all the entitlements under this plan, including financial assistance and improved social services.

"These entitlements are crucial for residents to transform their lives and live happier, economically and socially vibrant lives," he insists.

Resettling residents from within the conservation area is also a crucial step in protecting the environment and wildlife.

Critics should understand that conservation is for the benefit of the present and future generations, by resettling residents from the conservation area, it allows the environment to return to its natural state and prevent conflicts between humans and wildlife.

The government has worked closely with local communities to ensure this resettlement process is done in a peaceful manner and more importantly voluntarily. This cooperation has shown great success and brought new hope to the Tanzanian communities that once lived in these conservation areas.

Residents moving to Msomera receive a package of 10 million Tanzanian shillings, while those moving to other regions receive 15 million Tanzanian shillings.

Through these efforts, it is clear that the government is committed to improving the lives of every resident of the Ngorongoro division and restoring their happiness by providing safe living environments away from the dangers of wildlife.

This step will help preserve the natural heritage of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area for future generations.

By Mario Osava

# Women unite to fight coastal erosion in south-eastern Brazil



Sonia Ferreira, 79, the president of SOS Atafona, stands next to the remains of a four-story building that the sea toppled in 2008.

COASTAL erosion has been aggravated by climate change and has already destroyed more than 500 houses in the town of Atafona in south-eastern Brazil. Movements led largely by women are working to combat the advance of the sea and generate economic alternatives.

Atafona, one of the six districts of São João da Barra, a municipality of 37,000 inhabitants, is 310 kilometers by road northeast of Rio de Janeiro. It is a town with its own identity. Fishermen, who were joined by middle-class families from nearby large cities, built their vacation homes there.

Sonia Ferreira did so in 1980, when she lived in Rio de Janeiro. She moved permanently to Atafona in 1997, when she witnessed the disappearance of the three blocks that separated her house from the beach. In 2008, she saw the town's tallest building—four stories—collapse across the street from her house.

She has photos recording the downfall of the building that housed a supermarket and a bakery on the first floor and a hotel upstairs. Her house would have been the next victim, but the sea granted her an 11-year grace period. "I will only leave when the wall around the house falls," she would tell her family when they pressured her to move to a safer place.

But from 2019 to 2022, the sea level started to rise again. "In 2019, the first piece of the wall fell. I fixed up the little house at the back of the lot and moved in, but I kept the big house with the furniture until 2022, when the water reached the house and the floor gave way," she said.

"The sea does not hit in overpowering waves, but erodes the sandy soil, infiltrates underneath the buildings, undermines their structures, and the house is basically left hanging in the air," she described.

In late 2022, she decided to demolish the "big house" in a painful process after sadly seeing the wall fall down in pieces. But then she could not live in the small house in the backyard, which was invaded by a large amount of sand, so she was taken in by her daughter. Widowed, she has two other children who live abroad.

At the age of 79, Sonia Ferreira channels her love for the area as president of SOS Atafona, an association with about 200 active residents, mostly women, who debate and lobby the public authorities for solutions to stop the advance of the sea and other problems in the neighbourhood.

## Fishermen suffer climate injustice

"Fishermen have been hit the hardest," she said, as vacationers have resources such as other homes.

The original settlers are the main victims of climate injustice in Atafona. The rising sea level and the intensification of the northeast wind not only destroyed their houses but also exacerbated the siltation at the mouth of the Paraíba do Sul River, limiting the access of boats to the fishing port on the river through a narrow channel.

Faced with the difficulties, the larger vessels prefer to deliver their fish to distant ports, some 100 kilometers to the north or south, at the expense of the local economy, lamented Elialdo Mirelles, president of the São João da Barra Fishermen's Colony.

Meirelles estimates that about 400 fishing families lost their homes on Convivência Island, which was in the Paraíba do Sul River delta, where the problems began.

Only 200 families were given new houses by the government, while the rest were dispersed or have been living for years with the benefit of "social rent," a small sum from the municipality to help pay for rental housing.

That is why he believes that the houses engulfed by the sea in the entire area numbered much more than the 500 or so estimated by the city government and that the erosion actually began before the 1960s, which is the time frame indicated by researchers.

"I was born on Convivência Island in 1960, where my grandfather and father lived. My father lost two houses there, I lost two, and two of my brothers lost one each. The northeast wind was the cause," he said. In 1976, the government began to remove settlers from the island,

and the last ones left in the 1990s.

Then many families living in Pontal, the end point of the river's right bank, also lost their homes. "Five streets were submerged," he noted. As the island disappeared, that mainland area lost a barrier against the wind, he said.

"The sea does not hit in overpowering waves, but erodes the sandy soil, infiltrates underneath the buildings, undermines their structures, and the house is basically left hanging in the air," — Sonia Ferreira

Meirelles, who sought a new home away from the shoreline on his own, represents 680 registered fishermen in his entire municipality of São João da Barra, 56 percent of whom are from Atafona.

## Causes of coastal erosion

"Climate change definitely aggravated the problem unleashed by several factors, especially human action that reduced the river's flow," said Eduardo Bulhões, marine geographer and professor at the Fluminense Federal University.

The main factor was the transfer of water from the Paraíba do Sul river to the Guandu river system, which supplies nine million inhabitants of outlying areas of Rio de Janeiro and was inaugurated in 1954. Since then, there have been expansions that have drastically reduced the flow of water in the river that runs into Atafona.

The river rises near São Paulo and crosses almost the entire state of Rio de Janeiro—in other words, a densely populated area of 1,137 km. Its waters, destined for other cities, industries, and hydroelectric generation, lost the volume and strength to carry sediment to the delta at the mouth as a barrier against the sea.

In addition to engulfing Convivência Island and many blocks of Atafona, the sea advanced upstream, salinizing many kilometers of water table and affecting the municipality's water supply.

The collapse of houses due to erosion is also caused by their irregular construction on dunes that have always existed in the town and are growing on part of the beach, said Bulhões.

The northeast wind, which is intensified by climate change and pushes the waters that erode the constructions and the sands that threaten to clog the coastal road and nearby houses, contributes to this, he said.

A solution to coastal erosion depends on studies to identify long-term feasibility and effectiveness, and the city government is preparing terms of reference to contract the studies, reported Marcela Toledo, São João da Barra's secretary of environment and public services.

## Women-led projects

This municipality is also located in an area impacted by oil exploration in the Campos basin, offshore Rio de Janeiro state. Due to environmental requirements, the state-owned oil company Petrobras, the main explorer, is financing the Pescarte Environmental Education Project to mitigate and compensate for these impacts, carried out by the North Fluminense State University (UENF).

In the project, which is focused on fishing as the most affected activity, women constitute the vast majority. The main proposals approved were refrigeration plants, industrial kitchens, fishmeal factories and processing plants, said Geraldo Timoteo, a professor at the UENF and the head of Pescarte.

In the Pescarte team, initially looking at environmental education and now at production, 48 out of a total of 59 employees are women. Of the 14 supervisors, 11 are women.

The organization of artisanal fishermen and their families is the central objective of the long-term (2014-2035) project. It also seeks to increase income through expanding the use of fish and providing better access to markets and cooperatives.

Now the idea is to promote aquaculture based on experiments conducted at the UENF.

Pescarte has also accumulated knowledge about the world of fishermen. It conducted two censuses in the 10 participating municipalities in 2016 and 2023, Timoteo told IPS.

In the second one, 46 percent of the people interviewed were

women and 21 percent of them were responsible for 100 percent of the family income. In 37.9 percent of the cases, they shared this responsibility with their husbands.

Fernanda Pires is one of the participants of Pescarte in Atafona. Her activism for fish processing as a way of adding value is reflected in her practice as leader of the Arte Peixe cooperative, which produces eight types of fish and shrimp snacks.

Founded in 2006 by her mother, Arte Peixe has 20 female members, seven of whom work directly in production. The profits are limited, serving as a supplement to the main income obtained from other work or employment. Pires is a municipal employee, but new markets open up prospects for better profits in the future.

The leading role played by women in overcoming the problems in Atafona, threatened by coastal erosion and the decline in fishing, is perhaps due to the fact that "they study more, and have greater concern for the future, and a stronger sense of community," said Bulhões.

In Pescarte, its directors observe that while men prioritize fishing in itself, upgrading their boats and equipment, and are absent from the city, spending more and more time at sea every day, women take care of processing the fish, sales and adding value; that is, they focus more on the future of the activity and of their lives.

# 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 UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Guardian Correspondent,  
Addis Ababa

**A**FRICAN Heads of State and Government united to bolster agricultural sustainability and enhance smallholder farmer livelihoods by endorsing the Nairobi Declaration articulating the outcomes of the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit convened in Nairobi, Kenya from the 7th to 9th May 2024.

In a statement issued yesterday by the African Union Commission here, the declaration signified a transformative step towards improving access and affordability of certified quality organic and inorganic fertilizers across the continent.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in local manufacturing of mineral fertilizers with over \$15 billion of investments by the private sector.

However, even as Africa's mineral fertilizer production is estimated at 30 million metric tons annually, most of it is exported outside the continent.

Most Member States are still over-dependent on imported fertilizers, especially non-phosphate-based fertilizers which expose Africa to external market shocks and price volatility.

To address this, the statement said, Africa has committed to increase investments in local domestic manufacturing and blending of fertiliser harnessing the continent's resources.

Member states will be working to explore financing tools such as trade credit guarantees, working capital, and targeted subsidies to reduce market distortions, reduce costs and strengthen input supply chains.

Increasing the use of fertilizers, both mineral and organic resources, is imperative for increased productivity and soil health restoration.

Africa is seeking to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of mineral and organic fertilizers and other complementary inputs, to increase productivity, maximize profitability and returns on investment, improve soil health, and enhance resilience to climate change.

Thirteen (13) critical points are outlined on the Nairobi Declaration on the implementation of the commitments to among others, triple



AU Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat

# Africa to triple fertiliser production, distribution

the domestic production and distribution of certified quality fertilizers by 2034.

This ambitious initiative aims to uplift smallholder farmers by ensuring they have access to the essential inputs necessary for enhancing agricultural productivity.

Governments committed to prioritize local production of fertilizers using locally available raw

materials; strengthen research on inorganic and organic fertilizers by resuscitating the African Centre for Fertilizer Development in Harare; offer incentives for local production, leverage opportunities offered by low-carbon fertilizer production, establish small and medium ventures, and leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area to double intra-Africa fertilizer trade

by 2034.

Further, African leaders committed to ensuring that by 2034, at least 70 percent of smallholder farmers receive tailored agronomic recommendations to optimize fertilizer usage for increased efficiency and sustainability.

This entails the development of context-specific fertilizer and soil health recommendations, stand-

ardized tools for assessing soil fertility and health, establishment of a digital information system for fertilizer and crop decision support, and support for natural gas-producing Member States to stabilize fertilizer prices and increase production.

In relation to financing, a pledge was made to fully operationalize the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) to bolster the

production, procurement, and distribution of fertilizers and soil health interventions.

This encompasses widening the Mechanism's scope to support farmer investments in yield-enhancing technologies and soil health, financing infrastructure and logistics for fertilizer availability and food market access and establishing a multi-source soil health fund for research, innovation, and capacity building.

Meanwhile, recommendations were outlined to create an enabling environment for fertilizer and soil health interventions, including the development of continental guidelines, policy harmonization, private sector engagement, and strengthening public-private partnerships.

This is complemented by capacity enhancement through national practices development and promotion of local technologies and building, strengthening, and standardizing the fertilizer analysis capacity and services of laboratories to upgrade the quality of fertilizer standards.

Additionally, a commitment was made to ensure that at least 70 percent of smallholder farmers receive quality extension services on fertilizer and soil health as well as strengthening the last-mile delivery systems by supporting agro-dealers and SMEs.

There is a push to also review and upgrade basic education and tertiary training programmes for soil science and agronomy to include subjects relevant to sustainable soil management.

In a bid to translate these commitments into action, the leaders resolved to incorporate the recommendations of the Nairobi Declaration into their National Agricultural Investment Plans, with finance ministers tasked to mobilize and allocate adequate resources for the implementation of a 10-year Action Plan and the Soil Initiative Framework, also launched at Summit.

The African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD will support Member States in domesticating mechanisms for rewarding smallholder farmers for improved soil health practices, including carbon markets, and will further develop a systematic soil health monitoring system aligned with existing the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress, including developing continent-wide metrics for measuring soil health.

# Zimbabwean sculptors find their voice in stone carving

HARARE

**WASHINGTON** Musonza, a stone sculptor, has carved out a name in Zimbabwe's renowned stone sculpture tradition. The 58-year-old artist's dynamic work ranges from abstract to figurative pieces, drawing inspiration from everyday experiences.

For Musonza, art is a medium of expression that transcends human language. "Art is a silent language," Musonza said. "With art, you can communicate with anyone; art knows no boundary."

Creating an art piece involves selecting the perfect stone, followed by chiseling it. The figure he carves is determined by the shape and size of the stone. "I like talking, but I know I cannot fully express my feelings through words. So I do it through stones. They tell me what to do; I understand the language of art," he said.

"When I sculpt a piece, I leave it to the people who come to see it. They can talk and ask questions to the art and be answered while I am away," Musonza added.

Zimbabwe's stone sculpture tradition draws inspiration from the country's cultural herit-

age, dating back to the Great Zimbabwe, a medieval city known for its imposing stone works, from which the country derives its name. While modern sculptors use electrified tools like grinders, much of the work is done in the southern African country with simple tools such as hammers and chisels.

