



# Random power cuts anger Dar residents

“there is nothing people are doing as businesses slacken and perishable products end up rotting

By Getrude Mbago

ERRATIC power cuts are irritating Dar es Salaam residents, who were told more than a month ago that the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (Tanesco) would set out a clear schedule on expected outages.

The state-run went on to do as much. However, electricity consumers based in the commercial capital said in separate interviews yesterday frequent and often erratic outages have become intolerable.

They complained that some areas have been literally “groping in the dark” for up to 24 hours, their electrical appliances lying at great risk of destruction. This is not the way in which electricity is supposed to be rationed, they said.

Vicky Masinya, a Tegeta suburb resident, said the situation adds to woes of the scorching seasonal temperatures, where it is impossible to bear the heat with fans and air conditioners in disuse.

She said power rationing has grown into a chronic disease haphazardly unsettling people in homes, offices and business places and af

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi and investor Nadhim Al Rawahi (3rd-L) pictured yesterday unveiling plaque at the laying of the foundation stone for Zanzibar Crown Hotel and Resort, as part of the run-up to the 60th anniversary of the January 12 Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Strategic investors given 15 years' tax exemption

President Mwinyi arranging special ceremony to sign the law

By Guardian Reporter

STRATEGIC investors will be exempted from tax for more than 15 years under new legislation guiding the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA). President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has declared.

At a ceremony to lay the foundation stone for a five-star Zanzibar Crown hotel spearheaded by an Omani investor at the value of 50bn/-, he said that the pace of investment projects in international hotels shows that Zanzibar is safe, as peace and stability have been strengthened.

“The new Zanzibar investment law of 2023 is already on my table where we've prepared a special day for signing and holding a big ceremony and this will make ZIPA the best such institution in Africa,” he told the gathering.

Shariff Ali Shariff, the ZIPA executive director, said that great success has been registered during the three years of Dr Mwinyi's leadership, with 266 projects registered for investment up to November 2023.

The president urged all those who invest in Zanzibar to build the confidence that their projects are safe and will be protected in accordance with the laws of the land.

The Zanzibar government has created a good environment for investment, with a law that will guarantee investors the safety of their projects, he emphasised, with the ZIPA director noting that ZIPA is at the moment bent on the construction of road infrastructure, electricity supply as well as clean and safe water.

The agency has built a 13-kilometer road to investment sites at Micheweni, he said, assuring the president that the speed of investment was brisk, with ZIPA doing a great

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## Cabinet team inspects Kwala industrial park

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PUBLIC officials have been tasked to inculcate a habit of visiting investors' premises to find out their challenges and solve them on time.

Ambassador Moses Kusiluka, the chief secretary, made this appeal over the weekend at a visit to a clothing and a cosmetics factory located in the Sino-Tanzania industrial park in Kwala area, Kibaha District, Coast Region.

He was accompanied by Finance minister Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, Industry and Trade minister Dr. Ashatu Kijaji and permanent secretaries for Transport, Finance, Industry and Trade, along with heads of several institutions.

He asked top civil servant not to 'lock themselves in their offices' and instead should make a point of visiting investors at their work places regularly to hear of their progress and chal

lenges. Stressing the government resolve to uplift a conducive environment for higher investment flows via policies, laws and specific incentives, he described Tanzania as a safe area for investments.

In just a short time, we have seen how investors have been able to do great things, he said, affirming that it is result of goals that investors set for themselves. The government pays great attention to this industrial park, he declared.

He remarked that President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed the visit as an inspection tour too check out the way detailed orders have been implemented, which reflects the level of importance the government attaches to the industrial parko project.

The park is an illustration of exemplary projects that can be shown to other people in the world, he stated, affirming that it is the first time an initiative of this sort has been undertaken in the country.

The government is proud that it has something to show to leaders of other countries, he said, assured the project investors that the government will see to it that the project is completed on time and start operating in schedule.

The Industry and Trade minister underscored the ministry's interest to see that the industrial park is completed on time, enabling a large number of factories to be located there as planned.

This will help to increase exports and increasing employment opportunities, she specified, while the Finance minister pointed out that the government cannot obtain new taxes without new investments. So the Treasury is happy to see the trend of a rising number of industries in the country, he said.

No one can harvest without planting and in the modern economy good policies,

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Special Seats legislator Dr Pauline Nahato (R) attends to admitted to Hanang District Hospital at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



## Random power cuts anger Dar residents

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fecting daily economic activities.

"We have actually reached a stage where we see that we can't even go forward," noted Masinya, adding: "Power has been cut more than ten times here today. There is nothing people are doing as businesses slacken and perishable products end up rotting."

Lucia Jovin, a resident of Mkwajuni Street in Kinondoni District, said people enjoyed reliable power for some eight days during the Christmas and New Year season but soon after the New Year celebrations, the pain was restored. She said erratic power shedding resumed on January 2, making life more difficult as businesses wobbled and families were beaten down by the heat.

Boniphace Joram, a resident of Mbezi Beach, has much similar complaints. He said families are suffering from the on-going power outages, demanding clear explanation as to why such cuts are happening now. Peter Justin of Kimara lamented that despite Tanesco's solemn pledge that power rationing would religiously observe the firm's prior schedule, "this is just not the case".

"They can decide cut power even as often as ten times a day. I don't know what they have been down to as we're told that hydroelectric power plants have enough water."

Justin urged the government to come up with an immediate plan to address the ongoing situation "to calm down a grossly disillusioned and stressed public" as many people are now getting confused owing to the hardships they are experiencing with the haphazard power cuts.

Kenneth Boymanda, a senior official with the power firm, said in an interview yesterday that power rationing will likely continue countrywide until mid-February when the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) moves into production.

He said Tanesco has been doing the most it can to ensure that it "completely addresses" the rationing as it is affecting broad section of the population.

He explained that the company is busy working

hard on other sources of power like gas and hydropower, along with renovation of existing power plants for reliable supply.

Boymanda further explained that only Kihansi is doing well among existing hydropower stations, while Mtera and Kidatu have reduced power generation by nearly a half and the situation in most plants is poor owing to inadequate rains.

He noted that efforts are going on to ensure that JNHPP starts operations by February 19, bringing needed relief from ongoing rationing.

Mtera Dam receives water from Great and Lower Ruaha, which tap rainwater in Mbeya, Iringa and Njombe regions, he added.

Boymanda explained that Kizigo River, another tributary, collects rainwater in Tabora, Singida and Dodoma regions "and these haven't started receiving substantial rains".

He said water in these rivers is also used by farmers and livestock keepers, thus affecting the amount of water actually leading into Mtera Dam, "but we hope that as we are heading to the long rains, the flow of water will increase".

According to the official, Tanesco has been regularly updating clients on power rationing schedules via WhatsApp groups, Instagram, its Website and the print media, expressing intent to keep doing so.

Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko announced last month that construction of the first power generation plant at JNHPP was at 95 per cent completion.

It was reported that the installation of two power 470-megawatt plants was close to completion, with the expectation that by January 2 dry testing at turbine number 9 would be complete and thus paving the way for wet testing by February 19.

The water reservoir stands at 166.65 cubic meters above sea level, surpassing the minimum requirement of 163 cubic meters, demanding high water flow and meticulous water use planning and efficient management.

Ongoing electricity challenges do not alter the government's unwavering commitment to securing reliable power for all, Biteko remarked.

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Works minister Innocent Bashungwa (2nd-L) receives a contribution from Little Sister of St. Francisko Matron Bahati Leah at a fundraiser held in Dar es Salaam yesterday to support the construction of the Catholic Church agency's centre slated for Bagamoyo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Cabinet team inspects Kwala industrial park

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laws and a friendly environment to attract many investors for products needed in locally and foreign markets are vital, he explained.

Saluting the pace of construction of the industrial park, the chief secretary assured

the project movers full government support and a friendly operating environment.

Abubakar Kunenge, the regional commissioner, said many factories are being built but some work are stalled for electricity and gas shortage.

He said that Coast Region had 30 industries, seven of them small industries at the time that the sixth phase government came

into office, while at present industries are larger, indicating that there is a good investment environment.

Jenson Huang, the project coordinator, said that on completion the park is expected to house 300 medium and large industries, providing upwards of 100,000 direct jobs.

An online entry said the project mover has been dedicated to Tanzania for 20 years

as chairman of Group Six International, a major Chinese investment group. He said the government has all reason to extend support to this investment project as it is crucial for youth employment.

Upwards of 90 per cent of youth engaged in the garment factory are local residents, he added.



M.M. Integrated Steel Mills director Ratish Kamania (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend briefing Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (3rd-L), who toured the factory to have a feel of the production of corrugated iron roofing sheets and related items. Second left is the firm's executive director, Veer Patel. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Strategic investors get 15-year tax exemption

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job of promoting investment opportunities

Mudrick Ramadhan Soraga, the Labour, Economy and Investment state minister in the Zanzibar President's Office, said that ZIPA restructuring and investment law amendments have greatly helped to woo investors to the Isles.

The key attractions include making ZIPA a one stop centre where strategic investors like the hotel project will benefit from the 15 years tax exemption, he said.

Said Salim al Sinawi, consul general of the Sultanate of Oman, was pleased with the great changes made by the Zanzibar government in investment, enacting better laws that protect investors.

He expressed the feeling that in the past three years a good investment environment has been created that assures investors that their projects will be safe.

Nadhim Mohamed, the project investor, said that the project is expected to provide jobs for 200 people, attributing the interest to a good and transparent investment environment.

## African elephant populations stabilise in southern heartlands

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN elephant populations have stabilised in their southern heartlands after huge losses over the last century, according to the most comprehensive analysis of growth rates to date.

The latest analysis also provides the strongest data so far showing that protected areas that are connected to other places are far better than isolated "fortress" parks at maintaining stable populations, by allowing the elephants to migrate back and forth between areas as they did naturally in the past.

When numbers rise in highly protected core areas, corridors into less protected buffer areas allow the animals to disperse. They may also migrate if poaching increases or drought strikes. If numbers later fall in the core areas, or conditions improve, elephants can flow back again. However, many more people live in the

buffer areas and the scientists said careful planning was crucial to minimise conflicts with the elephants, which can kill people and destroy crops.

In contrast to the connected areas, the scientists found that isolated parks, which keep animals in and people out, can lead to unsustainable population booms, and in turn sometimes mass deaths or culling.

"For decades, news from southern Africa was dominated by waves of poaching and other threats," said Dr Robert Guldemond at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and part of the study team. "But there's been a lot of good work done that has basically turned the tide and that story has never really been told."

Dr Ryan Huang, also at the University of Pretoria, said: "This is a good news story for a lot of elephants. We're changing from just halting declines and to trying to achieve long term stability."

Prof Stuart Pimm, of Duke University in the US, and also part of the team, said: "We need to protect elephants, but we also need to connect them. We have fragmented the world and we need to stitch it back together again."

The research, published in Science Advances, used 713 population surveys from 103 protected areas from Tanzania southwards to calculate rates of growth or decline from 1995-2020. This covered more than 290,000 savannah elephants, 70% of the total in Africa.

The scientists found that overall, populations had grown at 0.16% a year for the past quarter of a century. "Conservation has halted the decline of elephants in southern Africa over the last 25 years," said Pimm.

The most stable populations were mostly found in large, well-protected lands that were connected to buffer areas. Elephant populations in buffer areas were more likely to decline as a result of less suitable habitat or being killed,

but they serve a useful function, said Pimm: "It is about trying to restore a sort of natural dynamic, and natural dynamics can be brutal."

Isolated and highly protected parks recorded maximum growth rates in some cases and large population increases. But with nowhere to disperse to, dense populations can damage the habitat or force difficult and expensive relocations. Large culls have also been used in the past to control unsustainable numbers.

The mass death of 350 elephants in northern Botswana in 2020 may have resulted from the inability of the herd to migrate, said Huang. "It was probably caused by toxic algal blooms in the water and these elephants had no choice but to drink it," he said. "The ability to move and disperse is what creates that kind of natural flexibility in these areas to allow a stable population."

The researchers also found that some areas in southern Africa still suffered severe declines

from poaching, such as south Tanzania, northern Zambia and Zimbabwe. Poaching in east and west Africa, not covered by the study, is also thought to be high.

Katherine Elliott, WWF's senior programme adviser for Africa, said: "It is encouraging that southern savannah elephant populations have stabilised and is a testament to dedicated conservation efforts. However, several populations have experienced significant declines and we cannot be complacent."

"Improved connections across landscapes are essential for elephants and other species," she said. "Human activity is increasingly disrupting connectivity, including roads, fences, agriculture and mining. With increasing threats from the climate crisis, habitat connectivity is more important than ever so species can move away from places where conditions are becoming less favourable."



# Africa Tourism Centre celebrates Fencorp Global birthday

By Nkululeko Nkomo

IN a bid to promote tourism and tourism investment in Africa, the Africa Tourism Promotion Centre (ATPC) recently celebrated the birthday anniversary of Fencorp Global, highlighting their successful collaboration and shared commitment to enhancing the continent's tourism sector.

ATPC, an organization dedicated to driving tourism growth in Africa through strategic partnerships, expressed their appreciation for Fencorp Global's contributions and efforts in advancing the tourism industry across the continent. Norah Milan Milanzi, a representative of ATPC, expressed her honor and pleasure in working alongside Fencorp Global and commended their joint achievements thus far.

As an industry leader, Fencorp Global has been instrumental in developing sustainable tourism initiatives and attracting international investment to various destinations in Africa. Their expertise, resources, and unwavering dedication have contributed significantly to the growth and development of the sector.

During the birthday celebration, ATPC highlighted their collaborative efforts with Fencorp Global in driving tourism promotion campaigns, organizing investment conferences, and facilitating networking opportunities for stakeholders

in the industry. These joint initiatives have not only increased Africa's visibility as a tourist destination but also attracted significant foreign direct investment to strengthen the tourism infrastructure and create employment opportunities for local communities.

Norah Milan Milanzi, speaking on behalf of ATPC, expressed enthusiasm for the future prospects of their collaboration with Fencorp Global. She emphasized the importance of continued cooperation and partnership to further propel Africa's tourism sector towards even greater successes.

"Working in close association with Fencorp Global has been an absolute pleasure for the Africa Tourism Promotion Centre. We are honored to have such a committed partner who shares our vision for tourism growth in Africa. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and we look forward to scaling greater heights in the months and years to come," Milanzi stated.

