



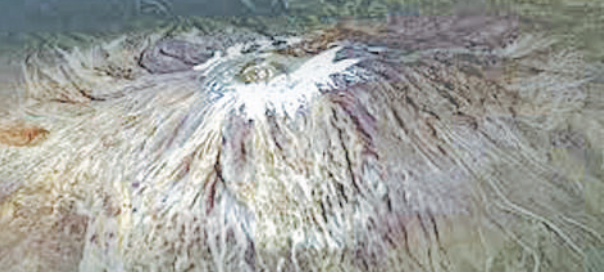
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TAFFA says major cut in cargo unloading period



INSIDE

Samia: 1pc gross income from state firms a shock

By Guardian Reporters

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has expressed dismay over a report from the Treasury Registrar that public organisations charged with doing business contribute only one percent of gross domestic income.

Opening the second meeting of board chairmen and heads of public institutions in Arusha yesterday, she said that the organisations should at least contribute 10 per cent, demanding that "we should ask ourselves how we feel about this."

Laying emphasis on the need for domestic organizations to reflect on how to increase efficiency and effectiveness to achieve these goals, she said that public institutions that have failed to manage and advance various development projects hand over those projects to the private sector for further development.

"If you have failed to run or manage these projects, give them to the private sector to use or sell them. Return our money so we can use it elsewhere; why should we keep it when we don't have the capability? Let them use it and return our money so we can handle other matters," she told the gathering.



They have moved from being a loss-making organisation to one that is profitable and contributing dividends to the government

"For instance, when Ubungu Plaza was opened, everyone had their own opinions, but now no one wants to use it, and the same goes for the Benjamin Mkapa Towers. Therefore, the Treasury Registrar should take these leaders to that building to see the project's scale, but it remains unproductive with just a few clothing shops," the president noted.

"Invest with confidence that the money will be returned. For example, private sector investors who put in even one shilling will ensure that money is recovered and profits are made because they conduct research and pay all government taxes," she said.

"We inject money into projects without considering if we will get it back, and sometimes it's political decisions. I'm not blaming anyone; I'm just highlighting where public funds are going without being recovered," she elaborated.

The Office of the Treasury Registrar needs to move to either merge or dissolve unproductive public institutions rather than protecting positions of individuals, she stated, urging that public organisations must focus on strategic investments and beyond Tanzania's borders.

"Investing abroad would be more meaningful if our citizens have efficient relationships and first demonstrate effectiveness domestically," she said, noting in illustration that the

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents an award to Asha Izina, the board of trustees acting chairperson at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), in recognition of JKCI's exceptional economic and social contributions to the country for fiscal 2023/2024. The president was officiating at a board chairmen and CEOs of business oriented public institutions in Arusha yesterday. On the right is Dr Angela Muhozya, the JKCI acting director. Photo: JKC

Speaker: RCs, DCs powers of detention could be reviewed

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson has declared that if current practice of detaining people arbitrarily by district and regional commissioners

continues, the law empowering them to do so would merit a review.

She issued this position when Mlimba MP Godwin Kunambi raised an urgent matter demanding that the legislature discuss actions of some RCs and

DCs arresting people and detaining them for no reasonable cause, "as the situation puts in peril observance of human rights."

Pointing at an incident in his constituency, he said that on Monday (August 26)

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Alphonse Lusako (L), an advocate linked with the Constitutional Forum, appears with the forum's executive director Bob Wangwe (in white shirt) at High Court premises in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The court was hearing a case filed by the forum to demand annulling supervision of the forthcoming local government elections by the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments). Photo: Correspondent imani Nathaniel



Minister outlines aviation sector changes set out in new legislation

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Assembly yesterday passed the Aviation Act of Tanzania 2024, set to enable substantial reforms in the country's aviation sector, strengthening the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA).

Transport minister Prof. Makame Mbarawa (pictured), who explained the bill in the National Assembly, stated that the purpose of the proposed legislation is to establish a robust legal framework for the management operation, and development of airports.

The bill addresses challenges faced by the TAA as the sole agency responsible for airport management, as the bill seeks to involve the private sector in improving airport infrastructure.

This arises from, the fact of recognizing that substantial financial investment is required to further develop the sector, while introducing provisions for offenses and penalties against individuals found in possession of firearms or explosives in a controlled or prohibited areas.

"There are many challenges in the aviation sector, including airport management, frequent regulatory changes and adherence to global air safety protocols," he said, pointing at the fact that passengers are required

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'Food processing best job hopes for youths'

By Guardian Reporter

AS Africa's youth population continues to grow, with one billion projected to be aged between 15 and 35 years by 2063, food processing offers a sustainable avenue for youth employment, a French-backed study has indicated.

Dr Ousmane Badiane, executive chairman of Akademiya 2063, and co-chairman of the Malabo Montpellier Panel which conducted the study, the first university being in Equatorial Guinea and the second on the French south coast, said that a growing class of wealthier, time-constrained, mostly urban populations in Africa was looking shelf-stable, ready-to-eat, ready-to-cook, or easy-to-prepare processed foods.

"This demographic pattern is changing the types and amounts of food in demand, and the food processing sector must advance rapidly to keep pace," he said.

The continent's urban population is projected to increase from approximately 43 percent of total population in 2020 to 60 percent by 2050, with the middle class projected to account for 42 percent of the population by 2060, the report noted.

The food processing sector currently faces difficulties in meeting the demands of its growing population, from environmental factors like climate change and water shortages but also structural constraints.

The latter set of woes is related to improving infrastructure and profitability, the develop-

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Samia: 1pc gross income from state firms a shock

FROM PAGE 1

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) can perform well domestically but if they assist local producers to meet international standards, they will make a significant contribution.

This will prevent low-standard foreign products entering the country, she said, praising the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) transformation process. STAMICO has increased its revenue from 1.36bn/- over 2016-2019 to 85bn/- during 2023/2024, she stated.

"They have moved from being a loss-making organisation to one that is profitable and contributing

dividends to the government," she asserted, while Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda hailed the move to allocate 7bn/- for expanding Arusha Airport at Kisongo.

This will include putting up lights to allow planes to land during the night, he said, noting that planes landing there will reduce 'congestion' at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

He also requested the government to assist the region build a large public hospital capable of providing up-scaled medical services to visitors, thus attracting tourists from other countries to seek treatment there.

'Food processing best job hopes for youths'

FROM PAGE 1

ment and upgrading of mechanical and information technology skills, plus access to diminishing trade barriers, it further noted.

It referred to a "triple pull" in food demand that is creating sizable opportunities for Africa's food processors if they can ramp up competitiveness, the researchers affirmed, pointing at benefits processed foods can offer.

These include the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies through large-scale food fortification, with governments and other stakeholders needing to work together to implement strategies that address the challenges faced in the food processing sector, the report states.

Prof Joachim von Braun, the co-chairman of the Malabo Montpellier Panel working at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn in Germany said that the various governments need to promote healthy, safe, nutritious and quality processed foods, since a vibrant food processing sector creates jobs.

"If carefully designed, Africa's food processing can deliver more diverse, nutritious, less perishable and more convenient foods that improve people's well-being, contribute to sustainable economic growth across the continent, and especially women can benefit," the researcher emphasised.

The sector is already responsible

for almost a third of the total manufacturing employment in sub-Saharan Africa, he said, examining data from Ghana, Kenya and Senegal, already making strides with this transition.

For instance, Ghana's ten point industrial transformation agenda has programmes such as 'one district one warehouse' to minimize post-harvest losses, along with 'one district one factory,' to enable food processors to obtain credit and tax incentives.

It also seeks to set up industrial parks as ecosystems for innovation and entrepreneurship with considerable food systems involvement through value addition, it said.

The authors make some critical recommendations for furthering these efforts, as the panel's action agenda calls for increased investments in improved technologies, infrastructure plus technical and vocational training.

This will help to foster innovation, with the background of a conducive business environment consisting of tax incentives and better access to credit, they asserted.

Governments also need to strengthen linkages between farmers and food processors, removing trade barriers faced by food processing enterprises, they said, highlighting the fact that Africa's population is projected to grow by 2.5 percent annually, from 1.2 billion in 2016 to 2.4 billion by 2050.

Minister outlines aviation sector changes set out in new legislation

FROM PAGE 1

to remove their shoes at security checkpoints.

These procedures will continue to evolve with technological advancements, he stated, stressing that the new law, along with its regulations and guidelines, will address these challenges and enhance airport management.

The minister also highlighted high expectations of passengers regarding their airport experience, from checking in to receiving their luggage. "Passengers now expect their luggage to be ready upon dis-

embarking," he stated, asserting that such issues can be resolved with effective laws, regulations, guidelines and efficient digital systems, ensuring excellent service for travelers.

Private sector involvement will improve transportation services and airport performance, he said, while in response to parliamentary queries about the return of passenger fees to TAA, he said that discussions will be held with the Treasury and the Attorney General's Office.

This will facilitate finding a solution ensuring that fees remain within the airport system, he added.

Fourteen African countries pledge resources for health

BRAZZAVILLE

IN an unprecedented show of unity in support of the World Health Organization, 14 African countries and many partners pledged over US\$ 45 million to the WHO Investment Round, a three-month-old initiative aimed at generating sustainable financing for the organization at the centre of the global health architecture.

The commitments were made during the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, with member states underscoring the importance of investing in global health and ensuring a strong WHO.

"I thank our African Region member state for actively supporting WHO's first Investment Round to mobilize predictable and flex-

ible resources needed for our core work over the next four years," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Full, sustainable funding will enable WHO to support countries better in their work to build healthier, more resilient, and more prosperous populations."

The countries and partners came together for the historic event aimed at sustainably funding WHO and thus enabling it to more effectively fulfil its mandate and advance key objectives to promote, provide and protect health and well-being for all. The countries included Botswana, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and The Gambia.



National Assembly Speaker Dr. Tulia Ackson exchanging views with British High Commissioner Marianne Young at her introductory courtesy call in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Parliament

Speaker: RCs, DCs powers of detention could be reviewed

FROM PAGE 1

the Kilombero DC visited Chiwachiwa village, beset with a land dispute pitting the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) and village residents.

He was asked by a councillor to verify the boundaries as the villagers believe they are within boundaries of their own zone, whereupon the DC ordered the arrest of village leaders, the councillor and 11 residents "who are still in custody," the MP narrated.

The legislation would have to be reviewed to remove any confusion and prevent leaders from being feared by citizens, she said, noting that there are instances where people lacking legal authority direct that people be arrested.

"I request the Prime Minister to follow up on this and inform the MP about what is happening in the constituency because detaining people for raising issues publicly is inappropriate and not the intended purpose of the law," she specified.

The Speaker asked MPs to under-

stand the challenges faced by regional and district commissioners in discharging their functions, and how they use the law empowering them to order arrest and detaining of specific individuals.

She affirmed that rules of procedure in the legislature allow an MP, using rule 54, to stand up and request that the legislature suspend its activities to discuss that matter urgently if it cannot be addressed via usual procedures.

Rule 55 sets conditions for how an issue can qualify as an urgent matter to allow the legislature to discuss the matter and provide a forum for debate, she elaborated.

Still the matter is not new and not an urgent one as rules relating to such arrest and detention have been in place for some time, "so what the MP raised about the arrest of these 11 people is a recent issue, but the procedures involving district, regional commissioners or ministers instructing law enforcement to arrest people aren't new," the procedures guru intoned.

Appealing to MPs' comprehension of the environment in which DCs and RC administer their specific areas, she said that if MPs discuss the matter "what directives will we give the government," she demanded, asserting that the law was enacted to function properly.

But it must be implemented without violating the rights of individuals involved, she said, pointing at such assurance as the formal parliamentary intent in enacting that law.

She said that that the legislature will be in a position to review the law granting authority to regional and district commissioners if it is found that those functions are inappropriately exercised.

"Since the issue is a legal matter and the law was enacted by Parliament, the challenge lies in its implementation as explained by the MP," she stated, noting that since the government is part of the National Assembly this provides room its being discussed.

The specific legislation permits

leaders to act when they see or suspect someone may pose a threat to the safety of others or their own safety if left at large, she stated.

She further affirmed that the legislature cannot ascertain the context of the order "that there might have been a threat of being harmed by citizens or if they intended to harm citizens because we do not know the specifics."

"When we discuss it, the House must reach a point where it makes decisions based on additional information," she alerted MPs, elaborating that as the leaders of government business is there in person, the issue should be addressed, "and if there are reasons, the MP should be informed why those people have been arrested."

"There is a shortcoming here. What the MP has described means that we, as MPs, need to review the law if it poses challenges in its implementation. The intention of the law was not to demonstrate power by ordering police to arrest someone indiscriminately," she added.



Plasduce Mbosa, the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) director general, in conversation with Yusuf Mwenda (third right), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) commissioner general when the two visited Tanga Port yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Nqobile Dlodla, Johannesburg

New report shows SA digital platforms need testing spaces to spur innovation

SOUTH African authorities should introduce regulatory 'sandboxes', or controlled testing grounds, to spur innovation in the country's growing digital platform sector, tech investor Naspers and research firm MISTRA have said.

A "sandbox" allows testing of new services in the market, but within a controlled regulatory environment without having to undergo a costly and lengthy full authorization process first.

In recent years, e-commerce and digital services such as fintech have

expanded rapidly across South Africa to meet soaring demand driven by the pandemic's lockdowns.

But the pace of digital transformation in South Africa is still relatively slow, while the regulatory environment is still evolving to fully address the complexities of the digital economy, Phuthi Mahanyele-Dabengwa, CEO of Naspers South Africa said at the co-launch of a research report.

Naspers partnered with the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) on research into digital platform businesses in South Africa.

The companies said in the report that from a regulatory standpoint, policymakers are grappling with the need to balance innovation and customer protection.

"Regulatory frameworks govern-

ing the (digital) platform economy are still evolving, with ongoing debates around issues such as taxation, labour rights, and licensing," the report found.

Tax loopholes used by foreign online retailers such as Shein and Temu and potential regulatory arbitrage in digital financial services can "create an uneven playing field, potentially disadvantaging both local and incumbent platform," the report added.

African students visit Russia nuke academy

By Special Correspondent

THE Russia-based Rosatom Technical Academy has received 20 students from Africa, winners of a video contest Atoms empowering Africa.

The group include students from Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Egypt and Sudan.

For the competition, students had to shoot and produce a short video on The Benefits of Nuclear Energy in Africa discussing the potential of nuclear energy on the continent. The participants shared their work on social networks, following certain technical recommendations, and submitted applications using the official form. The prize was a fully paid trip to Russia to inspect some of the domestic nuclear facilities.

"This part of the contest is always the most exciting. Seeing excitement and surprise in the eyes of these young people when they explore the heart of atomic technology in Russia is incredible," said Ryan Collier, CEO of the Rosatom Regional Office for Central and South Africa.

"It is not only about the technical knowledge that they receive, but also about the cultural exchange and inspiration that they draw from the experience of another part of the world. We believe that this experience will kindle a passion for science and technology for life."

He added: "Looking forward to the next year's contest, we anticipate even more innovative and creative applications. We hope to further expand the scope of the competition, attracting more young minds throughout the African continent and contributing to a better understanding of the key role that nuclear energy can play in sustainable development."

Students were introduced to the educational areas of the academy and were shown technical training tools for training personnel in the nuclear industry. They visited the visual prototyping complex for 3D demonstration of NPP buildings, "operated" a nuclear power plant on an analytical multifunctional simulator, and examined the model

of a hypothetical nuclear facility and special laboratories.

"We visited the Rosatom Technical Academy and visited the first nuclear power plant (NPP) in Russia in Obninsk. It was a real privilege of – to witness behind-the-scenes work and see how much effort has been put into ensuring the operational safety and security of the » nuclear power plant," said Moon Ogine from Nigeria.

"This trip has become for me an experience that has changed my life. A visit to the origin of the nuclear industry in Obninsk and monitoring the actual use of atomic technologies expanded my knowledge and spurred my aspirations to contribute to the energy future of Africa," said Yasmin Ehab from Egypt.

Cultural immersion continued with visits to iconic attractions in Moscow, such as Red Square and the Kremlin, which became the background for understanding the cultural heritage of Russia, and also allowed a deeper understanding of the country's policies and history.

Since its inception in 2015, Atoms Empowering Africa has become a driving force in enabling young people to immerse themselves in nuclear power. By encouraging African youth to explore and represent the benefits of atomic energy, the competition not only arouses curiosity for science, but also paves the way for a sustainable energy future for Africa.



It is not only about the technical knowledge that they receive, but also about the cultural exchange and inspiration that they draw from the experience of another part of the world...

WFP confirms investigation of its two officials in Sudan

NAIROBI/CAIRO

THE UN World Food Programme is investigating two of its top officials in Sudan over allegations including fraud and concealing information from donors about its ability to deliver food aid to civilians amid the nation's dire hunger crisis, according to 11 people with knowledge of the probe.

The investigation by the WFP's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) comes as the UN's food-aid arm is struggling to feed millions of people in war-plagued Sudan, now suffering one of the world's most severe food shortages in years.

As part of the probe, investigators are looking at whether WFP staff sought to hide the alleged role of Sudan's army in obstructing aid amid a brutal 16-month war with a rival paramilitary for control of the country, according to five of the sources who spoke to Reuters.

One of those being examined in the inquiry is WFP's deputy country director in Sudan, Khalid Osman, who has been given a "temporary duty assignment" outside Sudan, a de facto suspension, according to six sources.

A second senior official, WFP area manager Mohammed Ali, is being investigated in connection with the alleged disappearance of more than 200,000 liters of the UN organisation's fuel in the Sudanese city of Kosti, according to four sources. Reuters could not confirm whether Ali remains in his role.

Osman and Ali declined to comment when contacted by Reuters, referring the news agency to the WFP's media office.

Asked about the probe by Reuters, the WFP said that "allegations of individual misconduct related to irregularities in pockets of our

operation in Sudan are under urgent review by its inspector general's office." It declined to comment on the nature of alleged wrongdoing or the status of specific employees.

The US government's aid agency, USAID, told Reuters in a statement that it was notified by the WFP on August 20 of "potential incidents of fraud affecting WFP operations in Sudan." USAID says it is the single largest donor to the WFP, providing nearly half of all contributions in a typical year.

"These allegations are deeply concerning and must be thoroughly investigated," the USAID statement said. "USAID immediately referred these allegations to the USAID Office of the Inspector General."

The investigation comes at a critical time for the WFP, which describes itself as the world's largest humanitarian organization. It won the 2020 Nobel peace prize for its role in combating hunger and promoting peace.



As part of the probe, investigators are looking at whether WFP staff sought to hide the alleged role of Sudan's army in obstructing aid amid a brutal 16-month war with a rival paramilitary for control of the country



Jerome Albou (right), interim CEO for Tigo (T) Ltd, introduces Hassan Jaber, the Axian Telecom Group chief executive officer to the staff at the company's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Train derailment in Kigoma leaves 70 passengers injured

By Guardian Reporter

SEVENTY people have been injured in an accident involving a train with registration number Y14 which was traveling from Kigoma to Dar es Salaam.

The train derailed and overturned between Kazuramimba and Uvinza stations in Kigoma Region.

According to Jamila Mbarouk,

Head of Communication Unit at the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), the accident occurred on Tuesday night and six of the train's carriages derailed.

"TRC in collaboration with the Kigoma regional health officials transported the injured to Uvinza District Hospital for treatment," she said. "Their conditions improve: 57 have been discharged, eight are

still receiving treatment and five have been transferred to Maweni Regional Referral Hospital for further care. No fatalities have been reported."

She added that the train which was carrying 571 passengers continued its journey to Tabora, Dodoma, Morogoro, Coast and Dar es Salaam, adding the TRC was assisting the injured.

Kigoma District Commissioner Salum Kalli said that the government was making efforts to ensure that all injured individuals receive medical care and resume their activities.

Kassim Ibrahim, a witness, reported that four passenger carriages and two freight carriages fell after the train went off the track.



Bukoba Urban MP Stephen Byabato asks a supplementary question in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday during the question-and-answer session. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

CCM Secretary for ideology, publicity and training Amos Makala has asked Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to improve services at the Port of Dar es Salaam so that it serves a bigger share of the African trade market.

Makala made the appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a visit to the port where he assessed its performance and efficiency following recent investments.

He emphasized the importance of accelerating integration between the port and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to attract trade from neighbouring countries.

"Work hard and do not look back. Do not be swayed by criticism or intimidation," he said.

Makala wants Dar port to amplify efficiency, increase market share

Makala acknowledged that the process of seeking investors for the port had faced significant debate and criticism.

"We anticipated this reaction to the investment. We understand the government's goals and plans. Our role is to plan and drive development for Tanzanians while the opposition's role is to oversee," he said.

He criticised opposition parties for their consistent opposition to government projects, noting that they often benefit from the projects once completed.

"They opposed the purchase of

airplanes, yet now they fly. They opposed the SGR and now they use it. They opposed the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydropower Project but are now benefiting from the power supply. So, we are not surprised when they oppose the investment at Dar es Salaam Port," he said.

Makala said that since DP World signed the management contract for the port, it has invested 214bn/- in upgrading and equipment, with plans to invest a total of 675bn/-.

He noted that in just four months of operating the port, it has made significant progress, including reducing ship congestion waiting

to be unloaded. Juma Kijavara, Deputy Managing Director of TPA, reported that significant operational improvements have occurred at the port in the past three years.

The achievements include the repair of docks, acquisition of modern cargo handling equipment and reduction in cargo unloading time from 20 days to a few days.

Other notable successes include an increase in cargo handling equipment, repair and reactivation of damaged equipment and acquisition of 20 cargo handling vehicles.

Countries pledge mpox jabs to combat outbreak in Africa

By Special Correspondent

SOME countries have pledged to donate doses of mpox vaccines to combat an outbreak of the disease in Africa after the World Health Organization declared it a global public health emergency for the second time in two years.

Such donations are meant to address the huge inequity that left African nations with no access to the shots used during the global outbreak in 2022.

Below is a list of countries that have promised to donate doses they hold, made by Denmark's Bavarian Nordic (BAVA.CO), opens new tab or Japan's KM Biologics.

France will donate 100,000 doses based on "locally identified needs", its health ministry said on the Q&A section, opens new tab of its website, last updated on Aug. 23.

Germany will donate 100,000 doses from its military stocks to help contain the outbreak in the short term, a government spokesperson said on August 26.

Democratic Republic of Congo's government has asked Japan to donate at least 2 million vaccine doses, a senior official at Africa's top public health body and a Congolese official said on August 27. Japan's

government had earlier said Congo had requested doses without specifying the number.