The sculptures, mostly made from serpentine stone, depict everyday life scenarios such as women holding children or children playing, among other subjects. Some sculptures depict mystical figures. These stone sculptures have become globally acclaimed and are highly sought after by collectors. Across the country, they enchant admirers in many public spaces and private gardens.

Throughout his career as an artist, Musonza has received several accolades and has exhibited in many international art symposiums, including three in China. He hopes to spread Zimbabwean stone art globally so that more people can appreciate the country's traditions.

Over the years, Musonza and other artists, including 51-year-old Bernard Mutonhodza, have

been working to keep the Zimbabwean tradition of stone sculpture flourishing. "Since I have inherited this culture from my forefathers, it must not stop with me. I must pass it on to others so they can also pass it to future generations," Musonza said.

Having perfected the skill of stone carving by learning from his seniors, Mutonhodza is now inspiring other young artists. "My role in art is to ensure our culture continues and that the new generations inherit this knowledge," Mutonhodza said.

To keep the stone carving tradition flourishing, Mutonhodza is also imparting his knowledge to 27-year-old Abraham Karuru. "My ambition is to advance this stone sculpture tradition so that people can get to know this craft," said Karuru.

For Musonza, nothing is as fulfilling as witnessing the stone carving tradition being kept alive. "I feel very proud. It shows that I am a good teacher because if I don't teach people, it means our culture will die. I am proud that even if I go today, they can still raise the flag of Zimbabwean art," he said.



**The sculptures, mostly made from serpentine stone, depict everyday life scenarios such as women holding children or children playing, among other subjects. Some sculptures depict mystical figures.**



A stone sculpture found in Harare.

# The African wild dog: Painted wolf of the savannas

By Nuno Teal

**T**HE African wild dog (*Lycya pictus*, or 'painted wolf') is also known as the Cape hunting dog or painted dog—a reference to the striking, multi-colored mosaic patterns of their beautiful coats.

With the unique social dynamics of their packs and highly complex hunting strategies, these highly social and intelligent apex predators have played a vital role in maintaining the balance of African ecosystems. Yet, they are one of Africa's most endangered carnivores.

## From ancestral wolves to nomadic savanna predators

During the Pleistocene, around two million years ago, African wild dogs diverged from a common ancestor they shared with wolves. Although they were once found in desert to mountain habitats throughout the African continent, they have disappeared from most of their geographic range—due mainly to human pressures.

Now, they typically roam the vast open savannas and sparse woodlands of sub-Saharan Africa, where their largest populations are found in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique.

African wild dogs thrive in cohesive packs, patrolling huge territories that can stretch over 1,500 square kilometers (580 square miles), and traveling around 50 kilometers (30 miles) in a single day. Their nomadic lifestyle mirrors the dynamic nature of their ecosystems, allowing them to adapt to constantly shifting habitat conditions and herd movements.

## Unique coats and built for speed

The irregular patterns on the coats of African wild dogs are unique to each dog, featuring patches of red, black, brown, white, and yellow fur. Large, rounded ears are designed for keen hearing, and their lean bodies, great lung capacity, and long, slender legs are designed for endurance and agility, enabling them to navigate dense vegetation easily over long distances.

While other canids are five-toed, these dogs have only four toes on each foot with the pads of the middle digits connected by dermal webbing, thought to enhance their speed and maneuverability. Although they're able to reach a top, greyhound-like sprint speed of 72 kilometers per hour (45 mph), their hunts rely on the endurance required to run their exhausted quarry to a standstill. Very sharp, large premolars then allow them to consume large quantities



Wild dogs in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park

of meat and bone swiftly—before other predators such as lions and hyenas can encroach on their kill.

## The power of the pack's communication and cooperation

African wild dogs are highly social, communicating with each other through frequent vocalizations, touch, and other behaviors. Amazingly, it's been discovered recently that African wild dogs use a system of meaningful sneezes to "vote" on group decisions before a hunt, which is characterized by complex, strategic team tactics and coordination.

Their formidable packs number from six to twenty dogs who are among the world's most skillful and proficient hunters, with a success rate of 80 percent as compared to lions' 30 percent. This is attributed to the constant communication maintained

throughout a hunt, during which they check in on their pack mates with vocal calls conveying their own locations and that of their prey to adapt strategies. Success is also due to the close social bonds they've formed with each other. A pack will come to the fierce and courageous defense of every individual.

## Diet and altruistic feeding behavior

African wild dogs are opportunistic feeders, preying primarily on small to medium-sized ungulates such as impalas and gazelles, as well as warthogs and wildebeest (which were likely more common when the dog packs were larger). They supplement their diets with rodents and birds, and also scavenge carrion when it's available.

After a kill, all pack members will feed equally regardless of

their rank or whether they participated in the hunt, and pups and yearlings always feed first. Pack members are also altruistic, assisting and sharing food with their weak, ill, injured, and elderly members.

Pack leadership and reproduction dynamics African wild dog packs are led by an older dominant female and a young dominant male, who form a monogamous breeding pair and dominate subordinates of both sexes. Juvenile males are most likely to stay with the pack, whereas females often emigrate.

While subordinate females may also reproduce, their offspring seldom survive. More often, these females develop pseudopregnancies and may lactate to help care for the pups of the dominant pair.

The dominant female has a litter of two to 20 pups which are then cared for by the entire pack, which regurgitates food to the pups while they're still in the den. At 11-12 weeks of age, the pups are weaned and start to follow the pack.

## Keystone species as ecological architects

Beyond their prowess as hunters, African wild dogs serve as keystone species in their ecosystems. Their regulation of herbivore populations prevents overgrazing and maintains the integrity of vegetation communities.

It also contributes to nutrient cycling, enriching the soil and fostering plant growth. Africa's wild dogs serve the same essential ecosystem function as their faraway wolf relatives, as architects of healthy, balanced biodiversity.

## Cultural significance and enduring symbolism

Highly respected by the ancient Egyptians as symbols of order over chaos, African wild dogs were often depicted on cosmetic palettes from the Predynastic Period. Across the African continent, Indigenous cultures have revered them as symbols of strength, unity, and perseverance.

In traditional folklore, they are frequently depicted as guardians of the land, entrusted with the task of preserving the natural order—an ecological role we now recognize. One prevalent myth portrays these dogs as emissaries of the spirit world, possessing the wisdom to guide lost souls on their journeys to the afterlife.

The Indigenous San people of Botswana (once known as the 'Bushmen') see the African wild dog as the embodiment of the ultimate hunter and believe that shamans can shape-shift into painted dogs. San hunters sometimes apply the bodily fluids of wild dogs to their feet in the hopes that they will be granted the dogs' stamina, agility, and courage.

Through the millennia, their enduring symbolism reflects the deep-seated respect and admiration that humans have held for these unique canids.

## The multifaceted threats for survival

Despite their cultural significance and ecological importance, African wild dogs have been on the IUCN Endangered Species List since 1990, and face myriad threats that jeopardize their survival.

Habitat loss driven by the encroachment of human settlement and agricultural expansion has fragmented their territories and restricted their movements. Predation by lions and competition with spotted hyenas pose additional challenges to their survival, as does the spread of diseases such as rabies and canine distemper.

Although the expansion of human settlements has led to conflict with livestock farmers, significant predation is rare, as the dogs prefer wild prey. Still, in many areas, farmers shoot them on sight or leave poisoned meat at their dens to eliminate entire packs. One of the traits that helped early peoples domesticate wolves was their willingness to join human communities, but African wild dogs have given humans a wide berth.

Climate change has only exacerbated these threats, altering the distribution of prey species and disrupting the dogs' established hunting patterns.

Initiatives for habitat connectivity and conflict reduction

African wild dogs are among the many species that would benefit from the creation of protected wildlife corridors that help connect their increasingly fragmented habitats. Conservation groups are also working on initiatives that reduce conflict between humans and African wild dogs, including educational efforts that offer farmers training in livestock management techniques that prevent predation. As is occurring with North American wolves, awareness initiatives are underway to dispel persistent myths about the dogs.

## Rewilding large mammals for ecosystem restoration

In addition to focused conservation efforts for African wild dogs, reintroducing large mammal assemblages has shown significant potential for ecosystem restoration. A recent study reveals that rewilding just 20 large mammal species, including brown bears, bison, and wild horses, can restore over 8.5 million square kilometers of land globally.

These large mammals act as landscape engineers, shaping plant life and wildlife, enhancing nutrient cycling, and maintaining ecosystem balance. By reintroducing species such as the African wild dog, lion, and hippopotamus in strategic locations, vast areas of land can regain their ecological integrity, benefiting biodiversity and human communities alike.

## Hope through conservation efforts

There are approximately 6,600 African wild dogs left, with another 600 captive in zoos, where they often fail to thrive. The IUCN reports that their population level is likely in an irreversible decline.

The hope is that the grim outlook for these wonderful canids will shift to one of optimism through the support of conservation initiatives aimed at preserving their habitats, preventing diseases, and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts.

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - I 2**

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezin@gmail.com

1 used to attract attention or express disapproval  
 12 extremely angry  
 14 a destructive flow of mud on the slopes of a volcano  
 15 Rule  
 17 angered  
 18 bequeath an income

Down:  
 1 largest country in South America  
 2 a dry river bed  
 3 a region  
 4 a maxim  
 6 stick fast to  
 8 tablet used in the treatment of schizophrenia  
 9 a period when a power supply is not available  
 13 gradually destroy or weaken  
 16 made, introduced, or discovered recently

Across:  
 1 a long curved fruit  
 5 condensed moisture of the atmosphere falling visibly in separate drops  
 7 accepted  
 10 members living in Natal province

in this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

TSAR  
 DUSSEHRA  
 OTTO  
 STOMPERS  
 AERIE

RETEACH  
 ERSE, ODE  
 TSAR, DOSA  
 UTTERED  
 STORE

SOMITE  
 PEER  
 HOE  
 AST, ASS  
 RACES, SO

**Yesterday's solution**

ANANDA M  
 N F I N T O O E D H I  
 G E R M A N Y R R W A N D A  
 O M I T T A N A C O C A I N E  
 L I C I T N L E T H I C A L  
 A R A B S Z O A R T S  
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 E S H A R E L E I L Y

**RADIO One**

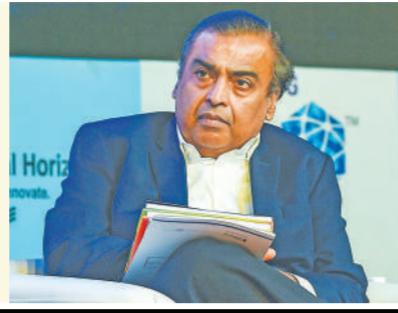
**RATIBA YA VIPINDI**

**JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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## Stadium oversight blunder: Expertise gap leads to default on FIFA regulations

By Sanula Athanas & Dickson Ng'hily

THIS is the second part of a special report on the Mkapa Stadium, which supposedly contradicts the promise made by former President Benjamin Mkapa to the nation. Back in 2000, the late President pledged to build an ultra-modern FIFA-approved grade 'A' stadium before his term ended in 2005. He considered it a national disgrace for the country to lack a state-of-the-art facility.

Construction commenced in July 2005 and wrapped up in June 2007, culminating in its official inauguration in September 2007. Initially dubbed the Tanzania National Stadium, it was later renamed in tribute to President Mkapa, three years after his demise.

The country's FIFA Security Officer, Inspector Hashim Abdallah, and the Director of Information and Marketing at the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Boniface Wambura, both members of the CAF audit team, have individually outlined discrepancies noted in their inspection audit report.

These inadequacies encompass insufficient journalist facilities, lack of proper signage directing attendees to their seats, absence of disability-friendly infrastructure, and the need for metal detectors to screen for weapons. Furthermore, they highlighted the inappropriateness of having a public road adjacent to the stadium.

All these concerns align with the 89 FIFA criteria necessary to meet global standards, which were expected to be resolved when the stadium was officially transferred to the government on July 3, 2013.

Wambura suggests that a probable lack of expertise or oversight among government officials responsible for the stadium's construction might have led to the neglect of FIFA regulations and essential construction considerations.

He also highlights a critical flaw: the lack of convenient infrastructure for individuals with disabilities. This concern has been emphasized by CAF inspectors, who recommend prioritizing accessibility improvements for this group.

They specifically stress the importance of making pathways, restrooms, and viewing platforms disability-friendly. Additionally, they suggest providing designated parking areas for bicycles or motorcycles to accommodate disabled spectators attending matches.

The issue of weapons inspection poses a significant challenge. Currently, the metal detectors at Mkapa Stadium are only positioned at the VIP entry point. Both CAF and FIFA inspectors have expressed concern over the excessive number of VIP sections, recommending a more streamlined VIP arrangement to address this criticism effectively.

Inspector Abdallah is particularly worried about the firearms storage facility. In the past, law enforcement and se-

curity personnel brought their weapons onto the field, violating FIFA regulations. This issue arose because the stadium lacked a specific storage area for protective gear. However, steps are being taken to rectify this situation and ensure compliance with FIFA guidelines.

Gerson Msigwa, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, announced that as of April 11 this year, the field's enhancement progress had reached 25 percent completion.

Key improvements include the transition to a digital broadcast system, refurbishment of the players' changing rooms with new flooring, and plans to expand the football field and the athletics section.

"We are overhauling the sewage system, electricity, air conditioning units, and seating arrangements, and repainting the stadium gates," explained Msigwa. At the time the repair contract was finalized on July 27 last year, he served as the Director of the country's Information Services (MAEL-EZO) and Chief Government Spokesperson.

