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National debt stock declines due to eased external shocks



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Respect the 1961 Vienna Convention, envoys told

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday called on foreign diplomats in Tanzania to respect the 1961 Vienna Convention on the conduct of diplomatic relations among sovereign states.

Addressing the country's leading police officers and top leadership at the 60th anniversary of the Tanzania Police Force hosted by the national police academy (CCP) in Moshi municipality, she said that the landmark convention shows limits of diplomatic conduct.

In a forthright affirmation, she said that the country is governed by the constitution and not external directives, a week after envoys of the United States, the European Union, Britain and Canada issued a joint appeal for thorough investigations on the abduction and murder of opposition cadre Mohamed Ali Kibao.

The president was surprised at the international attention given to Kibao's death, while other tragic deaths in Tanzania, such as those involving children and albinos, often go unaddressed.

"It is surprising that this death has sparked

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We have condemned the act and called for a swift investigation, as is standard practice worldwide. I have been assured that the investigation is progressing well



Police officers salute Commander-in-Chief President Samia Suluhu Hassan during a parade 'colouring' the commemoration of the Force's 60th anniversary as held at the Tanzania Police School in Moshi municipality yesterday. Photo: State House

ELCT holds Sendoro's funeral, decries recent disappearances

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CHAN 2025 set for February in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

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Sean 'Diddy' Combs arrested in New York City

UN, civic groups consult for global vision summit

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA has pledged to integrate recommendations from the Summit of the Future into Vision 2050 now being prepared, ensuring its alignment with global objectives on sustainability and inclusivity.

Ambassador Noel Kaganda, the director of multilateral cooperation, said that the two day summit set for Sunday at the United Nations headquarters will seek to forge a new international consensus on improving the present and safeguarding the future.

The Foreign Affairs and

East African Cooperation official was speaking at a wrap-up consultation event with stakeholders in Dar es Salaam lately, explaining that the New York event will bring together world leaders to seek an improved understanding of global issues at the moment.

Those involved in preparing the country's position in the summit of the future include Foreign Affairs, Planning and Investment ministries, thus holding a consultative event to obtain inputs from civil society organizations (CSOs) on the global future they envision.

He said the summit comes at the right time as Tanzania

is preparing Vision 2050, making it easier for its recommendations to enrich the discussion on what the Vision ought to look like. Recommendations from the summit could seamlessly be integrated into the national development vision, he asserted.

The consultation event included representatives from CSOs, people with disabilities (PwDs), youth and the wider public, culminating in a special report slated for submission to Foreign Affairs as well as Planning and Investment ministries.

Alignment between the

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A resident of Nyatwali ward in Bunda District (in head-cloth) registers late last week for payment of compensation for relocation to pave the way for the expansion of Serengeti National Park. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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'Create supportive system for talented entrepreneurs'

By Guardian Correspondent,

Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR intends to establish a supportive system for emerging businesses with growth potential, aimed at enhancing individual and

wider economic development.

President Dr Hussein Mwinyi announced the plans when opening the third joint conference of the Zanzibar Research Centre for socio-economic and policy analysis (ZRCPC) yesterday.

Abundance of talented young

entrepreneurs requires nurturing of these individuals to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, he said, pointing at the need for a supportive and innovative environment that allows entrepreneurs to develop profitable businesses, furthering their talents

for collective benefit.

He cited examples like the Netherlands, India and South Korea, along with Kenya, Tunisia, South Africa and Nigeria as having successfully utilized similar systems to tackle economic and social challenges.

This has boosted national income, enhanced GDP and created high-value jobs in various sectors, he said, urging conference organizers to ensure that the discussions

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured in Zanzibar yesterday opening the Third Joint Meeting between the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning) and the Zanzibar Research Centre for Social Development, Economic Analysis and Policy Studies yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

'Create supportive system for talented entrepreneurs'

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yield practical benefits tailored to the economic and business landscape.

The government remains committed to fostering favourable conditions to strengthen regulatory agencies, enabling young people to refine their skills and contribute to talent development, he signalled to stakeholders and participants.

Public institutions also need current policies and guidelines designed to facilitate the nurturing of talent across various fields of creativity and technology, he stated.

Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, the Finance and Planning state minister in the President's Office, emphasized that ZRCP research is pivotal for driving government objectives and fostering changes by the use of sci-

ence and technology.

There is a need for a robust mechanism to track research outcomes as Zanzibar works toward establishing a capital market, she asserted, while Juma Reli, the ZRCP executive director, noted the institution's commitment to providing high quality impactful research for the East African region.

He assured the government of ZRCP's readiness to collaborate with public institutions with professionalism, integrity and transparency.

The two-day conference brought together stakeholders from public agencies and private firms, the development partners and multilateral organizations, focusing on leveraging technology and research to address challenges facing emerging entrepreneurs.

ELCT holds Sendoro funeral, decries recent disappearances

By Guardian Reporters, Mwanza

THE Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa, has called for an end to the alarming rise in abductions and disappearances countrywide.

He was delivering an episcopal message at the funeral service for the late Bishop Dr Chediel Sendoro of the Mwanza Diocese who died from a car accident on September 9, when his Toyota Prado crashed head-on with a Scania truck at Kisangiro, Mwanza District, around 1:30 a.m.

The late Bishop Sendoro was the son of

retired Bishop Elinaza Sendoro, the first bishop of the East and Coastal Diocese, also sombrely present at the Mwanza Parish Cathedral service, where he did not make any remarks.

The ELCT head urged Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister who graced the occasion with two cabinet ministers, to communicate the concerns of the church to top leadership.

He pointed at the need for setting up a dialogue platform for resolving the widening crisis of individual safety and integrity of law enforcement, noting that the troubling incidents have become more frequent and

concerning.

"They must come to an end, people including children in various corners of the country are reported to have been abducted and killed," he declared.

Expressing collective church sorrow over the distressing news emerging, he said the episcopacy is overwhelmed with reports of deaths, particularly on the roads connecting our nation. "If we all take responsibility, we might be able to mitigate or even eliminate these problems," he asserted.

At a different level, he talked of witnessing unprecedented incidents involving the terms 'abduction' and 'disappearance,' in-

sisting that it is crucial that these practices end.

"The church must pray over this situation," he urged the gathering, underlining that spilling innocent blood is a curse on those who it. "We must pray fervently to prevent such a curse on our land."

He called upon pastors and bishops to start holding special prayers in the coming Sundays to address the pressing issues, affirming that collective action and dialogue.

He pointed at the need to combat the rise in violence and abductions, including child theft and assaults on individuals, elaborating that other ELCT bishops need to voice

their concerns and offer solutions on the matter.

Tanzania faces a period of anxiety and unrest, he said, with participants recalling that last week, the leading opposition party, Chadema issued calls for big demonstrations in the streets of Dar es Salaam in two weeks if there is no progress in investigations on the recent disappearances.

They must be thoroughly investigated and the missing party members either be returned alive or their bodies retrieved, with party chairman Freeman Mbowe telling a gathering at head offices that five party officials are missing.

UN, civic groups consult for global vision summit

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summit and Tanzania's Vision 2050 offers a unique opportunity to synchronize our national goals with a broader global agenda, the diplomat and administrator noted.

Key inputs from the participants include improvements in education, infrastructure development, healthcare upgrading and environmental sustainability. The need for transparent and accountable government was similarly emphasized.

He lauded UN Tanzania for organizing the multi-stakeholder consultation event as its report will contribute to preparations for the upcoming summit, to which Shabnam Mallick, the UN resident coordinator, hailed contributions of CSOs, including youth-led organizations, underlining the wish for UN agencies to amplify voices of such groups around the world.

UN Tanzania has an inclusive approach involving diverse perspectives from both sides of the Union, he said, with Ibrahim Bakari, the UN Associations of Tanzania (UNAT) executive director, profiled the participatory process.

The consultation events engaged approximately 500 participants who shared their visions for the future, he said, airing the view that the summit will adopt a 'pact for the future.'

It will be a binding document to be ratified by nations globally as a foundation for building a common future, he added.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson, who doubles as current Inter-Parliamentary Union President, has an audience with the Speaker of the United Arab Emirates Parliament, Saqr Ghobash, in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Respect the 1961 Vienna Convention, envoys told

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condemnation, with some even labelling our government as killers. This is not right... we must condemn all such incidents."

She said that the diplomats may have acted in their personal capacities and not on their mission briefs, noting that if necessary, any responses would be directed to the heads of state or government from the countries taking positions on the matter.

Expressing deep concern for the loss of lives, she said that the public acutely feels the pain, underlining that an investigation into the cadre's abduction and death was underway, as in the other incidents of disappearances.

Indirectly levelling a finger at the United

States, the president noted that a top political leader there has survived two assassination attempts, with the government of that country handling investigations internally without outside interference.

It is exactly this approach that Tanzania is following in handling its internal investigations into the recent abduction and killing, she said, noting that when such incidents occur, "we do not send out diplomats to issue statements. We rely on diplomatic conventions; others should not act as if they are experts on what we should do."

"We are not here to be told how to run our country. We have our constitution, lawful guidelines and traditions that guide us in managing our affairs. Incidents like these

happen in every country and when they happen, we have never instructed our ambassadors to tell them on how to handle it," the president declared.

Reiterating that murder is unacceptable under any circumstances, she affirmed that the government has taken swift action to order a thorough investigation.

"We have condemned the act and called for a swift investigation, as is standard practice worldwide. I have been assured that the investigation is progressing well," she told the gathering.

Going over efforts during the past three years, she said that the government made huge efforts to restore political freedoms, media freedoms and civil liberties. Those

who were in exile were asked to come back and individuals with criminal cases were given amnesty.

Those who were previously imprisoned were released and are now free to continue their activities, including political engagements, she elaborated, stressing the goal of uniting people to build the nation.

"However, if individuals who benefit from these efforts engage in actions that undermine or reverse our progress, we will not tolerate it. We will safeguard our nation's peace and stability at all costs," she cautioned.

At the ceremony, the president received an award from Inspector General Camillus Wambura, after having awarded certificates

of recognition to ten retired police officers.

They had distinguished careers marked with patriotism, skill and courage, both before and after independence, where among those awarded were the first eight female officers to join the Tanganyika Police Force in 1958 and a female officer who was among the first twelve recruited by the Zanzibar Police Force following the January 1964 revolution.

Those awarded include retired senior police officer Abdalah Mfuko Mbwana, born on April 8, 1931, in Muheza, Tanga Region, and Police Constable Protas Ngasikwa, born on July 1, 1925, in Mlimba, Morogoro Region, who joined the police force on August 13, 1955, with the number A 4495.



Shabnam Mallick, Head of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Tanzania, makes remarks during the wrapping up of consultations at the Summit of the Future held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Govt's initiative out to help teachers integrate climate change into lessons

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has unveiled a new initiative aimed at providing specialised training for nursery, primary and secondary school teachers on integrating climate change and environmental issues into their lessons.

Dr Aneth Komba, Director General of the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), announced the initiative in Dar es Salaam at the weekend following a familiarization tour at Aga Khan Education Services (AKES) Tanzania.

The visit highlighted best practices in climate education, including hands-on workshops led by students and teachers that demonstrated sustainable practices such as waste sorting, seed planting and paper recycling.

Dr Komba explained that the new training initiative is designed to equip educators with the skills needed to incorporate climate change and environmental topics into their teaching.

The approach aims to enhance educational experience and promote sustainability.

The initiative is part of a broader curricular review conducted by the government last year which updated the 2014 curricula to include environmental issues. The review seeks to foster early environmental awareness among pupils.

"Our goal is to introduce children to

conservation knowledge from the beginning of their education," she said.

"By integrating environmental issues into the curricula, we aim to ensure that pupils can apply this knowledge at home and contribute positively to their communities."

She also emphasized that the government plans to strengthen teachers' capacity to address climate change and environmental topics in their teaching practices.

"AKES has been a leader in integrating climate change and environmental issues into all education levels. We will apply the lessons learned from AKES to our curricula, ensuring that pupils are educated on environmental conservation and address degradation from an early age," she added.

Dr Shelina Walli, Chief Executive Officer of AKES, underscored the organization's commitment to embedding climate change and environmental knowledge into every subject.

She expressed AKES's readiness to collaborate with other schools and stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices.

AKES operates Aga Khan pre-primary, primary and Aga Khan Mzimba secondary schools. It is dedicated to fostering a generation of pupils who are proficient in sustainable practices and learn through research and skill development.

Abdulla wants adequate resources for monitoring, evaluation pursuits

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has urged ministries and institutions in the mainland isles to continue allocating sufficient resources for monitoring and evaluation activities.

He also called for the completion of monitoring and evaluation of policies for both Zanzibar and Union governments.

Abdulla made the appeal yesterday in Zanzibar during the opening of the third national conference on monitoring, evaluation and learning. He represented President of Zanzibar Dr Hussein Mwinyi.

He noted that the government has established dedicated departments and units for monitoring and evaluating of development activities, urging officials to reinforce the units with adequate financial resources, per-

sonnel and necessary tools to enable them effectively perform their duties and continue building their capacity.

He emphasised the importance of using information from monitoring and evaluation activities to make informed decisions and develop robust strategies for communicating government results to the public through media.

"I also call on development stakeholders, including international or-

ganisations, non-governmental organisations and civil society groups to continue collaborating with the government to enhance monitoring and evaluation activities," he said.

He said that the country is in the process of preparing its second national development vision which will extend to 2050. The vision is a crucial framework for the country's direction, adding that public consultations were underway to ensure a robust

national vision.

William Lukuvi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office for Policy, Parliament Affairs and Coordination, noted that to ensure effective implementation of development projects nationwide, both union and Zanzibar governments will continue to provide directives and resources for efficient project execution while safeguarding value of funds used.

The minister also mentioned

that the government, through the Prime Minister's Office, has fully implemented resolutions to develop various monitoring and evaluation guidelines.

They include an inclusive monitoring and evaluation guide, two guidelines for evaluation management and a guide for assessing institutional readiness for implementing monitoring and evaluation systems.



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends.

The Nature Conservancy's Lake Tanganyika Program (LTP) is making significant strides in advancing its fisheries co-management initiatives within the Nkasi District. This program has successfully established 13 fully operational Co-Management Institutions (CMIs), which play a crucial role in the protection and conservation of the fisheries and freshwater biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika.

In line with its commitment to expanding its impact, the Lake Tanganyika Program is planning to extend its reach into new geographical areas, specifically targeting the Kala and Fulwe regions. The goal is to establish an additional 11 CMIs in these areas, further enhancing the collaborative management of fisheries and promoting sustainable practices among local fishers.

To facilitate these ambitious plans, the Lake Tanganyika Program aims to procure a high-performance speedboat equipped with two Yamaha 150HP outboard engines, along with necessary accessories ensuring the safety and comfort of personnel working in remote and challenging environments.

Interested and qualified vendors are encouraged to contact TNC for the complete Request for Quotation at procurement.lake@tnc.org.

Note: The deadline for proposal submissions is set for September 26, 2024, at 10:00 AM EAT.



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. In Tanzania, TNC collaborates with various stakeholders to promote sustainable community development through the sustainable and equitable management and use of fisheries resources.

Over the past two years, TNC's Lake Tanganyika Program has successfully established 13 Co-Management Institutions (CMIs) comprised of 10 Beach Management Units (BMUs) and 3 Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs) in the Nkasi District of the Rukwa Region. These initiatives aim to advance fisheries co-management, protect freshwater biodiversity, and improve livelihoods for 10 coastal fishing communities through the establishment of 2 Fishing Cooperative Societies (FICOS).

Despite these achievements, the leadership of the BMUs and CFMAs currently lacks adequate facilities for office use, meetings, and record-keeping. To enhance the effectiveness and performance of the CMIs and FICOS, TNC seeks to engage a qualified contractor to construct 3 CFMA offices, along with associated toilet facilities, in the wards of Mkinga, Kirando, and the village of Manda Kerenge.

These offices are anticipated to significantly improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of collaborative governance within our Community Management Institutions (CMIs) and Fishing Cooperatives Societies (FICOS).

Interested and qualified vendors are encouraged to contact TNC for the complete Request for Quotation and bill of quantities at procurement.lake@tnc.org.

Please note that each vendor is invited to submit a quote for only one of the three proposed sites, and we encourage vendors to select the site that best aligns with their capabilities and resources.

Note: The deadline for proposal submissions is set for September 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM EAT.



Dorothy Semu, Leader of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo, signs a condolence book at Mwanga town yesterday in mourning Bishop Chediel Sendoro, former head of the Mwanga Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ulingo wants state action to end abduction, killings

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Women Cross-Party Platform (ULINGO) has condemned the recent surge in abductions and killings, calling for immediate investigation and prosecution of culprits.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam ahead of World Peace Day this Saturday, ULINGO spokesperson Saum Rashi emphasised the urgent need to denounce the incidents which threaten the longstanding national peace.

Rashi urged women to avoid actions that could disrupt harmony and create instability, highlighting the importance of upholding the foundational principles that have sustained the country's peace.

The spokesperson also condemned the behaviour of individuals linking some people to the acts on social media without providing evidence, stressing that such actions are unacceptable.

Rashi urged Tanzanians to focus on fostering reconciliation, national unity and contributing to the country's development. She called on Tanzanians to support the government in maintaining and enhancing the country's stability.

Neema Mwakitwange, secretary of the women's wing of the opposition Democratic Party, echoed the call for women to avoid using offensive language against fellow citizens and resist being manipulated into actions that could incite violence.

She underscored the importance of cooperating with the government to preserve the nation's achievements in peace and stability.

Mwinyi: Numerous investment opportunities remain untapped in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has emphasized the need for increased investment in the isles, noting that many opportunities remain untapped and insufficiently promoted.

Dr Mwinyi made the statement yesterday at the State House Zanzibar where he met and held talks with a team of investors from Asia

who discussed their investment plans in Zanzibar.

He assured them of the government's full cooperation and commitment to opening new investment opportunities and fostering ongoing collaboration.

The president highlighted several areas ripe for investment, including conference tourism, sports tourism, health tourism and festival tourism.

He encouraged the investors to act swiftly on their plans, assuring them that the government was prepared to support their endeavours.

On Zanzibar's traditional spice farming, Dr Mwinyi stressed its significance and advised the investors to consider the subsector carefully.

He noted that Zanzibar's rich spice heritage has yet to make a significant presence in the Asian market.

He also addressed the film industry, drawing attention to India's success and suggesting that investors explore opportunities to provide training for local filmmakers and potentially bring renowned Indian actors to Zanzibar for film productions.

Dr Mwinyi further indicated a need for more high-end hotels in Zanzibar and assured investors that the government is prepared to tack-

le any challenges to achieve this goal.

Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, Zanzibar's Minister for Tourism and Heritage, discussed with the team the importance of promoting Zanzibar in Asia and securing a reliable market for locally produced goods.

Rajiv Desai, coordinator of the delegation and General Manager of 'Swahili Safari,' a tourism company, said that his company has developed a strategy to connect investors from

Dubai and India with opportunities in Zanzibar, attracted by the island's geography, tourism potential and hospitality.

During the event, BlitzIndia magazine was launched, aimed at promoting Zanzibar and Tanzania internationally in areas such as economy, tourism, arts and culture.

President Mwinyi received a copy of the magazine which was officially unveiled at the State House.



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- Proficiency with computer diagnostic equipment, excellent troubleshooting skills.
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- Presentation and negotiation Skill.
- Customer Relation management.

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- Customer Relation management."

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Families use baptism ceremonies to circumcise young girls: official

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

SOME families within the pastoralist Maasai community in Longido District, Arusha Region reportedly use baptism ceremonies as a cover to circumcise young girls, evading detection and arrest.

This was highlighted yesterday during the launch of a new project aimed at raising awareness about female genital mutilation (FGM) and violence against women and children in Longido.

The project, which is implemented by Media Aid for Indigenous and Pastoralist Communities (MAIPAC) with funding from Cultural Survival, seeks to address the concern.

Speaking during the event, Rashid Hussein, Longido District Development Officer explained that following intense government crackdowns on FGM practitioners, families have come up

with the new tactic.

"Many children under the age of two have been found to be victims of FGM in some villages in Longido District. We have already identified this issue and instructed local leaders to monitor and report any FGM activities occurring during baptism ceremonies," he said.

He also noted that some local leaders have been resolving cases informally within villages, warning that those who ignore FGM practices will face repercussions.

Additionally, Hussein said that pregnant women were being denied food, which threatens their health and wellbeing.

Dr Mathew Majani, Longido District Chief Medical Officer, revealed that some women have been arriving at hospitals weakened due to being denied food, wrongly believed to aid in delivering babies with no-so big weight.

He said this has further restricted their diet, contributing to obstructed labour and posing risks to both mothers and babies.

"Pregnant women are often delayed to reach health facilities despite the government's efforts to build facilities to ensure timely care," he said.

He explained that FGM causes excessive bleeding and weakness during childbirth, leading to fatalities among mothers and babies.

Merikinoi Orkesyanye, an FGM survivor, shared her personal experience, saying that she developed fistula during the birth of her eighth child due to FGM.

"We have endured these hardships because of FGM. I am grateful for the help from our district health experts and others. I now understand the dangers and urge my fellow women and traditional elders to abandon FGM, as it poses serious risks to our health and that of our children," she said.

Good environment, stability make Tanzania preferred investment destination - minister

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is one of the top countries in Africa for investment and business, thanks to a conducive environment as well as strong foundation for peace and stability.

Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe (pictured) expressed the sentiment in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the opening of the 25th Buildexpo Tanzania 2024.

The annual international trade fair provides a platform for showcasing the latest advancements in construction technology, materials and techniques.



The deputy minister urged investors to consider Tanzania, noting that the government prioritizes investment and offers a favourable environment for doing business.