As Africa's tourism continues to gain momentum, the partnership between ATPC and Fencorp Global plays a crucial role in attracting investments and increasing visitor numbers to the continent. Both organizations remain committed to enhancing Africa's tourism potential and boosting its economic growth through sustainable and responsible practices.



Selemani Jafo (2nd-L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), has a quick word yesterday with Kiwengwa Tembo Beach investor Hussein Muzamil (L) during an assessment tour of the ongoing construction of a hotel the firm is putting up in North Unguja as part of the run-up to the 60th anniversary of the January 12 Zanzibar Revolution. They are with Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union) Khamis Hamza Khamis (3rd-L) and Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) executive director Sharif Ali Sharif. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Jafo appeals to investors to prioritise environment protection

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo has called upon investors across the country to prioritize environmental protection in order to overcome the increasing climate change impacts.

He made the call at the weekend when laying a foundation stone for the construction of Kiwengwa Tembo Beach Hotel as part of the celebrations of Zanzibar Revolution.

The minister said that investors have a role to ensure that all their initiatives consider the issue of protecting the environment.

"The effects of climate change can significantly affect income-generating sectors, especially tourism. So, it is the responsibility of everyone to fully participate in environmental conservation activities, including planting trees," he said.

Jafo further said that Zanzibaris have a reason to celebrate the progress made in the Isles in the 60 years of the revolution.

He said that the major investment projects which have been implemented under the 8th phase government was a great opportunity for citizens as they bring income to individuals and boost the economy.

"In the 8th phase government of President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Zanzibar has recorded success in various sectors such as education, health, water, infrastructure and many others," he said.

He added that construction of high quality infrastructure such as hotels

has helped strengthen the tourism sector thus attracting tourists and guests from various parts of Zanzibar.

He commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Dr Mwinyi for the robust efforts to maintain the union by coming up with resolutions to address various challenges, hence maintaining peace and solidarity amongst Tanzanians. He said that the two leaders have also shown great determination to promote industrial revolution in the country to catalyse growth of the economy.

"Our leaders have also opened the doors for huge investments for both local and foreign investors by building and strengthening important infrastructures to stimulate development opportunities to the people," he said.

The minister called upon citizens and residents to continue conserving the environment as well as making areas such as beaches clean in order to attract guests and promote trade in the blue economy.

Earlier, Unguja South regional commissioner,

Rashid Hadid Rashid said the region has a total of 255 tourism projects whereby in the past three years, a total of 71 projects have been initiated, providing employment opportunities to 5,850 people.

Sharif Ali Sharif, executive director of Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) said that the hotel project was registered through a Zanzibar-based Muzamil Company at a capital of USD8 million and is expected to create over 200 jobs.



Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimweri pictured yesterday planting a tree at a Makulu ward site in Dodoma Urban District earmarked for the DC's office. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Kenya seeks support from Tanzania amid scarcity of Tuberculosis drugs

By Stephen Letoo

KENYA'S Health Cabinet Secretary Wafula Nakhumicha has said that her country is seeking help from Tanzania to bridge the shortage of Tuberculosis drugs.

The CS said the country has experienced shortages since October last year and has put up measures to ensure endless supply to government hospitals including changes from a single supplier to multiple suppliers.

"Towards the end of September and October last year we had a shortage of TB medication, but we went out of our way to the extent that we got support from our neighbouring country Tanzania and we got sufficient stocks which have now been distributed," she said.

CS Nakhumicha said the government is working to ensure that its medical stocks are adequate so that no patient misses their medication.

She stated that by the end of January, all the public hospitals will have received the drugs.

"We have also worked on our supply chain and we are expecting that right now the stocks should be adequate and will be receiving further stocks by February to ensure that patients are covered," she noted.

There are several treatment regimens recommended in the United States for TB disease. TB treatment can take 4, 6, or 9 months depending on the regimen.

## Create awareness to curb labour disputes, CMA told

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE government has directed the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) to invest in providing education to prevent conflicts at workplaces in order to enable the country to continue attracting investors.

Cyprian Luhemeja, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Work, Youth and the Disabled), made

the directive here at the weekend when closing a workshop to evaluate the commission's performance.

"We all witness how President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been traveling around the world in order to attract investors. CMA must ensure that it provides education to prevent conflicts at workplaces instead of sitting and waiting for the cases to come," he said.

According to him, there are some

neighboring countries that are unhappy with Tanzania getting a big number of investors so it is very important to protect the investors in order to continue attracting others for the country's development.

"We are moving towards upper middle income economy. CMA must increase its efforts to provide education at workplaces to prevent conflicts between employers and workers so that

we first protect these existing investors and when they see that our country is a safe place, others will come thus boosting our economy," he said.

The PS said that without having investments, the country will delay getting modern technologies that come with foreign investments.

The PS said that when conflicts occur, CMA should resolve timely and fairly so that investors see for them-

selves that Tanzanian laws do not favour any side.

"The commission has been trusted by the government to make a big contribution and speed up attracting investors in the private sector. If it does justice in labour disputes resolution, investments will increase in our country," he said.

Earlier, CMA director Usekelage Mpulla said the commission is plan-

ning to commence a special initiative of using vehicles to reach areas where it has no offices to educate employers and employees on how to prevent conflicts and fairly resolve disputes that occur.

He cited reasons that contribute to conflicts as discrimination, unfair termination, layoffs and non-payment of wages or payment of less than the minimum amount.



# Utilise African markets to end forex shortage, industries told

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji has asked Tanzanian industrialists to make good use regional markets within East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to get more foreign exchange.

Dr Kijaji made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during her visit to Motisun Industries which manufacture various products including steel.

She said that many local industries have been producing products that meet international standards and it is important for them to take advantage of the opportunity presented by these markets.

"As time goes by, Tanzania has been improving its capacity to produce various products that can be sold in the international market; so, you just have to seize the opportunity," she said.

In addition, she asked Tanzanians to value and buy products made in the country as some of them have the same quality as those imported from abroad.

Dr Kijaji said that there are fac-

ories in the country that produce products of high quality and that it is important for Tanzanians to start supporting local industries.

"Tanzania has factories that make quality products with all the required standards and the inspection and regulatory institutions have certified that they have quality required in the international market," she said.

The minister advised industrialists to be patient as there is the electricity challenge, adding that by next month, the challenge will come to an end as promised by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Speaking at the awards ceremony of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) recently, President Samia told investors that electricity problem will end early this year.

She said the first power plant will be switched on in January and the second one in April to produce enough electricity for industrial as well as domestic use.

In September last year, President Samia gave six months to the Tanzania Electricity Company (TANESCO) to ensure that it puts in place effective plans to end power shortage in the country.



Lake Energies Group Marketing and Communication manager Matina Nkurlu (L) pictured at the weekend presenting to Hanang district commissioner Janeth Mayanja 100 gas stoves and various other items meant for Katesh township households recently hit by mudslides. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# 'Water thieves' in Shinyanga slapped with 29m/- fine

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (SHUWASA) has collected fines amounting to 29.16m/- from 76 people who had connected water illegally hence denied it revenues.

Yusuph Katopola, SHUWASA managing director, said this at the weekend here when speaking on the authority's achievements in the past three years under President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"Within those three years, we've done a lot of work to improve the provision of water ser-

vices but we're facing a number of challenges including water theft," he said.

"For the past three years we've already collected 29.16m/-."

Eng. Katopola said despite the challenge of water theft, they have continued to improve the provision of water services to the people.

"Within the three years, we've implemented 10 water projects worth 8.5bn/- of which seven have been completed and three are still being implemented and will benefit 116,249 users."

He said that the Ministry of Finance has signed a financial agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) for

76 million euros (200bn/-) low-interest loan which will be used to further improve the provision of water services in Shinyanga Region.

He said apart from the funds from development partner, they also expect to borrow another 735.4mn/- which will be used to repair the sewage treatment pro-

ject in Shinyanga municipality.

According to him, the authority has also expanded the network of providing water services to the people. Previously, it was only serving Shinyanga municipality but now it serves the towns of Tinde, Didia and Iselamagazi in Shinyanga district.

"Until now, the availability of

water service in Shinyanga municipality is 92 percent and in the peripheries it is 58 percent," he said.

"When the projects we are going to implement are completed, in the urban areas we will reach 100 percent and the peripheries 95 percent."



Business visibly slow at the Matema suburb banana market in Kyela District, Mbeya Region, as found on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

# Soaring prices make sugar luxury in Ruvuma

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

SKYROCKETING sugar prices have made the sweetener a luxury many cannot afford Ruvuma Region, forcing families and restaurants to do without it.

Residents of the well-known maize producer region have asked the government to take immediate action to control sugar price hike from 3,000/- to 4,500/- per kilo.

In separate interviews, people in the region said that the price of sugar at the moment has been skyrocketing, making most of them unable to buy the important ingredient.

According to residents, one kilo of sugar is now sold at 4,500/-, making it

'untouchable' to many low-income earning families.

Beni Charles, resident of Songea municipality, said that the price of sugar is now between 4,500/- and 4,700/- per kilo while only two years ago one kilo of sugar was sold between 3,000/- and 3,500/-.

Charles asked the government to set a cap price for the sweetener which is massively consumed daily by households and restaurants as well as hotels.

Another Songea resident, Rashidi Huseini, said that the price of sugar has been high for now and when the month of Ramadan arrives in March, the price of it is most likely to be higher if something is not done.

Kassian Ndunguru asked the government to see the need of allowing sugar from

neighboring countries as a short-term measure to reduce the price.

He argued that importation is important because one kilogram of sugar is sold at lower prices in all border areas near neighboring countries to the south but the same is brought into the country through smuggling.

Stephan Ndaki, Ruvuma Regional Administrative Secretary, admitted that there is an increase in the price of which now sales at between 4,000/- and 4,500/- per kilogram which is being seen as a nuisance to the people.

Ndaki said that following the increase in the price of the product, his office has already taken steps to contact Tanzania Sugar Board to see how to solve the existing problem.

# Mbeya City declares 'end' to desk shortage as schools open

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PUPILS in various primary schools in Mbeya city are set to start learning in comfortable environment after the completion of 6,200 desks that were needed to end the shortage.

John Nchimbi, Mbeya City Director, made the statement at the weekend here when speaking to journalists on the preparations

to receive pupils as schools open today.

Nchimbi said the desks have been made at a cost of 186m/- which is part of internal revenues and that they are currently going on with the implementation of other projects to transform education sector.

He said that the city has also spent 80m/- to renovate classrooms in four primary schools that were dilapidated and in un-

pleasant condition.

He named the primary schools which benefited from the rehabilitation as Isanga, Simike, Nsoho and Mwasanga, adding that from today pupils will enjoy their studies by staying in a clean environment.

"We have also used 406m/- to construct toilets in the schools which were lacking the infrastructure and now as the schools open, pupils will see the differ-

ence of improved hygiene conditions," he said.

"Inyala, Mwasanga, Simike, Nsongwi, Mabonde, Halinji, Ikulu, Uhuru, Gombe, Tambuka Reli, Mapambano, Lyoto, Ikuti, Muungano and Igale, are the primary schools which have benefited with the construction of the toilets."

The director further said that some of the schools were facing a shortage of toilets and others

had no even single toilet, something which was so bad thus making pupils study in an unhealthy environment.

"Some schools have also completed construction of teachers' houses and these include Nsoho primary school which has spent 10m/- to complete the houses," he said.

Nchimbi further acknowledged that schools in the city were facing a number of chal-

lenges which need cooperation between the government and parents to resolve for the education sector to continue doing well.

Lydia Kamwelwe, one of the stakeholders said that many schools in the city are dilapidated and therefore need major renovations to align with the status of the city.

She said the government is currently implementing various

projects to construct classrooms and renovate infrastructure in schools, efforts which if well implemented, will bring huge relief to pupils.

She asked the government and education stakeholders to continue renovating classrooms and other infrastructure in schools so that all pupils can study in a favourable environment and thus boost academic performance.

# New report reveals stark disparities in impact of pollution induced by plastics

By Guardian Reporter

A RECENT report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has brought attention to the extensive impact of plastic pollution, shedding light on the often-overlooked consequences faced by low-income countries.

The report reveals that these nations bear a burden up to ten times higher than wealthier counterparts, despite their lower per-capita plastic consumption.

The alarming findings of the WWF report emphasize the environmental, health, and economic ramifications of plastic pollution, with specific focus on countries like Kenya. The report highlights the disproportionate impact on low- and middle-income nations and underscores the urgent need for global intervention.

According to Alex Kubasu, the program coordinator for the circular economy initiative at WWF Kenya, the decisions surrounding plastic production and design are primarily made in wealthier nations, resulting in a significant impact on the ground in less affluent countries. Kubasu emphasizes the stark contrast in the cost of managing plastic waste, with low-income countries spending up to ten times more than developed nations.

Negotiators gathered in Nairobi on November 13 for the third round of global treaty discussions to address plastic pollution. Despite efforts by countries like Kenya to curb single-use plastic, the challenge persists due to illegal imports, highlighting the cross-border nature of the issue.

The WWF report identifies three structural inequities amplifying the impact on low- and middle-income nations. Firstly, these countries have minimal influence over plastic production decisions made primarily in wealthier nations. Secondly, the rapid rate of plastic production outpaces the technical and financial resources available for waste management in less affluent countries. Lastly, the report emphasizes the absence of a fair mechanism to hold countries and companies accountable for their actions or inaction on plastic pollution.

Amos Wemanya, a senior advisor at Power Shift Africa, points out that decisions like China's 2019 ban on plastic imports have led Global North countries to view Africa as a "dumping ground," which poses significant challenges for African economies.

In response to the plastic crisis, initiatives like Mr. Green Africa, a plastic recycling company in Kenya, are investing in recycling capacity. CEO Keiran Smith emphasizes the importance of addressing technical and financial inadequacies through new investments to scale up operations and bridge infrastructure gaps in African countries.

As negotiations unfold in Kenya, the WWF calls on governments to implement measures such as a ban on high-risk plastic products, establish global requirements for product design, and provide financial support for low- and middle-income countries. The hope is for a comprehensive, globally binding treaty to combat the plastic crisis, similar in scale to the Paris Climate Agreement.