When the Guardian inquired about measures taken against government officials following the confirmation of stadium defects during inspection, Msigwa affirmed that the stadium meets FIFA standards, allowing its use for international matches, such as the CAF Championship of the African Club.

"The flaws identified by CAF inspectors are those they have observed. Their recent visit, three weeks ago, noted certain shortcomings. However, repairs are actively underway," Msigwa stated.

Contrary to Msigwa's assertion that the stadium is used for international matches, FIFA Security Officer Inspector Abdallah emphasized the need for special authorization for such events due to the absence of an alternative FIFA "A" Class stadium in the country.

According to media reports, the tender for the stadium's construction was announced in 2003. The Minister of Sport informed the BBC that the government had allocated US\$60 million for the project.

Initially, 11 construction firms expressed interest. Ultimately, in 2004, the tender was awarded to France-based Vinci Construction with a bid of US\$154 million, approximately 397bn/-.

However, opposition from certain Western countries, including those linked to the Bretton Woods Institutions, led the government to pause the tender process. These institutions oversee the global economy and raised concerns about the financial prudence of such an expensive project for a nation recently relieved of substantial debts.

After terminating the initial tender, the government shifted the project to China, where the field's design was finalized. In June 2004, then-Foreign Affairs Minister Jakaya Kikwete traveled to China and signed an agreement for a \$56 million stadium, with China contributing \$20 million to the project.

On May 2 of this year, The



Emmanuel Nyalali, business development manager, DSE

Guardian reached out to Alice Mcharo, the Chief Procurement Officer of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), for clarification on several key issues.

The Guardian inquired why the initial tender exceeded the government's budget, why Vinci Construction did not proceed with the stadium construction, and why BCEG later became involved in the project. They also questioned the allocation of a 31bn/- tender to BCEG for stadium upgrades, especially given CAF experts' concerns about meeting international standards. Notably, BCEG was responsible for constructing the stadium.

The Guardian also sought information on actions taken against government officials responsible for the flaws identified by CAF. However, Alice Mcharo requested a formal letter with these questions, to be addressed by the Director General of PPRA. The Guardian submitted the letter the following day but has yet to receive a response.

When asked about a provision ensuring BCEG future repair or upgrade tenders, the project manager Liang clarified, "There is no such provision. We won the current tender through a competitive bidding process, strictly adhering to all required procedures. Our previous work on the stadium did not influence our selection for this project, which is entirely separate."

Regarding the 31bn/- allocated for stadium improvements, Liang emphasized that procuring necessary equipment significantly influenced the total project costs. "The addition of 62,000 new seats is crucial, given the stadium currently has only 57,558 seats for spectators, with the rest reserved. Furthermore, the financial landscape has changed since 2004. Equipment prices have risen, contributing to the substantial cost of these enhancements," he explained.

"In our quest for the prestigious Class 'A' FIFA rating, we're elevating the stadium by installing 352 cutting-edge lighting fixtures, surpassing the existing 260. Despite the



Workers taking a break after working on the running tracks for athletes. Photo by Dickson Ng'hily



### FACTS ABOUT MKAPA STADIUM

#### 70000 people

Fans witness historic Simba vs Yanga rivalry match After stadium inauguration on October 26, 2008

#### 1.67bn/-

Revenue record set during friendly match; Taifa Stars vs Brazil on June 7, 2010, remains unbroken

#### 900m/-

Annual revenue collection average from the Stadium

#### 31bn/-

The budget set for the Mkapa Stadium renovation project

#### August 2024

Timeframe for completing the renovation work to upgrade the stadium to a FIFA Grade 'A' standard

significant investment, this upgrade underscores our dedication," elaborated the

manager. Furthermore, he detailed that the 352 fixtures boast a

received any complaints about BCEG's work on the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

In instances of contractor errors, CRB adopts measures such as registration revocation, project suspension for reassignment, or compelling rectifications at the contractor's expense.

Nkori, well-versed in the matter, including CAF directives, asserts that BCEG adhered to client requirements and professional standards during stadium construction.

"The stadium, classified as Class 'B' by FIFA builders, falls short of CAF's Class 'A' stadium mandate for their competitions," he elucidates. Nkori proposes two options: proceeding with ongoing enhancements or constructing a new stadium to meet CAF's criteria.

Paul Bilabaye, Assistant Registrar - Finance and Administration at the Engineers Registration Board (ERB), corroborates Nkori's statement, affirming no complaints against BCEG.

Bilabaye attributes identified issues at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium to a dearth of local stadium experts.

ERB's oversight revealed a deficiency in local expertise during CAF expert inspections. Local experts overseeing stadium construction lacked the requisite skills for international-standard stadiums.

Bilabaye underscores that FIFA standards were overlooked during stadium construction, contrasting with the adherence to FIFA guidelines in building TFF sports centers in Tanga and Kigamboni.

Bilabaye stresses the oversight in adhering to FIFA standards during the construction of the Mkapa Stadium, resulting in its inadequacy to host CAF and FIFA competitions today.

The intricacies of FIFA standards, such as soil assessment for player safety, require specialized expertise, which we currently lack. Consequently, the onus falls on those equipped with the necessary knowledge to elevate the soccer field at Mkapa Stadium to meet these standards.

Manager Liang staunchly refutes allegations of subpar construction, asserting that the stadium meets FIFA grade 'A' standards as per the client's requirements. BCEG executed the project according to the designated designs mandated by the government.

Highlighting the evolution of client needs, Manager Liang emphasizes the imperative to upgrade the stadium to FIFA grade 'A' standards. With its inauguration dating back to 2007, much of the equipment has exceeded its operational lifespan and necessitates replacement.

Mahona, the stadium manager, anticipates the completion of stadium enhancements by August this year, signaling a proactive approach to address deficiencies and align with international standards.

contemporary digital activation system, ensuring instant illumination, a stark improvement over the current lights, which demand 15 to 20 minutes for re-ignition.

Addressing the imperative of local content utilization, Manager Liang elucidates, "We prioritize sourcing materials like cement and paint locally in Tanzania. For non-local items, we import as necessary."

He continued, "Out of our 164 workers, 150 are Tanzanian, showcasing our commitment to local employment. With only 14 Chinese workers, our workforce epitomizes diversity."

"We've advocated for the government's consideration in replacing the stadium roof, vital due to its sea proximity and saltwater exposure. Stadium roofs typically demand replacement every 15 years, with yearly maintenance," he expounded.

Furthermore, he emphasized, "The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium's roof remains unchanged since its construction 17 years ago. We advocate augmenting the budget to encompass this essential upkeep as part of our ongoing endeavors, rather than initiating a separate tender process."

Rhoben Nkori, Registrar of the Contractors Registration Board (CRB), lauds BCEG as a major player in significant projects, operating in the country for two decades.

Nkori confirms CRB hasn't

# Agency projects Tanzania's economic growth at 5.6 pc

By Guardian Reporter

**F**OCUS ECONOMICS, the Barcelona based macro-economic intelligence agency has forecasted the Tanzania's economic growth of 5.6 per cent this year, although extreme weather events disrupting agricultural production pose a downside risk.

In its consensus forecast Sub-Saharan Africa - May 2024, the agency, which provides insights for 198 economies and more than 30 commodities, says Tanzania's GDP growth is forecast to accelerate slightly this year from last, due to stronger growth in both private and public spending.

"FocusEconomics panelists see GDP expanding 5.6 percent in 2024, which is up by 0.1 percentage points from one month ago, and expanding 5.9 percent in 2025," said Adria Solanes, the agency's economist.

The rate is slightly higher than the projected 5.5 percent by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) as stated in the Monetary Policy Statement, Mid-Year review for February 2024 and lower than 6.1 percent projected by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Solanes notes that Tanzania's fixed investment will remain supportive, as IMF-backed reforms enhance investor sentiment; with export growth is forecast to soften.

"Both goods exports and private-sector credit continued to expand at healthy rates in January-February, while inflation remained subdued throughout the quarter," Solanes said in the report.

In 2024, the report says, inflation is forecast to average around 2023's level, staying below the Bank of Tanzania's 5.0 percent target. Commodity price spikes and a weaker-than-expected shilling are upside risks.

FocusEconomics panelists see consumer prices rising 3.8 percent on average in 2024, which is down by 0.1 percentage points from one month ago, and rising 4.2 percent on average in 2025.

On 3 April, the Bank of Tanzania



The commercial city of Dar es Salaam accounts for the largest share of the country's economic activities. File photo

set its Central Bank Rate (CBR) at 6.00 percent for Q2, up from Q1's 5.50 percent, pre-emptive hike aimed to shield the economy from inflation arising from import price volatility.

Inflation slightly increased to 3.1 percent in April, from 3 percent in March, as compared to Uganda 3.2 percent and Kenya 5.0 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Consumer Price Index for

"The Bank did not provide explicit forward guidance, but our panelists expect additional hikes by year-end. The next rate-setting meeting will be held in early July," says FocusEconomics.

"Our panelists see the central bank rate ending 2024 at 6.65 percent and ending 2025 at 7.35 percent."

In its 20th economic update published in March this year, the World Bank also projected similar GDP growth for Tanzania due to resilience.

"While annual GDP growth for 2024 is projected at 5.6 percent and offers hope for Tanzania, several threats cloud the economic outlook. Potential risks include slow or incomplete implementation of

structural reforms, the impact of climate change on key sectors like agriculture and tourism, and the possibility of a global recession. These risks need to be carefully managed," said Emmanuel Mungunasi, World Bank Senior Economist.

Tanzanian authorities and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached staff-level agreement on a reform program earlier this month, to address climate change challenges supported by the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), and the completion of the third review under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).

The RSF will support the authorities' efforts to advance structural reforms and investments on adaptation and mitigation to address risks and challenges associated with climate change.

A staff team from the IMF led by Charalambos Tsangarides, IMF mission chief for Tanzania, held meetings in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam from May 2 to 17, for the third review under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).

Subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board the review will make available SDR113.3 million (about US\$150 million), bringing

the total IMF financial support under the arrangement to SDR455.5 million (about US\$604.2 million).

The team also discussed the authorities' request to access under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) in the amount of 150 percent of quota (SDR 596.7 million, approximately US\$789.6 million).

At the conclusion of the mission, Tsangarides said in a statement that the Tanzanian economic outlook is favorable with growth expected to pick up to 5.4 percent in 2024, supported by improvements in the business environment and subsidizing global commodity prices.

"Risks to the outlook are tilted to the downside, as intensification of regional conflicts, increased commodity price volatility, abrupt global slowdown, prolonged liquidity issues in the foreign exchange (FX) market, and intensification of floods from El Nino, could weigh negatively on economic outlook," he said.

The government also committed to increase priority social spending and contain the impact of the recent floods on the most vulnerable.

## Government now seeks to expand financial services

By Guardian Correspondent

Minister of the President's Office for Investments and Planning, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, has emphasized the extension of digital financial services to rural areas, saying the financial institutions are called upon to prioritize underserved regions, ensuring fair digital access for all Tanzanians.

Prof Mkumbo said this over the weekend at the launch of a new digital financial payment firm in Dar es Salaam highlighting the need for digital financial services to reach rural areas, highlighting the shift towards a digital world.

Professor Mkumbo emphasized the crucial role of young individuals in accessing digital financial services, emphasizing their importance as a pivotal demographic.

"As a government, we acknowledge the vital role of digital technologies. We encourage companies to focus on rural regions to ensure broad access," Professor Mkumbo remarked. He stressed that the worldwide transition to digital platforms requires Tanzanians to promptly embrace this transformation.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the government will persist in fostering a conducive environment for investors to come to Tanzania and invest in diverse sectors.

"The presence of Craft Silicon reflects a favorable investment climate. Under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the Government will enhance investment policies and further attract additional investors," stated Professor Mkumbo.

Furthermore, Kamal Budhabhati, the Executive Director of Craft Silicon Group of Companies, expressed that the favorable investment climate has motivated him to establish an office in Tanzania. Originating in India in 2006, the company now operates in 15 African nations.

"We are confident that our digital payment services will not only generate jobs for Tanzanians but also cater to all citizens. Our aim is to extend our reach to a wider audience," stated Budhabhati.

Mili Rughani, the head of the company's Tanzanian office, affirmed their commitment to ongoing investment in Tanzania and providing innovative solutions for digital payment challenges.

## Tycoon Ambani sets sights on Africa with telecom joint venture

By Sankalp Phartiyal

Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani (pictured) is set to enter Africa with a telecom venture, seeking to win mobile broadband customers in a high-growth market.

Radisys Corp., a unit of Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries Ltd., will provide key network infrastructure, applications and smartphones for Ghana-based Next-Gen InfraCo., according to its Executive Director Harkirit Singh. He described the plans ahead of NGIC's launch announcement on Monday in Mumbai, India's financial hub.

NGIC, which is planning to begin operations by the end of this year, will provide 5G broadband services to mobile operators and internet service providers in Ghana.

The company "is based on a premise of building affordable digital services in emerging markets," Singh told Bloomberg News.

Other strategic partners in NGIC include Nokia Oyj, Indian outsourcer Tech Mahindra Ltd. and Microsoft Corp., which has increasingly sharpened its focus on the telecom business following an acquisition of two cloud networking firms in 2020.

Ghana, a West African country with a population of just over 33 million, has three main operators: MTN Ghana, Telecel Ghana and AT, which changed its name from AirtelTigo last year after Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Millicom International Cellular SA sold their stakes.

NGIC's strategic partners, its technological prowess and the company's possession of Ghana's only 5G license will help it build broadband services at scale, a huge expense for individual mobile carriers, Singh said.