"I encourage international investors to seize the opportunities available here by collaborating with local businesses to introduce quality products that meet our country's standards and environment. The government is committed to providing a safe and enabling environment for investors," he said.

He also invited the local business community to participate in the exhibition, emphasizing the benefits of networking with their international counterparts.

Kigahe noted that construction exhibitions have proven to be productive for foreign businesses, offering opportunities to showcase and sell their products.

WILDAF roots for active participation of women in the upcoming elections

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) has called for active participation of women in the forthcoming elections so as to promote a safe and inclusive political environment.

Anna Kulaya, WILDAF executive director made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday as she launched a three-day seminar dubbed 'Women participation in leadership.'

She said women's participation in leadership opportunities reduces gender inequality as they are involved in important decision-making.

"Women's participation in the forthcoming elections is key in promoting a safe and comprehensive political environment as we believe that what a man can do, a woman can do it better," she said.

She further added that a woman can be in a better position to contribute to family basic needs if she is empowered, considering the fact that leadership starts at a family level.

According to her, there has been a wrong narrative on women participation in leadership with many perceiving it as a movement that seeks to overthrow men.

"You must participate in the exer-

cise of voter registration to update your information as we approach elections," she said.

Tanzanians will go to the polling stations to elect local government leaders in November this year and do the same in next year's General Election.

WILDAF stands at the forefront of championing women's rights across the African continent, embodying a powerful nexus of law and development to empower women. It has grown into a Pan-African network dedicated to amplifying women's roles and impact from community to international levels, advocating for gender equality as both a fundamental right and a cornerstone for global prosperity and peace.



Women's participation in the forthcoming elections is key in promoting a safe and comprehensive political environment as we believe that what a man can do, a woman can do it better



Irene John, communications and relations manager with the National Environment Management Council, makes remarks at an environmental management training for journalists held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NEMC cites inadequate understanding of obligation by investors for project delays

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has cited lack of understanding of legal requirements among investors as a primary reason for delays in obtaining Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificates for their projects.

Jamal Baruti, EIA manager at NEMC, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday during one-day training to journalists on various issues related to environmental conservation.

Baruti said that both investors and various stake-

holders often lack awareness of the necessary legal requirements, leading to prolonged EIA processes.

He noted that some investors who are unfamiliar with the regulations end up delaying their applications and then blame NEMC for the holdup.

"Some investors rush to get an EIA certificate to access other government services such as investment permits only after securing loans and investment sites. When they face delays, they push us for a quick turnaround without meeting the required criteria," he said.

He added that certain investors only initiate the EIA process late in their investment timeline after securing

loans and investment locations. This late start often leads to complaints directed at NEMC, even though the council is merely enforcing regulatory standards.

Baruti also noted that sometimes the submitted terms of reference for EIA do not meet the required standards, necessitating revisions.

"Insufficient or incorrect information from consultants further complicates the process which can be perceived as harassment by investors although it is a matter of legal compliance," he said.

He emphasized the importance of classifying the positive and negative impacts of projects to ensure they ben-

efit citizens while addressing potential challenges. The official further stated that proper planning and land use are crucial for sustainable investment as well as building institutional capacity for effective environmental management. Baruti said that NEMC is committed to continuing to educate the business community and investors on environmental protection to change the notion that meeting EIA requirements is an inconvenience.

"NEMC's role is to ensure that investors appreciate the importance of environmental protection and foster positive relationships with surrounding communities," he said.

Bolt

Taking back control over business travel costs in 2024

Today, there are many more remote and hybrid collaboration options for teams than at the beginning of the decade. That means it's no longer standard to jump on a plane, train, or in a car to get to the next big meeting. According to research from Deloitte, seven in 10 companies say they now weigh the need for business travel based on potential outcomes such as revenue generation, with associated costs, emissions, and health risks. So, what can businesses consider to ensure employee travel needs are met in 2024 without the spiralling travel costs?

Cost control and efficiency

While businesses continue to grapple with higher costs of supplies and services due to the economic environment in recent years, it's essential to focus on working with partners and suppliers that give greater control over as many of their costs as possible, helping to bring those costs down.

For example, Bolt Business data shows that businesses can cut travel costs by around 25% by opting for Bolt Business instead of relying on taxis, buses, and car rental services. That's because choosing Bolt Business for employee travel provides full control over transportation costs by managing ground travel with competitive, transparent prices, and data at their fingertips to help identify cost-saving

opportunities. Businesses also see time efficiencies as there's no more need to expense all types of business travel or fill out expense reports manually, saving around 20 minutes every month per employee on paper receipt processing and expenses.

Flexibility

Dynamic work schedules and locations demand the flexibility to book a ride in advance or at the last minute. With Bolt Business, customers have access to booking travel up to 90 days in advance, making planning trips for employees, getting company guests to events, and arranging airport pick-ups easier than ever. Business customers can also simply place a ride-hailing order as they usually would with the Bolt app at any time. With on-demand ride-hailing and scheduling rides available with Bolt Business accounts, customers have flexible, reliable business travel at their fingertips no matter their travel needs.

Scalability

As companies grow, their travel needs evolve. Choosing a business travel partner that can meet this with services that scale regardless of the size of the business is essential. That's why with the Bolt Business Company Dashboard, businesses can add and group employees with ease, scale travel policies across growing teams, and gain visibility of all monthly rides in a single invoice.

As teams grow, access to various transport methods available becomes more important. With Bolt Business, employees can get to work with their choice of convenient, reliable, and safe travel options. For example, teams can stay focused on their tasks while getting picked up and dropped off in a car that suits their needs from a range of Bolt categories.

Values-based partnership

Businesses are increasingly under pressure to ensure sustainability is at the heart of their business strategies and practices. Employee travel is one of the greatest contributors to carbon emissions for businesses (World Economic Forum), while only 7% of business travel is over 1,000 miles, and most trips are under 250 miles. By providing several mobility options, Bolt Business can help move employees away from private and company cars by opting for an affordable, reliable, and sustainable way to travel for work.

Bolt Business addresses the travel needs of businesses and employees by seamlessly integrating Bolt booking and payment systems for business customers. With transport options like ride-hailing and micromobility available in over 40 countries across Europe and Africa, Bolt Business provides cost-efficient, flexible and scalable business travel.



Kahama district Commissioner Mboni Mhita addresses members of the business community on Monday at a meeting called by Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Yusuph Mwenda. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Kenya publishes study report meant to curb CO2 emissions

NAIROBI

KENYA has published a performance benchmarking study report for energy-consuming facilities to reduce greenhouse emissions in the country.

Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria, director-general of Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, told journalists in Nairobi yesterday that the study targeted the cement, sugar, tea, dairy, flower sectors, fast-moving consumer goods and hospitality sectors.

"The study is central to our collective efforts on improving energy efficiency in our industries and other businesses," he said.

According to the study, some of the industries performed poorly in terms of energy use index, while others performed better compared to other jurisdictions.

Kiptoo noted that the Kenya tea sector lags behind Sri Lanka and India in energy efficiency performance while sugar industry performs worse than Brazil

and Thailand.

He revealed, however, that in the cement sector, Kenya outperformed Egypt and Canada while the country's fast-moving consumer goods categories performed above that of Nepal.

Kiptoo said that the study recommends that Kenya adopt electricity efficiency utilization ratio benchmarks because it provides some of the quickest and most cost-effective emission mitigation options while lowering the overall cost of production.



According to the study, some of the industries performed poorly in terms of energy use index, while others performed better compared to other jurisdictions

Traders urged to prioritise quality for market success

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TANZANIAN traders have been urged to focus on producing high-quality products to remain competitive particularly within the East African Community (EAC) market.

This is crucial as standardisation organisations across EAC countries have agreed that once a product is certified by the relevant national

standards body, it does not require additional testing when entering another member country's market.

Sileja Lushibika, quality control officer at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), made this call yesterday while addressing 46 traders and members of the public at the 7th Exhibition of Economic Empowerment Programmes held here at the Bombardier Grounds.

"We have informed traders that we are now operating within the East African Community market. The standards organisations of these countries have agreed that products manufactured in one country can be exported to any other member country without further testing," he said.

"We are committed to supporting small-scale traders. The government covers all costs for product quality

certification for free and continues to support them for three years, with the hope that by then they will have developed to a significant level."

Lushibika emphasised that TBS will continue to provide education on obtaining quality marks, as some traders may find the process challenging.

"Participants in this exhibition gain valuable insights on securing qual-

ity marks. We offer guidance on best processing practices because there are essential steps to ensure product quality," he said.

He encouraged businesspeople to take advantage of the free certification opportunity, noting that the application process has been simplified and can now be submitted electronically.

He said traders need to include an

identification letter from the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) when applying for product certification.

The exhibition was opened by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination, William Lukuvi on September 10 and closed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko.

Mufti appeals for peace, unity at Maulid festivity

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) has urged the faithful across the country to advocate for peace and avoid actions that threaten national unity.

Dr Abubakar Zuber, Chief Sheikh and Mufti of Tanzania, made the call on Monday when speaking during Maulid celebrations at Kalangalala Grounds in Geita Region.

The event was attended by hundreds of Muslims, including Geita Regional Commissioner Martine Shigela and various religious leaders.

In his address, Zuber emphasized Prophet Muhammad's patience and calm demeanour, highlighting his consistent message of peace.

He said the Quran underscores the significance of peace, adding that it was disheartening that some members of the public contribute to discord and destruction.

"We must avoid actions that lead to ruin and conflict. A Muslim should not engage in actions without thinking of the consequences," he said.

"Do not be influenced by individuals, groups or their agenda. Reflect on what Islam commands you to do. Did the Prophet endorse these actions? A Muslim should not act recklessly and undermine the principles of Islam."

According to Zuber, Islam advocates for environmental protection and wisdom, adding that it was concerning to see people follow disruptive behaviours without understanding the consequences.

"Exercise wisdom in your actions. A Muslim should carefully evaluate any instructions before acting. Assess the situation thoroughly before reacting with opposition," he said.



Opposition National League for Democracy Secretary General Doyo Hassan (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday in connection with a statement opposing demonstrations called by some opposition parties. He is with opposition Sauti ya Umma Chairperson Bertha Mpata (L) and Abdul Mluya, identified as chairman of a coalition of 13 parties without representation in the Union legislative body. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Mobile medical services target peripheral settings

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

RESIDENTS of remote areas in Dodoma, Tabora and Kigoma regions in the mainland as well as Unguja and Pemba in the isles now have a reason to smile following the launch of mobile medical services at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH).

Minister for Health, Jenista Mhagama, officiated at the

launch on Monday with three modern vehicles that provide regular and surgical services.

The vehicles which were provided by a Netherlands-based company, SOTA Convoys (SOTAC), will be providing services to peripheral areas for three consecutive months before the company repossesses them.

Speaking during the event, Prof Abel Makubi, BMH execu-

tive director, said the three vehicles which are designed for rugged, remote terrain, will provide services in Dodoma, Tabora and Kigoma Regions in the mainland as well as Unguja and Pemba in the isles.

Prof Makubi said in complementing the government's efforts in marketing medical tourism, the mobile medical services will be extended to the neighbouring country of

Burundi so as to attract patients from that country to come to BMH.

Mhagama also launched Tanzania's first ever Emergency Care Training Centre at the BMH, which, apart from offering emergency medical services, will be training medics from across the country.

She said the medical facility is important especially this time when the country is on its

preparations to host the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournaments for 2027.

"This centre will help in reducing deaths caused by accidents as well as helping health workers to obtain skills," she said. The centre was constructed by the government in partnership with international medical organisation, ABBOTT. The minister further expressed the government's

commitment to upgrading BMH from zonal hospital status to the second national hospital after the Muhimbili National Hospital.

During the same event, BMH also launched its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Service and Business Plan, Client Service Charter as well as Radio call system aimed at strengthening communication among members of the hospi-

tal's management.

Following the launch of the radio call system, Mhagama directed the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health to issue a directive to all major medical facilities so that they can emulate the creativity initiated by BMH. "This will reduce the use of individual mobile phones while on duty as well as intensifying accountability," she said.

Association calls for priority, support in novel IVF services

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TANZANIA Infertility Association has appealed to the Ministry of Health and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) to prioritise their members for In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) services which were launched in Dar es Salaam recently.

The association also asks for financial support from the government and other health stakeholders to cover the cost of IVF services which stand at approximately \$5,000 (13.6m/-) as many members have limited resources.

Shamila Makwenjula, the association's chairperson, made the appeal at the weekend in Dar es Salaam shortly after Vice President Dr Philip Mpango inaugurated IVF facility at MNH. She highlighted several challenges faced by the group, including mental health issues.

"In our association, reproductive treatments are a major concern. We have 60 members, including men. When the government subsidises other healthcare costs, it should also assist this group," she said.

"We checked the cost of IVF services at private hospitals, which is around 20m/-. Even though the

cost at Muhimbili is slightly lower, some people cannot afford even 1m/-," she said.

She expressed hope that Health Minister Jenista Mhagama would support their plea, allowing them to contribute a small amount.

She emphasised that some individuals with infertility issues have not received appropriate treatment, and if treated, they could have children.

"There are public clinics for other non-communicable diseases but infertility remained neglected for so long," she said.

Makwenjula further explained that societal stigma leads to negative perceptions, with some individuals feeling as though they are unlucky or worthless, which can drive them to contemplate suicide due to the pressure.

Dr Raymond Mgeni, a mental health specialist at the Department of Mental Health at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital (MZRH), noted that members of the association often experience mental health issues exacerbated by stigma.

"The stigma they face leads to severe stress, which can drive some to suicide, alcohol abuse and depression," he said.

MNH Executive Director Prof Mohamed Janabi confirmed that IVF services have commenced,



Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule addresses small traders in Dodoma city on Monday, mainly responding to various grievances they had aired to her. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

with 10 women already receiving treatment. He noted that each day, 30 percent of patients seen in the women's clinic have fertility issues.

Rwanda, partners to construct digital hub

KIGALI

RWANDAN government, Africa50 and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) have officially broken ground on construction of a pioneering smart city project.

Dignitaries, policymakers, institutional investors, private investors, multinational corporations and project developers convened at a ceremony recently to mark the start of construction of the 61-hectare smart city development.

Kigali Innovation City (KIC) strengthens Rwanda's global standing as an emerging digital hub dedicated to fostering the growth of digital entrepreneurs, businesses, students and professionals who are relocating to the country, thereby enhancing productivity in industries that are not reliant on natural resources.

The facility will accommodate top-tier universities, world-class universities, startup incubators, and accelerators across disruptive and data-backed sectors, such as robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and more.

The KIC impact leverages the growth of the digital sector and is projected to reach a value of \$2 billion when completed, generate \$150 million in ICT exports annually and attract over \$300 million in foreign direct investment.

KIC is a testament to digitalisation - an enabler of economic diversification and productivity. The digital sector has been the fastest

growing sector in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), including South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria, where the digital sector has overtaken the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP.

Édouard Ngirente, Prime Minister of Rwanda, underscored Africa's imminent transition from technology consumption to production, commenting that the groundbreaking was a "critical moment in Rwanda's journey to becoming a leader in pioneering technology and innovation on the continent."

Francis Gatware, CEO of Rwanda Development Board said: "This project reflects a collective ambition of all our people to transform our country so that innovation, education, and technology can truly become a cornerstone for Rwanda's future. The groundbreaking ceremony included a fireside chat entitled, 'Catalysing Innovation: Building a pan-African technology hub'. Alain Eboissé, CEO of Africa50, the sponsor and developer of KIC, commended Rwanda for its vision and its progressive policies, which provide businesses and entrepreneurs with certainty and incentives: "The long-term vision and effective implementation de-risks this investment, increases KIC's ability to attract private investment to the country" and "helps universities produce outstanding talent and new technologies that will change the world."

The new project will be one of the largest smart cities in Africa.

Panellist and tenant of KIC, Dr Conrad Tucker, Director of Carnegie Mellon University-Africa and Associate Dean for International Affairs Africa, Carnegie Mellon University, underscored the project's ambition to provide the fertile ground to develop large technology companies, "KIC will develop Africa's first trillion-dollar business."

Paula Ingabire, Rwanda's Minister for ICT and Innovation, advocated for developing products and industries at KIC that will be deployed worldwide, cementing Rwanda and Africa's position as enabling environments that stimulate trade and contribute to a thriving global digital economy.

Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, Special Representative of the President at BADEA on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), a financier to the project, commented on increased South-South cooperation and the bank's role mobilising international capital for the project: "At BADEA, we are fully prepared to leverage our convening power, track record and network to help promote the cutting edge KIC project in the Arab world and beyond to make sure private investors and other public Gulf-based financial institutions join in with the funding and investment needed to build on the project's success."

The groundbreaking ceremony also featured participation from Lou Major, Managing Director, East & Southern Africa, Ansys and Craig Clulow, CEO of Kigali Innovation City Company Ltd.

Starvation in war-hit Sudan 'almost everywhere' - WHO

KHARTOUM

STARVATION in war-stricken Sudan "is almost everywhere", head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has said.

"The situation in Sudan is very alarming... the massive displacement - it's now the largest in the world, and, of course, famine," director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said yesterday.

He said 12 million people were already displaced, adding that attention in the global community to Sudan was "really low" and race was a factor. Thousands of people have been killed since a civil war broke out in April 2023 between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"Imagine: destruction, displacement, diseases everywhere, and now famine," said Dr Tedros.

He said he had recently visited a camp for the internally displaced people and a hospital in Sudan.

"You see there many children skin and bone, emaciated."

Close to 25 million people - half of Sudan's population - "need support", Dr Tedros said.

He stressed that Sudan "is not getting the attention it deserves", and that was the case with other recent conflicts in Africa.

"I think race is in the play here. That's what I feel now. We see the pattern now." Dr Tedros - who grew up during war in Ethiopia - said: "Especially in Africa, I think the attention is really, really low."

"That's the sad part, because you see it repeatedly, not just in Sudan," he added.

"I know the smell of war, the image of war, the sound of war," the WHO chief said. "From that, I can understand how it impacts others, and I remember my mother praying I survive a day at a time - growing up, survival of the day was a big thing, I see the same thing is Sudan and Gaza."

Following Russia's invasion of

Ukraine in 2022, Dr Tedros said the world did not give "equal attention to black and white lives".

At the time, he elaborated by saying only a fraction of the aid given to Ukraine was given to other humanitarian crises, with Tigray in Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria not receiving the same treatment. Dr Tedros urged mainstream media to give more attention to Sudan, describing the situation there as a "tragedy".

In August, a UN-backed committee of experts declared a famine at a camp housing about 500,000 displaced people near the besieged city of el-Fasher in Darfur, one of the regions worst affected by the conflict.

The leader of Sudan's army, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the head of the RSF, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, had jointly staged a coup in 2021, but then fell out eventually plunging Sudan into a civil war last year.



IITA
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture



IRRI
International Rice Research Institute

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSISTANT SCIENTIST - Agronomy
IITA-TZ-2024 - IRRI-011 -NRS

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on behalf of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) invites applications for the position of **Assistant Scientist - Agronomy**

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.

The Assistant Scientist will assist in the design of experiment(s), survey(s) and other research studies according to Organizational Unit specific project goals and research objectives. Manage the implementation of defined research activities. Evaluate and validate experimental data and contribute to reports and manuscript for peer-reviewed publications as well as presentations/posters for national and international conferences. Supervise, coach and guide scholars, QJTs, researchers and research technicians. Coordinate and prepare training sessions for a variety of stakeholders. Support the agronomy and extension research, promoting rural innovations, partnerships and liaising.

Duty Station: The position will be based in Bagamoyo.

Responsibilities
Assist in designing experiments/surveys based on the research outline provided

- Design, implement, manage and monitor research activities including necessary protocols, research tools, data collection, analysis and interpretation
- Monitor and manage the strategic collaborations around breeding, agronomy and extension research
- Exchange conceptual ideas with collaborating partners (national/international) and seek feedback
- Coordinate with collaborating partners on their research requirements
- Verify suggested methodologies and establish parameters
- Assist in the identification of support staff and assign tasks/responsibilities
- Ensure availability of services and supplies necessary to deliver research objectives

Manage the implementation of experiments/surveys and other research studies related to breeding and agronomy

- Provide assistance and guidelines/information to scholars and collaborators considering the implementation of experiment(s) including the logistics
- Assign, monitor and evaluate research activities/tasks performed by Researchers, Research Technicians and contract workers, providing guidance when necessary, for strengthening outreach programs, monitoring, evaluation, action research and experiments
- Maintain smooth conduct of experiment(s) by troubleshooting and fostering a productive teamwork environment
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs)

Consolidate, evaluate and analyze research data

- Summarize and validate data using appropriate advanced statistical tools independently
- Assist in the interpretation of results
- Assist in drafting conclusions to enable necessary actions or decisions
- Assure maintenance of accurate data recording and update database for efficient storage and retrieval of information

Contribute to the preparation of reports, publications, and presentations

- Help draft project reports, prepare posters and papers for presentation at local and international conferences
- Contribute to the development of concept notes and projects for funding or technical collaborations for research and development jointly with relevant IRRI staff
- Develop and contribute towards documentary outputs like knowledge products and research document/publications/scientific writing/policy briefs, summarizing research findings and draft manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals

Coordinate and prepare trainings

- Draft training materials using readily available published information (i.e. protocols, methodology) and also in collaboration with the partners

- Prepare necessary supply; identify resource persons; make sure that the logistics are appropriate for defined purpose
- Responsible for the professional development of Research Technicians

People Management

- Supervise the work of Researchers and/or Research Technicians
- Carry out performance appraisals of Research Technicians
- Responsible for the professional development of Research Technicians
- Supervise or assist students and trainees
- Perform other relevant tasks assigned by the supervisor from time to time.