Spain will donate 500,000 doses, or 20 percent of its stockpile, its health ministry said on Aug. 27. It has also urged the European Commission to propose that all EU member states donate 20 percent of their respective stock of the vaccine.

The U.S. State Department said on August 22 it would donate 50,000 doses of Bavarian Nordic's vaccine to the Democratic Republic of Congo, along with financial support for the rollout.

The U.S. Agency for International Development said on August 27 it would donate 10,000 doses of mpox vaccines to Nigeria.

The EU has urged its members to coordinate their donations rather than do them individually. The European Commission has a joint procurement contract with Bavarian Nordic to buy vaccines for donations. The bloc's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) agreed to procure 175,420 doses of Bavarian's vaccine and donate them to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while the Danish company will donate additional 40,000 doses.



Dr Selemani Jafo (R), the Industry and Trade minister, is briefed about a water well in the vicinity of the Engaruka soda ash strategic project site from Dr Nicolaus Shombe, the National Development Corporation (NDC) managing director when visiting the project site in Monduli District, Arusha Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister wants herders to allocate land, grow fodder

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister Abdalla Ulega has urged pastoralists to allocate sufficient land for growing fodder such as Juncao which the government has supported by providing seeds.

Ulega made the appeal earlier this week when he visited herders at Mpelumbe Village, Gwata ward, Kibaha district in Coast Region where he observed construction of a cattle drinking dam.

He commended their initiative, which aligns with the government's goals to enhance livestock sector's contributions to both national and individual levels.

"Herders must adopt fodder cultivation for their livestock given the significant threats posed by climate change," he said.

He praised the herders for their efforts and announced that from January next year, the ministry will allocate 50m/- to further improve the dam they have started.

Ulega also informed the herders about the 'Tutunzane' campaign which promotes modern livestock farming practices, including fodder cultivation, construction of watering dams and environmental conservation.

The Minister acknowledged Muhammadi Ragwa from Gumba Village, Gwata ward, for his successful transition from traditional to modern livestock farming which has led to notable improvements.

During a recent visit to Ragwa's farm, Ulega observed various advancements, including a pond, storage facilities for animal feed and a feed processing machine.

Ulega commended Ragwa's progress, noting that it aligns with the government's goal of encouraging modern farming practices among herders. Ulega provided Ragwa with additional fodder seeds and instructed ministry experts to oversee construction of a watering trough

in the village.

He said trough will be managed by Ragwa for the benefit of all herders, serving as both recognition of his efforts and encouragement for others.

"The government's commendable plans to improve the livestock sector should focus on areas where herders like Ragwa have demonstrated progress," he said.

Ragwa shared his farming journey, explaining that he was

born in a pastoral family and inherited a traditional migratory herding style.

After facing numerous challenges, including livestock diseases, he transitioned to modern, intensive livestock farming.

The shift rewarded him significant benefits, including a permanent residence for his family, healthier livestock and improved infrastructure such as a watering pond, feed storage facilities and a feed processing machine.

TETRA TECH

TENDER NOTICE

Solicitation Number: TZ PSSA-APS-002

Solicitation Download Link:
<https://na11.springcm.com/atlas/Link/Folder/22197/d4b4f627-6f61-ef11-b82b-9440c9ae2c3d/4e370d3a-6f61-ef11-b82b-9440c9ae2c3d>

Solicitation Title: Feed the Future Tanzania Imarisha Sekta Binafsi (Private Sector Strengthening) Project, Annual Program Statement (APS) 2 For Financial Inclusion

Project: Feed the Future Private Sector Strengthening Activity (PSSA)

Type of Solicitation: APS

All applicants must send their completed concept notes to TanzaniaPSSA.grant@tetratech.com. Applicants should NOT apply through this website.

Tetra Tech ARD, registered in Tanzania as ARD, INC, is the implementing partner for the Feed the Future Tanzania Imarisha Sekta Binafsi (Private Sector Strengthening) Project, funded by USAID Tanzania. The Project is soliciting concept notes from qualified financial Inclusions to implement programs within the framework of the project objectives.

This Annual Program Statement (APS) involves four solicitation stages: -

Stage I: Applicants will submit a concept note by the deadline of the first or second round closing dates. Two deadlines are making two rounds of this APS. The first round is due on 8th September 2024 and the second round is due on 30th December 2024. After the deadline of each round, applications will be reviewed and both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified.

Stage II: Applicants whose concept note is shortlisted will be invited to submit a full proposal application. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified.

Stage III: Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a one-day Information Clinic. The Information Clinic will review the Project's objectives and expected results. Shortlisted applicants will receive (i) a pre-award survey questionnaire, to ensure compliance with USAID eligibility requirements; (ii) a full application template; and (iii) review the registration requirement of the System of Award Management (SAM) for any successful awardee. The pre-award survey and full application template will be reviewed, discussed, and include time for questions and answers. Submission of the full application and the pre-award survey questionnaire will be due no later than 3-weeks after the date of the Information Clinic.

Stage IV: Applications selected for stage IV will engage in a co-creation discussion with the Project team to review and refine the proposal and budget prior to the Projects recommendation for approval and submission to USAID. USAID reserves the right to approve or reject any or all applications. * Organizational Capacity Assessment will be conducted to awarded grantees.

The entire process, from concept note to submission to USAID, is expected to take 12 weeks. Any award pursuant to this funding opportunity is contingent upon the availability of funds. This APS consists of this cover letter and the attached Annual Program Statement (APS) 2 For Financial Inclusion.

Please read the APS carefully and in its entirety before submitting your concept paper to ensure your organization is eligible and your submission complies with the APS requirements.

NAIROBI

A Suspect who police said confessed to killing 42 women and was being detained over the discovery of dismembered bodies in Kenya's capital has escaped from police custody, officials have said.

Mohamed Amin, the head of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, said Collins Jumaisi Khalusha escaped along with 12 other inmates of Eritrean nationality who had been arrested for being in the country illegally.

Acting police inspector general Gilbert Masengeli said disciplinary measures have been taken against eight officers, including the area and station commanders and officers who were on duty.

"Our preliminary investigations indicate that the

Man suspected of murdering 42 women escapes from police custody in Kenya

escape was aided by insiders considering that officers were deployed accordingly to guard the station," he said.

A police report said the inmates escaped early Tuesday morning after they cut through wire mesh in the cell and scaled the perimeter wall. The escape was discovered as breakfast was being taken into the cell.

Khalusha, 33, was being detained at the police station after a court allowed detectives seven more days to investigate his alleged crimes before charging him.

Khalusha was arrested in July after 10 bodies and several body parts were found wrapped in plastic sacks in the Kware area

of Nairobi.

Police said Khalusha confessed to killing 42 women, including his wife. "This was a high-value suspect who was to face serious charges. We are investigating the incident and will take action accordingly," Amin said.

Khalusha's lawyer, John Maina Ndegwa, told journalists his client was tortured and forced to confess and maintained he was not guilty.

Ndegwa said that he last spoke to Khalusha on Friday when he was presented in court.

"I'm also confounded by the news," he said.

The police station from

which the suspects escaped was cordoned off with crime scene tape and senior police officers visited it on Tuesday afternoon.

Two other suspects who were arrested after being found with cellphones belonging to some of the deceased women are to return to court next Monday.

Police in July said the bodies were discovered after relatives of one missing woman said they had a dream in which she told them to search in a quarry.

The relatives asked a local diver to help and he discovered the bodies wrapped in sacks. Six bodies were identified after DNA tests, but several body parts remain unidentified.

At least 30 dead after dam collapses in Sudan, UN agency says

KHARTOUM

AT least 30 people have been killed following the collapse of a dam in Sudan's northwest Red Sea State, according to the United Nation's emergency relief agency.

Hundreds more are

believed missing, Reuters reported.

Flash flooding decimated 20 villages and damaged a further 50 after the Arba'at Dam collapsed Sunday, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. It estimated 50,000 people had been "severely affected" by the disaster.

In the villages of Khor-Baraka and Tukar, residents were reportedly forced to flee for safety, OCHA also said, citing local officials. It added that the final death toll could rise significantly.

Footage of the aftermath shows industrial trucks buried in mud and debris, some laden with crates and personal belongings. Other vehicles are almost unrecognizable on the silty riverbank.

One resident who lived near the dam, Moussa Mohamad Moussa, said: "The dam broke and... the water swept away around 40 people," he said.

Another resident, Ali Issa, was pictured saying he had helped to rescue families, elderly people, and children who were trapped in their cars when the floodwaters rose.

"We came to the area to check out the situation but we couldn't reach the Arba'at Dam because there was so much water," he said.

Initial reports indicated torrential rains had caused the dam to breach, OCHA said, adding this had resulted in the reservoir behind it "being fully drained."

Damaged trucks buried in the mud after the collapse of the Arba'at Dam in Sudan following heavy rains and torrential floods on August 25, 2024.

The dam facility supplies fresh water to Port Sudan, the country's fifth largest city, which is about 38 kilometers (23 miles) to the southeast.

OCHA said the damage was expected to worsen the humanitarian situation in Red Sea State. In recent months, aid agencies have warned Sudan is on the brink of collapse and starvation following more than a year of civil war.

Sudan's Federal Minister of Health, Dr. Haitham Muhammad Ibrahim, promised emergency humanitarian assistance including the provision of basic medicines

and medical personnel during a visit to the region Sunday, according to a statement by his office. He also committed to provide resources to support evacuation efforts.

On Monday, Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) chief and head of the Sudanese Transitional Sovereignty Council Abdel Fattah al-Burhan visited Tokhar, an area devastated by the weekend's storms but unaffected by the dam collapse, according to a statement from the council. Footage posted to X by the council shows Al-Burhan speaking with residents of the town, roughly 170km south of Arba'at.

The region surrounding the Arba'at Dam has been wracked with humanitarian challenges. The region hosts nearly 240,000 displaced people, according to the United Nations International Organization for Migration.

OCHA said it is liaising with partners, including United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and WASH Cluster and local officials to reach communities affected by the collapse.

NOTICE

I GEDIOSE RWEYEMAMU am searching for my dear friends MR. STANLEY T. MARIKI and MRS. JENEROSE KABULA MARIKI whom I have not been in touch with for many years. I would love to reconnect and catch up on old times. If you have any information about them, please reach out to me Phone: 0692945649 or email gediose@hotmail.com. Any help or lead would be greatly appreciated, thank you so much for your assistance.

'Most GBV incidents in Dodoma go unreported to shield culprits'

By Correspondent Halfani Chusi, Dodoma

DODOMA Region Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule has said that there is an increase of unreported incidents of gender based violence in the region because some victims opt to or are compelled to shield culprits who are mostly their relatives or partners from law enforcement bodies.

Senyamule made the remarks in Kondoa District during commemoration of the 7th gender festival aimed at sharing insights on the prepared National Development Vision 2050 and 30 years of the Beijing Conference.

She said that the region has been recording shocking brutal assassinations rooted in relationships, mostly attributed to jealousy and excessive alcoholism.

Senyamule said that in addressing such cases, the government had noticed that women tend to protect their abusers.

"The attitude makes it difficult for law enforcement bodies in the region to address the problem of gender-based violence. About 60 percent of gender violence cases happen at home," she said.

According to her, moral decay in the society has been the major cause of violent acts.

As a result of the situation, she directed all councils in the region to provide awareness on issues related to gender-based violence and ways of addressing them as well as encouraging people to share their opinions on the proposed National Development Vision 2050.

"A significant number of deaths in Dodoma are caused by alcoholism and relationship-related jealousy," she said.

Lilian Lihundi, Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP) Executive Director, said the organisation will continue to implement Beijing Goals in collaboration with other actors that defend women's rights and gender equality in the country.

She said that TGNP will also continue the movement to encourage women to contest for political leadership positions.

She said the reason for having the festival celebrated in Kondoa District was due to statistics showing that the district has the highest rate of reported gender violence cases.

"We are aware that the challenge of early pregnancy is devastating in Kondoa District. To address the challenge requires joint efforts," she said.

"These are problems that are largely rooted in traditions and customs and therefore require joint efforts to achieve the National Development Vision of 2050 and make early pregnancies a thing of the past."

Agness Lukanga, Kondoa District gender, arts and development specialist said in the last 30 years since Beijing Conference, there has been tremendous awareness on gender issues even though gender violence has increased and the rate of reporting such incidents has also increased.

Government to plant 8 million trees annually to save diminishing glacier on Mount Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government in collaboration with various stakeholders is set to plant eight million trees annually in Kilimanjaro Region as part of measures to protect the disappearing glacier on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Dastan Kitandula, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism announced the plans here yesterday when responding to a question by Moshi Rural MP Prof Patrick Ndakidemi (CCM) who wanted to know government's measures to protect disappearing ice on Africa's tallest mountain.

Responding, Kitandula stated that the primary cause of the reduction in ice on Mount Kilimanjaro is global warming due to climate change.

"This is exacerbated by increased human activities, particularly deforestation, agriculture, fires in the areas surrounding the mountain, below normal rainfall, drought and dry winds from the Indian Ocean," he said.

Kitandula said that other measures include raising public awareness about tree planting and environmental conservation through radio and television programmes, festivals and various national and international observances.

He also mentioned that the government, in collaboration with stakeholders, has launched a campaign to plant over one billion trees in the northern regions to save the glacier on Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Medium-term strategies include promoting better land use and strengthening protection in the areas surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro as well as implementing plans to control and combat mountain fires," he said.

He further noted that in implementing long-term strategies, the government continues to work with regional and international organizations to implement joint strategies to withstand and address climate change. This includes improving agricultural technologies, enhancing water use efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and restoring ecological systems on and around the mountain.



Ramadhani Majanga, the municipal transport officer for Morogoro, contributes during a financial literacy class for the general public at the Mbaraka Mwineshe Hall yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) has commended the Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) for its efforts to improve efficiency of port services.

Yusuph Mwenda, TRA Commissioner General, gave the commendation here on Tuesday when he visited Tanga Port accompanied by TPA Director General Plasduce Mbossa.

Mwenda said that the improvement of port services has had a great contribution to collection of government revenue for goods entering the country, expressing his happiness to witness major reforms in the port following investment made in terms of

TRA happy with improvement, service quality at leading ports

infrastructure and modern equipment.

He emphasized the importance of cooperation for the two institutions in working together, increasing efficiency of services and hence contributing significantly to development of the nation.

Mbossa praised the existing cooperation between TPA and TRA and promised that this will be further strengthened especially in the area of

use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to get accuracy of cargo information and due charges.

The duo also visited Pangani and Sahare ports and witnessed provision of services and discussed the best way to increase the scope of revenue collection in the two small ports.

Recently, DP World Tanzania issued a statement saying that major investment at the port of Dar es Salaam has begun

to produce positive outcomes, with the government set to save \$600m (1.5trn/-) in one year.

Martin Jacob, chief executive officer of DP World Tanzania and the Middle East outlined recent developments at the port since the commencement of contract with the Dubai-based multinational logistics firm, explaining improvements made in the four months.



Job Ndubussa (C), the Kerezange primary school head teacher in Dar es Salaam plants a coffee tree in collaboration with Ansh Shah (R), the CEO for Sustainability Co. and Colin Francis, the BR Food Industries CEO, promoting the campaign to plant five million trees nationwide yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

South African billionaire overtakes Dangote as Africa's richest person

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African billionaire Johann Rupert has overtaken Nigerian industrialist Aliko Dangote as Africa's richest person, according to the latest data from the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Rupert controls Richemont, one of the world's largest luxury goods firms, which owns brands like Cartier and Montblanc.

His net worth has surged by \$1.9 billion to \$14.3 billion, placing him at 147th position globally, 12 places ahead of Dangote.

The Nigerian's fortune has fallen by \$1.7 billion this year, giving him a net worth of \$13.4 billion, Bloomberg reports.

The downturn in Dangote's wealth underscores Nigeria's challenging economic environment, where his conglomerate primarily operates.

Since President Bola Tinubu assumed office last year, he has introduced several economic reforms in Africa's most populous nation, including the removal of fuel subsidies, which have contributed to high inflation, currently over 30 percent.

Tinubu said the reforms were necessary to cut government spending and stimulate long-term growth.

The sharp fall in the value of the naira has significantly affected Dangote, whose wealth is largely tied to assets denominated in the local currency.

The 66-year-old businessman made his wealth in the cement and sugar industries - and last year opened an oil refinery in Nigeria's economic hub, Lagos.

His business empire, the Dangote Group, has also faced numerous setbacks in recent months due to production

delays at its refinery and supply chain disruptions.

He was listed by Forbes magazine in January as Africa's richest man for the 13th year in a row despite the country's economic difficulties.

But the latest Bloomberg index places him second in Africa and 159th globally.

The rise in Rupert's net worth was buoyed by strong performances in the luxury goods sector.

As well as the Switzerland-based Richemont, his other holdings include Rengro, a South African investment vehicle with stakes in more than 30 companies, Bloomberg reports.

He inherited the family business from his father, Anton Rupert, and has expanded it from mostly tobacco to become a multi-billion-dollar luxury goods venture.

The businessman attended the

University of Stellenbosch to study economics but dropped his studies to join his father's business in 1984.

Rupert has been vocal about political and environmental issues in South Africa and campaigned against white-minority rule. He has received several awards for his business activities.

The billionaire lives in Cape Town, where he owns a lavish mansion, but he also has properties in Geneva and London.

Nicky Oppenheimer, another South African billionaire, was ranked the third richest person in Africa with a net worth of \$11.3 billion, followed by Nassef Sawiris, an Egyptian businessman, with a fortune of \$9.48 billion.

South African investor Natie Kirsh completed the top five African billionaires list with \$9.22 billion.

Like Forbes, the Bloomberg ranking monitors daily changes in the net worth of the world's wealthiest individuals.

The title of Africa's richest person may continue to change hands as market conditions fluctuate and businesses navigate complex challenges.

Mpox kills over 600 in DRC, affirms minister

KINSHASA

THE ongoing mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has resulted in more than 17,801 suspected cases, including 610 deaths, DRC Health Minister Roger Kamba has said.

The minister urged the population to adhere to protective measures, especially with the upcoming school year in early September, and to get vaccinated as soon as vaccines become available.

Suspected cases are being reported in conflict-affected provinces that host the majority of the country's 7.3 million internally displaced people, which risks "worsening an already untenable situation for a population devastated by decades of conflict," said a statement released on Tuesday

by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

On Monday, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched a Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for mpox to end human-to-human transmission of smallpox through coordinated efforts at global, regional, and national levels.

"The mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries can be controlled, and can be stopped," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"The mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries can be controlled, and can be stopped"



Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (2nd R) and Kondo DC Fatma Nyangasa (2nd L) cut a ribbon to inaugurate the 7th Gender Festival, a three-day event taking place in the district, organized by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP). Left is TGNP board chairperson Gemma Akilimali and right is Lilian Liundi, the network's executive director. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Freight forwarders state significant decrease in cargo unloading period

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA) says that huge investment made at the Port of Dar es Salaam has reduced cargo unloading period from an average of between 25 and 30 days to between three and five days.

Edward Urio, TAFFA president made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a press conference. Urio said that the efforts to modernise the port have reduced the cost for a ship to stay at the port.

"As major stakeholders in transportation and cargo handling at the port, we are very proud of the substantial investment made at the port," he said.

He noted that the joint efforts of

the government and private sector have improved efficiency at the port and are likely to attract more investors.

He attributed efficiency at the port to primarily the \$600 million investment that involves expanding service facilities from berth 0 to 7, deepening water channels and expanding turning basins for ships.

He explained the average cost for a ship to stay at the port beyond the gate-per-day is around \$10,000 (25m/-). This, in turn, impacts Tanzanians as end consumers.

According to Urio, the improvements have attracted more customers who export cargo to various destinations within and outside Tanzania using the railway system. The improvements have also increased tax collection, he

said.

"The Tanzania Revenue Authority has held a meeting with TAFFA and commended our contribution because we provide high-quality services and have enhanced competition to the advantage of customers. TAFFA is proud to be part of this process," he said.

To address successes and challenges related to port use, he said there are monthly meetings in the name of Port Import Council (PIC) where stakeholders discuss issues related to improvement of port services.

"As major stakeholders in transportation and cargo handling at the port, we are very proud of the substantial investment made at the port"

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA wants to see increased partnerships between Chinese and local entities from deals that would be reached at the forthcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Authorities in Zambia were adequately preparing the delegation that will be traveling to China for the FOCAC to ensure that maximum benefits were derived from the summit, said Minister of Tourism Rodney Sikumba.

He said Zambia wants to leverage China's advancement in various sectors such as energy, tourism and agriculture, as well as get experience that could be utilized to advance the country's development from the FOCAC.

Zambia seeks stronger partnership with China

"The mechanization of agriculture that we have seen in China is something we want to learn from," he told Xinhua.

Zambia, he said, was aware that China was one of the leading countries in sustainable production of electricity, which is worth learning from.

Sikumba said Zambia has a lot of potential in the tourism sector and wants China to be a key partner in tourism development.

The minister said the Zambia Development Agency was instructed to ensure that the business delegation traveling to China for the FOCAC can engage

meaningfully with their Chinese counterparts.

He said the government expects that Zambian businesses would partner with Chinese enterprises in various projects such as those under the Belt and Road Initiative.

"We are very delighted that our president has confirmed participation and we should be able to see a number of Zambian businesses participating and we expect fruitful outcomes," Sikumba said.

The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation will be held in Beijing from September 4 to 6.

Ten foreigners die after bus countermands in SA

JOHANNESBURG

TEN foreigners were killed when a bus they were traveling in overturned in South Africa's Limpopo Province on Tuesday night, local authorities said yesterday.

The bus was en route to Johannesburg from neighbouring Zimbabwe when the accident happened on the N1 highway near Makhado, just before midnight, the Limpopo Provincial Department of Transport and Community Safety said in a statement.

"All the deceased, five males and five females, are reportedly foreign

nationals," said the department.

"According to reports, the bus drove over a round-about, the last traffic circle from Makhado toward Polokwane, at high speed, lost control and overturned, killing and injuring its passengers in the process," the statement said.

"The bus driver is reportedly new in his job, and not familiar with the surroundings," it added.

According to a separate statement issued by the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), three people were seriously injured while 20 others suffered slight injuries and 22 passengers were unharmed in the

accident.

"Preliminary reports indicate that the bus was traveling southbound when the driver allegedly failed to negotiate a traffic circle, leading to the vehicle overturning," the RTMC said. "The exact cause is still under investigation. We urge all road users to exercise caution, especially when approaching traffic circles."