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Pindi Chana has a word with Njombe Region officials on Friday ahead of a two-day tour of the Liganga iron ore and Mchuchuma coalmine integrated projects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## ATMIS provides aid to flood-stricken households in Somalia

ADDIS ABABA

AS part of its ongoing efforts in humanitarian aid, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) on Thursday donated relief food to households in Bulobarde, Central region of Somalia, that were affected by the recent El Nino-induced floods.

The donations, which included essential items such as sugar, rice, wheat flour and cooking oil, among others,

were provided by Djibouti Armed Forces troops serving with ATMIS.

Col. Said Waberi Harour, the Sector Four Commander who presided over the food distribution, lauded the Djibouti Armed Forces soldiers for their commitment to supporting affected families in the community.

"I commend Djibouti troops for their sacrifice and compassion in sharing a portion of their food rations with

the Somali people devastated by the floods along River Shabelle," said Col Harour.

He further emphasized that the donation would help mitigate the negative impacts of flooding mainly food insecurity. Significant areas in Hiiran region have been adversely affected by flooding, making it difficult to access necessities such as food and medicine.

Hassan Mohamed Abdi Bulobarde District Commission-

er, who received the donation on behalf of the local administration, complimented Djibouti troops for the noble intervention in supporting the flood victims.

"In addition to assisting in maintaining peace and stability in the region, ATMIS-Djibouti troops have made a commendable decision to share what they have with the flood victims," observed Abdi.

The relief aid was donated

to individuals most affected by the El Nino-induced floods among them vulnerable families, the elderly and individuals with special needs.

The donation exercise was attended by Eleyeh Abdi Omar, Commander of Bulobarde Forward Operating Base (FOB); Hassan Hero, Somali National Army Commander in the Hiiran region and representatives of the local community.



Muheza town parents and guardians in eleventh-hour shopping for their children's uniforms, stationery and other items yesterday ahead of today's reopening of most secondary and primary schools across the country for Year 2024. Photo: Correspondent Steve William

## South Africa sees smart agriculture gains momentum

JOHANNESBURG

IN a world where no seed touches soil to germinate, hydroponic smart farming is gaining momentum and revolutionizing South Africa's agricultural landscape. This innovative method produces high yields while reusing water.

Tebogo Masobe from Lomanyaneng, outside Mahikeng in the North West, is passionate about innovating and using smart farming to grow vegetables without using soil. Masobe says the soilless method of planting is working for him.

"The specific crops that I grow, your leafy plants, are either your herbs or your edible flowers, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, green pepper, and all your leafy plants. There are actually more advanced systems that actually grow potatoes under water but that is on an advanced level. Right now, we are only dealing with leafy plants and herbs."

Masobe says even with limited space and other challenges, farmers can still increase their yield using this farming method.

"The unique advantage of operating hydroponics farming is that the system is solar powered, so we are not affected by load shedding, we do not solely depend on electricity. We are actually creating our own energy source; it is fully automated. With this system, we can actually make use of small spaces. With hydroponics, I can grow more produce in the smaller space as compared to your conventional farming whereby you would need a hectare of land to actually produce a certain number of crops. We are taking advantage of vertical farming instead of planting these crops horizontally; we are making use of our space."

## Ghana expects \$1.15bn inflow from IMF, World Bank

By Adekunle Agbetiloye

GHANA is expecting to secure a \$1.15 billion funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank by the end of February as bilateral creditors near agreement on the terms of a debt restructuring.

Ghana finance minister, Ken Ofori-Atta, expresses confidence in reaching an agreement

with official creditors on the terms of a debt restructuring, with a meeting scheduled for January 8, Bloomberg reported.

Once an agreement is reached, the IMF executive board can assess Ghana's performance under the program initiated in May, paving the way for the approval of a \$600 million disbursement, the second part of its \$3 billion bailout.

Despite some delays, Finance Minister Ofori-

Atta expects the board to convene on January 18. The approval by the board will also set in motion the release of two World Bank disbursements amounting to \$550 million.

The Bank has committed \$300 million in budgetary support and another \$250 million toward Ghana's Financial Stability Fund, so "we are in good shape," he said.

The disbursement for budgetary support is

anticipated to occur by the end of this month, while the contribution to the fund, which aids financial institutions affected by the domestic debt restructuring, is expected to arrive by the end of February, according to Finance Minister Ofori-Atta.

In June, Ghana struck a deal with banks to restructure \$1.36 billion in locally issued U.S. dollar bonds and cocoa bills to meet an Interna-

tional Monetary Fund (IMF) deadline and prioritize discussions with foreign creditors.

In September 2023, the Ghanaian government filed for bankruptcy after failing to pay billions of dollars it owed international creditors in 2022. Ghana is among the three African countries that have failed to meet debt repayment obligations. The country has halted payments on the majority of its \$28.4 billion external debt.





By Telesphor Magobe

# Challenges hindering learner-centred approach to teaching

MANY countries across the world, including Tanzania, have adopted, a new learning pedagogy called the learner-centred (competence-based) pedagogy to improve the provision of education. This pedagogy grooms learners to acquire lifelong skills and competences needed in the rapidly changing world of the 21st century.

As a result, it is internationally recognised as the 'best practice' pedagogy, according to Prof Michele Schweisfurth (2019), who has long experience in teaching and research in the Global South.

Yet, despite efforts to promote the learner-centred pedagogy there are challenges limiting its application and practicality that are worth mentioning. If the learner-centred (competence-based) pedagogy is linked to lifelong skills and competences needed in the 21st century, but its application faces challenges, is reverting to the traditional (instruction) pedagogy a panacea for institutions of learning to groom learners to acquire skills and competences needed in the 21st century and in the future labour market?

We may be unfamiliar with these challenges. So, let us turn to education researchers and see what they say about the application of learner-centred (competence-based) pedagogy, which in my opinion, is still relevant to the 21st century.

Nozomi Sakata (2021) did a study in Tanzania. The scholar refers to the learner-centred pedagogy as a top-down approach to teaching which is implemented by international donors. The scholar proposes a bottom-up approach (an alternative approach to the learner-centred pedagogy) which is suited to the local situation.

Sakata argues that the effort undertaken to appreciate people's values (as the learner-centred pedagogy does) could only intensify the ideological colonisation through pedagogy that learner-centred pedagogy has inherently imposed on the Global South. The scholar says "empirical evidence reveals the ineffectiveness of learner-centred pedagogy implementation in the Global South for various reasons, including material and human resource scarcity, lack of qualified teachers and incompatible education systems and cultural values compared to learner-centred pedagogy."

Sakata says further that the pedagogy promotes Western values and "if its principles continue having a Western philosophical basis for pedagogy of 'best practice', pedagogical colonisation will persist." Thus, the scholar examines a possible way to explore a pedagogy alternative to learner-centred pedagogy through a bottom-up process via the capability approach and critical real-



**Despite the global endeavour to spread learner-centred pedagogy throughout low-income countries, research shows the failure of its appropriation in local schools.**

ism. "Despite the global endeavour to spread learner-centred pedagogy throughout low-income countries, research shows the failure of its appropriation in local schools."

Referring to research conducted in Malawi, Sakata says student teachers who underwent a learner-centred pedagogy training programme indicated their understanding of the pedagogy at a theoretical level. "They nevertheless lacked the opportunity to practise learner-centred pedagogy (LCP) in the classroom, resulting in their inadequate application of the pedagogy."

Citing another scholar Vavrus (2009), who conducted a study in Tanzania, exploring student teachers' practices and their views of a constructivist pedagogy, the scholar's observation and in-depth interviews uncovered struggles student teachers

had to overcome even if they understood the need to implement LCP.

Sakata says "Vavrus emphasises the incompatibility of LCP with particular social and cultural expectations as well as with the teaching environment." The scholar refers to the work of Tabulawa (2003, 2013), who contends that "making a paradigm shift from one to the other would not be possible." Therefore, Sakata (2021) suggests that a capability approach provides a flexible conceptual framework through which to evaluate what people are able to do and to be (capabilities) and what they are actually achieving in terms of being and doing (functioning).

As opposed to learner-centred pedagogy with a top-down legislative endeavour for a pedagogical remodelling irrespective of context, the capability approach proposes a

bottom-up process to engage with local people to decide what, who and how best to educate children. "In determining what people have reason to value, the capability approach prioritises public reasoning, hence discussions and dialogues with and among members of the public are integral."

The scholar says although the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology stresses the learner-centred pedagogy to improve the quality of teacher training to promote a more learner-centred approach with an expected result that teacher trainers acquire and transmit pedagogical skills for learner-centred teaching, the scholar's study seeks to frame a locally appropriate pedagogy beyond learner-centred pedagogy through the capability approach and critical realism.

One of the study participants when

asked about the practicality of the learner-centred approach had this to say: "Today, when inspectors come to monitor us, even if there are too many students in the classroom, we must show how the participatory method is implemented in the classroom." According to the scholar, this excerpt demonstrates power relations that drive the teacher's preference towards participatory methods to some extent.

The scholar argues that the participant was aware of the policy emphasis on learner-centred pedagogy and seemed willing to apply the approach "for the sake of school inspection. This example epitomises that power dynamics at play between the global, national and local policy actors affect the social norms of the locales regarding what is 'appropriate' within a given context."

Willem & Kadhila (2022) in a study they conducted found out that all teachers who participated in their study preferred the traditional teacher-centred pedagogy to the learner-centred one. In line with Mubiana & Nkengbeza (2023), Julius & Mkulu (2022), who also conducted their study in Tanzania, found that although the government's target in pre-primary schools is to have 25 schoolchildren in class, overcrowding was "the norm rather than the exception".

The authors gave an example of 5,100 Standard I schools they covered and found that there were even more than 100 pupils in Standard I. It was also a similar case for 6,900 Standard II schools which had over 100 pupils in class and in other schools it exceeded 300.

In the circumstances, the learner-centred pedagogy cannot work. Some authors refer to the learner-centred pedagogy as "a Western import and a form of neo-colonialism...and...changing classroom practice in learner-centred directions is not just a case of modifying teaching technique, but also cultural beliefs and practices" (Schweisfurth, 2019).

Since the learner-centred pedagogy works better with small groups it can be difficult to schools with a high rate of enrolment. Other challenges related to the learner-centred pedagogy include a shortage of teachers, a shortage of teaching-learning facilities, a shortage of resources, teachers' negative perceptions and lack of proper teachers' training (Julius and Mkulu, 2022).

## 2024 demands swift action to stem Sudan's ruinous conflict

NEW YORK

NEARLY nine months of war have tipped Sudan into a downward spiral that only grows more ruinous by the day. As the conflict spreads, human suffering is deepening, humanitarian access is shrinking, and hope is dwindling. This cannot continue.

2024 demands that the international community - particularly those with influence on the parties to the conflict in Sudan - take decisive and immediate action to stop the fighting and safeguard humanitarian operations meant to help millions of civilians.

Now that hostilities have reached the country's breadbasket in Aj Jazirah State, there is even more at stake. More than 500,000 people have fled fighting in and around the state capital Wad Medani, long a place of refuge for those uprooted by clashes elsewhere.

On-going mass displacement could also fuel the rapid spread of a cholera outbreak in the state, with more than 1,800 suspected cases reported there so far.

The same horrific abuses that have defined this war in other hotspots - Khartoum, Darfur and Kordofan - are now being reported in Wad Medani. Accounts of widespread human rights violations, including sexual violence, remind us that the parties to this conflict are still failing to uphold their commitments to protect civilians.

There are also serious concerns about the parties' compliance with international humanitarian law. Given Wad Medani's significance as a hub for relief operations, the fight-



Children who have fled with their families from Sudan eat food provided by World Food Programme (WFP) at a centre in South Sudan. December 2023. Credit: WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

ing there - and looting of humanitarian warehouses and supplies - is a body blow to our efforts to deliver food, water, health care and other critical aid.

The UN condemns the looting of humanitarian supplies, which un-

dermines its ability to save lives.

Across Sudan, nearly 25 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2024. But the bleak reality is that intensifying hostilities are putting most of them beyond our reach. Deliveries across conflict lines have

ground to a halt.

And though the cross-border aid operation from Chad continues to serve as a lifeline for people in Darfur, efforts to deliver elsewhere are increasingly under threat.

The escalating violence in Sudan

is also imperiling regional stability. The war has unleashed the world's largest displacement crisis, uprooting the lives of more than 7 million people, some 1.4 million of whom have crossed into neighbouring countries already hosting large refu-

gee populations.

For Sudan's people, 2023 was a year of suffering. In 2024, the parties to the conflict must do three things to end it: Protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian access, and stop the fighting - immediately. IPS

# US released over 2.3 million migrants at its border post since 2021, data show



Migrants wait to be processed by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection after they crossed the Rio Grande and entered the U.S. from Mexico on Oct. 19 in Eagle Pass, Texas. (Eric Gay/AP).

By Maria Sacchetti and Nick Miroff

THE United States Customs and Border Protection has released more than 2.3 million migrants into the United States at the southern border under the Biden administration, allowing in the vast majority of migrant families and some adult groups, according to a new report.

The figures, published by the Department of Homeland Security for the first time, illustrate the extent to which CBP officials have been overwhelmed by the volume of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

The mass releases have typically been a measure of last resort when agents don't have the holding capacity or personnel to process migrants using standard procedures.

The 2.3 million figure is significantly lower than the more than 6 million migrants taken into CBP custody during the same period, a number many of President Biden's Republican critics have used as a proxy for overall migration.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas acknowledged the rising numbers this week and said released migrants are put into deportation proceedings. But he said it takes too long to deport people who are ineligible to stay, and urged Congress to boost the agency's funding.

"It is precisely why we have said since day one of this administration that the immigration system that is so fundamentally broken needs to be fixed," Mayorkas told Fox News on Thursday.

**“ In 2021, large cruise ships were banned from entering the historic centre of Venice via the Giudecca canal after a ship crashed into a harbour. ”**

The DHS data released Friday show more than 4 million border-crossers have been expelled to Mexico, returned to home countries or otherwise removed from the United States over the past three years.

The 4 million figure includes more than 2.5 million migrants who were expelled by CBP using the pandemic-era Title 42 policy that allowed border agents to rapidly return migrants to Mexico or their home countries without giving them a chance to seek U.S. protection. The policy, which the Biden administration ended in May, partly inflated CBP encounter numbers because it allowed border-crossers to make repeat attempts without fear of legal consequences such as jail time.

A DHS spokeswoman said Saturday that the agency continues to deport significant numbers of unauthorized migrants, including families.