Two African telecom firms - Ascend Digital Solutions Ltd. and K-NET - hold a combined stake of 55% in the new company, said Singh. The Ghana government will own just under 10% of NGIC, while local mobile operators and private investors will retain the remaining shares in the firm. Singh is also the chief executive of Ascend.

NGIC has the exclusive right to offer 5G services in Ghana for a decade, though its license is valid for 15 years. The company's capital expenditure for three years is \$145 million, according to Singh.

The company is looking to emulate the success of Ambani's Jio Infocomm Ltd. in India. Jio launched telecom services in India in late 2016 with low-cost data and free voice calling, forcing some rivals to shut down and others to consolidate. It is widely credited for making mobile data affordable to hundreds of millions of Indians.

Jio is currently India's biggest mobile operator with 470 million users.

## Cocoa growers call for swift action as prices plunge by 50 percent

By Correspondent Cheji

Bakari, Muheza

**C**OCOA growers in the Zigi River valley and its sub-catchment areas have reported a sudden 50 percent decrease in the prices of their processed seeds. They are urging the relevant authorities to take immediate action to restore the prices to their previous levels.

The farmers expressed shock and dismay at the low prices they recently received from traders. They could not provide specific reasons behind these price fluctuations but emphasized the need for prompt intervention.

The growers, who are also dedicated to environmental and water source conservation in the Zigi catchment areas—spread across Amani, Potwe, and Kimbo villages within the Amani Nature Reserve in the East Usambara range of block mountains—shared their concerns during an exclusive interview with The Guardian reporter over the weekend.

Twaha Juma, chairperson of the Union for Farmers and Environmental Conservation of Kihuhwi and Zigi (UWAMAKIZI), spoke on behalf of 1,825 farmers. These farmers have dedicated the

past decade to cocoa and spice farming along the riverbanks, striving to conserve water sources while seeking economic benefits. Initially lucrative, the recent decline in prices has significantly impacted their earnings.

"Last year, the price reached 15,000/- per kilogram, but this year it plummeted to 2,000/- before slightly recovering to 7,000/- per kilogram by May," Juma said.

"The price fluctuations present a serious challenge for us. Many environmental conservationists had planted numerous cocoa trees because of the substantial benefits they offered, but now the prices have sharply dropped. We need markets and agribusiness experts to come here and provide us with technical advice on what to do," he added.

Cocoa production began in Tanzania in the late 1960s. Despite its potential, it has not been significantly promoted or developed as one of Tanzania's strategic cash crops. This lack of support and development has left cocoa farmers vulnerable to market volatility, impacting their livelihoods and conservation efforts.

The Zigi River valley is not

only vital for cocoa farming but also plays a crucial role in the environmental health of the region. The farmers' conservation efforts are aimed at protecting water sources that are essential for the local ecosystem and the communities that rely on them. The significant drop in cocoa prices threatens not just their economic stability but also the sustainability of their environmental initiatives.

Farmers in the Zigi River valley are calling for the establishment of more stable and supportive market structures. They are seeking government intervention to stabilize cocoa prices and promote the crop as a strategic agricultural product. Additionally, they urge for the involvement of agribusiness experts to provide guidance on how to navigate the current market challenges and improve production techniques.

The decline in cocoa prices is a stark reminder of the need for a more robust agricultural policy that supports farmers and recognizes the dual role they play in both economic development and environmental conservation. Ensuring fair prices and market access is crucial for the sustainability of cocoa farming in Tanzania.



A cocoa farmer carries his produce. File Photo

VIEW FROM THE TOP

# What end-users need to know about cyber-security

WHEN we talk about cyber security, we mean the process of protecting against cyber-attacks on computers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data. Because of developing security vulnerabilities, changing hacking strategies, and changing technology, cyber security requirements are becoming more and more complex on a regular basis.

Computer networks and ICT solutions are becoming increasingly important to our society, economy, and critical infrastructure. This has changed how business is done, how public services and government are run, and how healthcare and education are delivered. The security of personal information and data belonging to individuals, companies, organisations, and even the government is now facing additional challenges as a result of these changes. As a consequence, cyberattacks have grown more attractive and maybe terrifying. Cyber security is

not just a simple matter of having a username and password. Cyber security has become a fundamental aspect of daily living because we rely on the exchange of information between various aspects of our lives.

What do you need to know about cyber security?

The majority of us have a lot of data from our computers, smartphones, tablets, storage devices, and other sources.

Firstly, we need to be aware. What information do you possess, how secure is it, and how significant is it?

Secondly, we must be aware of access. What may occur if misplaced or falls into the wrong hands.

Lastly, in order to protect it, we must be aware of appropriate precautions. (i) When using the internet, consider your options before clicking anything and make sure the website, link, and person you're connecting with are legitimate. (ii) Avoid giving strangers access to your personal information (iii) Verify that your antivirus software is

## By Ibrahim Sultan Cyber Security Consultant



up to date. (iv) Create unique login credentials for each account.

### Internet Safety Quick Tips

Since the internet is an untrustworthy network, consider your options carefully before clicking any links or opening any email attachment. Once you click a link affected by malware or download phishing email attachment your device will no longer function the same.

One of the fundamental guidelines for preventing cyberattacks via email is to never open an attachment if you don't anticipate it to be sent even to someone you know.

If you receive an attachment, try to confirm with the sender before opening it. This is because there are many tools available for impersonating someone, which hackers can use to send phishing attachments that, if opened, grant them access to your device.

Stay away from public Wi-Fi. Because you share with individuals you don't know, it's called public Wi-Fi. Anybody can create Wi-Fi with any name so don't be full with free Wi-Fi with the name of the place. When you join a free Wi-Fi network, your traffic is routed through the network owner, who can easily

access your credentials. Tips for staying secure when using free Wi-Fi: (i) Make sure you connect to the correct hotspot when using public Wi-Fi. (ii) Use a paid VPN, if you have one, to encrypt your traffic; otherwise, don't use a free one. Stay away from free VPN, its possibly belongs to hackers. (iii) Otherwise, because Telegram and WhatsApp have end-to-end encryption, you can only use them when using free Wi-Fi.

Having multiple passwords or changing them frequently is one of the main issues faced by most users. An even bigger risk is that most users

end up keeping their passwords on their browsers. Some individuals who use the same or basic password for several accounts may have already been subject to data breaches. When a hacker has access to one account, they can use it to access other accounts. The password must consist of alphanumeric characters, which are combinations of capital, lowercase, digits, and symbols. There are a lot of suggestions in the password, but I can use math tips now. Take a look at this password: "4+Twenty=24". If I have a Gmail account, it will be "4+Twenty=24g." If I have a Facebook account, it will be "4+Twenty=24f." If I have an e-office account, it will be "4+Twenty=24e." and so on. Thus, regardless of how many accounts we have, we can still easily construct difficult passwords for each of them.

For most users, removable media—such as smartphones, SD cards, USB sticks, and external hard drives—represents their biggest security risk. People are connecting unknown removable media

to their devices without realizing the consequences. This raised the risk of security breaches when it wasn't safe. You should never share removable media, and if you do, make sure to scan it for viruses. If not, ask someone to email you the information.

We don't have free food in cyber security, so avoid free tech-related things like free Wi-Fi, free download, free software, winning a lottery or green card without participating as there are ways to pay without realizing it. And make sure to always lock your computer (device) screen and disconnect the network when you're not using it.

Last but not least, in cyber security nothing is "set and forget", keep yourself updated on how to handle new threats and exploits because what is secure now might not be necessary to provide security tomorrow.

**Ibrahim Sultan is a cyber-security expert based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through email address: [sultibra@gmail.com](mailto:sultibra@gmail.com)**

## Business skills change lives of women in Ulanga

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Business education and entrepreneurship skills offered by activists in Ulanga District Council, Morogoro Region have transformed women's lives and helped them to become economically independent to support their families.

Janeth Makwenjula, chairperson of Tanzania Women's Union (UWT) and activist based in Ulanga District Council made the statement yesterday when speaking to journalists about what has been done to transform women's lives from being dependent on their husbands to job creators.

Makwenjula said she has visited four wards across the district to create awareness and educate women, youth and men on business education, how to secure loans from financial institutions, entrepreneurship skills, how to set up a business and become an entrepreneur.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from her, a total of 200 women in three wards have been able to secure loans from the financial institutions and set up their own business. She named wards as Milola, Igumbiro and Mavimba.

Among those, 100 women are from Igumbiro, 50 from Milola and the remained 50 from Mavimba ward and are already engaged in vegetable farming, small food vending businesses (Mama Lishe) while others own restaurants, cafe and earn cash to support their families instead of depending on their husband as well as saving their cash.

"As an activist, I am very happy for what has been achieved so far because I have managed to transform women's lives something that was not the case in the past," she said.

To start with, seven women are engaged in vegetable farming, seven in small food vending businesses (restaurant) at Milola village, while at Igumbiro ward, five women are engaged in small food vending businesses (Mama Lishe) and 12 are engaged in vegetable farming.

Also in Mavimba ward, five women are involved in fish trade, five in vegetable farming.

Apart from that, Makwenjula has been able to open her own small shop that sold different products at Milola village to allow women, youth and other men to learn from there and later on establish their own shops or business to earn cash to improve their livelihoods.

Under the programme, women in the area were also trained on women's rights, what is gender-based violence against women, the effects it has for them, as well as obtain a chance to identify the main challenges they face in their families.

The training has helped them to set up their own businesses in their localities, we're seeing more women demanding their rights in courts, they help their children to stay in a better shape, they can contest in various political posts at village and ward levels and win," she said.

"Before Makwenjula intervention, life was so hard and painful for Milola Ward residents, majority of people were very poor, they were at zero in almost everything in terms of business education, how to set up business, access loans and even how to get their rights and other issues."

Cecilia Mahundi, a mother of four is among women who have benefited from the training at Milola ward.

She lauded Makwenjula for introducing the awareness campaign in their localities to educate women and other people on business education, entrepreneurship skills, how to access loans and set up business.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from Makwenjula, Mahundi has been able to open two businesses that includes a small café business selling milk, yoghurt, snacks and charcoal business since November 29th in 2023.



## Dollar bulls retreat as US economic print cools

By Masaki Kondo & Ruth Carson

BULLISH sentiment on the dollar is rapidly receding

amid signs the US economy is cooling, with a group of investors holding a net short position for the first time in six weeks.

While leveraged funds still

held bullish wagers on the greenback last week, they were dwarfed by increased net dollar shorts owned by asset managers. Commodity Futures Trading Commis-

sion data show. Combined they held a net short position with contracts worth \$5.36 billion as of May 21. That compared with a net \$2.02 billion long position a week earlier.

During this period, US monthly inflation data cooled for the first time in six months, while retail sales stagnated in April, boosting odds for Federal Reserve interest rate cuts. Investors will now turn their attention to personal consumption expenditures due Friday - the Fed's favored inflation gauge - for any signals for the central bank to start easing policy.

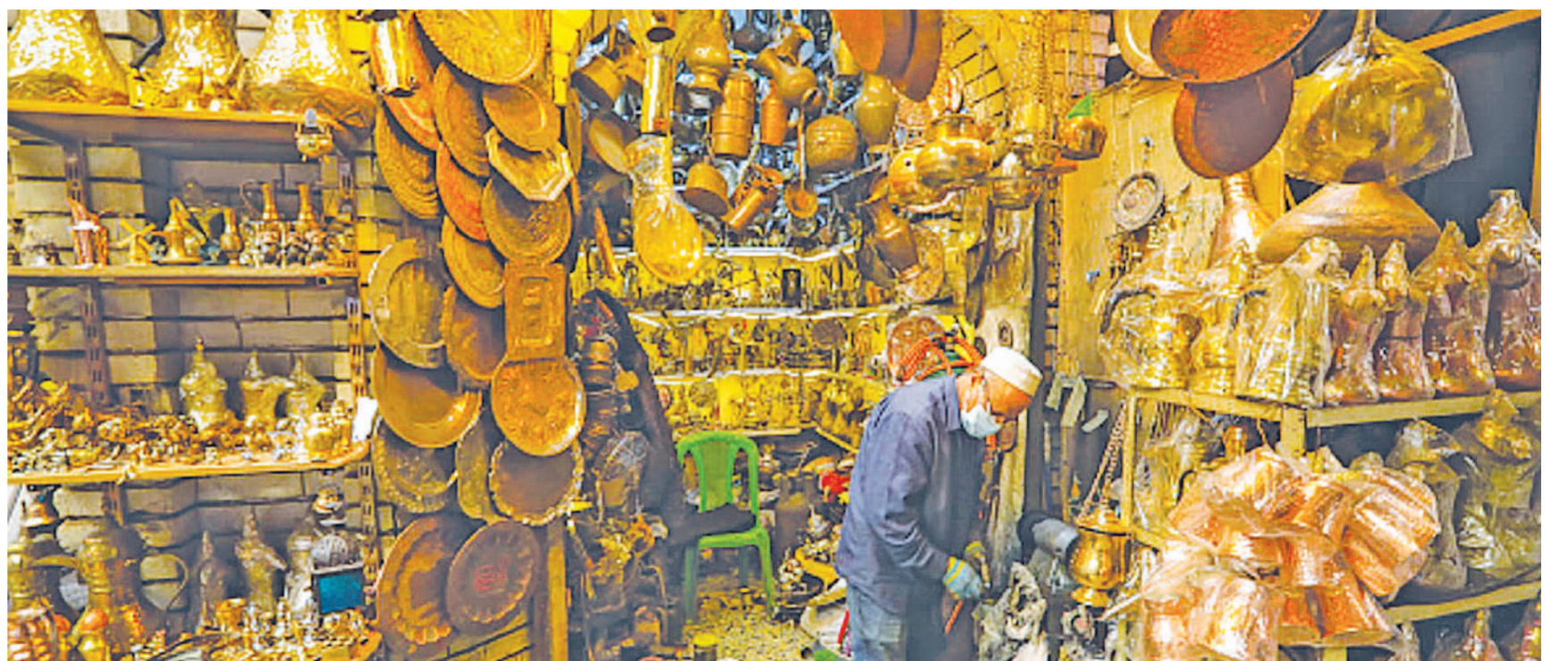
"Positioning is going to be volatile in the near term, depending on the incoming US economic data," said Carol Kong, a currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "But I think ultimately the markets will turn more bearish on the US dollar as it

becomes clear the FOMC will start cutting rates."