Limpopo province witnessed two major road accidents earlier this year. In May, 13 people died in a head-on collision involving a heavy motor vehicle and a minibus taxi. In March, 45 people traveling from Botswana to South Africa were killed in another bus accident.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT Administrative and Finance Assistant IITA-TZ-2024 - IRRI-010 -NRS- DSM

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on behalf of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) invites applications for the position of **Administrative and Finance Assistant**

Background: The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is a nonprofit independent research and training organization. IRRI is a member of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural research (CGIAR) Consortium.

Under the supervision of the **Senior Admin Assistant - Administrative Coordination, the Administrative and finance Assistant** will provide overall day to day secretarial and administrative support to the Senior admin assistant - Administrative Coordination and to all unit.

Responsible for the daily activities needed to run the IRRI cash offices. Process all cash transactions accurately and efficiently in accordance with established policies and procedures.

Duty Station: The position will be based in IITA Mikocheni offices in Dar es Salaam.

Qualifications and experience

- Bachelor Degree in Business Administration with minimum 1 year of relevant work experience.

Skills and knowledge mandatory

- Knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Good oral and written communication skills, communicates status of work regularly and in a timely manner
- Must be scrupulously honest and always foster an atmosphere of trust and integrity.
- Ability to perform fast, efficient and maintain discretion and confidentiality
- Have basic knowledge of accounting.

Preferred

- Good interpersonal skills and Good organizational skills

Responsibilities

1.1. Purpose

- Preparing and posting expenses reports on OCS, preparing bank reconciliation each month from Tanzania Bank accounts and Counterchecking receipts
- Manage filing and distributing all incoming and outgoing mail/faxes/letters/documents.
- Receive incoming mail and invoices and direct them to the appropriate services.
- Assist with staff and visitors travel arrangements and bookings for flights, accommodation and local transport as requested
- Tag assets and make reconciliation
- Photocopy and scan documents
- Keep track of basic office supplies by maintaining inventory and assist to order new/additional basic office supplies as needed.
- Assist in the application and processing of import and export permits for research and other materials.
- Process cash advance requests
- Reporting discrepancies s/he finds within the accounts to his/her supervisor
- Ensure Compliance with expenditure commitment procedures

1.2. Engagement

- Efficient and effective administrative support for staff and visitors
- Ensuring all programs and operations have adequate support needed
- Reporting discrepancies s/he find within the accounts to his/her supervisor
- Compliance with expenditure commitment procedures

1.3. Delivery

- Improve efficiency and dealing with a diverse group of callers and visitors at all levels, both internal and external to IRRI, and ensure all are treated in a professional and courteous manner.
- Cash reconciliation reports
- Advance register well maintained

General information:

The duration of the contract is two years renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. These are nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

The application pack should include an application letter, copies of certificates, and a curriculum vitae which contains a telephone number, email address, and contact details of two referees. Applications should be sent by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org and addressed to:

The Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania,
Plot No. 25, Mwenge - Coca-Cola Road,
Mikocheni Industrial Area,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Applicants are requested to include the **reference number for the position** (as indicated on the heading of the announcement) in the subject of their application letter, as well as in the subject of their email. Please note that any applications without the reference number indicated will be automatically disqualified.

Closing date for applications: Friday 13th September 2024. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Research out to inform climate change adaptation action plan

By Beatrice Philemon

EXPERTS are set to conduct research in Tanzania to help the country develop a new policy and strategic action plan to overcome the pressing climate challenges.

Dubbed 'Advancing Knowledge for Long-term Benefits and Climate Adaptation through Holistic Climate Services and Nature-Based Solutions (ALBATROSS)', the project is set to run for three years and will be conducted in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam.

Funded by the European Union (EU) at the tune of 4.3bn/-, the study will be carried out by Ardh University (ARU) in collaboration with experts from universities in Germany and Italy, as well as academic and non-academic institutions from South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Madagascar where the same study will be conducted.

Prof Wilbard Kombe of ARU's Institute of Human Settlements Studies who is lead researcher said this on Tuesday when addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam on the proposed research.

He said that the research is designed to help the country implement innovative strategies to fight effects of climate change which have severely impacted food security and public health, leaving the world's poorest populations at risk.

"ALBATROSS aims to support sustainable development and climate resilience by creating climate services and tools to assess the impact of natural hazards on ecosystems, food security and socio-economic vulnerability," he said.

Key components of the research include nature-based solutions that engage local communities in activities such as fishing, mangrove restoration and beekeeping. The efforts aim to restore aquatic biodiversity and protect mangrove ecosystems from degradation caused by charcoal production and firewood collection.

Prof Kombe also said that the challenges faced in Kigamboni area include increased soil erosion, rising sea levels, unpredictable weather patterns, decreasing rainfall, drought, extreme weather conditions and declining fish species.

"These issues have led to depletion of mangroves and aquatic biodiversity," he said, stressing that addressing climate change requires cross-sectoral management and active community participation.

"Climate change intensifies territorial risks and impacts human migration and displacement, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. Effective planning and management of migration hotspots are essential," he said.

Prof Alphonse Kyessi, a member of ALBATROSS team, said that the project aims to provide innovative tools and knowledge for developing effective and sustainable adaptation strategies.

He further announced that researchers from around the world gather in Dar es Salaam today to discuss climatic hazards and explore nature-based solutions for climate adaptation.

Recommendations from the meeting will help Tanzania revise its current climate change strategies. Prof Kyessi emphasized the need for cooperation with various stakeholders, including local communities, beekeeping groups, community policing groups and youth and women's organisations.

The event will also draw participants from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Vice President's Office and Kigamboni District residents.

Key government agencies involved include Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), Department of Fisheries, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities) and National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

Ndugulile elected new WHO Regional Director for Africa

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Deputy Minister for Health Dr Faustine Ndugulile has been elected the next Regional Director for the World Health Organization (WHO) African, taking the reins from Botswanan Dr Matshidiso Moeti who has served two five-year terms at the helm.

African member states voted for Dr Ndugulile during the 74th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo. Other candidates were Dr Boureima Hama Sambo (proposed by Niger), Dr Ibrahim Socé Fall (proposed by Senegal) and Dr Richard Mihigo (proposed by Rwanda).

Dr Ndugulile's election will be submitted for appointment by the 156th session of the WHO Executive Board, which takes place in February 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. The newly appointed Regional Director will take office after that for a five-year term and be eligible for reappointment once.

In his acceptance remarks, Dr Ndugulile expressed commitment to advancing the health of the people of the region. "I'm truly honoured and humbled to be elected as WHO Regional Director for Africa. I thank member states for the trust shown in me. I promise to work with you and I believe that together we can build a healthier Africa," he said.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, congratulated Dr Ndugulile on his election as Regional Director for Africa and praised Dr Sambo, Dr Fall and Dr Mihigo on their campaigns.

"Dr Ndugulile has earned the confidence and trust of the Member States of the region to be elected the next Regional Director for WHO Africa. This is a great privilege and a very great responsibility," said Dr Tedros. "I and the entire WHO family in Africa and around the world will support you every step of the way," he said.

Dr Tedros also thanked Dr Moeti, the outgoing WHO Regional

Director, for 10 years of commitment and excellence in service to the countries and people of Africa.

"I thank my sister Dr Moeti for everything she has done for the health of the people of Africa, but also for who she is," said Dr Tedros. "I thank her for the example she has set, and the legacy she has left."

Dr Moeti congratulated Dr Ndugulile and wished him success. "I would like to congratulate you for being elected as the Regional Director for Africa. This is an extremely fulfilling role. Despite the many challenges, I know you will take the baton and go on to accelerate the gains already made, putting the health and well-being of the people of Africa at the centre," said Dr Moeti.

Meanwhile, the 74th session of WHO Regional Committee for Africa kicked off on Monday in Brazzaville whereby nearly 1,000 delegates including WHO Director-General Tedros as well as health ministers from 47 member countries met.

Among the pressing issues is the global Mpox epidemic, the outgoing WHO Regional Director for Africa confirmed.

"I think what people should take first of all is our great determination to do something about mpox and to do something differently from what has happened in the past. So we are working very hard in the background with the member states, we have supported many of them to develop plans," she said.

Discussions on health issues the continent grapples with will focus on providing solutions.

Topics such as "Transformation for Results: Strengthening African Health Systems through WHO Reforms," "WHO Investment Cycle: Amplifying Africa's Voice," "Addressing the Public Health Emergency of Preventable Child Mortality in the WHO African Region" are high on the agenda of the session.

Africa has recorded high mortality rates from diseases such as malaria, meningitis and cholera for decades.



Kibaha District Commissioner Nickson Simon (L), officiates at the non-governmental organizations (NGO) forum opening session, appearing for Coast Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge yesterday. He urged NGOs to conduct civic education in view of the forthcoming local government elections and general election next year. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

LDCs seek to have unified voice at upcoming COP29

By Special Correspondent

THE Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Strategy and Ministerial Meeting opened in Lilongwe, Malawi, on Monday with a call for member states to have a unified voice at the climate change conference in November to lobby for support to address climate change impacts that the countries face.

Malawian Principal Secretary for Natural Resources and Climate Change, Yusuf Mkungula made

the call saying a unified voice and common position of LDCs at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) would assist in pushing for predictable, scaled-up, and accessible financing for implementing adaptation, mitigation programs and addressing loss and damage in LDCs.

Mkungula stressed that the unified and common position of the LDCs at the November COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, would also play a crucial role in

shaping international climate policies and negotiations that would assist in mitigating climate change impacts on LDCs.

The Strategy and Ministerial Meeting, themed "Uniting for 1.5 degrees Celsius - Aligned Climate Action and Resilient Future," has drawn participants from all the 45 LDCs, and is expected to conclude Wednesday.

According to the chairperson of the LDCs Group Evans Njewa, the key objective of the LDCs Strategy and Ministerial Meeting

is to solidify strategies that can drive substantial outcomes at COP29.

Njewa said during the opening that, as the LDCs family, they believe that the current climate action is insufficient and that "there is a pressing need for raised ambition."

Participants will also discuss mitigation and just transition of outcomes for COP29 and common positions on the Global Goal on Adaptation to increase resilience, said Njewa.



A cart pusher loaded with goods looking for customers in Kondoa town yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Namibia to slaughter wild animals, including jumbos

WINDHOEK

DROUGHT-STRICKEN Namibia plans to cull over 700 wild animals, including 83 elephants, and distribute the meat to people struggling to feed themselves.

The environment ministry has said the cull will take place in parks and communal areas where officials

believe animal numbers exceed available grazing land and water supplies.

In addition to elephants, animals to be slaughtered include hippos, buffalo, impalas, blue wildebeest, zebras and eland.

The ministry said the drought has seen an increase in human-wildlife conflict and the culling will take

place in areas with high levels of friction, particularly with elephants.

Southern Africa is facing its worst drought in decades and the United Nations has said Namibia last month had exhausted 84 percent of its food reserves.

Nearly half of the population is expected to experience high levels of food insecurity in the months ahead.

Animal rights activists have, however, raised concerns about the culling which they say is being undertaken without an assessment of the economic or environmental impact.

They are suggesting the cull, in this election year, may be politically motivated and have started a petition calling for it to be stopped.

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Treasury may alter structures of 40 public firms, hardly liberalise

REPORTS that are at tunes aired at middle levels of Treasury administration have it that between 30 and 40 public institutions and agencies that have failed to operate sustainably without relying on government subsidies are to be dissolved during the current financial year.

It is routine to credit such assertions to the government even if it doesn't have the sign of top authorities in the relevant ministry, but the fact that it didn't bear such signatures also matters. It is an escape route if it then fails.

This affirmation was given ahead of a workshop for board chairmen and chief executives of parastatal organisations, where the Head of State was expected, and it is a theme she has at times affirmed.

Both in the definition of the problem and in its likely outcomes, the best that would happen is to merge parastatal functions but retain all their commercial roles intact. It is a different agenda from actual reform, as in that regard it is expected that the private sector would fill the gap with capital.

The workshop would ostensibly have the function of reviewing the status of institutions that fail to contribute to government revenue, on the basis of a dire need to reduce dependency on government funds. In that case the office of the Treasury Registrar expects to see a decrease in the number of institutions reliant on regular government support, for instance as regards salaries and operational costs. This is definitely important, but different from wishing for competition, capital inflows.

There is another aspect for

the concern with subsidy reliant parastatals, in the fact that there are funds the government obtains from time to time tied to improving economic efficiency.

There are numerous bilateral and multilateral organisations trying to make economic administration more efficient, and the government seeks funds from these sources, so it has to show what it has done with the funds. The state authorities have plenty of leverage as to what to do, a minimum or maximum.

Upwards of 40 years ago multilateral agencies were pushing for structural change in a systematic manner in Africa, seeking to push Africa to the sort of growth rates that had already started being noticed in the Far East and parts of South Asia.

The difference was that Africa did not have a Diaspora which could be pulled to invest vast sums of money, or local merchants with whom they could form joint ventures without igniting nationalist sentiments. This problem very much remains even now.

That is why it can be projected that the best the Treasury can do is to merge this or that public agency as in the case of the food, nutrition and medical drugs sectors, merged to remove a food and nutrition agency.

It could happen with these agencies in the face of the face that what the Treasury worries about is the subsidy it hands to these low performing agencies. So long as it will significantly reduce government handing of subsidies the plan will work as fund disbursing agencies will at least be satisfied with these savings. The whole issue of beefing up competition shall wait.

Lower taxation can boost TBS pursuit of improving quality of local products

JUST how far can the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) push micro, small or medium-sized enterprises to register for standards guidance and evaluation was an issue being explored lately in a city workshop. Whether small firms seek technical instructions on best production methods via Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) engineers is one thing, but it is likely there are variations as to enhance product competitiveness. It also depends on projected market presence for startups and confirmed brands, whether to catch up with the best or be second best.

An acting manager for TBS in the eastern zone was telling brand makers or simply small industry operators that they certify their products with the standards agency, point out that the process is free of charge. That is factually accurate but it also has to do with felt need on the part of the producer, as he will respond better if there is a felt need for guidance for instance to be accepted in the market. If that isn't at issue, it becomes a matter of compliance, and if it isn't a regulatory issue he skips it.

The fact that the manager talked of many producers had started comprehending the issue and were taking advantage of the free service following recent outreach efforts did not solve the matter as to its actual advice seekers. There are many startups in any production line, and one aspect of expectations is that with the right quality a new brand can make it into the market. The other school

of thought would figure out that there has to be a shortage or real need, or massive up market ability.

When a not so small number of producers fail to meet criteria needed to certify their goods, the issue comes up as to whether it is a technical issue of being unaware of procedures or it relates to the product itself. There are countless products being put to the market each day and have their own consumers in terms of tastes and costs, in which case the issue of certification is puzzling. Is it minimally acceptable level of proficiency or optimal requirements? Is it a health related issue or brand value?

The only explanation given in that regard was that a producer needs to liaise with SIDO for an introduction letter for TBS to consider certification. Anyone who knows SIDO will be thinking of machinery and technical ability to make this or that product, and TBS is on a different league, as to the quality of the produce thereof. Yet the decider here is the price and producers will refrain from adding costs they do not expect to recover within the price margin they are setting, its sales volume.

That is why lower taxation is always helpful with costs, standards or verification, as TBS usually doesn't go into shops to get all unverified products unless problem is reported somewhere, to save faces. So it makes quality extension education effort but keeps meeting with cost-related aversion to checks. It is stressful but helpful.



By Maina Waruru, Nairobi

GROUND BREAKING research indicates that the wild relatives of wheat could be turned into an all-time food security crop capable of cushioning vulnerable populations from starvation and hunger, thanks to its ability to withstand both climatic stress and diseases. Wheat is a staple for over 1.5 billion people in the Global South.

The review looked at two different studies and found that using the ancient genetic diversity of wild relatives of wheat, which provides 20 percent of the world's calories and protein, could lead to weather- and disease-resistant varieties of the crop. This could ensure food security around the world.

The study led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre reveals that "long overlooked" wild wheat relatives have the potential to revolutionise wheat breeding, with new varieties capable of withstanding climate change and associated threats, including heat waves, droughts, flooding, and emerging and current pests and diseases.

Wild wheat relatives, which have endured environmental stresses for millions of years, possess genetic traits that modern varieties lack—traits that, when integrated into conventional varieties, could make wheat farming more possible in ever more hostile climates, the study published today (August 26, 2024) explains.

By farming the more resilient wheat, productivity could increase by an estimated USD 11 billion worth of extra grain every year, says the authors in the review paper titled 'Wheat genetic resources have avoided disease pandemics, improved food security, and reduced environmental footprints: A review of historical impacts and future opportunities' published by the journal Wiley Global Change Biology.

The review suggests that the use of plant genetic resources (PGR) helps against various diseases like wheat rust and defends against diseases that jump species barriers, like wheat blast. It gives nutrient-dense varieties and polygenic traits that create climate resilience.

The study points to a vast, largely untapped reservoir of nearly 800,000 wheat seed samples stored in 155 gene banks worldwide that include wild varieties and ancient farmer-developed ones that have withstood diverse environmental stresses over millennia. This is despite the fact that only a fraction of this genetic diversity has been utilised in modern crop breeding.

The findings, according to co-author Mathew Reynolds, will have major implications for food security, particularly in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, where the world's most food-insecure populations live. "The discoveries are very

Research: Disease and climate stress resistant wheat varieties for global south



Scientists screen the Indian wheat genetic resources collection in Jaipur, India.

promising, as Africa has a lot of new environments in terms of potential wheat cultivation," he told IPS.

Based on the research findings, significant environmental benefits have been realised thanks to various scientific efforts that have successfully integrated wild genes into modern species.

The study acknowledges that the use of PGR in wheat breeding has improved the nutrition and livelihoods of resource-constrained farmers and consumers in the Global South, where wheat is often the cereal of choice in parts of Asia and Africa.

"We're at a critical juncture," says Reynolds. "Our current breeding strategies have served us well, but they must now address more complex challenges posed by climate change."

He observes that breeding that helps in maintaining genetic resistance to a range of diseases improves "yield stability" and avoids epidemics of devastating crop diseases that ultimately threaten food security for millions.

"Furthermore, post-Green Revolution genetic yield gains are generally achieved with less (in the Global North) and often no fungicide in the Global South, and without necessarily increasing inputs of fertilizer or irrigation water, with the exception in some high-production environments," the study contends.

As a result, there has been an increase in grain yield and millions of hectares of "natural ecosystems" have been saved from cultivation for grain production. These include millions of hectares of forests and other natural ecosystems, Reynolds and colleagues found.

Equally promising is the discovery in some experimental wheat lines incorporating wild traits that show up to 20 percent more growth under heat and drought conditions, when compared to current varieties,

and the development of the first crop ever bred to interact with soil microbes that has shown potential in reducing production of nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. This enables the plants to use nitrogen more efficiently.

"The use of PGR wild relatives, landraces, and isolated breeding gene pools has had substantial impacts on wheat breeding for resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses while increasing nutritional value, end-use quality, and grain yield," the review further finds.

Without the use of PGR-derived disease resistance, fungicide use to fight fungal diseases, the main threat to the crop, would have easily doubled, massively increasing selection pressure that would come with the need to avoid fungicide resistance, the review finds.

Remarkably, it is estimated that in wheat, a billion litres of fungicide application have been avoided, saving farmers billions that would go into the purchase and application of the chemicals, it adds.

The authors note that as weather becomes more extreme, crop breeding gene pools will need to be further enriched with new adaptive traits coming from PGR to survive the vagaries of climate change.

These 'definitely' include stubborn diseases that have plagued wheat farming in the tropics, such as the Ug99, a devastating stem rust fungal disease that, at its worst, wipes out entire crops in Africa and parts of the Middle East, Reynolds said.

Modern crop breeding, it says, has largely focused on a relatively narrow pool of star athletes—elite crop varieties that are already high performers and that have known, predictable genetics.

The genetic diversity of wild wheat relatives, on the other hand, offers complex climate-resilient traits that have been harder to use because they take longer, cost more, and are

riskier than the traditional breeding methods used for elite varieties.

"We have the tools to quickly explore genetic diversity that was previously inaccessible to breeders," explains Benjamin Kilian, co-author of the review and coordinator of the Crop Trust's Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development (BOLD) project, that supports conservation and use of crop diversity globally.

Among the tools are next-generation gene sequencing, big-data analytics, and remote sensing technologies, including satellite imagery. The latter allows researchers to routinely monitor traits like plant growth rate or disease resistance at unlimited numbers of sites globally.

While the collection and storage of PGR since early in the 20th century have played a key role, especially in breeding of disease-resistant plant varieties, the study concludes that a massive potential remains unexploited.

With wild relative varieties having survived millions of years of climate variance compared with our relatively recent crop species, more systematic screening is recommended to identify new and better sources of needed traits not just for wheat but for other crops as well, the study advises.

It calls for more investments in studying resilient wild varieties of common crops, taking advantage of widely available, proven and non-controversial technologies that present multiple impacts and a substantial return on investment.

"With new technologies emerging all the time to facilitate their use in plant breeding, PGR should be considered the best bet for achieving climate resilience, including its biotic and abiotic components," the authors said.

Late payment of school fees and its effects on academic, social development of a child

HUMAN beings constantly strive for social differentiation and assimilation, driven by the desire to improve and achieve desired success. For some, success means standing out and excelling in various areas of life, while for others, it means fitting in and being like their peers.

Education, though often expensive, is one way to gain recognition and success. The challenge of acquiring quality education with limited financial resources is a struggle faced by many parents and students.

This struggle is continuous, fueled by the endless desire to excel. No one aspires to low standards of living, but life's challenges often become obstacles. Everyone desires the best services and treatment, but we know resources are limited. In the pursuit of these resources, particularly financial ones, a few manage to accumulate a lot, while the majority can save a little.

School fees are typically set based on the quality of educational services rather than financial ability of parents. It is important for parents to choose schools that align with their financial capacity. However, as economic conditions change, parents may find that they can no longer afford the schools they initially chose for their children.

Problems arise when children are denied entry to classes due to unpaid or delayed school fees payment, creating a stressful, cat-and-mouse dynamic between students and school administrators.

Some parents resort to writing commitment letters to keep their children in school. Yet, if they fail to meet the promised payment dates, their children are sent home, disrupting their peace of mind and diminishing their confidence in receiving an education.

Learning should be a continuous process, but lack of school fees forces some students to have irregular attendance, with some days spent in school and others at home.



