



Guardian BUSINESS AEC slams ecologists' defence on energy expansion in Africa

Aviation leaders gather in Dubai for IATA's 80th AGM

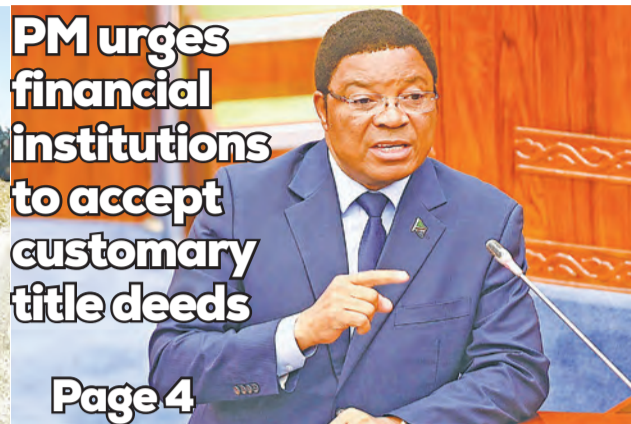
Economy: 41 African countries set for stronger growth in 2024

Page 13



All animal feed manufacturers must be registered, approved'

Page 3



PM urges financial institutions to accept customary title deeds

Page 4



WHO for total public smoking ban in Africa

Page 6

Tourism registers doubling visitors' numbers, revenues

STORY ON PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with Tanzanian and South Korean officials shortly after jetting into Seoul Military Airport yesterday ready for a six-day state visit to the eastern Asian country. Photo: State House

SPORTS

Page 20



Azam, Yanga meet in second successive Federation Cup final

Page 18



Matampi praises teamwork for Coastal Union's CAF CC qualification

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: VP stresses cleaner energy as NEMC convenes stakeholders

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

LAND restoration to curb desertification and build resilience against threats of drought under the slogan 'Our land Our future' marked this year's World Environment Day activities campaign.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango graced the commemoration with a keynote speech at the opening session of an environmental stakeholders' conference, stressing the use of clean energy for cooking.

He said shifting to clean energy will

protect people's health and forests, as reduced use of charcoal and firewood lessens the threat of wider erasing of forest land into scrubland.

Regions more affected by deforestation

TURN TO Page 2

Coalition talk likely as ANC obtains well under 50pc

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa was yesterday heading closer to the reality of a national coalition government for the first time as partial election results put the ruling African National Congress well short of a majority.

It was the first time the ruling party had polled under the 50 per cent mark, and in a manner that it needs a formal coalition government with a willing partner.

TURN TO Page 2



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki tables the ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Minister reassures sunflower farmers

By Henry Mwangonde, Singida

IMPORTED cooking oil will be liable for custom duties in projections for 2024/25 financial year.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe said at a stopover rally here yesterday convened by Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi, the CCM secretary general, at Itaja in Singida Rural District, affirming that this would ease the way for local farmers and industries to find a market.

A market for onions is on the line up in the area, tied with implementing a 20bn/-irrigation project at Msangi, within the district.

Dr Nchimbi made a stopover tour at the area before exiting the region for Manyara, pursuing a revitalisation tour to reanimate party branches and sittings in five regions.

TURN TO Page 2



9 770856 542009 >

Tourism registers doubling visitors' numbers, revenues

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

AN increased number of local and foreign tourists from 2021 to 2023 resulted in a 36 percent revenue surge, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, made this remark when tabling budget estimates for fiscal 2024/2025, asserting that the number of foreign tourists largely doubled from 922,692 in 2021 to 1,808,205 last year.

Local visitors to conservation areas more than doubled from 788,933 tourists in 2021 to 1,985,707 in the past year, while revenues from the tourism sub-sector rose to \$3.4bn in 2023 from \$2.5bn a year earlier.

Collected earnings from foreign visitors increased by 161 percent from \$1.3bn in 2021 to \$3.4bn in 2023, while domestic tourism activities resulted in 175.3bn/- earnings, a 'triple jump' from 46.3bn/- recorded in 2021.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts in marketing the country's tourist attractions with 'The Royal Tour' film played a major role in these successes, she said, pointing out that the film resulted in an increased number of foreign visitors by 24.3 percent from 1.4m in 2022 to 1.8m in 2023.

Tanzania was ranked 12th in Africa in 'best performing destinations' from January to December 2023 compiled by global tourism agencies, with a sharp increase in visitations compared to the 2019 to 2022 period, she stated.

In the January 2024 data cited as World Tourism Barometer, compiled by UN Tourism, Tanzania was ranked 5th in Africa in attracting a good number of foreign tourists.

The Special Wildlife Investment Concession Areas (SWICA) project was rolled out at the start of the year, with \$2,773,000 (71bn/-) collected from fees charged on allocated blocks, the minister noted.

SWICA project revenues are expected to reach \$312m in 20 years,

on the basis of a \$15.5m annual projections, she said, highlighting measures to find solutions to wildlife invasions in different parts of the country.

The government has trained an additional 437 game rangers and 184 village game scouts (VGS) during fiscal 2023/2024, with the VGS conducting patrols to restrict elephants and other destructive animals from invading farms and settlements in 73 districts countrywide.

The government harvested 113 wild animals, among them 18 buffaloes, 23 elephants, 28 hippos, 21 crocodiles, three lions, nine hyenas, one leopard and ten monkeys as part of measures to reduce such invasions, she said.

The ministry had also purchased 16 drones and 100 global positioning system satellite collars to track movements of wild animals, especially elephants. Plans are also afoot to purchase 35,000 cold bombs (non-lethal hand grenades) for chasing away elephants and other fierce animals, she said.

Upwards of 45.14bn/- has been allocated for buying two helicopters for the same purpose, the minister indicated, noting that from July 2023 to May 2024, a total of 2.4bn/- was paid as compensation to 10,552 villagers affected by wild animals in 48 districts.

Current plans focus on implementing the 2022-2026 strategy to restore wildlife corridors, crucial to curb wildlife invasions, where until August 2023 eight out of 20 priority corridors had been partly restored, one corridor slated for gazetting soon, she further noted.

Voluntarily relocation from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) to Msomera in Handeni District, Saunyi in Kilindi, Kitwai in Simanjoro and other areas was being pursued, with 286.68bn/- issued up to the end of April to facilitate the exercise.

During the next financial year, a total of 968.8bn/- is expected to be collected from ministerial agencies and departments, where it will spend 348.1bn/- for the whole year, all requirements included.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango opens a conference for environment stakeholders in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

Coalition likely as ANC obtains well under 50pc

FROM PAGE 1

Observers were projecting a series of complex negotiations to achieve that feat, as partial election results midday on Friday put the ANC in an untenable position to obtain a parliamentary majority.

With more than 65 percent of votes counted across the country's nine provinces, the ANC, with a majority for 30 years since apartheid ended, had received just under 42 percent of the national vote in Wednesday's election.

That represented a huge drop from the 57.5 percent it received in the last national election in 2019, with analysts noting that the precise results could diminish the score ANC holds in the partial results.

The ANC was unavoidably going to be the biggest parliamentary party, but filing by far to obtain the 50 percent mark was unprecedented and a game changer, analysts noted.

Final results are slated to be announced by tomorrow at the most, with the major parties indicating the wish to wait for those final numbers before entering any coalition talks.

The country's focus now was firm-

ly on whom the ANC might approach to jointly govern Africa's most developed economy as it braces with its loss of a majority.

Nomvula Mokonyane, the ANC deputy secretary general, said earlier that the party's leadership would meet on Friday and "reflect on what is good for the country."

Observers were frank that it was anyone's guess what the ANC might do, given its lack of plans for any coalition, while there are 'dozens' of opposition parties contesting the polls.

Those seen as foremost are the centrist main opposition Democratic Alliance, the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters and the new 'Umkhonto we Sizwe' (MK) Party led by former president Jacob Zuma.

Similarly, President Cyril Ramaphosa as the president is selected by lawmakers as Parliament reconvenes, which implies that the coalition party would then bring enough MPs to provide President Ramaphosa a second term.

Parliament must sit within 14 days of the election results to choose the state president, implying that coalition talks need to be concluded well before that moment.

Democratic Alliance leader John Steenhuisen said he was open to working with the ANC, although he would have to first speak with a group of other smaller parties with which he has a pre-election agreement.

He said the possibility of the country's biggest political shift in 30 years "opens up a whole new universe for politics in South Africa and to start building something better for the people of South Africa."

Steenhuisen had said on polling day that all bets are off in this election. "We're heading into coalition country," he stated.

With votes counted from more than 15,000 of the 23,000 polling stations, the ANC led by some way, as expected. The Democratic Alliance was second on around 23 percent of the vote. Zuma's MK Party had 12 percent and the EFF around nine percent.

Coalition negotiations could depend on how far the ANC falls short of a majority in the final results, with sympathetic analysts projecting the ANC remaining just short of a majority.

That way it could approach several smaller parties to get past 50

percent, but if it is some way off – as it was in the preliminary results – it will have to work with one of those three main opposition parties, who have vastly opposed views on what the country needs.

It was clear that an ANC-EFF or an ANC-MK coalition would spook investors as both leftist parties pledge to nationalize parts of the vast South African private sector.

Inclusion of the business-friendly DA in a coalition government would be welcomed by investors and is eagerly awaited by business monitoring media in the country and in a number of Western capitals.

The ANC has had a clear majority for all of South Africa's democracy since the party swept to power in a 1994 election which officially ended the apartheid system of white minority rule.

Veteran political prisoner Nelson Mandela became the country's first Black president, with the ANC exercising unparalleled dominance, thus slipping below 50 percent after years of infighting and plane-loads of corruption investigations, would be a momentous change for South Africa, analysts noted.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa seeks information yesterday from Yusufu Haule (R), an instructor with Dodoma city's Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) college, when touring pavilions at an ongoing exhibition in Tanga city held to mark National Education, Skills and Innovation Week. Photo: PMO

Minister reassures sunflower farmers

FROM PAGE 1

Ramadhan Ighondo, the Singida East MP, said that despite successes in various sectors, the area lacked a proper market for farmers to sell their crops, urging help for sunflower farmers by reducing their production costs.

Imposing tax on imported edible oil would ease absorption by local markets, he said, with Dr Nchimbi urging the minister to address the challenges, to which

the minister made an assurance that the government was working to address the challenges in the coming financial year.

Local sunflower farmers can be assured of easier market access as the relevant ministries had coordinated on the matter to add tax on imported cooking oil to uplift local sunflower cultivation, he further noted.

The changes will be included in the coming central government budget listed for presentation to

the legislature later next week, he said, elaborating that in the current financial year 52-percent of edible oil was produced from sunflower, while 27 percent was pressed from groundnuts.

As production levels do not meet local demand, half of what is marketed in shops is imported, even as sunflower production levels more than doubled, from 425,653.1 tonnes during fiscal 2021/2022 to 1.1m tonnes for 2022/23.

Farm yields in sunflower production rose from 0.8 tonnes to one tonnes per hectare, more than a 20 percent increase, with extension experts saying four tonnes per hectare is achievable in the area.

About 725 tonnes of sunflower seeds have been distributed to farmers through a subsidy programme, covering Dodoma, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Rukwa, Katavi, Tanga and Geita regions by end of April, he added.

VP stresses cleaner energy as NEMC convenes stakeholders

FROM PAGE 1

are Mwanza, Shinyanga, Arusha, Tabora, Dodoma, Singida and parts of Kilimanjaro Region, he said.

In the event organized by the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) to mark the global event, the VP said if effective measures are not taken to save our environment, Tanzania will lose an average of three percent of national income by 2030 due to effects of climate change.

He urged the conference participants to come up with resolutions that would help the government in enhancing environmental conservation activities, citing enormous natural resources endowments.

He said Tanzanians need to avoid cutting trees for charcoal and firewood since these have a negative impact on water sources, noting that environmental protection requires stringent measures against poachers plus those engaging in illegal fishing.

"We need to build a culture of caring for the environment," he said, cautioning that random pumping of garbage con-

tributes to polluting the environment.

Tanzania, like any other country, was experiencing effects of climate change such as extreme heat, floods, hurricanes and landslides, leading to deaths of people and livestock."

Weeks after the government launched the ten-year National Strategy for Clean Cooking Energy (NSCCE 2024-2034), the VP asked companies selling liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to lower the price, to ensure more Tanzanians use clean energy for cooking.

He said that the strategy launched by President Samia Suluhu Hassan envisions an increase of subsidies for clean cooking energy projects from the new financial year.

The goal is to reach 80 percent of Tanzanian households using clean cooking energy by 2034, he said, similarly emphasising the distribution of gas cylinders to rural Tanzanians by energy firms, instead of focusing on urban areas.

He urged NEMC to ensure that publications on environmental conservation are available in both languages, Kiswahili and

English, for many Tanzanians to understand them.

Dr Seleman Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the President's Office, said environmental destruction and climate change are major challenges facing many countries in southern Africa.

The two conditions have contributed to high levels of drought especially in Angola, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa where in some areas animals lack drinking water for long periods.

In East Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia have been seriously affected by heavy rains and floods that resulted in hundreds of deaths, he said, citing plans to plant 276 million trees, with 266m trees (79.3 percent) having been planted.

"We are implementing a major environmental project in Njombe, Iringa Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa and Katavi regions focusing on restoring forest in drought affected areas," he stated.

In Rukwa Region the government will particularly focus on the Lyamba Lyamfipa valley, he added.



Assistant Inspector of Police John Namayala, currently stationed in Mbozi District's Igamba ward, pictured on Thursday 'lecturing' Zelezeta Primary School pupils on the dangers of playing in stagnant water. Photo courtesy of Correspondent Issa Mwandangala

'All animal feed manufacturers must be registered, approved'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has directed producers of animal feeds to ensure that their factories are registered and approved to facilitate production of quality products to spur growth of the livestock sector.

Director of Investigations at the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) Dr Zacharia Makondo made the directive yesterday at the end of a three-day tour to inspect animal feed manufacturing factories in Arusha.

During the tour which also involved visiting users of the products, he said it was important for animal feeds to be checked for quality as required by the law.

Dr Makondo said during implementation of the exercise all animal feed sites that have not been approved and registered will be punished by law, adding that the agency's zonal offices will facilitate implementation of the matter.

He said after the completion of the exercise in the Northern Zone, it will shift to other zones, including inspection of quality.

Theodata Sallemma, an expert in animal feed resources in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, said it was important for inspectors in zones to conduct the exercise time after time as stipulated by the law.

Sallemma reminded manufacturers and those who package animal feeds to label the products with labels which match the contents in the packets as required by law to avoid cheating.

Dr Rowenya Mushi, TVLA Manager for the Northern Zone, said the zone which serves three regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara has intensified inspection after receiving training from time to time.

"Quality animal feed brings quality outcomes; the government's target is to ensure that farmers use modern ways of livestock keeping for better profits," she said.

Some of the users of the products commended TVLA for training them on the matter, saying it was an eye opener.

The agency expects to continue to educate and carry out inspections in various zones, including overseeing implementation of the law.

Biteko graces launch of clean energy project office in Dodoma

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ENERGY Minister Dr Doto Biteko yesterday graced the launch of Energy Efficiency Project Office, a 146 Kw solar power system and two electric vehicles in Dodoma.

Ministry of Energy in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union inaugurated the project office, being part of efforts to improve energy efficiency in the country.

Dr Biteko said that the initiative marks a significant step in transforming Tanzania's energy sec-

tor to address climate change and promote sustainable development through renewable energy, energy efficiency and modern transportation system.

"Together we are building a resilient and prosperous nation for generations to come and we are grateful for the support of the EU and Embassy of Ireland in making energy efficiency a reality in Tanzania," he said. Launched in 2022, the three-year project 'Implementation of Tanzania's 1st Energy Efficiency Action Plan' has secured euros 8.75 million (equivalent to over 24bn/-) in funding from EU and UNDP with

euros 600,000 (1.6 bn/-) from Embassy of Ireland. The project aims to improve energy efficiency in households, industries, public utilities and buildings, ultimately transitioning Tanzania toward greater energy sustainability.

It is being implemented in collaboration with beneficiary institutions namely the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO) and Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA).

Others are the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), National Constructions Council (NCC), Rural Energy Agency (REA) and Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO).

The launch of the Energy Efficiency Project Office in Dodoma highlights the beneficial partnership between the Ministry of Energy and UNDP, facilitating effective coordination and implementation of the project.

Representing head of the EU delegation to Tanzania, Lamin Dairo underscored the EU commitment to sustainable energy initiative in Tanzania. He said the effort is aimed at reducing

costs, lower carbon emissions and boost economic activities while promoting gender equality in the energy sector. "Key developments include implementing Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPs), building codes, young women scholarships programme, training and certification of Tanzania's first energy auditors and managers along with new state-of-the-art laboratories demonstrate our focus on innovation and capacity building," he said.

In her opening remarks, UNDP Economic Advisor, Weyinmi Ommuli, said that UNDP is dedicated to advancing Tanzania's Vision 2025

and the SDGs. She expressed gratitude for the financial and technical support from EU and the Embassy of Ireland.

"Over the past six months the Embassy of Ireland has joined our energy efficiency efforts, providing an additional funding to expand key initiatives in the action plan" she said.

With the objective of achieving zero-carbon emissions and promoting risk-informed sustainable development, e-mobility has emerged as a pivotal factor in the sustainable growth of the UN system, particularly through the substitution of Internal Combustion Engines (ICE).

How to Buy Nipashe and The Guardian Newspapers at www.ippmedia.com or epaper.ippmedia.com

Through the website epaper.ippmedia.com

1. Open the epaper.ippmedia.com website from your browser, select the version of publication you want to purchase, whether **Nipashe** or **The Guardian** by clicking "Read"
2. It will send you to another page where you need to fill in your information and the package you want to join. Then click "**subscribe**"
3. It will take you to the payment page where you can pay with either **bank card** or **by mobile money** transfer after correctly filling in your required information
4. Through **mobile Money**, choose the mobile network, write your number and tick the box to accept the terms and conditions. The **push SMS** will pop out on your phone to deduct

the amount after allowing the transaction from your mobile account. When the payment is completed, you will receive a payment confirmation **email** and **SMS**, then login into your account and start reading the publication of your choice

5. Through the **bank card**, you enter your card information and allow the amount to be deducted from your account after accepting the terms and conditions. Then log in to your account and finally enjoy the publication of your preference

Through the www.ippmedia.com website

6. Open your browser www.ippmedia.com website on the right hand side you will see "**E-Paper**" click on it and follow the processes same as **number 1-5**





CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (R) exchanges greetings with former Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye at Katesh in Hanang District Manyara Region yesterday shortly before addressing a rally. Photo: Romana Mallya

World Bank team happy with execution of TASAF projects

By Gwamaka Alipipi

THE World Bank (WB) has reiterated its commitment to continue supporting Tanzania's poverty eradication initiatives after being impressed by projects it funds.

This comes after a team of environmental and social experts from WB recently visited various projects implemented by the government through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) in Dodoma and Manyara regions.

Addressing journalists soon after visiting the projects in Manyara, WB Environmental Specialist Edina Kashangaki said the objectives of the visit were to assess the progress of programme implementation, achievements, challenges encountered and how they are being addressed.

She said that the team was pleased by implementation of TASAF programme as the beneficiary households were focused on development activities.

"We are satisfied with the programme implementation and how interventions help people to overcome poverty; we have witnessed how beneficiaries engage in economic activities that generate income for their development," she said.

"There is an old man who had told the team that there was a public work sub-project of building a charco dam for pub-

lic use, he utilized the skills acquired from implementation of that subproject to his farm by establishing a small charco dam to irrigate sugar cane which has flourished and he expects to get a profit of between one to two million after harvesting."

Nelusigwe Mwakigonja, TASAF Community Development Officer, said the implementation of the second phase of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN II) aims to stimulate socioeconomic development in the country.

She said that apart from issuing a monthly payment to beneficiaries, PSSN II focuses more on providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-earning opportunities to enable them establish small-scale businesses and projects for poverty alleviation.

Explaining the purpose of the visit, TASAF Safeguards Specialist Amos Mkude said they conducted a joint field visit with a team from WB to assess progress of the programme implementation.

"In Manyara Region, we have visited four villages in Mbulu and Hanang district councils and we had the opportunity to discuss with sector experts from the districts, village leaders and programme beneficiaries to further improve where there are loopholes for better outcomes," he said.

Majaliwa urges financial institutions to take customary title deeds as collateral

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged financial institutions in the country to accept customary title deeds as collateral for loans and other services as the documents are legally recognised.

He made the call on Thursday in the National Assembly

when responding to impromptu questions from Members of the Parliament, saying that the institutions should ensure that they serve land owners with the deeds to stimulate development.

"All title deeds issued by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, including customary

land titles are legal documents and people possessing them have the right to have access to loans," he said.

Majaliwa was responding to a question raised by Atupele Mwakibete (Busokelo) who sought to know when the government will review the Land Act in order to allow residents in rural areas to start using

their customary title deeds to access loans.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said that the government continues to heighten systems to attract big strategic foreign investors into the country through the immigration incentives.

He assured the lawmakers that construction of one-stop

checkpoints along the central corridor was ongoing to facilitate transit cargo from the Port of Dar es Salaam to the neighbouring countries.

"The checkpoints are constructed at Vigwaza in Coast Region, Dumila in Morogoro, Manyoni in Singida and Nyakanazi in Kagera to help strengthen security, raise revenue collection and eliminate

inconvenience to transporters," he said.

The Premier further said that the government will continue to improve laws to enhance a friendlier environment for major strategic investors.

He said the government continues strengthening cargo

inspection as well as revenue collection from the ports.

He said this when responding to a question from Biharamulo West MP Ezra Chiwelesha who wanted to know the government's plan to construct checkpoints along the central corridor.

Pupils in Manyara Region exhibit innovative skills after STEM drill

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

OVER 4000 pupils from seven primary schools in Babati District council in Manyara Region have been equipped with innovative skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Funded by the United States Embassy, the project aims at motivating pupils to pursue science subjects hence producing more innovative and competent young graduates who become change makers by transforming their communities through scientific innovations.

Roselyne Mariki, Resident Manager of the organisation implementing the project said it had been implemented for four months, instilling creativity among the school children.

"Initially, the project was introduced in 31 primary schools in the council but when we discussed with education experts from the council together with teachers, we decided that the project should start as a pilot in four schools even though it has reached seven schools," she said.

She said that teachers assigned to the project for each school are not less than four, making a total of 30 teachers who were subjected to practical training to help teach pupils on creativity.

Mariki said that due to the improvements made by the government on the new education curriculum and policy, the project aligns with the reforms in the curriculum and education policy.

"While we are preparing children and teachers, it is easy to align with the new curriculum and policies introduced by the government," Mariki said.

She said that after starting the project, there has been awareness among pupils to love science studies and promised to continue empowering them.

Babati District Primary Education Officer Getrude Kavishe said that STEM project has helped reduce absenteeism in many primary schools because pupils like to attend school and learn creativity.

The education officer said that the new education curriculum encourages more practical training than theory.

Babati District Executive Director Anna Mbogo said: "I am pleased with the creativity I see in the pupils as they have designed things which we expect to see in technical colleges and not primary schools."



Presumed sugarcane dealers 'perched' on a specially fitted tricycle together with their cargo and headed for an undisclosed destination in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Correspondent Jumanne Juma caught up with them along the Karume stretch of the traditionally busy Uhuru Road.