From May to September, DHS deported more migrants than during any other five-month period in the last decade, spokeswoman Erin Heeter said in a statement. "A majority of all south-western border migrant encounters throughout this administration have been removed or expelled".

The figures in the report were produced by the agency's new Office of Homeland Security Statistics, a unit created last year to provide more data to the public at a time when immigration remains a major political issue nationwide.

CBP mass releases are taxing for U.S. communities because large groups of migrants, including families with children, often arrive needing shelter, meals and services. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) has sent nearly 100,000 migrants to U.S. cities such as Chicago, New York and Washington, straining their finances and fanning tensions between their Democratic mayors and the White House.

The Border Patrol, which is part of CBP, released 1.8 million migrants into the United States during the last three years, including a record 909,450 during the 2023 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the DHS data show.

The Border Patrol typically releases migrants if they are traveling with children to avoid holding them in crowded detention facilities with adults. Agents also release migrants when detention facilities are beyond capacity.

CBP's Office of Field Operations, which monitors legal checkpoints bustling with travelers and international trade, also released an additional 487,830 migrants in the last three years, most of them in the 2023 fiscal year. Though they arrived at an official port of entry, these migrants may still ultimately be deported if they do not qualify for U.S. legal status.

Families made up the majority of the 2.3 million released by CBP. The DHS data show about 70 percent of all the families who were taken into U.S. custody over the last three years were released along the border. In 2023, the percentage of families who were

released – and not sent home or returned to Mexico – rose to 81 percent.

Adults traveling without children are released by CBP at a much lower rate, the DHS data show. About 1 million adults taken into CBP custody were released, accounting for about one-quarter of those apprehended by the agency.

The 2.3 million releases by CBP do not include the roughly 365,000 unaccompanied minors encountered by the agency since 2021 who were transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services. The minors are generally assigned to federal shelters and later released to a parent or guardian.

Migrant families crossing the U.S.-Mexico border have been rising over the past decade, and they pose a special concern for federal immigration officials because detention centers are built for adults and federal courts have imposed limits on how long officials can detain children.

The Trump administration said it was forced to release families because it could not detain children longer. In 2019, when the Trump administration faced a then-record influx of migrants traveling as family groups, the CBP made more than 258,000 direct releases, including many families, a period when CBP officials said their agents and infrastructure had reached "a breaking point."

The Biden administration ended family detention because officials said children should not be in custody, but

that has also meant that traveling as a family increases a group's odds of entering the United States. Many families are making journeys through dangerous jungles and crime-ridden areas to reach the border, and children often arrive sick and underweight. Some children have died on the journey and in U.S. custody.

Migrants are required to check in with immigration officials to face deportation proceedings once they are settled in the United States. Many do, but some do not, leading to large immigration court backlogs and concerns that immigration officials are unable to deport migrants who are ineligible to stay.

Border officials have exercised their authority to release migrants in the past, but more sparingly, such as to admit people seeking medical care or fleeing persecution.

From the fiscal years 2014 to 2020, 463,110 migrants were released into the United States from the southern border. Part of Biden's first year overlapped with Trump's, though Biden has been more likely to allow migrants into the United States. The data does not take into account migrants who slipped past border guards and got into the United States.

Venezuelans were the largest group released over the past three fiscal years, with more than 382,600 passing through border facilities. Cubans were the second largest, with more than 316,000 releases, followed by more than 200,000 each from Nicaragua and Honduras.

Others have been allowed into the United States through a parole program meant to discourage them from crossing the southern border illegally. More than 350,000 migrants were allowed in at airports, mainly through a program that grants legal entry to Cubans, Haitians, Venezuelans and Nicaraguans if they find a U.S. resident to sponsor them.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is responsible for detaining and deporting migrants inside the United States, also releases some migrants after receiving them from CBP. ICE has enrolled more than 650,000 migrants into electronic monitoring programs known as "alternatives to detention" since the 2021 fiscal year, records show. The number includes individuals taken into custody by CBP at U.S. land borders as well as those arrested by ICE in the interior of the United States.

The report does not include estimates for the number of border-crossers who were detected by CBP but not taken into custody, a category the agency refers to as "gotaways." CBP detected about 600,000 gotaways in 2022 and 389,000 in 2021, according to a May 2023 report by DHS's Office of Inspector General.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Clemence Manyukwe

THE winners of this year's L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Young Talents Sub-Saharan Africa Awards included 25 PhD candidates and five post-doctoral researchers, who are spread across multiple fields of research to tackle major challenges to improve the quality of life in Africa and worldwide.

They received their awards, including funding of €10,000 (about US\$10,870) to PhD students and €15,000 to postdoctoral students, at the annual ceremony hosted in Kasane, Botswana, on 9 November. They also received training ahead of the ceremony, according to a statement.

"We had informative training on leadership, negotiation, assertive communication, media and harassment. I learned a number of things I never knew and I believe will catapult my scientific career," said Constance Chingwaru, one of the winners. She is in the second year of her PhD studies at Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe.

University World News spoke to Chingwaru and four of the other winners about their research.

#### A focus on sustainable development

Zimbabwean entomologist Chingwaru's research is focused on developing a novel biopesticide from Zimbabwean local plants that will be effective against fall armyworm - *Spodoptera frugiperda* - an invasive pest that damages more than 350 plant species, including maize.

"A fall armyworm invasion was reported in West Africa in 2016 and, up to date, it has spread to more than 38 African countries, including Zimbabwe. My research is aimed at fulfilling the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (no poverty) and SDG 2 (zero hunger)," said Chingwaru.

She said that, in an attempt to keep the fall armyworm at bay, farmers extensively apply synthetic pesticides which have a plethora of negative effects on human and animal health as well as the environment.

She said the objectives of her study are to establish the current methods being used by smallholder farmers in fall armyworm hotspot areas to con-



Kenyan Faith Njeru (L) and Felicidade Noémia Xerinda Niquice from Mozambique

## 30 women honoured for their impactful research in Africa

trol the worms, evaluate the efficacy of the botanical intervention under laboratory and field conditions, and assess the effect of the biopesticide on non-target species.

Chingwaru said that, at the end of the study, she wants to develop a product for Africa by Africans that will effectively reduce fall armyworm populations in maize fields.

Another winner, Aderonke Korede (see picture above) from Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria, who is in the fourth year of her PhD programme, said she is pursuing food chemistry studies and is exploring the antioxidant health and flavour potential of ginger and turmeric spices to enhance the stability and sensory attributes of shea olein.

"Shea olein is a soft fraction of shea butter, sparsely used in food industries around the world. The reasons lie in consumers' perceptions of its poor sensory quality and stability.

"Yet, shea olein is known to be rich in bioactive compounds ... [which] react with free radicals in the body to stop the progression of oxidative stress, serving as antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and anti-tumoural agents - as well as being an immune modulator.

"Therefore, we are leveraging the bioactive composition of shea olein and the antioxidant, health and flavour potentials of ginger and turmeric to bring a healthy and antioxidant-rich vegetable oil to the entire African populace," she

said.

"My key interest pursuing this research is to see outcomes transformed from laboratory into marketable products. Hence, in five years' time, I [want to] see the transformation of shea olein into a healthy cooking oil in Nigeria and other African nations," said the researcher.

Korede said, considering her roles at work and home as a married woman, her husband greatly encouraged and supported her financially in her science journey. This support is very vital for married women pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Being the eldest of the scientists who were honoured, Korede, who is turning 50 in February 2024, said the fact

that she was acknowledged suggests to her that age is not a barrier in science, but rather what you have to offer the world.

Korede said this must encourage girls and women to be courageous and to stay focused in their pursuit of science.

Faith Njeru, another winner, is a Kenyan studying food security and agribusiness at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania.

She said her research is aimed at developing a cheap, effective, easy-to-use paper strip test for plant disease detection based on novel molecules obtained from the serum of camels.

The test will be used by farmers, seed companies and plant protection agencies to

detect diseases early and initiate early-warning campaigns to help reduce crop loss.

"Early detection leads to less food loss, leading to food security and increased earnings for the farmers and the seed companies," she said.

#### Inspired by her mom

Felicidade Noémia Xerinda Niquice, a Mozambican national at the University of Porto-Portugal, is pursuing a PhD in occupational safety and health.

She told University World News that there are only about 10 occupational doctors in Mozambique, a country with about 33 million people.

Her research focuses on the occupational risk assessment and management of three major bloodborne diseases in

healthcare settings (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV), in relation to healthcare workers at hospitals in the Inhambane province of Mozambique.

"These diseases are highly infectious and can be preventable if necessary measures are taken," she said.

Niquice, who studied medicine as her first degree, said both Hepatitis B and HIV have a high infection burden in Mozambique. She added that, even though there hasn't been a national study concerning the real prevalence of Hepatitis B, the World Health Organization considers Mozambique a country with high endemicity and, on the other hand, her country's public health system neither tests nor offers treatment for Hepatitis B and C, hence the importance of her research.

Niquice said her mother has been a role model in her journey. "Both my parents are mechanical engineers, but my mom, Noémia Francisco Xerinda, is only the fourth woman in my country with this degree. I feel a lot of pride and inspiration from my mom," she said.

#### School teachers drove her interest in science

Ini Adinya, a Nigerian lecturer and postdoctoral researcher at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, said her research cuts across mathematics, finance and computing.

She said she ventured into the sciences mid-way in high school years and her physics and mathematics teachers reinforced her interest through their teaching methods and passion for science.

#### But, she said, she has faced discrimination.

"One of the biggest challenges I faced in pursuing a career in science is discrimination [because I am a woman]. There are times when reactions from male counterparts seem to say: 'What are you doing here?' It has taken resilience and hard work to survive this, but it has been very rewarding," said Adinya.

About her current research, she said: "I am currently investigating financial models with discontinuities in the real options framework for the valuation of investments. [It involves] determining the dynamics for the stochastic variables and appropriate numerical or analytical tools for solving models."

## Zambians encouraged to venture into agriculture to improve food security

LUSAKA

MAXWELL Zulu, a 60-year-old resident of Lusaka, Zambia's capital, is a happy man after successfully planting his maize and groundnuts at his farm in Nyimba District in the eastern part of the country.

Zulu, who had stopped farming following a sharp rise in the price of fertilizer and the low price at which the government was buying maize, decided to start farming again after the price of fertilizer dropped and the government made a good offer to purchase maize.

"Farming is the way to go now," Zulu said, expressing his belief that if the rainy season does not disappoint, he will have a good harvest, which will go a long way in improving his standard of living.

Zulu is among the smallholder farmers in Zambia who have heeded President Hakaidem Hichilema's call for people to venture into agriculture to improve food security and take advantage of not only

the government's good policies but also the huge market in the southern African nation.

Several people have since posted photos on various social media platforms of their farms planting different crops.

Elisha Matambo, Copperbelt Province minister, who posted a picture of himself in his maize field, encouraged people in the province to look for land and venture into farming in line with government policy and the president's vision.

"They will never be disappointed. We have been farming for more than 15 years, and we have seen the benefits of farming," he said in a post on his Facebook page.

According to him, Zambia is blessed with good rains, soils, and weather; venturing into agriculture will be a game changer for many families.

Recently, the Zambian president encouraged citizens, especially women and young people, to venture into agriculture as it has become a "lucrative business."

"We are extremely happy to

note that several of you, our citizens, have this farming season ventured into maize production. As the government, we are extremely impressed because there is no other way out of the food crisis apart from more production," Hichilema said in a post on his Facebook page.

While acknowledging the challenges in the agricultural sector, such as climate change issues, the Zambian president was optimistic that nothing would stop the country from realizing its dream of becoming a "food basket," not only in the southern African region but in Africa as a whole.

Apart from crop farming, Hichilema is also encouraging citizens to venture into beef production, saying that it is one of the most rewarding farming enterprises in agriculture, and that the government will continue to implement measures to grow the agricultural sector.

In addition to the Farmer Input Support Program (FISP), a government initiative that



Chileshe Muchindika-Ngwane, a Lusaka resident who now is a full-time farmer involved in livestock production and processing as well vegetable and maize cultivation, poses for a picture at her vegetable plantation in Lusaka, Zambia.

provides subsidized inputs for smallholder farmers, the government last year introduced a credit scheme for people intending to venture into farming.

Reuben Mtolo Phiri, min-

ister of agriculture, said the Sustainable Agriculture Financing Facilities (SAFF) is a market-based initiative for tailor-made financing to the agricultural sector, especially for small- and medium-scale

farmers with limited access to affordable financing.

In a ministerial statement in parliament recently, the minister said the credit window aims to provide seasonal loans and financial services

for maize, soybean, and wheat production.

The government, he said, is determined to promote the agricultural sector by putting in place policies to enhance productivity.



# Case by South Africa against Israel at ICJ - brief explainer

By Thamsanqa Malusi

**I**N February 2022, Amnesty International released a 280-page report titled, "Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and crime against humanity". The report found that "since its establishment in 1948, Israel has pursued an explicit policy of establishing and maintaining a Jewish demographic hegemony and maximising its control over land to benefit Jewish Israelis, while minimising the number of Palestinians and restricting their rights and obstructing their ability to challenge this dispossession."

Similarly, in a report to the UN General Assembly dated 25 October 2023 on the Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the UN Secretary-General found that "over 56 years of Israeli military occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory - the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza - and continued expansion of settlements over Palestinian land severely affect a wide range of rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination."

Against this backdrop, on 7 October 2023, the world watched in horror as the military wing of Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist movement listed as a terrorist organisation by the United Nations, launched an indiscriminate surprise attack on Israel, which saw about 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals killed.

Since this attack, the Israeli gov-

ernment declared war against Hamas and launched a military assault in Gaza which, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry, has seen more than 21,110 Palestinians killed to date - 70 percent of whom are believed to be women and children.

Following these attacks in the Gaza Strip, on 29 December 2023, South Africa filed an application before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) instituting proceedings against the state of Israel.

In the application, South Africa alleges Israel has committed acts of genocide against the people of Palestine in violation of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Genocide Convention).

South Africa's application to the ICJ has been widely celebrated here at home and abroad. However, and as with most legal developments, very few people have a decent grasp of what the application entails or the process to unfold pursuant to its filing.

**The legal intricacies**

Considering the wide public interest this matter has garnered, I thought it apt to attempt to provide some clarity on some of the legal intricacies.