Teachers are often caught in a difficult position, especially when students struggling with school fees are among the best performers. Although teachers may wish to keep these students in class, they are bound by the

school's financial policies. School owners prioritize collecting overdue fees, while teachers worry about how these disruptions will affect overall class performance. Addressing the issue of school fees is crucial because it

has significant consequences for students.

Missing lessons; nothing is more troubling for a dedicated student than missing lessons. Missing even a single lesson can create gaps in understanding, making it harder for students to keep up with subsequent lessons. Teachers may find themselves in a situation where they need to repeat lessons privately for students who have missed classes due to unpaid fees, often because these students have high potential.

Social isolation; social interaction is crucial for mental and social well-being, as it helps students acquire the skills necessary to lead successful lives. Schools offer an opportunity to

build friendships and networks that can be valuable in the future.

When students are at home due to unpaid or delayed school fees, they miss out on these social interactions, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness. This psychological impact can hinder their ability to take advantage of learning opportunities.

Lack of talent development; schools play a vital role not only in academic excellence but also in talent development. Exposure to different activities and ideas helps students nurture their talents. Those affected by school fee issues have limited opportunities to participate in such activities, preventing them from developing their talents.

Failure to develop both academic skills and talents can undermine a student's confidence and ability to face life's challenges. It's important to remember that some individuals achieve success more through their talents than through formal education.

The importance of education; education is a fundamental right that significantly influences an individual's social and economic development. It raises awareness about diseases, their transmission, and prevention, and it enhances one's cognitive abilities. A person's value is often linked to their ability to think, and school provides the foundation for intellectual growth and mental resilience. Ensuring that students can continue learning, despite financial difficulties, is crucial to mitigating the negative impact of school fees on learning.

Returning home: Foundation brings smiles, hope to female ex-prisoners

By Beatrice Philemon

THE transition back into society after being released from prison is particularly challenging for women ex-prisoners. They often face numerous barriers, such as discrimination and rejection from their communities and families.

Without acceptance and support, many women ex-prisoners may find themselves destitute, and some may turn to crime as a means of survival.

Employment opportunities are scarce for ex-prisoners, as they frequently encounter reluctance from employers to offer them jobs. Many employers hesitate to hire individuals with criminal records, fearing that they may be unreliable, dangerous, or dishonest. This makes it difficult for ex-prisoners including women to be considered for jobs, regardless of their qualifications.

Some prisons offer vocational training to inmates, however, most of them are released without life skills or work experience that may help them secure temporary and permanent jobs.

Upon release, ex-prisoners may have limited access to resources such as job training programs, transportation, and housing. These challenges can make it harder to find and secure employment.

Female ex-prisoners often face social isolation and may not have strong support networks to help them find jobs. Lack of connections and references are also contributing to a significant disadvantage in the job market.

In addition to employment challenges, these women face issues such as housing instability, mental health challenges, lack of access to healthcare, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These factors make reintegrating into society a daunting task.

In response to these challenges, the Tanzania Prisoners Hope Foundation (TPHF) has introduced a new programme aimed at helping female ex-prisoners rebuild their lives. The programme provides training on various topics to help them stay healthy, manage daily stress, and improve their overall well-being.

Mary Rusimbi, Co-Founder of the Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT), discussed this initiative during a recent training session that was attended by 30 women ex-prisoners from Segerea and Ukonga prisons. The session, funded by WFTT, focused on physical and spiritual well-being, self-care, and healing. "We have decided to offer this train-



Women ex-prisoners receive training at Nandiwe Feminist Wellness and Coaching Center

ing because life after prison is incredibly difficult, and starting over is not easy for women ex-prisoners," Rusimbi said adding some women fail to start over after being released due to the discrimination and instability they experience in their communities.

The programme also aims to help these women find happiness, take care of themselves, cope with daily stress, and improve their overall well-being. It encourages them to value their contributions to their families and

communities.

The training covered topics such as gender equality, oppressive systems that infringe women's rights, self-care, healing, spiritual and physical well-being, collective care, holistic wellness and nutrition.

Rusimbi encouraged them to use their networks and platforms to advocate for their rights and discuss issues affecting their well-being. She emphasized the importance of having personal space to discuss challenges they face as well as possible

solutions.

She also stressed the need for relaxation, advising female ex-prisoners to engage in activities that bring joy, such as physical exercise and ensuring they get adequate rest.

Rusimbi highlighted the importance of collective action to address and change the oppressive systems that harm their well-being.

"When facing discrimination, stigma, financial crises, or health problems, practicing self-care is crucial as it helps eliminate stress, anxiety,

and depression, improves concentration, reduces frustration, increases happiness and even prevents serious health risks," she stated.

To live healthier and happier lives, she advised the women to value themselves and make independent decisions. She emphasized that good nutrition, physical well-being, regular exercise, spiritual well-being, access to quality healthcare, and a supportive environment are critical for overall wellness.

Neglecting any of these areas can adversely affect one's

health, well-being, and quality of life, she said.

Lucas Mwimo, Executive TPHF Director, underscored the importance of health services and spiritual well-being, urging the women ex-prisoners to take responsibility for their health and stay close to their faith. "Good health is essential to achieving your goals. Be responsible for your own health because it determines your ability to achieve what you have planned."

Mwimo encouraged female ex-prisoners to eat healthily, exercise regularly, get enough sleep, and manage stress to improve their well-being. He also advised them to avoid activities that could lead them back to prison. "Start everything with God, as He is our protection and strength. He guides us through our problems, provides solutions, and helps us move forward."

During the event, the women shared their experiences and challenges they faced in prison. Mwimo advised them to form formal groups to be easily supported in accessing their rights.

According to him, the group should involve lawyers to guide them in legal matters. TPHF is also working on a new reintegration policy to be submitted to parliament for discussion and approval.

Mwanahamisi Khalfani, Chairperson of the Women Ex-Prisoners Association, who served four years in prison for money laundering, is among the training beneficiaries.

She told The Guardian how the programme has empowered and protected her, help in building confidence and focus on her future goals. With the skills gained from TPHF, Khalfani and other members have started various income-generating activities, such as grain trading, shoe and dress businesses, and mobile money services like M-PESA, HaloPesa, and Airtel Money. They have also established a village community bank (VICOPA) where they save monies on weekly basis and access low interest loans to expand their businesses.

"We buy shares, contribute 12,000/- per week, and issue loans to our members. We are now looking for donors to help use raise 30m/- to be able to offer more loans to our members," said Khalfani who has successfully started her own shoe business, which enables her to support her family, pay school fees for her children and invest in her M-Pesa business.

'I have lost everything': Bangladesh floods strand 1.24 million families

By Faisal Mahmud

EKRAMUL Haque was stunned when his uncle called him late in the afternoon of August 21 to inform him that floodwaters had inundated their ancestral home in south-eastern Bangladesh's Feni district, close to the Indian border.

At the time, Haque was about 10km (6 miles) away in the town of Mirsarai in the Chattogram district, where he lives with his wife and children.

The next day, it took 40 minutes travelling by minibus in the downpour to reach his village.

"I rushed back to my home the next morning amidst torrential rain. By the time I arrived, knee-deep water had already entered and soaked everything," the 29-year-old recounted. "I urged my extended family to come with me to Mirsarai."

His parents and one uncle returned to Mirsarai with him.

But as the heavy rain continued and reports emerged of floodwaters submerging single-storey homes in his village in Chhagalnaiya Upazila (an upazila is a district subunit), Haque decided to undertake rescue missions starting on Friday morning to help other family members and residents of the village who were stranded.

"I contacted a few friends from university and formed a team to help. However, I was shocked to discover that the road from Mirsarai to Chhagalnaiya was entirely submerged under chest-high water, making it completely impassable on Friday," he said.

Delivering relief supplies

Haque and his friends initially tried to construct a makeshift raft from felled banana trees, but it failed to float due to the currents.

They eventually managed to hire a small boat at three times the usual cost. "The current was very strong, and it took the boatman three hours to navigate us through. When we arrived, nearly all the houses were completely underwater," Haque said.

The region where Haque grew up doesn't always experience annual monsoon floods, unlike lower lying parts of the country.

"I don't recall ever seeing floodwaters rise beyond ankle-deep in my area before in monsoon. My parents mentioned that during the major flood of 1988, the water reached knee-deep. This situation was beyond anything I've ever experienced," he added, speaking by phone while dropping off aid in Chhagalnaiya.

Floods in central, eastern and south-eastern Bangladesh have killed 23 people and affected more than 5.7 million. About 1.24 million families across 11 districts in the country of 180 million people are stranded, cut off from the rest of the country by floodwaters due to relentless monsoon rains and overflowing rivers.

As the floodwaters gradually recede, those affected are urgently in need of food, clean water, medicines and dry clothing. The situation is especially critical in remote areas like Haque's village, which is not close to the district town and where blocked roads have severely impeded rescue and relief efforts.



Bangladesh is a of 170 million people, crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers, and has seen frequent floods in recent decades.

"We have been working tirelessly to deliver urgent relief to those stranded for the past few days," Haque said on Tuesday. "Yesterday, we reached a village where people had been without food for 72 hours. Many were severely ill with diarrhoea and lacked clean drinking water. It was an unprecedented crisis."

Anti-Indian sentiment Bangladesh, located on the Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta, which is the world's largest, has a deep connection with water. Its landscape, characterised by rivers and floodplains, is accustomed to annual monsoon floods, particularly in the low-lying north-eastern districts. Residents in these areas are familiar with this cycle and prepare by taking their valuables to relatives in areas that are not flood-prone and stocking up on food and water before the heavy rains and flooding that occur each monsoon season.

Bangladesh is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, and about 3.5 million people are at risk of annual river flooding, according to a 2015 World Bank Institute analysis.

But this year's floods caught many in the southeast off guard.

In flood-affected districts such as Feni, Cumilla and Lakshmipur - regions close to the Indian border

- many are blaming India, which they said released water from the Dumbur Dam in the state of Tripura in the middle of last week. India has denied opening the sluice gates.

The dam, a low structure about 30 metres (100ft) high, is more than 120km (75 miles) from the Bangladeshi border. It produces electricity that contributes to the grid used by Bangladesh and is built on the Gumti River, which merges with the Meghna in Bangladesh.

Tripura is also facing severe flooding with 31 people reported dead and more than 100,000 residents displaced into relief camps. Floods and landslides have affected nearly 1.7 million people in India.

Kamrul Hasan Nomani, 41, a resident of Lakshmipur, told Al Jazeera that the floodwater is knee-deep in his home and has damaged a large part of it.

He believes that no amount of rain could have caused chest-deep water in his village without the dam opening.

For Nomani, like many affected by the flooding, the crisis has generated anti-Indian sentiment with many believing that India purposefully opened the dam without warning. "They did it intentionally because their preferred government, led by [former Prime Minister Sheikh]

Hasina, has fallen in Bangladesh," Nomani alleged.

On August 5 after massive student-led protests, Hasina's 15-year rule came to an abrupt end. Hasina, who was widely seen as New Delhi's favoured leader in Bangladesh, sought refuge in India. Anti-India sentiment that existed while Hasina was prime minister, fuelled by allegations of Indian interference to keep her in power, has escalated since she fled to India.

India cited excessive rainfall as the cause of the flooding while acknowledging that on August 21, a flood-related power outage and communications failure prevented sending the usual river updates to their neighbours downstream in Bangladesh.

Shafiqul Alam, press secretary for Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate leading Bangladesh's new interim government, told reporters in Dhaka that Pranay Verma, India's high commissioner to Bangladesh, informed the interim government that the water from the dam was "released automatically" due to elevated levels.

Sarder Uday Raihan, an executive engineer at the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Bangladesh, said that the agency usually gets information about rising water levels

in rivers in India twice a day.

"However, this time, India did not share any updates. Without accurate information, it's hard to give an accurate flood forecast," he said, adding that timely warnings could have helped prevent deaths and damage.

Destroyed homes and crops

Mohamad Khalequzzaman, a professor of geology at Lock Haven University in the United States, said that the last flood that inundated districts like Feni, Cumilla or Lakshmipur was in 1988.

"The primary cause of this year's flooding appears to be unusual rainfall in the region, but several other factors have exacerbated the situation," he explained.

He noted that rainfall from August 20 to Friday ranged from 200 to 493mm (8 to 19.4 inches), compared with the usual 120 to 360mm (4.7 to 14.2 inches) in various locations in Tripura and eastern Bangladesh, which he described as unusually "heavy" for that region during the monsoon.

Khalequzzaman added that while the sudden release of dam water during an already severe flood period may have contributed to flooding in the Gomati River watershed, it is unlikely to have contributed significantly to flooding in Feni town, Sonagazi and Chhagalnaiya Upazilas because they do not lie in the river catchment area.

He further explained that with the soil of the watershed area already saturated, most of the rainwater turns into surface run-off, leading to flooding of nearby rivers in the affected districts.

He also pointed out that unplanned urbanisation over the years has led to a build-up of silt, which, along with roads, buildings and embankments, particularly along the Gomati and Muhuri rivers, prevent floodwaters from receding.

Additionally, he said, land encroachment by illegal businesses using the Gomati and Feni rivers for transportation, for example, has destroyed much of the natural drainage system in these areas.

"The combination of torrential rain, disruptions in river flow both in India and Bangladesh, loss of natural drainage, riverbed siltation and impediments to surface flow have all contributed to the severe flooding," he said.

In a still-flooded village in Cumilla, the home of Abdul Matin, a teacher, has been destroyed.

"I have lost everything. My corrugated tin house has been washed away. I'm unsure how I'll cope with the financial devastation caused by the flood," Matin said.

He does not believe the flooding was solely caused by heavy rainfall and damage to the natural drainage system. "I hold India responsible for this," he said. "This was India's water."

Ismail Mridha, a 46-year-old farmer from Sonagazi Upazila in Feni, told Al Jazeera that the flood devastated both his home and farmland. "My house, made of mud and corrugated tin, has been completely destroyed, and the farmland where I grew eggplant and bottle gourd has been washed away," he said.

"I survived the flood, but I am uncertain how I will manage to recover from the financial devastation."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 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 Olatunji Saliu, Lagos

Nigerian woman realises train-driving dream on China-built light rail

ISABELLA Adams-Israel stepped out of her apartment in Nigeria's southwestern state of Lagos on a late July morning, ready for another day on the rails.

For the 30-year-old mother of one, driving trains is not just a job, but a dream come true. Over the past three years, she has enjoyed the excitement and fulfillment of being the country's first female driver of an electric multiple-unit train.

"My experience has been good, challenging, and most especially, fun -- because it is like practicing what I love to do every day," she said during her "warm-up" at the iconic Marina Station of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Blue Line, a China-built electric-powered light rail network.

She described the "warm-up" as the preparation before a train's departure. "I am privileged to be driving passengers, including students, business officials and dignitaries," she said, adding that she runs up to 54 trips daily.

The story of Adams-Israel, like many others fueled by the cooperation between China and Nigeria, exemplifies the success of bilateral collaboration.

Her fascination with trains began in 2018 when she joined the local branch of China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC). Initially working in the train signal and telecommunication department, she was captivated by the sight of trains in motion and knew she wanted to be part of it.

Her passion was not without impediments, one of which, she said, was the challenge of convincing her husband to support her relocation from Abuja to Lagos, to pursue her dream.

"He initially doubted me, saying it was a man's job. But after some persuasion, he supported me, and we made the move," she said, noting that it was a decision that led to the beginning of "a happy life."

After eight months of classroom training and three months of hands-on experience, she faced her most daunting test: driving a train solo while being observed by officials from the Nigerian Railway Corporation. "The pressure was immense, but I proved myself, and from then on, I was frequently entrusted with the train."

Constructed by CCECC in July 2010 and completed in December 2022, the first phase of the LRMT Blue Line cor-



ridor spans 13 km and covers five stations. It began commercial operation in September of 2023. As a symbolic project of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Blue Line project is the first electrified railroad and cross-sea light rail project in West Africa.

Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, during the project's commis-

sioning in September 2023, said that the light rail was expected to reduce travel time, improve the quality of life for citizens, and help make Lagos one of the most resilient megacities in Africa.

Adams-Israel takes pride in her role, especially in watching the excitement of children boarding her train. "It is a privilege to serve and

make a difference in people's lives," she said, adding that the Blue Line's success has improved commuter convenience and raised public awareness about train travel, inspiring many who had never experienced a train before.

Thanks to the rigorous training from her Chinese and local mentors, covering everything from

train mechanics to emergency protocols, Adams-Israel is now confident in her ability to handle challenges that arise while driving. She has gained experience with various types of trains.

Looking ahead, she expressed her desire to "gain more knowledge and experience in train operations globally, especially in China."

China-aided schools boost access to high-quality education for Botswana students

GABORONE

SINCE the opening of a China-aided primary school in 2021 in Mmopane, a village near Botswana's capital, Gaborone, the local educational landscape has seen significant favorable changes.

"This school has come at the right time for the Mmopane community," said Gagotsiwe Marata, the headmistress of the Mmopane Primary School.

"It has really helped the community because initially there was only one school that was serving the whole of the village," he said.

Located in the Kweneng District of Botswana, about 15 km northwest of Gaborone, Mmopane is one of the fastest-growing villages in the country in terms of population. Currently, it has about 30,000 residents and is expanding rapidly, with even more people seeking places for their children.

Marata indicated that before the Mmopane Primary School was established, students had to walk long distances to other schools in nearby villages or commute to Gaborone. Some parents were less privileged and could not afford to pay for transportation for their children.

Ten-year-old Tlotlo Seloke was one of the students who faced this challenge. She had to wake up at 5 a.m. every morning to take public transport to school. Concerned about potential kidnappings and robberies, she transferred to this China-aided school since it opened.

"This school is completely fabulous because now it takes me 10 minutes to walk from home to school," Seloke said, adding that she always shares with the neighborhood what they are learning and the activities they are participating in at school.

Currently, Mmopane Primary School has about 900 students and receives a large number of enrollment requests from parents every year. "The school was oversubscribed as it had a lot of learners attending, but the demand for spaces at the school continues to grow," Marata said.



According to Marata, the school's biggest attractions are its impressive facilities and the strong performance of its students. There is a large dining hall, sports facilities including netball, football, and basketball courts, computer labs, science labs, disability-accessible restrooms, and a modern library.

Marata said Mmopane has been the best school she has ever led in her entire teaching career. She expressed

a desire to establish a relationship with schools in China to make visits to share best practices and school procedures, fostering cross-cultural learning.

Boikano Rantshesane, 13, enrolled at Mmopane Primary School in 2021. She said that her previous school was not performing well academically, as she would receive lower grades of around 80 percent. However, since transferring to this China-aided

school, her grades have improved to 93 percent or higher.

In 2023, the school achieved a pass rate of 98.3 percent in its first-ever national Primary School Leaving Examination, topping Kweneng District. Of the 118 students, 116 passed the exams, with 46 obtaining grade A.

Marata attributed their success to special relationships with teachers, students and parents who provide emotional support, as well as strong

staff welfare and assistance from the Chinese embassy.

"I really appreciate the Chinese embassy for the overwhelming support that they continue to give the school; they did not just build the school, they are with us every step of the way, supporting us in our needs," Marata said.

Bame Malete, who has been teaching at Mmopane Primary School for two years, also stated that the Chinese embassy's consistent support, including regular return visits, creates a favorable learning environment.

At present, Mmopane Primary School is one of the three primary schools aided by China in Botswana, with the other two being Kubung Primary School in Maun and Dinokwane Primary School in Serowe.

The three schools have effectively improved educational conditions for children and strongly supported the development of Botswana's basic education, said Fan Yong, Chinese ambassador to Botswana.

The fourth China-aided school, Ramaeba Primary School, has been completed and will be handed over to the Botswana government later this year. With the capacity to accommodate 560 students in 14 classrooms, the school will improve educational accessibility for children in northern Botswana.



Thursday 29 August 2024

Internet, mobile banking services record sharp increase in five years

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania's banking industry has recorded significant growth in internet and mobile banking services over the past five years, marking a major milestone in promoting a cashless economy and expanding financial inclusion.

The National Payment System Report 2023, recently published by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), shows a rise in both internet and mobile banking transactions, with an increasing number of banks offering these services.

Commercial banks and financial institutions continue to develop innovative digital banking solutions, allowing customers to manage their finances conveniently through computers and mobile phones.

According to the report, the number of banks offering internet banking grew from 20 in 2019 to 35 in 2023. Similarly, mobile banking subscribers increased to 8.99 million from 5.04 million over the same period.

However, only 2.44 million of these mobile banking subscribers were active last year, highlighting the need for banks to continue promoting these services to boost adoption.

Despite the growth, digital fraud remains a significant challenge to the expansion of internet and mo-

bile banking.

Many Tanzanians are still hesitant to use digital banking services due to concerns about security, which hampers efforts to promote a cashless economy.

In March 2024, the BoT reported that over 1.65bn/- (\$647,000) was lost to mobile and internet banking fraud, including cyber-attacks, during the fourth quarter of last year. This was a sharp increase from the 901m/- (\$353,600) lost in the previous quarter.

Mobile banking growth

Since its introduction in 2007, mobile money has filled the gap in accessing financial services caused by the complexities of traditional banking systems.

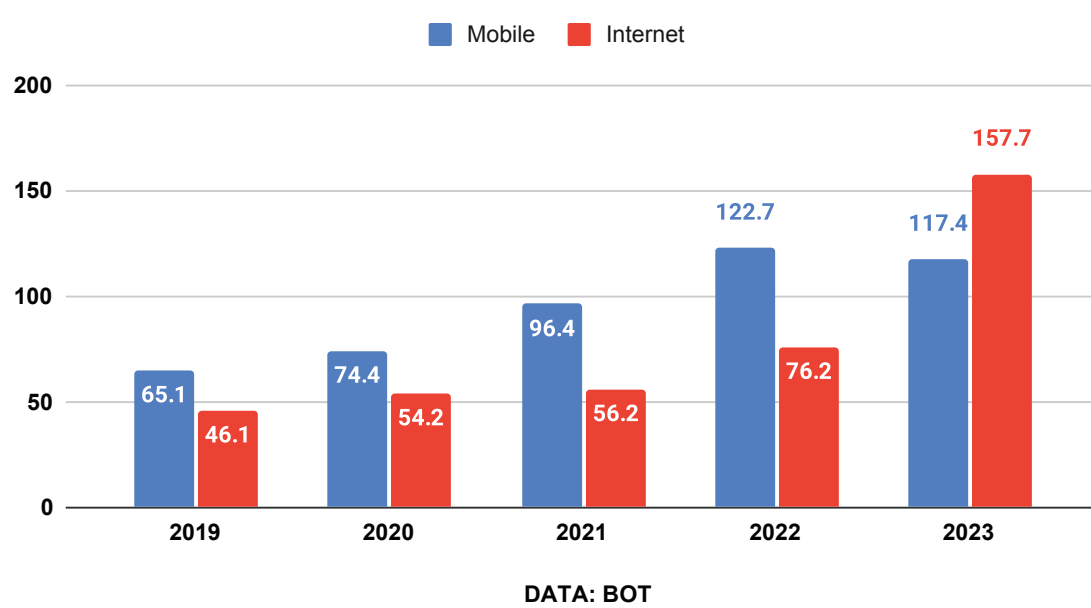
Between 2019 and 2023, mobile banking in Tanzania saw significant growth, driven by increased adoption of mobile money services and regulatory improvements aimed at enhancing financial inclusion.