'Flooding impacts 600,000 children in Horn of Africa'

NAIROBI

DEVASTATING floods and landslides have affected 600,000 children across Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia so far this year, with the number potentially climbing to as high as 1.5 million by the end of the rains, according to Save the Children analysis.

The torrential rains, which came after years of drought and have been attributed to both human-induced climate change and the tail end of the

naturally occurring El Niño weather pattern, have displaced over 420,000 people with at least 330 killed due to unusually heavy flooding in all three countries.

This has left people facing an increasing risk of hunger and led to a spike in cases of waterborne diseases such as cholera which hit children hardest. Almost 27,000 cases of cholera have been recorded across Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia this year, with almost 60 percent of cases

in Somalia among children under five.

The rains are the latest in a series of extreme weather events to hit East Africa. In November, devastating floods led to the deaths of at least 350 people and displaced over 2.3 million. Those floods followed the region's worst drought in 40 years due to five failed rainy seasons.

On top of the naturally occurring El Niño which is currently winding down after

beginning in June last year, human-induced climate change is making these kinds of extreme weather events more frequent and severe. This year, El Niño has contributed to global warming temperatures, accelerating these climate change impacts, to which the Horn of Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world.

Inger Ashing, CEO of Save the Children International while on a visit to Kenya and Somalia, said:

"The impacts of these floods, linked to both El Niño and climate change, are disastrous for children and threaten their rights. It's another all-too-frequent example of how the climate crisis disproportionately affects those who have done least to cause it and are least able to withstand its most damaging effects children.

"Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, home to some 92 million children, are among the world's most vulnerable

countries to the climate crisis. Repeated food shortages, disease outbreaks and weather disasters such as these floods - all made worse by climate change - leave millions of children hungry, homeless, out of school, exposed to protection risks and fearful of the next disaster.

"Children are bearing the brunt of more extreme weather events in an increasingly unequal world. We need to see much more

ambition on child-responsive climate finance from high-income countries and historical emitters that puts children's distinct needs and vulnerabilities front and centre - recognising that when disaster like these floods strikes, it affects a child's whole world. They must also commit to climate adaptation measures and help build the resilience of communities to climate-related shocks - in both the near and longer term."

TBS destroys unfit items following quality inspections in Central Zone

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA Bureau of Standard (TBS) Central Zone yesterday destroyed 3.6 tonnes of counterfeit and substandard goods worth 42.5m/- which were seized from shops in Dodoma, Tabora and Singida regions.

The counterfeit goods were destroyed at Chidaya in Dodoma after the seizure in an operation conducted at different times this year.

Speaking to journalists during the destruction exercise, TBS Central Zone Quality Assurance Officer Sileja Lushibika said the destroyed goods include those that had expired and those that were poisonous.

"Some of the businessmen have been selling products which the usage date for the products has already passed and this has mostly been done by unscrupulous business people," he said. According to him, counterfeit goods on the market affect the economy and put the lives of the general public at risk.

He explained that some of the products can cause short-term and long-term diseases including cancer among others.

In terms of cosmetics containing toxic ingredients, he said its short-term and long-term effects

include affecting the skin, eyes, reproductive system for women, growth issues in children and cancers, especially skin cancer.

Lushibika said the inspections were continuing in all regions in the country, calling on traders to check their products regularly to be satisfied with their quality.

In addition, he asked them to take care of products in accordance with procedures outlined by producers to avoid selling cosmetic products with toxic ingredients and immediately stop editing the information on expiry date or shelf life.

He warned that strict legal action continues to be taken against unscrupulous traders in accordance with laws and regulations.

Halima Msonga, Zonal Quality Assurance Officer said that other products that were destroyed include infant food formulas, commonly fed babies aged between 0 and six months. She said while some of them had not expired, there were no visible descriptions on how to use them and some had descriptions written in languages not easy to understand.

"The law requires that descriptions on the foodstuff must be in a language that all people can understand and where need be, translated into Kiswahili," she said.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Geophrey Pinda (C), who is also constituency legislator for Kavuu in Katavi Region, is briefed on Thursday on the water body near Ukinwamzi Itumba township in the region where seven people died in an accident involving a canoe. Photo courtesy of Lands ministry

Baby girl first patient operated on aboard charity ship in Madagascar

TOAMASINA

A BABY girl became the first patient to receive free life-changing surgery from Mercy Ships in Madagascar since the international charity returned to the island nation.

Ten-month-old Anjara's surgery marks a significant landmark for the organization which is operating two hospital ships at once in Africa for the first time.

While the Africa Mercy delivers patient care and surgical training in Madagascar, the Global Mercy is simultaneously conducting her field service in Sierra Leone.

"It is just amazing to span the east and west of Africa. It really is the beginning of a next chapter," said Nathan Jansen, Africa Mercy managing director.

"This day is the culmination of many years of work and preparation. It is truly special to welcome Anjara as our first patient, heralding a new chapter for Mercy Ships.

"As Mercy Ships expands its work across the continent, healthcare access and quality continues to grow. The dedication and hard work of volunteers and staff, coupled with the generous support of donors, have made this historic moment possible."

Since arriving in the country in February, the Africa Mercy implemented an extensive strategy to ensure the broad reach of its services, covering diverse regions within Madagascar.

With registrations spanning 12 regions across the country, this marks Mercy Ships' fourth field service in Madagascar, following previous visits in 1996, 2015 and 2016.

Over the course of previous visits, Mercy Ships collaborated with the government and Ministry of Health to provide more than 6,425 life-changing surgical procedures and over 52,395 dental procedures.

In addition to these surgeries,

Mercy Ships has a longstanding commitment to education, having trained 2,019 healthcare professionals in the past.

On Tuesday morning, the starting signal was given as Dr Parker, a long-term volunteer surgeon, led the hospital in a prayer before the little baby underwent a transformative surgery for a bilateral cleft lip, asking for divine blessings and successful outcomes.

Anjara's father, Mamy Jean Victor, expressed his gratitude: "I thank God for sending Mercy Ships to help my daughter so she can be like other kids. I hope their work continues for other children in need."

Lalaina, Anjara's mother, was

filled with profound gratitude and relief when she heard about her daughter's surgery date.

She said: "I am glad that Mercy Ships is here to help repair my baby's cleft lip."

Through an education, training, and advocacy strategy, the organization, in collaboration with Madagascar's Ministry of Health, aims to increase the number of surgical providers, deliver training across the surgical ecosystem, develop sustainable educational programs, establish a network of healthcare providers, and advocate for the importance of surgery in healthcare globally.

Dr Lethicia Lydia Yasmine, Madagascar's Secretary General

of the Ministry of Health believes that the key obstacles to advancing surgery and anaesthesia in the country are a lack of staff, reduced capacity, resource limitations, and inequity in access to surgical care. One specific barrier to access to surgery is a lack of insurance, causing costs to be too high for many patients to access care.

During this year's field service in the Port of Toamasina, Mercy Ships will offer direct medical services to more than 1,000 patients, simultaneously mentoring and training healthcare professionals to strengthen surgical and aesthetic systems in the country.

Adult learning centres key in efforts against illiteracy

By Correspondent Valentine Ofori, Dodoma

EDUCATION stakeholders have underscored the need to construct more adult learning centres both in urban and rural areas to eradicate illiteracy and promote socioeconomic development.

According to the stakeholders, adult learning programmes can provide numerous opportunities and provide skills that can contribute to the country's development and sustained livelihoods.

This comes after positive outcomes recorded at a Community Learning Centre (CLC) located in Hogoro Ward, Kongwa District in Dodoma Region which has helped a total of 217 adults defeat illiteracy.

Speaking recently during a special peer learning visit by different stakeholders in adult education, the CLC coordinator Jackson Steven said equipping populations with literacy greatly helps reduce poverty.

He said it is important for the government and stakeholders to work on initiatives to expand access to alternative education and other skills to reach more people in rural and urban areas through adult learning centres.

He said the CLC which was initiated by DVV International has supported a number of adults imparting them with key knowledge and practical skills on diverse facets of entrepreneurship.

"The areas in question include agricultural skills, livestock keeping, tailoring, edible oil production, making of batiks, ground nut processing as well as imparting adult learners with literacy and numeracy skills," he said.

He said working with the government through the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and the President's Office (Regional Administration, and Local Government) the core vision behind the programme is to promote adult learning as an integral part of individual and national development.

Furthermore, participants were trained on how to form special entrepreneurship for ease of accessing other opportunities such as loans.

Library and television services as well as sports activities are among other key services that the centre offers to the communities in the ward.

"Through the diverse entrepreneurship skills that the centre offers, most of the beneficiaries have managed to join groups and establish businesses," he said.

Michael Mataluma, one of the centre's beneficiaries in the agriculture sector, said the programme has greatly assisted him to improve crop productivity.

"I engage in tomato cultivation; formerly I used to have very low harvests due to lack of proper sustainable practices and better seed varieties and fertilizers but things have now changed for the better," he said.



Rehabilitation of a section of a road at Kigogo-Sambusa in Ilala municipality, Dar es Salaam, well under way yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Delegates approve resolution to accelerate global response to antimicrobial resistance

GENEVA

DELEGATES at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, have approved a resolution to accelerate national and global responses on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The resolution was reached on Thursday during the assembly conducted ahead of the second UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting (HLM) on AMR to take place in September 2024.

AMR is an urgent global health and socioeconomic challenge. An estimated 13 million global deaths per year are attributable to drug-resistant bacterial infections. AMR threatens people of all ages, in all regions, with low- and middle-income countries most affected.

Under the broad concept of a people-centred approach, the resolution welcomes the World Health Organisation (WHO) strategic and operational priorities to address drug-resistant bacterial infections in the human health sector (2025-2035), with the four strategic

priorities of: prevention of infections; universal access to affordable, quality diagnosis and appropriate treatment of infections; strategic information, science and innovation; and effective governance and financing of the human health sector response to AMR.

The resolution urges Member States to apply these priorities and implement the core package of country-level interventions through their AMR national action plans. Areas of focus include the governance, funding, implementation and monitoring of national action plans,

and the development of a concise and action-oriented, consensus-based political declaration for adoption at the HLM.

The strategic roundtable during the meeting also considered opportunities, risks, and governance in harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the quality of health care, while upholding principles of justice, equity, inclusion, safety, privacy, transparency and accountability.

"Some say that AI will unlock a 4th industrial revolution", outlined WHO Di-

rector-General Dr Tedros, with AI set to "change the way we live and work, with major consequences for health."

Speakers drew from their experiences in health, academia, government, and the regulatory and private technology sectors to address issues, such as partnerships, to combine public health expertise with private innovation, and regulation, to boldly yet responsibly support the adoption and innovation of AI technologies.

The role of WHO's trusted leadership in shaping an equitable digital future

and its guidance in informing the implementation of AI projects were also highlighted.

The discussion highlighted the importance of putting people and the public interest front and centre when using AI for health. Concerns about reinforcing existing inequities were raised but there was also hope that AI could help overcome current limitations, by helping to reach marginalized communities and people in remote areas and augment the capabilities of time-constrained health workers.



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme officer Rogathe Loakaki pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday making remarks at a meeting for youths called to deliberate on the country's Development Vision 2050, a framework meant to guide Tanzania's development for the coming 25 years. Photo courtesy of TGNP

Trump found guilty in hush money case

NEW YORK

FORMER United States President Donald Trump has been found guilty in a historic criminal hush-money trial, in a decision that could shake up the 2024 election campaign.

New York City jury delivered the verdict on Thursday afternoon after a seven-week-long trial - and it found Trump guilty on all 34 counts he faced.

He has become the first US president, past or present, to be charged and convicted of a crime.

Speaking to reporters at the courthouse, the former US president said the trial had been "rigged".

"This was a rigged, disgraceful trial. The real verdict is going to be November 5th by the people," Trump said outside the courtroom.

Hush money payments The jury in Donald Trump's criminal hush money trial found the former president guilty of all 34 felony counts against him.

They delivered their verdict late Thursday afternoon after two days of deliberations that spanned 9 1/2 hours.

Prosecutors accused Trump of falsifying internal business records to cover up hush money payments

tied to an alleged scheme to bury stories that might torpedo his 2016 White House bid.

At the heart of the charges were reimbursements paid to Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen for a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels in exchange for not going public with her claim about a 2006 sexual encounter with Trump.

Prosecutors say the reimbursements were falsely logged as "legal expenses" to hide the true nature of the transactions.

The charges Trump faces are punishable by up to four years in prison, although those convicted of similar crimes often receive shorter sentences, fines or probation.

Trump has denied all wrongdoing and pleaded not guilty. If he does receive a prison sentence, this would not legally prevent him from campaigning, or even taking office if he were to win.

Trump's lawyer Todd Blanche indicated on CNN that he would appeal the verdict "as soon as we can."

The case is the first of Trump's four indictments to reach trial and is the first-ever criminal case against a former U.S. president.

He will be sentenced on July 11.

Project seeks to scale urban nature-based solutions for climate adaptation in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) have launched a project that will use nature-based solutions (NbS) to undertake watershed restoration and climate change adaptation actions in cities in sub-Saharan Africa.

The projects aim to improve the resilience of 2.2 million people

in Dire Dawa (Ethiopia), Kigali (Rwanda), and Johannesburg (South Africa).

The Scaling Urban Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa (SUNCASA) project, managed jointly by IISD and WRI and implemented by local partners, policymakers, and stakeholders, is also expected to deliver indirect benefits for an estimated 7 million people residing in these cities by promoting

gender equality and social inclusion and strengthening biodiversity protection.

Collaborative actions, identified in consultation with key stakeholders, include in Dire Dawa, catchment restoration in the Dechatu River for flood risk reduction and water stress mitigation, and tree planting and green space development to alleviate the heat island effect in the city's lower-income neighbourhoods;

In Kigali, restoration of six critical upstream micro-catchments of the lower Nyabarong River watershed to reduce downstream floods and landslide risks; and

In Johannesburg, removal of invasive alien species (IAS), afforestation, reforestation, and riverbank restoration in the Jukskei River catchments to reduce flood risk and increase water quality.

By focusing on actions that reinforce or restore natural solutions

for water management and by engaging women and vulnerable communities in the three cities, the SUNCASA project seeks to demonstrate the possibility of a "triple win" for climate, society, and biodiversity with gender responsive NbS.

SUNCASA "will allow IISD and WRI to work with cities across the continent to mobilize political support, deliver technical assistance, and unlock finance, effectively streamlining the process to scale

up nature-based solutions to support vulnerable communities," said WRI's President and CEO Ani Dasgupta, launching the project.

IISD's CEO and President Patricia Fuller acknowledged SUNCASA as "a tremendous opportunity" to advance NbS to deliver "wide-ranging benefits for people and the planet."

The three-year project is funded through Global Affairs Canada's Partnering for Climate Program. It runs until 2026.

WHO seeks total public smoking ban in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti yesterday said that tobacco use among young people in the African Region, aged 13 to 15 years is about seven million calling for total public smoking ban.

Moeti who said this in her message to commemorate World No Tobacco Day yesterday, stressed that young people are exposed to tobacco products through extensive social media, streaming platform campaigns, and social media influencers.

The annual WNTD campaign is May 31 to raise awareness of the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use. The theme for this year is, "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference." The theme is aimed at mobilising international efforts to shield young people from harmful tobacco and nicotine products and the deceptive strategies often used by the tobacco industry to market their products.

Moeti said, "This day provides us the opportunity to continue highlighting the dangers associated with tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.

"Today, we reflect on our progress in tobacco control while recognizing the challenges in our efforts to stop the tactics employed by the tobacco industry to frustrate tobacco control efforts.

"By this theme, young people across the world have a platform to call out for the tobacco industry to stop targeting them with products that are harmful to their health."

According to her more than 37 million young people aged between 13 and 15 years are using tobacco globally.

"In the African Region, tobacco use among young people aged 13 to 15 years is at 11.1 per cent for boys and 7.2 per cent for girls, which is about seven million tobacco users.

"An estimated 1.3 million people die from second-hand smoke every year. These deaths are entirely preventable. People exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke are at risk of dying from heart disease, stroke, respiratory diseases, type 2 diabetes, and cancers," she said.

The Regional Director noted that the organisation supports member states to sustain a consistent momentum in tobacco control by pushing for robust tobacco regulations, and stringent controls on marketing strategies for new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products which are often designed to attract young people.

"Due to our efforts, 45 countries in the African region have ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and 22 have ratified the protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products. Twenty-two countries have adopted new tobacco control laws that have enabled them to implement the provisions of the tobacco control framework effectively.

She, however, said the prevalence of tobacco use among adults in the region has declined from 14.9 per cent in 2010 to 9.5 per cent in 2023, and 22 countries in the African region are on track to achieve a 30 per cent reduction by the year 2025 relative to 2010 rates.

She highlighted that the tobacco industry spends considerable time and funds promoting misleading science, lobbying, and performing so-called corporate social responsibility activities as tactics to attract young people and to influence policies to favour its commercial interests over public health.



Children play innocently in highly polluted water at Kigogo Darajani in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

ARC urges innovative financing solutions for farmers in African

ADDIS ABABA

THE need for innovative financing mechanisms for Africa's farmers is becoming increasingly urgent as the continent faces challenges such as climate change, low productivity and conflict, according to African Risk Capacity (ARC).

At the 10th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), experts urged policymakers to assess farmers' needs and improve access to funding to meet the Malabo Commitment to end hunger by 2025 and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Key strategies include collaborative efforts, private sector engage-

ment, and strategic partnerships.

The ARC highlights the significance of Africa's agricultural sector, which provides 70 percent of the continent's food supply. However, it is under threat from increasing extreme weather events caused by climate change, leading to soil degradation. This degradation costs farmers up to \$1,400 annually and has affected 65 percent of Africa's soil, upon which 83 percent of sub-Saharan Africans rely for their livelihoods.

Addressing these challenges requires significant investment, yet investor caution and funding obstacles persist. Overcoming these hurdles is crucial for achieving agricultural transformation and food security outlined in

the African Union Agenda 2063.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, increasing global food insecurity by disrupting Ukraine's agricultural exports, presents an opportunity for Africa, according to ARC: "By improving yields and insuring them against climate risks, African farmers could help close the gap, unlocking immense economic growth and development potential. Tapping into finance would also help farmers expand into the 60 percent of arable land that is still uncultivated on the continent."

Under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), African governments aim to allocate 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture

and rural development, but more may be needed.

Governments could also help by subsidising climate insurance to encourage investment, with private sector involvement crucial for driving innovation and addressing industry challenges.

ARC Ltd, the financial arm of the ARC Group, demonstrates the impact of addressing farmers' needs and forming strategic partnerships. The company offers micro and meso insurance products to small and medium-scale farmers, protecting assets and income from droughts and other risks. By insuring banks against defaults during severe weather events, ARC Ltd. enables more

lending to farmers for productivity and income growth.

Lesley Ndllovu, CEO of ARC states: "There is no story that can be told about African development without taking into account agriculture and the need to protect investments in the sector."

Moreover, ARC has been involved in various projects across Africa to expand climate insurance and benefit African farmers.

ARC Ltd. has also partnered with the US Government (USG) on an \$11.7 million project to protect vulnerable smallholder farmers and African governments against climate risks.

Ange Chitate, Project Head and ARC Ltd.

Zambia ex-first lady in custody over fraud

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA's former First Lady Esther Lungu and her daughter Chiyeso Katete have been arrested over possession of properties suspected to be proceeds of crime.

The two were arrested on Thursday in the capital, Lusaka, alongside another close relative identified as Charles Phiri, authorities said.

Lungu "failed to give a reasonable explanation" of how she acquired a \$1.5m estate in the capital, the state anti-drug agency said.

Former President Edgar Lungu said the family would challenge the charges in court.

The former leader has been accusing the government of victimising him and members of his Patriotic Front (PF) party to block his return to politics ahead of 2026 elections.

He recently claimed to have been put under house arrest over his heightened political activities although the government denied it.

Last September, his wife was arrested over corruption allegations, involving cases of theft of motor vehicles and title deeds, which she denied.

On Thursday, Lungu, 66, was arrested on suspicion of fraudulently acquiring a luxurious real estate in Lusaka, the Drug Enforcement Com-

mission (DEC) said in a statement.

It said Lungu owned "15 white double storey flats" situated in State Lodge area of Lusaka's Chongwe town, "reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime."

The exact date the property, owned jointly with other unknown people, was acquired was not clear but the DEC said it was bought between 2015 and 2023.

The DEC said her daughter was faced with additional charges of acquiring another three flats estate in Lusaka, suspected to have been bought fraudulently.

"Further, she was arrested for possession of 1 high-cost house, four chicken runs, and associated external works in the property," the agency added. They were all released on bond, said Lungu, adding that they were safe at home after being questioned by DEC officials for several hours on Thursday.

Another of Lungu's daughters, Tasila, is facing separate but related charges, according to the DEC.

She has been ordered, through her lawyers, to appear at the DEC on Monday.

The accused persons did not comment on the allegations but in a brief statement, the former president said the family would challenge them in court.



Major works along the Ubungo-Kimara Mwisho stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road in progress yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'Saving Africa's wetlands vital fight for biodiversity'

By Special Correspondent

SECRETARY General of the Convention on Wetlands Musonda Mumba has called for international and local collaboration to preserve these vital ecosystems.

He said faced with the rapid loss of biodiversity in Africa, the protection of wetlands is emerging as a key priority.

From the Gambia to Mozambique, inspiring initiatives are showing the way towards sustainable and participatory management, which is vital for the ecological future of the continent.

"Africa's biodiversity, essential

to the continent's economy and climate resilience, is in serious decline," he said.

According to Mumba, the loss of biodiversity in Africa could accelerate under the impact of climate change, with alarming projections indicating that more than half of African bird and mammal species could disappear by the end of the century.

This loss also threatens the productivity of lakes and the diversity of plant species.

In an article published on 21 May 2024 on the United Nations (UN) website, the wetlands expert explains the role of these ecosystems

in preserving biodiversity. They are home to a wide range of flora and fauna, provide fresh water and food, create jobs and protect local communities from floods and storms. However, these ecosystems are being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Many African countries have taken steps to counter this crisis by developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans. These efforts are aimed at achieving the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Although overall progress is difficult to measure, notable successes have been achieved in restoring threatened species and managing protected wetlands.

International initiatives such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands play a key role. For example, cross-border collaboration between Gambia and Senegal has led to the protection of the Niimi-Saloum Ramsar site, which is crucial for regional biodiversity. In Gabon, World Bank-funded projects have strengthened conservation in parks and forested wetlands, reducing illegal activities such as fishing and poaching.

In South Africa, a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has improved management of the iSimangaliso wetland, creating jobs and training local leaders in effective resource management.

Mozambique, through the MozBio programme, has protected various habitats, including coral reefs and national parks, mobilising thousands of local participants in conservation.

Local communities are key players in the preservation of wetlands. In Angola, the ecologist Fernanda Samuel, through her work with the non-governmental organisation Otchiva, has inspired a generation of young people to get involved in conservation.

In Uganda, the initiatives of two local women in the Achwa river basin demonstrate the importance of community-based resource man-

agement. In Madagascar, the community led by Justin Rakotomahira has transformed 56 hectares of arid land into a haven of biodiversity, demonstrating the power of local action.

Protecting wetlands is essential to halting the loss of biodiversity in Africa. Efforts must be concerted, involving governments, NGOs, international institutions and above all local communities.

Local initiatives, supported by international frameworks such as the Convention on Wetlands, show that collaboration at all levels can reverse destructive trends and preserve the continent's natural heritage.