Key Performance Indicators

- Successful completion of defined experiment(s) or research studies within given time frame
- Research findings and/or data sets from assigned studies are timely delivered, efficiently generated and a valuable reference for future studies;
- Database is up-to-date, timely and quality reporting and submission of reports to relevant stakeholders
- Presented (paper or poster) to at least one professional conference each year
- Effective monitoring and guiding field technical staff, partner agencies promptly as and when required.
- Satisfactory preparation (material) and set up (supply, venue, logistic) of training sessions as reflected in feedback evaluations

Qualifications and experience

- MSc in Agriculture with minimum 3 years of relevant work experience around breeding, agronomy and agriculture extension
- BSc Agriculture with minimum 5 years of relevant work experience around breeding, agronomy, agriculture extension

Skills and knowledge
Mandatory

- Has proven Technical proficiency in conducting research experiments.
- Has strong oral and written communication skills
- Has strong analytical skills
- Has some experience with Quality assurance
- Has some experience with Research management
- Has good presentation skills
- Has experience on data analysis and relevant statistical tools

Preferred

- Working experience in rice fields

Languages
 Excellent English and Swahili oral and written skills

General information:
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,
 Mikozeni 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: Wednesday 2nd October 2024.
 Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Enhancement of formal sector works for inclusive insurance

BANKS and other participants in mobile money transactions are seeking to innovate in order to raise the level of insurance cover countrywide.

This was an issue being extensively examined at a meeting at the weekend, in marking this year's Insurance Day, with a forum on inclusive insurance.

The meeting was chiefly examining how to ensure responsive products and distribution through technology.

The Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA), the keynote agency, proposed innovative strategies to expand the country's inclusive insurance coverage. By inclusion it implies informal sector outreach.

Key participants included the Insurance Institute of Tanzania and the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority, where TBA raised issues on transparent claims processes to build public trust in the insurance industry.

Bankers were emphatic that robust fraud and risk management systems are needed to support the sector's growing digitisation, while auxiliary global survey results disclosed by the telecoms regulator placed Tanzania among the lowest states in cyber-crime incidents. Bravo!

How far the risks of cyber-fraud can be controlled is one thing, but efforts at strengthening compliance and reliability isn't new. There was indeed a time when electronic passwords were becoming so routine that often youthful employees were organising internal rackets to hack people's accounts.

It is hard to say that this mess has disappeared but definitely there has been a long wait since that sort of incident was last heard of. But then each of us hears just a few such exchanges of experience, so it would need a proper survey to give a conclusive report. It is evident that the bankers

and insurers had plenty to worry about, from cyber fraud to inclusive insurance all in one breath, as the two are closely linked.

Yet people do not take up insurance just because the banks or agencies are secure, but often only when they feel they need it, the main reason being expectation to conduct transactions within the formal sector.

The availability of paid-up insurance premiums is essential to someone to conduct debt-related transactions, as in the case of disasters it lessens the damage for all parties concerned.

The problem is with the vast portion of society where insurance has little to do with third party matters like evaluating assets and liabilities if disaster falls, but just good personal reinsurance if misfortune occurs.

In addition, insurance is like a savings account, which has money if the holder is provided for in a satisfactory manner and doesn't wish to misuse whatever remains.

Insurance is a long-term commitment much to the same effect, not in relation to how one will actually use it but in case dire need arises...

So far, bankers, insurers as well as facilitators among telecom service providers appear to be overly concerned with public awareness on what is available in that sphere, whereas the best way to pull far more people into insurance is expanding the formal sector.

When a thousand businesses spring up in, say, electricity services the way we have thousands of builders or mobile money transaction agents, insurance will push itself into the mind, with little in the way of a reminder.

The growth potentials of private ownership of the means of production is not adequately appreciated as yet, and many public officers use way too much time focusing on goodwill.

Raising natural gas exports needs more than proximity to landlocked countries

PLANS are well under way to expand natural gas exports to neighbouring countries, where a ready market is visible with Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia, though a few others could be mentioned.

This anticipatory mood was being cultivated by top officials of the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) at a capacity building event held at the weekend. Significantly, pipeline agreements are already being signed.

Natural gas is expected to be exported using pipelines when the liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility is up and running. This comes after it was held back for many years as potential investors wanted satisfactory conditions to sink in US\$30 billion or thereabouts for the proposed terminal.

It is one of those projects pulling large amounts of investment funds into the country, with plenty of 'multiplier' effects especially on enhancing local savings, accessing more customary-owned lands into urban peripheries, etc.

Yet the sort of problems experienced earlier will not just easily go away, even with pipelines.

Since President Samia Suluhu Hassan took office, the public has witnessed scores of high-profile negotiations seeking the scrapping of non-tariff trade barriers among member states of the East African Community, hitherto taken as the normal state of affairs.

Plenty of this was also plaguing the LNG project, as investors would not sign the normal project formats presented by TPDC and the Tanzania Investment Centre, representing

the government. The president had to give personal assurances on acceptable LNG terminal construction terms, having to amend some laws as well. There thus ought to be no illusions about our having a monopoly of the natural gas needs of neighbouring countries, even with a pipeline facility. This is in part because the age of supertankers has made transportation even within a country more expensive than importation. Goods are placed on a supertanker and soon arrive at the nearest port of call.

This explains why maize from the United States can be cheaper than maize from Mbinga or Katavi if it has to be hauled all the way to Dar es Salaam, Arusha or elsewhere.

If the neighbours are uncomfortable with the terms, or if problems keep cropping up with the maize trade, they buy elsewhere.

When it comes to the natural gas trade in the region, we shall soon be having something like 'the right of first refusal' - that unless we say we can't supply the gas at the terms they want, they will not have to seek supplies elsewhere. But as oil or gas pipelines in the region have shown over the past decade, agreeing on the terms is not easy and ensuring that the terms are not breached from time to time could prove all the harder.

Much depends on the mood in TPDC and associated agencies and the sort of mindset they work with. It is sad that many are yet to be weaned off the old ways of doing things, where we expect the best from donors and level bad deals at those we can dictate to.

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Reinventing journalism: New ideas for a people-centric sustainable future

By Mattia Peretti

THE title of this talk is "Reinventing Journalism: New Ideas for a People-Centric Sustainable Future." There are a couple of loaded concepts in there, which we will try to unpack in the next few minutes.

First of all, a little about me: my name is Mattia and I'm here today as an ICFJ Knight Fellow, which is my "job title" this year. Until last year, I was the manager of the JournalismAI initiative at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Beyond the past or present affiliations, I am a learning experience designer, a project manager, and facilitator.

This talk is basically about a Venn diagram I've been obsessing about over the last few months. But before we get to the diagram itself, I thought I should start by explaining the title of the talk, and in particular from the word: "reinventing". Because you may ask: Why does journalism need to be reinvented?

Let's look at some headlines from the last twelve months: "Trust in media reaches new low"; "News avoidance reaches new high"; "News industry off to brutal 2024 start as mass layoffs devastate publishers". And I'm going to stop here so that we don't all have nightmares tonight.

We agree that we have a problem, right? The thing is that, even if we've allegedly been "in crisis" for the past 20 years, it seems to me that we are quite averse to considering serious systemic change.

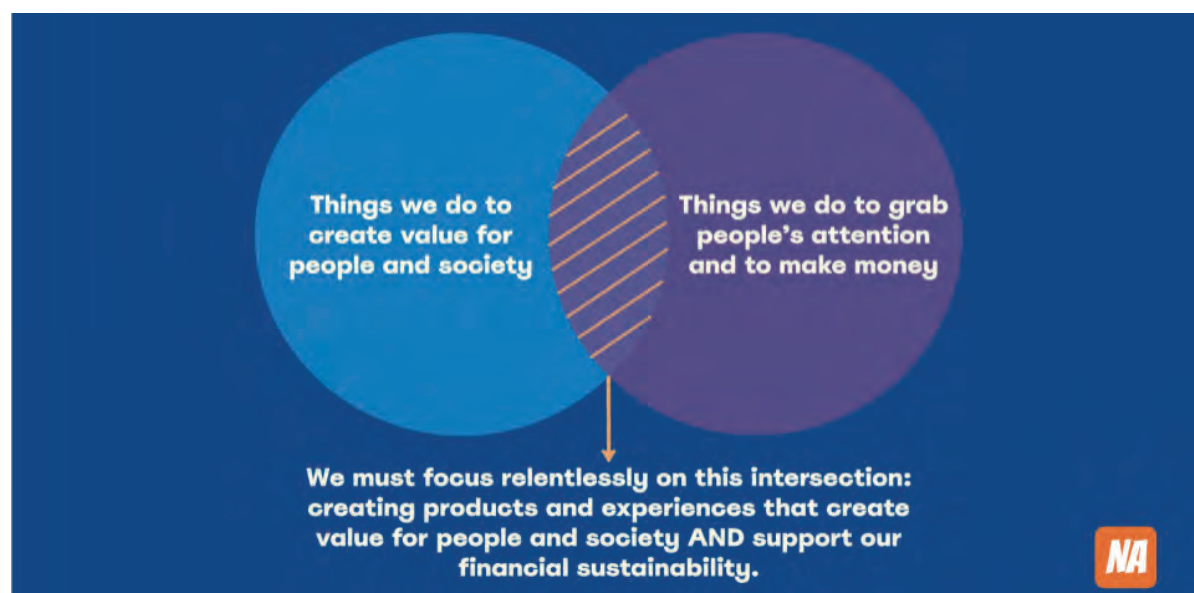
On the other hand, meanwhile, we're always ready to get excited about the little cosmetic changes that make us feel like we're doing 'something' even if it's quite clear that it might grant us, at best, some marginal improvement or temporary gain.

Take artificial intelligence (AI). I'm neither an AI skeptic nor someone who considers that we are wasting time with it. Just two years ago I was gracing this very stage with a talk about the "10 things everyone should know about AI in journalism".

I spent five years helping journalists understand the impact of AI on the journalism industry and especially the opportunities AI has to offer.

But earlier this year I wrote an article with the headline: "It's not about AI", in which I argued that we are getting this AI thing all wrong. This is because, I'm afraid, we are tricking ourselves into thinking that we can solve our problems by just sprinkling a bit of AI on top of what we do - that is, without considering that the problem might be that what we do is fundamentally flawed in the first place.

How we are approaching AI is just an example, but I worry that part of the reason we face such deep issues is that we have lost touch with our mission - or at least we seem to be quite confused about it. We need to take some time to reflect



on why we think journalism is so important and what role we believe it should play in societies.

Traditionally, we tend to think about the mission of journalism as informing the public about what is going on in their community, in their country and across the world - as to supply them with the information they need to make informed choices, for example about how they are going to vote in an election.

But I say that that's not enough anymore. I believe that we need to acknowledge that information only has value if it helps people take action and inspire positive change.

This is because the risk with believing that all journalism should aim to do is provide information to the public is to confuse the production of content and information with mission accomplished. But journalism does not equal content, it equals service.

The act of doing journalism most often manifests itself with the production of content - writing an article, recording a podcast, etc. But our mission is not to produce content.

This might seem like a subtle difference but to me it makes all the difference in the world. Instead, we should think of journalism as a service to people and society.

It is essentially about untangling ourselves from the journalism-equals-content equation to allow ourselves to think more creatively of how we might be of service to people and how we can create value for them.

I believe that journalism has the power but also the responsibility to make a positive impact on society: helping people navigate their lives, providing them with the information and the context they need to meaningfully participate in their communities, and strengthening democracy.

And I'll tell you more: I believe that focusing relentlessly on the value our journalism creates for people

and society is a necessary condition to guarantee the financial sustainability of the journalism industry.

Mind you, I say 'necessary' condition, not sufficient. I'm not naive to the point of not knowing that we need to keep getting smarter about how we monetise our journalism. But it is necessary. This is because no smart tactic or technology will make us sustainable if people don't find any value in what we do.

And this is where the famous Venn diagram comes in handy: In the blue bubble there are all the things we do to create value for people and society through our journalism. And we do a lot of that already.

However, a lot of what we do falls outside the bubble, floating in the dark blue background because, let's admit it: we don't always think of the value we aim to create with our journalism.

In the purple bubble there are all the things we do to grab people's attention and to make money. Some of them overlap with the blue bubble but a lot of them don't.

Those are all the tactics and strategies we implement because we are desperate to find any little trick to get us out of the crisis we are in - but often are detrimental to our reputation and therefore to our own objectives. In that purple bubble sit lots of things we should stop doing right now.

I argue that what we must relentlessly focus on is the intersection between the two bubbles: creating products and experiences that create value for people and society and support our financial sustainability - most often precisely because of the value they create.

We must identify the things we already do that belong in that intersection and do more of them. We must find more things we can do at the intersection.

We must expand the intersection until the two bubbles merge and the intersection is all that is left. That

means until everything we do creates value for people and society, thus supporting our financial sustainability.

I don't know whether this will be enough to get us out of the crisis. But I do know that we're definitely not getting out of it without taking this step.

Now you're probably about to ask me: "OK, but how do we do it?" And I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint you because I don't really have a ready-made formula. I'd be making a lot of money if I did!

But with a group of people I know and admire, from across the industry and across the world, I've been laying the foundations for an initiative that I hope might help us find some answers.

It is like this: News Alchemists is a movement that helps everyone in journalism put people's needs and curiosity and the benefit of society at the centre of everything they do.

I want all of us to work together to learn how we can measure the success of our organisations not just in engagement and profit but also in the value our journalism creates. This is because only then might we learn how to make every single editorial and business decision based on maximising that value.

News Alchemists aims to work on this mission at three different levels: advocating the importance of embracing a people-centred approach; gathering and sharing evidence of how it leads to financial sustainability and higher trust in journalism; and co-creating radical new solutions that create value for people and society.

Life is what one makes it, isn't it? And sometimes the greatest way to make life amazing is to have a really, really boring job.

• A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.

By Oscar Gakuo Mwangi

COMMUNAL conflict is endemic in the vast arid region on both sides of the Kenya-Ethiopia border. Fresh alarm has been sparked in both countries following a kidnapping and armed attacks on police and civilians in Kenya's Marsabit county, in the extreme north of the country. Oscar Mwangi Gakuo, who has studied the roots of conflict in the border region, sets out the context.

What is the history of the tensions along the Kenya-Ethiopia border?

Marsabit County is Kenya's largest, covering an area of 70,961 square kilometres. This is roughly equivalent in size to Sierra Leone or the combined size of Rwanda, Burundi and Eswatini.

It is one of the four Kenyan counties bordering Ethiopia.

Situated in the Chalbi Desert belt, the county is mostly arid and semi-arid. The people who live there are mainly herders who move from place to place to graze livestock. Poverty levels are high and conflict over resources erupts frequently.

In July 2005, animosities between the majority Borana and Gabra communities led to the killing of 95 people in what became known as the Turbi Massacre.

The hostilities also have cross-border dimensions. The borderlands harbour armed rebel groups such as the Oromo Liberation Army, which has roots in northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia.

Daily acts of violence in this remote region rarely catch national attention. But the highest levels of state security took notice in both Kenya and Ethiopia following the latest attacks. They are perceived to involve the Oromo Liberation Front and the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab group, raising concerns about transnational terrorism.

This frontier region is fragile. State institutions are weak and don't provide citizens with minimum levels of security and well-being. Inter-ethnic conflicts among nomad pastoralists have led to the proliferation of small arms.

Security failures also stem from the fact that Kenyan and Ethiopian security policies don't work together. For example, the Kenyan government strictly controls the licensing of weapons to civilians. But in Ethiopia civilians are permitted to own arms if they register with the federal government. Kenyans in the northern frontier region can still get illicit arms for self-defence and cross-border incursions.

The government's efforts to disarm pastoralists are often futile because of the porous border.

What are the main drivers of insecurity in the region?

Conflicts in Marsabit are driven by scarce natural resources as well as ethno-political and cultural disputes. Several related factors include competition for grazing areas and water resources, owing to climate change and environmental degradation, political devolution, ethnicity, local politics and elections, militarisation of ethnic groups and non-state armed groups and large numbers of small arms and light weapons.

Resource-based conflicts arise over conflicting claims of ownership of grazing areas and water resources, especially during dry seasons. Conflicts

Violence at the Kenya-Ethiopia border: What's driving insecurity in the region



The scene at the 2018 Marsabit Lake Turkana Culture Festival, an event which seeks to promote tourism and build better relationships between 14 local communities

between communities and the state also occur around protected areas such as national parks during dry seasons.

Another contributing factor to the violence is the way in which the region is governed.

Kenya has decentralised several state functions to the counties. But security governance remains centralised under the national government. This top-down approach has left county governments feeling alienated.

New administrative boundaries have been created in Marsabit. This has worsened inter-ethnic conflicts between the Borana and Gabra over resources. Adding to the toxic mix is that both groups have militias which state security agencies have labelled as "bandits".

There is also competition for new political and administrative positions.

The region is affected by the broader political atmosphere in Kenya, too. Conflicts are rife, fuelled by debates and differences being framed along ethnic lines. In particular, the country's political elite focuses on the historical differences among ethnic groups and resource competition. This happens particularly during electoral periods. The result is the promotion of intolerance, suspicion, distrust and fear among ethnic groups.

What are the cross-border threats?

The Borana and Gabra communities share a common socio-cultural history with the Ethiopian Oromo. The communities belong to the larger linguistic Oromia community, which spans both countries.

Despite the shared culture, cross-border conflicts occur between the communities.

Cross-border incursions by Ethiopian forces and the Oromo Liberation Army also heighten inter-state tensions. The Oromo Liberation Army fights the Ethiopian government in Oromia, especially in the western and southern parts of the region. Its aim is self-determination for the Oromo ethnic peoples.

The Oromo Liberation Army, also known as the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)-Shane, was originally the military wing of the Oromo Liberation Front party. It split from the party in April 2019.

Ethiopian armed forces are known to cross the Kenyan border in pursuit of Oromo fighters. The government in Addis Ababa regards them as terrorists. In November 2021, residents of the border town of Moyale in Kenya accused Ethiopian troops of crossing the border, looting neighbourhoods and taking away civilians accused of sheltering

Oromo Liberation Army insurgents.

A month after the 2021 incursion by Ethiopian troops, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited the Kenyan side of the border with Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta. Abiy claimed then that the Oromo Liberation Front had an alliance with al-Shabaab. He called for both to be "eliminated".

Since 2010 Kenya and Ethiopia have shared intelligence on the Oromo Liberation Front, resulting in arrests and deportations. But the Oromo Liberation Front has in the past emphasised that stirring up ethnic conflict between the Borana and Gabra communities along the Kenya-Ethiopia border is a counter-insurgency technique by Ethiopian governments to discredit it.

Ethiopian officials have claimed that the Oromo Liberation Front and the Somali-based jihadist group, al-Shabaab, work together. However, there is no substantial evidence to support this.

Culture: The backbone of national identity and unity

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CULTURE is the backbone of national identity, development and unity, making it crucial for the survival and prosperity of any nation. It defines a society, distinguishing one nation from another.

Culture provides a sense of identity, helping individuals and groups recognize themselves as it gives a nation its unique characteristics, setting it apart from others, and foster pride in one's heritage. A shared culture promotes unity and strengthens social bonds. By celebrating common traditions, values, and customs, people within a nation can feel connected to each other, thus enhancing national solidarity.

A nation's culture ensures that its historical experiences, values, and wisdom are passed on to future generations. It serves as a repository of knowledge that preserves the nation's legacy, traditions, and way of life. Cultural industries, such as arts, music, festivals, and tourism, can contribute significantly to a nation's economy.

A strong culture encourages creativity and innovation by providing a distinct worldview. It promotes a diversity of thought, enhancing a nation's ability to contribute to global arts, sciences, and philosophy with a unique perspective. A nation's culture can be a powerful tool for diplomacy, creating a positive image internationally.

In Tanzania, various tribes celebrate their heritage through annual cultural festivals specific to their regions. This year, the National Cultural Festival will take place in Ruvuma, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan as the guest of honour.

It is an annual event aimed at celebrating, preserving, and promoting the diverse cultural heritage of the country. With more than 120 tribes, Tanzania has a rich cultural landscape, and this festival serves as a platform to showcase and honour the traditions, customs, and artistic expressions of these communities.

The festival serves as a reminder of the cultural wealth that Tanzania possesses. It strengthens pride in the country's heritage and educates younger generations on the importance of maintaining their traditions. By uniting people through shared cultural experiences, it plays a vital role in reinforcing national unity



and fostering peace.

The festival, which starts on September 20th to September 23rd, will feature diverse tribal cultural displays from across the country. Tanzanians from Ruvuma and nearby regions are eager to participate, anticipating not only cultural enrichment but also economic stimulation in the region.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Ahamedi Abas Ahamedi, confirmed that the festival will be opened by Minister of Sports, Arts, and Culture, Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, with President Samia officiating the closing on the 23rd. He emphasized that cultural tourism significantly boosts the country's income, attracting tourists from around the world.

He said the festival will apart from strengthening national identity by encouraging Tanzanians to embrace their cultural heritage, promoting pride in their roots. Moreover, it fosters unity and reduces conflict by celebrating diversity.

Tito Mbilinyi, is a businessman based in Ruvuma Region, he is optimistic about the economic benefits of the national cultural festival, believing the influx of visitors will boost the region's economy, benefiting businesses such as lodges, food vendors and transport services.

Upendo Hosia, a hotel owner, expressed excitement about President Samia's visit, noting the positive impact on the locals' economy would improve their welfare. She called upon her fellow women to massively show-up to welcome the President, anticipating the cultural festivities will draw thousand Tanzanians to Ruvuma.