The report shows that the volume of mobile banking transactions increased from 55.74 million in 2019 to 81.99 million in 2023. The value of these transactions nearly tripled, rising from 9.47trn/- in 2019 to 25.51trn/- last year.

The COVID-19 pandemic also accelerated the adoption of mobile banking, as people sought contactless payment options.

The BoT encouraged mobile

Values of Internet, Mobile Banking Transactions 2019-2023 in Trillion Shillings



money usage by waiving certain transaction fees and raising transaction limits, leading to a surge in transaction volumes during the pandemic.

By 2023, mobile banking had reached more remote areas of Tanzania, contributing significantly to financial inclusion.

The expansion of 4G networks by mobile operators, along with the increasing affordability of smartphones and mobile data packages, further boosted mobile banking usage.

Internet banking expansion

The National Payment System Report 2023 also highlights the growth of internet banking in Tanzania. The number of registered internet banking customers rose from 217,425 in 2017 to 313,585 in 2023, while active customers increased from 31,706 in 2019 to 134,091 last year.

Annual customer growth ranged between 12 percent and 32 percent over the past five years, except in 2021 when growth declined by 29.37 percent due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The volume of domestic internet banking transactions grew from 5.2 million in 2019 to 16.1 million in 2023. International transactions also surged from 20,201 to 1.5 million during the same period.

The value of domestic transactions increased from 43.2trn/- in 2019 to 142.6trn/- in 2023, while international transaction values rose from 2.9trn/- to 15.2trn/-.

As internet penetration continues to expand, more Tanzanians are adopting internet banking services. The number of internet users in the country has risen sig-

nificantly, driven by infrastructure development and lower data costs.

However, internet banking remains more popular in urban areas where internet infrastructure and computer ownership are more common. In contrast, rural areas continue to rely heavily on mobile banking services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, internet banking usage surged as customers sought to minimize physical contact and manage their finances remotely.

Banks promoted the use of digital platforms, with some waiving fees for online transactions to encourage adoption.

As internet banking continues to grow, cybersecurity has become a critical focus for banks. Investments in enhanced security measures, such as two-factor authentication (2FA) and encrypted communications, are aimed at preventing fraud and cyberattacks.

Banks are also undertaking campaigns to educate customers about the benefits of internet banking, including tutorials on how to use online platforms, protect personal data, and manage finances digitally.

However, challenges remain, particularly in rural areas where internet infrastructure is less reliable.

Slow internet speeds and intermittent connectivity issues limit access to internet banking for some users.

While internet banking has expanded, it still faces competition from mobile banking platforms, which are more widely used for everyday transactions due to their simplicity and broader reach, especially in areas with limited access to computers and stable internet connections.

By Guardian Reporter

Lifezone Metals Limited has engaged in high-level discussions with US and Tanzanian government officials to further investment initiatives in critical minerals projects in Africa, Chief Executive Officer, Chris Showalter has announced.

The Kabanga Nickel Project, located in Ngara district, north-west Tanzania, is being advanced through a strategic partnership between Lifezone, the Government of Tanzania and BHP Group Limited.

Kabanga is believed to be one of the world's largest and highest-grade undeveloped nickel sulfide deposits.

The Project is expected to establish first-of-its-kind nickel, copper and cobalt processing in Tanzania, delivering value addition and driving sustainable development for the benefit of Tanzania's citizens.

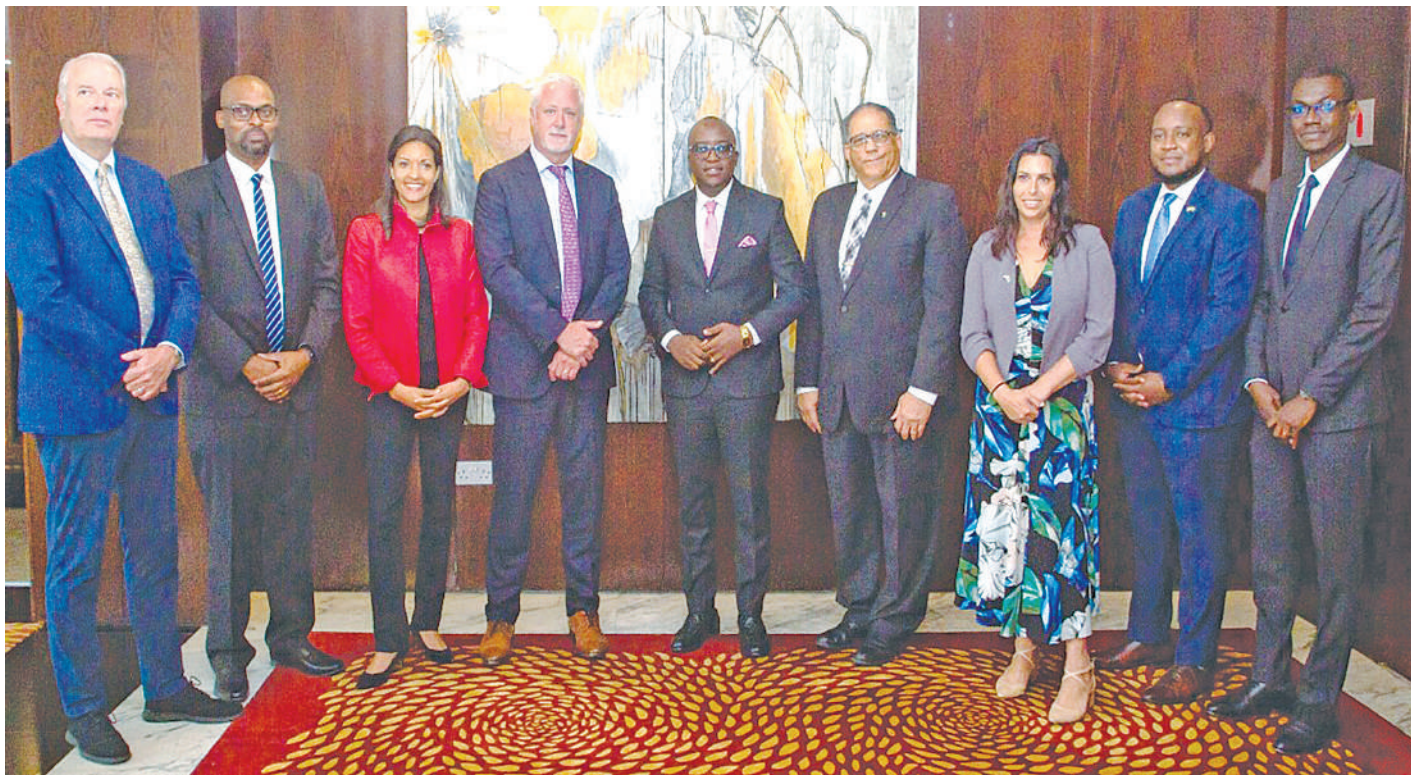
During a visit to Dar es Salaam on August 26, 2024, Showalter, alongside key US representatives including Acting Special Coordinator for the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment ("PGI"), Helaina Matza and Ambassador of the United States to Tanzania, Michael Battle, met with Tanzanian Government officials.

These meetings, which included discussions with the Minister of Minerals Anthony Mavunde, focused on the ongoing progress and future potential of the Kabanga Nickel Project.

The US Government highlighted the importance of the Kabanga Nickel Project to help advance the energy transition and as a model of strategic economic cooperation between the United States and Tanzania.

This collaboration was previously showcased at the US-Africa Summit in 2022 and reinforced by Vice President Harris during her visit to Tanzania in 2023.

Lifezone's subsidiary, Kabanga



Minister of minerals Anthony Mavunde (C), poses in a group photo with US Ambassador to Tanzania Michal Battle (4th R) after a high level discussion with officials from Lifezone Metals, GPI, Tembo Nickel and BHP Group on further investment initiative in Kabanga Nickel Project. Photo: Lifezone

Lifezone Metals initiates process for risk insurance for the Kabanga Nickel project

Nickel Limited, has signed a re-

tainder letter with the US International Development Finance Corporation ("DFC") to commence the evaluation process for political risk insurance coverage for future investments into the Kabanga underground nickel-copper-cobalt mine site and the Kahama Hydromet refinery site.

Lifezone is proposing a comprehensive investment plan that seeks to secure the future of the Kabanga Nickel Project.

Through these collaborative efforts and discussions, Lifezone aims to strengthen partnerships and secure investments that will contribute to the sustainable development

of critical minerals resources in Africa.

Showalter stated: "Our partnership with the United States and Tanzania continues to deepen as we pursue our common goals of building resilient supply chains for critical minerals, while fostering sustainable economic development. Further, the US Government's recognition through the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment and identification of Kabanga as a project within the Mineral Security Partnership demonstrates the Project's significance for like-minded partners as well as for the United States. We look forward to working closely with

DFC on this Project. None of this would be possible without our partners in Tanzania and their ongoing and demonstrated support of the Project."

Helaina Matza added: "PGI, as the overarching US Government approach to supporting sustainable infrastructure development, has been a supporter of the Kabanga Nickel Project, which will positively impact the battery supply chain security for both the US and its partners. The Kabanga Project exemplifies the goals of sustainable development – for Tanzanians, by Tanzanians – that Vice President Harris articulated during her 2023 visit." The Kabanga Nickel Pro-

ject is expected to be a fully integrated mine-to-metal operation that will enable a fully auditable supply chain with production of refined, LME-grade nickel, copper and cobalt metals.

Lifezone will apply its Hydromet Technology, which provides an alternative to traditional pyrometallurgical smelting, and is able to significantly reduce carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide emissions (relative to smelting) with lower expected operating and capital costs.

The Kabanga Definitive Feasibility Study is progressing towards completion in September.

Global 'Banking as a Service' market to reach \$4.2bn

NEWARK

The Global Banking as a Service (BaaS) platform market is expected to reach an impressive US\$4,236.3 million in 2024, according to recent market analysis by Accesswire.

The demand for BaaS platforms is projected to rise at a remarkable Combined Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 14.7 percent from 2024 to 2034, driving the market to an anticipated value of US\$16,664.6 million by the end of 2034.

Banking as a Service (BaaS) is an end-to-end model that allows digital banks and third-party providers to seamlessly connect with traditional banks' systems via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

This connection enables these entities to build banking offerings on top of the banks' regulated infrastructure, thereby unlocking new opportunities in the open banking landscape that is rapidly transforming Europe's financial services sector.

The BaaS platform plays a crucial role in ensuring the safe communication of data between traditional banks and businesses or fintech companies.

By adopting a BaaS platform, banks and financial services providers can concentrate on their core competencies delivering products, services, and customer experiences while benefiting from the expertise, functionality, infrastructure, platform, and scale provided by software providers. This approach not only reduces development time and costs but also offers a unified view of the customer by leveraging a common platform across a wide range of products and services.

The banking as a service (BaaS) platform market is facing significant challenges due to the rising incidents of cyber-attacks and data breaches.

High-profile cyberattacks, such as the 2022 breach of the Bank of Brazil, which compromised their online systems and customer data, underscore the critical vulnerabilities within the industry related to data privacy and cybersecurity.

BaaS providers, who offer essential banking services through APIs, are particularly vulnerable to these threats.

The interconnected nature of their systems makes them attractive targets for cybercriminals, amplifying the risks associated with data breaches.

One of the most pressing challenges in safeguarding client information within the BaaS sector is the reliance on third-party vendors.

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS AND DANGERS OF BANK CARDS-PART ONE

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

Debit cards have become a way of life for many consumers. When you use a debit card, the purchase is deducted directly from your checking account. There are two ways to use a debit card; through an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) where you can withdraw cash or through a Point of Sale (POS) that accepts your type of debit card.

The majority of the banks offer MasterCard or Visa debit cards which offer convenience and versatility. Also, debit cards are great because there is no chance of spending more than you have hence no overdraft fees charges for you if you "Opt-Out" of overdraft protection.

However, this convenience and savings of overdraft fees come with certain risks and dangers that you need to un-

derstand before using your debit card freely.

The other type of bank card is a Credit card; the main difference between credit cards and debit cards is that, whatever you spend on the credit card, you will have to pay back, while with debit cards you are spending your own money.

Hence credit cards are potentially dangerous, especially for new credit card users who may be fascinated by the allure of what seems like "free" money. So, if you are thinking about getting a credit card, it is important to understand the dangers that come along with credit cards to help you cultivate better usage.

Hence the next two weeks, I will share a few risks and dangers associated with using your bank's cards. This week, I will talk about the risks and dangers of debit cards;

Reimburse of Fraudulent



KELVIN MKWAWA

Charges on Debit Cards - When someone has fraudulently used your debit card, the money comes directly out

of your account immediately. That means you do not have that money while the bank does its due diligence to con-

firm your fraud claim and this process may take up to 30-45 days or longer depending on the bank. Many customers complain of the waiting time while unable to access the funds that were stolen by the fraudsters.

This may lead some of them to be short of funds to pay their necessities such as food and utility bills. With that being said when shopping for your next current/saving account, don't forget to ask the bank for their Turn Around Time (TAT) of investigating and refunding the fraud charges on your account so you will know if that will work out for you in case a fraud occurs.

Overdrafts Charges - Many consumers naively assume that if they don't have sufficient funds in their current accounts, their bank won't approve a debit card transaction. But they are wrong. The majority of international

banks do charge you a fee called an overdraft fee if you use your debit card when you don't have sufficient funds in your account. Overdraft charges have been soaring in recent years and the major causes of that are the lack of awareness of the charge to the consumers. One way banks can help consumers is to give them the option to "Opt-In" or "Opt-out" of automatic overdraft protection at the time of opening the account. If a customer chooses to "Opt-In", the bank will allow debit and ATM transactions to go through even if the customer doesn't have enough funds in the account while if the customer chooses to "Opt-Out", the bank will not allow any transactions to go through when the account doesn't have sufficient funds.

Withhold Charges - When you use your debit card to book a hotel or rent a car, gen-

erally the merchant will put a "hold" on more funds in your account than what you are actually spending. Yes, you have read it right. The merchant puts a hold on funds for the full amount of your spending plus an estimated amount for "accidents" in case of any activities that might run your bill more.

The extra estimated amount is not an actual bill but it does not come off your account until the final bill from the merchant is presented to your bank. This does affect your available balance in your current account and might lead you to overdraw your account.

Next week, I will share the risks associated with Credit cards.

Kelvin Mkwawa (pictured), is the Seasoned Banker. He can be reached through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

Crypto wealth reshapes global citizenship

By Dominic Volek

The cryptocurrency landscape of 2024 bears little resemblance to its predecessors. Bitcoin's rise to over US\$ 73,000 in March set a new all-time high, while the long-awaited approval of spot Bitcoin and Ethereum ETFs in the USA unleashed a torrent of institutional capital.

Anticipation now builds for potential Solana ETFs joining the Wall Street party. These milestones have seeded a new era of crypto adoption, one where digital assets increasingly cross-pollinate with traditional finance and global mobility.

A sizeable crypto elite emerges as cryptocurrencies cement their place in the financial zeitgeist, a new class of high-net-worth individuals has emerged. New World Wealth data paints a striking picture: crypto millionaires surged by 95 percent in just one year, with 172,300 individuals now holding over US\$1 million in digital assets.

The echelons of crypto wealth have expanded dramatically, with centi-millionaires growing by 79 percent to 325, and even the rarefied air of crypto billionaires seeing a 27 percent increase to 28 individuals.

Global blockchain graphic of interconnected nodes

This explosive growth has not gone unnoticed by the investment migration industry. At Henley & Partners, we've seen a significant uptick in crypto-wealthy clients seeking alternative residence and citizenship options. These digital nomads aren't just chasing tax optimization; they're in pursuit of jurisdictions that embrace innovation and offer regulatory environments conducive to their decentralized aspirations.

Notably, some of the most attractive locations for those involved in cryptocurrencies are countries that offer residence and citizenship by investment programs, enabling them to obtain the right to reside and/or citizenship in return for making a significant investment.

New investment paradigms unfold

To make sense of this changing crypto landscape, Henley & Partners has unveiled its second annual Crypto Adoption Index. This comprehensive tool evaluates investment migration programs through the lens of the crypto investor, considering factors such as public adoption, infrastructure, innovation and technology,



regulatory environment, economic factors, and tax-friendliness.

The 2024 index has been refined to provide a more nuanced, crypto-focused evaluation of global jurisdictions. These enhancements result in a more precise tool that better serves the needs of discerning investors in the fast-paced digital asset space.

The index reveals a nuanced global picture. Singapore leads the pack, with a #1 ranking across infrastructure adoption, innovation and technology, and regulatory environment. Hong Kong (SAR China) follows closely, buoyed by its robust economic factors and tax-friendly policies. The UAE rounds out the top three, offering unparalleled tax benefits and a burgeoning economy.

Global crypto hubs take shape

Asia Pacific emerges as a powerhouse for crypto-friendly investment migration. Singapore's top ranking is underscored by its recent regulatory framework for stablecoins, positioning it as a forward-thinking financial hub.

Hong Kong's approval of spot crypto ETFs in January 2024, which are also becoming available in Singapore, highlights a commitment to remaining competitive in the digital asset space. These examples illustrate the region's proactive approach to integrating digital assets with traditional finance.

The Middle East, particularly the UAE, continues to attract crypto wealth with its zero capital gains tax and progressive regulations. Dubai's long history of crypto-friendliness, including the approval of the first cryptocurrency fund in the Middle East in 2021, further solidifies its position as a leading destination for crypto investors. More recently, Dubai's allowance for residents to trade cryptocurrencies directly with their bank accounts is indicative of a significant step towards mainstream adoption.

Europe also presents a dynamic landscape for crypto investment. Malta and Cyprus offer robust programs tailored for crypto investors, with their progressive regulatory frameworks and innovative approaches to digital assets.

Switzerland continues to shine with its "Crypto Valley" in Zug, known for its favorable stance on digital assets and thriving blockchain ecosystem.

The Americas show potential for leadership. The USA has seen a surge of interest following the ap-

proval of spot Bitcoin ETFs, while countries like Panama are positioning themselves as crypto-friendly havens in the region.

Caribbean nations, long popular for investment migration, are adapting to the crypto wave. Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis have both implemented forward-thinking legislation to attract digital asset entrepreneurs.

In contrast, India presents a more challenging environment for crypto investors. The country's stringent crypto tax policies, including a 1 percent tax-deducted-at-source (TDS) on cryptocurrency transactions and a flat 30 percent tax on crypto gains, have driven many wealthy individuals to seek alternative residence and citizenship options.

This growing interest underscores the desire of India's crypto-wealthy to find jurisdictions with more favorable conditions for optimizing their digital asset investments.

Crypto and citizenship converge

As the lines between traditional and digital finance continue to blur, the synergy between investment migration and cryptocurrencies grows stronger. The Henley Crypto Adoption Index 2024 serves as an important tool, offering insights into jurisdictions that not only welcome crypto wealth but also provide the regulatory frameworks and infrastructure to support its growth.

The crypto millionaires of 2024 are not content with digital riches alone; they seek the freedom of global mobility to match their borderless assets. As nations compete to attract this new wave of digital wealth, we can expect investment migration programs to evolve, catering to the unique needs of the crypto elite.

In this digital gold rush, the most successful jurisdictions will be those that can offer a holistic ecosystem for crypto investors - combining favorable regulations, robust infrastructure, and pathways to alternative citizenship or residence. As we move forward, the intersection of cryptocurrency and investment migration will undoubtedly play a major role in shaping the future of global wealth and mobility.

Dominic Volek, CA(SA), FIMC, (pictured) is Group Head of Private Clients at Henley & Partners and a member of the Executive Committee.

Govt agrees to end challenges facing small-scale bakers

By Francis Kajubi

The government has acknowledged the challenges faced by small-scale bakers and is working on solutions through its budget plans and policies to foster growth in the sector.

Daniel Sillo, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Trade, shared the government's stance during an awards ceremony organized by the Tanzania Bakers Association (TBA) on Tuesday night.

He addressed the call from small-scale bakers to waive the Value Added Tax (VAT) on bread, noting that the government is considering this measure to protect consumers and enhance the sector's growth.

"When taxes are high, some producers resort to using inferior raw materials, resulting in low-quality products that pose risks to consumer health," Sillo explained.

Last month, President Samia Suluhu Hassan established the Presidential Commission on Tax Reforms to address tax-related challenges faced by businesses.

Sillo urged bakers to present their concerns to the commission, which is focused on identifying and solving business-related tax issues.

"Our goal is to create a supportive environment for businesses, enabling entrepreneurs to contribute fully to the country's economic growth," Sillo added.

The government's blueprint for improving the business environment prioritizes addressing various challenges faced by entrepreneurs, particularly small-scale businesses like bakeries.

Sillo praised TBA for emphasizing quality over price competition in the market.

"Bakers play a vital role in the microeconomy by creating jobs and providing access to quality, safe, and reliable food," he said.

Sillo also commended the TBA for its efforts in educating young bakers on modern baking techniques, contributing to the industry's progress.

Francisca Lyimo, Chairperson of TBA, shared the association's journey since its establishment in May 2021. Starting with 13 founding members, TBA has grown to 305 members by August 2024.



Salama Mpanga, Director of Salladoo Bakery, receives her trophy from Rajan, head of marketing, Said Salim Bakhresa Group. Photo: Correspondent.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

TBA has actively participated in the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), helping members expand their market share.

Over the past three years, the association has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with both local and international companies for commercial cooperation.

These include partnerships with the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organization (TEMDO), as well as with international partners such as GIZ Tanzania and PAM International from the Netherlands.

"These MoUs aim to provide training and financial support to members in collaboration with the College of Business Education, along with managing the implementation of TBA's short- and long-term strategies," Lyimo stated.