US sanctions Uganda's parliament speaker over human rights abuses

KAMPALA

THE UNITED STATES on Thursday May imposed sanctions on Uganda's Parliament Speaker, her husband and several other officials over corruption and serious abuses of human rights.

Anita Among was sanctioned "due to involvement in significant corruption tied to her leadership" of Uganda's national assembly, the U.S. State Department said.

Lt. Gen. Peter Elwelu, a former deputy chief of Uganda's military, was sanctioned over "extrajudicial killings" committed by government troops. Three former government ministers, recently implicated in the theft of roofing sheets that were not distributed to members of an impoverished community, were also sanctioned.

Among, a senior member of Uganda's ruling party and an ally of President Yoweri Museveni, has been under the spotlight recently over the source of her wealth as well as allegations relating to the misuse of parliamentary resources. The United Kingdom announced sanctions against her last month, citing corruption.

At the centre of an ongoing probe ordered by the president, is whether Among owns property in the U.K that she did not declare to authorities.

The State Department statement said those sanctioned are barred from entering the U.S.

Among's husband and lawmaker Moses Magogo was also sanctioned. He has been president of the Ugandan soccer federation since 2013. The next men's World Cup in 2026 is being co-hosted by the United States, with Canada and Mexico, and Magogo would have been expected to attend the tournament.

Ugandans have been stunned by the revelations about Among's spending. She has denied the allegations and has claimed she is the victim of a political witch hunt. She says she is being targeted for her role in enacting an anti-gay bill condemned by rights watchdogs and others.



You may elect to call it 'fashionable' - the in-thing. However, it could easily turn into a tragic contravention of traffic regulations... Roving correspondent Sabato Kasika captured this scene along a feeder road in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis suburb yesterday.

Africa's urbanisation shifts food systems, endangers biodiversity

By Special Correspondent

RESEARCHERS have emphasised that urbanization in Africa is accelerating quickly, showing no signs of slowing down, something which calls for policymakers to adopt holistic approaches in the decision-making process.

In a recent study issued by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the researchers emphasised the importance of integrating indirect land-use effects and dietary shifts into land-use planning and policymaking is essential to tackle

future sustainability challenges.

The recent research on the environmental impact of urban expansion treats it as the conversion of various land covers to urban land, focusing only on the direct effects was published Nature Sustainability.

The IIASA, researchers and their colleagues demonstrated the complexity of expected urbanization and its multiple environmental impacts.

"As Africa is urbanizing the fastest, its food system is also transforming rapidly. This puts a lot of pressure on food security in what is already the most food-insecure region in the world," said Koen De

Vos, study author and a guest research assistant in the Integrated Biospheres Futures Research Group of the IIASA Biodiversity and Natural Resources Programme.

He said: "In our study, we consider both direct land-use changes and indirect effects, such as agricultural displacement and dietary shifts associated with urbanization, particularly concerning rice consumption."

The researchers developed a method to integrate all of this information using the GLOBIOM model, creating an elaborate, complex, and multidimension-

al study that is unprecedented in its scope.

Results show that, contrary to common belief, urban area expansion has a limited impact on food production losses, as agricultural land simply expands elsewhere. At the same time, the impact on natural lands is more significant, as it encompasses not only the direct effects of urban area expansion but also the subsequent displacement of agricultural land.

The most important environmental spillover effects arise from dietary changes, particularly rice consumption. As people eat more rice in African cities, more rice needs to be produced, resulting in

SATURDAY 1 JUNE 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Crucial lessons from TBA's 'under par' collection of rental obligations

THAT the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) has collected a lowly 4.3bn/- in rental fees out of an expected 14.35bn/- from its tenants across the country is in a sense tied up with its name.

It is supposed to be a building agency rather than a housing magnate, in which case its staff and supervising authorities or ministerial departments could be satisfied with its work. It is to presume that rental fees are an additional element, an inducement to do more, not what it relies on.

Landlords demand rent aggressively because they live it and pay workers from the same revenues, while ability to obtain credit from banks uniquely relates to current account balances or periodic cash flows. When all this is irrelevant in what an agency needs to survive and possibly prosper, its flair in collecting rents will be limited - as it has social ties to its clients that outweigh its revenue consideration. In this, TBA just cannot be an exception.

This disparity in revenue collection or rental obligations was aired in the National Assembly just the other day during debate on the Works ministry's budget estimates for financial year 2024/2025.

The respective minister had told the Union legislative body something to the effect that FY 2023/2024 had seen a rise in the agency's rental collections. It was not immediately clear how far MPs were moved by vows of defaulting on the collection of due rental fees, outstanding often for long periods. The minister talked about no one being spared, while the fact is that the agency doesn't rent individuals but in their capacity as officers of state departments or institutions.

MPs were on the same lane as the minister in insisting that, without acting hard on tenants, the funds will be lost and thus disrupt the agency's

operations. The added that the ministry was working to ensure that the government gets what it is required to collect.

Looking at information on TBA in literature available online, it would appear that it is the government that ought to be paying the rents rather than the civil servants housed there.

But this isn't being put out clearly - perhaps because the tenants apply as individuals or families, with discreet pedigree. Members of the National Assembly's Infrastructure committee had their doubts and worries with respect to TBA's ability to actually collect rents, as opposed to talking about the issue.

They moved to demand that the government put in place new systems to ensure easy collection of debts if it would penalise those defaulting or even merely delaying payments. That is effective if it is themselves who pay the dues, not when it is the employer who is actually being billed with the dues - as the real TBA debtor.

One gets a slightly different idea when scanning an online profile, which actually belongs to the agency, saying that TBA is not a real competitor to the National Housing Corporation.

The reason for this is that TBA has mainly focused on housing for civil servants since its birth in 2002, while there is a chance of its proceeding with its plans from house sale revenues. The agency is understood to have built 1,226 public housing units and sold 7,499 houses to public servants. Therefore, it is immaterial if public servants skip the rent as they would later turn into owners - through purchases.

A bit confusing, one might say. But, why, as this would not be an exceptional or unfamiliar scenario providing no useful lessons?

UNICEF's fear of rise in violence against children sure wake-up call

ACTIVISTS have lately issued alerts that violence against children in Africa's central Sahel region surged dramatically in the last quarter of 2023.

Data collected by UNICEF in a survey focused on the restive countries of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger indicate that incidents of gross violence recorded shot up by 70 per cent over the particular three months.

Instances of recruitment and use of children in armed groups along with killings and maiming of children more than doubled, this pointing to a worsening situation.

A UNICEF regional director for West and Central Asia underscored the need to arrest the distressing rise, focusing on the populations generally but children in particular, saying that civilians need protection from all forms of violence.

Those conducting research say that communities are caught up in fighting and badly need protection. It is complicated and tricky indeed deciding at what point civilians are participants in what is happening and at what point they are caught between two hostile forces, as both waves of violence are anchored in society.

The UN agency reports that far too many children are being affected by grave violations of their rights, including killings, abductions and recruitment by armed groups. The moral of the story lies in the distinction between armed groups and children as well as, by extension, with civilians.

When UNICEF talks about the need to ensure the protection of children, it's not quite clear who the target or addressee is. Even with that vagueness, though, children

are an easy and clear target whenever society slides into civil war

Mwalimu JK Nyerere had occasion to answer a question in an appearance at the University of Dar es Salaam on why a students' government was banned. He referred to some unseemly disturbances and then came up with the maxim "every country has a government it deserves".

He meant that people might demand democratic treatment of communities while they themselves can't even as much as raise a finger at their own modes of life, what they seek after and how such organisations weave into social fabrics. Global democratic etiquette makes it impossible to single out modes of social organisation as a cause of the sort of disturbances and gross violations of human rights arising in such situations.

But it is impossible to remove violence in society unless what leads to that violence is also tackled - and that is why the market society is vital.

When people dissolve into vast markets where each one starts with a land quotient which can be exchanged for capital to restart in life and industry starts blossoming, people have other things to do. When they are idle and detest people driving flashy cars, trouble brews up. Without reform, societies court strife - and communities detest reforms because outsiders will benefit by selling companies or land, the holy grail of traditional society.

And then when all this explodes, activists cry out for some foreign or alien standards at least for children and women, while they belong to the same violent mix.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Maggot farming creates entrepreneurs, saves farming costs in Zimbabwe

HARARE

THREE years ago, 43-year-old Bernard Munondo was an "ordinary" Zimbabwean teacher at a local primary school, but now he has turned maggots into gold.

Thanks to maggot farming, Munondo, who has never owned a home nor driven a car, now has both.

In 2020, a week's training on maggot farming changed his world.

One of the maggot farming trainers posted an advertisement on social media that lured Munondo in.

"Discover the Fascinating World of Maggot Farming! Whether you're a farmer looking to boost your livestock's nutrition or an entrepreneur seeking a unique venture, this training is for you! Fee: USD 30. Don't miss out on this opportunity to revolutionize your farming practices," reads the advertisement. This seized his attention.

Since then, he has not turned back and maggot farming has become a way of life in a country with 90 percent unemployment, according to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU).

Instead, Munondo, like several other maggot entrepreneurs, has become more of an employer after he set up a maggot plot of land just a year after he received training in farming the worms.

He has not, however, quit his teaching job, saying maggot farming, thanks to his workforce of 14 people at his plot outside the Zimbabwean capital Harare, has become his side job.

In fact, maggot farming, which involves breeding and harvesting maggots for various purposes such as producing cheap, high-protein animal feed, composting, and waste management, has become a big hit in Zimbabwe.

Many Zimbabweans, like Munondo in the capital, Harare, who are involved in maggot farming, are using the maggots to feed their own home-grown chickens.

For Munondo, that has helped cut costs for the over 800 chickens he rears in his backyard.

It now costs just USD 3.50 for entrepreneurs like Munondo to fully breed one chicken using maggots, compared to USD 6.50 using soy-based feed.

Thanks to maggot farming, Munondo claimed he was raking in 70 to 80 dollars a day from selling maggots alone, which he said at the end of the month exceeded the total he earns from his teaching job.

An average school teacher in Zimbabwe earns about USD 200 every month after tax deductions and for many, like Munondo, maggot farming has come in handy to supplement his meagre earnings from his government job.

With garbage going uncollected for long periods across Zimbabwe's towns



The maggots that are making animal feed more affordable in Zimbabwe come from the black soldier flies. These are being used in several countries in Africa. Credit: IITA

and cities, thanks to poor service delivery by council authorities, Munondo said some residents are buying maggots to destroy uncollected waste.

"The same maggots that are feeding my chickens are being used to get rid of uncollected waste."

As maggot farming gains traction in Zimbabwe, even young people like 23-year-old Jonathan Pamhare in Harare have found something to gain from the maggots.

"I don't really do maggot farming, but I'm interested in them and I started a training company that offers agricultural training, and among the trainings is maggot farming," Pamhare told IPS.

Well versed in all the procedures related to maggot farming, Pamhare also said, "It (maggot farming) is the most profitable business because your expense is mostly your time."

As such, added Pamhare, they (the maggots) feed on just anything rotten that comes within their reach.

This, Pamhare said, is cheap, coming more often than not at zero cost, with the maggots maturing in a period of about two weeks.

From his training venture, Pamhare made his money, charging between USD 30 and 40 per head for all the trainees that he recruits.

In high-density areas of Harare like Sunningdale, five kilometers east of Harare, thanks to maggot farming trainers, several homes boast of rearing chickens for sale and feeding them using maggots.

Battling high prices for chicken feed has become a thing of the past, as many urban chicken farmers now switch to maggots to fatten their chickens.

But these are no ordinary maggots, according to many, like Munondo, who has made a name for himself as a thriving maggot farmer. Maggots begin as what Munondo called black soldier flies - literally giant black flies - which, through metamorphosis, turn into maggots. Pig farmers have also embraced them and are now feeding

their pigs the protein-rich maggots.

The black soldier flies, popularly known as BSF here, have a four-stage life cycle from egg to larvae to pupa to adult fly.

The BSF deposit their eggs near a food source and after about three to four days, the flies grow into larvae that feed on the waste prior to being harvested.

There are no latest official statistics about maggot farmers in Zimbabwe, but the Zimbabwe Organic and Natural Food Association has been on record in the media, claiming that of late the number of maggot farmers has been growing.

The reason, said Munondo, is that maggot farming is the easiest.

"Maggots don't require much land, while they need neither chemicals nor lots of water in order to be reared. Just a small land piece, flies, and waste, which are the most crucial components, are all one requires in order to kickstart maggot farming," said Munondo.

By Telesphor Magobe

Court after evidence, not sympathy for victim



LAST week, we briefly reflected on Tanzania's meeting of criteria for graduation from the status of UN least developed countries (LDCs) for the first time, thanks to the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)'s 26th session report of March 4-8, 2024.

The session was held in New York and the CDP said Tanzania and two other East African countries, namely Rwanda and Uganda, had met for the first time criteria for graduation from the UN LDC status and that the three countries would be assessed again during a triennial review in 2027. We concluded that with political will Tanzania has the potential to rise from the LDC category to an emerging market economy, so let's keep the fire burning!

Today, I invite you to look at rape, which is a criminal offence in Tanzania by virtue of sections 130 and 131(I) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022). I have been prompted to have a look again at rape after I listened to a clip on X. In this clip a 60-year-old grandmother complains to a regional commissioner (RC) that her Standard Four granddaughter was raped by a motorcyclist (bodaboda) who came to take her to school, but on the way he took her to a certain place where he undressed and started raping her.

The girl returned home to tell her grandmother who with a neighbour found that she had been indeed raped and was able to name the culprit by one name. The grandmother went to a police station to take a PF3 form and then took the girl to hospital where she was examined and a medical doctor found that she had been raped and prescribed some medicine for her.

The motorcyclist was arrested and taken to the district court, but on the judgement day the magistrate found the accused not guilty of the offence of rape and so he was re-

leased. However, the case is open to appeal. Aggrieved by the court ruling, the grandmother went to the RC for help and after hearing of the girl's grandmother's own story directed the Officer Commanding District (OCD) to re-arrest the motorcyclist and that the case should be filed afresh.

Indeed, it is very painful when a minor is raped, and it is even more painful when the court judgement favours the accused. Sometimes evidence can be cooked in favour of the accused where corruption is involved, but it is also possible to produce weak evidence which in the end favours the accused.

If in the eyes of the court evidence is too weak to incriminate the accused the court dismisses it and in this case the judgement favours the accused. Thus, if the prosecution fails to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt there is no miracle the magistrate or judge can perform, but dismiss the case.

This case law can help us in this. Godi Kasenegala (appellant) v Republic (respondent), which is an appeal from the decision of the High Court of Tanzania in Iringa (2007), the appellant was charged with the offence of rape contrary to sections 130 and 131(I) of the Penal Code before the District Court of Iringa District. He was found guilty of the offence, convicted and sentenced to life

imprisonment. He was also ordered to pay the victim Sh200,000 compensation. Aggrieved by the conviction and sentence, he unsuccessfully appealed to the High Court of Tanzania in Iringa.

Then, he appealed to the Court of Appeal. One of the prosecution witnesses of the mother of the girl who found the appellant raping her four-year-old daughter on a maize farm. The girl was taken to hospital and a medical doctor examined her and confirmed she had been raped. In this case three witnesses were close relatives, except one. But there is no law in Tanzania which dismisses evidence on the ground that it is from close relatives. Although this ground was advanced by the appellant, the Court of Appeal dismissed it.

Now the Court of appeal had two issues before it: 1) whether the girl was or not raped and 2) if she were raped, whether (given the evidence produced before it) it was the appellant who raped her. However, with all the evidence presented before it there was no proof of penetration which is an essential element to establish the offence of rape.

Citing *Selemani Makumba v Republic* [Criminal Appeal No 94 of 1999 (unreported)] the court said: "True evidence of rape has to come from the victim, if an adult, that there was penetration and

no consent, and in case of any other women where consent is irrelevant that there was penetration."

In the eyes of the Court of Appeal, the four out of five witnesses "we have found ourselves constrained to conclude that the evidence does not render any assurance to the claim that [the girl] was raped on July 20, 2004." So, the evidence left was that of the girl herself.

The panel of Justices noted that: "We wish to re-emphasise here...two conditions in the second stage must be satisfied conjunctively before the unsworn or un-affirmed evidence of a child witness is received. If, upon a proper examination of the child, either both attributes or any one of them are found wanting, then his or her evidence must be dispensed with, in conformity with the mandatory requirements of both the Evidence Act [section 127 (2)] and the Oaths and Statutory Declarations Act [section 127(2)]. In the light of these clear statutory provisions, unsworn evidence of a child witness received outside the ambit of the provisions of section 127(2) is as good as no evidence at all in a criminal trial. It should always be discarded or discounted."

In this regard, the evidence of the victim of rape was also discounted. The Court of Appeal found that the evidence of the victim of rape was "extremely wanting in cogency" and "the evidence of other witnesses does not irresistibly lead to the conclusion that [the girl] was raped and even if she was, that the culprit was the appellant. In short, the guilt of the appellant was not proved beyond reasonable doubt."

In light of this, the conviction and sentence of the appellant were quashed and set aside. Therefore, the appeal was allowed and the Court ordered the appellant to be released from prison unless he was otherwise lawfully held. It suffices to say that in the eyes of the law sympathy for the victim does not help, but what helps is cogent evidence as a legal maxim coined by Lord Hewart Chief Justice of England (1924) goes "Justice must not only be done, but must also be seen to be done."

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

The Law and You



Africa's economic sovereignty: The time is now for African-led solutions

By Hamza Cherif D'Ouezza

FIRST, on a personal level: In my career so far, I had mostly attended Western business conferences. Being in rooms full of fellow African brothers and sisters from across the continent felt long overdue, refreshing and a win in itself.

With African entrepreneurs, youth, and elders alike, learning about each other's communities, challenges, and local solutions filled me with genuine pride and much-needed hope for my continent. A special mention goes to traditional African clothes as business attire: how colorful, how beautiful!

The second thing that struck me is how clear our collective voice, as Africans, is today. In the keynotes and panels, as well as in one-on-one discussions, there was a consensus about our shared main challenge across the continent: Africa has generated significant added value for centuries, fueling economies worldwide.

However, African trade still accounts for just about 3 percent of global trade, according to the World Bank. This shows that African economies have not benefited, and African communities have not reaped the benefits of this added value. Consequently, these communities struggle to build fairer, more effective economies. Our economies are held back by systemic challenges (such as persistent unemployment, corruption, brain drain, and the climate crisis) and by limited resources—Africa receives less than 1 percent of total venture capital compared to about 30% for Asia (AVCA, 2021) and about 5 percent of total foreign direct investment inflows, compared to about 42 percent for the Asian continent (UNCTAD).

It is clear that change is urgently needed. African communities must upgrade their trade infrastructure and do things differently: we need to gradually divest from systems that extract value from Africa and invest in systems that cultivate Africa and propel it towards a future where it is truly sovereign.

Previous attempts to implement solutions in African communities often failed because they resulted from Western intervention, not grassroots initiatives led by Africans. These imported approaches perpetuated extractive power dynamics and were ill-suited to African needs. It is time for grassroots solutions led by Africans themselves.

We are today at the very beginning of this reform project, and meaningful initiatives like the AfCFTA are on track to provide support. However, the amount of work needed to make this vision a reality can quickly become overwhelming and dissuade us from even trying.

This is why so many young Africans choose to build their futures elsewhere. As a young African today, a returning expatriate, and someone who spent the past four years thinking about, discussing, and working alongside my community to address systemic issues in Morocco, I would like to offer some perspectives.

While the numbers I mentioned are not encouraging, there is a particular number that simplifies the issue in my eyes: about 7 out of 10 jobs in emerging markets are



created by small and medium businesses (ILO).

This means most jobs and the change we seek can be created by local African entrepreneurs, provided that we design a system that supports them in accessing the market. While the problems are big, the solutions start locally and can be true to our communities and cultures: if the American dream is a big multinational factory business, the African dream is a well-run local cooperative.

Speaking of cooperatives, I would like to zoom in and introduce a concrete example of a local initiative I am part of that embodies this vision: The Anou Cooperative.

When you buy a product on the Moroccan craft market, whether online or in local medinas, artisans (mostly rural women who did not go to school) earn on average 4 percent of what you pay (less than \$1 a day when the minimum wage is \$10 a day).

The remaining 96 percent goes to middlemen, many of whom are foreign-owned businesses. These businesses amass significant wealth and experience exponential growth by selling these products, while Moroccan artisans are marginalized and struggling to earn even the minimum wage.

Official data demonstrates that this exploitation has slowly eroded the craft industry, which represents the second-larg-

est source of employment in rural areas and a significant competitive advantage for Morocco in the international market.

Artisans are abandoning their crafts, organic materials are being replaced with environmentally harmful alternatives, and ancestral technology and cultural heritage are being lost—all while demand for said craft is at an all-time high and the market is worth billions of dollars.

The non-African solution to this problem is the concept of "fair trade," which has been implemented over the past 50 years through Western intervention by fair trade organizations and foreign businesses. In this model, about 20% of the paid price is allocated to artisans, while 80% is consumed by (mostly foreign) overhead costs. As such, most of the added value of craft does not stay within the artisan community.

The African solution, embodied by The Anou Cooperative, is different. Ten years ago, rural artisan community organizers from different regions of Morocco, each equipped with experience gained locally, united to establish a national cooperative and the country's first artisan-owned and artisan-managed e-commerce platform. Beyond fair trade, The Anou Cooperative has developed simplified technology owned by the artisans themselves and a peer-to-peer artisan-led training system.

Combined, these allow artisans to manage their market access, sell directly to their clients online, and keep 100% of the price. This transformative shift in capacity and revenue generation helped artisans regain control over their market and paved the way for a craft economy that centers on artisans and sustainability.

Anou artisans are today able to make the minimum wage and beyond. They are regaining agency over their craft: focusing on product quality to develop the competitiveness of Moroccan craft, developing partnerships with wholesale companies to scale their work and bring economic opportunities back into the country, and diversifying revenue streams by going into retail and services (offering village visits, residencies, workshops) among other things.

They are even integrating their supply chain and developing one of the most ambitious supply chains for craft in Africa through the Atlas Wool Supply Co., Africa's first carbon-negative wool mill. Beyond providing an alternative to imported wool from New Zealand, this wool mill champions climate crisis mitigation solutions by incorporating a solar farm that allows low-energy costs, which are used as incentives for farmers to adopt greener practices.

The mill ultimately aims to promote, in the context of severe droughts, a future

where Ait Bougmez, the valley where the mill is located, will have more water in 20 years than it does today.

The key factor contributing to the success of The Anou Cooperative is that it is carried by the communities it serves: by Moroccan artisans, for Moroccan artisans. Thus, it can conceptualize solutions beyond Western imagination: why hire a foreigner to do the market-access work on behalf of artisans and keep most of the added value, when we can redesign the system to enable the artisans themselves to do the work and keep 100% of the sale price of their product?

The journey of realizing the vision of The Anou Cooperative has been, and continues to be, arduous. Things that should take a year, in our context, take ten years. This is because our existing systems are not built to support systemic change or MSMEs. The foundations that fund work on social issues are highly risk-averse and are thus more comfortable funding business-as-usual and predictable charity models (despite a track record showing that those models do not work) over funding innovative grassroots models that provide the desired impact and valuable agency for the communities.

Extractive foreign businesses are still the norm and receive more support than artisan businesses. Despite a decade of artisans selling directly online, government agencies still claim that artisans cannot do so and would rather support middlemen businesses that exploit these communities.