The US currency weakened against almost all of its Group-of-10 peers between May 14 and May 21, leading to a decline of 0.4 percent in the Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index.

In that week, investors boosted net dollar shorts against the euro while trimming bullish wagers against the pound, contributing to the shift in the overall dollar position. Net dollar longs against the yen still increased.

For investors to prepare for a new cyclical dollar downturn, the Fed has to "play ball," said Rodrigo Catril, a senior foreign-exchange strategist at National Australia Bank Ltd. "Thus, the PCE this week will be important, so a soft or in-line number will keep Fed rate cut expectations this year alive."



## Global face fear of copper shortage

BEIJING

The global copper market is gripped by fears of a shortage, which has propelled prices to record levels and sparked a \$49 billion takeover battle. But in China, the world's biggest producer and consumer of the refined metal, there's more than enough to go around.

At the center of that conundrum are the nation's ever-expanding copper smelters. The industry is maintaining production at near-record levels - defying a scarcity of raw materials - as higher prices unlock more scrap metal for processing.

Smelters had pledged to reduce capacity after their fees collapsed because of a supply squeeze on the imports of ore they use as feedstock.

The prospect of insufficient copper in China is just one of the pillars supporting a barnstorming rally that took the metal above \$11,000 a ton for the first time at the start of last week. But the cuts haven't happened and China's faltering economy isn't able to absorb the excess.

The mismatch between supply and demand has become more glaring in recent days, with prices retreating to just above \$10,300 a ton. Although that's still a 21 percent gain for the year, it suggests that as long as China remains oversupplied, copper will struggle to make further headway.

The availability of scrap from discarded pots, pipes and wires has risen quickly after copper prices surged, said Liang Kaihui, an analyst with Shanghai Metals Market.

Fabricators have been busy turning that into blister, a semi-processed version of the metal, and feeding it back to smelters, he said, where it's used as a substitute for the overseas ore that's now in short supply.

The abundance of scrap is seen in its discount to refined copper, which blew out to 4,615 yuan (\$637) a ton last week, the widest in at least eight years, according to SMM.

The smelting industry, meanwhile, keeps adding capacity. As long as they're profitable, individual firms prefer to defend market share at the expense of margins. Local governments also want them to keep churning out metal so that they can meet their economic growth targets and maintain employment levels.

China's PMI surveys for May will likely show manufacturing continuing to grow at a modest pace, supported by solid production, according to Bloomberg Economics.

Ten years ago almost to the day, while checking out a handful of luxury sedans from one of China's largest automakers SAIC Motor Corp., President Xi Jinping gave a pivotal speech that would set China on the course to dominate the electric vehicle industry.

Chinese industries plan to ask authorities to start an anti-dumping investigation into pork imports from the European Union, the state-run Global Times said, citing information from a "business insider."

China's engagement in the global system of commerce was roundly criticized by Group of Seven finance chiefs in a show of unity accompanied by a threat of further escalation.

## WORLD



Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak reacts as he meets with veterans at a community breakfast during a party campaign event in the build-up to the UK general election on July 4, in Northallerton, northeastern England, on May 25, 2024. (PHOTO / AP)

## Lagging in polls, UK Conservatives pitch national service at 18

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Conservative Party will introduce mandatory national service for 18-year-olds if it wins the national election on July 4, comprising military or community participation, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Sunday.

Young adults will be able to choose between spending one weekend a month volunteering over the course of a year, or take up one of 30,000 spaces to spend a year in the armed forces, Sunak said.

The announcement followed Labour Party leader Keir Starmer's comments on Saturday that he was in favor of allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote.

Sunak's Conservatives lag Labour by a wide margin in opinion polls, which have shown little change in fortunes for the prime minister since his surprise election call last Wednesday.

"Britain today faces a future that is more dangerous and more divided. There's no doubt that our

democratic values are under threat. That is why we will introduce a bold new model of national service for 18-year-olds," Sunak said in a statement.

The Conservative Party said the proposal would be funded by cracking down on tax avoidance and evasion, and by diverting money from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which existed to reduce regional economic inequality.

Labour politicians derided the announcement.

"The national service we need from our young people is to vote for change on 4th July," said Andy Burnham, mayor of Greater Manchester.

Interior minister James Cleverly told broadcasters there would be no criminal sanctions for skipping mandatory service but that people will be compelled to do it, without providing further details.

Asked by the BBC if forcing adults to volunteer was at odds with the Conservative Party's liberal tradition, Cleverly said: "We force people to do things all the time."

He cited compulsory education or training for teenagers until the age of 18 as an example.

Agencies

## S. Africa's electoral commission condemns threats against election staff

JOHANNESBURG

THE Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa, the country's electoral body, on Sunday condemned threats of violence made against its officials and staff in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

"The commission strongly condemns threats to its staff. No party, nor its representatives, has the authority to gain access to private homes of electoral staff. Worse still, no party, nor its representatives, may take control of election material without being authorized to do so," said Sy Mamabolo, IEC's chief electoral officer, while briefing the media in

Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, about their preparations for the elections.

Mamabolo said that a presiding officer with the IEC was woken at his home in the middle of Saturday night regarding bulk material, including voting booths, voting station signage and banners, and new unfolded ballot boxes, stored at a voting station in Chesterville in the province.

The commission is contemplating measures against the party and individuals involved, as such obstruction to election activities should not be tolerated.

Xinhua

## US and European nations consider vaccinating workers exposed to bird flu

CHICAGO/LONDON

THE United States and Europe are taking steps to acquire or manufacture H5N1 bird flu vaccines that could be used to protect at-risk poultry and dairy workers, veterinarians and lab technicians, government officials said, moves influenza experts say could curb the threat of a pandemic.

US officials last week said they were moving bulk vaccine from CSL Seqirus that closely matches the current virus into finished shots that could provide 4.8 million doses of vaccine. European health officials told Reuters they were in talks to acquire CSL's pre-pandemic vaccine.

Canadian health officials said they have met with GSK, maker of Canada's seasonal flu shots, to discuss acquiring and manufacturing a pre-pandemic bird flu vaccine once its seasonal flu production capacity is freed up.

Other countries, including the UK, are discussing how to proceed on pre-pandemic vaccines, scientists said.

The actions follow the explosive spread of a new strain of bird flu that emerged in late 2020 and has caused unprecedented numbers of deaths among wild birds and domestic poultry and has begun infecting many mammal species.

In March, US officials reported the first outbreak of the virus in dairy cattle, which has infected dozens of herds in nine states and two dairy workers. The US Food and Drug Administration has estimated that 20 percent of the US milk supply shows signs of the virus, indicating a wider spread is likely.

Human exposures to the virus in poultry and dairy operations could increase the risk that the virus will mutate and gain the ability to spread easily in people.

"All of our efforts need to be focused on preventing those events from happening," said Matthew Miller, co-director of the Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Hub at McMaster University. "Once we have widespread infections of humans, we're



Chickens stand in a holding pen at Ettamarie Peterson's farm in Petaluma, Calif. on Jan 11, 2024. AP

in big trouble."

Dr. Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan, said she has been in discussions with US and Canadian officials about using vaccines to protect workers following the virus' spread into new mammal species.

Dawn O'Connell of the US Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response said the government is "looking closely" at the possibility of vaccinating farm workers and others in close contact with the virus.

The US has contracts with CSL and GSK to test pre-pandemic vaccines that more closely match the circulating virus than older H5N1 vaccines in the stockpile. The US is moving forward with the CSL vaccine, a Department of Health and Human Services official confirmed.

Discussions about pre-pandemic vaccine use are going on at government levels and among scientists in a number of places, including in the UK, said Wendy Barclay, chair in influenza virology at University College London, who also researches avian flu for the UK Health Security Agency.

If deployed strategically to dairy farmers, healthcare workers and those in close contact with infected animals, "it would put a pin in the virus," she said, although she said it was not clear if this step was necessary yet.

The UK government did not comment but said it is monitoring the situation in the US.

In Europe, the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority is working on a joint procurement of CSL Seqirus's vaccine to "potentially prevent a pandemic" sparked by individuals exposed to infected birds and animals, spokesman Stefan De Keersmaecker told Reuters.

A spokeswoman for CSL, which has contracts for pandemic influenza vaccines with 30 governments,

said the company has been in talks with several governments about procuring vaccines since 2022. Those requests have accelerated with the US outbreak, she said.

### Pre-pandemic stockpile

The US maintains a stockpile of pre-pandemic vaccine candidates and bulk vaccine against an array of influenza strains and conducts clinical trials to support an Emergency Use Authorization or FDA license in the event of pandemic.

Seasonal flu vaccine makers, including Sanofi, could also be asked to shift to producing pandemic flu vaccines.

The US is in talks with mRNA vaccine makers Pfizer and Moderna about potential pandemic vaccines.

Dr. Richard Webby, a St Jude Children's Research Hospital virologist who studies flu in animals and birds for the World Health Organization, said the situation in dairy cattle merits vaccine use.

"If we look at the exposure levels that some of these farmers are getting, it's high," Webby said.

The decision on how and when to use the vaccine will hinge on evidence of increased transmission, severity of disease, cases in people with no link to a dairy farm and mutations in the virus, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Principal Deputy Director Nirav Shah said.

Dutch flu virologist Ron Fouchier of the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam, who has conducted experiments mapping the changes necessary for bird flu to spark a pandemic, said Europe's plan is to procure the CSL vaccine for people occupationally exposed to the virus. His lab could well be eligible if a vaccine becomes available, he said, adding, "I would certainly take it."

## Chinese premier urges China, Japan and South Korea to stick to original aspiration of cooperation

SEOUL

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang said here yesterday that



China, Japan and South Korea should stay committed to the original aspiration for cooperation and make joint efforts to resume and accelerate China-Japan-South Korea cooperation so as to make greater contributions to regional prosperity and stability.

Li (pictured) made the remarks at the ninth Trilateral Summit Meeting among China, Japan and South Korea.

As this year marks the 25th anniversary of the China-Japan-South Korea trilateral cooperation mechanism, Li said that at this new starting point, China, Japan and South Korea should stay committed to the original aspiration for cooperation and uphold openness, inclusiveness, mutual respect and trust, mutual benefit and mutual learning.

He said that the three sides should upgrade and speed up China-Japan-South Korea cooperation, embark on a new journey of comprehensive development, and contribute more to regional prosperity and stability.

Li put forward a five-point proposal on deepening China-Japan-South Korea cooperation. The first is to promote the comprehensive restart of cooperation, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, fully tap the potential for cooperation, steadily facilitate growth, and foster positive interplay between bilateral relations and trilateral cooperation.

The second is to deepen economic and trade connectivity, maintain the stability and smoothness of the industrial chain and supply chain, and resume and complete the negotiations of the China-Japan-South Korea free trade agreement as soon as possible.

The third is to lead scientific and technological innovation cooperation and strengthen collaborative innovation and cooperation in frontier fields. China will establish a China-Japan-South Korea Innovation Cooperation Center in China to help the three countries accelerate the cultivation of new growth drivers.

The fourth is to boost cultural and people-to-people exchanges and take the opportunity of the China-Japan-South Korea 2025-2026 Year of Cultural Exchange to bring closer the hearts of the three neighbors.

The fifth is to strive to promote sustainable development, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the fields of low-carbon transformation, climate change, aging population, and epidemic response, among others, and explore and carry out more "China-Japan-South Korea + X" cooperation projects.

Xinhua

## Zelensky urges world leaders to join Global Peace Summit amid war with Russia

KYIV

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday urged the global leaders to participate in the Global Peace Summit, which begins on June 15, stressing that Russia is run by men who want

to make it a norm of burning lives and dividing people. He emphasized that no nation can stop such war alone and unaided.

In a post on X, Zelensky said that together with Switzerland, Ukraine is preparing for such a Summit.

"For them, it is a pleasure to deal with. Russia is run by men who want to make it a norm

of burning lives, destroying cities and villages, dividing people, and erasing national borders through war. There is no nation that can

stop such war alone, unaided. World leaders' engagement is needed," the Ukrainian President said.

He further said that Ukraine has the world's largest experience of lies from Russia in terms of dialogue and negotiations. ANI

## Over 750,000 SMEs in Guangdong employ cloud systems for higher-efficiency production

GUANGDONG province in south China has been accelerating the digital, networked and intelligent development of the manufacturing sector in recent years, leveraging technological transformation to upgrade traditional manufacturing industries such as textile and home appliance.

As a major production base of the textile and garment industry, Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province has encouraged a number of industrial internet platforms to help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) transition to cloud-based systems and services, including Guangzhou Zhijing Information Technology Co., Ltd. (GZIT), a Guangzhou-based company that uses digital technology

to streamline textile operations.

The company has developed an intelligent platform that assists garment manufacturers find proper fabric suppliers. The platform gathers massive market information and can quickly search for desired items based on actual demands.