Ruvuma Administrative Secretary, Mary Makondo highlighted the festival's importance in preserving cultural heritage. It provides a platform for showcasing traditional music, dance, clothing, and customs, attracting both local and international visitors. The event not only strengthens the economy but also deepens respect for Tanzanian culture.

The national cultural festival has grown to become a symbol of national unity, celebrating Tanzania's rich cultural diversity. The festival continues to provide a space for artists to showcase their talents, expanding their markets while promoting traditional arts.

Beyond the arts, the festival fosters national cohesion by bringing together people from various tribes, religions, and regions. It underscores the power of culture in uniting society and creating a sense of shared identity.

The festival's activities include traditional music and dance performances, clothing displays, and handicraft exhibitions. Artists also showcase sculptures, paintings, and other crafts, reflecting the creativity of Tanzania's indigenous artists.

Stage plays based on traditional folktales and contemporary social issues offer entertainment while educating audiences on cultural values.

The festival plays a crucial role in supporting the community by providing employment for artists. It helps them showcase and sell their work to a wide audience, including tourists, contributing to the locals' economy and promoting cultural preservation.

By Timothy Killeen

Wildcat miners: Will cyanide displace mercury?

THE activities of wildcat miners in the Pan Amazon has become an increasing issue of concern over the past five years; in part, because their numbers have exploded, but also because as a group, they have flagrantly violated the land rights of Indigenous people, particularly the Yanomami, but also the Murunduku and Kayapó (Brazil), the Ese Eja and Harakmbut (Peru), and the Lekos (Bolivia). Efforts to 'tame' wildcat mining is a stated priority for governments and civil society.

Over the short term, most wildcat miners will be forcibly removed from formally recognized Indigenous territories. These efforts will be successful because the global media has determined this is a human rights issue that governments cannot ignore. It is less likely, however, that miners will be criminally prosecuted and, in some jurisdictions, they will be allowed to salvage their equipment. In some regions, they will be exiled from high-level protected areas; however, many will continue to have access to multiple-use protected areas. Unallocated public lands and waterways will remain exposed to their harmful practices, as well as unregulated mining operations on private landholdings.

Environmental advocates want them eradicated from all regions of the Amazon. Their view, one popularized by the global media, is they are illegal operators who avoid taxes, ignore labor laws and pollute the environment. Although this is literally true, many operate on landscapes where mining is, theoretically, legal. Some hold valid concessions and operating licenses; nonetheless, virtually none are in full compliance with all the pertinent regulations. Unsurprisingly, wildcat miners do not consider themselves to be criminals, but members of an underprivileged economic class that has been traditionally exempt from the regulatory burden intended for corporate miners. In many jurisdictions, they are too numerous to eradicate by police action, which could lead to civil unrest and create a political backlash which weakens efforts to protect biodiversity, water resources and Indigenous rights.

Civil society groups working with wildcat miners have proposed an alternative strategy. Short-term, the goals should be to bring them into a formal framework where they can be influenced by incentives to improve their practices. This could begin with a program to register them into a national digital database and, simultaneously, legally recognize the de facto possession of their mining claims. In exchange, authorities could collect royalty taxes that materially benefit local government where miners actually reside. This procedure would allow authorities to identify large-scale miners for immediate registration as corporate miners, forcing them to pay royalties and income taxes, as well as to abide by labor and environmental regulations.

Formalization of the sector should be accompanied by migration from mercury-based extraction technologies to other chemical and physical technologies. Wildcat miners use mercury because it is easy to use and cost effective; many (most) are unaware of its long-term toxic impacts. Although it is subject to regulations, the use of mercury in mining operations is not strictly illegal and is widely available to miners via the black-market. The challenge, as always, is to organize policies and incentives that motivate miners to adopt different practices. Change can occur rapidly if the proposed solutions are more lucrative than the current system.

Technological change is already underway as medium-scale miners install cyanide-based extractive systems similar to those used by corporate miners. This technology's biggest advantage is its ability to extract significant volumes of gold from low-grade ores, which also means operators can recover gold from the tailings created by previous miners who relied on rudimentary placer technology. The massive volume of placer tailings that characterize wildcat mining landscapes are (or soon will be) the site of the renewed gold rush.

Cyanide is a well-known poison and comes with its own set of environmental liabilities and social challenges. It is lethal to fish and other forms of aquatic wildlife at low concentrations, which is why corporate gold miners invest significant financial resources in recycling systems, geomembranes, isolation ponds and catchment reservoirs. If they fail to insulate their operations from surrounding landscapes, particularly downstream portions of their watersheds, they will face the wrath of their neighbors, regulatory agencies and financiers.



Using cyanide to extract gold from mercury-laced tailings, however, brings its own suit of environmental and social impacts. The mechanical turnover of legacy tailings will mobilize trapped mercury, while cyanide will release other heavy metals from the pulverized ore and further amplify the toxicity of the residual tailings. Moreover, the chemical reaction that occurs between cyanide and mercury creates variants of methyl mercury that accelerate the phenomenon of bio-amplification, which is already a major health risk for Amazonian populations. The risks associated with cyanide and mercury motivated the Conference to the Parties of the Minamata Convention to characterize the unregulated use of cyanide to reprocess placer mining tailings as a "worse practice." Regardless, cyanide based technologies will proliferate as the wildcat mining sector transitions into a formalized medium-scale domestic mining industry.

Ironically, this transition offers an opportunity to remediate the toxic legacy of the previous gold rush, but only if a new generation of mining companies can be recruited (or coerced) into adopting a business model that fuses tailings remediation with gold recovery. The Minamata document that outlines the risks of cyanide technology also describes how those risks can be minimized by the removal of mercury from the tailings before the application of cyanide solutions. Options include a variety of physical and chemical techniques that should be economically and technologically viable. Ideally, wildcat miners would cease invasions of protected areas in exchange for unfettered access to the landscapes that have already been degraded. Theoretically, they could evolve into a responsible business sector that generate good jobs and contribute to a stable and diversified Amazonian economy. Realistically, however, this win-win-win scenario will probably not materialize, because current stakeholders are unable to make that transition due to

economic constraints, deeply ingrained behavior or an unwillingness to consider alternatives in a highly polarized political environment.

Oil & gas: stranded assets or strategic resources?

Energy markets in 2022 were characterized by a shortfall in the supply of oil and natural gas due to Russia's war in Ukraine. Prior to the conflict, however, there was a surplus of both fossil fuels due to a combination of technological innovation in the United States (e.g., fracking and horizontal drilling) and excess-production capacity in countries that dominate global energy markets. Although commodity markets are inherently cyclical, the pre-war surplus supported a hypothesis that the transition to renewable energy would suppress investment in fossil-fuels. The anticipation that the 'age of oil' was coming to an end was particularly strong among environmental and human rights advocates who opposed the exploitation of hydrocarbons within the Pan Amazon based on philosophical and moral criteria. The potential for halting future development was no longer viewed as unrealistic.

This optimistic scenario has been called into question by the war in Ukraine and the subsequent commodity-driven inflationary cycle. Although the energy transition is now viewed as inevitable, the demand for fossil fuels, particularly natural gas, will remain robust over the next several decades. Consequently, global markets will continue to influence the hydrocarbon industry in the Pan Amazon, particularly those countries that are dependent on revenues derived from oil and gas (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana) or which have legacy infrastructure assets that make investments financially attractive (Brazil, Ecuador, Peru).

Existing oil and gas fields will continue to operate over the medium-term. This means new production wells and feeder pipelines will be established on landscapes adjacent to existing production fields. Additional (greenfield) expansion is less certain. At-

tempts to drill within protected areas will be vigorously resisted by civil society, while Indigenous organizations will oppose any type of activity within their legally constituted territories. They will sue to halt operations in adjacent areas, arguing they enjoy customary-use rights to these lands and/or that impacts will extend into their territories.

Resistance to ongoing and expansionary investments is most likely to impact investment in northern Peru where pipeline failures and social conflict threaten the industry's economic viability over the short term. The decision by several mid-tier companies to abandon concessions is an indication that they view the risk of failure to exceed the potential for an acceptable return on their investment. If the ageing infrastructure continues to suffer from mishaps, or if Indigenous groups successfully impede operations, then the region's hydrocarbon reserves will become a 'stranded asset', a term investors use to describe a thing of value that cannot be monetized.

Less likely is the demise of the oil industry in Ecuador, where the administration of Guillermo Lasso has repeated an electoral commitment to double national production. His government would appear to accept judicial restrictions that prohibit operations in protected areas, while recognizing the obligation to consult Indigenous communities. This apparent contradiction might be partially resolved using technological solutions. However, the viability of the petroleum industry in Amazonian Ecuador over the medium-term will depend on access to the unallocated concessions in Pastaza and Morona-Santiago. This is unlikely to occur without considerable social conflict. Similar development conundrums confront the gas fields of southern Peru and the oil fields of the Putumayo in Colombia.

In contrast, there are extensive areas open for hydrocarbon development in Brazil, which has systematically avoided creating territorial constraints on the landscapes with the highest hydrocarbon potential. The Solimões Basin has significant shale-gas reserves that could be exploited using the existing infrastructure at Urucú whose useful lifetime can be prolonged using horizontal drilling and fracking technology. The recent sale of the Juruá concession to a company with expertise in LNG transportation systems could signal a move to commercialize the gas reserves of the Solimões Basin in overseas markets.

Exploiting the gas resources located underneath the Amazon River between Manaus and the delta (e.g., the Amazonas Basin) would require extensive exploratory drilling and, although there is no evidence this is being considered, there are few protected areas and Indigenous territories that might impede development on landscapes adjacent to the main stem of the Amazon River. Offshore development in Guyana and Suriname is a foregone conclusion. Less certain is the expansion of drilling along the continental shelf off French Guiana and Amapá where decisions will be made by central governments with minimal input from Indigenous communities.

The views of environmental and human rights advocates predominate in international forums and, to a certain extent, within urban elites in Pan Amazonian countries. However, there are influential constituencies that believe it is in their country's interest to monetize their mineral resources. This view is greatest among service providers that benefit from the extractive sector but is mirrored by functionaries within agencies charged with regulating their activities.

Mineral development is widely supported by the financial sector and the ministries that focus on macroeconomic criteria that measure economic health. Key private sector actors, such as the chamber of commerce, are deeply committed to the conventional economy. Many of these stakeholders also accept the reality of climate change but argue that the failure to exploit the mineral resources of their countries would forgo the last opportunity to monetize a natural resource that should be used to invest in economic development that benefit the nation. and focusing on their mental health, patients can rebuild their strength and wellbeing - and, as Catherine said to others going through cancer treatment, "let that light shine bright".

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

Extreme climate conditions strain Africa's livelihood and food systems

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

THE rising frequency and intensity of climate change related weather extremes are becoming costly for African economies, a recent report by the World Meteorological Organisation says.

According to The State of the Climate in Africa 2023 Report, for Africa, the year 2023 was among the top three warmest years in the 124-year record and the African continent has been warming at a slightly faster rate than the global average thereby disrupting sources of livelihoods and food systems.

"The warming has been most rapid in North Africa, around +0.4 °C per decade between 1991 and 2023, compared to +0.2 °C per decade between 1961 and 1990," the Report says, adding that Southern Africa experienced the lowest warming trend compared to the other sub-regions. However the highest temperature anomalies in 2023 were recorded across north-western Africa, especially in Morocco, coastal parts of Mauritania and northwest Algeria Morocco.

The Report notes that several countries including Mali, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda reported their warmest year on record. Extreme heat waves in July and August affected northern Africa.

The impacts of increasing temperatures and climate change in general have been devastating in the continent. In Egypt, for example, heat waves reduced the yield of wheat and caused water shortages, increasing the country's dependence on grain and energy imports.

Between September and October 2023, floods affected around 300,000 people across West Africa while Zambia witnessed its most severe drought in 40 years, impacting nearly 6 million individuals. The drought cut down hydropower generation, wiped out half of the country's maize crop and prompted the government to slash its growth forecast down to 2.3 percent from 4.8 percent.

Experts say the trend of extreme weather events in Africa continues into 2024.

In the Sahel region more than 716,000 people have been affected by flooding this year, as reported by the United Nations.

According to Bloomberg L.P. in late August this year, authorities in Ghana said they planned to raise USD500 million to mitigate

the impact of "drought-like conditions," which are threatening to cause food shortages in the West African country while floods across East Africa in May claimed at least 400 lives, destroying cropland and washing away livestock.

Speaking at the ceremony to launch the report in Abidjan, Ivory Coast early this month, Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said that Africa is on the front lines of fighting climate change and its impacts, from rising temperatures to shifting rainfall patterns, and other extreme weather events. "Consequently, key sectors like the agricultural sector, which employs over 60 percent of Africa's population, are under threat. Crops are failing and livestock are suffering as climate variability disrupts traditional farming practices, jeopardizes food supply, and the economic stability of nations, which are already grappling with high poverty and levels," she said.

In Tanzania, extreme weather conditions have affected agriculture, infrastructure, construction, transport systems, and tourism, among other others. "These are the sectors that contribute most to the country's GDP. We need to step up investment in these critical areas as a means of building adaptive capacity, and fostering resilience at the local, regional, and national levels," says Masalu Luhula, Land Tenure Expert at Landesa in Tanzania. "There is a need to promote public awareness and gender inclusive decision-making in addressing climate change through different strategies related to adaptation, resilience, and mitigation," he adds.

Other measures that should be taken to address impacts of climate change include investing in land tenure systems especially for small holder farmers who are likely to be more resilient and adaptive if their land tenure is secure. "But government must step up the political will to a just energy transition in order to reduce emissions and promote green growth," says Luhula.

"Agriculture contributes about 24 percent of Tanzania's GDP. Ironically it is one of the sectors hardest hit by impacts of climate change," notes Tondole Gungulundi, Research Coordinator at Shahidi wa Maji and a climate expert who formerly worked with Climate Action Network (Tanzania). He explains that weather extremes such as erratic rainfall, above-normal rainfall and drought in some parts of



A farmer in Zambia holds a maize plant that shows how the crop has been destroyed by severe drought in many parts of the country (File Photo).

the country are the main climate change stressors which affect rain-fed agriculture. Several measures have been taken by the government and other stakeholders in order to mitigate the impacts of climate-induced disasters and build resilience, "But the efforts do not match the frequency and intensity of disasters," says Gungulundi.

He urges the government, NGOs, councils and other stakeholders to raise budgets for production and dissemination of climate information that would enhance early warning and preparedness. With adequate information and knowledge communities can take timely action that may reduce loss and damage.

"We also need to access more funding from international climate finance so as to enable us to implement more climate adaptation projects. Currently the country gets a very small amount of money from various international climate funds, a situation which makes it unable to cope with the increasing climate induced disasters," explains Gungulundi.

The WMO report also sheds light on hazards of greatest concern for the African region which account for loss of GDP for individual countries. The figures were generated using the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of 53 countries in Africa based on the active NDCs submitted in June 2024. The hazards include foods which affect

48 countries, drought affects 40 countries, temperature increase affects 39 countries, changes in precipitation affects 38 countries and sea level rise affects 30 countries. Other hazards are storms which affect 26 countries, wildfire affects 18 countries, and landslides affect 14 countries. Dust storms affect three countries as well as pests and diseases which also affect three countries.

Talking about floods, the report shows that at least 4,700 confirmed deaths in Libya were attributed to flooding following the Mediterranean cyclone 'Storm Daniel' in September, with 8 000 still missing. Parts of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia experienced widespread and severe flooding, with more than 350 deaths and 2.4 million displaced people during the April-June rainy season.

"Record-breaking tropical Cyclone Freddy caused extensive flooding in Mozambique and Malawi, as extremely heavy rain fell. Malawi was especially hard hit with at least 679 deaths reported. A further 165 deaths were reported in Mozambique. Severe flooding with associated landslides affected central Africa in early May, killing at least 574 people," the report notes. In September and October, approximately 300,000 people were affected by flooding across 10 countries, with Niger, Benin, Ghana and Nigeria most heavily impacted. During floods people could not

easily access basic needs such as food, clean water, and healthcare and there was a near total collapse of local livelihoods in some places.

Drought has also impacted many African countries. Parts of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Democratic Republic of Congo experienced severe drought in 2023. "Zambia faced its worst drought in the last 40 years, affecting eight out of ten provinces and approximately six million people," the report says.

Regarding precipitation, the Report explains that regions with a marked rainfall deficit included the western part of North and North-western Africa, the Horn of Africa, portions of Southern Africa including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and most of Namibia. In addition, Madagascar, central Sudan, northern Ethiopia and Uganda suffered from below-normal precipitation.

"West Africa experienced a normal to early onset of its monsoon rainy season. Precipitation was notably higher than normal in Angola and coastal areas north of the Gulf of Guinea," the Report reads in part.

According to the report the rate of sea-level rise around Africa was close to or slightly higher than the global mean rate of 3.4 mm per year. The largest rate of sea level rise was observed in the Red Sea, reaching 4.1 mm per year.

Extreme climate-related events have telling impacts on agriculture and food security. In North Africa, for example, cereal production in 2023 was about 10 percent below the five year average estimated at 33 million tons in 2023, similar to the previous year's already drought stricken harvest. Tunisia was the worst hit.

The report notes that erratic rainfall and the general situation of insecurity kept cereal production at below-average levels in Sudan, South Sudan, the Karamoja region in Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and central and western Kenya.

In Sudan, seasonal rains were below average and temporally erratic, with prolonged dry spells. The production of sorghum and millet was forecast to decrease by about 25 percent and 50 percent, respectively, compared to 2022.

The WMO thus calls for a fresh look at investment in adaptation and resilience, underscoring the fact that climate-resilient development in Africa requires investments in hydro-meteorological infrastructure and early warning systems to prepare for escalating high-impact hazardous events.

"Investments in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Africa are needed to enhance data collection and improve forecasting capabilities in order to strengthen the ability of these institutions to issue early warnings and advisories for extreme events. There is a particular need to invest in cutting-edge technologies and systems to enhance the accuracy and lead time of weather, climate, and hydrological forecasts," says the report.

The continent is already taking appropriate measures following the launch of Early Warnings for All Action Plan for Africa in September 2023. The primary objective is to make sure that timely and accurate information about natural hazards and impending disasters reaches all segments of African society, particularly the most vulnerable. A number of African countries have been identified for priority action in the global initiative.

Between 1970 and 2021, Africa accounted for 35 percent of weather, climate, and water-related fatalities. "Yet only 40 percent of the African population has access to early warning systems - the lowest rate of any region of the world. This new Early Warnings for All Action Plan for Africa seeks to change that," the report says.

Kenya's pristine forest draws tourists to geothermal steam sauna

NAIROBI

AMOS Omondi, a resident of Nairobi, Kenya's capital, enjoys relaxing in urban saunas, surrounded by sleek, well-equipped spa facilities.

Recently, however, Omondi has traded city luxuries for a more natural experience, venturing into the scenic depths of Eburru Forest, located in the resort town of Naivasha, about 100 kilometers north-west of Nairobi.

"This is better than the sauna in the city because you get to enjoy the scenic views of the forest," said Omondi.

He is among a growing number of visitors flocking to a hidden gem in Eburru Forest, a natural underground geothermal steam vent. To reach the site, visitors must descend a steep, rocky path, where steam rises from a crack in a rocky outcrop.

"There was a rupture in the rock where geothermal activity occurred, allowing steam to escape at temperatures of up to 90 degrees Celsius," said Douglas Chege, a tour guide with over a decade of experience.

To counter the strong sulfuric smell common in geothermal sites, Chege employs a unique technique: squeezing mint leaves between the rocks, infusing the air with a refreshing, calming scent.

After spending 20 minutes in the sauna, Omondi emerged drenched in sweat. "I feel very refreshed. I wish I could have stayed longer," he said as he climbed back up the rocks.

Eburru Forest, covering roughly 8,000 hectares (80 square kilometers), sits on the rolling foothills of Mount Eburru, an active volcanic mountain. It is part of the larger Mau Forest, Kenya's largest water tower. Yet, the forest was not always as lush as it is today. In the late 1990s, uncontrolled



logging and charcoal production nearly decimated it.

The Kenya Forest Service (KFS), in collaboration with the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, a conservation organization, launched restoration measures by installing a 43.4-kilometer electric fence to protect the forest and reduce human-wildlife conflict. The in-

itiative has been a success, with biodiversity steadily returning, according to Josephat Wagura, a KFS fence attendant.

Wagura said that local communities have become key stakeholders in conservation efforts, benefiting from activities such as honey harvesting and eco-tourism. "People used to fear farming or building

permanent homes because of wildlife attacks," Wagura said. "Now, they live peacefully with the animals and in better homes."

Eburru Forest is also a haven for bird watchers and home to several species, including the critically endangered mountain bongos, as well as leopards, giant forest hogs and buf-

faloes.

To access the natural sauna, visitors have to pay a small entry fee to KFS. "We have guests from Europe and America who come to enjoy the sauna. They always return because it works wonders," Chege said.

He also advised that visitors should have a guard accompany them to the sauna, as wild animals frequent the forest. Chege further urged sponsors to help set up changing rooms for added guest comfort.



Oil prices extend gains on US supply concerns

By Irina Slav

Crude oil prices extended gains made at the start of the week as a significant portion of U.S. production capacity in the Gulf of Mexico remained shut-in, following Hurricane Francine.

An additional driver for oil prices came from traders expecting inventory declines over the week to September 13. The American Petroleum Institute reports inventory estimated later today and the EIA releases its report on Wednesday.

Per a Reuters poll, crude oil inventories could have shed some 200,000 bpd in the reporting period.

Platforms and being reopened but 12 percent of oil production capacity and 16 percent of gas production capacity are still shut, Reuters reported earlier today.