Yet Anou artisans are not backing down (what choice do they have?), because they understand that change takes time and that fortune favors the bold. They have had to get creative, and through private investment, they are acquiring meaningful assets to build a robust artisan infrastructure.

The latest component of which is a million-dollar investment in a flagship Anou retail store in the heart of Marrakech, the tourism capital, to capture more demand and opportunities and scale their work further. Through their resilience and innovative problem-solving, Anou artisans continue to ensure market access for over 600 artisans across Morocco today and plan to grow that number meaningfully over the next few years.

By Priyanka Shankar

AMAR Baran Paul can never forget how the ground below him shook and more than 25 houses around him collapsed four years ago in Harishpur town in eastern India's West Bengal state.

Harishpur is located near the Madhabpur opencast coal mine – where coal is extracted from the surface of the ground and not by digging the ground – operated by Eastern Coalfield Limited (ECL). It is in the Asansol-Raniganj coal belt in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district, about a six-hour drive from the state capital, Kolkata.

The belt, which has 146 villages, has been extensively mined since the 17th century, and land subsidence incidents like the one in Harishpur, which occurred when the ground near the opencast mine collapsed, are common in the area.

"In July 2020, the road nearing our township suddenly sank and cracks began emerging on houses near this road. Soon after, we could feel tremors and the walls of some houses began falling," Paul, a retired ECL employee, said. "More than 20 people lost their homes overnight."

Sitting on the verandah of his home where the cracks on the walls were clearly visible, Paul said more than 400 residents were forced to flee Harishpur after the land subsidence. Paul's family found a house on rent near the town but the steep rent made them return to their damaged home.

"I have a son who is 29 and disabled. I have to prioritise his safety. Living in Harishpur I constantly worry that if the ground sinks again because of the opencast mine, my son's life will be in danger," said Paul, who belongs to the Jadhav caste, falling under the Other Backward Class (OBC) – a collective term used by the Indian government to classify castes that are educationally or socially backward. The village also houses people from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) – other government classifications for historically disadvantaged communities.

Accentuating the sense of vulnerability among these communities in Harishpur is a sense of neglect.

"The state government and politicians came here four years ago promising support and encouragement. But since then our voices remain unheard. Our demands for compensation for the land we have lost and houses damaged have also not been met," said Paul, explaining how they have held hunger strikes, boycotted local elections and protested by blocking national highways to ensure their demands are met.

An hour's drive from Harishpur, 71-year-old Manik Bauri and his family live in the village of Rakhakura, which is also in the Paschim Bardhaman district, near a mine operated by Integrated Coal Mining Limited (ICML), owned by RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group.

"Since the opencast mine was developed on our land, we have all become land losers. We've lost what we own to coal companies and in return are left with polluted air to breathe, toxic water to drink, a truckload of health problems and no jobs," Bauri said.

"Politicians want the money from the coal projects. They don't care about us."

Bauri's house lies adjacent to the mine and is one among about 500 houses in Rakhapura. A smell similar to that of ash after a wildfire engulfs the atmosphere in the village and coal dust envelops the floor of every terrace and verandah.

"Our health gets affected by inhaling the coal dust-tinted air. Diseases like tuberculosis and eczema are common here. Even if we shut the windows, the [coal] dust comes in and when there is blasting at the mine, our entire house shakes," Madhivi Bauri, Manik's 45-year-old sister, said.

Samit Kumar Carr, secretary-general of the Occupational Safety & Health Association of Jharkhand (OSHAJ), a nonprofit that works with coal miners, said unprotected open cast, underground coal mining sites and coal-based power generation plants pose specific health risks to workers and the community living near the mines.

"Many of them who inhale coal dust which contains carbon over both short and long periods suffer from coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP), which is an irreversible, incurable, and progressive occupational lung dis-

'They stole our jobs and life': Anger and desperation in India's coal belt



Amar Baran Paul, a retired ECL employee, with his 29-year-old disabled son in the yard of their house in Harishpur, West Bengal.

ease, representing a specific form of pneumoconiosis," he said.

Traditionally, the coal belt is also home to some of India's poorest communities, which suffer from malnutrition. That makes them more vulnerable to tuberculosis if they are affected by CWP, Carr said.

Madhivi Bauri's 30-year-old daughter-in-law Asha Bauri said she fears for their children's future and hopes to leave the village.

The West Bengal constituencies where Harishpur's Paul and Rakhakura's Bauris live voted on May 13 in the fourth phase of India's mammoth seven-phase election which began on April 19.

The state is currently under the rule of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC), which is competing against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main governing party ruling federally.

Staring at the mine – which resembles a low-lying hill – near his house and describing how the mine lights up with fire at night after blasting ends just before sunset, Manik Bauri lamented that no politician cares about them.

"They stole our jobs and life by putting up a mine here," he said.

Demands unheard but dependent on the coal industry

India's coal industry was nationalised by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1973. The blanket order applied to all the coal mines in the country and ensured that coal mining would be exclusively reserved for the public sector. However, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act of 1973 was amended in 1993 to allow limited private-sector participation in coal mining.

Nationalisation formalised the industry and, in turn, boosted the black sedimentary rock's monetary value politically, according to Gareth Price, a senior research fellow at the Irish think tank The Azure Forum for Contemporary Security Strategy.

"Earlier, a lot of local groups were in charge of the different mines but after nationalisation, there was a degree of organisation and the money went to the national government," he said.

"But the debate around boosting coal was framed

around the fact that people in India need access to power and hence coal-fired power stations have to exist," he said, adding that the real reason which is monetary, continues to be masked.

In theory, cheap renewable energy could replace India's dependence on coal. But at the moment, that is a long way off for some of the country's most coal-dependent regions.

"However in the big coal belts like Raniganj in West Bengal and in the Indian state of Jharkhand, there are few other sources of revenue. So entire villages, businesses and politicians depend on the coal sector to earn a livelihood. This makes phasing out coal a challenge since livelihoods are at stake," he said.

India is currently the second largest producer of coal. To cut down on coal imports, the Modi government has been leasing out coal mines to private companies. According to the country's Ministry of Coal, 104 blocks have been auctioned under commercial mining.

Coal India, a state-run near-monopoly, has also ramped up production, with 703.20 million tonnes being produced during the 2022-23 financial year compared with 622.63 million tonnes being produced in 2021-22.

A career in illegal coal smuggling

Anup Das, 22, who lives in a village along West Bengal's Barabani railway station in Paschim Bardhaman district, welcomed the coal projects. The coal sliding along this track is a private project.

"My entire livelihood depends on the functioning of India's coal sector," he said.

Clad in a fake branded T-shirt and surrounded by his friends near the railway track, Das explained how, due to the lack of other jobs in the region, everyone is directly or indirectly involved in working in the coal sector, even if it harms their health and the environment – and even if they lose their land in the process.

"But all of us cannot get directly employed by the coal companies since we are illiterate or under-skilled. So we have found a career in the illegal coal smuggling business where we carry bags of coal we steal from the mines to factories on bikes or cycles," Das said.

"It is the only way to earn money to put food on our plates."

According to a 2019 report by the Press Trust of India

news agency, throughout the Asansol-Raniganj belt, in about 3,500 illegal coal mines, at least 35,000 people are directly employed (work in the mines), while another 40,000 get indirect employment (involved in supplying the coal to factories or are involved in handling coal hauling). Illegal mines do not have the government's permission to exist. People working in them are also not given any official employment papers.

Munna Jha, 35, a coal trader in the region, told Al Jazeera that these days, much of the coal stolen by people like Das originates from legal mines. He claimed that political parties benefit from the illegal coal business – getting cuts of the illicit profits.

"In these open cast mines, as soon as the blasting process – done by the mining companies which have won tenders from the government to mining for them – takes place, over 200 people [in each site] assemble at a spot and illegally collect the coal. They load the coal on cycles or bikes and transfer it to private warehouses from where they are loaded on trucks and transported to iron and steel factories," Jha said.

The illegal coal typically fetches 30 percent less than the price of the legal coal – but it is still better than no income for Das and others like him.

West Bengal Chief Minister Banerjee has repeatedly promised to end the illegal coal trade and increased police checks on vehicles suspected of smuggling coal.

Local daily The Statesman reported that, during an election rally in Raniganj on May 10, Modi's Home Minister Amit Shah alleged that the TMC was linked with the coal mafia.

But Narendra Nath Chakraborty, district president of the TMC, claimed that "it is the BJP which encourages the illegal coal mining in Raniganj coalfield area".

"Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has taken a strong stance against the coal mafia after she came to power in 2011," he claimed.

Swaraj Das, an activist from the Project Affected People's Association – a group comprising people who have been affected by coal mines – emphasised the need for investment in education and jobs in the region so people living near mines can end their dependence on the coal industry. But politicians across parties, he alleged, benefitted from the corruption in the coal industry.

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

Small island nations demand urgent global action at conference

By Alison Kentish, Antigua

"THIS year has been the hottest in history in practically every corner of the globe, foretelling severe impacts on our ecosystems and starkly underscoring the urgency of our predicament. We are gathered here not merely to reiterate our challenges, but to demand and enact solutions," declared Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Brown at the opening of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States on May 27.

The world's 39 small island developing states are meeting on the Caribbean island this week. It is a pivotal, once-a-decade meeting for small states that contribute little to global warming, but are disproportionately impacted by climate change. The Caribbean leader reminded the world that SIDS are being forced to survive crises that they did not create.

"The scales of equity and justice are unevenly balanced against us. The large-scale polluters whose CO2 emissions have fuelled these catastrophic climate changes bear a responsibility—an obligation of compensation to aid in our quest to build resilience," he said.

"The Global North must honour its commitments, including the pivotal pledge of one hundred billion dollars in climate financing to assist with adaptation and mitigation as well as the effective capitalization

and operationalization of the loss and damage fund. These are imperative investments in humanity, in justice, and in the equitable future of humanity."

Urgent Support Needed from the International Community

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres told the gathering that the previous ten years have presented significant challenges to SIDS and hindered development. These include extreme weather events and the COVID-19 pandemic. He says SIDS, islands that are "exceptionally beautiful, exceptionally resilient, but exceptionally vulnerable," need urgent support from the international community, led by the nations that are both responsible for the challenges they face and have the capacity to deal with them.

"The idea that an entire island state could become collateral damage for profiteering by the fossil fuel industry, or competition between major economies, is simply obscene," the Secretary General said, adding, "Small Island Developing States have every right and reason to insist that developed economies fulfill their pledge to double adaptation financing by 2025. And we must hold them to this commitment as a bare minimum. Many SIDS desperately need adaptation measures to protect agriculture, fisheries, water resources and infrastructure from extreme climate impacts you did vir-



King Charles III of Britain addresses the opening ceremony of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States

tually nothing to create."

Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)

The theme for SIDS4 is Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity and the small islands have been praised for collective action in the face of crippling crises. Their voices were crucial to the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the landmark 2015 Paris Agree-

ment.

Out of this conference will come the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). President of the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, says that programme of action will guide SIDS on a path to resilience and prosperity for the next decade.

"The next ten years will be critical in making sustained concrete progress on the SIDS agenda - and we must make full use of this opportunity to supercharge our efforts around

sustainability," he said.

The SIDS4 conference grounds in Antigua and Barbuda will be a flurry of activity over the next four days. Apart from plenaries, there are over 170 side events hosted by youth, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and universities, covering a range of issues from renewable energy to climate financing.

They have been reminded by Prime Minister Gaston Browne that this is a crucial juncture in the history of Small Island developing states, where "actions, or failure to act, will dictate the fate of SIDS and the legacy left for future generations."

Cape Verde bearing the brunt of effects of climate change

By Special Correspondent

CABO VERDE, an archipelago of ten islands, nine of which are inhabited, is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in West Africa, is increasingly bearing the brunt of the effects of climate change.

In 2018, a severe drought hit the country where approximately one-quarter of the population relies on agriculture for their main income. Since then, rainfall has been scarcer and more unpredictable than in previous years prior, leading to a significant drop in food production and grazing land losses. Coupled with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the important tourism sector, it culminated in a peak of food insecurity across the country in 2022.

Willy Gonçalves, 29-year-old from the Cabo Verde's main island of Santiago is a manager of a plant nursery that he has worked on since he was nine-year-old. He witnessed first-hand the effects of climate change on the country's agriculture.

"From 2017 onwards, we began to feel these climate chang-

es more strongly here in Cabo Verde. We started having more pests, more difficulties and since then everything we've planted has been a struggle. Before, everything we planted we were able to harvest, now we can't because of climate change," said Gonçalves, a farmer from Cape Verde.

Like most other SIDS, Cabo Verde relies heavily on imports: 80 percent of its food is imported. This makes the country's food security vulnerable to worldwide shocks like conflicts or disasters.

Though food security has since improved, food production and agriculture are still suffering.

With the changes in climate, soil erosion has increased, and soil fertility plummeted, not to mention the explosion of plant pests in the country. The rising temperatures have made Cabo Verde a home where these new pests can thrive. Fall armyworm arrived in 2017 and has since wreaked havoc on maize crops. Fruit flies that attack mango harvests in particular, and tomato worms, named after their favoured target, are other formidable foes.



Through the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Cabo Verde requested assistance in fighting these growing challenges and that is exactly what China could offer, having lived through many of these challenges itself in the vastness of its own country.

"In the framework of our cooperation with FAO, we have a South-South partnership with China. This cooperation allows

us to reinforce our producers' and technicians' capabilities, bring in technology, share knowledge and technology between China and Cabo Verde with FAO's help," said Gilberto Silva, the Minister for Agriculture and Environment in Cape Verde.

The South-South Cooperation project matches the technologies and experience of visiting countries with the needs and requests of host countries,

transferring knowledge and expertise through partnership. China is passing on to Cabo Verde what it has learned in its own rural landscapes, remarkably similar to that of this small island's interior.

The project has a pool of seven Chinese experts in different areas including pest management, soil and water management, fertilization and livestock production and they will work closely with Cabo

Verdean farmers over the next three years.

"After the trials, we will establish a standard for biological pest control, which will be promoted in Cabo Verde. This will greatly improve the efficiency of crop pest control on a large scale, significantly reducing the yield losses caused by pests and ensuring an increase in food and horticultural crop production," said Yanhua Zeng, a Chinese expert on horticulture and soil.

Cabo Verde, like many SIDS,

imports the majority of its food products, including animal fodder. This makes the country very vulnerable to market shocks that affect food and feed prices, thus making increasing domestic fodder production an important task for the project. The government of Cabo Verde highlighted the management of horticulture and soil fertility, plant protection and the improvement of animal production and enhancement of animal genetics as some priority areas for South-South Cooperation assistance. Later this year, there will also be a study on the potential of seaweed cultivation and value chain en-

hancement for this product.

Innovations, shared expertise and replicable practices are key to facing these challenges. With all countries battling climate change in different ways, it is critical that experiences and solutions are shared among them. Partnerships, like the FAO-Cabo Verde-China one, are helping bring everyday solutions to the country's farmers and small-holder livestock producers.

"They are looking with Cabo Verdean eyes, bringing Chinese expertise. To me, this is very valuable, because countries that have faced similar situations and they have found possible solutions come to share, working along day by day for three years," said Ana Laura Touza, FAO Representative in Cabo Verde.

This is the way forward for the future of the island: finding more sustainable ways of using decreasing water resources, reducing reliance on imports and the sometimes-volatile prices and learning new methods for dealing with pests and other consequences of rising temperatures.

Sudan's children trapped in critical malnutrition crisis, warn UN bodies

By Special Correspondent

THREE United Nations agencies have issued a stark warning that all indications point to a significant deterioration of the nutrition situation for children and mothers in war-torn Sudan. The lives of Sudan's children are at stake and urgent action is needed to protect an entire generation from malnutrition, disease and death.

A recent analysis conducted by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO) highlights that the ongoing hostilities are worsening the drivers of child malnutrition. These include a lack of access to nutritious food, safe drinking water and sanitation, and increased risk of disease. The situation is compounded by massive population displacement, as large numbers of people flee the conflict. Sudan is facing an ever-increasing risk of conflict-induced famine that will have catastrophic consequences including the loss of life, especially among young children.

The year-long war is also severely impacting the delivery of humanitarian supplies, leaving countless women and children without access to vital food and nutritional support. The agencies have been struggling to deliver nutrition products as growing violence and bureaucratic procedures impede access to conflict affected areas.

Child malnutrition in Sudan is at emergency levels. In Central Darfur, acute malnutrition is estimated to be at 15.6 percent among children under 5, while in ZamZam camp it's close to 30 percent. The situation has deteriorated over recent months, with no sign of abating due to continued conflict and severely hindered humanitarian access.

Acute malnutrition is life-threatening, with malnourished children up to 11 times more likely to die than a well-nourished child. Malnutrition and disease reinforce each other, with sick children becoming more easily malnourished and malnourished children becoming sick more easily, and suffering worse outcomes. Even when children recover, malnutrition can have lifelong effects on

physical and cognitive development. Sudan risks a lost generation, with grave implications for the country's future.

Levels of malnutrition are particularly worrying among pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. For example, screening carried out last month by Medecins Sans Frontières in ZamZam camp, North Darfur, found over 33 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding women are malnourished, indicating that they are likely sacrificing their own needs to feed their children. This situation poses an incredible risk not only for the health of mothers, but also for the next generation of Sudan's children. As much as 30 percent of child malnutrition begins in utero, so children born to malnourished mothers are likely to be already malnourished themselves.

"Children in Sudan are experiencing horrific violence, displacement and trauma - and now they are confronted with potential famine," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

She said: "When children suffer from serious forms of malnutrition, it harms their physical and cognitive development and can leave life-long damage. Parties to the conflict must urgently allow humanitarian access so children can receive food, water, medical care and

shelter. But most of all, children need peace."

"Mothers and children across Sudan are wasting away from malnutrition. The ongoing war has stripped them of everything they need to survive - food, medical support and shelter. We need immediate and safe access to deliver the humanitarian assistance that they so desperately need. Without it, this crisis risks becoming the world's largest hunger emergency," said WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain.

"Millions of lives are at stake and the international community must act now or we risk losing an entire generation of children."

"Malnutrition is not a one-time crisis. Malnourished children face a lifetime of developmental challenges and ill-health and are also more likely to die from infectious diseases", said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"The clock is ticking, edging Sudan's mothers and children closer to famine. WHO and partners are on the ground working to prevent and treat acute malnutrition to save precious lives but we need sustained humanitarian access and full financial backing to be able to do this."

The report acknowledges data gaps due to difficulties in gaining access to conflict hot-

spots. Despite this, the agencies fear that the situation is extremely critical, and continues to deteriorate. The data gaps in themselves are indicative of a lack of vital humanitarian access in the worst affected areas. All options must be utilized to reach those populations that are the most in need.

Over the coming months the situation for Sudan's children and mothers will only worsen: the rainy season, which will cut off communities and raise rates of disease, starts in June. Sudan is also entering the lean season, a time between harvests when food stocks traditionally run low. This is particularly pertinent this year, as reports are already indicating that agricultural production in 2023 was below normal, due to insecurity and displacement.

The agencies call for immediate, unimpeded and consistent access to communities who are suffering the worst effects of the brutal and lengthy conflict, through all possible cross line and cross-border routes with neighbouring countries, as well as a de-escalation of the situation in El Fasher and a nationwide ceasefire. We also count on a renewed and significant scaled up support from donors. The window to avert the worst is rapidly closing.

Democracy in Africa: Digital voting technology and social media can be force for good and bad

By Maxwell Maseko

IT'S a bumper year for elections on the continent: by the end of 2024, 20 countries ought to have gone to the polls to vote in national elections. A handful of others are also scheduled to conduct local-level elections. As is the case elsewhere in the world, digital technologies have come to play a key role in African elections and political life more broadly - sometimes, but not always, in positive ways.

Maxwell Maseko researches digital governance and media. He recently published a book chapter examining the potential threats and benefits to democracy that digital technologies pose in African countries. He explains what he found.

Can African countries use digital technology to strengthen democracy?

In recent years, more people in African countries have been able to access the internet than ever before. This growth has been driven by improved telecommunication infrastructure and the rising adoption of mobile devices.

At the same time there's been a worrying democratic decline in some countries and regions, most markedly north Africa. This is marked by an increase in military regimes, a rise in violent conflicts and growing public dissatisfaction with political systems.

Today social media platforms like X (formerly known as Twitter), WhatsApp and Facebook are regularly used for debate, and to mobilise citizens and organise protests.

Examples include the 2010 Arab Spring in north African and Middle Eastern countries and South Africa's #FeesMustFall protests beginning in 2015.

During Zambia's "bush protests" in 2020 a reported 500,000 people tuned in online to social media platforms to listen to their leaders criticise alleged government corruption.

That's just one example of how digital technology can



Electoral agents test a voting machine ahead of the DRC's 2023 elections

Its Integrated Electoral Management System includes technology for biometric voter registration and electronic voter identification.

Electronic voting (e-voting), however, is a long way from being a reality in African countries. According to the World Economic Forum, the benefits of e-voting include more efficient elections and a faster vote count.

Elsewhere, Brazil, India, the US and Estonia have piloted e-voting.

In 2014, Namibia became the first African country to adopt electronic voting machines. Though the system was prone to technical glitches, the machines were used again in Namibia's 2019 presidential elections.

What about government misuse? In line with the democratic decline in some countries and regions that I mentioned earlier, we've seen a number of governments throttling their citizens' internet access to prevent people from organising, mobilising or even discussing their grievances with their leaders.

Ethiopia, for instance, has since the early 2000s shut down the internet and on numerous occasions censored online material. Its government also uses the internet as a surveillance tool. Ethiopia's Center for Advancement of Rights and Democracy says internet access remains unequal and expensive.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there were several internet shutdowns before the presidential elections in December 2018. But even when the internet is functioning, it's not very accessible. In a country of over 70 million people, only 22.9% were connected at the beginning of 2023. This is due to limited infrastructure and high access costs.

What needs to change? African leaders need to remember that an election is not always a sign of a healthy democracy, although it gives citizens a chance to choose and evaluate their leaders. A positive attitude towards technology will go some way towards strengthening democracy.

Attitude, of course, won't be sufficient. Authorities must create social, political and economic conditions that are conducive to ensuring digital benefits reach everyone. This will require political will, skilled artisans with a general understanding of basic technology, proper information and communications technology infrastructure, affordable data and legislation.

That access and technology must then be put to work to introduce modern balloting methods.

strengthen democracy by allowing citizens to get involved. Others include improving health and education services and strengthening tax and revenue collection methods.

What kind of digital technologies can be used? And how?

Many African countries have weak election management systems. Citizens are rightly worried about human interference in electoral processes, as well as a lack of transparency and oversight.

A study of India and some countries in the Americas and Europe suggests that digital technologies can be used to restore the credibility and integrity of elections.

This approach is already being taken in some countries on the continent - mostly those like Kenya and South Africa, which are considered stronger democracies than their peers.

In its 2021 local government elections, South Africa piloted the use of Voter Management Devices to replace scanners. The machines were used to verify voters and address the issue of double voting.

There were, however, some hiccups in practice. Internet connection issues were reported on voting day. That left about 100,000 people unable to cast their vote. Despite this mishap - and recent concerns raised by members of parliament about the machines' efficiency - the devices are expected to be used again in the 2024 national elections on 29 May.

Social media platforms are also well used by South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission and various political parties to promote voter education and registration, political campaigning, and debate on key national issues. This is a good way to try to reach the country's more than 45 million active internet users out of a population of over 60 million.