Shi Daqing, general manager of a garment company in Dongguan, Guangdong province, is a beneficiary of the platform. "In the past, I had to search in fabric markets for days every time I came to Guangzhou to procure supplies. Now, with online fabric selection, it only takes a few minutes to find the fabrics we want," said Shi, who has been engaged in the garment business for more than 20 years.

According to Li Yaping, co-founder and senior vice president of GZIT, the company, leveraging big data, Internet of Things and other cutting-edge technologies, has launched multiple smart cloud platforms that cover all sectors of the garment industrial chain, from fabric production to procurement, and from apparel design to sales.

Li told People's Daily that it generally cost over half a month to design a piece of clothing in the past, which needed multiple procedures such as graphic design, pattern making, cutting and sample making.

However, the cycle has been shortened to just minutes thanks to an intelligent apparel design platform independently developed by

GZIT, which can rapidly generate virtual samples based on preset styles and preferences.

In a smart textile park of GZIT in Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan province, the company employs a real-time intelligent quality-check system.

Many defects of fabrics couldn't be spotted by manual inspections, and now with the fully automated quality-check system, over 99 percent of the products are qualified, said Li Peifeng, head of the smart textile park.

"Each roll of the fabrics comes with a quality-check report and a QR code, which enable full traceability of production information along the chain," he told People's Daily.

Since its establishment in 2014, GZIT has continually expanded its business scope, serving more than 50,000 enterprises in the textile and apparel industry both inside and outside Guangdong province with digital technologies.

"Cloud" services give a big helping hand to SMEs, which is deeply recognized by Chen Kai, general manager of a textile company in Foshan, Guangdong province.

"We all know the benefits of digitalization, but everything about it, from R&D to equipment upgrade, costs money. Cloud services allow us small businesses to achieve significant outcomes with minimal investment," Chen noted.

Today, Chen's company

can pay to use GZIT's intelligent systems and enjoy tangible benefits of technological transformation. "The systems monitor equipment operation in real time, reducing abnormal downtime by 35 percent and boosting overall efficiency by 30 percent," Chen said.

As more and more companies adopted its services in recent years, GZIT built a cloud platform that coordinates upstream and downstream production.

"Downstream apparel manufacturers place orders, the platform assigns them, and upstream textile firms take them," said Li. "Through cloud-based management, we can rapidly match demands and supplies, thus promoting efficient production."

Li is quite optimistic about GZIT's future development. "Apart from servicing upstream and downstream enterprises, we are now integrating them to make the industrial chain more resilient and competitive!"

Zou Yongbing, chief economist of the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Guangdong province, said that in recent years, the province has introduced and cultivated over 400 outstanding industrial internet platform companies and service providers including GZIT. Collectively, they have driven digital transformation for over 30,000 industrial enterprises above designated size and enabled over 750,000 SMEs to adopt cloud solutions.

People's Daily



## Success of India's foreign policy is manifestation of its domestic policy, says Jaishankar

VARANASI

STATING that India's reputation has changed globally, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday that the success of New Delhi's foreign policy is a manifestation of its domestic policy.

He also emphasized that today India is the world's fastest growing economy and the world wants to open operations and ventures here.

The EAM was speaking at an event 'Bharat's Rise in Global Diplomacy' in Benares Club in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday.

Addressing the event, Jaishankar said, "If we look at the major economies, our growth rate of 7 per cent is the highest in the world. Today the world is interested in India, so many joint venture proposals come here, so many companies want to start their operations, and our trade, and exports are rising. We all should accept that there has been a lot of progress in this...the growth rate has increased and inflation has reduced."

Speaking on India's foreign policy, the Foreign Minister said that India lacked confidence in the past, but has displayed a "confident" foreign policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

He added that while earlier India was reluctant to have relations with countries, today it is working to keep everyone close.

"You must have sometimes heard the Prime Minister also say what was the difference between the foreign policy of earlier times and today's foreign policy...Earlier, we wanted to maintain relations with other countries, but we lacked confidence...we felt to keep everyone at some dis-



stance. Keeping distance and balancing distance," the EAM said.

He added, "After 2014, you can see a very different foreign policy. The confidence increases, when a very confident leader comes, who has an understanding of the world, who has faith in the country.

You see that the same foreign policy, you keep everyone together, keep them so close. So now the balance is not about keeping distance, the balance is how close we keep everyone, and how many relationships we build together."

Elaborating on it further, the EAM said today India maintains healthy relations with several major powers of competing interests, ranging from the US and Russia,

to Iran and Israel and it is part of organisations like the SCO and BRICS.

He said India's image and reputation changed in the world, adding that New Delhi's success in foreign policy is a manifestation of its domestic policy.

"Today, we can say that we have good relations with America, not just good, but the best relations since independence... we are good with Russia, we have maintained relations with Israel as well.

The relationship with Iran is also good. We have a big connectivity proposal to build a corridor through Saudi Arabia and also a corridor through Iran and Russia...We are also a member of SCO with Russia and other countries. We have just

seen the extension of BRICS," Jaishankar said.

"So you must understand that today India's position, India's reputation, India's image in the world is different and India's situation is also different. So for us, whatever success of foreign policy happens is a manifestation of domestic policy...So the first thing I said is that there is tension in the world, there is conflict in the world, there is war in the world, there is instability in the world, but India's position is very strong in this," he added.

Drawing a comparison from the past, the Foreign Minister highlighted the massive strides made in the field of infrastructure in the last 10 years, with railways, metros and highways.

"Today it is about infrastructure... There was a time when people used to say that India has talent, but regarding production here, they said 'Who will go there, extraction is very difficult, and sending raw material there is very difficult.' In the same India, today, 28 kilometres of highway is built every day, 14 kilometres of railway track is built every day, 8 new airports are built every year, every year new metro systems are built in 2 new metro cities," he added.

He also highlighted a 'positive exception' in India referring to PM Modi's popularity, stating that the other global leaders find it difficult to get re-elected for a second or third term.

"You can also see that there is a lot of instability in the political field all over the world. You will rarely see a country like this where democracy is so difficult. The first re-election of the Prime Minister or President is very difficult, let alone the second. So, we should first recognize that India is an exception, a positive exception in this world environment," Jaishankar further said. **ANI**

## AU reiterates redoubling continental efforts to realise conflict-free Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has reiterated the crucial need to redouble continental efforts to silence the guns in Africa and realize a conflict-free continent as it marks the 20th anniversary of the AU Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC).

To commemorate the occasion, the AU held a high-level colloquium on Saturday under the theme "20 Years of the AU-PSC as a Standing Decision-Making Organ: The Next Two Decades of the Peace and Security We Want in Africa" in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the AU said in a statement.

Addressing the high-level colloquium, Mousa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the AU Commission, highlighted the council's major contributions in promoting and sustaining peace, security and stability across Africa.

"In the heyday of its development, the council has, over the years, established fundamental principles for continental peace and security," the statement quoted Faki as saying.

He said the intimate link between peace and development, the promotion of African solutions to African problems, the rejection of violent solutions to African conflicts, the promotion of mediation and political dialogue, the rejection of external interference, and the unwavering commitment to the independence, sovereignty, integrity and unity of African states have all become part of the collective imagination under the AU-PSC.

According to the AU, since its establishment on May 25, 2004, the council has been actively engaged in addressing peace and security challenges on the continent. It has made decisions that provide political guidance for conflict or crisis situations, including the deployment of peace support operations, high representatives, peace envoys and the Panel of the Wise for preventive diplomacy, which has led to the de-escalation of a number of crises across the continent.

According to Faki, soft cooperation between the AU-PSC and the United Nations Security Council has gradually been established, eventually providing greater visibility and recognition as a primary instrument in sustaining peace and security in Africa.

The AU Commission chief, however, underscored the urgent need to exert concerted efforts to silence the guns in Africa as a cornerstone for realizing a conflict-free Africa in line with the continental vision behind the establishment of the AU-PSC two decades ago.

He said one of the areas that need collective efforts in this regard is ensuring zero tolerance against unconstitutional changes of government across Africa.

He further called for strengthening continental cooperation against external interference. "As everyone knows, the guiding principle of this honorable organ was to ensure value-based management of peace and security issues in Africa by Africans themselves.

The background to this was, and remains, the protection of member states against external interference, whether rival or ally," Faki said.

"The notorious lack of inter-African solidarity has left member states beset by insoluble demands for peace and security with no way out. Populism was unleashed, and unconstitutional changes of government quickly proliferated," he said.

According to the AU, the high-level colloquium serves as a unique platform for the council to assess its accomplishments and the challenges faced over the past two decades in discharging its mandate of promoting peace, security and stability in Africa.

**As everyone knows, the guiding principle of this honorable organ was to ensure value-based management of peace and security issues in Africa by Africans**

## Iraqi PM, UN chief discuss relations after ending assistance mission

BAGHDAD

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani held a phone conversation with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Sunday on bilateral relations, including the timetable for ending the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

In the phone talks, al-Sudani and Guterres discussed the cooperation between Iraq and the UN in various fields, and also touched on Iraq's request to end UNAMI's mission and the timetable for reducing its personnel levels, the premier office said in a statement.

Al-Sudani expressed Iraq's appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations and UNAMI in the country, praising their programs and contribu-

tions to the country during the stages of reconstruction, economic development, and recovery from the impacts of terrorism, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, al-Sudani received in his office in Baghdad Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert on the occasion of the conclusion of her tenure, al-Sudani's media office said in a separate statement.

During the meeting, al-Sudani confirmed that Iraq's request to end the UNAMI mission came as Iraq is witnessing political and security stability, pointing out that the Iraqi government continues to cooperate with international agencies affiliated with the United Nations, the statement



This combo photo shows Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani (left) and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. AP

added. The Iraqi government said on May 12 that it had requested the termination of the UNAMI operations by the end of 2025.

GAZA

## 40 killed in Israeli bombing on camp in Gaza's Rafah

AT least 40 people were killed and some others injured on Sunday evening in Israel's bombing of tents in northwestern Rafah, the southernmost city of the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian official news agency WAFA reported.

Israeli forces fired about eight rockets toward the tents in a newly established camp crowded with thousands of displaced people near the warehouses of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), WAFA added.

Local sources told Xinhua that it

was a "severe and unprecedented" Israeli airstrike on the densely populated area of displaced families, igniting tents made of plastic and tin, as well as civilian vehicles. Video clips circulated on Facebook showed flames rising intensively in the area and fires engulfing tents still inhabited by many, including children and women.

The sources mentioned that the Civil Defense and ambulance crews face significant obstacles in retrieving the bodies due to the difficult terrain. Palestinian security sources told Xinhua that crowded with Gazans, the area had been classified by the Israeli military as a "safe area" before the strike.

In a statement released Sunday night, Hamas slammed the bombing as "complete defiance and disregard for the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that demanded it to stop its aggression against Rafah." It also noted that Israel would not have committed without the U.S. support and green light, saying to hold the U.S. administration fully responsible for the deadly attack.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement that "an IDF aircraft struck a Hamas compound in Rafah in which significant Hamas terrorists were operating." "The strike was carried out against legitimate tar-

gets under international law, using precise munitions and on the basis of precise intelligence that indicated Hamas' use of the area," it added.

The Israeli airstrike came hours after Al-Qassam Brigades, the Hamas armed wing, launched a large rocket barrage from Rafah towards the coastal city of Tel Aviv in central Israel for the first time in months.

On May 7, the Israeli army announced that it had taken control of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, situated south of the Gaza Strip on the border with Egypt and in the eastern area of Rafah, which resulted in a halt in aid entering Gaza.

BEIJING

## Digital economy expands in scale, demonstrating enormous potential

CHINA'S digital economy has expanded rapidly in recent years, showcasing significant growth potential and contributing to the country's high-quality development. The following are some facts and figures highlighting the country's latest progress in the area.

The value-added output of core industries in the digital economy reached 10 percent of China's total gross domestic product in 2023, according to the latest report on the development of Digital China released by the National Data Administration.

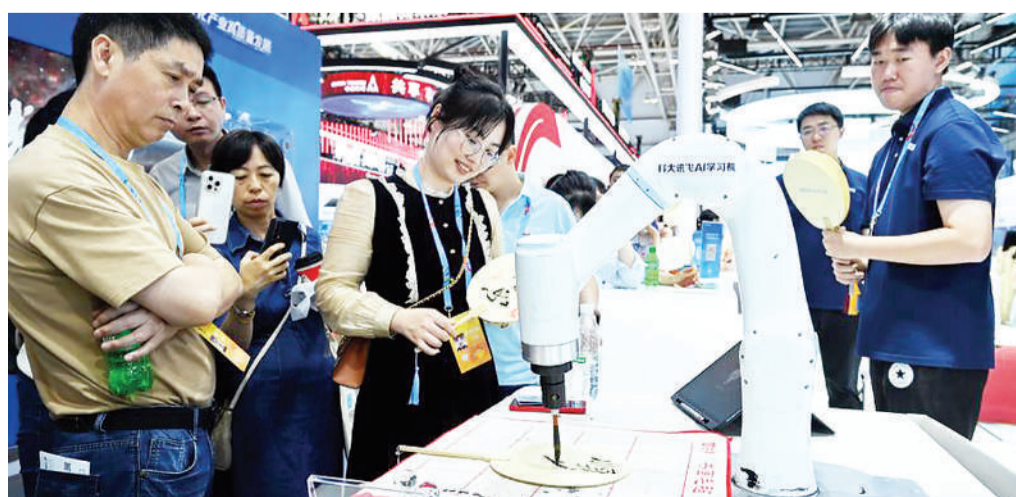
The figure showed that the country reached the target set in the plan to facilitate the development of the digital

economy in the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) two years ahead of the schedule.