The ICJ, headquartered in The Hague, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and is established in terms of Article 92 of the UN Charter, read with the Statute of the ICJ. Only sovereign state

actors can be parties in cases before the ICJ.

The UN Charter provides that all member states of the UN are deemed to be parties to the Statute of the ICJ, meaning that all UN member states can bring a dispute before the ICJ for alleged violations of international law. Both South Africa and Israel are members of the United Nations and therefore parties to the Statute of the ICJ.

In the application before the ICJ, South Africa argues that since the events of 7 October 2023: "Israel, its officials and/or agents, have acted with the intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza, part of a protected group under the Genocide Convention".

In particular, South Africa claims, among other things, that Israel has engaged in and failed to prevent the killing of Palestinians in Gaza; has caused the forced evacuation and displacement of around 85% of the Palestinians in Gaza; has destroyed Palestinian life in Gaza; imposed measures intended to prevent Palestinian birth in Gaza.

These acts and omissions by Israel, South Africa argues, are genocidal in nature and therefore violate the Genocide Convention.

Notwithstanding these charges against Israel, South Africa submits as part of its application that it "unequivocally condemns all violations of international law by all parties, including the direct targeting of Israeli civilians and other nationals and hostage-taking by Hamas and

other Palestinian armed groups."

Treaties and Conventions under international law, which are for all intents and purposes agreements between state actors, are only binding upon the state parties who are signatories to them. Both South Africa and Israel are party to the Genocide Convention and, as such, both are bound by it.

The ICJ, in terms of Article 9 of the Genocide Convention, has jurisdiction over any dispute concerning the convention. The ICJ therefore has jurisdiction to hear South Africa's application that Israel has committed acts of genocide in Gaza.

It is for this reason that the Israeli government has publicly indicated that it will defend itself at the ICJ against South Africa's charge of genocide.

The relief sought by South Africa in its application is a declarator to the effect that Israel has committed acts of genocide in Gaza and for the ICJ to instruct Israel to cease committing these acts of genocide.

South Africa further seeks an order for Israel to perform the obligations of reparations in the interest of Palestinian victims, together with an assurance from Israel of non-repetition of violation of the Genocide Convention. This is the main application.

Pending the ICJ's determination of the main application, South Africa has also urgently sought provisional measures in terms of Article 41 of the Statute of the ICJ to protect the Palestinians' rights invoked in the

main application from imminent and irreparable loss.

The provisional measures sought by South Africa include an order by the ICJ that "Israel shall immediately suspend its military operations in and against Gaza" and "ensure Israel's compliance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention not to engage in genocide, and to prevent and to punish genocide".

The provisional measures application will be heard before and separately from the main application. The application is set down for oral argument on 11 and 12 January at The Hague.

To my understanding, no hearing date has been set as of yet for the main application.

ICJ hearings are public unless the court decides otherwise or one of the parties demand the hearing to be private. There is no indication that this hearing will not be public.

**Judgment**

Following oral arguments, the ICJ judges will deliberate in private and provide a judgment when ready. Judgments of the ICJ are final and are without appeal. If previous practice is any indication, the ICJ should deliver judgment on the provisional measures application in a week or so after the hearing.

Article 94 of the UN Charter provides that each member state "undertakes to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in any case to which it is a party".

This means both South Africa and Israel are bound by whatever decision the ICJ makes in respect of the application.

In the past, some state actors who had adverse findings made against them by the ICJ, simply ignored the ICJ's binding orders.

For example, on 26 February 2022, Ukraine filed an application in the ICJ against Russia for violation of the Genocide Convention for its invasion of Ukraine, which also included a request for provisional measures.

On 16 March 2022, the ICJ made a finding on the provisional measures sought by Ukraine and ordered Russia "to immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine". Russia has ignored this order.

Article 94 further provides measures in the event that state actors ignore the ICJ's orders in that the aggrieved party may approach the UN Security Council for recourse, which may "make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment."

**Veto powers**

The permanent member states of the UN Security Council - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States - have veto powers.

This means should the ICJ find against Israel and Israel fails to perform its obligations provided in the ICJ order, any recourse by South Africa to the Security Council in terms of Article 94 would have to be supported by at least all the permanent member states. However, there is a long history of vetoes by the United States of UN Security Council draft resolutions to protect Israel.

On 26 October 2023, Al Jazeera reported that since 1945, a total of 36 UN Security Council draft resolutions have been vetoed by the five permanent member states relating to Israel-Palestine, of which 34 were vetoed by the United States.

The most recent of these United States' vetoes came on 18 October 2023, where it blocked a UN Security Council draft resolution calling for a pause in the current Israel-Palestine violence to allow for humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

Whether the ICJ will find in favour of South Africa - and if it does, whether Israel will comply with the order of the ICJ in honour of its international law obligations, or its compliance would have to be forced by the UN Security Council (the United States willing) - remains to be seen.

Regardless of how the case eventually pans out, using social media as the metric for measurement, the South African government's decision to institute these proceedings seems to enjoy wide public support.

Unsurprisingly, the Israeli government, through its spokesperson Eylon Levy, has labelled South Africa's application as "blood libel" and accused the country of having "made itself criminally complicit with Hamas' campaign of genocide".

The statement goes on to say that "history will judge South Africa for abetting the modern heirs of the Nazis."

DM

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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# BUSINESS

# 100 customers win 10m/- in 9th draw of NMB campaign

## State targets more online content for the takedown

NAIROBI

THE Kenya government's requests to Google to take down content posted by citizens on their various platforms increased more than 10 times in the six months to June 2023, signalling growing internet misuse and an increased surveillance by the State.

Data from the tech giant's transparency report shows the government requested the company to remove 58 items between January and June last year, up from the five requests in the six months to December 2022, and 6 in the first of the same year.

"This could mean there's more monitoring of the web by the government itself, or that there has been an increase in the amount of offending content or items that violate certain aspects of the law on the internet," observed Odanga Madung, a senior researcher at digital rights advocacy organisation Mozilla.

Globally, such requests by governments hit a record high during the same period, with over 60,000 complaints lodged, asking for the removal of some 551,280 items, up from 350,000 the previous period. Russia sent the most requests, followed by South Korea.

According to Madung, the surge could be attributed to a number of seismic events around the globe, including Russia's war in Ukraine, elections in several countries including the US mid-terms and Kenya, inflation, and skyrocketing cost of living.

"One thing we know is that typically, when there are significant events around the world, platforms tend to be under a lot of scrutiny," he said.

Google is the most popular search engine in Kenya, used for 98 percent of internet searches in the country, according to data from Irish web traffic analysis firm StatCounter.

Majority of Kenya's requests were for Google to remove items from appearing in Google searches, while others were to have items removed from YouTube and the company's blogging platform Blogger.

According to the report, over seventy percent of the requests were initiated by the Judiciary, mostly through court orders directed at Google, and some court orders directed at third parties.

Other requests were made by unnamed government officials, the Executive, the Communications Authority of Kenya, the Competition Authority of Kenya, the police and other minor actors.

Most of the requests were attributed to the content being defamatory or impersonating a duly registered entity. Others were due to copyright infringement and invasion of other people's privacy.

Elsewhere around the globe, the top reasons for the removal requests were national security concerns, copyright infringement, and personal privacy and security concerns.

But despite the surge in content removal requests, Google did not take any action on over 80 percent of the requests, with only three of the 58 items flagged being successfully removed.

In the region, Kenya remained the leading government in sending such requests. Tanzania requested the removal of 25 items, South Sudan (6), Uganda (5), Somalia (1) while the other countries did not make any requests.



The building where the headquarters of NMB bank is located

By Guardian Reporter

THE NMB-Mastabata campaign, aiming to encourage non-cash transactions, continues to be a resounding success. On Thursday, January 4, the ninth draw was conducted, producing 100 winners who each received 10m/- (equivalent to 100,000/- each).

The 100 winners in this draw bring the total number of weekly prize recipients to

900 out of the expected 1,200 over a period of three months since the launch of the campaign on October 27 last year.

In addition to the 1,200 weekly winners, the 'NMB MastaBata Halipoi' campaign, which offers various prizes worth 350m/-, also awards 30 end-of-month winners (15 winners each receiving 500,000/-), and 240 instant winners who receive 50,000/- each.

Speaking during the draw, which was supervised by an

inspector from the Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT), Rasuli Masudi, the NMB Bank's Magomeni Branch Manager, Mary Marungi, highlighted that the instant winners are those who are found making purchases using their NMB cards.

"We also award 10 winners and their partners the opportunity to attend the NMB Full Moon Party at Kendwa Rocks Hotel, Zanzibar—a fully sponsored trip, including a personal spending allowance

of 200,000/- each," stated Marungi during the draw, which also included giveaways for customers being served at the branch.

Marungi further emphasized that the aim of the NMB MastaBata Halipoi campaign is to align the community with the pace of technology, with a focus on making purchases and payments using NMB MasterCard, mobile payments (QR Code), Point of Sale (PoS) terminals, online payments, as well as transactions at petrol stations, supermarkets, and various retailers.

Masudi from GBT commended NMB for maintaining a positive culture of rewarding customers since the launch of the campaign in 2018, emphasizing that customers of the bank should engage in card transactions to ensure their chances of winning cash prizes and tourist trips within and outside the country.

"We at GBT congratulate NMB for what they have been doing for five seasons now, showing how much, they value their customers by rewarding them for their savings and transactions. Our role is to oversee and assure everyone that these draws are conducted in accordance with the set terms and conditions, without any deceit," Masudi affirmed.

The ninth draw, which also saw the presence of NMB Card Unit Manager, Sophia Mwangitwa, and NMB Card Services Manager, Ednamu Mshubi, took place just a week after 15 customers each won 500,000/- in the end-of-month draw on December 29 in Arusha.

## MultiChoice enters online casino market



**SuperSportBet reflects our commitment to evolve into a platform-based business driven by innovation, delivering unparalleled entertainment experiences.**

CAPE TOWN

THE MultiChoice Group, a pan-African video entertainment provider, is expanding into online casino betting through a partnership with Nigeria-based KingMakers, a sports betting and digital entertainment company.

MultiChoice and KingMakers have launched SuperSportBet, a sports and casino betting platform developed in collaboration with SuperSport.

KingMakers was formerly known as BetKing, but it recently changed its name.

MultiChoice first invested R1.3 billion in BetKing

(KingMakers) for a 20% share in 2020, as the pay-TV firm extended its entertainment ecosystem.

MultiChoice later increased its interest in the online sports betting startup to 49%, a move the pay-TV giant claimed is in keeping with its plan to extend its entertainment ecosystem.

The new arrangement was announced today by MultiChoice, which is growing its entertainment ecosystem in order to create new drivers of future value.

"SuperSportBet reflects our commitment to evolve into a platform-based business

driven by innovation, delivering unparalleled entertainment experiences," said Calvo Mawela, CEO of MultiChoice Group. "SuperSportBet, we believe, is the ideal platform for fans to enhance their sporting experiences."

"SuperSportBet is more than just a platform; it's designed to offer entertaining, engaging, and responsible betting experiences," Mawela said, alluding to the site's sophisticated technologies. "We want our users to interact wisely and ethically."

"Sports betting is quickly growing to be a game-changer in the country

and on the continent," said Barrie Swart, GM of SuperSportBet. "SuperSportBet will stand out in a tough and saturated business because of its unique features and relationship with a rich brand like SuperSport."

"SuperSportBet places responsible gambling at its core, offering robust tools for gambling control," according to the company. "The platform is dedicated to creating a safe betting environment for all by integrating features such as Reality Check, Loss Limit, Timeout, self-exclusion, and account closure alternatives."



## Manufacturer condemns frequent power rationing

By Correspondent James Kan-doya

CONSTRUCTION materials manufacturer M.M Integrated Steel Mills (MI) has condemned the ongoing electricity rationing that has caused a decline in the company's production capacity by 40 percent.

The company's director Ratsiy Kamanja, raised the concerns in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the welcoming of the Minister for Industry and Trade Dr Ashatu Kijaji who paid a visit at the industry's offices.

According to him, electricity rationing has led to an increase in prices of some products such as steel and iron sheets.

He said initially an iron sheet dozen was sold between 390,000 - 400,000/- but it has

increased to between 430,000/- and 450,000/- per bundle due to increase in cost of production.

Kamanja said that the electricity ration between October and December alone led to a drop in production by 40 percent.

According to him, there was a 15,000 tonnes drop in production of steel and iron sheets.

"Our factories need 10 megawatts per day therefore, it is very difficult to get all megawatts from generators or even if you get at higher cost," he said.

In her response, Dr Kijaji said the operation of Mwalimu Nyerere Hydro Power Project slated to start next month will end electricity rationing.

According to her, the government is now working hard to ensure there are conducive environment conditions including reliable electricity.

The ministry boss said the aim of her tour was also to inspire and motivate the investors to produce more in the year 2024.

"The year 2024 is the year of action, we want them to produce more products to penetrate the East market and beyond", she said.

"We assure our customers in the region and beyond that our products meet international standards (ISO), therefore, they must get used to them to test the quality," she added.

She however admitted the challenge of electricity ration and assured them that the problem will end next month

Dr Kijaji said that Tanzania assures the global that its products relating to construction meet international standards and therefore, it was a time to start using them in construction," she said.



# Danger of cheap goods invading Indian markets, says Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S External Affairs minister, Jaishankar has called for greater use of locally manufactured products by Indian consumers at a time when cheap and highly subsidized imported items are "invading" Indian markets.

India is trying to curb cheap quality imports from countries such as China with the use of several policy measures including quality control orders (QCOs). This comes as China continues to be India's top import source with imports registering a 4 per cent jump to a record \$98.51 billion in FY23. While India is dependent on imports of several items, most importantly, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), trade with China lacks transparency. China's exports to India have risen consistently but India's export to China faces multiple non-tariff barriers resulting in a sharp decline over the years.

"To me, particularly because there is a danger of cheap goods or subsidized goods invading our markets, we have to instill pride in the producer but also pride in the consumer. We must consciously say that we should make in India and buy in India and buy what is made in India," Jaishankar said at the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav celebration' organised at Bharat Mandapam.

On the importance of One District-One Product (ODOP), which aims to select, brand, and promote



External Affairs minister S Jaishankar

at least one product from each district, the minister said, "ODOP is part of our personality. This is very

important because in the era of globalisation, various societies and cultures begin to lose their identity

and personality".