Kenya also views the adoption of technology as an important step in improving accountability, transparency and citizen participation in democratic processes previously tainted by controversy and mistrust. Today Kenyans use social media platforms like X, Facebook and Instagram to voice opinions about various issues. Politicians also use these platforms to campaign and mobilise supporters.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - I 13

By Felix Magezi: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

12 penetrate
14 nourish in Icelandic
15 a theatre where films are shown
17 tough central parts of fruits
18 endow with a quality

Down:
1 past participle of drive
2 report an offence
3 an assistant to a political leader
4 an establishment occupied by a community of monks
6 make something certain to happen
8 a member of a senate
9 a cypress tree which is the source of gum sandarac

Across:
1 The administrative Capital of Tanzania
5 iambus
7 Islets
10 the flesh of a calf used as a food
11 essential nature or essence

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

EVENS	SPA, BAR	YARAKS
BARD	AMID, KIR	DEALER
PESETA	DEALER	DATURA
AMOEBIA	ROME	CAN RAT
RIMLAND	DELAYED	CORE, DRA

Yesterday's solution

B	A	N	A	N	A	G	D	O	S	A	O
R	U	R	A	I	N	U	T	T	E	R	E
A	L	L	O	W	E	D	O	S	T	O	R
Z	U	L	A	H	E	M	S	O	M	I	T
T	R	A	T	E	E	P	E	E	R		
L	A	H	A	R		H	O	E	A	S	T
M	G	O	V	E	R	N		R	A	C	E
R	A	G	E	D		E	A	S	S	H	A
X	E	N	D	O		O					R

RADIO One

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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Instagram Facebook Twitter

Radio One

AEC slams ecologists' defence on energy expansion in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING a series of attacks during the Invest in African Energy forum in Paris this May, environmental group Friends of the Earth has attempted to justify their actions at the event, a forum which sought to increase investment in African energy and bolster Africa's economic development.

A statement released yesterday by African Energy Chamber (AEC) and shared to this journalist indicates that the group stated that it is an "illusion" that developing oil and gas will lead to development in Africa, despite stating that the Global North has used African resources to develop for decades.

Friends of the Earth Africa explained to Rigzone that, "Fossil fuels have been extracted from different parts of the African continent for more than 60 years, mostly for export to serve the countries of the global North."

"This is true. They continue to explain that this has resulted in environmental degradation, gas flaring, negative health impacts, human rights abuses and more, all while 600 million people lack access to electricity and 700 million have no access to clean cooking solutions," the statement reads in part.

It adds: "This is also true, and yet, rather ironically, the group continues to demonize the development of oil and gas in Africa at a time when the continent is planning to utilize these resources to address its own energy access and clean cooking challenges."

The statement further detailed: "As sovereign



Friends of the Earth protests Mozambique gas pipeline. Photo Courtesy of AEC

nations, African countries have the right and the responsibility to use their natural resources

to improve the lives of their people. At AEC we are confident that we can, indeed, achieve this goal,

for example, has placed gas-to-power at the very heart of its development plans. The country has over 100 trillion cubic feet of offshore gas reserves, with the 450 MW Temane power plant on track for production in 2024.

Energy major TotalEnergies has also announced plans to supply 1,000 MW of electricity to South Africa from the Matola LNG-to-power project in Mozambique. For his part, NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC said: "This is not the first time that non-Africans have attempted to interfere with Africa's oil and gas industry. International organizations

invested in making LNG projects possible."

Natural gas, in particular, is set to transform African countries. Mozambique, for example, has placed gas-to-power at the very heart of its development plans. The country has over 100 trillion cubic feet of offshore gas reserves, with the 450 MW Temane power plant on track for production in 2024.

Energy major TotalEnergies has also announced plans to supply 1,000 MW of electricity to South Africa from the Matola LNG-to-power project in Mozambique. For his part, NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC said: "This is not the first time that non-Africans have attempted to interfere with Africa's oil and gas industry. International organizations

such as the World Bank, the International Energy Agency and private investors face pressure by environmental groups to stop financing African fossil fuel production."

Meanwhile, the Republic of Congo is finalizing its Gas Master Plan, which will provide a framework for harnessing natural gas both for domestic consumption and export. The country exported its first LNG cargo from the Congo LNG project earlier this year, and with 10 tcf of natural gas resources, is well on its way to monetizing untapped reserves. Yet, Friends of the Earth - a group which has also benefited from African resources - believes they know what is best for the continent. They believe that their solutions, and

not the ones of Africans, should be adopted. They are proving time and time again that they have no qualms in dismissing African voices.

"Africa cannot be a continent where our budgets are left to donors. Every time we go begging to other countries for aid, the dignity of Africans suffers. What the AEC is advocating for - and will continue fighting for despite attempts by foreign groups to disrupt progress - is for all Africans to have the dignity of work, the ability to build better lives and to harness their natural resources to alleviate energy poverty. We want an Africa that not only develops but thrives, and leveraging natural gas is the only feasible path to achieving that goal," added Ayuk.



IATA's 2023 annual meeting. File Photo

Aviation leaders gather in Dubai for IATA's 80th AGM

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has announced that the global airline industry leaders will convene in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), for the 80th IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit from June 2-4, 2024.

This marks the first time the event is being hosted in the UAE, with Emirates Airline taking the lead as the host. The gathering anticipates over 1,500 participants, including industry leaders, government officials, and media representatives.

Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, the UAE Minister of Economy, is set to kick off the AGM with an opening keynote address, welcoming delegates to Dubai.

"Dubai's exceptional connectivity makes it a global hub, positioning it at the forefront of the airline industry. Hosting the 80th IATA Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit further solidifies its standing," stated Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

Adding: "We eagerly anticipate welcoming our industry peers to Dubai, the home and hub of Emirates. This city has established itself as a prominent figure in global aviation, thriving under the guidance of visionary leaders and progressive policies that acknowledge the pivotal role of air transport in economic growth. Notably, aviation contributed 27 percent to Dubai's GDP last year, supporting \$37 billion in gross value added."

There are always exciting new developments in Dubai, and I hope visiting delegates will get to a chance to experience this buzzing city and the UAE's renowned hospitality for themselves," said Sir Tim Clark, President of Emirates Airline.

The World Air Transport Summit (WATS) immediately follows the AGM for a comprehensive program addressing the critical issues facing aviation.

"The commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 will top the agenda of the 80th IATA AGM and World Air Transport Summit. We will explore

solutions to accelerate progress, particularly with the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and the potential for carbon removals. We'll also take stock of our progress on safety, financial sustainability, and other key industry topics. It's important that we put these challenges on the table so that all stakeholders, including governments, have a clear understanding of what airlines need to connect people and economies safely, efficiently, and ever more sustainably," said Walsh.

Key topics to be addressed in the WATS includes the following: A 'Big Picture' view of challenges facing the airline industry with changing energy markets, an increasingly complex global geopolitical situation, and shifting supply chains/trade patterns.

Others includes, the potential for AI in aviation, advancing sustainability with SAF and carbon removals, how aviation and tourism can work better together, and the prospects for air cargo.

A program highlight will be the fifth edition of the IATA Diversity and Inclusion Awards. These awards recognize organizations and individuals who are making a leadership contribution to the 25by2025 initiative to improve the gender balance in aviation.

The benefits of global connectivity is a topic that will underpin the entire program.

Globally aviation directly employs 3 million people and is a key enabling part of the travel and tourism value chain which supports some 320 million jobs and accounts for about 10 percent of all economic activity. Moreover, air cargo delivers \$8.3 trillion of trade annually - some 35 percent of total trade.

For Dubai, Oxford Economics estimates that aviation contributed 27 percent to Dubai's GDP and supported \$37 billion in gross value added in 2023. This is projected to increase to \$53 billion dollars in 2030, in line with Dubai's growth.

On the other hand, aviation contributes to achieving 15 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).



Economy: 41 African countries set for stronger growth in 2024

By Guardian Reporter

WHILE African economies demonstrate resilience amidst global challenges, East Africa spearheads growth, the West gears up, and Southern Africa experiences moderate expansion, a recent report calls for rapid financial reforms and increased African representation in Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).

According to the latest African Development Bank Group's African Economic Outlook 41 countries on the continent are projected to experience stronger growth rates in 2024 than they did in 2023.

The report unveiled at the Bank's Annual Meetings on Thursday in Nairobi, described Africa's growth potential as 'remarkable'. The continent will retain its 2023 ranking as the second fastest-growing region after developing Asia in 2024 and 2025. The theme of the 2024 AEO, "Driving Africa's Transformation: The Reform of the Global Financial Architecture," aligns with the Bank's

Annual Meetings' theme.

AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina said while the Bank was proud of the growth projections of many African countries as reflected in the report, it was not blind to the challenges. "Africa's future is bright, but need to make sure we tackle governance, transparency, accountability, and management of our natural capital. We need to make sure resources are used for the benefit of the people of this continent... The kind of resilience we are talking about cannot happen unless we deal with the issue of climate change."

He added: "We must make sure we are investing in our young people - in their skills, talents, entrepreneurship, and giving them tools. That is why I am excited about what we are doing with the Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks."

The report warns that Africa is off track to meet almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

It argues that unless corrective action is taken, including to reverse the

steepening poverty curve, Africa will be home to almost 9 out of 10 (or 87 percent) of the world's extreme poor by 2030.

According to the African Economic Outlook, the rebound in Africa's average growth includes a rise to 3.7 percent in 2024 and 4.3 percent in 2025, exceeding the projected global average of 3.2 percent. Of this figure, 17 African economies are projected to grow by more than 5 percent in 2024. The number could rise to 24 in 2025, as the pace of growth accelerates.

This growth trajectory is expected to surpass pre-2023 levels, with East Africa leading as the fastest-growing region (up to 3.4 percentage points). Other regions are also projected to witness moderate to robust growth.

In a presentation, Chief Economist and Vice President of the African Development Bank, Prof Kevin Chika Urama, underscored why strategic policies and firm political commitment are key to the effective use of resource wealth for domestic re-

venue generation.

He also described hard infrastructure, including roads, railways, and bridges, and soft infrastructure, including knowledge and institutional governance capacity, as "two wings of an aircraft".

"Investing in productive infrastructure is key to accelerating Africa's structural transformation," he said.

Growth prospects vary across Africa's regions, reflecting differences in economic structure, commodity dependence, and policies.

East Africa, the continent's fastest-growing region, will see real GDP growth rising from an estimated 1.5 percent in 2023 to 4.9 percent in 2024 and 5.7 percent in 2025. The downward revision of 0.2 percentage point for 2024 compared with the forecast in the January 2024 Africa's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook (MEO) is due to larger-than-expected contractions in Sudan and South Sudan following the ongoing conflict in the former.

Growth in Central Africa is fore-

cast to moderate from 4.3 percent in 2023 to 4.1 percent in 2024 before improving strongly to 4.7 percent in 2025. The upgraded forecast is due to expectations of stronger growth in Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo as a result of favourable metal prices.

Growth is projected to pick up in West Africa, rising from an estimated 3.6 percent in 2023 to 4.2 percent in 2024 and consolidating at 4.4 percent the following year. This is an upgrade of 0.3 percentage point for 2024 over the January MEO 2024 projections, reflecting stronger growth in the region's large economies - Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal.

In North Africa, growth is projected to decline from an estimated 4.1 percent in 2023 to 3.6 percent in 2024 and 4.2 percent in 2025, with a downward revision of 0.3 percentage point for 2024 from the January 2024 MEO. Except for Libya and Mauritania, growth has been revised downward for all other countries in the region.

Growth in Southern Africa is projected to pick up slightly from an estimated 1.6 percent in 2023 to 2.2 percent in 2024 and firm up to 2.7 percent in 2025. The growth rates for 2024 and 2025 show an upgrade of 0.1 percentage point over the January 2024 projections, mainly reflecting a 0.7 percentage point increase in South Africa's projected growth. Due to South Africa's larger weight in the region, the upgraded growth forecast offset the combined effect of downward revisions in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

African Economic Outlook makes bold proposals to reform the global financial architecture

The African Economic Outlook 2024 calls for an overhaul of the global financial architecture to transform African economies. This includes giving Africa a greater voice in multilateral development banks and international financial institutions, reflecting its growing share of global gross domestic product and rich natural resources.

By Francis Kajubi

RC vows govt support for milk processing investors

MWANZA regional commissioner, Said Mtanda, promises full government support for milk processing investors and encourages livestock keepers to upgrade breeds for increased productivity.

Mtanda declared the government's position yesterday in Mwanza when he graced the opening of the milk consumption week ongoing in the city.

"The government is willing to work hand in hand with the private sector in ensuring that stakeholders and investors in the milk value chain prosper with their investments," said Mtanda.

Mtanda commended players in the private sector especially those specialized in animal genetics, dairy and beef cattle breeding.

He urged local livestock keepers to use improved breeds which offer higher yields.

Speaking at the exhibition, players in the dairy sector shared their view on how the private sector can play a critical role in excelling the sector's growth.

Edson Mfuru, a participant of the milk week exhibitions encouraged livestock keepers to use improved breeds which apart from improving yields also enhance productivity, profitability,



Noel Bohela, a dairy industry stakeholder, explains to a visitor at the company's pavilion during the Milk Consumption Week exhibitions in Mwanza city. Photo Francis Kajubi

and overall sustainability of livestock farming operations.

According to him, the shift from indigenous cattle varieties to improved breeds will be a great game changer to the livestock keepers and the sector as a whole.

"Improved breeds like Girolando are often bred for specific traits that result in higher milk production, or more meat per animal and they also grow faster and reach market size more quickly, reducing the time and resources needed to raise them," he explained.

Mfuru who also serves as Urus Tanzania Country Manager asserted that the hybrid varieties are often more resistant to common diseases and parasites, reducing the need for medical treatments and associated costs adding that increased resistance leads to lower mortality rates, ensuring a more stable and predictable production output.

"Crossbreeds like Girolando, are typically bred to convert feed into

body mass more efficiently, meaning less feed is needed to produce the same amount of meat or milk;

Improved feed conversion reduces overall feed costs, which are a significant expense in livestock farming," he recommended.

Noel Bohela, another participant of the exhibition clarified that the company is currently supporting livestock keepers across the country with advanced crossbreeding programs and other agricultural services and with foot prints in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tanga, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya and Kagera.

"While our primary presence is in the above-mentioned regions, we are dedicated to reaching livestock keepers wherever they are in Tanzania. Our goal is to ensure that every livestock keeper in Tanzania;

Regardless of their location, they have access to the best possible support and resources to improve their livestock management practices. We are continually working to expand our reach and improve our services to meet the needs of all farmers," he said.

According to the country's Livestock Sector Transformation Plan 2022/23- 2026/27, despite the number of achievements that the sector has recorded, the sector continues to face challenges among others the use of indigenous cattle varieties which display low productivity.

AfDB unveils new ten-year strategy

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank Group has unveiled its new Ten-Year Strategy 2024-2033, a blueprint to confront Africa's pressing challenges and to help put the continent firmly back on track towards sustained economic growth and prosperity.

Unveiling the strategy during the Bank Group's Annual Meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, AfDB's President Akinwumi Adesina said, "As Africa's premier development finance institution, and Africa's solutions bank, we are acutely aware that the next decade will be decisive in transforming the continent. Therefore, as we celebrate 60 years of making a difference in the countries and lives of the people of Africa, we remain resolute in our determination to accelerate the support we provide to African countries."

The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in heightened food insecurity and a burgeoning debt crisis across Africa. At the same time, the impacts of climate change are intensifying and accelerating, alongside a surge in conflict and political instability. Compounded by a youth-

ful demographic outpacing job creation, Africa is witnessing a significant exodus of its future workforce seeking opportunities abroad. The strategy, approved by the Board earlier this year, sets out decisive and urgent actions the Bank will take to support African countries navigate the unprecedented global and regional challenges. These actions will build on Africa's multiple unique assets and reignite momentum towards achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, ultimately fostering lasting growth.

Central to the 2024-2033 strategic vision is the belief in Africa's vast potential for societal and economic transformation. By leveraging the youngest and fastest growing workforce in the world, rapidly growing urban markets, the wealth of natural resources and vast clean energy potential, Africa stands poised to drive sustainable growth and make significant contributions to global solutions over the next decade.

"The Ten-Year Strategy outlines how the Bank will invest in Africa's best asset: its vibrant young men and women. Africa's population, which is the fast growing in the world, presents the continent with an

unparalleled demographic window of opportunity," Adesina said.

The new strategy articulates a vision of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and integrated Africa, underpinned by two key objectives over the next decade: accelerating inclusive green growth and fostering prosperous and resilient economies. With an emphasis on sustainability, the Bank will strive to balance environmental concerns, equity, and economic advancement.

Building upon the past decade of successful High 5 implementation, the Bank aims to accelerate and scale up its efforts, focusing on transformative projects with far-reaching impacts. To optimise results while managing risks, the Bank will streamline its operational model for increased agility and effectiveness.

The Bank sees the pivotal role of the private sector in driving Africa's transformation. Over the next decade, it will strengthen collaboration with the private sector, prioritising investments in firms, value chains, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises especially those led by women and youth.

The magnitude and urgency of the challenge will require greater resources than

before. The Bank pledges to mobilise resources from diverse sources, including domestic revenues and private finance. It aims to triple private-sector finance by 2033 while bolstering its financing capacity through innovative mechanisms. In response to calls for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to maximise the potential of their balance sheets, the Bank will pursue various options to boost its financing capacity over the life of the Ten-Year Strategy. Measures include the Sustainable Hybrid Capital, Risk Transfers and re-channeling of significant portions of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights through Multilateral Development Banks.

The Strategy outlines how the Bank will answer the call for MDBs to scale up urgently their efforts to respond to the priorities and significant ambitions of African countries and tackle global and regional challenges affecting the people of Africa. MDBs are essential to addressing the immense global and regional challenges the world faces. They are a valuable source of low-cost finance, technical knowledge, and policy advice for emerging and developing countries.

Journalists urged on sustainable farming by deploying green future agroecology

By Francis Kajubi

JOURNALISTS are encouraged to focus on highlighting the economic and health benefits of agroecology, promoting its adoption by small-scale farmers as a sustainable alternative to conventional farming. This shift can help mitigate the effects of climate change and preserve nature.

In remarks at a recent three-day agroecology farming workshop held in Dar es Salaam, Lilian Liundi, the Executive Director of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), emphasized the crucial role of agroecology in society and environmental conservation.

She addressed over 30 journalists from different regions of Tanzania, urging them to recognize the significance of agroecology in various aspects.

"We are emphasizing on the shift towards agroecology because it has all it takes in transforming subsistence farmers to food and cash crop large farmers. Economic opportunities tied to agroecology are increasingly at the global level at an incredible pace," said Liundi.

According to her, agroecology promotes agricultural practices that sustain the environment's nature through avoidance of excessive use of industrial fertilizer and pesticides that are most likely to affect biodiversity.

She further pointed out that farmers should through the media be educated that if they venture into agroecology they will experience benefits such as food safety for household consumption due to the reduction of dependence on monocultures, increasing communities' food security.

"Farmers should be educated that crops reaped from agroecology farming have higher demand and prices at the global market. Journalists should educate them that with agroecology one cultivates less but reaps big," said Liundi.

Liundi went on to commend the government for initiating a special desk at the ministry of agriculture that is mandated at overseeing agroecology and organic farming in the country.

"We now need to focus on sensitizing farmers on the importance of organic seeds preservation. We need to establish a rich national organic seeds bank," suggested Liundi.

Catherine Kasimbazi, TGNP Project Coordinator said that in walking the talk, TGNP is currently implementing a five-year project (2021-2026) in promotion of agroecology.

Dubbed 'Rural Women Cultivating Change (RWCC) project,' it is being implemented by TGNP in partnership with the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Tanzania.

She said the project is being implemented in the regions of Morogoro, Kilimanjaro and Manyara. In Morogoro region, the project is implemented in Morogoro district council and Gairo district council.

Kasimbazi asserted that in Kilimanjaro region, the project is implemented in Same and Mwanza district councils while in Manyara it covers Babati district council and Mbulu town council.

"The project targets 5,364 women in the three regions with direct employment opportunities in agroecology. The project further targets at creating over 21,000 indirect employment opportunities," said Kasimbazi.

Hamburg

VISITORS to dnata Catering & Retail's stand at the World Travel Catering and Onboard Services Expo (WTCE) in Hamburg were treated to some of the best dishes of Asian cuisine - all prepared by a cutting-edge cooking robot.

The robot, which dnata has been actively trialling in its Australian operations, prepared and served mouth-watering dishes including stir-fried beef with oyster sauce, kung pao shrimp and stir-fried shi-take mushrooms with tofu during the three-day event.

The trial is part of dnata's ongoing efforts to enhance quality and efficiency with AI-driven digital kitchen solutions, such as its advanced systems that optimise production using consumption data.

Robin Padgett, CEO of dnata Catering & Retail, said: "We are committed to constantly pushing our boundaries to future-proof our operations and consistently deliver top-notch services for our customers."

"The ongoing trials of cooking robots complement many initiatives that have already proven successful in maximising operational efficiency and production in our kitchens. We are excited about the initial, excellent results and will continue to work closely with our partners to fine-tune these advanced machines for commercial use and scale the solution to meet the demand for automated, quality culinary services.

"We look forward to meeting with our existing and future partners in Hamburg!"

The robot showcased at dnata

AI-powered robot chef unveiled at WTCE Expo



High-level US and Kenyan officials and private sector reps met on Capitol Hill to discuss enhancing partnerships for shared goals and prosperity.

Catering & Retail's stand is developed by BOTINKIT, a China-based food-tech start-up. It can authentically replicate a chef's stir-frying technique, down to every detail. Each robot is equipped with an induction pot that mimics the wok-flipping movements of human chefs, ensuring even and simultaneous heating for the ingredients. Additionally, they use precision sea-

soning technology, ensuring consistent taste for each dish. Users can seal in the flavours through precise temperature control. A built-in smart assistant provides voice guidance to ensure confidence in every step. The robots also have an automatic cleaning function which minimises the need for manual cleaning and scrubbing.

dnata's spacious stand in Ham-

burg also featured a live cooking station, offering visitors world-class culinary experiences. dnata's senior executives and award-winning chefs from across the globe were present to engage with customers and partners throughout WTCE.

professionals produce over 123 million meals annually, serving full service, low-cost and VIP carriers from more than 60 locations.

WTCE is the leading global event for the travel catering, onboard retail, and passenger comfort industries. In 2024, the event took place between 28-30 May in Hamburg, Germany.

Litany of failure: New briefing sets out OECD's manifold deficiencies in international tax talks

By Luke Holland
FOR over sixty years, the Organisation for Economic and Cooperation has held dominion over the stewardship of international tax negotiations. In that time, progress achieved in putting a stop to crossborder tax abuse, which now costs governments around the world some US\$480 billion a year, has been meagre at best.

With negotiations on a new framework tax convention now moving forward at the United Nations, the OECD's leadership of standard setting on international taxation is for the first time in doubt. The move to initiate talks at the UN follows an historic resolution brought forward by the Africa Group, which was in turn motivated by frustration over the exclusionary dynamics of the OECD process.

It can be argued that the OECD, as an institution mandated only to represent the interests of 38 advanced economies that make up its membership, was never an appropriate forum to tackle a problem which is, but it very nature, global. As demonstrated in the State of Tax Justice report, OECD member states are responsible for facilitating the vast majority of revenue losses to international tax abuse and, as such, have a vested interest in impeding the kind of radical reform that is so badly needed.