The plan, rolled out by the State Council in 2022, aimed to raise the proportion of value-added output of core digital economy industries in its GDP to 10 percent in 2025, up from 7.8 percent in 2020.

Data showed that the country's digital infrastructure has largely improved, with the scale of computing power reaching 230 EFLOPS in 2023, ranking second in the world.

By the end of last year, the scale of computing power across more than 2,200 computing centers nationwide had grown by approximately 30 percent year on year, ac-



People watch as an AI-powered robotic arm writes with a brush at the hand-on experience area during the 7th Digital China Summit in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, May 24, 2024. Xinhua

According to the 2023 edition of the national data resource survey report.

The demand for computing power for large model training surged, with increased

need observed in the scientific, governmental, financial and industrial sectors, ac-

ording to the report.

In terms of data production, China generated 32.85 zettabytes of data last year, up 22.44 percent year on year, as the country experienced explosive growth in unstructured data production during the period.

The rapid development of 5G and AI technologies, along with the widespread use of smart devices, contributed significantly to the increase in total data volume through content creation and audiovisual media, according to the report.

In terms of data storage, the country's cumulative data storage volume reached 1.73 zettabytes in 2023, with

its storage space utilization rate climbing to 59 percent.

Digital technologies have increasingly been integrated into various areas of economic and social development in China, promoting the accelerated formation of new quality productive forces.

The scale of China's intelligent manufacturing equipment industry has exceeded 3.2 trillion yuan (about 450 billion U.S. dollars), with 421 national-level demonstration factories cultivated.

Technologies such as artificial intelligence and digital twins are applied in over 90 percent of these demonstration factories, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. **Xinhua**

# Tanzanian youngsters steal the show at fascinating CAF African Schools Football Championship

By Lloyd Elipokea

WE begin our discussion today with pleasing tidings to report from the CAF African Schools Football Championship in Zanzibar, which came to a euphoric climax last weekend from a Tanzanian standpoint.

Indeed, in an all-action football championship that drew a plethora of schools from across the vast expanse of the continent, it was hugely encouraging to witness Tanzania brilliantly lift the coveted trophy in the boys' category of the utterly engrossing tournament.

Considering that the esteemed youth football competition featured schools from the so-called juggernauts of continental football like Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa among others, it was doubtlessly a colossal coup that Tanzania was wonderfully able to pull off in the boys' category.

And, the icing on the cake was that Tanzania's rare gem Abel Samson won the accolade for best player of the championship in the boys' category, which just goes to underline Tanzania's fabulous overall performance in the competition.

Similarly, in the girls' category of this newly-minted football championship, Tanzania magnificently secured fourth place, which clearly demonstrates that there is an enormous reservoir of talent in grassroots football on the local scene.

Significantly, it is extremely important that



Tanzania U-15 boys' soccer team players celebrate with their trophy after winning the African Schools Football Championship final match against Guinea at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar on Friday. Tanzania won 1-0. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

the Tanzanian team which won the whole shebang in the boys' category of the CAF African Schools Football Championship is kept together as they grow older otherwise this glorious side of eminently capable young guns could disastrously slip through our fingers.

Likewise, the Tanzanian side that outstandingly finished fourth in the girls' category of this valuable football competition should be carefully kept track of as they mature lest we forget about their stunning exploits.

Speaking of exceptional displays, there is absolutely no doubt that the deadly

Nigerian forward Ademola Lookman, who is on the books of Atalanta, unquestionably deserves rave reviews for his sterling performance in the grand UEFA Europa League Final last Wednesday.

Indeed, the Europa League finale pitted the then-unbeaten Bundesliga giants Bayer Leverkusen against the rising Serie A football outfit Atalanta, with the odds firmly stacked against the latter.

However, on D-Day, it was Atalanta who came out of the blocks the quickest with Lookman being a painful thorn in the side of their greatly heralded Bundesliga opponents.

And, in the end, it was Lookman who almost single-handedly put paid to Leverkusen's hopes of capturing the trophy as the Nigerian netted a stellar hat-trick in what was a memorable and remarkable display.

It is also true that Lookman's excellent accomplishment in superbly netting a hat-trick against the seemingly flawless Bayer Leverkusen cannot be over-exaggerated as it marked the first time that a player had scored a hat-trick in a men's European club football final since 1975.

Having thus announced his arrival on the world

football stage in such impeccable fashion, Lookman will now be doubtlessly courted by various well-heeled European football powerhouses who will all be seeking to hire his in-demand services.

That notwithstanding, though, it is difficult to envision Atalanta giving the green light for their most destructive Nigerian attacker to be sold to a European rival. However, that is a weighty matter that shall be resolved on another day.

For now, all Africans can elatedly shout from the rooftops that a bright, new continental football star has been born.



Bulls Football Academy U-13 boys' team players and officials celebrate after winning the Dar Youth Cup Mini 2024 in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Gamondi sheds light on his desire to have Aziz Ki next season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans SC's head coach Miguel Gamondi has opened up about the transfer speculation surrounding his attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki, who is yet to sign a new contract.

The Burkina Faso international's sensational performances in the Premier League and CAF Champions League have attracted attention from numerous clubs in the continent.

Gamondi expressed his

delight in Aziz Ki's exceptional form this season, highlighting the player's impressive tally of 18 league goals, making him the top scorer in the Tanzania Premier League.

The coach revealed his belief in Aziz Ki's potential. "When I got here, we started working together, and I told him I would make him score more goals," he said.

This faith has clearly paid off, as Aziz Ki's contributions have been

instrumental in Young Africans' third consecutive title win. Despite the growing interest from other clubs, Gamondi remains supportive of Aziz Ki's future.

"I'm not afraid that I'd lose Aziz Ki to another team. If he can get a better contract or a better club, I will be very happy for him because I love him. I took him like my kid," he said.

Gamondi's admiration for Aziz Ki's talent is evident, describing him as a "very nice boy" who deserves success.

While acknowledging the challenges faced by Young Africans following the departure of key players and staff last season, Gamondi emphasised the need for reinvention.

Young Africans lost top scorer Fiston Mayele and head coach Nasreddine Nabi at the end of last season. Gamondi views Aziz Ki as a unique and indispensable asset.

"I want to have Aziz in my team. I would love to have Aziz in all my teams I coach because he has this talent. He can win a match singlehandedly. You can't

find a player like that," said Gamondi.

As transfer rumours continue to circulate, Gamondi's words provide insight into the close relationship he shares with Aziz Ki, highlighting the mutual respect and admiration between the coach and player.

The future remains uncertain for Aziz Ki because he is yet to sign a new contract.

However, the player himself recently revealed he is eager to sign a new deal with the NBC Premier League champions.

## Run for Binti Marathon to empower girls to access quality education, reproductive health

By Guardian Correspondent

OVER 700 participants took part in the Run for Binti Marathon held at Oysterbay Grounds over the weekend, marking the third successful season of this event organized by Smile for Community (S4C) in collaboration with the Legal Services Facility (LSF).

The main objective of this Marathon is to empower girls to access quality education, reproductive health, and environmental conservation, and improve health through exercise.

The marathon included 21 km, 10 km, and 5 km runs. Participants showed great enthusiasm, successfully supporting the goal of ensuring girls have safe menstrual hygiene and a conducive learning environment.

The guest of honor, Minister of Constitution and Legal Affairs Dr Pindi Chana, on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Dr. Doto Biteko, led hundreds of participants in the marathon.

In her speech during the event, Dr. Pindi Chana congratulated LSF in collaboration with Smile for Community for organizing the marathon.

"As the government, we recognize and appreciate the efforts made by non-governmental organizations in helping community development and addressing the challenges faced by girls, so we support these initiatives.

"Additionally, the government has started a special campaign encouraging citizens to exercise, and this is a great opportunity for citizens to participate and achieve this. We also recognize the various challenges facing communities, especially in safe menstrual hygiene, and the need for infrastructure in challenging areas. Through this collaboration, we will be able to improve the lives of girls and the community as a whole," she said.

She further said recently the government has launched a special campaign encouraging citizens to exercise, and the marathon provided an excellent opportunity for citizens to participate and achieve this goal.

Speaking during the marathon, Flora Njelekela, Executive Director of Smile for Community, expressed her gratitude to the guest of

honor for attending and emphasizing the significance of the event.

"Your presence today clearly demonstrates the government's support for our efforts in addressing community challenges," said Njelekela.

She also highlighted the anticipated outcomes of the marathon, stating: "The funds raised today will be directed towards building and improving toilet infrastructure, providing clean water by constructing wells in schools and distributing reusable sanitary pads as well as combating climate change and promoting the proper use of clean energy. These efforts have already benefited thousands of students in secondary schools in Mtwara, and we will continue to expand to reach more schools in Lindi and other areas."

Additionally, Njelekela took the opportunity to request the government to remove taxes on sanitary pads to increase their availability and affordability. She emphasized that the need for these products among girls and women is high, and many cannot afford these costs every month.

For her part, the Executive Director of LSF, Lulu Ng'wanakilala, emphasized the ongoing challenges faced by girls and the significant importance of projects like this in overcoming those obstacles.

She stated: "In our efforts to provide legal aid services, we directly encounter the barriers faced by girls. Today's marathon is more than just a competition; it is a movement to create a community that uplifts and protects the girl child. Together, we allocate resources and collective strength to address community challenges while also improving our health. I sincerely thank the hundreds of citizens who supported us by contributing and participating in today's marathon."

The main sponsor of this marathon, Stanbic Bank, stated that the event aligns with their priorities of supporting the community in education, economic, and health aspects. They expressed their admiration for the results of last year's marathon and confirmed their commitment to continue partnering with LSF and Smile for Community in organizing and hosting this event annually.



# Man United stars pledge to do 'great things' as Ten Hag awaits sack verdict

LONDON

**M**ANCHESTER United's FA Cup-winning stars have pledged to "achieve great things" in future as boss Erik ten Hag waits to discover if he will be sacked.

Ten Hag went into Saturday's FA Cup final against Manchester City rocked by reports that he would be dismissed regardless of the result at Wembley.

United co-owner Jim Ratcliffe and his lieutenants have reportedly sounded out several potential candidates to replace Ten Hag after the club's worst Premier League finish since 1990.

But Ten Hag gave Ratcliffe food for thought as his tactical masterclass inspired a 2-1 victory that foiled City's bid to win successive Premier League and FA Cup doubles.

United lifted the FA Cup for the first time in eight years thanks to goals from teenagers Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo, giving Ten Hag two trophies in his turbulent two-year reign.

Whether that will be enough to earn a stay of execution remains to be seen, with United set to conduct a review of the season before deciding Ten Hag's fate.

United's players demonstrated their support for Ten

Hag with their gritty victory over City, before embracing the former Ajax boss warmly during the post-match celebrations.

And on Sunday, the 28-man first team squad published a letter -- also signed by Ten Hag -- on the club website, admitting this season has "not been good enough" as they aim to build on their unexpected Wembley triumph.

"We all know that this club is special. Yesterday's game was yet another reminder of that," the letter said.

"As we fought to win the FA Cup, the incredible atmosphere you generated inside Wembley helped push us over the line.

"Celebrating all together was beautiful. Fans, staff, players - all united as one. Those memories will live with us forever.

"It was a further reminder that with your support behind us, and the United badge on our chests, we can achieve great things."

- 'Excited for the future' - Ratcliffe refused to answer a question on Ten Hag's future when approached on his way out of Wembley on Saturday.

But together with directors Sir Dave Brailsford and Jean-Claude Blanc, as well as technical director Jason Wilcox, the British billionaire must give his verdict on Ten Hag soon.

The Dutch coach is believed

to have jetted off on holiday on Sunday, having used his post-match press conference to warn United he will carry on winning trophies elsewhere if they sack him.

Former Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino, ex-Bayern Munich manager Thomas Tuchel, England coach Gareth Southgate and Ipswich chief Kieran McKenna have all been linked with the United job.

Going public with his support for Ten Hag, United centre-back Jonny Evans said: "I've only got really good things to say about him.

"Over the last month, he has shown incredible tactical flexibility. Sitting off and counter-attacking is not the style he sees himself coaching but he has recognised the right time to do it and has done it."

Regardless of who is in charge next season, United's players are determined to lift the club back to the top sooner rather than later.

"We know this season overall has not been good enough and we make no excuses. But we ended it in the best way possible, celebrating a trophy all together," they wrote.

"We want more days like yesterday. We are excited for the future here. There is so much that we have to achieve together. We will fight to bring Manchester United the success that this special club deserves."



AFP Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag holds the FA Cup. Agencies

## Sacked Xavi warns next Barca coach job 'won't be easy', ends with Sevilla win

BARCELONA

XAVI Hernandez signed off as Barcelona coach with a 2-1 win at Sevilla on Sunday to close out the La Liga season, before warning his replacement the job "won't be easy".

The Catalans, second, finish the campaign trophyless but were at least able to triumph in Xavi's last match in charge after president Joan Laporta sacked him on Friday.

Just weeks earlier, Barcelona announced Xavi was staying for next season after the coach said in January he had decided to resign in the summer.

Appointed in November 2021, Xavi led Barcelona to the Spanish title last season, but this year his team finished 10 points behind champions and bitter rivals Real Madrid.

German coach Hansi Flick is expected to be appointed as Xavi's successor this week.

Xavi warned of the struggle awaiting the next in line.

"They should know that they've got a difficult situation, because Barca is a difficult club and there's an adverse financial situation too -- it won't be easy at all," he told DAZN.