"The idea is not to close our doors or that imports are bad. We are not

anti-import. Atmanirbhar Bharat also means we will also increase our exports and for that if we need

to import, we will not stop those. We will leave India's impression on the cost, competition, and quality front," Goyal said. In 2023, India's goods imports far outstripped the exports. Moreover, exports declined amid slowing global demand in the backdrop of demand slowdown in the west and in China, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

"Interestingly, this decrease in exports occurred despite a considerable depreciation in the Indian Rupee (INR) against the US Dollar (USD). Over the span of one year, the average INR/USD exchange rate had depreciated from 77.5 in June 2022 to 82.1 in June 2023. Normally, a weaker domestic currency can boost exports by making a country's products more competitive in the global market. However, in India's case, the depreciation of the INR did not translate into increased export volumes," the think tank said.

Notably, India's efforts to push for local production and cut reliance on Chinese items has shown results in the electronic manufacturing sector.

The imports of finished electronic products like computers, laptops, and other hardware showed a decline, dropping from \$15.4 billion to \$13.8 billion, a decrease of 10.3 per cent. Imports of electronic instruments also reduced slightly from \$10.4 billion to \$10.1 billion, a 2.3 per cent decline.

These trends indicate the early successes of India's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which aims to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce dependency on imported electronics. The decrease in imports of finished products and instruments, alongside the growth in exports, especially in smartphones, suggests a strengthening of India's electronics manufacturing capabilities, GTRI said.

## Rand reverses to losses as dollar sags despite stronger than expected US nonfarm payrolls

PRETORIA

The rand reversed its losses on Friday afternoon as the dollar sagged despite a stronger-than-expected US nonfarm payrolls report.

The local currency firmed as much as 0.5 percent to R18.60/\$, after weakening as much as 1.4% before the release of the closely watched US jobs report, suggesting that investors still think the Federal Reserve will start cutting interest rates in 2024.

The world's largest economy created 216,000 jobs in December versus market expectation of 170,000. However, the jobs figures were downwardly revised for November and October respectively by some 70,000.

The rand is a proxy of investor sentiment towards emerging markets, which tend to benefit during bouts of global risk appetite.

At 6.35pm the rand was 0.16 percent higher at R18.6672/\$, little changed at R20.4685/€ and 0.4 percent softer at R23.7827/£. The euro was 0.16 percent firmer at \$1.0965.

The JSE reversed most of its losses, with all-share index rela-

tively flat at 74,488.20 points, after starting the new year on a sour note.

The sector performances were patchy on Friday, having recovered significantly from earlier losses.

Retailers were some of the notable performers on the day, with Shoprite gaining 2 percent to R271.41 and Pepkor picking up 3.19 percent to R19.09.

Platinum group metals shares also featured prominently on the winners' board, as did the construction counters, though the latter sector hardly moves the dial on the overall market.

Impala Platinum was up 4.6 percent to R83.89 and Anglo American Platinum gained 2.2 percent to R877.23.

"The first US jobs report of the year was an early reminder to investors that things don't always go their way, despite the experience of the last couple of months," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda in a note.

"Whether it was just exuberant festive cheer or something more, investors bounced into the end of 2023 full of hope that not only is the tightening cycle behind

us, but 2024 will be the year of the soft landing and more rate cuts than you can count on one hand."

The market's indifference to the nonfarm payrolls report was also reflected in commodity markets where platinum rose just over 1 percent to \$964.85oz.

Brent crude rallied 1.23 percent to \$78.60 per barrel by 6pm.

Europe's major stock markets also pared losses by late afternoon on Friday, with the UK's FTSE 100 slipping 0.28 percent and France's CAC 40 losing just 0.25 percent.

Earlier in the week, global markets wobbled after the release of the minutes of the Fed's most recent meeting, which were interpreted as being hawkish – meaning in favour of continued tighter monetary policy.

"Today has, along with the [Fed] minutes on Wednesday, brought an early setback. But I don't think either ultimately changes anything as far as the rest of the year is concerned. The US labour market is still slowing gradually and while wages were a little stronger, the broader trend remains very promising," Erlam said.



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## Morocco emerges as cathode production hub worth \$700m

RABAT

Morocco is poised to solidify its position as a global cathode producer, with a wave of investments exceeding \$700 million by Chinese companies, reports Benchmark Intelligence.

The investments place Morocco's anticipated production capacity at approximately a quarter of Europe's projected needs, the report said, noting that projects include a staggering \$490 million investment by China's BTR in a facility announced in December 2023.

Located in Tangier Technopark City within Tangier Province, the new plant is set to produce a staggering 50,000 tons of cathode for lithium-ion batteries annually. BTR, a supplier for tech giant Tesla, operates as a subsidiary under China Bao'an Group.

The surge in Morocco's cathode production capacity is thanks to the rise in investments in 2023, driven by a significant influx of Chinese investments from companies like Huayou Cobalt, CNGR, and Tinci.

In December 2023, the North African country recently signed a protocol of agreement with Guichen Hi-Tech, a Sino-European conglomerate in electric mobility, with investments estimated at a substantial MAD 65 billion dirhams (\$6.4 billion).

The report explains that foreign investors are drawn to Morocco for reasons, including the nation's free trade connections with the United States and Europe.

The country's location and its trade deals with the EU and US make it an ideal destination for Chinese investors looking to tap the two markets.

In addition, Morocco holds vast reserves of natural resources critical to the cathode industry, particularly its vast phosphate reserves. Phosphate, a crucial component in manufacturing lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathodes, plays a pivotal role in this emerging industrial landscape.

The country currently holds phosphate reserves of up to 50 billion tons, accounting for a staggering 71% of the global total.

On another development BTR New Material Group, a key player in the global electric vehicle battery components sector, announced this week a game-changing investment of \$500 million to establish an avant-garde

cathode manufacturing plant in Morocco.

This strategic venture, boasting an annual production capacity of 50,000 tons of cathodes, signals a crucial leap forward in meeting the soaring global demand for lithium-ion batteries.

A subsidiary of China Baoan Group and a trusted supplier for Tesla, BTR New Material Group is set to lead the investment and construction efforts. Operational responsibilities will be managed by a Moroccan entity established by Bnuo International Holding, another subsidiary of BTR.

This move aligns with a broader trend observed among Chinese battery manufacturers, responding dynamically to fierce domestic competition by expanding strategically overseas.

Morocco, emerging as a hub for electric vehicle battery production, experiences heightened interest from Chinese industrial giants.

The North African nation recently signed a protocol of agreement with Guichen Hi-Tech, a Sino-European conglomerate in electric mobility, with investments estimated at a substantial 65 billion Moroccan dirhams (approximately \$6.4 billion).

Beyond BTR, other industry leaders such as CNGR Advanced Material Company and Guangzhou Tinci Materials Technology have committed substantial funds to projects in Morocco.

CNGR, in collaboration with Al Mada investment fund, prepares to construct an extensive industrial complex in Jorf Lasfar, with an estimated cost of around 20 billion dirhams.

Simultaneously, Guangzhou Tinci Materials Technology, a major producer of electrolytes for lithium batteries, recently announced a \$2.8 billion investment in its Moroccan plant, targeting both the local market and the broader European electric vehicle market.

Gotion High-Tech, a heavyweight from China, makes strides in building a factory in Bouknadel, Rabat-Salé-Kénitra region, with an annual production capacity of approximately 100 gigawatt-hours of electric vehicle batteries by 2030.

A collaboration with Swiss-Swedish multinational ABB underscores their commitment to advancing gigafactory technologies.

# Freight rates have doubled with Red Sea disruptions, says India



mately 65 per cent of India's crude oil imports in FY 2022-23, valued at \$105 billion, from countries like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and others, likely passed through the Suez Canal.

"For overall merchandise trade with Europe and North Africa, about 50 per cent of imports and 60 per cent of exports, totaling \$113 billion, might have used this route. The conflict has necessitated India to consider alternative routes, such as going around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope, which could lead to increased energy costs. India might look to diversify its sources of crude oil and LNG, and explore alternative trade routes to reduce dependency on the conflict-prone Red Sea passage," the report said.

This conflict is leading to increased shipping costs (40-60 per cent) and delays due to rerouting (upto 20 days more), higher insurance premiums (15-20 per cent), and potential cargo loss from piracy and attacks, it added.

Asia-to-North Europe rates more than doubled to above \$4,000 per 40-foot container this week, with Asia-to-Mediterranean prices climbing to \$5,175, Reuters reported citing Freightos, a booking and payments platform for international freight. Moreover, some carriers have announced rates above \$6,000 per 40-foot container for Mediterranean shipments starting mid-January, and surcharges of \$500 to as much as \$2,700 per container could make all-in prices even higher, Judah Levine, Freightos' head of research, as per the Reuters report.

MUMBAI

**F**REIGHT rates to Europe – India's second largest export destination – via the Red Sea region have almost doubled due to rising attacks along the crucial shipping route, a senior government official told The Indian Express.

This comes after global shipping giant Maersk on Friday decided to extend its diversion of vessels from the Red Sea for the "foreseeable" future, sparking fears of a sharp rise in freight and insurance cost for Indian products.

"Multiple things are getting mixed here. Normally, the freight rates range from \$500 to \$600 through this route to Europe. But the peak season which is between January to March goes up to \$1,500. Exporters have informed that this rate has gone to \$2,000. Over and above there (war risk) surcharges being added which is taking the freight rates to nearly \$3,000," the official said.

The local outlet had earlier reported that exports of low-value products such as textile and agriculture could get hit as exporters are holding back the consignments due to rising freight cost. This comes at a time when Indian textile exports have been on the decline due to weak demand in the West.

Meanwhile, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that New Delhi must prepare for long term shipping disruptions at the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.

"India's approach should include looking for alternative trade routes that bypass the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, negotiating contracts for oil and liquefied natural gas with alternate suppliers, offering humanitarian aid to Yemen, negotiating freight with international shipping companies, and paying part of increased insurance expenses," GTRI said.

India, heavily reliant on the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait for crude oil and LNG imports and trade with key regions, faces substantial economic and security risks from any disruption in this area, the think tank said, stating that approximately 65 per cent of India's crude oil imports in FY 2022-23, valued at \$105 billion, from countries like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and others, likely passed through the Suez Canal.

"For overall merchandise trade with Europe and North Africa, about 50 per cent of imports and 60 per cent of exports, totaling \$113 billion, might have used this route. The conflict has necessitated India to consider alternative routes, such as going around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope, which could lead to increased energy costs. India might look to

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While rates have spiked, they remain far below 2021's pandemic-fueled record highs of \$14,000 per 40-foot container for Asia to North Europe and the Mediterranean and \$22,000 for Asia to North America's East Coast.

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**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM**



ITV

**MONDAY 8 Jan**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
 6:00 HABARI  
 6:40 Kumekucha  
 7:30 HABARI  
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
 8:55 Habari za saa  
 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo  
 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt  
 9:55 Habari za saa  
 10:00 Watoto wetu  
 11:00 ITV Top Ten  
 11:55 Habari za saa  
 12:00 Al Jazeera  
 12:30 Igizo: Filimbi  
 12:55 Habari za saa  
 13:00 Mjue Zaidi  
 13:40 Art and Lifestyle  
 13:55 Habari za saa  
 14:00 Art and Lifestyle  
 14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen  
 14:55 Habari za saa  
 15:00 Meza huru  
 16:30 Watoto Wetu  
 17:00 Music: The Base  
 18:00 Jiji Letu  
 18:15 Mapishi  
 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama  
 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
 20:00 Habari  
 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba  
 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco  
 21:45 Chetu ni chetu  
 22:30 Soap: Uzalo  
 23:00 Habari  
 23:30 Music: The Base  
 00:30 Al Jazeera  
 02:00 DWTV

**TUESDAY 9 Jan**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
 6:00 HABARI  
 6:40 Kumekucha  
 7:30 HABARI  
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
 8:55 Habari za saa  
 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo  
 9:30 Soap: In Love with

Ramon  
 9:55 Habari za saa  
 10:00 Watoto wetu  
 10:25 Jagina  
 10:55 Habari za saa  
 11:00 Chetu ni chetu  
 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe  
 11:55 Habari za saa  
 12:00 Al Jazeera  
 12:30 Afya ya jamii  
 12:55 Habari za saa  
 13:00 Jungu Kuu  
 13:30 Shikabamba  
 13:55 Habari za saa  
 14:00 Shikabamba  
 14:10 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen  
 14:55 Habari za saa  
 15:00 Meza Huru  
 16:30 Watoto wetu  
 17:00 Music: The Base  
 18:00 Jiji Letu  
 18:15 Mapishi  
 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama  
 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
 20:00 Habari  
 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba  
 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco  
 21:45 Chetu ni chetu  
 22:30 Soap: Uzalo  
 23:00 Habari  
 23:30 Music: The Base  
 00:30 Al Jazeera

**WEDNESDAY 10 Jan**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
 6:00 HABARI  
 6:40 Kumekucha  
 7:30 HABARI  
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
 8:55 Habari za saa  
 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
 9:55 Habari za saa  
 10:00 Watoto wetu  
 10:30 Igizo: Filimbi rpt  
 10:55 Habari za saa  
 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
 11:55 Habari za saa  
 12:00 Al Jazeera  
 12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt  
 12:55 Habari za saa

13:00 Dakika 45 rpt  
 13:55 Habari za saa  
 14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt  
 14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
 14:55 Habari za saa  
 15:00 Meza huru  
 16:30 Watoto Wetu  
 17:00 Music: The Base  
 18:00 Jiji Letu  
 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe  
 18:30 Jarida la wanawake  
 19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT  
 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
 20:00 Habari  
 21:05 Aibu Yako  
 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco  
 21:25 Kipindi maalum:  
 22:00 Ripoti maalum:  
 22:30 Soap: Uzalo  
 23:00 Habari  
 23:30 Music: The Base  
 00:30 Al Jazeera

**THURSDAY 11 Jan**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
 6:00 HABARI  
 6:40 Kumekucha  
 7:30 HABARI  
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
 8:55 Habari za saa  
 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon  
 9:55 Habari za saa  
 10:00 Watoto wetu  
 10:30 Shamba lulu  
 10:55 Habari za saa  
 11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt  
 11:55 Habari za saa  
 12:00 Al Jazeera  
 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
 12:55 Habari za saa  
 13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT  
 13:30 Jungu kuu rpt  
 13:55 Habari za saa  
 14:00 Shamsham za pwani rpt  
 14:55 Habari za saa  
 15:00 Meza huru  
 16:30 Watoto wetu  
 17:00 The Base  
 18:00 Jiji Letu  
 18:15 Mapishi  
 18:30 Jagina