A new briefing produced by Tax Justice Network in collaboration with a coalition of allies systematically

unpacks the various arenas in which the OECD has proven itself unfit to lead negotiations on international tax cooperation.

At the top of the list is the manifest inadequacy of its proposed 'two-pillar solution' to the problem. The first pillar aims to reallocate the profits of multinational companies to the jurisdictions where consumers are located, thereby countering the practice of profit shifting which lies at the heart of corporate tax abuse, while the second pillar sets a minimum corporate tax rate of 15 percent so as to prevent the 'race to the bottom' engendered by dysfunctional tax competition.

Pillar One is limited to a tiny fraction of the profits of the largest multinationals, however, while the rate of 15 percent set by Pillar Two is likely to act as a ceiling rather than a floor, thereby exacerbating rather than redressing the very problem it purports to solve. Independent analyses have demonstrated that the 'two-pillar solution' would have little impact in real terms, while what benefits might flow from the deal would accrue almost entirely to the Global North.

The insufficiency of its proposed solution to international tax abuse stems from the failure to meaningfully incorporate the voices of Global South nations into the negotiating process. While the 'Inclusive Framework' mechanism was established in 2016, ostensibly to facilitate the participation of non-OECD members in



the 'Base Erosion and Profit Shifting' initiative, proposals brought forward by the G24 in representation of developing nations were ignored in favour of an agreement negotiated bilaterally by the United States and France. It was against this backdrop that the Africa Group opted to table Resolution 78/230 for the commencement of talks on a more inclusive process at the UN.

Failures of inclusivity and effectiveness are not

the only areas where the OECD has come up short, however. The existing regime of international taxation, which makes cross-border tax abuse relatively straightforward, was put in place as the major European empires were in decline and was designed to protect the economic interests of former colonial powers.

As a result it has deeply racialised impacts, systematically constraining the fiscal space of majority

non-white nations of the Global South and, in turn, their ability to fund fundamental public services. Moreover, despite the fact that the OECD counts most of the world's most nefarious tax havens among its members, the only country it has targeted for sanctions on the basis of tax haven policies is the tiny African state of Liberia.

When challenged over the structurally racist impacts of its proposed 'two pillar solution' by a group of eight UN independent experts in December last year, the OECD simply opted to ignore their request for a response.

Unfortunately, this failure of accountability coheres with a pattern of conduct by the organisation in recent years, which has also seen repeated controversies over shortcomings in adhering to professional standards. Perhaps most notably, as the Africa Group's initiative to pursue more inclusive negotiations at the UN gained traction, the OECD took the unprecedented

step of writing to various of its member states' ambassadors questioning the fitness of the UN to lead such talks and calling on them to block the proposals.

Several of the OECD's leading figures have meanwhile been mired in controversies over questions of autonomy and independence. In 2022 the former head of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, Pascal Saint-Amans, departed the organisation and immediately took up a position with lobbying firm Brunswick Group.

During her time with KPMG, current head of tax policy Manal Corwin meanwhile co-authored a tax planning proposal for Microsoft that would lead to a major tax abuse scandal, while Secretary General Mathias Cormann has likewise faced controversy over allegations he profited from secretive dealings with Luke Sayers, who was head of Price Waterhouse Coopers Australia during the TaxLeaks scandal.

In a world of multiple enmeshed crises, from climate change and runaway inequality to the cost of living and recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic, the continued syphoning of revenue away from government coffers represents an urgent human rights concern. Modelling by the Government Revenue and Development Estimations initiative at the Universities of St Andrews and Leicester demonstrates that, were it not for the revenue lost to crossborder tax abuse each year: 15 million people would have their right to basic water; 32 million their right to basic sanitation, 2 million additional children would attend school, 101 additional children would survive every day; 36,900 each year and 11 additional mothers would not die during childbirth; 3,999 each year.

It is for the reasons set out in this briefing that the move to shift negotiations on international tax cooperation away from the OECD and to the more

inclusive forum of the UN is so critically important. The most ubiquitous counterargument deployed by those nations that would seek to maintain the status quo is that the UN process would risk duplicating efforts at the OECD.

While the latter organisation undoubtedly has valuable technical expertise and experience to offer, the United Nations is the only forum that can provide the legitimacy, inclusivity, transparency, and accountability that is a precondition to the just and comprehensive reforms that are so badly needed, however. The UN can and must provide a radically different process and outcome to that which has unfolded at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Luke Holland (pictured), began his career as a journalist, before moving into the world of human rights research and advocacy, he is currently based in Paris.

'Africa needs businesses willing to drive its future'

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA stands at the forefront of global youth demographics, boasting over 400 million individuals between the ages of 15 and 35. Recognizing the pivotal role of young entrepreneurs in propelling economic progress, NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber (AEC), emphasized the significance of nurturing this demographic during the AEC's Business Development Workshop for Young Entrepreneurs.

With 600 million Africans lacking electricity access, the transformative impact of initiatives to connect gas-to-power projects or introduce renewables to communities is significant. Ayuk emphasized the opportunities for young entrepreneurs to get involved in this space, highlighting how these endeavors can shape Africa and the world significantly. "When you look at African youth and a lot of young people across the continent, you keep seeing the longing for big solutions," says Ayuk. However, "financing is one of the biggest challenges we would face because we have not built a thriving banking sector."

According to Ayuk, banks need to provide patient capital for young entrepreneurs. This type of funding allows entrepreneurs the time needed to develop their ventures effectively. "My biggest advice to youth is to build that relationship with the bank," Ayuk stressed. "Get that business plan in place, and they will try to help you execute it."

For startups, Ayuk advocated for a methodical approach, prioritizing meticulous business planning, demographic analysis and networking to access financing and build relationships with banks and potential investors. "Your network at the end of the day becomes your net worth," Ayuk remarked, highlighting the significance of building and leveraging professional relationships.

In building a business, the benefits of having a strategic partner cannot be overstated, and more specifically, the importance of self-assessment regarding one's contributions. In this regard, Ayuk cautioned against overloading titles such as CEO or president. "You need to be able to cut your egos and really get down to walking with other people that can lift you up," he said.

Furthermore, Ayuk underscored the significance of collaboration, drawing from his expertise in the energy sector. "Some of the technologies that you're going to need to drive the energy of tomorrow, we don't have in this continent. So sometimes we might have to be able to partner with a colleague from Europe or America, from Asia, from the Middle East, where they have these technologies."



ITV PGM SCHEDULE	7.30	8.00	8.55	9.00	9.30	9.55	10.00	10.05	10.15	10.20	10.25	10.30	10.35	10.40	10.45	10.50	10.55	11.00	11.05	11.10	11.15	11.20	11.25	11.30	11.35	11.40	11.45	11.50	11.55	12.00	12.05	12.10	12.15	12.20	12.25	12.30	12.35	12.40	12.45	12.50	12.55	13.00	13.05	13.10	13.15	13.20	13.25	13.30	13.35	13.40	13.45	13.50	13.55	14.00	14.05	14.10	14.15	14.20	14.25	14.30	14.35	14.40	14.45	14.50	14.55	15.00	15.05	15.10	15.15	15.20	15.25	15.30	15.35	15.40	15.45	15.50	15.55	16.00	16.05	16.10	16.15	16.20	16.25	16.30	16.35	16.40	16.45	16.50	16.55	17.00	17.05	17.10	17.15	17.20	17.25	17.30	17.35	17.40	17.45	17.50	17.55	18.00	18.05	18.10	18.15	18.20	18.25	18.30	18.35	18.40	18.45	18.50	18.55	19.00	19.05	19.10	19.15	19.20	19.25	19.30	19.35	19.40	19.45	19.50	19.55	20.00	20.05	20.10	20.15	20.20	20.25	20.30	20.35	20.40	20.45	20.50	20.55	21.00	21.05	21.10	21.15	21.20	21.25	21.30	21.35	21.40	21.45	21.50	21.55	22.00	22.05	22.10	22.15	22.20	22.25	22.30	22.35	22.40	22.45	22.50	22.55	23.00	23.05	23.10	23.15	23.20	23.25	23.30	23.35	23.40	23.45	23.50	23.55	24.00
SATURDAY 25 May	5:30	6:00	6:30	6:40	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:05	10:15	10:20	10:25	10:30	10:35	10:40	10:45	10:50	10:55	11:00	11:05	11:10	11:15	11:20	11:25	11:30	11:35	11:40	11:45	11:50	11:55	12:00	12:05	12:10	12:15	12:20	12:25	12:30	12:35	12:40	12:45	12:50	12:55	13:00	13:05	13:10	13:15	13:20	13:25	13:30	13:35	13:40	13:45	13:50	13:55	14:00	14:05	14:10	14:15	14:20	14:25	14:30	14:35	14:40	14:45	14:50	14:55	15:00	15:05	15:10	15:15	15:20	15:25	15:30	15:35	15:40	15:45	15:50	15:55	16:00	16:05	16:10	16:15	16:20	16:25	16:30	16:35	16:40	16:45	16:50	16:55	17:00	17:05	17:10	17:15	17:20	17:25	17:30	17:35	17:40	17:45	17:50	17:55	18:00	18:05	18:10	18:15	18:20	18:25	18:30	18:35	18:40	18:45	18:50	18:55	19:00	19:05	19:10	19:15	19:20	19:25	19:30	19:35	19:40	19:45	19:50	19:55	20:00	20:05	20:10	20:15	20:20	20:25	20:30	20:35	20:40	20:45	20:50	20:55	21:00	21:05	21:10	21:15	21:20	21:25	21:30	21:35	21:40	21:45	21:50	21:55	22:00	22:05	22:10	22:15	22:20	22:25	22:30	22:35	22:40	22:45	22:50	22:55	23:00	23:05	23:10	23:15	23:20	23:25	23:30	23:35	23:40	23:45	23:50	23:55	24:00
SUNDAY 26 May	5:30	6:00	6:30	6:40	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:05	10:15	10:20	10:25	10:30	10:35	10:40	10:45	10:50	10:55	11:00	11:05	11:10	11:15	11:20	11:25	11:30	11:35	11:40	11:45	11:50	11:55	12:00	12:05	12:10	12:15	12:20	12:25	12:30	12:35	12:40	12:45	12:50	12:55	13:00	13:05	13:10	13:15	13:20	13:25	13:30	13:35	13:40	13:45	13:50	13:55	14:00	14:05	14:10	14:15	14:20	14:25	14:30	14:35	14:40	14:45	14:50	14:55	15:00	15:05	15:10	15:15	15:20	15:25	15:30	15:35	15:40	15:45	15:50	15:55	16:00	16:05	16:10	16:15	16:20	16:25	16:30	16:35	16:40	16:45	16:50	16:55	17:00	17:05	17:10	17:15	17:20	17:25	17:30	17:35	17:40	17:45	17:50	17:55	18:00	18:05	18:10	18:15	18:20	18:25	18:30	18:35	18:40	18:45	18:50	18:55	19:00	19:05	19:10	19:15	19:20	19:25	19:30	19:35	19:40	19:45	19:50	19:55	20:00	20:05	20:10	20:15	20:20	20:25	20:30	20:35	20:40	20:45	20:50	20:55	21:00	21:05	21:10	21:15	21:20	21:25	21:30	21:35	21:40	21:45	21:50	21:55	22:00	22:05	22:10	22:15	22:20	22:25	22:30	22:35	22:40	22:45	22:50	22:55	23:00	23:05	23:10	23:15	23:20	23:25	23:30	23:35	23:40	23:45	23:50	23:55	24:00
MONDAY 27 May	5:30	6:00	6:30	6:40	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:05	10:15	10:20	10:25	10:30	10:35	10:40	10:45	10:50	10:55	11:00	11:05	11:10	11:15	11:20	11:25	11:30	11:35	11:40	11:45	11:50	11:55	12:00	12:05	12:10	12:15	12:20	12:25	12:30	12:35	12:40	12:45	12:50	12:55	13:00	13:05	13:10	13:15	13:20	13:25	13:30	13:35	13:40	13:45	13:50	13:55	14:00	14:05	14:10	14:15	14:20	14:25	14:30	14:35	14:40	14:45	14:50	14:55	15:00	15:05	15:10	15:15	15:20	15:25	15:30	15:35	15:40	15:45	15:50	15:55	16:00	16:05	16:10	16:15	16:20	16:25	16:30	16:35	16:40	16:45	16:50	16:55	17:00	17:05	17:10	17:15	17:20	17:25	17:30	17:35	17:40	17:45	17:50	17:55	18:00	18:05	18:10	18:15	18:20	18:25	18:30	18:35	18:40	18:45	18:50	18:55	19:00	19:05	19:10	19:15	19:20	19:25	19:30	19:35	19:40	19:45	19:50	19:55	20:00	20:05	20:10	20:15	20:20	20:25	20:30	20:35	20:40	20:45	20:50	20:55	21:00	21:05	21:10	21:15	21:20	21:25	21:30	21:35	21:40	21:45	21:50	21:55	22:00	22:05	22:10	22:15	22:20	22:25	22:30	22:35	22:40	22:45	22:50	22:55	23:00	23:05	23:10	23:15	23:20	23:25	23:30	23:35	23:40	23:45	23:50	23:55	24:00

WORLD

S.Africa heads for coalition as ANC set for big fall

MIDRAND

SOUTH African political parties geared up for coalition talks yesterday as the governing African National Congress (ANC) looked set to fall well short of a majority in this week's election, the first time this has happened in 30 years of democracy.

While the party of the late Nelson Mandela looked likely to remain the largest political force, voters appear to have punished the former liberation movement for years of decline.

The ANC had won every previous national election since the historic 1994 vote that ended white minority rule, but over the last decade South Africans have watched the economy stagnate, unemployment and poverty climb and infrastructure crumble, leading to regular power outages.

With results in from 51.92 percent of polling stations, the ANC had 42.3 percent of votes, a precipitous drop from the 57.5 percent of votes it secured in the last national election in 2019.

Projections by South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research indicated the ANC would get 40.5 percent when full results are in.

So far the pro-business Democratic Alliance (DA) was in second place on 23.4 percent. uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), a new party led by former president Jacob Zuma, was at 10.8 percent and eating into ANC support, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal, Zuma's home province.

MK had overtaken the radical Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), currently the third biggest party in parliament, which was sitting on 9.6 percent.

By law the election commission has seven days to release full provisional results, but elections officials have said they are planning for a Sunday announcement.

'Doomsday coalition'

Political parties' share of the vote will determine the number of seats they get in the National Assembly, which then elects the next president.

That could still be the ANC's leader, incumbent President Cyril Ramaphosa. However, an embarrassing showing at the polls risks fuelling a leadership challenge.

ANC chairperson Gwede Mantashe said on Thursday that the ANC still wanted to win a majority. "A coalition is not our plan; it is a consequence. We



African Union Election Observers, chief and former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, (center), and former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan (left), listen to the Independent Electoral Commission Chief Electoral Officer Sy Mamabolo brief reporters and political party delegates at the National Results Operations Center in Johannesburg, South Africa on Thursday. AP

will deal with that consequence when it happens," he said.

Investors and the business community have voiced concern over the prospect of the ANC entering a coalition with the EFF, which is calling for the seizure of white-owned land and the nationalization of mines and banks, or with Zuma's MK which also

talks about land confiscation.

Though the DA says it wants to oust the ruling party, its leader John Steenhuisen has not ruled out a partnership to block what he has called a "doomsday coalition" with the ANC bringing the EFF or MK into government.

Agencies



MK Party supporters celebrate in the middle of the street in Mahlabathini village in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, on Thursday. MK Party is currently leading in the provincial poll against the ANC, who've held the stronghold in the province for the last 20 years. AP

Russia's defense chief sees NATO, EU fueling tensions in Georgia

ALMATY

THE course being pursued by NATO and the European Union toward confrontation with Russia has been fueling tensions in Georgia as well as in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Russian Defense Minister Andrey Belousov said.



"Some members of the Alliance have been seeking to strengthen their positions in [South] Caucasus in order to get access to resources of the Caspian Sea and direct access to Central Asia. Protests are being sponsored in Georgia which is being forced to take active anti-Russian measures," Belousov (pictured) said, addressing a meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in Almaty.

Also, mediation services are being aggressively imposed on Armenia and Azerbaijan, he said. "Proposals are being made to sign a peace treaty exclusively at Western venues and to their dictates," he added.

According to the Russian defense chief, plans by Washington and Brussels to include Russia's Armenian partners in the sphere of their interests under the pretext of efforts to enhance security are "of particular concern."

The policy course being pursued by the North Atlantic Alliance and the EU toward confrontation with Russia has been fueling tensions in a number of regions of the CSTO's collective security, he concluded.

India looks forward to taking part in meetings organized by Russia as BRICS chair: MEA

NEW DELHI

THE Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday that BRICS is an important platform and India looks forward to participation in meetings organized by Russia as BRICS chair this year.

At a weekly media briefing on Thursday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that as far as membership in BRICS is concerned, it is for the grouping to decide, and the grouping decides based on certain criteria that they have laid down. So if the group decides on a particular membership of expansion or to consider a particular country, the group will do so as per the guidelines of the BRICS grouping, he added.

On January 1, 2024, Russia took over the chairmanship of BRICS, an intergovernmental organisation that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, plus four new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members, which is a strong indication of the growing authority of the association and its role in international affairs.

Recently, while speaking to ANI, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry expressed his country's keenness to join the BRICS grouping and conveyed that the group has become a 'good body' after India became part of it.

He emphasised that Sri Lanka would reach out first to India whenever it formally applied to join the BRICS grouping.

"We will look forward to BRICS. Also, I think the cabinet has appointed a subcommittee to look into that and recommend it to us. We would like to see that because we would like to have multiple options. Who doesn't want to? So therefore, BRICS is a good body, particularly since India is a part of it," Sabry said in an interview with ANI.

"The first country we would be talking to is India and seek India's support for us to reach to the BRICS. And then, of course, I have been invited to take part on the BRICS foreign ministers meeting in Russia. So I hope that I will be there and then we will assess that. And yes, I think that right now personally if you ask me, I think that we should look at BRICS seriously," he added. ANI

We will look forward to BRICS. Also, I think the cabinet has appointed a subcommittee to look into that and recommend it to us



Xinhua

Xi urges greater efforts to build China-Arab community with shared future

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday called on China and Arab states to deepen cooperation and step up the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future.

Xi made the remarks in a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF).

CHINA-ARAB RELATIONS SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

China-Arab relations have kept scaling new heights since the beginning of the new century. At the first China-Arab States Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December 2022, China and Arab states agreed to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era.

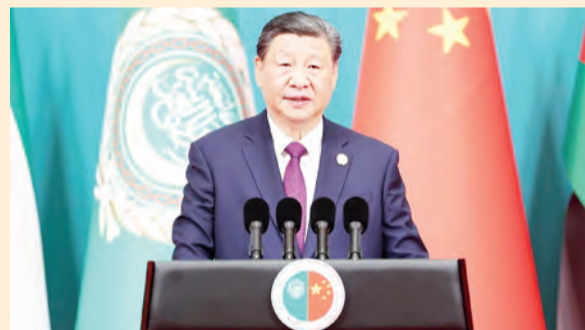
Xi said that China is satisfied with the progress that has been made in delivering on the first China-Arab States Summit's outcomes. China will work with the Arab side to enhance the role of the summit in providing strategic guidance for continued "leapfrog growth" of China-Arab relations.

Xi announced that China will host the second China-Arab States Summit in 2026, which is set to be another milestone in China-Arab relations.

As changes unseen in a century unfold rapidly across the world, both China and Arab states strive to accomplish their historical missions of national rejuvenation and faster national development. Building a China-Arab community with a shared future is a strong statement of the common desire for a new era of China-Arab relations and a better future for the world, Xi said.

Xi said China will work with the Arab side to make China-Arab relations a model for maintaining world peace and stability, a fine example of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, a paradigm of harmonious coexistence between civilizations, and a model for promoting good global governance.

It is believed that the strategic mutual trust between China and Arab states will be further consolidated, cooperation in various fields will be comprehensively promoted, and the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future will see more solid steps, said Li Chen, ambassador



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and delivers a keynote speech at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Thursday. XINHUA

for CASCF affairs of China's Foreign Ministry.

FIVE COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS

At the first China-Arab States Summit in 2022, Xi put forward "eight major cooperation initiatives" for practical cooperation.

Early harvests have been achieved in all the "eight major cooperation initiatives," Xi said, adding that China is ready to work with the Arab side on that basis to put in place "five cooperation frameworks" to step up the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future.

The five frameworks consist of a more dynamic framework for innovation, an expanded framework for investment and finance cooperation, a more multifaceted framework for energy cooperation, a more balanced framework for mutually beneficial economic and trade ties, and a broader framework for people-to-people exchanges.

China will build with the Arab side 10 joint laboratories in such areas as life and health, artificial intelligence (AI), green and low-carbon development, modern agriculture, and space and information technology. The two sides will also enhance cooperation on AI to make it empower the real economy and to promote a broad-based global governance system on AI, Xi said.

China is ready to establish with the Arab side an industry and investment cooperation forum, Xi said, adding that China supports closer cooperation between financial insti-

tutions from the two sides, and welcomes Arab banks to join the Cross-border Interbank Payment System.

China will further enhance strategic cooperation with the Arab side on oil and gas, and is ready to work with the Arab side on new energy technology R&D and equipment production, according to Xi.

China stands ready to accelerate the negotiations on bilateral and regional free trade agreements, welcomes active participation of the Arab side in the China International Import Expo, and is willing to expand import of non-energy products from the Arab side, especially agricultural products, Xi noted.

China is ready to establish with the Arab side the China-Arab Center of Global Civilization Initiative, Xi said, adding that China plans to work with the Arab side to achieve the goal of 10 million two-way visits of tourists in the next five years.

The development of Arab-China relations has broad prospects and great potential, and both sides have a sincere desire to further enhance relations and strengthen cooperation. It is believed that the work and achievements of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum will have a pragmatic and positive role in promoting the development of both sides in various fields, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said.

STICKING TO TWO-STATE SOLUTION

The Middle East is a land bestowed with broad prospects for development, but the war is still raging on it. Since last October, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has escalated drastically, throwing the people into tremendous sufferings, Xi said.

He stressed that war should not continue indefinitely, justice should not be absent forever, and commitment to the two-State solution should not be wavered at will.

China firmly supports the establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. It supports Palestine's full membership in the U.N., and supports a more broad-based, authoritative and effective international peace conference, he added.

Xinhua

China, US strengthen tourism cooperation to turn 'San Francisco vision' into reality

CHINESE President Xi Jinping sent a message to the 14th China-U.S. Tourism Leadership Summit on May 22.

It is hoped that all walks of life in the two countries will take this summit as an opportunity to have in-depth exchanges, build consensus, and take active actions to promote personnel exchanges through tourism cooperation, continue China-U.S. friendship with cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and help the San Francisco vision turn into reality, Xi said.

Xi's message fully demonstrated the importance he attaches to China-U.S. relations, conveyed his expectation to deepen China-U.S. tourism

cooperation, and expounded on the significance of tourism cooperation in promoting stable, healthy and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations, charting the course for the two countries to strengthen tourism cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

For any great cause to succeed, it must take root in the people, gain strength from the people, and be accomplished by the people. Growing China-U.S. friendship is such a great cause.

Xi has repeatedly emphasized the significance of strengthening non-governmental friendship and people-to-people exchanges in developing bilateral relations

between China and the United States. He has interacted with people from all walks of life in the U.S. for multiple times, aiming to foster a new chapter in non-governmental friendship between the two peoples.