"I think the work we've done has not been valued enough given the adverse situation we came from.

"(Barca) were ninth in the table when we arrived, we finished second... (then) we won a double, and this year we weren't up to the standard but because of four key games."

Barcelona lost both matches against Real Madrid in La Liga and against third-place neighbours Girona, as well as one other match to Villarreal.

They ended on a positive note, with a victory at Sevilla's Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan stadium.

Robert Lewandowski put Barcelona ahead from close range but Youssef En-Nesyri levelled for Sevilla, whose coach Quique Sanchez Flores is also leaving at the end of the season.

One of Xavi's successes in the role has been to give young players their chance, including starlets Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsi, but also midfielder Fermin Lopez.

The 21-year-old drilled Barcelona ahead in the second half with a low strike from outside the area.

Lopez ran over to Xavi to give the departing coach a hug after his goal.

AFP

## PSG and French football prepare for challenges of post-Mbappe era

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain finished the season with a domestic double after beating Lyon in Saturday's French Cup final but will now start building for another assault on the Champions League next year, this time without Kylian Mbappe.

The France captain brought the curtain down on his seven-year spell at PSG in the 2-1 win over Lyon, in which he failed to add to his club-record tally of 256 goals as Ousmane Dembele and Fabian Ruiz netted on the night.

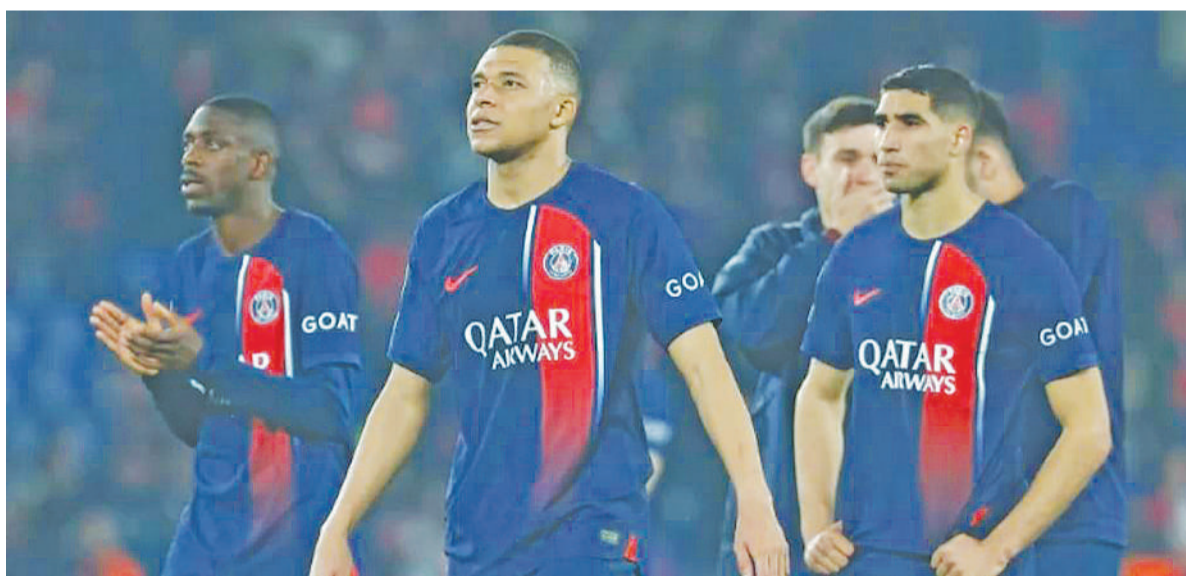
It was a deserved victory against a Lyon team who had been the best side in France in the second half of the season, after sitting bottom of the table in December.

But PSG's ongoing dominance of the French game simply reflects their crushing financial power compared to every other club.

Going by the most recent detailed accounts published by the DNCG, the watchdog that oversees the finances of France's professional clubs, PSG's income in 2022/23 was roughly equivalent to that of the next five richest sides -- Marseille, Lyon, Monaco, Rennes and Lille -- put together.

Their focus has long been on winning the Champions League, a trophy they have never managed to get their hands on over the years with Mbappe, Lionel Messi, Neymar, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and other superstars in their ranks.

And coach Luis Enrique knows how big a



Kylian Mbappe (C) is leaving but Ousmane Dembele (L) and Achraf Hakimi (R) remain as big stars at Paris Saint-Germain. Agencies

task lies ahead as they look to build a team that can enjoy the Champions League success they never managed to achieve with Mbappe.

"He is obviously a different player and we can't replace him with one single player. Forget it. There is no substitute for Kylian Mbappe," PSG's Spanish coach said after Saturday's final.

"We will need to replace him with the team as a whole, and with maybe four, five or six new signings."

- 'Great challenge' - Whether PSG move for one big star -- think

Victor Osimhen or Rafael Leao -- remains to be seen, but they may wish to avoid the kind of approach taken by Barcelona when they lost Neymar in 2017, or Tottenham Hotspur when they sold Gareth Bale to Real Madrid.

Barcelona paid premium prices for several big names in an effort to replace the Brazilian, but most did not work out.

Spurs employed something of a scattergun approach with a host of signings making up for the loss of Bale -- again the success of that strategy was limited.

"A great challenge for any player who might want to come here is that we want to make history," Luis Enrique added.

"This club will sooner or later win that long-desired Champions League title. It is difficult to win. It might take years but they will win it in the future without any doubt."

The Qatar-owned club are set to prepare for next season with a tour of China, where they will play Monaco in the French season-opening Champions Trophy in early August.

The new Ligue 1 season begins on August 16, with the Champions League kicking off in mid-September.

"This season is finishing but the negotiations and possibilities to improve the squad are already beginning," said Luis Enrique, who will also rely on remaining stars such as Dembele, Achraf Hakimi, Portuguese midfielder Vitorinha and teenage sensation Warren Zaire-Emery.

"It is an impressive project when you consider what this club is capable of achieving," added the coach before

contemplating a summer break which he plans to spend at home, watching some of Euro 2024 on television "with a beer or two".

What of the rest of French football?

Lyon will hope to build on their remarkable second half of the season under coach Pierre Sage, who is set to sign a new contract.

Marseille are searching for a new coach after a poor season in which they failed to qualify for Europe, while Monaco and surprise package Brest are looking forward to Champions League campaigns.

But the health of the league as a whole is uncertain, beyond the problems caused by PSG's dominance.

Ligue 1 still has no broadcast deal for next season, at a time when clubs continue to struggle financially in the wake of the collapse of a record contract with Spanish company Mediapro in 2020.

The hope, according to reports, is that a deal will be agreed with beIN Sports -- a network that is, like PSG, Qatari-controlled -- but time is of the essence.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

PSG and French football prepare for challenges of post-Mbappe era



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## Feisal and Aziz Ki scoring race now sets for photo finish

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE final day of the 2023-24 NBC Premier League season this afternoon will be a straight shootout between Feisal Salum and Stephane Aziz Ki for the top scorer award.

The top scorer race is a dead heat.

Young Africans' Aziz Ki has scored 18 goals in 26 league appearances, and Azam's Feisal has amassed the same number of tallies in 26 appearances.

Aziz Ki and Young Africans lock horns with Tanzania Prisons at Chamazi Complex hoping to get the goals that will push him ahead of his former teammate.

Feisal travels to relegation-battlers Geita Gold on the final day aiming to find the goals to nudge ahead of Aziz Ki whilst securing CAF Champions League football for the Chamazi-based side.

Given both their current form, it will not be farfetched to expect them to also be on the score sheet in the afternoon.

Until this season, the top scorer award could be shared between multiple top scorers.

In the 2016/2017 campaign, Simon Msuva and Abulrahman Mussa finished as joint top scorers with 13 goals each.

A year ago, Piston Mayele and Said Ntibazonkiza couldn't be separated at the top of the Golden Boot race.

Each finished with 17 goals and shared the top scorer award.

Starting from this season, a tie-breaker system was introduced by the Tanzania Premier League Board, TPLB, to pick out a definitive winner.

According to the tie-breaker system, if two or more players finish with the same number of goals, three criteria will be used to ensure just one name is attached to the season's award.

If two or more players are tied on the same number of goals, the player with the lowest number of penalties will be deemed the winner.

In the event that two or more players have scored the same number of goals and have the same number of penalties, the player who has played the lowest amount of minutes will win.

In the event that there is a tie on the above criteria, the player with the highest number of away goals wins the award.



Aziz Ki

# Yanga chasing new records with win over Prisons



Young Africans skipper Bakari Mwamnyeto celebrates with teammates after they were crowned the 2023/24 NBC Premier League Champions during their match against Tabora United at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Yanga won 3-0. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

PLAYING their final home fixture of a stellar NBC Premier League season, champions Young Africans welcome Tanzania Prisons to Chamazi Complex this afternoon.

While Young Africans have long since secured a record-extending league title and can afford to take their foot off the gas, they are still gunning to set records.

On Saturday, the champions extended their winning run to six consecutive league games after making light work of relegation-threatened Tabora United with three unanswered goals.

This victory took Young Africans to 77 points after 29 matches.

So far their record reads 25 wins, two draws, and two defeats, a staggering effort from a team that has become totally dominant in the domestic game for three successive seasons.

This season's title is a

third in a row for all-conquering Young Africans and their 30th overall, eight more than their arch-rivals Simba have managed in their history.

Under former head coach Nasreddine Nabi, Young Africans achieved a record 79 points back in last season, and with three points still to play for, Miguel Gamondi knows that this is achievable.

One more victory will see Gamondi and his charges set a new record for most points accumulated in a 30-game league season.

Second, one more win would see Young Africans break their record number of victories in a 30-game league season.

Set last season, Gamondi's men have currently won 25 matches -- the same total that they managed under former boss Nabi -- and need one more three-point haul to set a new landmark.

Tanzania Prisons is particularly almost the perfect opponent for Young Africans to chase these new records, having lost just once in their last 23 head-to-head league encounters with the

Mbeya-based side.

Following three straight losses to Young Africans, with an aggregate scoreline of 5-1 in the Dar club's favour, Tanzania Prisons will perhaps travel from Mbeya to the commercial city in some trepidation.

Wajelajela also have a fairly modest away record this season, winning two, drawing eight, and losing four, so tackling the undisputed champions in their own backyard is sure to prove a tough test.

Young Africans boast a perfect home record hav-

ing won all their 14 league games so far.

Ahead of the final day, Gamondi tipped his hat to his class of 2023/24 and insisted that every member of his squad has played his part and that the levels of performance have been exceptional since the start of the campaign.

Gamondi also called for no let-up from his side, who also reached the CRDB Bank Federation Cup final with the semi-final victory over Ifhefu and are now aiming to win the domestic cup for the third straight year.

## Simba gear up for crucial Premier League finale against JKT Tanzania

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE stage is set for a dramatic conclusion to the 2023/2024 Premier League season as Simba prepare to face JKT Tanzania in their final match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium today.

This highly anticipated clash, scheduled for 4:00 PM EAT, holds immense significance for Simba's end-of-season position.

Simba enter the match boasting a convincing 1-0 victory over JKT Tanzania in the first round. Clatous Chama's goal in the 36th minute secured the win for the Msimbazi Street-based side.

Furthermore, Simba have dominated their recent encounters with JKT, emerging victorious in both their last three meetings.

This dominant record serves as a morale booster for Simba's players as they head into the crucial final match.

Interim head coach Juma Mgunda understands the weight of this match.

"It's a match to close the season," he declared at a recent press conference. "We're well aware of the importance of this game against JKT Tanzania. The outcome will determine our final position in the league," he said.

Mgunda emphasized the team's focus and preparedness.

"We need positive results to know how we'll finish the season. JKT Tanzania are our competitors, and we're well prepared to face them head-on."

However, he acknowledged the pressure, stating: "This is a game with decisions, and we all have needs in this competition. We've addressed these needs with the players, and they understand the importance of the match. Psychologically, they are ready."

Simba currently sit in a precarious third place, tied with arch-rivals Azam on points (66) but separated by eight goals difference. A win against JKT Tanzania would solidify their second-place finish, securing a coveted spot in the CAF Champions League for the upcoming season.

Azam, Simba's closest

competitor in the race for second place, also face a critical match in this final week of the league.

They travel to face Geita Gold at Nyankumbu Stadium, knowing that a loss or draw could shatter their CAF Champions League hopes.

With so much riding on the outcome of both matches, this final day promises to be a thrilling climax to the Premier League season.

Simba will be determined to maintain their winning streak against JKT Tanzania and secure their place in the CAF Champions League.

The top two finishers in the league will earn the right to represent Tanzania in the prestigious CAF Champions League. The third and fourth-place finishers will compete in the CAF Confederation Cup, an-



Juma Mgunda

other major continental tournament.

On the final day of the league, several exciting matches are set to take place.

Coastal Union will face KMC at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, while Ifhefu FC take on Mtibwa Sugar at CCM Liti Stadium in Singida.

Mashujaa FC will

battle Dodoma Jiji FC at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma, and Namungo FC will lock horns with Tabora United at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa.

Additionally, Singida Big Stars will meet Kagera Sugar in what promises to be a thrilling encounter.

In a highly anticipat-

ed match, 2023/24 NBC Premier League champions Young Africans are scheduled to play Tanzania Prisons at Azam Complex Stadium at Chamazi.

These matches are expected to provide an exciting conclusion to the season, with fans eagerly awaiting the outcomes.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

I KNOW T.I.N AND P.I.N  
TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION  
NUMBER AND PERSONAL  
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.  
NOW, WHAT'S GIN?

GARGLE  
IT NOW!