19:00 Usafiri wako  
 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
 20:00 Habari  
 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja  
 23:00 Habari  
 23:30 Music: The Base  
 00:30 Al Jazeera

**FRIDAY 12 Jan**

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
 6:00 HABARI  
 6:40 Kumekucha  
 7:30 HABARI  
 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
 8:55 Habari za saa  
 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo  
 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon  
 9:55 Habari za saa  
 10:00 Watoto wetu  
 10:30 Usafiri wako  
 10:55 Habari za saa  
 11:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi housing  
 11:20 Jagina  
 11:55 Habari za saa  
 12:00 Al Jazeera  
 12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco  
 12:55 Habari za saa  
 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt  
 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama  
 13:55 Habari za saa  
 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama  
 14:30 DW: Afrimaxx rpt  
 14:55 Habari za saa  
 15:00 Meza huru:  
 16:30 Watoto Wetu  
 17:00 The Base (DJ Show)  
 17:30 Kiisiam  
 18:00 Jiji Letu  
 18:15 Top ten  
 19:00 Shamba lulu  
 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon  
 20:00 Habari  
 21:05 Kipima Joto  
 23:00 Habari  
 23:30 The Base  
 00:30 Al Jazeera

**SATURDAY 13 Jan**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
 6:00 HABARI

6:40 Kumekucha  
 7:00 Habari  
 8:00 Al Jazeera  
 9:00 Watoto wetu  
 10:05 Shika Bamba 5  
 10:35 Mjue Zaidi rpt  
 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
 12:50 Art and lifestyle  
 13:20 Shamba lulu  
 13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt  
 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe  
 16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen  
 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani  
 18:00 Jiji Letu  
 18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt  
 19:00 Jungu kuu  
 19:30 Shika Bamba  
 20:00 Habari  
 21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen  
 21:40 Art and Lifestyle  
 22:10 ITV Top 10  
 22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
 00:30 Al Jazeera

**SUNDAY 14 Jan**

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
 6:00 HABARI  
 6:40 Kumekucha  
 7:00 Habari  
 8:00 Al Jazeera  
 09:00 Watoto Wetu  
 10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt  
 11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
 12:45 Mjue zaidi  
 13:30 Usafiri wako  
 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo  
 15:30 Mwangaza  
 16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt  
 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo  
 18:00 Jiji Letu  
 18:15 Mapishi  
 18:30 Matukio ya wiki  
 19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen  
 20:00 Habari  
 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko  
 21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe  
 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot  
 21:40 Mjue Zaidi  
 22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
 00:30 Al Jazeera

# WORLD

## Trump seeks 'revenge', Biden says in January 6 anniversary speech

VALLEY FORGE, Pennsylvania/SIOUX CENTER, Iowa

US President Joe Biden on Friday accused Republican Donald Trump, his likely 2024 election opponent, of instigating the Jan 6 attacks and plotting revenge on those seeking to punish him, as the president put the future of US democracy at the center of his bid for re-election.

"He told the crowd to fight like hell. And all hell was unleashed," Biden said of the 2021 attack. "Then as usual he left the dirty work to others. He retreated to the White House."

Biden marked three years since the Jan 6, 2021, attacks with his first major campaign speech of the year, applying the heat on Trump as he pushes against questions about his handling of the US economy and his age, 81. Trump is 77.

Whether Biden's Friday speech will make an impact 10 months before

Election Day - in a politically polarized country where voters get news and information from wildly different sources - remains to be seen.

But it set the tone and laid out the stakes of what is likely to be a bitter battle. Biden characterized Trump and his followers as dangerous outliers and asked Democrats, independents and "mainstream Republicans" who cherish US democracy to back him.

"Democracy is on the ballot. Your freedom is on the ballot," he said.

Biden said Trump's re-election bid is based on trying to seek "revenge and retribution" against his political enemies. He reminded Americans that Trump has called his opponents "vermin," the "same exact language used in Nazi Germany."

"How dare he? Who in God's name does he think he is?" said Biden, lowering his voice to a whisper.

Trump, president from 2017 to 2021,



President Joe Biden speaks in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, on Friday AP

who is leading the field for the Republican nomination for president, contested his defeat in the 2020 election, prompting thousands of his supporters to attack the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021. The failed bid to stop formal certification of the result resulted in the deaths of five people and injured dozens of police officers.

Biden also criticized Republicans for changing their tone on Trump, saying that when the attacks of Jan 6 on the US Capitol took place, "there was no doubt about the truth" and that some Republican members of Congress and Fox News commentators had publicly and privately condemned the uprising.

"But now as time has gone on - politics, fear, money - have all intervened. And those MAGA voices who know the truth about Trump and January 6th have abandoned the truth and abandoned our democracy," Biden said.

Republicans challenging Trump in the 2024 nominating contest have mostly steered clear of criticizing Trump's actions on that day, as opinion polls show Republican voters are less likely to blame Trump for his actions on Jan. 6 than they were three years ago.

Before his speech at a community college in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, Biden took a tour of the Valley Forge site of George Washington's Revolutionary War-era winter headquarters in the bitterly cold months of late 1777 and early

1778.

In his speech, Biden contrasted Trump's bid to hang on to power to the example set by Washington, who stepped down willingly after two terms as he first US president.

Biden returned again and again to Jan 6, including a vivid description of what transpired that day, including protestors calling for the hanging of then-Vice President Mike Pence. People died because Trump's lies "brought a mob to Washington," he said.

As president, Biden has warned about the future of US democracy before, including on the first anniversary of Jan 6, and in a fiery Sept 2022 speech where he called Trump and his Republican followers extremists who threatened to take the country backward.

### Trump hits back

On the same day, Trump used his first visit to Iowa this year to attack Republican competitor Nikki Haley and to hit back against President Biden.

Speaking to a crowd of several hundred supporters just 10 days before the crucial Iowa caucus - the first round of the Republican nominating contest - the former president presented a dark portrait of the United States.

He called it a "failing" nation, beset by "terrorists" and immigrants from "mental asylums" pouring over the US-Mexico border.

"Not one thing has gotten better under crooked Joe Biden. Everything's a mess," Trump said to several hundred cheering supporters at the rally in the state's rural northwest.

Trump only briefly addressed the events of Jan 6, repeating unfounded claims that the 2020 contest was marred by widespread voter fraud.

Agencies

## Democracy should continue in this country: Sheikh Hasina as Bangladesh goes to polls

DHAKA

THE Bangladesh Prime Minister yesterday emphasised the importance of democracy for the development of the country as the Asian nation goes to the polls for the 2024 general elections today.

"Our country is sovereign and independent...We have a big population. We have established people's democratic rights...I want to make sure that democracy should continue in this country and without democracy, you can't make any development. As we are a long-term democratic system from 2009 to 2023, that is why Bangladesh made this much of an achievement," she said.

Nearly 170 million people in Bangladesh will vote to elect 299 lawmakers during the 12th national election on Sunday amid a boycott by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

PM Hasina also underscored that her government created an atmosphere where people were able to come out and vote.

She stated, "My heartfelt thanks to the people of Bangladesh. There were many obstacles but the people of our country are very much aware of their voting rights and the need for polls...We were able to create an atmosphere where people were able to come out and vote."

More than 42,000 polling stations are set for Sunday's elections, where a total of 119.6 million registered voters are eligible to cast their votes, as reported by the country's Election Commission.

Women make up almost half of the nearly 120 million eligible voters, while first-time voters number about 15 million.

Al Jazeera reported that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to win a fourth straight term in the absence of the main opposition BNP which on Saturday began a 48-hour nationwide strike against the "illegal government" amidst violence and a crackdown on protesters.

The Supreme Court on December 27 provided clearance for the Election Commission (EC) to proceed with the general elections.

The Election Commission has made thorough arrangements for the upcoming 12th national parliamentary election on January 7 to ensure a peaceful process. As many as 127 foreign observers will track the election process to assess the election's fairness.

International election expert teams from the European Union are present in Dhaka, and foreign observers from various countries, including a Commonwealth team, are monitoring the elections.

ANI



Dhaka, Jan 07 (ANI): Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the media after casting her vote for the General Elections 2024, in Dhaka yesterday. ANI

## Russian President has invitations to visit dozens of countries in 2024

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin may pay a bunch of foreign visits in 2024 and the head of the Russian state has invitations from dozens of countries.

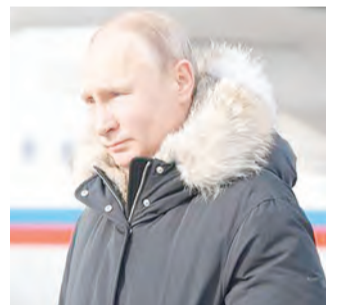
The Kremlin has not yet announced future visits of the Russian President. "I do not exclude but I am trying not to plan anything so far," Putin said earlier, referring to possible visits to friendly nations.

Over past months, the Russian leader received invitations to visit Brazil, Burundi, Vietnam, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Cuba, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkey, and other countries.

The geography of possible foreign visits of the Russian President is not limited by these countries because any trip can be promptly agreed upon if needed.

The summit of the Group of Twenty (G20) will be held in Brazil in November 2024. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit will be held in Peru this year. Russia is presiding in BRICS this year and the summit of this association will be held in Kazan. The CIS summit will also be held in Russia.

In 2023, Russian President visited Kyrgyzstan, China, Kazakhstan, Belarus, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.



# China calls for stabilising ties with US

CHINA reaffirmed its commitment to building a stable, healthy and sustainable relationship with the United States on Friday, with its top diplomat calling on both sides to assume the vision and role befitting major countries to give the world "rock-solid certainty and positive energy".

Addressing a reception commemorating the 45th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said bilateral cooperation is "not something dispensable or optional". "It is something we must do, and must do well," he told diplomats, business leaders and scholars attending a ceremony held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

The reception was held days after Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden exchanged congratulatory letters on the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations, with both heads of states pledging to keep advancing the bilateral ties, building on the progress made during their San Francisco summit in November.

Speaking at the reception, Wang underlined peace as the "most fundamental bedrock of China-US relations". "The absence of conflict and confrontation between the two major countries is in itself the most important peace dividend for humanity," he said.

He also stressed that win-win cooperation is the most essential feature of China-US interaction. Trade between the world's

two largest economies reached about \$760 billion in 2022, with two-way investment exceeding \$260 billion. The number points to the complementarity between the two nations in economic structure, connectivity in global industrial and supply chains, and shared interest in common development, Wang said.

Wang elaborated on the need for both nations to ensure peaceful coexistence with effective management of disagreements as the top priority. Disagreements between the two nations should not lead to confrontation, still less willful sanctions, power politics, hegemonism or zero-sum game, he stressed.

"What is needed is a vision and an unwavering commitment to seeking common ground while shelving differences and allowing no disagreements or differences to dominate or disrupt the bilateral relationship," he said. Wang also made an appeal for both nations to "remove barriers to exchanges, break false information cocoons, forge closer links between the two peoples, and generate more positive energy for China-US relations".

Shari Bistransky, deputy public affairs officer of the US Embassy in China, said on the sidelines of the event that she is optimistic that the US and China "are on track to work well together in 2024", as both nations are looking to take advantage of the momentum created by the summit in San Fran-



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi delivers a speech during a reception commemorating the 45th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations, in Beijing, capital of China, on Friday. XINHUA

cisco.

Meanwhile, China has already started to implement the pledge by Xi in San Francisco to invite 50,000 young US citizens to China on exchange and study programs in the next five years.

Boris Escalona Berbetty, a program manager at the International Studies Office of the University of Virginia, said students from the university are now setting the stage for the exchange and study programs.

"The reciprocal exchange between both nations is essential not only to develop cultural understanding, but to create a solid foundation for both nations to work together and continue building on this existing relationship," he said.

"We hope that we can continue bringing more students in the years ahead so they can actually take advantage and understand more about Chinese culture."

Yuan Zheng, deputy director of

the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of American Studies, said it could require greater efforts for Beijing and Washington to stabilize ties in 2024, with the US general elections expected to deliver more disruptive factors.

"In this context, scaling up people-to-people exchanges is even more important to build up the foundation and garner greater public support for the stability of China-US relations," he said.

Xinhua

# China promotes standards for new industries for better development

In Baoding, north China's Hebei province, the congestion index in downtown areas during rush hours has been reduced by 4.6 percent, with an 11.6 percent increase in average traffic speed, thanks to an intelligent upgrade of the city's traffic light system that allows real-time adjustment of timing based on actual traffic flow.

When "smart cars" run on "smart roads," the collaboration between vehicles and infrastructure can be best optimized. To allow different types of vehicles to run smoothly on various kinds of roads, standardized development is the key approach.

The central economic work conference recently held in Beijing pointed out that China will develop a number of strategic emerging industries such as bio-manufacturing, commercial aerospace, and low-altitude economy, and open up new paths for future industries

such as quantum and life sciences. A plan on the standardization of new industries for the period between 2023 and 2035 was recently issued to set standards and promote better development of relevant sectors.

According to Lin Le, founder and CEO of Shanghai Lingshu Technology, the lack of a unified format requirement for data collection from intelligent connected vehicles will impact the flow of data within the automotive industry.

In the development of new industries such as autonomous driving vehicles, standardization plays a fundamental and leading role.

New industries refer to emerging industries and future industries that have grown and expanded through the application of new technologies. These industries are characterized by active innovation, technological intensity, and broad development prospects, and they

play a crucial role in the overall development of the national economy and social progress, as well as the optimization and upgrading of industrial structure.

"In recent years, China has consistently regarded standardization as a crucial support and guarantee for promoting high-quality development of industries. Significant progress has been made in the standardization of new-generation information technology," said Yang Jianjun, deputy director of the China Electronics Standardization Institute.

According to statistics from relevant organizations, since the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), China has established and improved a mandatory national standard system for electronic product safety, cybersecurity, and other areas.

Over 1,000 national and industry standards have been developed in key areas such as integrated circuits, artificial intelligence, blockchain, the Internet of Things, and industrial internet, to meet the new demands for standard supply capacity arising from industrial technological innovation and development.