One of the key challenges for small-scale bakers is the 18 percent VAT, which raises the cost of their products. Bread produced by small-scale bakers sells at 1,680/- per loaf, compared to

1,500/- for bread from larger producers, affecting their competitiveness and growth.

"We are forced to sell at the market price despite our limited production capacities due to VAT," Lyimo explained.

Salama Mpanga, Director of Salladoo Bakery and one of the 13 bakers awarded at the event, took home the 'Woman Small-Scale Enterprise' trophy.

She highlighted the success and challenges faced by small-scale bakers, particularly the impact of VAT on bread produced by home bakers.

"VAT forces us to focus more on other products like cakes, juice, and snacks. There is also competition from unregistered producers, which means we have to be more creative to attract consumers," Mpanga said.

Her bakery operates in Dar es Salaam, particularly in the Ilala and Temeke districts, serving both wholesale and retail customers.

Salladoo Bakery currently employs 12 young workers.

Mpanga also called for more accessible loans, suggesting the creation of a special loan window for bakers with interest rates below 15 percent.

Currencies trade in tight range as market awaits more US rate cues

NEW YORK

The US dollar held near its lowest level in more than a year against a basket of peers on Wednesday, with sterling trading just off multi-year highs, as markets focused on clues to the size of a widely expected US interest rate cut next month.

Cryptocurrency bitcoin took the early Asia spotlight, dropping over 6 percent after breaking below support around \$60,000.

Meanwhile, the Aussie popped up to a multi-month high after the latest domestic consumer price data came in a tick above consensus, accelerating 3.5 percent year-over-year.

But overall moves in the foreign exchange market were muted as traders awaited fresh hints on the state of the world's largest economy.

Investors are unanimous in bets that the Federal Reserve will begin cutting interest rates next month following Chair Jerome



Powell's dovish tilt last week, with the debate now centred on whether or not it will be a super-sized 50-basis point cut.

The current pricing sits at a 36 percent chance for the larger cut, up from 29 percent a week ago, according to the CME Group's FedWatch Tool.

Markets, which are fully priced for a

25-basis point cut next month, see just over 100 basis points worth of easing by the end of the year.

A preliminary estimate for US gross domestic product in the second quarter is due later this week, along with the Fed's preferred inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index.

But with attention shifting from inflation to the strength of the economy, the importance of this week's PCE data is debatable, said Matt Simpson, senior market analyst at City Index.

"It will require a strong upside surprise to dispel expectations of multiple Fed cuts," he added.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of currencies, was last 0.07 percent higher at 100.67, hovering above a 13-month low of 100.51 hit in the previous session.

For the month, the dollar has fallen over 3 percent, putting it on track for its biggest monthly decline since November 2022.

But given that markets have been pricing in easing from September for weeks now, downside momentum on the dollar appears to be waning, with support built up around 100.18/30, Simpson said.

Sterling ticked down slightly to \$1.3250 after hitting its highest since March 2022 against the greenback at \$1.3269 on Tuesday.

The euro slid 0.09 percent to \$1.117375 and was sitting not far from a 13-month peak touched at the top of the week.

Bank of Japan Deputy Governor Ryozo Himino on Wednesday reiterated the central bank's stance that it would adjust the degree of monetary easing if it becomes confident that its economic outlook and price targets will be realised.

However, he stressed that the central bank would remain vigilant to developments in financial markets.

The yen seemed to largely brush aside the remarks as it edged 0.26 percent lower to 144.33 per dollar, off Monday's three-week high of 143.45 against the greenback.

Elsewhere, the Australian dollar hit a seven-month high of \$0.6813 after July consumer price data showed a 3.5 percent rise in prices year-over-year, just above forecasts for a 3.4 percent rise. It was last up 0.1 percent at \$0.67995.

In cryptocurrencies, bitcoin was down 4.06 percent at \$59,337.00 after slumping over 6 percent earlier in trade.

UAE banks block Russian payments for electronics

DUBAI

Banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been rejecting transactions from Russian companies for electronic components and consumer electronics from China since early August, the pro-Kremlin outlet Kommersant reported on Aug. 28.

The reason is the risk of secondary actions, the outlet claimed.

This comes as another case of mounting obstacles in Russian-Chinese economic relations amid the growing pressure of US sanctions imposed over Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

According to Kommersant's undisclosed sources, Russian firms used UAE-based entities to transfer money to China to ship goods directly to Russia.

Now, transactions for those products that do not arrive directly to the Gulf country are blocked, the outlet said. According to its sources, the restrictions came at China's initiative.

The Kyiv Independent could not verify the claims.

The US unveiled a new set of sanctions against Chinese and Russian companies over their support for Moscow's aggression last week. Despite efforts to avoid or mitigate the impact of the trade restrictions, Chinese institutions have begun scaling back their business dealings with Russia.

Specifically, a number of major Chinese banks have begun blocking transactions for electronics out of fear of secondary sanctions.

Most recently, in June, the Russian subsidiary of the Chinese state-run Bank of China stopped accepting payments from Russian banks.

China has become Russia's key economic lifeline during the full-scale war, as the trade between the two countries surged by 121 percent since 2021.

A functioning payment system is necessary for maintaining trade relations, and Russia was cut off from the international SWIFT system in 2022.

Western countries have also reportedly ramped up pressure on the UAE to stop allowing Russian entities to dodge sanctions.

The Gulf country is believed to be one of the main pipelines for sanctioned dual-use goods like electronics being shipped to Russia.

Throughout Russia's full-scale war, the UAE has maintained economic and cultural ties with Russia but has also signed new trade agreements with Ukraine.



Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN) official, Miriam Lissa (standing) speaks with Kigurumba and Msalaza villagers on the best beekeeping practices to boost income. The workshop held at the Pangani district council conference hall yesterday. Photo: Cheji Bakari

Innovation is key to reducing carbon emissions, says Air France-KLM's

By Guardian Correspondent

By 2022, global carbon dioxide emissions had reached an estimated 800 megatons, accounting for about 2 percent of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

While this figure represented roughly 80 percent of pre-pandemic levels, the rising demand for air travel—projected to grow by 2 percent to 5 percent annually through 2050—could further escalate aviation-related carbon emissions.

Marius van der Ham, General Manager for Eastern Countries, Southern Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana at Air France-KLM, emphasized that the aviation industry can reverse this trend.

"Through the advancement of innovative aircraft technologies, optimizing flight operations, and expanding the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs), airlines can significantly reduce carbon emissions and even achieve Net Zero ahead of the 2050 target," said van der Ham.

He highlighted the role of modern technologies in curbing emissions, citing next-generation aircraft that reduce carbon output by 20 percent to 25 percent and have 40 percent smaller noise footprint. These aircraft also consume less fuel, further contributing to emission reductions.

"Airlines must prioritize the reduction of carbon emissions to create a safer and more sustainable world," van der Ham added.

The airline has been actively involved in initiatives to reduce its carbon emissions as part of the broader aviation industry's push towards sustainability.

Some of KLM's key emission reduction initiatives include fleet modernization by using fuel-efficient aircrafts, Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs), operational efficiency as well as partnering with airports, governments, and environmental organizations, to accelerate progress in emission reduction.

BANKING & FINANCE

Foreign lenders lured by rare stake sales in India banks

MUMBAI

Talks to sell majority stakes in two Indian banks have attracted interest from foreign peers in Japan and the Middle East betting on a fast-growing economy, but tighter regulations and valuation concerns could curb their appetite, analysts and sources say.

The rare opportunity for foreign banks to take controlling stakes in a market dominated by state-owned banks comes as existing investors in Yes Bank (YESB.NS), opens new tab and IDBI Bank (IDBL.NS), opens new tab look to divest their holdings.

Banking sector deals in India, especially those involving foreign entities, are rare. A full takeover of troubled Indian lender Lakshmi Vilas Bank by Singapore-based DBS Group in a regulatory-driven transaction in 2020 was the last major deal.

The top shareholders are looking to exit from the two banks about four years after they were roped in by the regulator and the government to help them recover from sharply worsening asset quality due to rampant lending that threatened their stability.

Private sector lender Yes Bank, in which shareholders are looking to sell a 51 percent stake, has drawn interest from Ja-



pan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp (SMBC) and Emirates NBD, Reuters has reported.

IDBI Bank, in which the Indian government and the Life Insurance Corporation are collectively selling a 60.72 percent stake, has seen Emirates, Canada's Fairfax Group, as well as local rival Kotak Mahindra Bank (KTKM.NS), opens new tab express interest.

The foreign interest in the two banks comes as the Indian economy is forecast to grow at 7.2 percent this year, making it one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Demand for bank credit, which includes corporate loans and mortgages, is growing at twice the expected economic growth pace

and gross bad loans in the domestic banking sector are currently at multi-year lows of 2.8 percent of total assets.

Similar to other major markets, inbound banking sector deals are tightly scrutinized in India. Given the sector's importance and linkages with the broader economy, New Delhi is expected to field interest from bidders in countries it has good political ties with, analysts said.

"India's growth story is promising, and corporates are looking to expand their businesses," said Ashvin Parekh, managing director of Ashvin Parekh Advisory Services, which provides services to investors in banks.

"That is enticing these (foreign) players," Parekh said.

Despite those attractions, stricter rules related to capital requirements and ownership restrictions, and state domination with government-backed banks accounting for nearly 52 percent of the bank credit have weighed on foreign banks' operations in India.

Regulations in India also require that the largest shareholder of a local bank, termed as 'promoter' under Indian regulations, must their reduce shareholding to 26 percent over a 15-year period.

WORLD

Donald Trump faces revised US indictment in election subversion case

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump faced a revised federal indictment on Tuesday accusing him of illegally trying to overturn his 2020 election loss, with prosecutors narrowing their approach after a US Supreme Court ruling that former presidents have broad immunity from criminal prosecution.

US Special Counsel Jack Smith's team obtained the superseding indictment in the Washington case, though it was highly unlikely to proceed to trial ahead of the Nov 5 election when the Republican Trump faces Democratic Vice-President Kamala Harris.

The revised indictment lays out the same four charges prosecutors brought against the former president last year, but this one focuses on Trump's role as a political candidate seeking reelection, rather than as the president at the time.

This indictment, like the initial one, accuses Trump of a multi-part conspiracy to block the certification of his election defeat to Biden.

It retains allegations Trump pressured then Vice-President Mike Pence to use his

role presiding over the congressional certification of the election on Jan 6, 2021, to reject electoral votes from battleground states Trump lost.

"The defendant had no official responsibilities related to the certification proceeding, but he did have a personal interest as a candidate in being named the winner of the election," the revised indictment states, language that did not appear in the original charging document.

A mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol on Jan 6 in an attempt to halt the congressional certification, which remains part of the case against Trump.

Focus on campaign

The revised indictment no longer includes allegations that Trump sought to pressure the US Justice Department as he tried to overturn his election defeat, an apparent effort to keep the prosecution alive after the high court found that Trump could not be prosecuted for that conduct.

It excises a reference to Jeffrey Clark, a senior Trump administration Justice Department official who allegedly sought to aid



This composite image created on Aug 27, 2024, shows Special Counsel Jack Smith (left) in Washington, DC, on June 9, 2023, and former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Howell, Michigan, Aug 20, 2024. On Aug 27, prosecutors filed a revised indictment of Donald Trump on charges that he tried to overturn the 2020 US election after losing to Joe Biden. AFP

his attempts to undermine the election results, as a co-conspirator, and to former US Attorney General Bill Barr, who allegedly told Trump his claims of widespread voter fraud were not true.

Bradley Moss, an attorney who specializes in national security, said the revised indictment reflects "a clear effort by the Justice Department to narrow the scope of factual information" to address the Supreme Court's ruling on immunity. The revised 36-page indictment, nine pages shorter than the original, hinges on key testimony and evidence from witnesses largely outside the federal government, such as former Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers, whom the indictment says was pressured by Trump and a co-conspirator to call a special session to hold a hearing based on bogus assertions of voter fraud.

The case, one of four criminal prosecutions Trump has faced, has been delayed for months while Trump pressed his claim of immunity. The Supreme Court's 6-3 decision was powered by a conservative majority that includes three justices nominated by Trump.

In May, Trump was convicted by a New York jury of falsifying documents to cover up a hush money payment to a porn star. He is due to be sentenced on Sept 18 although he has asked a judge to delay sentencing until after the Nov 5 election.

Smith's move came ahead of a Friday deadline for his office and Trump's lawyers to propose a path forward in the election subversion case following the Supreme Court's immunity ruling.

Starmer vows to 'fix the foundations' of UK

LONDON

PRIME Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) Keir Starmer on Tuesday vowed to "fix the foundations" of the country after "a decade of division and decline."

In a major speech delivered ahead of parliament's return from summer recess next week, Starmer (pictured) highlighted the economic and societal "black holes" facing his government after 14 years of Conservative rule.

"We will do the hard work to root out 14 years of rot. Reverse a decade of decline. And fix the foundations," said the prime minister, who led the Labour Party to a landslide victory in the UK's general election last month.

Starmer was speaking from the 10 Downing Street garden.

A 22-billion-pound (29 billion U.S. dollars) black hole in the public finances "due to the last government's recklessness" had been discovered over the last few weeks, he announced.

The recent far-right riots rocking the country also revealed a societal black hole, he added, requiring the government to take action.

"These riots didn't happen in a vacuum. They exposed the state of our country, revealed a deeply unhealthy society, the cracks in our foundation laid bare, weakened by a decade of division and decline, infected by a spiral of populism, which fed off the cycles of failure of the last government," he said.

Starmer warned that the government's first Budget, to be announced at end of October, is "going to be painful," although he did not give details of what this would mean.

"We have no other choice given the situation we're in. So those with the broadest shoulders should bear the heavier burden," he said, adding that "things will get worse before they get better."

However, in a Q&A session following his speech, Starmer promised to stick to his general election campaign pledge not to increase income tax, value added tax or national insurance contributions for working people.

Former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on X that "Keir Starmer's speech today was the clearest indication of what Labour has been planning to do all along - raise your taxes."

Carla Denyer, co-leader of the Green Party, said on X, "Enduring more economic pain and hardship isn't what people voted for. They were told they were voting for change. Not voting for things to get worse before they get better. Labour needs to be honest about the fact that they could choose to make things better for everyone if they were bolder and braver."

However, Liberal Democrats leader Ed Davey supported Starmer, saying that "only the out-of-touch Conservative Party will deny the scale of the challenges" facing the government.

"From the millions stuck on NHS waiting lists to the millions struggling to make ends meet, the last Conservative government has left a toxic legacy. We need bold and ambitious action from the government to fix this mess," Davey said. *Xinhua*

'We stand with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism'

WASHINGTON

THE US on Tuesday condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan's Balochistan province, which resulted in significant loss of life and said that it stands with Islamabad in its fight against terrorism.

Sharing a post on X, the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs of the US State Department said, "The United States strongly condemns the multiple attacks in Pakistan's Balochistan province which took many lives."

Expressing condolences who lost their lives in the attacks, it further added, "Any violence disrupting peace and stability is indefensible. We stand with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism and we send our deepest condolences to those who lost their loved ones."

Notably, over 70 people were killed in multiple cases of terrorist attacks reported in the Balochistan province of Pakistan, Al Jazeera reported citing military and police officials.

The country's military said 14 soldiers and police were killed. 21 terrorists were also killed in fighting in a major attack that targeted vehicles on a major highway in Bela, a town in Lasbela district.

In a separate attack in Musakhel district, local officials said at least 23 civilians were killed after attackers reportedly stopped their convoy, checked their IDs and determined they were from Punjab. 35 vehicles were also set ablaze in the incident. *ANI*

Israeli army 'begins large-scale military operation in northern West Bank'

RAMALLAH

THE Israeli army began on Wednesday a large-scale military operation in the Jenin, Tulkarm, and Tubas camps in the northern West Bank, according to Palestinian and Israeli sources.

"The Israeli forces have begun military operations in Jenin, Tubas, and Tulkarm to thwart terrorism," Avichai Adraee, spokesman of the Israeli army, said in a statement.

Palestinian sources told Xinhua said that large forces, along with huge bulldozers, are involved in the Jenin operation.

The sources added that Israeli military vehicles stormed the city from multiple directions, penetrating its neighborhoods and the refugee camp.

According to the Ramallah-based health ministry, two Palestinians were killed and two others wounded by Israeli army gunfire in northern Jenin.

Wiam Bakr, director of Jenin Governmental Hospital, said that the Israeli forces sur-

rounded the hospital and prevented medical staff from entering. In Tubas and the Far'a refugee camp, Israeli forces clashed with Palestinian gunmen as they stormed the area. Tubas governor Ahmed al-Asaad told Xinhua that the scale of the operation suggests that Israel is following through on threats of a military campaign in the northern West Bank.

Meanwhile, the Israeli forces clashed with Palestinian gunmen as they stormed the city of Tubas and the Far'a refugee camp.

Ahmed al-Asaad, the governor of Tubas, told Xinhua that the scale of the operation suggests that Israel is following through on threats of a military operation in the northern West Bank.

Similarly, Israeli forces stormed the Nour Shams refugee camp east of Tulkarm, where Palestinian sources told Xinhua that the forces besieged Thabet Thabet Governmental Hospital and seized a Palestinian ambulance.

Palestinian armed groups



A column of Israeli Army armored vehicles leave following a military operation in the West Bank town of Tubas, Aug 14, 2024. AP

said that their members were fighting Israeli forces with explosive devices and gunfire in Jenin, Tulkarm and Tubas.

Since Oct 7, the northern West Bank have witnessed a major escalation, with over 650 Palestinians killed by Is-

raeli fire across the West Bank, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

Agencies

Egypt, Iraq stress need to end humanitarian plight in Gaza

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has received Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, who is on an official visit to Egypt with a high-level Iraqi delegation.

The Spokesman for the Egyptian Presidency said the two sides exchanged views on ways to help the region overcome the serious crises it is facing, which threaten its stability and

capabilities.

The two leaders stressed the need for the international community to exert intensive pressure to complete the calm and ceasefire agreement in Gaza, stressing the need to end the humanitarian plight in the Strip and stop the ongoing Israeli escalation in the West Bank.

This is in addition to the need to launch a serious political track that guarantees the Palestinian people their legitimate and just right to an indepen-

dent state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, being the sustainable way to establish peace, security and development in the region.

The two leaders agreed that the current circumstances require intensified joint Arab action, bilaterally and collectively, noting in this regard the tripartite cooperation among Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, and affirming continuing to work to make their projects succeed and achieve their objectives to serve

as a model for Arab cooperation and regional integration. east 1,200 people were killed, and 252 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7.

Of the 105 remaining hostages, more than 30 have been declared dead. Hamas has also been holding captive two Israeli civilians since 2014 and 2015, and the bodies of two soldiers killed in 2014. *ANI*

Russia's BRICS Chairmanship set stage for memorable, impactful summit in Kazan

KAZAN

WITH its packed agenda and new initiatives, Russia's BRICS Chairmanship has set the stage for a memorable and impactful summit in Kazan. The event promises to strengthen ties among BRICS nations and drive cooperation in various areas, shaping the future of global collaboration.

As the countdown begins for the main event - the BRICS Summit in Kazan from October 22-24, 2024 - the Organizing Committee reviewed the achievements and discussed preparations for the summit. The committee is work-

ing tirelessly to ensure a successful and productive gathering of BRICS leaders.

Since the beginning of the year, Russia's BRICS Chairmanship has hosted around 140 high-level events across 13 cities, both in Russia and internationally.

The highlights include the BRICS Parliamentary Forum; BRICS Inter-Party Forum; Meetings of BRICS Education Ministers, Sports Ministers, Heads of Prosecution Services, and Supreme Audit Institutions; BRICS Chief Justices Forum; BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting, according to the Russian Embassy in India.

A major milestone was the introduction of new formats, including the inaugural BRICS Transport Ministers' meeting, the first BRICS Heads of Geological Services gathering, and the debut BRICS Nuclear Medicine Forum.

On January 1, Russia was passed the baton of the BRICS chairmanship, an association which, according to the decision adopted by the 15th BRICS Summit in August 2022, now includes 10 countries.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members which is a strong indication of the growing authority of the associa-

tion and its role in international affairs.

Notably, a few days ago, Russian Presidential Advisor Anton Kobayakov met with the Indian Ambassador to Russia, Vinay Kumar, and they discussed developing bilateral relations and cooperation on international platforms, TV BRICS reported.

"Moscow and New Delhi cooperate on an equal footing in trade, energy, science, investment, tourism and environmental protection. Importantly, cooperation between the two countries within the framework of integration associations is also being strengthened. This is of

particular importance for the formation of a sovereign multipolar world," Anton Kobayakov emphasised.

Vinay Kumar, in turn, noted the successes in cooperation between the central banks of the two countries. He also drew attention to the development of relations between Moscow and New Delhi through BRICS.

The sides discussed the participation of the Indian delegation in the forthcoming BRICS summit in Kazan and the BRICS Business Forum in Moscow. The events are scheduled for October 2024.

Notably, the leaders of BRIC (Bra-

zil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St Petersburg, Russia, on the sidelines of the G8 Outreach Summit in July 2006. After a series of high-level meetings, the 1st BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia on June 16, 2009.

BRIC group was renamed BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September 2010. South Africa attended the third BRICS Summit in Sanya, China on April 14, 2011. *ANI*

Israel successfully rescues 52-year-old hostage abducted by Hamas on October 7

TEL AVIV

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and Israel Security Agency (ISA) successfully rescued a 52-year-old hostage Qaid Farhan Alkadi on Tuesday, who had been abducted by the Hamas terrorist organization and held captive in the Gaza Strip since October 7.

The Israel Foreign Ministry shared a post on its X handle and said, "Today (Tuesday), the IDF and ISA rescued the hostage Qaid Farhan Alkadi, aged 52, from Rahat, who was abducted by the Hamas terror organization into the Gaza Strip on October 7th.

Qaid Farhan Alkadi was rescued by Shayetet 13, the 401st Brigade, Yahalom, and ISA forces under the command of the 162nd Division in a complex operation in the southern Gaza Strip.

No further details can be published due to considerations of the safety of our hostages, the security of our forces, and national security, said IDF and ISA.

He is in a stable medical condition and is being transferred for medical checks at a hospital. His family has been updated with the details, and the IDF is accompanying them.

Meanwhile, on August 24, the bodies of six Israeli hostages recovered from Gaza

had bullet wounds, according to preliminary forensic analysis.