That's still down from about 20 percent of oil capacity and 28 percent of natural gas capacity as of Sunday.

The disruption caused by Francine on Gulf of Mexico oil and gas production pushed oil prices higher last week and the boost appears to have endured longer than one might expect, especially in light of reports that bearish bets on oil hit an all-time high also last week.

"This historic speculative selling pressure prompted a more than \$10/bbl collapse in crude prices between late August and this past Tuesday," Commodity Context analyst Rory Johnston wrote in a note cited by Reuters.

However, the supply disruption in the US Gulf of Mexico and expectations that the Fed will later this week announce a long-awaited interest rate cut seems to have reversed sentiment, at least temporarily. This pushed Brent crude above \$73 per barrel earlier today, with West Texas Intermediate topping \$70

per barrel.

"Growing expectations of an aggressive rate cut boosted sentiment across the commodities complex," ANZ analysts said, as quoted by Reuters.

Crude oil prices have declined by about 14 percent since the start of the third quarter, mostly because of weaker-than-expected economic data from top importer China.

In June this year, the OPEC+ group of oil-producing nations agreed to extend their production cuts in a bid to support prices, as economic and geopolitical uncertainty looms over the market.

The 12-member oil cartel and its 10 allies decided to "extend the level of overall crude oil production... starting 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025," a statement by the alliance said.

In addition, eight countries said they would also extend voluntary supply cuts made at Riyadh's request to further support the market: Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman.

Some of those cuts will run until September before being phased out, while others will be kept in place until December 2025.

The decisions came after the biannual meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by Saudi Arabia, and its 10 partners, headed by Russia.

OPEC and its partners from Central Asia and Russia earlier this month delayed a rollback in production cuts agreed in 2023 to stem the decline in oil prices.

This means OPEC+ will produce 2.2 million fewer barrels per day than before the cuts until at least December. Some Big Oil majors may not be happy about it.

National debt stock declines due to eased external shocks

By Guardian Reporter

The national debt stock recorded a monthly decrease of 1.4 percent, reaching US\$41,844.1 million at the end of July 2024.

According to Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for August, the decline was largely associated with a decline in the external debt stock, constituting 70.9 percent of the total national debt.

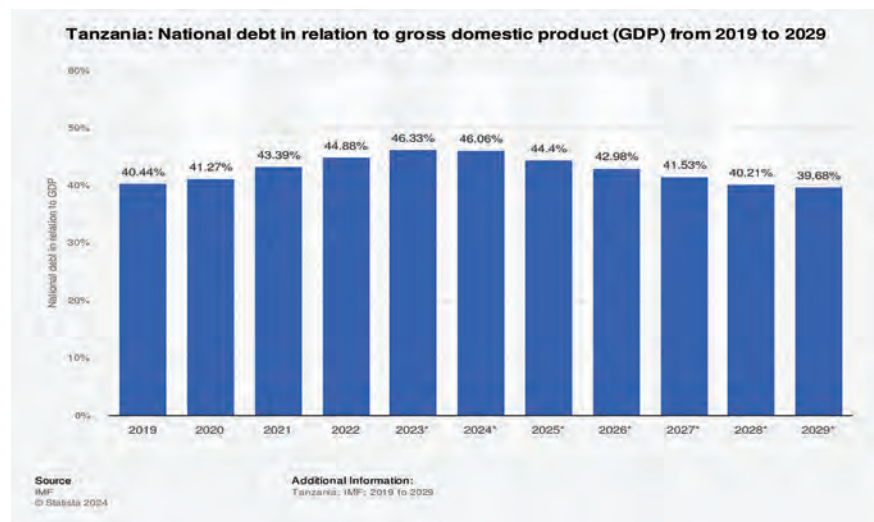
The external debt stock was US\$29,685.1 million at the end of July 2024, which is 1.9 percent, lower than the stock recorded at the end of the preceding month.

The decline was attributed to a decline in private sector external debt.

External loans disbursed in July 2024 amounted to US\$87.0 million, primarily to the central government. During the month, external debt service totalled US\$45.3 million, of which US\$34.2 million was for principal repayment, and the remainder was for interest payments.

External debt owed to the central government continued to account for the largest share of the external debt stock, at 83.2 percent.

The composition of the external debt stock by creditor category re-



mained unchanged from the previous month and the corresponding period in 2023, with multilateral institutions continuing to dominate the portfolio.

Tabling the 2024/25 budget to the parliament in June, finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the Debt Sustainability Assessment (DSA) conducted in December 2023, all external debt burden indicators continue to remain below the established thresholds in the baseline, affirming the sustainability of Tanzania's debt in the medium and long term.

The findings of the 2023 DSA reveal that the present value (PV) of both external public debt to GDP (18.4 percent) and public debt to GDP (33.3 percent) ratios remain below the threshold of 40 percent and 55 percent respective-

ly in 2023/24.

"This positive outcome is attributed to a stable macroeconomic outlook, supported by conducive government policies, and an efficient debt management strategy," he said.

The minister added that as at March 2024, the national debt amounted to 91trn/- of which 60.95trn/- was external debt and 30.7trn/- was domestic debt, which was an increase of 19trn/- since the sixth phase government took power in 2021.

The BoT review further says, transportation and telecommunications economic activities also continued to hold the largest portion of the disbursed outstanding external debt, followed by social welfare and education.

The outstanding external debt maintained its currency composition,

with the US dollar holding the largest share at 66.8 percent.

Domestic debt stock was 32,465.1bn/- at the end of July 2024, an increase of 526.9bn/- from the previous month's position, largely attributed to increased utilization of the overdraft facility.

Treasury bonds continued to account for the largest share of the debt stock, at 76.7 percent, while commercial banks and social security schemes remained the leading creditors to the government.

During the month under review, the Government secured 372.1bn/- from the domestic market to fund the budget, of which 230.1bn/- was through Treasury bonds and 142bn/- billion was through Treasury bills.

Domestic debt service payments during

the month amounted to 250.4bn/-, consisting of 32.5bn/- in principal repayments and 217.9bn/- in interest payments.

The outstanding domestic debt of selected State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) was 76bn/- at the end of July 2024, an increase of 2.7bn/- from the position recorded at the end of the previous month.

The primary contributor was the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA), whose debt grew by 2.8bn/-.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Tanzania's Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) indicates that its risk of external debt distress remains moderate.

"Continued lingering effects of the spillovers from the war in Ukraine have marginally weakened Tanzania's ability to service its external debt," says IMF.

"To maintain current fiscal and debt sustainability, in line with the IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) objectives, the authorities should improve revenue mobilization and public investment management, including by selecting only investment projects with clear socioeconomic payoffs. Building resilience to climate change is also important to preserve debt sustainability amid climate change effects."

Malawi seeks to import maize from Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

Malawi is seeking to import maize from Tanzania, to ease increasing commodity prices, as the southern African country still facing the constrained supply, the AGRA food security monitor for August has said.

The report says Tanzania has a good harvest with an estimated 4 million tonnes of excess maize this year, which is equivalent to seven times of the projected import requirements for Malawi in 2024 and is enough to cover the region's overall deficit.

Malawi's retail maize prices exceeded those in Mozambique, Zambia, South Africa, and Tanzania when compared at the official exchange rate (K1,751/\$).

The weekly average price of maize rose from K792/kg in the last week of July to K797/kg in the final week of August.

This price disparity presents a strategic opportunity for the Malawian government, which faces challenges in replenishing its re-

serves from domestic sources, to explore importing maize from neighboring countries.

For more than a year, maize prices in Malawi have been much higher compared with other countries in the east and southern Africa (ESA) region.

Tanzania is the leading producer of non-genetically modified maize and exports to other countries in the region.

Since 2023, Tanzania has become an important source of maize exports to the region with bumper harvests due to above average rainfall.

Malawi is typically able to exceed its annual maize requirements of around 3.1 million tonnes, but the country had a poor harvest in 2023.

This has been linked to low fertiliser supplies and use in 2022, as delays in fertiliser procurement through Malawi's Affordable Input Programme added to the problem.

The government programme typically provides 250,000 tonnes

of fertiliser on a subsidised basis to 2.5 million households.

Some parts of Malawi were hit by Cyclone Freddy in March 2023, which affected 440,000 acres (178,061 hectares) of crops, about 10 percent of the overall crop production area.

The report shows that maize prices in the Eastern Africa region have remained stable when compared to the past month, except Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia, whose prices are increasing.

Uganda's prices have remained considerably low when compared to the past 1-12 months, with Tanzania remaining stable compared to the previous month and considerably lower compared to the past 6- and 12-months.

Kenya's prices have slightly increased compared to the previous month but remain lower than the past 12 months, despite the fact that Kenya remains the most expensive place (in USD terms) to source maize, rice, and beans from in the region.

Following the currency flotation by her Central Bank, Ethiopia's maize price in USD has halved making it competitive in the region.

On the other hand, South Sudan is experiencing the most rapid decrease in maize prices in the region compared to the previous month, although prices remain high compared to the past 3, 6, and 12 months.

In Southern Africa, the prices of grains in respective local currencies have started falling in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

However, these prices remain high in most countries compared to the past 3, 6, and 12 months due to macroeconomic challenges, the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy and the El Nino-induced drought.

In the Southern African countries hit by El Nino-induced droughts, many poor households are increasingly resorting to Crisis coping strategies such as minimizing number or size of food intake to meet their food needs.

Pangani women benefit from conservation grants

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Pangani

Women from four villages in Pangani District have recently benefited from performance-based grant incentives through the Fund for Sea Care (MKUBA), following their efforts to conserve marine environments and resources.

Along with these incentives, they have also undergone capacity assessments and participated in training workshops focused on local fisheries management.

These developments were revealed after Mwambao Coastal Community Network Tanzania met with experts from the Pangani District Council in a meeting to discuss the achievements of the

ECOFISH-LVFO project.

The project is being implemented in four coastal villages in Pangani district, Tanga region.

The ECOFISH-LVFO project aims to promote the sustainable management and efficient use of marine resources.

It seeks to establish policies and frameworks that protect these assets and encourage responsible fishing practices.

According to Tumaini Jackson, ECOFISH Conservation Project Officer, Pangani's coastline holds significant ecological value, rich with marine life.

This is why the project targeted four specific villages—Sange, Stahabu, Kipumbwi, and Ushongo—that have previous experience in implementing the Beach Management



Pangani coastline is of significant ecological value, rich in marine life.

Unit (BMU) project.

Jackson explained that key activities during the project's

implementation included collaborative efforts in sustainable marine resource manage-

ment and protection of beach ecosystems.

The four villages benefited

from various trainings, including community awareness on coastline conservation, participatory marketing development workshops, policy and regulation reviews, and the introduction of community conservation-linked loans under the MKUBA initiative.

One notable achievement was the training on constructing artificial reefs, with 99 artificial reefs deployed in Ushongo Village alone to further conserve marine life.

"The project has had positive outcomes for the communities, particularly increasing women's participation in marine resource management and developing local plans for reef closures, including octopus and other species," said Jackson. "We have also

introduced the MKUBA fund, a women-focused loan initiative."

MKUBA, a performance-based grant program, offers small business training and mentorship to help communities establish and manage revolving loan funds that incorporate environmental conservation actions into the loan terms.

To access credit, members must engage in activities that support village by-laws and ecosystem restoration.

This fund provides crucial access to credit for small-scale producers who often struggle to secure financial services from banks or Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) due to their small loan sizes, high margins, and volatile income streams.

Tourism sector recovery increases Zanzibar's current account surplus

By Guardian Reporter

The Zanzibar current account surplus grew to US\$451.9 million during the year ending July 2024 from a surplus of USD 370.6 million in the corresponding period in 2023.

The Bank of Tanzania (BOT) reports that the improved performance of the isles current account was largely associated with an increase in service receipts, particularly tourism, accompanied by a decrease in imports.

Exports of goods and services reached US\$1,001.7 million during the year ending July 2024, up from US\$992.4 million in the corresponding period of 2023.

The increase was driven primarily by higher service receipts, notably from tourism, which rose by 17 percent to US\$941.7 million due to growth in tourist arrivals.

According to the Office of Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar's tourism sector in 2024 is experiencing robust growth, contributing significantly to the local economy.

By mid-2024, tourism revenues had increased by 12 percent, generating over \$1 billion in income and improving the island's current account surplus.

This growth is driven by a rise in tourist arrivals, which has positively impacted Zanzibar's service sector and bolstered exports of goods and services.

Additionally, the Zanzibar government has introduced various fiscal measures to further capitalize on this boom, including infrastructure levies on luxury tourists and taxes on marine transport.

In July 2024, data show Zanzibar received 68,223 tourists, marking a 16.2 percent increase compared to July 2023, when 58,711 visitors were recorded. Italy topped the list of countries with the most visitors, followed by France.

The tourism industry continues to play a crucial role in diversifying Zanzibar's economy, offsetting declines in traditional exports like cloves.



In July 2024, Zanzibar received 68,223 tourists, marking a 16.2 percent increase compared to July 2023. File Photo

The BoT report shows that value of clove exports decreased by 32.6 percent to US\$28.8 million compared to the previous year, reflecting the cyclical nature of the crop.

The considerable growth of exports was recorded on other exports, which include souvenirs and spices, after expending by 41.8 percent to US\$9.1 million at the end of July this year from US\$6.4 million during the end of July last year.

On a month-to-month basis, exports of goods and services grew to US\$91.0 million from US\$86.5 million in the corresponding month in July 2023, with

the growth attributed to higher tourism earnings.

Imports of goods and services declined by 10.7 percent, reaching US\$565.8 million in the year ending July 2024, compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

The decrease was observed in capital, intermediate, and consumer goods categories.

Imports of capital goods fell to US\$49.1 million from USD 67.7 million, largely due to the completion of major infrastructural projects.

Imports of intermediate goods de-

creased by 9.6 percent to US\$366.2 million, largely on account of reduced imports of industrial supplies, fuel and lubricants, and food and beverages for industrial use.

Consumer goods imports also declined by 6 percent to US\$577 million, mainly due to lower imports of food and beverages for household consumption and non-industrial transport equipment.

On a month-to-month basis, imports of goods (f.o.b) and services totalled US\$ 46.2 million, down from US\$73.7 million in July 2023.

Kenya begins fresh national debt auditing

NAIROBI

Kenya's auditor general has started to examine the country's debt to ascertain the amounts owed to various creditors, finance minister John Mbadi (pictured) said.

The East African nation's debt stands at 10.5tn shillings (\$81.7bn) but an audit of the borrowings was one of the key demands of anti-tax hike protesters that forced the government to abandon a number of planned tax increases in June.

In terms of debt-to-GDP ratio, Kenya's debt stands at roughly 65.4 percent of GDP, contributing to pressure on the government to stabilize public finances.

The audit has already started, Mbadi said, but did not provide further details regarding the focus of the investigation or when a report is expected to be ready.

The auditor general is a constitutionally mandated independent office that is funded by the state.

During the height of the protests, President William Ruto appointed a committee to perform the audit. However, several appointees, including the head of the Law Society of Kenya, declined the appointments, saying the task should be carried out by the auditor general.

During his parliamentary vetting for the post, Mbadi had promised to ensure there is more "debt accountability" to help the public better understand the issue.

More than 50 people were killed in the protests, which forced President Ruto to abandon the government's financing law.

It also led to a series of credit downgrades by the three main global ratings agencies.

A team from the International Monetary Fund is in the country on a fact-finding mission ahead of its board meeting to approve the latest review of Kenya's programme and approve a disbursement of \$600m.

Kenya has earlier set a three-year road map towards fully shifting its government financial transactions to a buildup basis of accounting, in a new financial reporting plan that promises to reduce the cost of foreign loans.

Tour operators concerned with inbound travel insurance

Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) recently engaged the Zanzibar Finance Minister, Dr Saada Mkuya, over mandatory inbound travel insurance proposed by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. In an interview with The Guardian Correspondent, the TATO chairman, WILBARD CHAMBULO, explains the dilemma facing tour operators over the proposed scheme.

On Friday last week, TATO organised a consultative meeting with Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning). What was the purpose of the meeting?

The Zanzibar government recently announced a new compulsory insurance policy for all visitors to the island. This policy costs \$44 for duration of 92 days, but it is only valid for the period of the visitor's stay.

The insurance was developed in partnership between Zanzibar Insurance Company (ZIC) and AXA, the leading French insurer.

What issues does this decision raise?

This decision raises several concerns. The insurance policy was introduced on a very short notice, providing no time for adequate discussion, consultation, or adjustment. This lack of preparation means tourists who planned their trips well in advance were not given reasonable notice.

Furthermore, many tourists are already covered by their own insurance policies, raising the issue of whether they will be reimbursed twice if a claim arises. The practice of refunding multiple policies for the same claim is generally not permitted, creating a moral dilemma and possible legal conflict.

Has the Zanzibar government understood these issues?

Answer: It appears that the Zanzibar government may not fully grasp these concerns. They might have introduced this insurance with the intention of enhancing tourist safety without considering the existing coverage many tourists already have.

I will therefore say that the proposed insurance is irrational be-

cause it is rate for tourists to travel without insurance.

The government's role should be to ensure that all visitors have insurance, not to dictate the price or the provider.

In your opinion, is AXA responsible for this situation?

Answer: Yes, AXA bears some responsibility. They proposed the insurance policy and have approached other countries, including Tanzania and Zambia, with similar offers. AXA is also aware of the high insurance coverage rates for tourists in Zanzibar and, therefore, has a moral obligation to avoid redundant policies.

Additionally, AXA Morocco has not implemented a similar system in Morocco despite the country's high tourist volume, raising questions about the necessity of the policy.

What advice would you give to Zanzibar's Minister of Finance?

I would advise the minister to consider the perspective of thousands of operators who promote Zanzibar. The new insurance is perceived as an unfair tax and negatively impacts on the image of Zan-



TATO chairman Wilbard Chambulo (standing) airs stakeholders concerns at the consultative meeting with Dr Saada Mkuya Salum (L), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

zibar and Tanzania Mainland as well.

We recommend that a month-long thorough study be carried out to assess the percentage of tourists already insured.

If the rate stands at over 90 percent, this policy could be seen as a forced selling, which undermines ethics of the insurance industry?

If the insurance is essentially a tax, it should be renamed appropriately—such as an eco-tax or educational tax—and provide a reasonable notice period for tourists.

By Guardian Correspondent, Makete

AS part of its efforts to boost healthcare service delivery, NMB Bank donated medical equipment including beds and bed sheets to the Iviliking Village Dispensary in Makete District, Njombe Region worth 9m/-.

Speaking during the handover ceremony held at the weekend, bank's Acting Manager for the Southern Highlands Zone, Willy Mponzi, reiterated the lender's commitment to supporting the development of the health sector adding that the bank through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) strategy allocates one percent of its Profit After Tax each year to support various development initiatives in its key priority areas.

"This donation in Makete today aligns with our CSI strategy. As a bank, we are committed to supporting the development of the health sector as we believe a healthy mind lives in a healthy body,

Healthcare services in Makete get new thrust



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Ambassador Dr Pindi Chana (2nd R) receives donation of medical equipment from NMB Bank's Acting Manager for the Southern Highlands Zone, Willy Mponzi (3rd L) over the weekend in Iviliking Village in Makete District, Njombe Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

We believe these medical supplies will go a long way in enhancing service delivery here," he stressed.

He added that the bank had initially contributed roofing materials worth 8m/- during the construction phase of the dispensary.

He noted that the bank has for several years been actively involved in supporting the education sector as well by providing desks and roofing materials as part of its commitment to support the sector's development.

"The bank through its

'closer to you' philosophy is committed to supporting various development initiatives in all areas where the bank operates," Mponzi added.

Award Mpanzila, Makete Development Association (MDA) secretary during the event expressed gratitude for NMB's support urging the bank to continue supporting development initiatives in the area.

Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ambassador Dr. Pindi Chana during the event echoed the same sentiments com-

mending the bank for supporting the government's development initiatives stressing that such efforts should be sustained.

Chief Physician of Iviliking Village Dispensary, Hassan Yusuph, noted that the bank's roofing material donation for the dispensary had come timely.

Makete District Commissioner Juma Sweda appealed to the bank to extend further support construction of the accommodation facility for the dispensary's staff.

Why Fed rate cuts matter to world markets

LONDON

When the Federal Reserve delivers a widely-anticipated interest rate cut on Wednesday, its first in four years, the move will resonate well beyond the United States.

The size of a first move and the scale of overall easing remains open to debate, while a looming US election is another complicating factor for global investors and ratesetters looking for a steer from the Fed and pinning hopes on an economic soft landing.

"We don't know yet what kind of cycle this is going to be - will it be like 1995 when there was just 75 bps of cuts or 2007-2008, when there was 500 bps," said Kenneth Broux, head of corporate research, FX and Rates at Societe Generale.

Here's a look at what is in focus for world markets:

Follow the leader

In spring, as US inflation proved stickier than expected, investors questioned how far others

such as the European Central Bank or the Bank of Canada could cut rates if the Fed stayed on hold this year before their currencies weakened too far, adding to price pressures.

US cut finally starting comforts regions facing weaker economies than the United States.

Traders added to bets for rate reductions by other central banks as Fed rate-cut expectations grew recently.

Yet they price fewer cuts in Europe than for the Fed, with the ECB and Bank of England sounding more vigilant around remaining inflation risks.

Confidence in Fed cuts starting is a boon for bond markets globally that often move in lock step with Treasuries.

US, German and British government bond yields are all set for their first quarterly fall since end-2023, when a Fed pivot was anticipated.

Breathing space

Lower US rates could give emerging market central banks more room for manoeuvre to ease themselves and support domestic growth.



US Federal Reserve

Around half of the sample of 18 emerging markets tracked by Reuters have already started cutting rates in this cycle, front-running the Fed, with easing efforts concentrated in Latin America and emerging Europe.