Last November, Xi and his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden met with each other in San Francisco and laid out a future-oriented "San Francisco vision." Xi proposed five pillars for China-U.S. relations, namely, jointly developing a right perception, jointly managing disagreements effectively, jointly advancing mutually beneficial cooperation, jointly shouldering responsibilities as major countries, and jointly promoting people-to-people

exchanges, which should serve as the underpinning for the mansion of China-U.S. relations.

Tourism is an important bridge for exchanges and mutual understanding between the people of China and the U.S.

China and the U.S. are both proud of their splendid culture and beautiful landscape and people from both countries are keenly interested in learning more about each other and cementing their friendship.

For some time, teams from both China and the U.S. have been working to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state in San

Francisco. China-U.S. relations have been generally stabilized, and bilateral dialogue, cooperation and positive aspects in various fields have increased.

A number of relevant projects have been launched, including an initiative of inviting 50,000 young Americans to China on exchange and study programs in the next five years. The increased exchanges between the Chinese and American societies have deepened mutual understanding between the two peoples and brought them closer to each other.

China and the U.S. are two major countries with different histories, cultures, social sys-

tems and development paths. Strengthening dialogue and communication between the two sides, promoting friendly exchanges between the two peoples from all walks of life, and building more bridges of mutual understanding will help eliminate unnecessary misunderstandings and biases.

Expanding tourism cooperation between China and the U.S. will contribute to the exchanges and cooperation between the two peoples, and build consensus for the stable, healthy, and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations.

As Xi said in the message, the foundation of China-U.S.

relations is laid by the people, the door of China-U.S. relations is opened by the people, the stories of China-U.S. relations are written by the people, and the future of China-U.S. relations will be jointly created by the people of the two countries.

No matter how the global landscape evolves, the historical trend of peaceful coexistence between China and the U.S. will not change. The ultimate wish of the two peoples for exchanges and cooperation will not change. The expectations of the whole world for a steadily growing China-U.S. relationship will not change.

People's Daily

Uphold the original aspiration of diplomatic relations, firmly adhere to One-China Principle

By Chen Mingjian

ON 26th April, 1964, the People's Republic of China and the United Republic of Tanzania established formal diplomatic relations. Older generation of leaders of both countries including Chairman Mao Zedong and President Julius Nyerere have established and fostered the China-Tanzania traditional friendship following the principles of mutual respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In 1965, President Julius Nyerere paid his first visit to China, when both sides signed the Treaty of Friendship Between the People's Republic of China and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Both parties pledged to take the Five Principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful coexistence and so on as the principles guiding the relations between the two countries.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping made a historical visit to Tanzania, when both sides signed the Joint Communiqué Between the People's Republic of China and the United Republic of Tanzania.

In 2022, President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan paid a state visit to China, when both sides issued the Joint Statement on Establishing a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership Between the People's Republic of China and the United Republic of Tanzania.

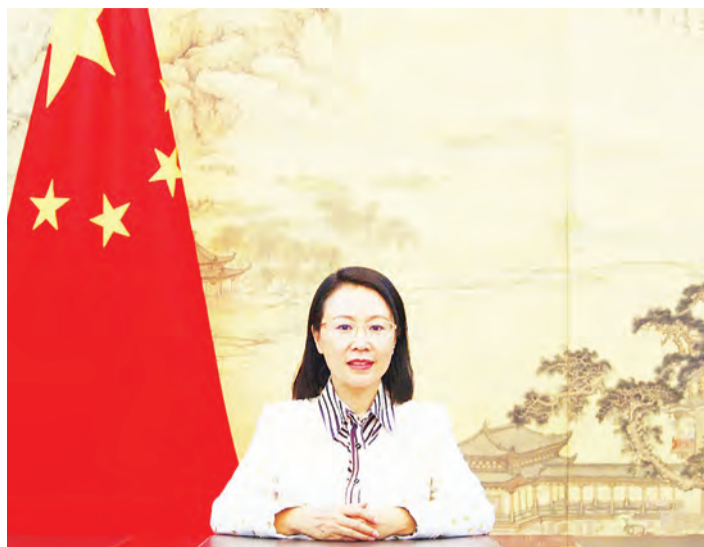
In these two important documents, China and Tanzania pledged to continue supporting each other on issues involving sovereignty, territorial integrity and other interests and major concerns.

The Tanzanian side reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China principle, regarding Taiwan as an inalienable part of China and supporting China's every effort to achieve national reunification, which China highly appreciates.

In the past 60 years, China and Tanzania have always been maintaining the friendly original aspiration of diplomatic relations. One of the most important reasons is that China and Tanzania have been reinforcing political mutual trust, supporting and helping each other on issues of core interests and major concerns.

From the perspective of China, in the 1960s and 1970s, when China was still in poverty and difficulty, the Chinese government and people tightened our belts to help African brothers build the Tazara Railway with no hesitation, as this Uhuru Railway was the urgent need of Tanzania and Zambia, and the whole African National Liberation Movement.

From the perspective of Tanzania, the Tanzanian side has supported China firmly to restore its law-



ful seat in the United Nations all the time since the founding of the United Republic. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, then Tanzanian Permanent Representative to the UN said at UN, it's ridiculous that China, a country with one-fourth of the world's population doesn't have representative right in the UN. As the Tanzanian representative, Dr. Salim personally participated in text drafting, finalized it after several revisions, and made tremendous efforts with other friendly countries.

At the 26th Session of the UN General Assembly, the above-mentioned draft was adopted eventually, and this is the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758.

The moment that Dr. Salim stood up and gave a standing ovation, always moved the Chinese people deeply, because we saw Tanzania stood firmly with the Chinese side on the most important and fundamental core interest related to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China.

The one-China Principle recognized clearly by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 is basis and consensus of developing China-Tanzania diplomatic relations.

In the past 60 years, the Tanzanian side has always implemented the original aspiration of diplomatic relations by supporting China on the one-China principle. Early this year, after the Taiwan region's election, President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan reaffirmed Tanzania's basic position of one-China principle, and Chama cha Mapinduzi also released a statement and strongly supported China on this issue. It's right because China and Tanzania share similar experience and common principles that Tanzanian friends could have much feeling for the Chinese side on Taiwan question, and be willing to stand firmly on the Chinese side. The Chinese people cherish very much the sincere friendship between China and Tanzania.

There is but one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, and the government of the People's Republic of

China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. Such is the core essence of one-China principle.

Taiwan has belonged to China since antiquity. It can be seen clearly from 3 perspectives. From a perspective of history, a large number of historical records and annals document this fact clearly. Starting from the Song and Yuan dynasties, which was 1000 year ago, the central governments of China all set up administrative bodies to exercise jurisdiction over Taiwan.

In 1885, the government of Qing dynasty set Taiwan as one of China's provinces. From a perspective of legal facts, the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation stipulated that Japan should return to China all the territories, including Taiwan and the Penghu Islands, which were forced to cede by the government of Qing dynasty.

It is also an important content of the post-World War II international order.

The General Assembly Resolution 2758 undertook more clearly "to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it".

From a perspective of international practice, the island is referred to as "Taiwan, Province of China" at the UN. Besides, it was clearly stated in the official legal opinions of the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat that "the United Nations considers 'Taiwan' as a province of China with no separate status", and the "authorities' in Taipei' are not considered to... enjoy any form of government status".

As an important international organization, the World Health Organization has refused to discuss Taiwan-related proposals in its Assembly for many years.

In view of the above, the one-China principle is crystal clear, as a red line that must not be crossed for safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is also a universal consensus of the international community and a basic norm in international relations.

Not long ago, the Republic of Nauru declared to cut the so-called "diplomatic ties" with Taiwan and to restore diplomatic relations with

China, and became the 183rd country to have diplomatic relations with China, which shows the one-China principle is where the global opinion trends and where the arc of history bends.

For a recent while, a few countries have been attempting to distort and challenge the UNGA Resolution 2758, and have sensationalized the so-called theory of the undetermined status of Taiwan, while agitating Taiwan's participation in the conferences and events of the UN system.

Some officials and scholars claimed that Resolution 2758 "did not endorse, is not equivalent to, and does not reflect a consensus for one-China principle", and "did not constitute a position of the UN on the ultimate political status of Taiwan".

China firmly opposes that, and the Tanzanian people will not agree, either. UNGA Resolution 2758 was adopted through legal compliance procedures and voted by all UNGA member states, with highly authority. It was also a vivid example for all developing countries, including Tanzania and many African countries, opposing major power hegemony, safeguarding the fairness and justice, and pursuing independence. Some countries have distorted UNGA Resolution 2758, which is a trampling on the authority and seriousness of UNGA, and a challenge to the post-World War II international order. Backward step like that is doomed to be in vain and eventually fail.

Looking back upon the original aspiration of China-Tanzania diplomatic relations, the one-China principle is the solid basis of two countries' mutual political trust.

Taiwan will certainly return to the motherland and the two sides of the Taiwan Strait will surely realize the reunification. This is the firm will of the 1.4 billion Chinese people, and also the inexorable trend of history.

Peaceful reunification and One Country, Two Systems are China's basic principles for resolving the Taiwan question. With the relentless efforts of the Chinese people and the support of international friendly forces, including Tanzania, the complete reunification of China will certainly be achieved!

Chen Mingjian (pictured) is the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

NATO weapons to be hit in any country from where Russia may be attacked – Medvedev

MOSCOW

NATO countries that have approved strikes with their weapons on Russian territory should be aware that their equipment and specialists will be destroyed not only in Ukraine, but also at any point from where Russian territory is attacked, the Russian Security Council's Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said on his Telegram channel, noting that the participation of NATO specialists could be seen as a casus belli.

"All their military equipment and specialists fighting against us will be destroyed both on the territory of former Ukraine and on the territory of other countries, should strikes be carried out from there against Russian



territory," Medvedev warned.

He added that Moscow proceeded from the fact that all long-range weapons supplied to Ukraine were already "di-

rectly operated by servicemen from NATO countries", which is tantamount to participation in the war against Russia and a reason to start combat operations.

Therefore, said Medvedev, NATO would need to legally qualify the destruction of its equipment, facilities and servicemen in case of "possible retaliatory strikes <...> in the context of articles 4 and 5 of the Washington Treaty".

Articles 4 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which created the alliance, list NATO countries' actions in case any of them is threatened, as well as the rules of the bloc's collective defense. According to these provisions, a threat to one NATO country is perceived as an attack on all members of the alliance. At the same time, the document does not specify what exactly NATO may regard as an attack or threat, so it establishes a consultation mechanism for deciding on a response.

Agencies

Xi Story: An inspirer for sci-tech workers

BEIJING

BRITISH chemist David Evans cherishes a necktie adorned with Chinese characters representing chemical elements. The distinctive accessory not only reveals his passion for science but often reminds him of the moment when he met President Xi Jinping.

Four years ago, at a Spring Festival reception in Beijing, the Chinese president noticed Evans' tie while shaking hands with him. Xi said to Evans, "I can guess your profession. We could have been fellows, (because) I studied chemical engineering (at university)."

Evans, a professor at Beijing University of Chemical Technology, was pleasantly surprised to learn of the Chinese president's academic background at Tsinghua University in the 1970s.

But what amazed him even more was Xi's speech at a symposium attended by scientists in September 2020, in which a lot of scientific knowledge, principles, and historical facts were cited.

"I have rarely seen a state leader having such an ability to engage in an in-depth discussion of scientific logic and laws," said Evans.

Noting that the key to Chinese modernization lies in science and technology, Xi has shown a keen interest in frontier areas. He is no stranger to the world of cutting-edge advancements, and concepts like AI, quantum, and self-driving technology dot his speeches. During his inspection visits nationwide, he has visited research institutions and sci-tech enterprises, and is often seen checking out the latest gadgets at tech exhibitions.

He also has deep respect for heroes behind the country's numerous sci-tech breakthroughs.

While presenting top national awards to wheelchair-bound scientists, or hosting video calls with orbiting taikonauts, he expresses care for the people at the forefront of the nation's innovation.

Before the launch of the Shenzhou X manned spaceship in 2013, Xi requested that sticky rice dumplings be added to the spaceship pantry so that the orbiting crew could celebrate Dragon Boat Festival in space, like what they do at home on Earth. In addition to ensuring that all contributions are acknowledged and celebrated, Xi has made it his mission to alleviate the burdens of scientists and engineers and address any problems they face.

In May 2021, when addressing a meeting of academicians and sci-tech worker representatives, he highlighted the efforts on management reform in the sci-tech



British chemist David Evans

field, such as freeing sci-tech workers from formalistic and bureaucratic activities and abolishing the outdated evaluation criteria for talent that solely focused on papers, certificates or awards. Instead, he proposed a new evaluation system that was based on innovation, ability and contribution.

Recognizing the financial pressure that they often face, he advocated granting scientists greater decision-making power over technical routes and the use of funds.

Sci-tech workers, who celebrate the eighth National Science and Technology Workers' Day on May 30, have benefited from improved working conditions and increased government support as they strive for innovation.

Over the past decade, China has seen a significant boost in funding for research and development, which rose from 1 trillion yuan (about \$140 billion) in 2012 to 3.09 trillion yuan in 2022. As an important indicator measuring sci-tech manpower input, the number of full-time equivalent R&D personnel in China increased from 3.247 million in 2012 to 6.354 million in 2022. Xi has also paid particular attention to foreign scientists, especially those from developing countries, who are committed to sci-tech exchanges and cooperation with China.

Last year, he replied to a letter from renowned Cuban scientist Pedro A. Valdes-Sosa, whose team in China chalked up great progress in brain science research and China-Cuba neurotechnology cooperation.

Xi expressed the hope that China-Cuba cooperation in various fields including science and technology could continue in the new era and better benefit the people of the two countries.

The Chinese president's encouragement for international sci-tech collaboration is reflected in many initiatives. China's top science awards are now open to foreign candidates; the Belt and Road Initiative has supported thousands of young foreign scientists to engage in scientific research and academic exchanges in China; and the country's space missions are made available for foreign scientific research payloads. *Xinhua*

Reckless move to push for 'Taiwan independence' will inevitably lead to severe punishment

IN a speech on May 20, the leader of the Taiwan region trumpeted separatist fallacies such as "sovereign independence," "non-subordination between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait," and "self-determination of Taiwan residents."

He also begged for support from external forces, trying to promote the "internationalization of the Taiwan question" and continuing to seek "Taiwan independence" by relying on foreign countries and by force.

This complete confession of "Taiwan independence" was full of hostility, provocation, lies and deception, reflecting an even more radical and risky stance on "Taiwan independence." Such a reckless move will inevitably lead to severe punishment and accelerate the collapse of separatist forces seeking "Taiwan independence."

People on both sides of the Taiwan Strait share the same bloodline, culture and history. They belong to the same Chinese nation and are of the same family enjoying kinship and offering mutual assistance.

The over-5,000-year history of the Chinese nation saw successive generations of ancestors move and settle down in Taiwan and people from across the Strait

fight side by side to recover the island from foreign invaders. Be it in legal or factual terms, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Pursuing "independence" and private political gains, the leader of the Taiwan region touted the so-called "two states" theory and tried to legitimize "Taiwan independence." He even denied his Chinese heritage. The actions are disgraceful betrayals of the nation and the ancestors.

History has proved that those who forget their heritage, betray their motherland, and seek to split the country will come to no good end; they will be nailed to the pillar of shame in history, disdained by the people and condemned by history.

China's complete reunification is an inevitable trend. It is where the greater national interest lies, and it is what the people desire. The Chinese nation has a common belief that the territory is indivisible, the country cannot be separated, and the civilization cannot be broken. A strong and unified nation has always been the pillar upon which the future of all the Chinese people, including compatriots in Taiwan, depends.

Taiwan is China's Taiwan. Safeguarding China's sovereignty and

territorial integrity is the common obligation of all Chinese people, the Taiwan compatriots included. No "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces should make Taiwan secede from China under any name or by any means.

From the very beginning of his tenure, the leader of the Taiwan region cannot help but to expose his true colors as an advocate for "Taiwan independence," brazenly inciting "anti-China" sentiments. What he said and did completely go against the mainstream public opinion in the Taiwan region in favor of peace not war, development not decline, communication rather than separation, and cooperation instead of confrontation.

This has exacerbated tensions across the Taiwan Strait, pushing Taiwan towards an even more dangerous position. It severely challenges the common faith of the Chinese nation and the common will of the Chinese people.

The complete reunification of China is an unstoppable trend. Those who seek "Taiwan independence" will only find themselves on a road leading to a dead end.

No one desires more than the Chinese people do to achieve national reunification through peaceful means. China is ready

to create vast space for peaceful reunification; but it will leave no room for separatist activities in any form.

No one should underestimate the great resolve, the strong will, and the extraordinary ability of the Chinese government and the Chinese people to defend their national sovereignty and territorial integrity. China will never tolerate, connive at, or show any mercy to separatist acts in any form. The more the separatist provocations escalate, the more resolute and forceful the country's countermeasures will become.

As a Chinese saying goes, a just cause enjoys abundant support while an unjust one finds little support. Recently, political dignitaries and people from various sectors have reaffirmed their commitment to the one-China principle and expressed firm support for China's just cause of opposing "Taiwan independence" separatism and striving for national reunification. This fully demonstrates that with each provocation by the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, the international community's consensus on upholding the one-China principle becomes even stronger.

People's Daily

Matampi praises teamwork for Coastal Union's CAF CC qualification



Coastal Union goalkeeper Ley Matampi (Agencies)

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

LEY Matampi, the standout goalkeeper for Coastal Union FC, has unveiled the secrets behind his exceptional performance this season, attributing his success to teamwork and collaboration with his coaches and fellow players.

Matampi, who has achieved an impressive record of 15 clean sheets in 24 matches, expressed his pride in leading Coastal Union to qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup in the upcoming season.

The Congolese goalkeeper shared insights into what has made him a formidable force between the posts.

"The only thing that made me better was the cooperation between coaches and players," Matampi emphasized.

His disciplined approach and collaborative spirit have been pivotal in his and his team's success.

Reflecting on his record, Matampi noted: "This is not my first time being the best goalkeeper in the season within my football career. I have achieved similar success while playing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I am happy to protect my dignity by leading in clean sheets, but the biggest thing for me is the way I was able to help my team qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup next season."

His statement highlights not just individual glory but also his commitment to the team's overall achievements.

Matampi's arrival at Coastal Union from Jeunesse Sportive Groupe Bazano of Congo has had a significant impact. He has been instrumental in the team's defensive solidity, leading them to play 30 matches, winning 11, drawing 10, and losing only nine.

Coastal Union has conceded just 19 goals this season, making them the second-best defensive team in the league, just behind Young Africans, who conceded 14 goals.

"The Tanzanian league is not simple. It has the best players and

great competition. So, the first time I played, I noticed I needed to be very calm to achieve my goals," Matampi explained.

His ability to adapt and remain composed under pressure has been a key factor in his success this season.

One of the highlights of Matampi's interview was his acknowledgment of Young Africans' goalkeeper, Djigui Diarra.

"Among the best goalkeepers I have ever met is Diarra," Matampi said, adding: "He is the best modern goalkeeper and deserves to lead again because he possesses all the necessary qualities. There are few as talented as him."

This mutual respect between two top goalkeepers underlines the high level of competition in the NBC Premier League.

Matampi's performance has not gone unnoticed, with rumors suggesting that other prominent teams, such as Simba SC, are interested in acquiring his services.

Coastal Union face the challenge of retaining their star goalkeeper amid growing interest from other clubs.

Matampi's contribution to Coastal Union's defense has been significant, and keeping him could be crucial for the team's future success.

Looking ahead, Coastal Union will need to focus on maintaining their high standards and building on this season's achievements.

Matampi's leadership and experience will be vital as they prepare for the CAF Confederation Cup and aim to continue their strong performances in the league.

The goalkeeper's ability to inspire his teammates and his track record of clean sheets will be assets in their upcoming campaigns.

His remarkable season with Coastal Union can be attributed to a combination of teamwork, calm under pressure, and his vast experience.

As Coastal Union gears up for future challenges, retaining Matampi could be the key to their sustained success.

Biashara United gears up for 2023/24 Premier League promotion playoffs

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MARA'S Biashara United has expressed its readiness to go toe-to-toe with the opponent it will face in this season's Premier League promotion/relegation playoffs.

Biashara United, which featured in the 2023/24 Championship League, thrashed Mbeya Kwanza FC 4-0 on aggregate in the league's promotion playoffs to secure the opportunity to face one of the lower-ranked NBC Premier League sides in the promotion/relegation playoffs.

The Mara side had cruised to a 2-0 victory over the Mbeya outfit in the first leg at the former's home turf of Karume Stadium, Musoma on May 19 and, later, replicated its heroics after winning by the same margin in the rematch at Nangwanda Si-jaona Stadium in Mtwara- the home venue for Mbeya Kwanza FC- on May 26.

The Championship League ended with the champion Ken Gold FC and runner-up Pamba FC receiving an automatic promotion to the Premier League, whereas fourth-placed Biashara United had to come up against third-placed Mbeya Kwanza FC in the promotion playoffs.

Biashara United took the fourth spot having recorded 62 points after grabbing 19 wins, managing five draws, and losing six outings. The squad scored 60 goals and let in 21 goals.

Third-placed Mbeya Kwanza FC finished with 65 points, posting 20 wins, five draws, and five losses. The club scored 50 goals and let in 28 goals.

Biashara United is set to confront the loser of the top flight's relegation playoff bringing together Tabora United and JKT



Biashara United players. Agencies

Tanzania, which were placed in the relegation spots, in the relegation/promotion playoffs.

The Mara club's Chief Executive Officer Augustine Mgendi disclosed they are prepared to face either Tabora or JKT Tanzania after dispatching Mbeya Kwanza FC.

Mgendi was adamant that securing an automatic promotion to the Premier League was their main objective but they failed to seal it and now their focus is on overcoming the loser of the NBC Premier League relegation playoffs.

"Every team in the Championship League aims for automatic promotion, we were not able to achieve that, it is not a failure because still have two more games to return to the NBC Premier League again, we have confidence in coach

Aman Josiah, the boys are prepared and the momentum is there," he revealed.

"We are happy that we managed to regroup and guide our team back to the Premier League, work is not done yet given we need to add more focus on the remaining games and have a proper promotion to our efforts," Mgendi added.

Biashara United's gaffer Josiah remarked the club's training programs ahead of the promotion/relegation playoffs are in progress, adding that all players are fit for the fixtures.

Josiah noted: "We are excited and ready for any opponent out of the two, we will watch the duels closely and prepare tactically for the fixtures, the players have been extraordinary and the leaders have supported us perfectly."

"The team leadership is scheduling friendly games before we play our playoffs, we aim to not only work on our opponents' weaknesses and exploit them but also work on our defensive schemes according to their prowess," Josiah disclosed.

This season's NBC Premier League promotion/relegation playoffs involving the winner of NBC Championship League's promotion playoffs and the loser of the NBC Premier League relegation playoffs have had the first leg slated for June 12 whereas the rematch is set to take place on June 16.

Tabora United and JKT Tanzania finished in the NBC Premier League playoff spots, and Geita Gold FC and Mtwara Sugar were relegated to the NBC Championship League.

The NBA Finals are set, with Boston set to face Dallas for the Larry O'Brien Trophy

BY TIM REYNOLDS

KYRIE Irving returning to Boston. Luka Doncic's first trip to the title round. Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum, getting another chance at a ring. Kristaps Porzingis facing his former team, too.