The bodies of Yagav Buchstab, Chaim Perry, Nadav Popwell, Avraham Monder, Alex Danzig and Yoram Metzger were turned over to the Israel Institute of Forensic Medicine in Abu Kabir for examination. According to the report, marks indicating shooting were found on all six bodies.

Four other bodies found with the hostages in the tunnel beneath Khan Yunis were also taken to Abu Kabir. The four -- assumed to be terrorists -- did not show any signs of gunshots.

It isn't clear if gunshots were fatal.

All six hostages were previously confirmed as alive and in good health at various times after October 7, with some even appearing in Hamas hostage propaganda videos.

At least 1,200 people were killed, and 252 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7. Of the 105 remaining hostages, more than 30 have been declared dead. Hamas has also been holding captive two Israeli civilians since 2014 and 2015, and the bodies of two soldiers killed in 2014.

ANI

Africa, forgotten continent for West and reliable friend for China, says expert

BEIJING

CHINA treats Africa, a forgotten continent for the West, as a reliable friend and sincere partner, Victor Gao, vice president of the Center for China and Globalization, a Beijing-based non-governmental think tank, has said.

"Once the European colonists were driven out of Africa, they forgot about Africa for many decades," Gao said during a recent interview with Xinhua.

"China and African countries look at each other as equals. We are brothers and sisters," he added.

"China has always been supporting the decolonization program and the independence movements of different African countries," Gao said, stressing that China even fought with the African brothers and sisters together to help them to achieve independence from colonial rule.

A case in point is the China-aided Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA), a huge connectivity project by the standard of the 1970s at a time when China itself was not very well-developed and didn't have a lot of financial resources.

"But China did it as an amazing thing. And the TAZARA, which has been called a 'road of freedom' and 'road of friendship', really boosted China-African confidence," Gao said.

Having transported millions of tons of goods and innumerable passengers since it was put into operation, the Tanzania-Zambia Railway has greatly contributed to Africa's prosperity.

The success of the railway and other projects highlighted the importance of connectivity in China-Africa cooperation.

"Because without connectivity in

terms of highways and roads of all kinds, you really cannot generate greater productivity and efficiency in your economic endeavor. Since then, China has been focusing on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)."

China and African countries have also put much emphasis on manufacturing. "Because without manufacturing, you really cannot command a higher premium for the goods, the commodities and the raw materials you come up with," Gao said.

"It is eventually through manufacturing, high level of industrialization, and now aided by high-tech of all kinds that you can really expect to uplift the people out of poverty in Africa."

Gao said agricultural cooperation between China and Africa is also of great significance. "Because from the Chinese perspective, if the African countries can really get their acts together and cooperate with major countries like China and several others, Africa can achieve self-sufficiency in food production."

As the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) approaches, Gao voiced confidence that all these, from connectivity, manufacturing to agricultural cooperation, will be discussed within the China-Africa cooperation framework and there are high expectations among African countries for future cooperation with China.

"Between China and Africa, we respect each other, and we respect our differences. We see these differences as what make us so strong together and why we cooperate with each other. So I think all these set China apart from many other countries," Gao said.

Xinhua

Russia open to dialogue with all partners in Asia-Pacific region – Putin in EEF greetings

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is open to a dialogue with all interested partners in the Asia-Pacific region and it is committed to active cooperation for building a more just system of international relations, according to greetings to participants, organizers and guests of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) sent by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The Asia-Pacific region's role in international affairs is rapidly expanding. New opportunities for productive cooperation are being created here, including within the framework of such authoritative multilateral structures as the Eurasian Economic Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and BRICS.

I would like to reaffirm that Russia is open to a dialogue with all interested partners in the Asia-Pacific region and is committed to active cooperation in order to build a more just and democratic system of international relations that is free of dictate, force, and sanctions pressure and is based on genuine equality," according to the message.

Since its inception, the Forum has made a huge contribution to the devel-

opment of constructive economic ties between Russia and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Putin noted.

"Russian and foreign entrepreneurs, representatives of government agencies and public structures, and experts engage in direct and informal communication at the Forum, which makes it possible to discuss numerous pressing issues on the regional agenda and develop beneficial joint projects.

This is reflected in the motto of the current Forum: 'Far East 2030. Combining Strengths to Create New Potential'," he said.

Putin also urged the participants of the Forum to think about new, promising forms of cooperation in various areas, ranging from transport, energy, and infrastructure to ecology and tourism.

The 9th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) will be held on September 3-6, 2024 in Vladivostok. **Agencies**



Xiplomacy: How Chinese hybrid grass technology is changing the world for the better

KIGALI/FUZHOU

IT was pleasantly warm and dry in Rwanda in early August, and young farmers in Southern Province were celebrating a bountiful harvest. Their hands were not bunched with corn or rice but with mushrooms, cultivated with the help of a technology transferred from a country far away to this "land of a thousand hills" in Africa.

Joining the celebration was Professor Lin Zhanxi. Since the 1980s, the octogenarian scientist has led a research team on Juncao technology in China's southeastern Fujian Province. The hybrid grass technology enables fungi to grow on grass-based substrates instead of felled trees, a solution to the mushroom industry's threat to forests.

The plant's name means "mushroom" and "grass" in Chinese. Its versatility is a key feature, allowing it to grow edible mushrooms, provide livestock feed and help battle desertification.

Thanks to the active and visionary promotion by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Juncao is thriving in and beyond China, improving livelihoods and fostering sustainable development in developing nations across the Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America.

A WAY OUT OF POVERTY

Before known as "the father of Juncao," Lin grew up in the impoverished rural mountains of Fujian. His personal experiences with poverty profoundly shaped his commitment to Juncao technology.

After decades of work, Lin and his team succeeded in selecting and breeding a type of high-yield, drought and salinity-resistant herbaceous plant that can be used as a substitute for wood to grow edible and medicinal mushrooms.

At the ninth Aid-for-Trade Global Review Conference held by the WTO in Geneva in June, Lin reflected on how Juncao technology began its global journey. It was back in 1992 when Lin first presented Juncao to widespread acclaim at an international exhibition on inventions, also in Geneva. There in Switzerland, Lin received many calls to learn more about the technology.

Lin recalled how Xi has passionately supported using scientific and technological means to combat poverty.

In 1997, Xi, then deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China Fujian Provincial Committee, listed Juncao technology as part of the province's poverty reduction efforts with the northwestern Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Upon receiving the assignment, Lin immediately took his team, as well as grass and fungus seeds, to Xihai, a poverty-stricken region in Ningxia.

Today, Juncao technology is used in 31 provinces across China and has significantly contributed to ending poverty and revitalizing rural areas.

With Xi's support, a pilot project to introduce Juncao technology in Papua New Guinea was launched in 2000, becoming one of the first applications of Juncao technology overseas.

Fueled by their dedication and pioneering spirit, Lin and other Chinese researchers have since introduced the technology to 106 countries and regions across the globe.

With a mission to end poverty around the world, Chinese scientists have applied Juncao technology to some challenging environments. In Papua New Guinea's Eastern Highlands, they witnessed tribes still practicing slash-and-burn agriculture. In Rwanda, families without access to cattle or tractors labored in muddy fields using only hoes. In the Central African Republic, they observed the devastating impact of post-conflict famine.



Villagers wait to be served with freshly fried mushrooms in Gba village of Bangui, the Central African Republic, Feb. 5, 2024. (Xinhua/Han Xu)

Throughout these years, Lin has faced gunpoint robberies, malaria, altitude sickness and long periods in remote outposts without electricity or water. Witnessing extreme poverty in developing countries further strengthened Lin's commitment to Juncao.

"We go to the poorest places with a genuine intent to help the people," Lin stated.

A PLANT OF PROSPERITY

Agnes Ayinkamiye is the first coordinator of the Juncao project in Rwanda.

"One of the things that made me especially happy was how we helped people. The project was well-received, and we trained many people, particularly women's cooperatives and youth groups," she said. "I enjoyed my work immensely and was thrilled to collaborate with experts."

"People can earn money through Juncao technology, and it's become quite popular," Ayinkamiye added.

Lin noted that around 4,000 Rwandan households have benefited from the technology, with some experiencing their incomes double or even triple over the years.

"Juncao technology is affordable ... This technology is applied in such a way that makes it affordable for people at a very local level, which I believe is the key benefit," said Earle Courtenay Rattray, chef de cabinet to the United Nations Secretary-General.

Seruwaia Kabukabu, an entrepreneur in Serea Village of Fiji's Naitasiri Province, is one of the women trained at the Juncao demonstration center in Nadi, Fiji's third-largest city.

"After the training, every one of us received mushroom substrate bags for free from the center. Under the guidance of technical experts, we began to harvest and sell mushrooms within 7-10 days, earning money for our family," Kabukabu said.

The income from the Juncao project allowed her to improve her family's living standards by purchasing essential appliances, building a concrete toilet and bathroom, and even contributing to a clean water project in her community.

"Fiji faces numerous problems ranging from geographical isolation, susceptibility to natural disasters due to climate change that hinders agricultural, and sustainable development and food security," Kabukabu said.

Over the past decade, over 2,400 people in Fiji have received training on Juncao technology, with the Juncao cultivation area in Fiji exceeding 2,000 hectares.

"Simple to learn and effective to implement," said Lin, emphasizing that Juncao technology should lower its technical application threshold abroad "so that even the poorest farmers can get involved."

To date, nearly 350 international workshops have trained over 14,000 people in Juncao technology, with introductory papers now available in 18 languages for global use.

NEVER-ENDING EXPERIMENT

Apart from cultivating mushrooms, Juncao technology has continued to innovate, expanding its production to include feed and fertilizer.

Since using Juncao as fodder, Tahiya Masawe, a farmer in Bumbwi Sudi, Tanzania, has observed improved milk density and nutrition and increased milk production.

"It has also saved money for me," she told Xinhua, "because the budget I previously spent on other feed is now saved by using this grass."

Farmers multiply Juncao and use it on their farms. Many testimonials show that farmers have accepted the technology simply because the feeds are rich, said Makame Kitwana, director of Planning, Policy and Research at Tanzania's agriculture ministry.

"In a number of ways, scientifically, it has (been proven) that the protein content, as well as carbon content, is high, making cattle more satisfied when consuming Juncao grass compared to other grasses," he said.

Juncao can also help with ecological management.

Soil erosion has been a serious problem in countries such as Rwanda. Rwandan officials used to worry that if the soil problem could not be resolved, Rwanda would have no land to cultivate. Lin always kept their concerns in mind.

He still remembers the experimental data in Rwanda during his visit over a decade ago.

On one day the rainfall for two and a half hours reached 51.4 millimeters. All the rain was captured by the giant (Juncao) grass, and it was very effective in water conservation and soil retention.

In February in Fiji, Lin also worked on applying Juncao technology to saline soil management, aiming to seek additional solutions to combat climate change for developing countries, including Pacific island nations.

"The experimental results were very promising," Lin said. "Juncao is the grass of happiness, a gift from China to all."

France's Macron back to square one as left plans protests over political crisis

PARIS

FRANCE'S Socialists and Greens will not participate in further talks with President Emmanuel Macron to find a way out of political deadlock, their leaders said on Tuesday, calling on their supporters to hold peaceful protests instead.

Macron slammed the door on a potential leftist government on Monday, saying it would be immediately removed from power by a majority of lawmakers from other camps. Instead, he embarked on another round of talks with party leaders on Tuesday.

But facing a hung parliament in which each of the three almost equal groupings - the left, Macron's centrist bloc and the far-right National Rally - have ruled out form-



ing a coalition, the president appeared to be back to square one.

"This election is being stolen from us," Green party chief Marine Tondelier told local radio.

"We're not going to continue these sham consultations with a president who doesn't listen anyway ... and is obsessed with keeping control. He's not looking for a

solution, he's trying to obstruct it," Tondelier said.

Socialist Party president Olivier Faure told France 2 television he would not engage in what he called a "parody of democracy" now the prospect of a leftist-led government was off the table.

The LFI, a hard-left party within the leftist New Popular Front (NFP) alliance that won the most seats in a snap parliamentary election this summer, called for a mass protest against Macron on Sept 7.

NFP leaders have repeatedly asserted that France's next prime minister should come from their ranks, but Macron has ignored their claims. Macron, a pro-business centrist, thinks the balance of power lies more with the center or center-right.



Simba's new striker Lionel Ateba set to debut against Al Hilal in friendly

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA's new signing, Lionel Ateba, is set to make his debut for the club in a friendly match against Al Hilal at the KMC Stadium on Saturday. This match serves as preparation for their upcoming CAF Confederations Cup campaign.

Al Hilal, a Sudanese club currently competing in the Mauritanian Premier League due to political unrest at home, participated in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup tournament last month, where they were eliminated in the semifinals.

Ateba (pictured) missed Simba's opening two league matches as he awaited his work permit and registration, despite training with the squad.

The Cameroonian striker, who brings a wealth of experience to the club, has played for top teams in his home country and represented Cameroon at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations. Although he didn't see playing time during the tournament, his potential caught the attention of several clubs, including Al Ahly, Young Africans, and USM Alger.

Primarily a center forward, Ateba has also been deployed on the left wing or as a second striker, especially during his tenure at USM Alger. This versatility allowed him to significantly contribute to the team's attacking play, often with his assist tally surpassing his goal count.

Since joining USMA in January, Ateba made a notable impact by scoring three goals and providing five assists in various competitions, including the Algerian Ligue 1, CAF Confederation Cup, and Coupe d'Algérie.

Ahmed Ally, the Media and Information Manager for Simba, confirmed Ateba's debut in the international friendly against Al Hilal.

"The team is hard at work preparing for the match. Our goal is to gain some continental experience before facing Al Ahly Tripoli. Our coach's familiarity with Libyan football gives us a significant advantage. Al Hilal is already in town for the match on Saturday," Ally said.

"Lionel Ateba will make his debut for the club this weekend. He has been training with the squad to get ready for the season. Tickets for the match are priced at Tsh. 10,000 for regular seats

and Tsh. 20,000 for VIP. We decided on these prices due to the high quality of our team and the exciting match we anticipate," added Ally.

Simba are ramping up preparations for the continental friendly, with the entire squad involved except for Joshua Mutale and Ayoub Lakred, who are sidelined due to injuries.

The Tanzanian club is set to face Al Ahly Tripoli in the final round of the CAF Confederations Cup qualifiers. This will be Al Ahly Tripoli's second visit to Tanzania, having previously faced Biashara United at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

However, Biashara United's failure to travel for the return leg in Benghazi, Libya, led to their disqualification by CAF, allowing Al Ahly Tripoli to advance to the next round.

Simba earned a bye to the final group stage qualifications spot due to their strong coefficient, while Al Ahly Tripoli advanced by defeating Zanzibar's Uhamiaji 5-1 on aggregate.

The first leg of the tie will be played at the 11 June Stadium in Benghazi, Libya, on September 13, followed by the return leg at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on September 20.

Coach Fadlu Davids' team missed out on the CAF Champions League this season after finishing third in the previous campaign. This marks Simba's return to the CAF Confederation Cup following their quarter-final exit in the 2021/2022 season against Orlando Pirates.

Given their frequent participation in the CAF Champions League, many see Simba's presence in the Confederation Cup as an opportunity to make a deep run and potentially reach the semifinals or beyond.

The CAF Confederation Cup this season features a competitive field, with several teams that have traditionally competed in the CAF Champions League, including Zamalek, RS Berkane, ASEC Mimosas, AS Vita, and USMA, reaching the final group stage qualifiers.

The winner of the two-legged tie between Al Ahly Tripoli and Simba will secure a place in the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup, joining 15 other teams from across Africa in the competition.

Stars face goalkeeping dilemma ahead of AFCON 2025 qualifiers

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AS the Tanzania national football team, Taifa Stars, gears up for the upcoming AFCON 2025 qualifiers, all eyes are on interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman. He recently unveiled his squad, which will take on Ethiopia and Guinea in their first two matches scheduled for September 4 and 10, respectively.

The selection - a mix of seasoned veterans and promising young talents - reflects Morocco's vision of building a dynamic and competitive team. However, the spotlight is squarely on the goalkeeping position, which has become a contentious issue due to the lack of experienced local players.

The squad's goalkeeping lineup includes Ally Salim of Simba, Aboutwalib Mshery from Young Africans, and Yona Amos from Pamba Jiji. This selection has sparked debate, with many questioning the depth and readiness of Tanzania's goalkeeping talent pool. The problem lies not just in the selection itself but in the broader context of Tanzanian football, where local goalkeepers are often overshadowed by their foreign counterparts, especially in the country's top clubs.

Simba, Young Africans, and Azam have long dominated Tanzanian football. Since Azam's entry into the Premier League in 2008, these three teams have shared all 16 league championship titles. Azam managed to break the duopoly in the 2013-2014 season, but the remaining titles have been won by Simba and Young Africans - nine for Young Africans and six for Simba.

This dominance extends beyond titles to the very composition of their squads, where foreign goalkeepers like Djigui Diarra (Young Africans), Mustafa Mohamed (Azam), and Ayoub Lakred (Simba) consistently hold the starting positions.

The reliance on foreign goalkeepers by top clubs has significantly affected the development of local talent. For instance, in the recently concluded 2023-2024 Premier League season, the top four teams - Young Africans, Azam, Simba and Coastal Union - all rely heavily on foreign goalkeepers, leaving little room for local players to showcase their skills.

In the Taifa Stars' last match, a 1-0 victory over Zambia in



Taifa Stars interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman. (Agencies)

the World Cup 2026 qualifiers, coach Morocco and his assistant, Juma Mgunda, chose to start Salim, the third-choice goalkeeper at Simba, with Aboutwalib Mshery on the bench.

Salim, who was third in line after Simba's native star Aishi Manula and Moroccan Lakred (before the arrival of Guinean shot-stopper Moussa Camara), managed to hold his own, but his lack of regular playtime at the club level is concerning.

Similarly, Mshery, who sits behind Diarra at Young Africans, has seen limited action - only six matches in the entire last season, accumulating 438 minutes with three clean sheets.

The statistics tell a troubling story. Despite playing for the top clubs, both Salim and Mshery have seen minimal action, with each playing less than a quarter of the league matches. This limited exposure raises questions about their readiness to shoulder the immense responsibility of guarding the national team's goalpost.

Azam's goalkeeper situation further highlights this issue. While Sudanese Mohamed performed admirably throughout the season, the club also had two other international goalkeepers on their roster - Ali Ahamada from Comoros, who is injured, and Ghanaian Abdulai Iddrisu. The native goalkeeper, Zuberi Foba, has only been given sporadic opportunities, further underscoring the challenge local players face.

Historically, Taifa Stars coaches have leaned towards selecting goalkeepers from Simba and Young Africans, a trend that persists despite the declining playtime of local goalkeepers at these clubs.

The introduction of Kwesi Kawawa, a Tanzanian goalkeeper playing for Syrianska FC in Sweden, to the national team highlighted this issue. Kawawa started in the 2026 World Cup qualifier against Morocco, a match Tanzania lost 2-0, showing that even foreign-based Tanzanians struggle to make an impact when local options are underutilized.

This decline in opportunities for local goalkeepers marks a significant shift from earlier eras. Goalkeepers like Juma Kaseja and Shaban Kado once dominated the scene, thanks to consistent playtime at clubs like Simba and Young Africans.

Kaseja, who played for Simba from 2003 to 2014 and later Young Africans in the 2014-2015 season, was the bedrock of his teams' defenses, ensuring that foreign goalkeepers were rarely considered.

Even when Simba signed foreign goalkeepers like Ghanaian Daniel Agyei and Ivorian Vincent Angban in the 2016-2017 season, the arrival of Manula from Azam in 2017 seemed to signal a return to local dominance. However, the current landscape shows that this trend has not continued.

For a long time, Manula has been the undisputed first-choice goalkeeper for Taifa Stars. His presence was crucial during Tanzania's 2019 AFCON campaign, where he was supported by Metacha Mnata and Aaron Kalambo.

In the 2023 AFCON, he was joined by Kwesi Kawawa and Beno Kakolanya. However, Manula's recent injuries have forced the team to experiment with various goalkeepers, each struggling to fill the void left by the veteran.

The recurring question remains: What must be done to

address this issue and ensure that Taifa Stars have a reliable goalkeeper who is not merely a second-choice at their club? The problem is not the lack of talent but the lack of opportunities for local goalkeepers to prove themselves. When given a chance, as was the case with Salim against Zambia, local players have shown they can perform at a high level. But without regular playtime, their development stagnates.

One potential solution is to limit the number of foreign goalkeepers in the domestic league, similar to what the Egyptian Football Association (EFA) has done. The EFA has extended its ban on signing foreign goalkeepers across all domestic leagues, a move initially implemented in the 2009-10 season.

This decision came after former Egypt coach Hassan Shehata criticized the lack of quality goalkeepers in the country. The result has been the emergence of top talents like Al Ahly's Mohamed El Shenawy, who now stands as Egypt's first-choice goalkeeper.

For Tanzania to follow in these footsteps, more emphasis needs to be placed on nurturing local goalkeeping talent. This could involve establishing specialized goalkeeping academies to develop young players and give them the exposure they need at the club level.

Additionally, local goalkeepers must seize every opportunity to compete for the starting spot in their clubs, pushing themselves to improve and secure a place in the national team.

The big clubs in Tanzania have the resources and infrastructure to develop top-tier goalkeepers. By prioritizing the growth of local talent, these clubs can build strong defensive units that benefit both the teams and the national squad.

It is time for Tanzanian football to rethink its approach to developing goalkeepers, ensuring that the next generation can carry the Taifa Stars to greater heights in international competitions.

In conclusion, the Taifa Stars' goalkeeping dilemma is a microcosm of a broader issue in Tanzanian football - a need to balance the influx of foreign talent with the development of homegrown players.

Only by addressing this challenge head-on can Tanzania hope to produce goalkeepers capable of leading the national team to success on the continental stage.

PGA Tour postseason could use a little variety in its venues: Analysis

By DOUG FERGUSON

The PGA Tour postseason could use a change in scenery.

One solution that has no logistical possibility would be a new perk for the No. 1 seed. Along with starting the FedEx Cup finale with a two-shot lead, the top player would get to choose where to play the Tour Championship. The only caveat is it couldn't be the player's home course.

"It used to be East Lake," Xander Schauffele said when asked for his choice.

He probably was more honest than sarcastic. Schauffele has failed to break par only three times in 28 rounds at East Lake. And those three rounds were

all at even-par 70. But now East Lake has been changed dramatically, and Schauffele has reason to be leery.