But volatility and uncertainty around the US Presidential election clouds the outlook.

"The US election will have a major bearing on this because, depending on various fiscal policies, it really complicates the cutting cycle," said Trang Nguyen, global head of EM credit strategy at BNP Paribas. "We

could see more idiosyncratic actions among central banks on the back of that."

Strong dollar

Those economies hoping US rates will weaken the robust dollar further, lifting their currencies, may be disappointed.

JPMorgan notes the dollar has strengthened after a first Fed cut in three out of the last four cycles.

The dollar outlook will be driven largely by where US rates are relative to others.

The safe-haven yen and Swiss

franc could see their respective discounts to US rates almost halve by end-2025, Reuters polls suggest, while sterling and the Australian dollar may only acquire a marginal yield advantage over the dollar.

Unless the dollar becomes a real low-yielder, it will continue to hold its appeal among non-US investors.

Asian economies, meanwhile, have led markets' front-running of US cuts, with South Korea's won, the Thai baht and Malaysian ringgit surging through July and August. China's yuan has wiped out year-to-date losses versus the greenback.

Rally on

A global equity rally, which faltered recently on growth fears, could resume if lower US rates boost economic activity and means recession is avoided.

World stocks tumbled more than 6 percent in three days in early August following weak US jobs data.

"You always have a wobbly market around the first cut because the market wonders why central banks are cutting," said Barclays head of European equity strategy Emmanuel Cau.

"If you have a cut without a recession, which is the mid-cycle script, usually the markets tend to go back up," Cau said, adding that the bank favoured sectors benefiting from lower rates, such as real estate and utilities.

A US soft landing should also play well in Asia, although the Nikkei has fallen more than 10% from July's record high on a rising yen and as Japan's rates rise.

Time to shine

In commodities, precious and base metals such

as copper should benefit from Fed rate cuts, and for the latter the demand outlook and a soft landing are key.

Lower rates and a weaker dollar, reducing not just the opportunity cost of holding metals but also of buying them for those using other currencies, could fuel momentum.

"High rates have been a critical headwind to base metals, driving a significant negative physical demand distortion from destocking and weighing on capital intensive end-demand segments," said MUFG's Ehsan Khoman.

Precious metals could also gain. Gold, which typically has a negative relationship with yields as most demand is for investment purposes, usually outperforms other metals during rate cuts. It is at record highs, but investors should be cautious, said the World Gold Council's John Reade.

"Speculators on the Comex gold futures markets are positioned for this," said market strategist Reade. "It could be a case of buying the rumour and selling the fact."

Foreigners to benefit from China's policy

BEIJING

China's move to open up its trade in services presents a wealth of opportunities for foreign companies, creating a ripple effect that could significantly benefit the global economy, a Pakistani expert has said.

"As China continues to dismantle barriers and streamline access to its vast and dynamic market, foreign firms are gaining unprecedented opportunities to tap into a country that is rapidly becoming a global hub for high-end services and digital innovation," Farhat Asif, president of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, told Xinhua.

By implementing a national-level negative list for cross-border trade in services, China has significantly lowered the barriers for foreign businesses to enter and operate within its market, Asif said, noting the policy has fostered a more competitive and dynamic environment, attracting a diverse range of international service providers.

With China's drive to integrate advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and satellite internet into its services sector, foreign firms specializing in these fields can find fertile ground for growth and collaboration, she noted.

Additionally, measures such as the expansion of the 72/144-hour visa-free transit policy and the implementation of visa-free agreements with several countries have further boosted tourism and travel-related services, the scholar added.

As a testament to China's commitment to opening up, Asif highlighted the recently-held 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) as a unique platform where countries and businesses can come together, exchange ideas, and forge new partnerships in a sector increasingly vital to global growth.

"Through CIFTIS, China showcases its capabilities while inviting other nations to engage in mutually beneficial cooperation," she said.

For Pakistan, a country keen to modernize its digital infrastructure and integrate more fully into the global digital economy, China's advancements in AI, big data, and e-commerce present a wealth of opportunities, said Asif.

Education and vocational training present another promising area for cooperation. "With China's growing expertise in knowledge-intensive services and Pakistan's young and dynamic population, there is immense potential for partnerships in education," the expert noted.

Tourism and cultural exchange also show significant potential for cooperation, she added, stressing that Pakistan could leverage China's ongoing opening-up of the tourism sector by showcasing its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty to Chinese tourists.

"By opening up its services trade, China is fostering a more interconnected and interdependent global market," Asif said, noting such opening-up measures not only promote the exchange of goods and services but also facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology.

"The resulting collaboration and competition can drive global innovation, enhance productivity, and ultimately contribute to a more balanced and resilient world economy," Asif said.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 14 Sept	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
6:40 Ai Jazeera	Watoto wetu
7:00 Habari	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
7:30 Habari	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
8:00 Ai Jazeera	11:45 Chetu ni chetu rpt
9:00 Watoto wetu	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:00 Hapa na Pale	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	13:20 Shamba lulu
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
12:50 Art and Lifestyle	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
13:20 Shamba lulu	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	18:00 Hapa na Pale
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00 Jungu kuu
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	19:30 Shika Bamba
18:00 Hapa na Pale	20:00 Habari
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma
19:00 Jungu kuu	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
19:30 Shika Bamba	Supa Min Jackpot
20:00 Habari	22:15 ITV Top 10
21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	00:30 Ai Jazeera
Supa Min Jackpot	
22:15 ITV Top 10	
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	
00:30 Ai Jazeera	
SUNDAY 15 Sept	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
6:40 Ai Jazeera	Watoto wetu
7:00 Habari	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
7:30 Habari	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
8:00 Ai Jazeera	11:45 Chetu ni chetu rpt
9:00 Watoto wetu	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	13:20 Shamba lulu
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
13:30 Usafiri Wako	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
13:30 Shikabamba	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
13:30 Shikabamba	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
13:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Hapa na Pale
14:00 Shikabamba	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
14:20 Igizo rpt: Haikufuma	19:00 Jungu kuu
14:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Shika Bamba
15:00 Meza huru	20:00 Habari
16:30 Watoto wetu	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma
17:00 Music: The Base	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
18:00 Hapa na Pale	Supa Jackpot
18:15 Maphishi	22:15 ITV Top 10
18:30 Sema na Mahakama	23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
19:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	
00:30 Ai Jazeera	
MONDAY 16 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	HABARI
7:30 HABARI	Watoto wetu
8:00 Ai Jazeera	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
TUESDAY 17 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 HABARI	Watoto wetu
6:40 Kumekucha	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
7:30 HABARI	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	11:45 Chetu ni chetu rpt
8:55 Habari za saa	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	13:20 Shamba lulu
9:55 Habari za saa	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
10:00 Watoto wetu	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
10:25 Jagina	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
10:55 Habari za saa	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	18:00 Hapa na Pale
11:55 Habari za saa	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
12:00 Ai Jazeera	19:00 Jungu kuu
12:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Shika Bamba
13:00 Sema na Mahakama	20:00 Habari
13:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	Supa Jackpot
22:00 Chetu ni chetu	22:15 ITV Top 10
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:00 Soap: Uzalo	00:30 Ai Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 18 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	HABARI
7:30 HABARI	Watoto wetu
8:00 Ai Jazeera	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
THURSDAY 19 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 HABARI	Watoto wetu
6:40 Kumekucha	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
7:30 HABARI	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	11:45 Chetu ni chetu rpt
8:55 Habari za saa	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:20 Shamba lulu
9:55 Habari za saa	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
10:00 Watoto wetu	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
10:25 Jagina	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
10:55 Habari za saa	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	18:00 Hapa na Pale
11:55 Habari za saa	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
12:00 Ai Jazeera	19:00 Jungu kuu
12:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Shika Bamba
13:00 Sema na Mahakama	20:00 Habari
13:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	Supa Jackpot
22:00 Chetu ni chetu	22:15 ITV Top 10
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:00 Soap: Uzalo	00:30 Ai Jazeera
FRIDAY 20 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 HABARI	Watoto wetu
6:40 Kumekucha	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
7:30 HABARI	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	11:45 Chetu ni chetu rpt
8:55 Habari za saa	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:20 Shamba lulu
9:55 Habari za saa	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
10:00 Watoto wetu	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
10:25 Jagina	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
10:55 Habari za saa	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	18:00 Hapa na Pale
11:55 Habari za saa	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
12:00 Ai Jazeera	19:00 Jungu kuu
12:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Shika Bamba
13:00 Sema na Mahakama	20:00 Habari
13:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	Supa Jackpot
22:00 Chetu ni chetu	22:15 ITV Top 10
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:00 Soap: Uzalo	00:30 Ai Jazeera
SATURDAY 21 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 HABARI	Watoto wetu
6:40 Kumekucha	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
7:30 HABARI	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	11:45 Chetu ni chetu rpt
8:55 Habari za saa	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:20 Shamba lulu
9:55 Habari za saa	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
10:00 Watoto wetu	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
10:25 Jagina	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma
10:55 Habari za saa	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	18:00 Hapa na Pale
11:55 Habari za saa	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
12:00 Ai Jazeera	19:00 Jungu kuu
12:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Shika Bamba
13:00 Sema na Mahakama	20:00 Habari
13:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	Supa Jackpot
22:00 Chetu ni chetu	22:15 ITV Top 10
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:00 Soap: Uzalo	00:30 Ai Jazeera
SUNDAY 22 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	HABARI
7:30 HABARI	Watoto wetu
8:00 Ai Jazeera	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
MONDAY 23 Sept	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	HABARI
7:30 HABARI	Watoto wetu
8:00 Ai Jazeera	10:05 Shika Bamba 5

9:00 Usafiri Wako	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	18:15 Maphishi	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma	01:00 Ai Jazeera	19:30 Our Earth	14:30 Ripoti Maalum
9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:30 Usafiri wako	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani		20:00 Décor rpt	15:00 Dk 45 rpt
10:00 Watoto wetu	6:00 HABARI	19:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA	18:00 Hapa na Pale		20:45 Telenovela: In Love With Ramon ep#61	16:00 Dw News Africa rpt
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	6:40 Kumekucha	19:30 Soap: Laws of love	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt		21:30 Capital Prime News	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
12:00 Ai Jazeera	7:30 HABARI	20:00 Habari	19:00 Jungu kuu		22:00 Jagina rpt	17:30 Meza huru
12:30 Jungu kuu	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	19:30 Shika Bamba		22:30 EcoAfrica	19:30 Ray
13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	8:55 Habari za saa	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	20:00 Habari		23:00 Ai Jazeera	19:00 Beyond the Narrative
13:40 Art and Lifestyle	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	22:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma			20:00 Abu Yako
14:20 Soap rpt: Haikufuma	9:30 Soap: Laws of love	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo			20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
15:00 S'Prog: Wiki ya Usalama	9:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt	22:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt			20:45 Telenovela: In Love With Ramon ep#64
Barabarani rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu	00:30 Ai Jazeera	23:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt			21:30 Capital Prime News
16:30 Watoto Wetu	10:30 Jungu kuu rpt		00:30 Ai Jazeera			22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
17:00 Music: The Base	10:55 Habari za saa					00:00 Ai Jazeera
18:00 Hapa na Pale	11:00 Mjuzi zaidi					
18:15 Maji Kilimanjaro	11:40 Maji Kilimanjaro					
18:30 DW: Afrimax	11:55 Habari za saa					
19:00 Aya ya Jamii	12:00 Ai Jazeera					
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	12:30 Bundesliga na DW					
20:00 HABARI	12:55 Habari za saa					
21:05 Dakika 45	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt					
22:00 Bundesliga na DW	13:55 Habari za saa					
22:15 Maphishi	14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt					
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	14:40 Maphishi					
23:00 Music: The Base	14:55 Habari za saa					
00:00 Ai Jazeera	15:00 Meza huru					
02:00 DWTV	16:30 Watoto wetu					
	17:00 Music: The Base					
	18:00 Hapa na Pale					
	18:15 Maphishi					
	18:30 Jarida la wanawake					
	19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT					
	19:30 Soap: Laws of love					
	20:00 Habari					
	21:05 Abuu Yako					
	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco					
	22:00 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco					
	22:30 Soap: Uzalo					
	23:00 Jiji Ietu					
	23:30 Music: The Base					
	00:30 Ai Jazeera					

18:30 Usafiri wako	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma	01:00 Ai Jazeera	19:30 Our Earth	14:30 Ripoti Maalum
19:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani		20:00 Décor rpt	15:00 Dk 45 rpt
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	18:00 Hapa na Pale			

WORLD

Suspect in Donald Trump assassination attempt may have lain in wait for 12 hours

WASHINGTON

A man suspected of hiding for nearly 12 hours in an apparent attempt to assassinate Donald Trump at his Florida golf course was charged with two gun-related crimes on Monday, a day after authorities say he was spotted in the bushes with a rifle as the former US president played nearby.

The suspect never had the Republican presidential candidate for the Nov 5 election in his line of sight and did not fire any shots. But the incident raised questions about how an armed man was able to get so close to Trump, just two months after another gunman grazed his ear with a bullet during a July 13 rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Trump's visit to his golf course in West Palm Beach was not on his public schedule, acting US Secret Service Director Ronald Rowe told reporters on Monday afternoon, and it was not clear whether the suspect knew Trump would be there.

The Secret Service opened fire after an agent sweeping the course saw a rifle barrel poking out of the bushes a few hundred yards away from the former president, who was on the fairway of the fifth hole.

"All of a sudden we heard shots being fired in the air. I guess probably four or five," Trump said during an event on X Spaces. "Secret Service knew immediately it was bullets, and they grabbed me. ... We got into the carts and we moved along pretty, pretty good. I was with an agent, and the agent did a fantastic job."

While praising the Secret Service

agents, he added: "We do need more people on my detail."

The gunman fled in a sports utility vehicle, according to court papers on Monday. Officers found a loaded assault-style rifle with a scope, a digital camera and a plastic bag of food left behind.

A suspect, identified on Monday as Ryan Routh, 58, was arrested about 40 minutes later driving north on Interstate 95. The license plate on his vehicle had been reported stolen from another car.

Records show a phone associated with Routh was located at the golf course starting at 1:59 am on Sunday morning, 11-1/2 hours before the incident.

The suspect was on the "public side" of a fence along the golf course's boundary, Rowe said.

Routh was the subject of a 2019 tip to the FBI alleging that he was a convicted felon who illegally possessed a firearm, Jeffrey Veltri, the agent in charge of the FBI's Miami field office, told reporters.

The complainant was unable to verify the information when the FBI investigated the tip, Veltri said.

Gun Charges

Routh made a brief appearance in federal court in West Palm Beach on Monday, where he was charged with possession of a firearm as a convicted felon and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. More charges could follow.

The defendant invoked his right to an attorney when investigators sought to question him, Rowe said.

In 2002, Routh pleaded guilty in North Carolina to possession of an un-



In this image released by the Martin County, Fla., Sheriff's Office, law enforcement officers arrest Ryan Routh, the man suspected in the apparent assassination attempt of Donald Trump, Sept 15, 2024. AP

registered fully automatic gun, defined in state law as a weapon of mass destruction, according to the county district attorney's office, and was sentenced to probation. He was also convicted of possessing stolen goods in 2010.

Trump's campaign schedule will remain unchanged, according to a source with knowledge of the matter.

Trump blamed President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate, for the apparent assassination attempt. He claimed the suspected gunman was acting on Democrats' "highly inflammatory language," though authorities have not yet offered evidence of any motive.

"Their rhetoric is causing me to be shot at, when I am the one who is going to save the country, and they are the ones that are destroying the country - both from the inside and out," he said, according to Fox.

Democrats including Biden have repeatedly called Trump a danger to democracy, citing among other things his refusal to acknowledge his 2020 election defeat, which inspired the Jan 6, 2021, assault on the US Capitol. Trump himself repeatedly uses incendiary rhetoric and false statements about his political opponents and, recently, Haitian immigrants.

Both Biden and Harris decried the incident, and Biden also spoke with Trump on Monday.

"President Biden just spoke with former president Trump, and conveyed his relief that he is safe. The two shared a cordial conversation and former President Trump expressed his thanks for the call," the White House said in a statement.

Trump, in a statement, called it a "very nice call."

Secret service under pressure

The Secret Service, which protects US presidents,

presidential candidates and other high-level dignitaries, has been under intense scrutiny since the earlier attempt on Trump's life.

That led to the resignation of Director Kimberly Cheatle. The service bolstered Trump's security detail following the July 13 attack, in which the gunman was shot dead by responding agents.

The agency "needs more help," including possibly more personnel, Biden told reporters on Monday, adding: "Thank God the president's OK."

House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson, who convened a bipartisan task force to investigate the first assassination attempt, told Fox News that Congress would also examine the latest incident, saying, "We need accountability."

Rowe, who took over after Cheatle's resignation in July, told Congress on July 30 he was "ashamed" of security lapses in the earlier attack.

Routh is a staunch supporter of Ukraine. Ukrainian officials distanced themselves from Routh on Monday, and The International Legion, where many foreign fighters in Ukraine serve, said it had no links with Routh.

Harris has promised unwavering support for Ukraine if elected.

Trump has expressed skepticism about the amount of aid the US has provided Ukraine.

Agencies

In case of deep strikes Russia to respond with more powerful weapons, says Duma speaker

MOSCOW

IN case of deep strikes against its cities Russia will respond with more powerful weapons, which are being kept ready, State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said.

"Today, the US does not hesitate to discuss the possibility of strikes on the

territory of Russia. What do such strikes imply? Satellite clusters belong to the United States and to NATO countries. Targeting and command execution will in this case be performed in conjunction with satellite clusters by NATO personnel. This means that NATO is being completely involved in this conflict," Volodin (pictured) said before the beginning of the fall session of parliament.

"This discussion can lead to the most terrible consequences. They are discussing strikes on our peaceful cities, and they are discussing this while thinking that it will not affect them. This is not so. We will retaliate. We have the means of retaliation. More powerful weapons are kept ready," he stressed.

According to Volodin, it is crucial for the parliaments of the United States and European countries to "understand and realize what can happen."

"[The incumbent United States President Joe] Biden, who is already gone, having quit the election race, [German Chancellor Olaf] Scholz, who has practically lost everywhere and his future as a politician is equal to nothing, and [France's President Emmanuel] Macron, whose citizens also did not support him, today may provoke a conflict that will entail irreversible consequences. We, for our part, must do everything to prevent this," Volodin said.

He added that Russian President Vladimir Putin "is doing everything to stop a nuclear catastrophe and stop a war that may escalate into a world war."

"I would like the politicians of European countries to understand where the leaders who do not have the support of their people are steering them," Volodin stated.

Agencies

EAM Jaishankar meets Minister for Financial Affairs of Denmark, discusses Green Strategic Partnership

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday said that he met Morten Bodskov, Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs of Denmark.

Jaishankar said that the two discussed about taking forward the Green Strategic Partnership.

In a post on X, he said, "Pleased to meet today Mr. Morten Bodskov, Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs of Denmark. Discussed taking forward our Green Strategic Partnership."

Earlier on September 16, Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi held a bilateral meeting with Danish Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs Morten Bodskov during the ongoing Re-Invest 2024 being held in Gandhinagar.

Minister Joshi said that India looks forward to leveraging Denmark's expertise and experience in the renewable sector. He also invited Danish companies to invest in India as it rises on the global renewable energy horizon.

"India has made substantial strides in expanding its renewable energy capacity, setting ambitious targets and creating an environment conducive to the sustainable development," Joshi said in his remarks.

At COP26 held in 2021, India committed to an ambitious five-part "Panchamrit" pledge. They included reaching 500 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity, generating half of all energy requirements from renewables, and reducing emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030. India as a whole also aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45 per cent. Finally, India commits to net-zero emissions by 2070.

India meets a sizable portion of its energy needs through fossil fuels, and various renewable energy sources, are seen as an avenue to reduce the dependence on conventional sources of power.

"The country has become a leading force in the solar and wind energy, positioning itself as a key contributor to the global clean energy transition. Our commitment to integrating the green energy solutions into India's growth strategy has not only propelled the nation forward but also demonstrated his dedication to combating the climate change and promoting environmental sustainability on the world stage," he added.

ANI

UK Foreign Secretary offends memory of fallen, accusing Russia of fascism – embassy

LONDON

BY comparing Russia to a fascist state British Foreign Secretary David Lammy offended the memory of all those who died fighting the plague of fascism in the 20th century, the Russian Embassy in London said in a commentary.

"The Embassy strongly rejects UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy's derogatory remarks articulated on September 15 during an interview with a British TV channel when he went so far as to accuse the leadership of the Russian Federation of "imperialist fascism"

David Lammy's remarks mainly offend not the leadership of our country but rather the memory of those who fought against the "brown plague" during World War II, including his own compatriots.

It is worth recalling that the ideology of "fascism," which relies on theories of racial superiority, is closely associated with the crimes of German Nazism. These are the very crimes that our people and the citizens of other former Soviet republics put a stop to through their unparalleled heroism," the Russian diplomats stressed.

The embassy said that it took note a long time ago of "propensity for inappropriate and provocative statements,"



of the Foreign Secretary who took office in July after the Labor Party's victory in the parliamentary elections. The embassy added that Lanny he had been known for such statements even

before assuming office.

"The Labor politician's fixation on indiscriminately labeling ideological opponents as "fascists" had previously bewildered many, including among

Britain's allies," the embassy said.

"However, holding the position of Foreign Secretary generally entails special responsibility and duty to adhere to standards of diplomatic ethics," the commentary says.