Pick a storyline. There are many in these NBA Finals.

The matchup is now set: It'll be Boston against Dallas for the Larry O'Brien Trophy, a series that starts on the Celtics' home floor on June 6 - meaning everyone will be sitting around and waiting for about a week, a byproduct of the Celtics and Mavericks making short work of their respective conference finals.

Dallas eliminated Minnesota on Thursday night, winning 124-103 to finish off a 4-1 victory in the Western Conference finals. Boston's spot was clinched Monday night, after the Celtics beat Indiana 108-105 to cap a 4-0 series in the East.

"We're going to the NBA Finals," Doncic said during the on-court celebration in Minneapolis on Thursday night. "Just can't believe it, man."

It's Boston's second time in the finals in the last three seasons, after falling to Golden State in six games in 2022. Dallas is in the title round for the first time since winning the championship against Miami in 2011.

Much will be made, and rightly so, of Irving and the Celtics meeting with a title on the line. Boston made a blockbuster move in 2017 by trading for Irving, with the hopes of seeing him grace its parquet floor in the NBA Finals.

Hey, it'll happen now - just not as the sides envisioned sev-



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) shoots over Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) during the first half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals in the NBA basketball playoffs, on Thursday, May 30, 2024, in Minneapolis. AP Photo

en years ago.

Irving was an All-Star in both of his Boston seasons, then left as a free agent to join the Brooklyn Nets in 2019 a few months after saying - vowing, really - that he would be staying with the Celtics. There have been some interesting moments in his returns to Boston; he's been routinely booed and had a water bottle thrown at him, while he's been fined for making an obscene gesture and raised ire by stomping on the Celtics' leprechaun logo at midcourt following a Brooklyn playoff win there.

"Boston's in the way and in between our goal," Irving said when the West finals ended Thursday night.

Irving's message to the Mavericks: Enjoy this moment.

"Nothing's guaranteed in this league, especially making it to the finals every year," said Irving, who won a title playing

alongside LeBron James with Cleveland in 2016. "We couldn't have done it without a collective responsibility, us working together every single day, practicing hard, doing the little things. We should reward ourselves by playing hard."

Porzingis spent nearly three years in Dallas after being traded there by the New York Knicks in 2019. He's in his first season in Boston and has been a huge part of the Celtics' success - but got hurt in Round 1 against Miami and hasn't played since, though it seems reasonable to think he may be ready for the NBA Finals.

"He's progressing well and he's working really hard to get back," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said.

The Celtics won the two head-to-head meetings against the Mavericks in the regular season, 119-110 at Dallas on Jan. 22 and then 138-110 in Boston on March 1.

The Mavericks didn't have an answer for Tatum; he had 39 points in the January game, 32 in the March matchup. The Celtics didn't have an answer for Doncic; he had triple-doubles in both games - 33 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists in January, then 37 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists in March.

Those games won't mean much now.

"This group believes," said Mavericks coach Jason Kidd, who played for the Dallas team that won a title in 2011. "They believe in each other. ... This is a special group."

The Celtics are seeking their 18th title overall, which would break a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most in NBA history, and their first championship since 2008.

Against the Warriors two years ago, the championship experience of Golden State prevailed. Lessons were learned then, Boston has insisted since, and the Celtics will get a chance to finish the season differently this time.

"It's a new challenge. It's a different situation," Celtics center Al Horford said. "I'm just excited to be in this position and to have this opportunity."

The Celtics will have spent more than a week without a game before the finals start. Mazzulla said all that downtime won't be spent idly.

"Nothing's really valuable if you let it go to waste," Mazzulla said. "Between now and June 6th, we have to take every experience that we've been through, and we've got to make sure we take advantage of it and that we utilize it to put ourselves in the best position to win."

Strike threat over football calendar with players at 'breaking point'

LONDON

PLAYERS could strike in their bid to cut down on the number of matches they play, England's Professional Footballers' Association warned FIFA.

Football's world governing body is under growing pressure to address the workload of elite players, with threats of legal action.

The PFA wants action to alter the congested football calendar, especially with the expanded 32-team Club World Cup proposed for next summer.

An event Thursday in London by the PFA and FIFPRO, the international players' union, heard that players were at "breaking point".

PFA chief executive Maheta Molango recalled a recent conversation he had with players of an unnamed club.

"How far would you like to go?" Molango recounted asking the players, according to the BBC. "Some of them said: 'I'm not having it, we may as well strike.' "Some said: 'What's the point? Yes, I'm a millionaire, but I don't even have time to spend the money.'"

Molango added: "We have reached a point where we cannot discount any action."

FIFA was already facing the threat of legal action if there is no rescheduling of the 2025 Club World Cup.

A letter recently sent to FIFA president Gianni Infantino by the World Leagues' Association and FIFPRO said football's worldwide schedule was now "beyond saturation".

FIFA in response said it would guarantee player welfare with its "harmonious" scheduling.

The football schedule will expand once more next season, with the Champions League and Europa League having eight first-phase games compared to six this term.

The Champions League, Europa League and UEFA Conference League will all be increased to 36 teams.

AFP

'Evolving' Vinicius Junior now picks Champions League over Ballon d'Or

LONDON

THE campaign for Vinicius Junior to land his first Ballon d'Or is well under way, but the Real Madrid forward has his priorities straight.

Before worrying about individual accolades, the Brazilian attacker is aiming to claim a second Champions League triumph today when Los Blancos face Borussia Dortmund at Wembley.

Vinicius was the man who brought Real Madrid their record 14th European Cup in 2022, stealing into the area from the left and pouncing from close range in the 1-0 win over Liverpool.

It was a simple finish but one he had failed to make before, multiple times, in what proved a tricky start to life at Madrid.

Thrown into the void left by departed all-time top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo in 2018, Vinicius started off as a laughing stock, given his profligacy. After coach Carlo Ancelotti returned for a second stint at the helm in 2021, the Brazilian proved the main beneficiary.

After 14 goals in three seasons before the Italian's arrival, Vinicius netted 22 under Ancelotti's guidance.

The 22nd was in Paris against Jurgen Klopp's Reds, just reward for Vinicius' transformation. It was no fluke, with the forward adding 23 goals the following year and he has 23 again ahead of the final against Bundesliga side Dortmund.

Vinicius has also profited from Ancelotti changing the system this season to accommodate Jude Bellingham's arrival and plug defensive deficiencies.

Ancelotti has largely deployed Vinicius as a central striker, a role which the winger took time to adapt to.

"Now I can play in more positions and that's how I've made my game a lot better than when I arrived here," Vinicius told reporters ahead of the final. "I keep evolving, and I want to keep evolving until the last day of my career, as Toni Kroos is doing."

German midfield metronome Kroos has been one of several good influences keeping the 23-year-old calm amid the focus and pressure.

Ancelotti's guidance is crucial though and one of his greatest feats has been to turn Vinicius from a rough diamond into an elite star.

"I feel comfortable with whatever the coach tells me, because he has changed me as a player," continued Vinicius. "He gave me the confidence that I need and where he tells me to go, I have to be."

"At first I was not convinced about playing inside, now I am very happy to be play there -- he always told me that I would score goals, and I didn't believe it. And in the end, things have gone well."

After three goals in his first 11 games of the season and new arrival Bellingham taking the limelight, Vinicius did not sulk.

Real Madrid might stand in way of Borussia Dortmund fairytale in Champions League final

LONDON

BORUSSIA Dortmund face the acid test after a fairytale run to today's Champions League final as a star-studded Real Madrid roll into Wembley expecting to be crowned European champions for a 15th time.

No club can come close to the Spanish giants' success in the competition and they are strong favourites against a Dortmund side that have beaten the odds just to make it to London.

Madrid's habit of somehow getting over the line when it matters in the Champions League has been exemplified in their run to the final.

Carlo Ancelotti's men withstood a barrage from defending champions Manchester City to win their quarter-final tie on penalties before another legendary late fightback at the Santiago Bernabeu to beat Bayern Munich in the last four.

The Spanish champions rightly travel to the English capital with confidence as they look to cap a memorable season.

Madrid have lost just twice in 54 games in all competitions, storming to the title in La Liga by 10 points and thrashing Barcelona 4-1 to lift the Spanish Super Cup along the way.

"I came here because I wanted to win, and to expect it," said Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham, who left Dortmund for the Spanish capital 12 months ago.

"It is a bit greedy almost, but you have to be confident when you're playing with so many great players."

- 'The ultimate boss' - Bellingham's career path



shows the scale of the task awaiting Dortmund.

Plucked from English Championship side Birmingham as a teenager, he was moulded and developed by the German giants before being picked off by Madrid for a transfer fee in excess of 100 million euros (\$109 million).

Without him, Dortmund struggled domestically this season, finishing fifth in the Bundesliga, 27 points adrift of Bayer Leverkusen.

Yet, Edin Terzic's men have saved their best for the Cham-

pions League stage to reach the final for the third time in the club's history and first since they lost at Wembley to Bayern Munich 11 years ago.

Dortmund topped the group of death featuring Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan and Newcastle.

PSV Eindhoven and Atletico Madrid were then seen off before a heroic defensive display kept out PSG over two legs in the semi-finals.

"They've prepared their season around the run in the Champions League," added

Bellingham.

"They've played amazingly, the character and mentality they've shown in a lot of games. They've had a tough run to the final as well and you have to respect that."

As impressive as keeping out Real-bound Kylian Mbappe was in the last four, Dortmund realise they must go to another level if Madrid are to lose a European final for the first time since 1983.

"Our goal wasn't to qualify for the final, our goal is to win the Champions League," said

Dortmund fan turned coach Terzic.

"And if you want to win the Champions League, you have to beat the champions. Now the absolute champion is waiting for us. The ultimate boss."

Madrid's rich Champions League tradition means there are also a number of personal feats at stake on Saturday.

Ancelotti can extend his record as the only coach to win the European Cup four times.

Dani Carvajal, Luka Modric and Toni Kroos, in the final club game of his career, could match Madrid legend Paco Gento as the only player to win the competition six times as a player.

UEFA will be hoping the focus is on the protagonists on the field come full-time to ensure their decision to return to Wembley for a major final is not questioned.

Three years ago, the final of Euro 2020 was marred by violence as ticketless fans stormed the stadium doors to gain entry.

UEFA were also forced to apologise to Liverpool fans for the organisation of the 2022 Champions League final in Paris that an independent review found "almost led to disaster".

The English Football Association (FA) have invested £5 million (\$6 million) into improving safety and infrastructure at Wembley, which is also set to host the Euro 2028 final.

"We never foresaw events like that for the Euros final and I'm not sure we will again but we've learned lessons and additional measures have been implemented," said the FA's director of tournaments and events Chris Bryant.

AFP

Fearless Schlotterbeck embodies brave new Borussia Dortmund

LONDON

BUILT on grit and graft but with a hint of flair, few players embody coach Edin Terzic's Borussia Dortmund more than centre-back Nico Schlotterbeck.

Known in the past for attacking brilliance, Dortmund's run to today's Champions League final, where they will face 14-time winners Real Madrid, was built on the back of a resolute defence.

Playing his second season in Dortmund, Schlotterbeck has established himself at the heart of defence alongside veteran Mats Hummels, pushing Niklas Sule -- a 2020 Champions League final winner with Bayern Munich -- to a bit part role.

Schlotterbeck and Hummels helped keep Paris Saint-Germain at bay in the semi-finals with back-to-back clean sheets.

Dortmund conceded just nine goals this Champions League campaign despite facing PSG four times and having home-and-away legs against Newcastle, AC Milan, Atletico Madrid and PSV Eindhoven.

Their opponents, Real Madrid, have conceded 15 goals this campaign.

While the 24-year-old had showcased his speed and athleticism during stints with Union Berlin and Freiburg, his decision-making and game understanding have improved rapidly



Schlotterbeck closes down PSG's French star Kylian Mbappe in Paris. Agencies

this season.

Schlotterbeck's form has been so strong as Dortmund stormed to Wembley that he was recalled to Germany's Euro 2024 squad, having been left out by coach Julian Nagelsmann in March.

Few tipped Dortmund to get out of the group stage, let alone going all the way to just their third Champions League final.

Runners-up in 2013, Dortmund can draw inspiration from lifting the 1997 title against a heavily fancied Juventus, who they beat 3-1 in Munich.

A win on Saturday would mean Dortmund -- a member-run club with a budget dwarfed by other European heavyweights -- join the likes of Juventus, Benfica and Chelsea with two Champions League

titles.

The German club first lifted the trophy in 1997.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Schlotterbeck was chomping at the bit to take on the Spanish giants and said Dortmund should relish

their underdog status.

"I've always wanted to play against Real, for me they're the biggest club in the world. But we shouldn't be afraid, we shouldn't be in awe. It has to be a completely normal game for us."

"We were often the underdogs in the Champions League this season, and that has suited us quite well."

The defender said Dortmund should focus on their own game against Real.

"For us, it means getting into our game quickly, moving the ball quickly, and imposing our game on Real Madrid a bit."

"If we can do that, then I'm optimistic that we can make it."

Ahead of the final match of the club season before joining Germany's Euros camp, Schlotterbeck drew parallels with Dortmund's final league match of the previous campaign.

With their 82,000-seat strong Westfalenstadion at full boil, Dortmund needed to beat mid-table Mainz to win the league for the first time in a decade.

Dortmund were however down 2-0 after 25 minutes and despite fighting back for a 2-2 draw, would watch as the title went to arch rivals Bayern Munich for an 11th straight time.

Fifth in the league this season and 27 points behind champions Bayer Leverkusen, last season still weighs heavily on Dortmund.

"Perhaps we thought too much about it back then. But we know what happens here in the city when we win a title and what it means to people."

The defender however said the tables have turned, with few favouring Dortmund against the might of Madrid.

"Last season we had something to lose against Mainz, now we have something to win. We have to seize this opportunity."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Real Madrid might stand in way of Dortmund fairytale in Champions League final

PAGE 19

Jose Mourinho on verge of becoming Fenerbahce manager

By Sam Wallace

JOSE Mourinho is in talks with representatives of Fenerbahce in London with a view to agreeing a deal this week to take over at the Turkish giants, who are desperate to end 10 years without a domestic league championship.

Mourinho, 61, is eager to work again having lost his most recent job at Roma in January and the offer from Fenerbahce is the best on the table this summer.

The former Chelsea, Real Madrid and Manchester United manager told Telegraph Sport last month that he does not want to take a break in a career that has seen him working for some of the biggest clubs in Europe for the last 24 years with only a few short periods out the game.

The challenge at Fenerbahce is huge: last season the club amassed 99 points in the Super Lig, lost once all season - in early November - and still finished second behind Galatasaray despite winning away at their rivals.

It prompted wild scenes of protest against the club's hierarchy on the streets of Istanbul. Fenerbahce won their last title in 2014 and since then four different clubs have been champions, including five for Galatasaray.

The club president Ali Koç, an alumnus of Harrow School, and scion of one of Turkey's wealthiest families, is under considerable pressure to end the run of 10 seasons without a league title.

Mourinho represents a major investment for the club. Galatasaray are now just three league titles behind Fenerbahce's all-time record of 28. Fenerbahce have finished second for the last three seasons.

Koç is running for re-election as Fenerbahce president in polls on June 8 and 9. His opponent Aziz Yildirim had promised to appoint Mourinho if successful, prompting Koç to move first. Mourinho will appear on British broadcaster TNT Sports as a pundit for the Champions League final at Wembley on Saturday.

Mourinho does not come cheap and will expect to bring staff with him. A two-year deal has been proposed although the exact terms are yet to be agreed. Jorge Mendes, a longstanding associate and some time agent of Mourinho, is part of the negotiations. It would be Mourinho's 11th club job, including two stints at Chelsea.

Fenerbahce have a good squad featuring some big names of the Premier League's past including the Brazilian midfielder Fred, who played for Mourinho at United.

The great Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko is their captain and last season's top goalscorer. Dusan Tadic, Ryan Kent and Michy Batshuayi are all contracted for next term. Fenerbahce will join Champions League qualifying in the second round on July 23.

The Turkish Super Lig was suspended for a week in December after the shocking on-pitch attack on the referee Halil Umut Melter by the president of the club Ankaragucu, Faruk Koca. The official was punched and then kicked while he lay prone on the ground.

The Turkish football federation chairman, Mehmet Buyukeksi, said the event had to be a turning point in the league's history of intimidation of officials. Ankaragucu were one of four sides subsequently relegated.

THE TELEGRAPH

Azam, Yanga meet in second successive Federation Cup final in Zanzibar



The 2023/24 Premier League trophy, won by Young Africans Sports Club, after arriving at Uhuru Peak during the team's trophy parade yesterday. The Uhuru Peak, at an altitude of 5,895 meters (19,341 feet), is the official summit point on Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapoli

AZAM and Young Africans will meet in the Federation Cup final for the second successive year when they clash at Amaan Stadium, Zanzibar tomorrow evening, kick-off at 8:15 PM.

The two sides may have been polar opposites in terms of success in recent years, but having both now reached this fixture in successive years, 2024 marks the first time that the Federation Cup final has been contested by the same two clubs in back-to-back seasons.

Young Africans, who have already sealed a record-extending 30th league title, will be hoping to secure their fourth triumph in the Federation Cup, having won it in 2016, 2022 and 2023 since it was re-launched in the 2015/2016 season.

They could complete the league title and Federation Cup double for the third time in a row, something that has never been achieved previously in the history of Tanzanian football.

Wananchi booked the final

spot after an extra-time 1-0 win over Ihefu in a semi-final match played at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha barely two weeks ago.

Stephane Aziz Ki's 101th-minute goal was the decisive moment as Miguel Gamondi's men progressed to the final to face Azam for a second successive season.

It is also their fourth final in a row. In the Federation Cup early rounds, Young Africans thrashed non-league side Hausung 5-1 in the first game before crushing Championship side Polisi Tanzania 5-0 in the round of 32 played in April. In the quarter final they beat Tabora United 3-0.

Gamondi's men are unbeaten in their previous 14 matches across all competitions. They have won all their last nine games.

Unbeaten in the Federation Cup since 2021, Gamondi's men will back themselves to secure another domestic double.

On the other side, Azam are out for revenge and are seeking to get their

hands on the domestic cup for a second time.

Azam made it to the final following a comprehensive 3-0 semifinal victory over Coastal Union. They thrashed Namungo 4-1 in the quarter-finals.

They also beat Alliance, Green Warriors and Mtibwa Sugar in this season's Federation Cup.

Youssof Dabo charges go into this game with the confidence of being the last team to beat Young Africans this season.

Azam triumphed 2-1 against Young Africans in a reverse league played in March.

The Senegalese coach will hope his key players Feisal Salum, Kire Junior and Gibril Sillah are in fine form to beat the resilient Young Africans' backline.

The final is set to captivate fans due to the high quality of both teams this season. Azam finished second in the Premier League, earning a spot in the CAF Champions League for the first time since the 2014/2015 season.

On the other hand, Young Africans demonstrated their dominance by winning their third consecutive Premier League title.

The final marks the fourth appearance for Azam in the Federation Cup since 2015. They have faced Young Africans twice before in the finals but failed to win on both occasions.

The first meeting was on May 25, 2016, at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, where Young Africans triumphed 3-1 with goals from Amissi Tambwe (two goals) and Deus Kaseke, while Didier Kavumbagu scored for Azam.

Last season, the two teams met again in the final held on June 12 at the Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, where Azam lost 1-0 to a goal from Zambian player Kennedy Musonda.

Expectations are high for the final, with top players from both sides having standout seasons. Young Africans' Aziz Ki, the Premier League's top scorer with 21 goals, will be a key player for Azam to watch. Similarly, Azam's Salum 'Fei Toto', who contributed 19 league goals this season, will be a crucial player in the final.

Clement Mzize, Young Africans' striker and the club's top scorer in the Federation Cup with five goals, expressed confidence ahead of the match.

"As players, we are very positive about the final. We are confident and came here to win the tournament," Mzize stated.

Reflecting on his role as the team's top scorer and his ambitions for the final, he added: "I know that I need to add goals to become the top scorer in this cup, but the team comes first. If I get a chance to play, I need to help the team first."

Both teams will also face each other in the opening match of the next season for the Community Shield, adding another layer of anticipation to their rivalry.

As fans eagerly await the final, the stage is set for an exciting and competitive match that could see Young Africans clinch their fourth title or Azam securing their second victory in the Federation Cup.

TFF adjusts 2023/24 season awards ceremony to coincide with Community Shield match

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a change of plans, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) will be hosting its annual awards ceremony during the Community Shield game, a departure from the previous tradition of holding it three days after the Federation Cup final.

This change promises a new atmosphere for celebrating the season's top performers.

The decision, communicated by the TFF, aims to enhance the event's significance by aligning it with the kick-off of the new 2024/2025 season.

The awards ceremony serves as a platform to recognize the exceptional achievements of athletes across various competitions organized by the federation and the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), as well as other official football events nationwide.

Scheduled during the inaugural match of the new season, the celebration will witness the clash between reigning Premier League champions, Young Africans, and the victor of the Federation Cup.

However, Young Africans' participa-

tion in the FA final adds a twist, potentially pitting them against Azam FC, with both teams set to compete tomorrow at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

Young Africans' and Azam's advancement to the final underscores their prowess, as they clinched the top two finish places in the Premier League standings, which officially concluded on May 28. Consequently, their showdown in the Community Shield appears inevitable, despite initial plans conflicting with the Premier League's rule regarding trophy presentations.

Traditionally, the Premier League mandates awards ceremonies to occur three days after the Federation Cup final. Hence, the originally slated date for the TFF awards was June 5, following the FA final clash between Young Africans and Azam.

This season of the Premier League has been a goal-fest, with several players vying for top honors at the upcoming TFF awards ceremony.

Young Africans' Stephane Aziz Ki is the clear favorite for Player of the Season, having notched an impressive 21

goals and nine assists. This puts him comfortably ahead of Feisal Salum, who managed 19 goals.

Aziz Ki's contributions have been instrumental in propelling Young Africans' Premier League title.

The battle for Best Defender is shaping up to be a tight race. Young Africans' Ibrahim Hamad (Bacca) has been a rock at the back, while Lameck Lawi of Coastal Union has helped his team concede the second-fewest goals in the league (18). Both players have strong cases for the coveted award.

Ley Matampi has secured the Golden Gloves award for most clean sheets (15), surpassing Young Africans' Djigui Diarra with 14. This solidifies Matampi's status as a top goalkeeper in the league.

With exceptional individual performances across the league, the team of the season selection promises to be a hotly contested affair. The upcoming TFF awards ceremony is sure to be a night to remember, celebrating the best talent the Tanzanian Premier League has to offer.

Reflecting on the previous season, Young Africans dominated the

awards, securing a total of 12 accolades, including individual honors and recognition as the best team. Standout performances by players like Fiston Maye, Djigui Diarra, and Dickson Job earned them coveted titles such as top scorer, best goalkeeper, and best defender, respectively.

Simba, the second-ranked team, also clinched numerous awards, with Saido Ntibazonkiza leading the charge as the top scorer and recipient of the Fair Play award. Notable mentions include Henock Inonga, Mohammed Hussein, and Shomari Kapombe, all earning spots in the season's best team.

Acknowledging excellence beyond the pitch, awards were also presented to outstanding referees and officials. Ester Adalbert and Jonesia Rukyaa were recognized as the best referees for the Women's Premier League and Premier League, respectively, while Ally Ally and Winfrida Charles received accolades for their contributions as best coach and best player in the women's category.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