Rory McIlroy picked Quail Hollow, where he has won four times. Scottie Scheffler leaned toward either the TPC Scottsdale or Bay Hill, "something with hard greens." He has won at both venues. Hideki Matsuyama had to be reminded Augusta National is closed until October. He nodded, smiled and settled on Riviera, where he shot 62 on the last day to win this year.

Something needs to change, and it's not just the steamy weather.

The PGA Tour prefers continuity to build familiarity. The format for the postseason has

changed four times since 2007. The most obvious change was going to "starting strokes," which is why Scheffler starts at 10-under par with a two-shot lead. But the biggest tweak was reducing the field - 70 players instead of 125 players at the start, down to 50 for the second event and 30 for the finale.

That's not the problem.

What makes the BMW Championship stand out is moving it around. The second of three playoff events goes from Castle Pines outside Denver this year to Caves Valley outside Baltimore next year. Bellerive in St. Louis and Liberty National across the Hudson River from Manhattan are next in line.

The other two don't move. Yes, the heat can be unbear-

able in Memphis, Tennessee, in August. But it's not necessarily any cooler in New Jersey or Missouri or most other places. The crowd is flat at the TPC Southwind, at least on the weekdays. The start of the playoffs doesn't have a lot of buzz.

Of course, there's that small matter of the building to the right of the fifth fairway at the TPC Southwind - FedEx headquarters, the company paying quite a freight.

The TPC Southwind used to stage a regular PGA Tour event held before the U.S. Open (it's hot in June, too, by the way). And then when the tour lost a title sponsor for Firestone, Memphis took over as a World Golf Championship. And now it's a playoff opener.

Uruguayan soccer player Juan Izquierdo has died, days after collapsing during a game in Brazil

SAO PAULO

URUGUAYAN soccer player Juan Izquierdo died Tuesday at a hospital in Brazil five days after collapsing during a game at Sao Paulo. He was 27.

Hospital Albert Einstein in Sao Paulo said in a statement that the Nacional defender died at 9:38 p.m. local time following "cardiorespiratory arrest associated with his cardiac arrhythmia."

Izquierdo was taken to the hospital after he collapsed late in a Copa Libertadores soccer match at Sao Paulo's Morumbi Stadium last Thursday.

The Uruguayan club posted a statement on social media saying Izquierdo's death is felt "in deep pain and impact in our hearts" and "all Nacional is in grief for his irreplaceable loss."

South American soccer's governing body also posted a tribute. CONMEBOL president Alejandro Dominguez said he's "deeply sorry about the early departure of Juan Izquierdo."

"South American soccer is in mourning," he said. Other federations, including Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina, also expressed their condolences.

In a statement Monday, doctors at the hospital said Izquierdo was put into neurological critical care because of increased intracranial pressure. He had been on a ventilator since Sunday.

Uruguayan media said Izquierdo's parents and Nacional executives were at the hospital in Sao Paulo. Izquierdo was married and had two children – the youngest, a boy, was born earlier in August.

Uruguayan national team players were among those expressing their condolences.

"Pain, sadness, it is hard to explain," Inter Miami striker Luis Suárez said. "May he rest in peace. I wish a lot of strength for his family and friends."

Uruguay's first- and second-division soccer leagues were postponed last weekend due to concerns over Izquierdo's health. Sao Paulo players wore a shirt in support of the Uruguayan footballer before the team's 2-1 Brazilian league win against Vitoria on Sunday.

The Brazilian club also posted a message after Izquierdo's death.

"We had days of prayers, union and hope, and today we are in deep sadness with the news of the death of Juan Izquierdo," Sao Paulo's club statement said. "Our condolences to family, friends, teammates, Nacional fans and all the Uruguayan people in this moment of grief."

Izquierdo's professional career began in 2018 at local club Cerro. He joined Peñarol the following year, but didn't get much playing time.

"Peñarol is deeply sorry about the passing of Juan Manuel Izquierdo. We express our heartfelt condolences and we embrace his family, his friends and Nacional in this moment of so much pain," Peñarol said in its social media channels.

AP

Cristiano Ronaldo reveals where he is 'most likely' to retire

90min Articles

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has hinted that he could hang up his boots and retire by 2027, but insists he has no current plans to play anywhere else but current club Al Nassr in that time.

Ronaldo joined Al Nassr midway through the 2022/23 Saudi Pro League season following an acrimonious split with Manchester United just prior to the FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

It was a transfer that served as a catalyst for the Saudi Arabia boom in the 20 months since, with Ronaldo benefitting from the less intense competition and seeing his goal numbers shoot back up – his 50 goals in 51 games in 2023/24 was his best single season tally in eight years.

At Euro 2024 this past summer, Ronaldo had already confirmed he expected it to be his last European Championship with Portugal. The 2026 World Cup hasn't been ruled out, but the 39-year-old has teased that he may not play much longer beyond that.

"I don't know if I'll finish soon or in two or three years. But, possibly, it will be at Al Nassr. It's the team where I'm happy, where I'm good, where I feel good, both in the country and in the league. That's why, most likely I can finish my career at Al Nassr," Ronaldo told Portuguese broadcaster Now.

"I'm very happy to play in the [Saudi Pro League] and I want to continue."

Ronaldo's current contract with Al Nassr is due to expire next summer.

There is no indication as to when Ronaldo will walk away from international football, having amassed a world record number of caps (212) and goals (130) in men's football, but clearly struggling at Euro 2024. Yet he insists there won't be any kind of long countdown.

"I am immensely proud to represent our colours, it is a dream. When I leave the national team, I won't tell anyone in advance and it will be a very spontaneous decision on my part, but also a very well thought-out one," he explained.s."

(AGENCIES)

New Champions League format promises more of almost everything storied clubs wanted from UEFA

GENEVA

THE new Champions League format this season will see more teams playing more games for more prize money.

On Thursday, UEFA makes the draw in Monaco for the match schedule of the new single-standings league phase that replaces the traditional group stage.

The first new Champions League format since 2003 promises more of almost everything that Europe's wealthiest and most influential clubs wanted from UEFA.

There are four more places in a 36-team lineup; at least eight games each instead of six; Champions League games scheduled in January for the first time; a prize money rise of at least 25% to a minimum 2.5 billion euros (\$2.8 billion). There also was more evidence, at UEFA's European Championship this summer, that constant expansion of international competitions is leaving players tired and unable to perform at their best year-round.

The new league phase in European club soccer's marquee event will have 144 total games compared to 96 in the group stage last season.

The "key aims," UEFA said, is to "improve competitive balance and sporting interest and in the process increase the number of meaningful matches – matches with



something at stake for both sides – throughout the competition."

In the eighth and final round, all 36 teams play on the same Jan. 29 evening to finalize the standings which will decide which eight teams advance directly to the round of 16 – and with what seedings in a tennis-like knockout bracket – as well as which 16 go into a new knockout playoff round in February, and which 12 are eliminated.

"We simulated that qualification should be possible with an average of 7.6 points, which means two victories and two draws," said UEFA's head of competitions strategy, Stéphane Anselmo.

Why change such a successful competition? Money, mostly, though that's not the only reason.

The Champions League in Europe has for the past 32 years showcased the highest quality play in world soccer. It let UEFA steer billions of euros (dollars) of prize

money to clubs who pay the highest transfer fees and salaries.

Still, influential officials at the European Club Association (ECA) got bored of the group stage, saying it was too repetitive and lacked drama. They wanted more games against stronger opponents that would be more valued by broadcasters, viewers and new fans worldwide. Their leverage over UEFA was potentially launching their own breakaway competition.

The road to agreeing the format was rocky. A controversial first proposal in 2019, favoring storied clubs, was stopped by a backlash from mid-ranked clubs and domestic leagues.

There was intense turmoil sparked by the failed Super League launch in April 2021 by most of the same club officials who negotiated Champions League reform with UEFA.

Final format approval came in May 2022 – when Real Madrid, Bar-

celona and Juventus were exiled from the talks and still pursued UEFA in court – and it was broadly what the rebel Super League clubs had negotiated.

What is the new format?

Out goes the group-stage format played for 21 seasons where 32 teams were put into eight groups of four teams from a seeded draw. The top two in each group advanced to the round of 16. Groups gave each team six games from September into December, playing each rival once at home and once away.

In comes a single-standings league – 36 teams each playing eight games against eight different opponents through January.

The top eight in the standings go direct to the round of 16 in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go into the knockout playoffs in February. The bottom 12 teams are eliminated.

In the playoffs, teams ranked Nos. 9-16 are seeded in the draw to play second legs at home against unseeded teams Nos. 17-24.

Who gets the four extra places?

Two for countries whose teams collectively had the best record in UEFA club competitions in the previous season. That was Italy and Germany so the fifth-placed teams in Serie A and the Bundesliga

qualified: Bologna and Borussia Dortmund.

The fifth-ranked national league (based on five years of results in UEFA club competitions) gets a third direct entry. That is currently France and Brest was third in Ligue 1.

An extra place goes to the qualifying rounds path for national champions from lower-ranked countries. They now play for five total qualifying places instead of four last season.

How will the draw be done?

The 36 teams come out of four seeding pots graded by each team's "UEFA club coefficient" – its ranking by results in five years of European competitions. The top-seeded pot contains recent Champions League winners and beaten finalists, plus Leipzig and Barcelona.

When a team's ball is drawn, its slate of eight opponents – two from each seeding pot, one to play at home and one away – will be allocated by a software program and displayed within seconds.

Match dates will be confirmed Saturday, to avoid city clashes with Europa League and Conference League games being drawn Friday in Monaco. Those lower-tier competitions also are a 36-team single-standings league. Conference League teams play just six games.

Billion-dollar prize

money fund

Winning the Champions League title in 2023 earned Manchester City 135 million euros (\$151 million) from UEFA. This season's winner can reach 150 million euros (\$168 million), with total competition revenue boosted by selling 189 total games instead of 125.

Commercial strategy is managed by a UEFA-ECA joint venture, and new sponsors for the Champions League include a cryptocurrency trading platform and a betting site.

Each of the 36 teams gets a basic 18.6 million euros (\$20.8 million), then 2.1 million euros (\$2.35 million) for each game won and 700,000 euros (\$782,000) per draw.

Each place in the standings is worth more money with shares of 275,000 euros (\$307,000) per place: 36 shares, or 9.9 million euros (\$11 million), goes to the team finishing top in January and a single share to the last-place team.

Bonuses escalate from 11 million euros (\$12.3 million) per team for advancing to each knockout round.

Another prize fund of 853 million euros (\$953 million) is allocated based on teams' historical record in UEFA competitions and the value of national and global broadcast deals.

AP

Global football players' union builds on FIFA regulations with a guide for expectant mothers

By ANNE M. PETERSON

WHEN Cheyna Matthews got pregnant with her first child back in 2018, she had a lot of questions.

In addition to concerns about her legal rights as a professional soccer player, how would she manage pregnancy and the birth? And, importantly, when could she safely play again?

"We play a lot of times because we love it. But now it's also providing the financial security. So when you're thinking of having children it's like, 'OK, I also have to figure out how I can get back to work.' And when you're working with your body, it's one of the most important things," Matthews said.

In an effort to give players and teams alike a guide for best practices surrounding maternity, global players' union FIFPRO released a guide on Tuesday that covers how to manage pregnancy, what to expect in childbirth and how to prepare for a return to soccer.

Matthews, who retired from pro soccer in 2023, along with United States left back Crystal Dunn, Germany goalkeeper Almut Schult and Iceland midfielder Sara Bjork Gunnarsdottir, helped devise FIFPRO's "Postpartum Return to Play Guide."

The protocol builds on FIFA's groundbreaking



FILE Jamaica's Cheyna Matthews in action against Brazil's Adriana during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between Jamaica and Brazil in Melbourne, Australia, Aug. 2, 2023. (AP Photo)

regulations concerning maternity and parental rights that were first enacted in 2021 and expanded earlier this year.

Dr. Alex Culvin, FIFPRO director of policy and strategic relations for women's soccer, said FIFA's new regulations and the protections that were put in place increased the likelihood that more players would feel comfortable starting families during their playing careers, but there was very little guidance about what pregnancy, childbirth and recovery looked like. "There is this perceived incompatibility, not just in football, in sport more generally, that you can't have a child and be an athlete. And actually there are players out there who have disproven this on a

daily basis," Culvin said. "So we wanted to kind of bring all of this together, and elevate and listen to the player voice, centralize their experiences alongside experts on the scientific literature, and

create something that hadn't been produced before, with the FIFPRO stamp on it."

The medical professionals who contributed to the guide were Dr. Pippa Bennett of the U.K.

Sports Institute, Dr. Rita Tomas, the team physician for the Portuguese women's national team, professor Kirsty Elliott-Sale with the Manchester Metropolitan University's Institute of Sport, and FIFPRO Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vincent Gouttebauge.

Matthews, who played in the 2019 and 2023 Women's World Cup for Jamaica, has three sons with husband Jordan Matthews, a tight end for the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

She had her first child when she was with the Washington Spirit in the National Women's Soccer League. She was among the league's first players to have a child at what would be considered the peak of her playing career. Nine months after she gave

birth, she played for Jamaica at the Women's World Cup.

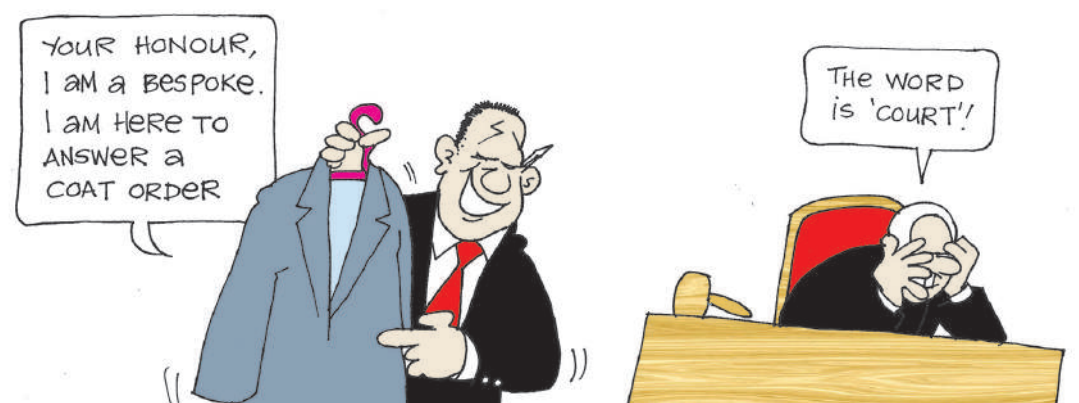
Matthews said she was lucky to have both a national team and club team that supported her before the FIFA regulations and the NWSL's collective bargaining agreement were adopted.

"We are seeing more pregnancies, and I've had a lot of players coming to me asking questions, and I've been able to kind of help just from my experiences," Matthews said.

"But to have this guideline just from the initial finding out that you're pregnant – even that experience itself, you have so many thoughts, so many ideas. What do I do? But having a guideline for the players, it does ease the stress."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

New Champions League format promises more of almost everything storied clubs wanted from UEFA

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Simba gear up for Al Hilal friendly amid CAF Confederation Cup preparations



Al Ahly Tripoli of Libya in the first leg of the second preliminary round between September 13 and 15. This friendly against Al Hilal is seen as a vital test for Simba, providing head coach Fadlu Davids with an opportunity to assess his squad's readiness ahead of the crucial CAF Confederation Cup tie.

"This match will be an important test for Simba," Ally noted. "It will help coach Fadlu see how well the team is prepared. After the pre-season, Simba have played four competitive matches: two in the Community Shield and two in the Premier League. The results have been encouraging, but there is always room for improvement," he said.

In those matches, Simba secured three wins, including two dominant victories in their opening Premier League fixtures - a 3-0 win against Tabora United and a 4-0 triumph over Fountain Gate FC. Their only defeat came in the Community Shield, where they lost to arch-rivals Young Africans.

Across these matches, Simba have scored eight goals while conceding just one, underscoring their defensive solidity and attack-

ing prowess.

The upcoming friendly against Al Hilal will be crucial for Simba's continued development as they seek to refine their strategies and tactics. With several key players absent due to international duty, the match will also provide an opportunity for fringe players to stake their claim for a place in the starting lineup.

Following the Al Hilal match, Davids will have two weeks to fine-tune his squad before their CAF Confederation Cup showdown with Al Ahly Tripoli. This period will be critical for the coach to make any necessary adjustments and ensure the team is in peak condition to overcome the Libyan side and advance to the group stages of the competition.

Simba's ambitions in the CAF Confederation Cup are high, and the club is determined to make a strong impact on the continental stage.

The friendly against Al Hilal, while not a competitive fixture, is an important part of their preparation, offering valuable insights into the team's strengths and areas that may require further attention.

Judge says she suspects a cover-up of the true source of bail funds for man charged in Tupac killing

LAS VEGAS

A JUDGE on Tuesday again rejected a request to free an ailing former Los Angeles-area gang leader ahead of his murder trial in the 1996 killing of hip-hop star Tupac Shakur, saying she suspects a cover-up related to the source of the funds for his bond.

The decision from Clark District Court Judge Carli Kierny came after an attorney for Duane "Keffe D" Davis said he would provide additional records to prove that the music record executive offering to underwrite Davis' \$750,000 bail had obtained the money legally. But Kierny said she was skeptical after receiving two identical letters apparently from an entertainment company that Cash "Wack 100" Jones says wired him the funds as payment for his work.

One letter was signed with a name that has no ties to the company, the judge said, while the second letter included a misspelled name and a return address tied to a doctor's office. "I have a sense that things are trying to be covered up," Kierny said.

The hearing took a turn when Davis' lawyer, Carl Arnold, told the judge that the bail bond agent used by Davis had provided the entertainment company with copy-and-paste instructions on the language for the letters and could therefore testify about their legitimacy.

In a scathing response, prosecutor Binu Palal said the bond dealer may have committed a felony crime by submitting "a false document to this court."

"The state takes that very seriously," he said. "Be advised that it will not go uninvestigated."

Both Palal and Arnold declined to comment further.

Davis has sought to be released since shortly after his September 2023 arrest, which made him the only person ever to be charged in one of hip-hop's most enduring mysteries. He has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder.

Also Tuesday, Kierny pushed back the start of Davis' trial from Nov. 4 to March 17.

Kierny previously rejected Davis' bid to have Jones put up \$112,500 for his release to house arrest. Adding to her concerns, she said at the time, was the question of whether the pair planned to profit by selling Davis' life story.

Nevada has a law, sometimes called a "slayer statute," that prohibits convicted killers from profiting from their crimes.

Jones, who has managed artists including Johnathan "Blueface" Porter and Jayceon "The Game" Taylor, testified in June that he wanted to help Davis because he was fighting cancer and had "always been a monumental person in our community ... especially the urban community."

Davis himself has said in interviews and in his 2019 tell-all memoir that he is the only living suspect in the fatal drive-by shooting of Shakur nearly 28 years ago at a traffic light near the Las Vegas Strip.

Authorities say that the gunfire stemmed from competition between East Coast members of a Bloods gang sect and West Coast groups of a Crips sect, including Davis, for dominance in a genre known at the time as "gangsta rap."

AP

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

AFTER a brief two-day break, Simba have resumed training to prepare for an international friendly match against Sudanese giants, Al Hilal. The game is set for Saturday at the KMC Complex Stadium and is an important fixture in Simba's preparations for their CAF Confederation Cup campaign.

Simba's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, confirmed that all players not currently on national duty have returned to camp to focus on the upcoming match. This includes

the club's star players who have been crucial to their recent successes in domestic competitions.

Notably absent due to international call-ups are key players such as goalkeeper Ali Salim, attacking midfielder Edwin Balua, and left-back Mohamed Hussein, who are all representing Tanzania.

Additionally, goalkeeper Moussa Camara is away with the Guinea national team, forward Steven Mukwala is on duty for Uganda, and left-back Valentine Nouma is representing Burkina Faso.

Despite the absence of these key players, Ally (pictured) expressed confidence

in the squad's depth, noting that the friendly match against Al Hilal will serve as an excellent opportunity for other players to step up.

Al Hilal's visit to Tanzania comes as they prepare for their own CAF Champions League campaign. The Sudanese side has already advanced to the second preliminary stage, where they will face San Pedro of Ivory Coast. Their encounter with Simba will, therefore, serve as a crucial warm-up for their upcoming continental fixtures.

Simba, on the other hand, are participating in the CAF Confederation Cup, where they are set to face

Coastal Union now shift focus to NBC Premier League opener after CAF exit

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COASTAL Union are ready to move past their early exit from the CAF Confederation Cup and focus on domestic success.

The Tanga-based side's CAF Confederation Cup campaign ended in the preliminary round with a 3-0 aggregate loss to Bravos Do Maquis of Angola. Despite this setback, Coastal Union have been actively preparing for the domestic season, participating in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup tournament held in July.

Following their struggles in the Confederation Cup, Coastal Union parted ways with former head coach David Ouma after the first-leg defeat to Bravos Do Maquis. Ngawina Ngawina, who took over as head coach, is well aware of KMC's tactics and strengths and believes his team is prepared to face the challenge.

As both teams kick off their league campaigns this season, Coastal Union aim to make a strong statement and secure a positive result. Last season, KMC scored 27 goals and conceded 39, while Coastal Union scored 22 goals and allowed 19.

Ahead of their Premier League opener against KMC today, Ngawina has emphasized the importance of putting their continental disappointment behind them.

He is approaching their away league match against KMC with a mix of respect and caution, recognizing KMC's strong performance last season, where they finished just behind Coastal Union. The

team is determined to maintain their competitive edge.

"We approach our match against KMC with respect for their abilities. They finished just behind us last season, demonstrating their skill," Ngawina said. "As our first away league game, we're proceeding with caution. We're familiar with their style of play and have prepared accordingly."

Ngawina also noted that this season's league is shaping up to be different

from the last and that Coastal Union are determined to surpass their previous performance.

"With some teams having played more matches, we're closely monitoring our progress," he added.

After their exit from the continental competition, the team has been diligently working to address their shortcomings, particularly those exposed in their match against Bravos Do Maquis. Ngawina expressed confidence in the

team's ability to show marked improvement in their performance against KMC.

"Having concluded our CAF Confederation Cup campaign, we're fully focused on the Premier League. We're using this opportunity to analyze our past mistakes, particularly from the Bravos Do Maquis match. We anticipate seeing significant improvements in our performance tomorrow," Ngawina concluded.



Twiyende traditional dance group entertains during the Gender Festival organized by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) in Kondoa, Dodoma Region yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