The British Foreign Secretary should have taken note that "Ukrainian militants, which London supports, funds and arms, are fighting under Nazi banners and with fascist chevrons, including in the Kursk region, something even The Times freely admits," the embassy says.

"As for accusations of "imperialism," they sound quite awkward coming from the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom that has a rich history and experience in this field. Overall, it seems that a cavalier approach to diplomatic language and interpretation of historical events is becoming a "trademark" of the head of the Foreign Office," the Russian embassy summed up.

In a 2018 interview with Time magazine, Lammy, who was not then part of the Labor shadow cabinet, called Trump "not only "woman-hating, neo-Nazi-sympathizing sociopath" but also "a profound threat to the international order."

Agencies

Kenya's pristine forest draws tourists to geothermal steam sauna

NAIROBI

AMOS Omondi, a resident of Nairobi, Kenya's capital, enjoys relaxing in urban saunas, surrounded by sleek, well-equipped spa facilities. Recently, however, Omondi has traded city luxuries for a more natural experience, venturing into the scenic depths of Eburru Forest, located in the resort town of Naivasha, about 100 kilometers northwest of Nairobi.

"This is better than the

sauna in the city because you get to enjoy the scenic views of the forest," Omondi told Xinhua.

He is among a growing number of visitors flocking to a hidden gem in Eburru Forest, a natural underground geothermal steam vent. To reach the site, visitors must descend a steep, rocky path, where steam rises from a crack in a rocky outcrop.

"There was a rupture in the rock where geothermal activity occurred, allowing steam

to escape at temperatures of up to 90 degrees Celsius," said Douglas Chege, a tour guide with over a decade of experience.

To counter the strong sulfuric smell common in geothermal sites, Chege employs a unique technique: squeezing mint leaves between the rocks, infusing the air with a refreshing, calming scent.

After spending 20 minutes in the sauna, Omondi emerged drenched in sweat. "I feel very refreshed. I wish

I could have stayed longer," he said as he climbed back up the rocks.

Eburru Forest, covering roughly 8,000 hectares (80 square kilometers), sits on the rolling foothills of Mount Eburru, an active volcanic mountain.

It is part of the larger Mau Forest, Kenya's largest water tower. Yet, the forest was not always as lush as it is today. In the late 1990s, uncontrolled logging and charcoal production nearly decimated it. The

Kenya Forest Service (KFS), in collaboration with the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, a conservation organization, launched restoration measures by installing a 43.4-kilometer electric fence to protect the forest and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

The initiative has been a success, with biodiversity steadily returning, according to Josephat Wagura, a KFS fence attendant. Wagura said that local communities have become key stakeholders in

conservation efforts, benefiting from activities such as honey harvesting and ecotourism.

"People used to fear farming or building permanent homes because of wildlife attacks," Wagura said. "Now, they live peacefully with the animals and in better homes." Eburru Forest is also a haven for bird watchers and home to several species, including the critically endangered mountain bongos, as well as leopards, giant forest hogs

and buffaloes. To access the natural sauna, visitors have to pay a small entry fee to KFS. "We have guests from Europe and America who come to enjoy the sauna.

They always return because it works wonders," Chege said. He also advised that visitors should have a guard accompany them to the sauna, as wild animals frequent the forest. Chege further urged sponsors to help set up changing rooms for added guest comfort.

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations held across the world

BEIJING

FROM beautiful lantern decorations to mooncake-making workshops and poetry and song performances, Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations are being held around the world, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to appreciate traditional Chinese culture.

The festival, celebrated annually on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar, falls on Sept. 17 this year. As one of China's most important traditional holidays, it is a joyous time when families come together, appreciate the full moon and share mooncakes, a traditional pastry, to mark the harvest season.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is "for many, an uplifting reminder of shared history and heritage, and for all of us, another way multiculturalism enriches our modern Australia," said Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in a video post published Tuesday on X, formerly Twitter. "I wish you all the best for this year's festivities."

In Myanmar, students staged cultural performances, including poem recitals, traditional music and quiz sessions, to celebrate the festival at the China Cultural Center in Yangon on Saturday. The event attracted nearly 150 attendees, including university students and local employees of Chinese enterprises.

"For this festival, I really enjoy mooncakes. The tea is great," said 15-year-old girl Htet Thiri Win, who captivated the audience with soft, melodic notes as she played the Chinese zither.



People do a jigsaw puzzle during a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration in Nairobi, Kenya, on Sept. 13, 2024. Africa Star Railway Operation Company (Afristar), the operator of Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), and the Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi, Kenya's oldest university, on Friday partnered to host the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival, one of China's most important traditional holidays. Xinhua

Tin Maung Tun, rector of the University of Yangon, said that both Myanmar and Chinese cultures deeply appreciate the full moon, which represents harmony, reunion and happiness. The event featured poetry recitations for the Chinese-language students in attendance.

Similarly, the China Cultural Center in Laos and the Faculty of Letters of the National University of Laos (NUOL) hosted a poetry event. NUOL Vice President Thongsouk Keomany said this event is a platform for Lao teachers and students to appreciate the friendly cooperation between Laos and China.

In New Zealand, the "Mid-Autumn Concert of Timeless Poetry" was held Saturday evening as part of the three-day Auckland Moon Festival, attracting around 700 people.

Eru Oneroa, a 23-year-old singer from Auckland, performed a song alongside Chinese children, earning enthusiastic applause. "I learned to sing in Mandarin in the last few weeks, and I am glad the audience liked my singing," he said.

Concert Director Liu Luxuan believed that the performances showcased the essence of Chinese culture through music and stage arts and conveyed China's confi-

dence and innovative spirit to the world.

In Kenya, Africa Star Railway Operation Company (Afristar), the operator of the country's Standard Gauge Railway, and the Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi co-hosted Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations last week.

Wang Xinyu, a lecturer at the Confucius Institute, said the event was organized to promote cultural integration between the two countries. "Through sharing cultural festivals, China and Kenya will enhance understanding of each other."

Nelson Asienwa, head of corporate and culture at Afristar, said Kenyans are becoming more aware of Chinese festivals due to deeper commercial and cultural ties between the two countries.

Asienwa added that Kenyans enjoy celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival because it centers on giving thanks for harvests collected by farmers, which is also a common practice among African communities.

In Hungary, the Mid-Autumn Festival has grown beyond a cultural festival for the Chinese community, attracting curious locals to experience and understand the beauty of Chinese traditions.

Despite heavy rainfall and a sudden drop in temperature over the past weekend, the festivities drew over 400 attendees, a turnout that even surprised event organizers.

Jin Hao, director of the China Cultural Center in Budapest, reflected on the day's success: "I didn't expect so many Hungarian friends to join us... We hope to share this spirit of connection and good wishes with our Hungarian friends through this event."

Xinhua

'Goal is to raise awareness about importance of patient safety in healthcare systems'

NEW DELHI

WORLD Patient Safety Day, marked annually on September 17, was established by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2019, following the adoption of resolution WHA72.6 by the World Health Assembly. The resolution stresses the global importance of patient safety and calls for action to reduce harm in healthcare settings.

Patient safety refers to preventing and reducing risks, errors, and harm that patients may experience during healthcare provision. The resolution was a response to the alarming rate of avoidable medical errors and patient harm worldwide. The goal of World Patient Safety Day is to raise awareness about the importance of patient safety in healthcare systems worldwide.

According to WHO's official statement, the theme for this year's World Patient Safety Day is centered on enhancing diagnosis for patient safety, under the slogan "Get it right, make it safe!"

"On this day, we join patients and their families, healthcare professionals, leaders, policymakers, and civil society in highlighting the crucial importance of accurate and timely diagnosis in promoting patient safety," the WHO said in a statement.

A diagnosis is fundamental to identifying a patient's health condition, and achieving an accurate diagnosis requires collaboration between patients and their healthcare teams. The diagnostic process is often complex and lengthy, and errors can occur at any stage, often with severe consequences. Delayed, incorrect, or missed diagnoses can prolong illness and, in some cases, lead to disability or even death.

"Findings from the Global Member State survey to assess the implementation of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 indicated that only 47% of countries are addressing diagnostic safety. However, I am pleased to say that our Member States have been notably more proactive in addressing diagnostic safety compared to other regions," Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for Southeast Asia, stated.

"Understanding the diagnostic process is essential for reducing errors. This process consists of multiple iterative steps, including the patient's initial presentation, history taking and examination, diagnostic testing, discussion and communication of results, collaboration and coordination, final diagnosis and treatment plan, and follow-up and re-evaluation. Errors can occur at any stage of this process," she added. ANI

CAIRO

ARAB League (AL) Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit warned on Monday that Western "tolerance" for the ongoing Gaza conflict could severely impact Middle East stability.

Aboul-Gheit made the remarks during a meeting with Tor Wennesland, the United Nations special coordinator for the Middle East

Western 'tolerance' on Gaza conflict harms regional stability, says Arab League chief

Peace Process in Cairo, according to an AL statement. The officials discussed Gaza and West Bank developments, focusing on the conflict's regional impact and potential escalation on the Lebanon front.

They agreed on the need for humanitarian efforts alongside a political process addressing the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. The meeting also discussed the future diplomatic steps to move the two-state solution

from the framework of "rhetoric and intentions to the field of action and implementation."

Aboul-Gheit stressed that political work must continue on all fronts, especially in the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct. 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and about 250 kidnapped. The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip has risen to 41,226, Gaza-based health authorities said in a statement on Monday.

Continuous tight monetary policy urged to cement disinflation results in Türkiye

ANKARA

EASING monetary policy right now is premature as it may hinder disinflation efforts that have yielded successful results in Türkiye, said analysts as Türkiye's central bank is expected to announce the next rate decision this Thursday.

Türkiye has been struggling with rising inflation and one of the worst cost-of-living crises of its history. Since June 2023, the central bank has raised its key interest rate from 8.5 percent to 50 percent, tightening monetary policy.

The country's annual inflation rate moderated to 51.97 percent in August, marking its lowest yearly level. The figure, released by official data in early September, came in slightly below market expectations.

"Annual inflation is expected to drop below 50 percent in September," Turkish Treasury and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek said Friday.

In July, Moody's Ratings upgraded Ankara's sovereign credit rating, the first of its kind in over a decade, citing improvements in



People shop at a local market in Ankara, Türkiye, on Sept. 16, 2024. Easing monetary policy right now is premature as it may hinder disinflation efforts that have yielded successful results in Türkiye, said analysts as Türkiye's central bank is expected to announce the next rate decision this Thursday. (Xinhua)

governance and economic policies. S&P Global Ratings also lifted Türkiye's rating.

Fitch Ratings upgraded Türkiye's rating last week, the second upgrade this year, citing successful disinflation efforts and policies to narrow the current account deficit.

Türkiye needs to maintain a tight monetary policy to improve inflation expectations even after a potential easing cycle, Arispe Morales, senior director at Fitch Ratings, told the semi-official Anadolu Agency following the upgrade.

Although the Turkish central bank has

indicated that it does not favor a rate cut this year, a deepening cost-of-living crisis in the country out of tight monetary policies coupled with austerity measures might put the bank under great pressure to start easing in the short term, noted Atilla Yesilada, country advisor at business management consultancy Global Source Partners.

However, Yesilada stressed that "authorities have to maintain the tight policy for some time to obtain further concrete results in the fight against inflation."

An early rate cut could worsen inflation

as it is cooling and fueling a run for hard currencies, Yesilada told Xinhua.

Türkiye's economic growth slowed to 2.5 percent in the second quarter from 5.3 percent in the first quarter this year, according to official data released last week.

Meanwhile, recent data from the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye showed that 15,000 companies in the country have closed so far in 2024, up 28 percent from last year.

"Inflation has proven to be stubborn, and as a result, there will be consequences in terms of employment and growth," noted Istanbul-based economist Mustafa Sonmez.

Still, the government has no other option but to continue with tight monetary and fiscal policies to control inflation for the foreseeable future, Sonmez said, adding that domestic demand needs to weaken further, and so policy will need to be kept tight for a longer time.

"Even though year-on-year inflation has dropped significantly compared to last year, Turkish inflation is still high, in fact, one of the highest in the world," said Sonmez.

In early September, the Turkish government raised its expected inflation rate for 2024 from 33 percent to 41.5 percent.

More financial difficulties await low and middle-income households in 2025 due to the ongoing implementation of austerity measures, said Sonmez.

African Union organ concerned about unconstitutional change in governments

JOHANNESBURG

THE Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the legislative body of the African Union (AU), is deeply concerned about unconstitutional changes of government and conflicts in various parts of the African continent, Fortune Charumbira, president of the PAP, said on Monday.

Charumbira made the remarks in Johannesburg, South Africa, during the plenary session for the sitting of the permanent committees and other organs of parliament.

"The situation in the Eastern Africa region remains volatile, characterized by the devastating war in Sudan, the elongated transition in South Sudan, stabilization, and state-building efforts in Somalia, and transnational organized crime including human trafficking," said Charumbira, adding that the West African Region has been characterized by unconstitutional changes of government in Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, and growing insecurity, resulting from the activities of terrorism and violent extremism within the Sahel region.

He said Southern Africa is generally calm except for the situation in Cabo Delgado in Mozambique, and the North Africa region is also calm except for the continuing

transition in Libya.

Charumbira expressed concern over the "security and political challenges" in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly the presence of armed groups, hostile entities, and mercenaries, notably around the Great Lakes.

"It is imperative for the PAP, as the supreme continental representative institution, to leverage parliamentary diplomacy to find durable solutions to the conflicts riddling the continent."

The parliament has a sacred responsibility to protect the lives and human rights of the people we represent who bear the brunt of the conflicts across Africa," Charumbira said.

Charumbira said the African continent is increasingly experiencing severe weather events, including droughts, floods, and heat waves, which threaten agriculture, water resources, and overall livelihoods.

He urged African countries to invest in renewable energy, enhance climate resilience, adopt innovative solutions, and foster regional cooperation.

The PAP is an African parliament comprising about 250 members of parliaments from different African countries, with each country having five in the AU organ.

Xinhua

India, Germany launch joint platform to boost global renewable energy investments

GANDHINAGAR

INDIA And Germany on Monday launched a joint platform for accelerating investments in renewable energy both in India and globally.

The announcement was made during India's flagship renewable energy event, the three-day Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors' Meet & Expo, currently being held in Gandhinagar.

The new platform -- India-Germany Platform for Investments in Renewable Energies Worldwide

-- is a key initiative under the joint "Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP)" between the two

nations, aimed at significantly accelerating investments in renewable energy both in India and globally.

Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Svenja Schulze, highlighted the importance of this collaboration, stating, "Today, Germany and India joined forces to launch the India-Germany Platform for Investments in Renewable Energies Worldwide. With this collaboration, we will push forward concrete solutions and partnerships for the expansion of renewable energies in India. And we will seek and open up new financing channels. All to support India in reaching the 500-gigawatt

target by 2030. All to slow down climate change and to diversify supply chains for renewable energy."

Schulze further elaborated on the key elements of the platform, stating, "We will work together to support researchers in achieving technological advances and innovations. We will work together to promote women in the renewable energy sector in India - as an important element for a just and fair transition. And we will work together to provide renewable energy producers with easier access to affordable financing."

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Prahlad Joshi, emphasised the sig-

nificance of this partnership, saying, "It is a landmark initiative that we proudly unveiled today. Taking forward the momentum of RE-INVEST 2024, this is the first time that we both (India and Germany) have created dedicated investment mechanisms for enabling renewable energy initiatives."

He added, "India and Germany have a long-standing history of cooperation in mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for sustainable work. Germany has been our trusted partner in India's renewable energy journey, bringing expertise in cutting-edge technologies and a strong commitment to clean

energy development."

The India-Germany platform aims to develop sustainable solutions for the rapid expansion of renewable energy, the German embassy said in a statement.

It will foster business opportunities, attract investments, support technology transfer, and drive innovation. As per the statement, the platform is expected to help India achieve its ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

The platform will also contribute to expanding renewable energy capabilities worldwide, ensuring the development of integrated, diversified, and resilient supply

chains to reduce reliance on unilateral energy sources.

The platform seeks to facilitate global supply chains that can meet both Indian and global demands, improve access to affordable finance, and support cutting-edge technological advancements in the renewable energy sector, the statement mentioned.

Co-led by India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the platform will bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including national and international investors, governments, business associations, and multilateral development

banks.

A Steering Committee, chaired by senior officials from both countries, will oversee the platform's progress, monitor results, and propose new projects in line with global renewable energy goals.

This initiative builds on the experience of the Indo-German Energy Forum, broadening its scope to include international stakeholders in a coordinated effort to triple renewable energy capacity globally. The platform will also be linked to India's biannual RE-INVEST conferences, creating a lasting institutional framework to support renewable energy investment and innovation. ANI



Sean 'Diddy' Combs arrested in New York City

By Christal Hayes

EMBATTLED hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs has been arrested in New York City on unspecified federal charges, prosecutors say.

The arrest in Manhattan follows raids on two of his properties in Los Angeles and Miami in March as part of an "ongoing investigation" into sex trafficking.

Mr Combs's lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, said they were "disappointed with the decision to pursue what we believe is an unjust prosecution". He said his client was an "innocent man".

The musician has faced a series of allegations from sexual assault to abuse, including by his ex-partner Casandra "Cassie" Ventura. He has denied all the claims against him.

His arrest was made in connection with an ongoing investigation by US homeland security officials, multiple law enforcement sources told the BBC's US partner CBS News.

US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams confirmed the arrest in a statement on Monday night.

"Earlier this evening, federal agents arrested Sean Combs, based on a sealed indictment filed by the SDNY," the prosecutor said.

He said the office plans to unseal the indictment on Tuesday morning and we "will have more to say at that time".

Combs (pictured) faces a number of civil lawsuits, including allegations that he raped an underage girl and tried to "groom" a producer and force him to have sex with another man.

His lawyer said on Monday night that Mr Combs was looking forward to "clearing his name in court".

"We are disappointed with the decision to pursue what we believe is an unjust prosecution," Mr Agnifilo said in a written statement to the BBC.

"Sean 'Diddy' Combs is a music icon, self-made entrepreneur, loving family

man, and proven philanthropist who has spent the last 30 years building an empire, adoring his children, and working to uplift the black community."

The rapper's legal problems began in November 2023 when Ms Ventura filed her lawsuit.

Two other women filed lawsuits that same week alleging abuse and assault - including one who said Mr Combs had choked her for so long that she passed out.

He denied all the allegations at the time and a spokesperson for the rapper called the lawsuits a "money grab".

Then in December, another civil lawsuit alleged a woman had been "sex trafficked" by Mr Combs and two other men when she was 17 years old.

In February this year, new accusations came to light in a civil lawsuit filed by his former producer Rodney Jones Jr, who said Mr Combs made unwanted sexual advances and tried to "groom" him into having sex with others.

Mr Combs denied the allegations but one month later, his properties were raided. The musician was stopped at an airport in Miami as he was preparing to leave for the Bahamas and handed over electronics to authorities.

Many of the lawsuits came shortly before the expiration of the New York Adult Survivors Act, which temporarily allowed people who said they were sexually abused to file claims, even after the statute of limitations had expired.

In May, CCTV footage posted by CNN appeared to show the rap mogul attacking and beating Ms Ventura, an episode that was chronicled in her civil suit.

Mr Combs - who has also gone by the names Puffy, Puff Daddy, P Diddy, Love, and Brother Love - is one of rap's most successful moguls.

BBC

Fikiri Elias steps down as Ken Gold FC struggle in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KEN Gold FC have announced the resignation of head coach Fikiri Elias following a difficult start to their debut season in the Premier League.

The club accepted Elias's decision after a series of disappointing results in their first few matches.

Elias (pictured) stepped down after Ken Gold suffered three consecutive defeats, including a 1-0 loss to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) on Monday afternoon.

The latest setback came after a 75th-minute free-kick by Redemtus Mussa, which dashed the club's hopes of securing their first points in the league.

Despite efforts to turn things around during the international break, with tactical changes and indoor friendlies, Ken Gold have struggled to find the back of the net in recent matches.

Their earlier defeats included a 3-1 loss to Singida Black Stars and a 2-1 defeat to Fountain Gate FC.

Elias had previously announced his intention to meet with the club's board to discuss his future, acknowledging that the team's performance had not met expectations.

He expressed doubts about whether he should continue in his role, noting the need for reflection on the team's struggles.

"Given the current results, I think as a coach I've strayed from my objectives. I'm considering stepping aside to evaluate whether I should continue or not. This is a challenge I've brought upon myself," Elias said before his resignation was confirmed.

The club has since reappointed former head coach Jumanne Chale as caretaker manager while they search for a permanent replacement.

Chale had previously led the team before Elias took over after Ken Gold's promotion to the Premier League.

Ken Gold's struggles this season have been compounded by their limited budget and reliance on homegrown players from Mbeya, many of whom lack top-tier experience.

Despite winning the Championship League title with 70 points last season, the team has struggled to adapt to the Premier League's demands.

Ken Gold are now one of two teams, along with Namungo FC, who have yet to secure a single point in the Premier League after three matches.

As the club looks to rebuild under new leadership, the pressure is on to improve results and avoid a disappointing return to the lower division.



Chen Mingjian, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania (right in red) pictured together with Neema Msitha, Secretary General of the National Sports Council (NSC), playing table tennis shortly after the launch of 2024 China-Tanzania table tennis tournament held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke.

Tanzania pledges to strengthen sports cooperation with China

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA has reaffirmed its commitment to deepening its sports cooperation with China during the third 'China-Tanzania Volleyball Tournament'.

The friendship competition, held over the weekend, highlighted the strong bond between the two nations, particularly in the sports sector.

Neema Msitha, Secretary General of the National Sports Council (NSC), emphasized Tanzania's dedication to preserving

and enhancing this partnership.

"We have a strong friendship and collaboration with China, particularly in sports. We are committed to maintaining and strengthening these ties," she stated.

Neema acknowledged China's support, particularly in providing equipment for table tennis, which has greatly promoted the sport in Tanzania and across Africa.

She highlighted the long-standing relationship established by Tanzania's founding

father, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, and China's Chairman Mao Zedong, which laid a solid foundation for bilateral friendship and solidarity.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, echoed these sentiments, noting that the tournament is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's initiative for 10 partnership actions to be implemented over the next three years.

These partnerships span various sectors, including trade, health, and development.

As both countries celebrate 60 years of diplomatic cooperation this year, the ambassador emphasized the significant achievements across multiple fields, including military cooperation, political ties, trade, and cultural exchange.

The tournament not only promotes friendship but also marks another milestone in the Tanzania-China relationship, with both nations looking forward to continued collaboration and shared development goals.

Barcelona forward trails only Haaland in goal contributions across major European leagues

Barca Universal

BARCELONA prodigy Lamine Yamal has been making waves this season with his remarkable performances so much so that in just five league games, the 17-year-old has scored three goals and provided four assists.

This puts him second only to Erling Haaland in terms of goal contributions across major European leagues, reports AS.

The Manchester City forward tops the list with nine goals, while Yamal is ahead of other top players like Harry Kane (4 goals, 2 assists), Robert Lewandowski (4 goals, 2 assists), Mohamed Salah (3 goals, 3 assists).

The list is continued by Ousmane Dembele (3 goals, 2 assists), Mason Greenwood (5 goals), Luis Henrique (3 goals, 2 assists), Andrej Kramaric (4 goals, 1 assist), and Raphinha (3 goals, 2 assists).

*Lamine Yamal - Remember the name

Despite his young age, Yamal has already established himself as one of the most influential players in the world.

He impressed everyone at the European Championship in Germany and his candidacy for the Ballon d'Or, highlight his growing reputation.

Furthermore, a prime example of his maturity was evident in the match against Girona. Initially, Yamal struggled with his dribbling, but he quickly recovered, scoring two goals with ease.

His celebrations were relaxed and confident, reflecting his comfort on the field. Although he could have added more to his tally, Yamal chose to assist his teammates, particularly Robert Lewandowski, who was close to scoring Barcelona's fifth goal.

With a long season ahead, Barcelona manager Hansi Flick has been mindful of managing the youngster's playing time to ensure he remains fit and focused.

The recent injury to Dani Olmo will add to the challenges of squad rotation, but Yamal and Flick are aware that maintaining peak physical and mental condition is crucial for sustained success throughout the season.

Nobody asks players about adding games - Alisson

BBC

LIVERPOOL goalkeeper Alisson Becker says players are not being listened to about workloads and warned that no-one in football is close to a solution to fixture congestion.

Liverpool face AC Milan on Tuesday in the Champions League, which from this season has an eight-game league phase and a potential two-legged play-off before the last 16.

Last season, Liverpool played 58 matches across all competitions.

Should the Reds reach the final of every competition they play in this campaign they would play 65 matches (excluding potential FA Cup replays and the Champions League play-off round).

"Sometimes nobody asks the players what they think about adding more games," said Alisson, 31. "Maybe our opinion doesn't matter, but everybody knows what we think about having more games. Everybody's tired of that."

On Monday, Manchester City defender Manuel Akanji joked he may have to retire at 30 because of relentless fixture schedules.

Former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has also long been a vocal critic of fixture congestion.

"We understand we have the side of the media and TV, we have the side from Uefa, from Fifa, from the Premier League and other domestic competitions," said Alisson.

"We are not stupid, we understand that. We understand that people want more games, but the reasonable thing would be for all these sides that I mention and the people who are responsible for making the calendar to sit together and to listen to all the parts, including the players."

Alisson, who played 42 matches for Liverpool and Brazil last season despite being out injured for more than two months, added: "So many players have spoken already about it, we just need to be listened to."

"If you are tired you cannot compete at a high level. What I want is to give my best in all the games I play."

"At the moment it doesn't look like we are close to a solution for football's sake and for the players' sake."

Liverpool manager Arne Slot said he could only judge the new Champions League format at the end of the season.

"The only thing I like about it just as someone who loves to see football is that on every night there is a nice fixture," he said.

"But how is it going to be with two extra games for the players? That's something we have to find out but I don't think anyone has the answer at the moment."

'Matter of time before Mbappe is Real Madrid's main man'

BBC

IT was the move of the summer.

After months of speculation, Kylian Mbappe joined Real Madrid on a free transfer after finishing his contract at Paris St-Germain.

He has signed a deal until 2029, earning £12.8m a season, plus a £128m signing-on bonus to be paid over five years, and he will keep a percentage of his image rights.

With the ink dry, one could be forgiven for thinking the only thing left for Mbappe to prove is that he is the finest player in the world at the biggest football club on the planet.

But things are never quite that simple as he prepares for his first Champions League match with his new club - Tuesday's home game against Stuttgart.

How will Mbappe fit into the European champions' line-up, whose star-studded attack already boasts Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo, Jude Bellingham and Brazil youngster Endrick?

While back in his native France, Mbappe is battling against his former club PSG over financial issues and facing mounting criticism from supporters of the national side.

*No sign of diva traits'

Real Madrid insiders have been surprised by the humility, attitude and absence of diva traits Mbappe has shown since his arrival - although it has not surprised those who know him best.

He has adapted well to whatever has been put in front of him, despite perhaps not having been so accommodating in the past.

As an 18-year-old at PSG under manager Unai Emery, he told the club not only that



Mbappé celebrates scoring from the penalty spot against Real Betis. Agencies

he had to play every game but also where he had to play, which most certainly was not as a number nine.

When Luis Enrique played him as a number nine he could not deal with it.

Now with Real Madrid he plays as a number nine, having fewer touches of the ball and being less involved.

Manager Carlo Ancelotti has given him licence to move as he wishes, but when he moves towards the left he ends up clashing with Vinicius, who has as great - if not greater - reluctance to play as a number nine as Mbappe.

But that is not Ancelotti's only problem.

Without the retired Toni Kroos in the line-up there is no fluidity to the football of Real Madrid. This makes it difficult for the forwards, who are not able to rely on the invaluable support of their team-mates as they have in the past.

With Vinicius not in the greatest form, Mbappe cut a frustrated figure in his first few matches for Madrid with his runs not being spotted by

those around him.

He has still scored four goals in six games, although two have come from the penalty spot. Initially he was not scoring as he would have liked, including going three games without a goal - but only a section of the media put him under pressure.

In big games Ancelotti will almost certainly play Vinicius, Mbappe and Rodrygo. But often, like Saturday's 2-0 win at Real Sociedad, it will be in a 4-4-2, so Vinicius and Mbappe can decide among themselves what to do and who goes where.

One problem Ancelotti most certainly has not got is Mbappe's attitude, which has been exemplary.

Someone at the club told me recently: "Do we really need to adapt Mbappe to the club? We don't need to because he is the best player in the world."

And they added that "the biggest surprise is how little of a superstar he assumes himself to be".

Speaking to journalists after scoring twice against Real Betis, Mbappe said: "It is me who

has to adapt. When a player like me arrives, many things change and it would be crazy if I didn't think so and overcome that."

*Mbappe knows he must be patient'

In their 2-0 win against Real Betis at the start of the month, Vinicius gave way to Mbappe on penalty-taking duties. Against Real Sociedad they took one each.

Ancelotti has said the players can sort it out between themselves, and Mbappe is happy with that because he believes he is at a club which will reinforce his value and skills.

He believes he must remain patient and that he will eventually take all the penalties and Vinicius will adapt to him.

Mbappe realises there is currently a protocol he has to accept. He is convinced the team will work around his immense talent soon enough, though.

Nothing leaks out of the Real Madrid dressing room without the blessing of the club's powers that be.

And suddenly we are beginning to see a trickle of stories emerge, criticising the attitude of Vinicius and his constant battles on so many fronts.

The message is clear that, as far as the club is concerned, if anyone had to leave it would be Vinicius - albeit for a huge sum of money.

There are other consequences to the arrival of Mbappe.

It has left Rodrygo feeling a little pushed aside, on and off the pitch. Real are also going to have to identify what role Bellingham will play in this environment on his imminent return from injury.

Commercially, Mbappe is everywhere. He has kept 80% of his commercial rights, although that figure varies ac-

ording to which part of the world the club are looking to sell their products to.

Last weekend's match against Real Sociedad was the first of seven games they face in 21 days - five in La Liga and two in the Champions League.

What we saw was a fresh Mbappe - although clearly not at his peak. He moved all over the front line, made more runs with the ball than in any other game, dropped deeper and was more involved.

Vinicius and Mbappe did not pass to each other much in the first matches of the season, but it was the biggest connection on the pitch at the weekend.

And - as far as the club are concerned - while it might take a little longer to put Mbappe in the category of best in the world, everyone believes it is only a matter of time before he becomes the main star at the world's biggest club.

There are currently two Kylian Mbappes in circulation.

One aiming to establish himself in Madrid, and the other still battling his former club Paris St-Germain, following an acrimonious divorce and struggling to maintain the respect of the France national team he has represented with such distinction.

It would be disingenuous to imagine his problems with PSG and France are not in some way linked.

Things came to a head recently when France were convincingly beaten at home in a Nations League match against Italy.

After the 3-1 defeat, France goalkeeper Mike Maignan launched a blistering attack against the whole team, including, without naming any names, the so-called stars (Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann) who averted their gaze as he lambasted them for a lack of desire and aggression.

L'Equipe, an organisation about as powerful as sports media can be in France, has suggested Mbappe is currently disconnected from the France team.

Arsenal laughing at Haaland brilliance as Manchester City clash looms large

LONDON

IT wasn't pretty but Arsenal's resolute 1-0 win away at bitter rivals Tottenham once again proved they have absolutely everything in place to push Manchester City all the way for the Premier League title.

There is now undisputed steel to their silky swagger and their depleted squad stepped up to kick off a massive week.

Next up in the Premier League for injury-hit Arsenal is a trip to Manchester City on Sunday in a mouthwatering clash between the title rivals who sit first and second in the table heading into the weekend.

Speaking to reporters after the win at Spurs, captain for the day Jorginho was asked if Arsenal's players are keeping a close eye on City demolishing teams to start the season and Erling Haaland scoring nine goals from his first four games?

"Erling scoring again, it is starting to make us laugh!" Jorginho said, laughing, probably out of respect and a little bit of fear. "We look [at City's games] because we look at all the games and we love football.

We love the Premier League so we watch all the games to be fair. We watch them as well, which is normal. Again it doesn't get to our head. We need to focus on us and that is what we are trying to do."

*Arsenal's squad players step up, pragmatic Plan B being perfected

With key players missing for the derby win at Spurs -- Declan Rice, Martin Odegaard, Riccardo Calafiori and Mikel Merino to name four -- Arsenal changed their style of play as they accepted they would have less possession and instead launched counters.

Players put their egos aside, sat deep to defend and did all of the dirty things to get a gutsy away win.

Jorginho lauded his teammates for stepping up when so many key players were missing and called for them to keep putting the team first.

"We know it is a long season and anything can happen," Jorginho said. "Everybody needs to be ready. That is what we try to do. We are very positive and trust our group and what we are doing. We need to keep

on this way."

Switching up their style of play to be more defensive and pragmatic in certain situations is a blueprint they've been developing for some time and perhaps it's best remembered for their stodgy, ultra-defensive display at Man City last season as they drew 0-0 at the Etihad.

We know Arsenal are capable of tearing your apart with wonderful flowing football but they have now improved in pretty much every aspect of the game and can beat you another way.

*Have Arsenal improved since last season?

Is the mental side of the game, to dig in and grind out a result while not being able to play at your free-flowing best, something that Jorginho believes Arsenal have improved since last season?

"I think so. I think the team is

working together, going through the process together," Jorginho explained. "You learn more about each other. You just get better because everyone wants to improve and wants the best for the team. We you put the team in first place I think just good things can happen."

Given that Arsenal go to Manchester City two points behind them in the table already (City have started with four wins from four) Jorginho was asked about the mentality of basically having to win every game to stay in touch with the team which has won four-straight Premier League titles.

"Yeah, if you want to achieve big things you need to have the mentality of trying to win every single game," Jorginho said. "That is what we need to do and that is what we want to do. That is what we are trying to do... You need to keep in this way. Keep believing

in what you are doing. We are believing in what we are doing and we keep working hard to improve on what we need to improve and keep doing right the things we are doing right. I think we are on the right way and we need to keep it going."

*Arsenal are truly up for the fight

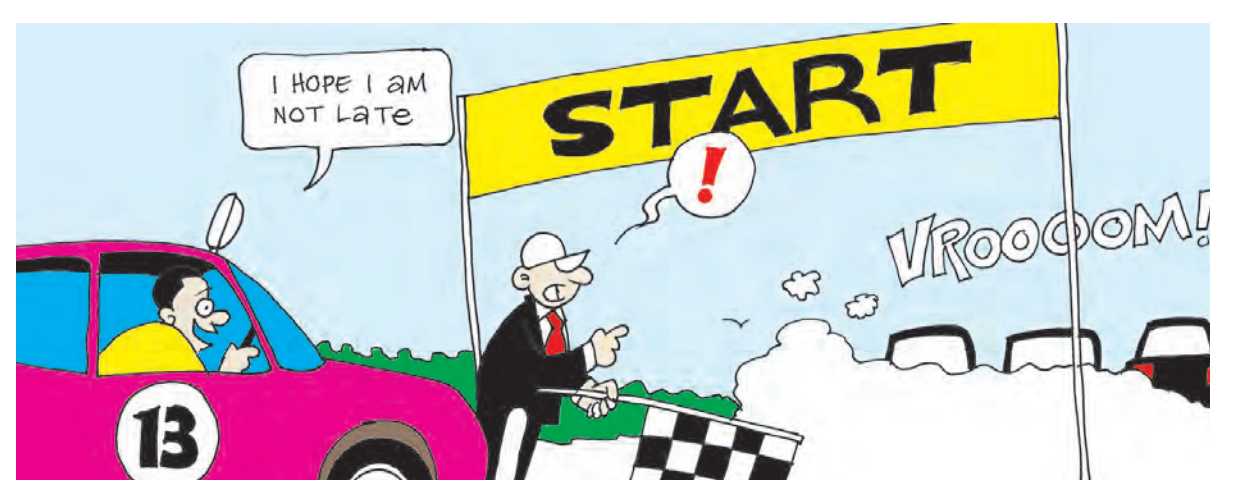
Before their trip to Man City, Arsenal's stretched squad have the not-so-small matter of heading to dangerous Serie A side Atalanta on Thursday to kick off their Champions League game.

"It will be a really tough and physical game. They are a very physical team. It is not going to be easy, for sure. A hot atmosphere in Italy. We need to be ready for another battle," Jorginho said.

For many years we would have questioned if Arsenal were up for the battle. Not anymore.

NBC Sports

Gwiji by David Chikoko



'Matter of time before Mbappe is Real Madrid's main man'

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Tanzania's cricketers ready for 2026 ICC Men's T20 WC Sub Regional Africa Qualifier



Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro (L) is pictured handing over the national flag to Tanzania's men's cricket team skipper Abhik Patwa at an occasion in Dar es Salaam last week. The team would feature in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A from September 21-26 in the city. PHOTO: TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA's senior men's cricket team is expected to open its quest for qualification for the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup on September 21, confronting Mali in the Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A's tie in Dar es Salaam.

Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, and the hosts Tanzania would compete in the week-long ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A, with teams finishing in the top two places making it to the next stage.

The opening day would also have Lesotho facing Malawi at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's ground.

Ghana would come up against the fellow West African nation of Cameroon at the same venue.

In the following clash, the Abhik Patwa-led Tanzania would lock horns with Lesotho at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's ground.

The day would witness two more ties, one of which would pit Cameroon against Mali at the same venue.

Ghana would play against Malawi at the University of Dar

es Salaam (UDSM) venue on the same day.

Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Media and Communication Officer Atif Salim said the tournament promises thrilling clashes as the participating cricketers showcase their skills and battle for qualification for the following stage.

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro handed over the national flag to the senior national team at an occasion, which also had the minister having an audience with the squad in the city last weekend.

The TCA Chairman, Balakrishna Sreekumar, and the body's several other officials were also in attendance.

Ndumbaro said: "We are proud to host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A. We

warmly welcome teams from Ghana, Malawi, Cameroon, Lesotho, and Mali."

He disclosed: "A special thank you to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for choosing Tanzania to host this event. Our government, led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, believes that sports are vital to the growth of our nation."

The minister also revealed that TCA, under Sreekumar's leadership, has made incredible strides in the development of cricket in Tanzania.

Ndumbaro added: "We are committed to supporting the sport and ensuring a successful and memorable tournament for all."

Speaking during the event, Sreekumar revealed: "I'm excited and honoured as we hear up to host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A."

The TCA leader stated: "This tournament follows the successful hosting of the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 2 in August. I want to sincerely thank the ICC for trusting Tanzania once again to consecutively host international tournaments."

"We warmly welcome all participating countries, ICC officials, umpires, scorers, and guests to our beautiful city- Dar es Salaam. Cricket continues to grow in Tanzania and I'm proud of the progress we have made in nurturing local talent."

Sreekumar also pointed out: "I extend my gratitude to the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports - especially Minister Ndumbaro - for his unwavering support. We are ready to ensure this tournament is a spectacular event, and we hope it will be played in the true spirit of the game."



CHAN 2025 set for February in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has confirmed that the eighth edition of the African Nations Championship (CHAN) will take place from February 1 to 28, 2025, across Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

This marks the first time East Africa will host a continental football competition for national teams, and the tournament will serve as a prelude to the 2027 African Cup of Nations (AFCON), which will also be co-hosted by these three nations.

Seidou Mbombo Njoya, CAF's 4th Vice President and Chairperson of the CHAN organizing committee, made the official announcement.

He confirmed that the CHAN qualifiers will kick off between October 25 and 27, and conclude by December, this year.

CHAN is a unique competition where participating nations are required to field squads composed exclusively of players active in their respective domestic leagues.

Njoya stated: "CHAN 2025 will take place from February 1 to 28 in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. The qualifiers will begin this October and finish by December 2024."

A total of 19 teams will compete in the final tournament, with the host nations - Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania - earning automatic qualification.

CAF has yet to finalize the specific venues and stadiums that will be used, but it has been noted that Uganda and Tanzania have facilities that already meet CAF standards.

However, Kenya faces challenges in preparing its infrastructure, especially with the ongoing efforts to bring Nairobi's Kasarani Stadium up to CAF standards ahead of the tournament.

CAF President Patrice Motsepe (pictured) is currently on an inspection tour of the host nations, recently visiting Kenya after earlier stops in Uganda.

Motsepe expressed his optimism about the upcoming tournament during his visit to Kenya, saying: "I am confident that next year's CHAN will be the best. However, there is a need for everyone to work together with speed to ensure that all venues and facilities are ready for the competition."

Last year, CAF announced a 60% increase in the prize money for the CHAN finals. The 2023 edition, held in Algeria, saw Senegal crowned champions after defeating the hosts in a tense final.

Senegal took home a cash prize of \$2 million (approximately Tsh 5.44 billion), compared to \$1.25 million (Tsh 3.4 billion) in previous editions.

The tournament promises to be a thrilling event as East Africa looks to deliver a world-class CHAN 2025 and set the stage for the highly anticipated 2027 AFCON.

Bank now pledges continued support for Tanzania Ladies Open Golf Tournament

By Guardian Correspondent

THE three-day Tanzania Ladies Open Golf Tournament concluded successfully over the weekend in Arusha, with the National Bank of Commerce (NBC), as the main sponsor, committing to further elevate the tournament's quality and competitiveness to attract more participants, both locally and internationally.

Held at the Gymkhana Golf Club in Arusha, the tournament drew participants from golf clubs across Tanzania, as well as players from neighbouring countries like Kenya and Uganda.

Kenya's Mercy Nyanchama emerged as the overall tournament winner.

During the awards ceremony, NBC Bank Corporate Relations Manager, Gerald Tarimo, praised both participants and winners and reaffirmed the bank's commitment to supporting future editions of the tournament.

He emphasized the importance of promoting women's participation in sports, with the bank focusing on further enhancing the event.

"In addition to being impressed by the large number of participants, we



The President of the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU), Queen Siraki (2nd L), and NBC Bank Corporate Relations Manager, Gerald Tarimo (C), in a group photo with some of the participants and winners of the just concluded Tanzania Ladies Open Golf Tournament, including the overall winner Mercy Nyanchama from Kenya (3rd L), during the brief closing ceremony of the three-day tournament held in Arusha. Photo: Correspondent

were pleased with the excellent organization that fostered the level of competition we aimed for. The participants faced no challenges that could have impacted their performance,"

said Tarimo.

He added: "The bank has consistently awarded prizes in various leagues, including the NBC Premier League. It brings us great joy to extend that sup-

port to women golfers as well."

Tarimo also highlighted the bank's future plans to collaborate with stakeholders in order to facilitate even higher-quality tournaments. This initiative is aimed at boosting the sport's growth and uncovering young talents, especially among women golfers.

Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) President, Queen Siraki, congratulated all participants and winners, including those from outside Tanzania, and expressed gratitude to stakeholders, especially NBC, for making the tournament a success.

She also encouraged more women to join the growing sport, dispelling the misconception that golf is an elite or male-dominated game.

"The excellent organization, coupled with the provision of quality prizes, will continue to attract more participants both locally and internationally. We are deeply grateful to NBC for their sponsorship, and we hope they will continue supporting us in future tournaments as we aim for even greater achievements in the sport," she said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