Efforts have been made to establish national standardization technology organizations for integrated circuits, industrial software, and other fields to address technical standard problems. China has also taken the lead in developing nearly 200 international standards, continuously increasing its participation in and contribution to international standardization.

The plan for the standardization of new industries takes into account the driving role of the overall and long-term development in the economy and society, while balancing the current status and potential of industrial development.

Emerging industries mainly focus on eight areas, including new-generation information technology, new energy, new materials, high-end equipment, new energy vehicles, environmental protection, civil aviation, as well as shipbuilding and marine engineering equipment.

The focus of future industries includes metaverse, brain-computer interface, quantum information, humanoid robotics, generative artificial intelligence, bio-manufacturing, future displays, future networks, and new energy storage.

In a digital twin factory, built by Baosteel Engineering in cooperation with Baosteel, drawings, documents, models, and engineering costs can be delivered in digital forms simultaneously in different workshops.

"The digital twin factory demonstrates the advantages of digital delivery

standards. It implements data standards and governance from the source, and thus ensures quality. This data-driven business model allows data to flow along the product, asset, and value chains, resulting in benefits," said Yuan Lei, vice general manager of Baosteel Engineering, adding that this project has increased design efficiency by 60 percent and reduced construction period by 21 percent.

Standardization can facilitate technological innovation in new industries, promote the integration and development of new industries, and improve product quality and reliability. Common examples in daily life include rails, power sockets, and internet protocols, which have all achieved explosive growth through standardization. Standardization will bring prosperity to new industries.

People's Daily



## China's first domestically-made large cruise ship makes commercial maiden voyage

CHINA'S first domestically-built large cruise ship, the Adora Magic City, bathed in the morning sunlight on the first day of 2024, was docked at the Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal, awaiting its commercial maiden voyage.

Thanks to optimized customs and border inspection procedures, it would take less than 10 seconds for each passenger on average for clearance. On the cruise ship, nearly 1,300 crew members and staff were in position to welcome over 3,000 tourists who were about to embrace the seven-day journey on the route to Jeju in South Korea as well as Fukuoka and Nagasaki in Japan.

When stepping into the cruise terminal, Feng Yanxin and her family beamed with excitement.

"In 2014, I took a luxury cruise in Europe and learned that China didn't have its self-developed large cruise ships," said Feng.

"When I heard in 2019 that a domestically-built large cruise ship was being developed, I had a wish at that time that my family would take its maiden voyage," she added.

Ever since, she has been following the updates on the cruise ship, and she booked tickets as soon as they became available.

"Today, the first day of 2024, we feel so fortunate and thrilled to witness and be part of the maiden voyage of this large cruise ship built by our Chinese people," Feng said.

The captain of the Adora Magic City Niklas Peterstam, who comes from a Swedish seafaring family, boasts rich experience in cruise sailing. According to him, he barely hesitated before accepting the offer to captain the ship.

After multiple test voyages, Peterstam has been fully confident in the capabilities of the Adora Magic City.

The ship is very stable with powerful engines, he noted.

Third mate Ding Wenxuan previously worked on another cruise ship Piano Land. "The Adora Magic City is more intelligent and modernized with flexible performance and smooth sailing," he told People's Daily.

"As a helmsman, I feel proud of Chinese shipbuilders," the young man noted.

Large cruise ships are known as the "pearls" atop the crown of the shipbuilding industry, reflecting a nation's comprehensive technological and manufacturing capabilities.

The Adora Magic City stretches 323.6 meters long and 37.2 meters wide, with 25 million parts - five times those of the C919 jet and 13 times the Fuxing bullet train. The cables on the ship extend a total of 4,200 kilometers, equivalent to the distance between Shanghai and Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Xizang autonomous region.

According to Zhou Qi, chief builder of large cruise ship projects at Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), from the official contract signing in November 2018 to the Adora Magic City's naming and delivery in November 2023, the group overcame countless difficulties and dedicated tremendous efforts.

"It's like a city floating at sea," said tourist Chen Yahua, who put down luggage and excitedly wandered around on the ship.

The Adora Magic City has 2,125 guest rooms that can accommodate 5,246 passengers. Its 16-story living and entertainment area spans a total of over 40,000 square meters, featuring theaters, themed restaurants, shopping plazas, art galleries and water parks.

The Adora Magic City is operated by



The Adora Magic City, China's first domestically-made large cruise ship, departs from Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal for its first commercial voyage on Jan 1, 2024. (People's Daily Online/Wang Chu)

Adora Cruises, a subsidiary of CSSC Cruise Technology Development Co., Ltd. "The Chinese crew are excellent and diligent. I hope China will train its own cruise captains soon," Peterstam said.

As the Adora Magic City started its commercial maiden voyage, the second domestically-developed large cruise ship was being built by Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

"The second ship will cut construction time by 4 million man-hours than the Adora Magic City with lower costs and higher efficiency," said Zhou.

According to statistics, China's

cruise economic prosperity index reached 101.55 in 2023, a significant increase over 2022. By 2035, China's cruise economy will total 500 billion yuan (\$70.4 billion).

Qiu Ling, deputy director of the Shanghai International Cruise Business Institute, believes the manufacturing techniques and management experience accumulated from China's first domestically-built cruise ship will further accelerate the construction of the second one, realizing the development of the whole cruise industry chain in China.

The delivery and operation of

China's first large cruise ship has effectively expanded the supply of domestic cruise capacity, enabling a more comprehensive and differentiated fleet structure. This enriches consumers' choices of cruise ships, promotes differentiated operations among local cruise companies, and elevates the industry's overall competitiveness.

At around 3:00 p.m., all passengers boarded the ship. At 4:45 p.m., the Adora Magic City departed the port after several whistles, sailing towards the blue ocean.

People's Daily

## Netanyahu declares war will not end until Israel achieves 'All' of its goals

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that the war in Gaza will not end until Israel achieves all of its goals, specifically the destruction of Hamas.

"Three months ago Hamas committed a terrible massacre against us," he said in a statement. "My government directed the IDF to go to war to eliminate Hamas, return our hostages and ensure that Gaza will never again be a threat to Israel."

"The war must not be stopped until we achieve all of the goals," declared Netanyahu.

"We will not give Hamas any immunity whatsoever, and we will fight until we restore security in both the south and the north. Until then, and to that end, everything must be put aside and we must continue with united forces until absolute victory is achieved."

ANI



## Canada PM Justin Trudeau faces flak by opposition over latest family vacation - report

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been receiving strong criticism from the opposition parties over his latest luxury holiday that he took with his family at an oceanfront villa in Jamaica at no cost, Canada-based Global News reported.

The Canadian Prime Minister met with the customary question of whether he should accept complimentary vacation accommodations from affluent friends.

As to the National Post, Trudeau is under criticism from opposition parties for using a free oceanfront villa in Jamaica for his winter vacation. On the resort's website, rooms are available for about USD9,300 per night, Global News reported.

The owner of Prospect Estate and Villas, which is close to Ocho Rios, is a businessman named Peter Green. The Trudeaus have been known by the Green family for many years, the report stated.

Trudeau, as per the report vacationed at Prospect Estate from December 26 to January 4 with his three children and Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau.

Although the prime minister's office claimed in a statement that the vacation was approved by the ethics commissioner, it did not disclose where Trudeau and his family stayed in Jamaica.

"The Prime Minister and his family are staying with family friends at no cost. As per standard practice, the Office of the



Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner was consulted on these details prior to the travel to ensure that the rules were followed," the prime minister's press secretary Mohammad Husain told Global News in an email on Thursday.

"The Prime Minister continues to reimburse the equivalent of a commercial airline ticket for his personal travel and that of his family," he added.

Following their initial statement to the Canadian Press that the family was covering the expense of the vacation, the prime minister's office clarified earlier this week that Trudeau and his family stayed "at no cost at a loca-

tion owned by family friends."

Conservatives questioned Trudeau's judgement after learning about the vacation details, claiming he was far from ordinary Canadians.

"Prime Minister Trudeau yet again shows how out of touch he is as he takes another lavish trip to Jamaica, paid for by his billionaire friend," said NDP ethics critic Matthew Green in a statement to Global News.

Meanwhile, Conservative ethics critic Michael Barrett, according to Global News, said in an email, "While millions of Canadians had to cut back or cancel plans over the holidays because of eight years of his Liberal poli-

cies driving up the cost-of-living, Justin Trudeau took a free vacation, worth \$84,000 from a Trudeau Foundation donor and lied about it to Canadians."

Trudeau's trips have frequently sparked concerns about apparent or potential conflicts of interest.

In 2021, the Green Family made a donation to the Trudeau Foundation.

Following information that a billionaire with connections to Beijing had given the foundation USD200,000, the charity was questioned last year. Since taking office, the prime minister has not participated in the charity.

ANI

## Orthodox Christmas is vivid example of fraternal unity of peoples of Russia – Putin

NOVO OGARYOVO

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin received families of fallen soldiers in the special military operation at his presidential residence in Novo-Ogaryovo outside Moscow and congratulated his guests with Orthodox Christmas.

"We can say without any exaggeration that this holiday is characterized by a distinct fraternal unity of the peoples of Russia," Putin said adding that although the majority of Russia's population is comprised of Orthodox Christians, representatives of other traditional confessions congratulate them with this holiday just like Orthodox Christians congratulate them on their respective religious holidays.

"I congratulate you all with this warm and heartfelt holiday," the president said speaking to his guests.

Putin pointed out that the Orthodox Christmas in Russia is celebrated as widely as the New Year.

"Perhaps, it [Christmas] is more of a family-like holiday if compared to the New Year," he said. "I may reiterate that it [Christmas] is a warm, cuddly and heartfelt holiday. It is one of the most favorite holidays in Russia."

According to him, "on this day you want to say something special to each other, to support each other somehow."

The Russian president noted that "even on this holiday many of our courageous and heroic men, Russia's warriors, hold weapons in their hands defending the country's interests. This is why I want to extend holi-



day greetings to them jointly with you."

Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that on the eve of the holiday Putin had "a fairly thorough conversation with the families, talked to both widows and children" in Novo-Ogaryovo, and afterwards invited them to a festive dinner.

Putin and his invited guests attended an overnight Orthodox Christmas service at the Church of the Image of the Savior, located at his presidential residence in Novo-Ogaryovo.

## Concerns of military escalation between Hezbollah, Israel arise following Israeli drone attack

BEIRUT

HEZBOLLAH'S continuous confrontations with Israel on Lebanon's southern border and the recent Israeli drone strike, killing a top Hamas leader and officials in Beirut's southern suburbs, raise among Lebanese experts concerns of a possible military escalation in Lebanon.

The Lebanon-Israel border has witnessed increased tension since Oct. 8 after the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets toward Israel in support of the Hamas attacks on Israel the previous day, prompting Israel to respond by firing heavy artillery toward southeastern Lebanon.

The confrontations have led to more than 200 deaths on the

Lebanese side, including approximately 147 Hezbollah members and many civilians including journalists.

However, clashes were mainly limited in the southern border area until an alleged Israeli drone killed Saleh al-Arouri, Hamas deputy leader, and other Hamas members on Tuesday evening.

"Israel has crossed all the red lines that were in place through its recent attack in Dahieh, a Hezbollah stronghold," said Refaat Badawi, a political analyst and adviser to former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Hoss.

"Rules of engagement are no longer in place after this operation, which dealt a heavy blow to Hezbollah's image," he added, expressing concerns that "we will



People attend the funeral of Saleh al-Arouri, the Hamas deputy chief, and other two Hamas officials, in Beirut, Lebanon, on Thursday. Xinhua

see a war expansion in Lebanon in the coming days."

Following the assassination, Hezbollah Secretary General Has-

san Nasrallah warned on Wednesday that the Iran-backed group "cannot be silent."

He denounced the attack as

"a dangerous crime," vowing revenge and threatening to meet any wider Israeli operation with unrestrained warfare.

"Hezbollah cannot remain silent as Arouri's assassination is a message conveying that Israel can kill any leader in Dahieh at any time, and this is a dangerous development," Badawi told Xinhua. Badawi said he thinks a settlement between the Axis of Resistance, an informal anti-Israeli coalition led by Iran, and Israel is no longer possible.

Meanwhile, Talal Atrissi, a lecturer at the Institute of Social Sciences of the Lebanese University, told Xinhua that it's still unclear if Lebanon will witness an expansion of the confrontations with Israel, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holds a strong will to expand the aggression outside of Gaza to protect his image. "Netanyahu has killed

thousands of people in Gaza but failed to make any achievements, which turned the world's public opinion against him with domestic calls for his resignation," Atrissi said, noting that the recent Dahieh strike was aimed at polishing his image.

Makram Rabah, a lecturer at the history department of the American University of Beirut, said he does not see an expansion of war between Hezbollah and Israel.

However, the belief by the Lebanese and Hezbollah that Israel will not commit to the risk of going into Lebanon is a miscalculation, because "it will address one of the most existential threats to Israel's security, which is Hezbollah," Rabah said.

Xinhua

# TFF information chief unaware Taifa Stars players grumbling over unpaid camp allowances

By Correspondent John Kimbute

CHANCES that Taifa Stars, Tanzania's senior national soccer side, will make an impression in the forthcoming African Nations Cup (AFCON) finals were limited in the first place.

Information leaking from the camp and being discussed in soccer talk shops suggest that other factors are working to lower the playing morale, despite that a number of the largely experimental squad may see it as an adventure since they appear for foreign clubs.

How far this adventure is motivation to play at their best is another matter, but few think it is sufficient to get the best out of them.

A fairly noticeable soccer talk show towards the end of last week either invited or rather phoned Clifford Ndimbo, information officer for the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) who in sum said that all is well in the camp (set up in Egypt before the tournament kicks off in Ivory Coast in the coming week).

What surprised the show pundits is that the official was adamant he was not aware of complaints among the players that they were yet to be paid allowances for either one or two camps earlier (for the qualifying matches, before the current camp).

This implies the morale is low as calling up players for either the national side or any other team has a presumed element of player allowances, but as it is true in certain levels of government, it depends on who is there and what they wish to do, or if any higher level administrator will intervene.

It is unclear if this is what has been happening whether the national team pitches camp somewhere as it is not on the daily



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Media and Communication Officer, Clifford Ndimbo.

menu of soccer pundits when the national team is called up or plays.

Due to the paucity of collecting when this sort of situation came up in the recent past, it would thus appear that it is an event, a break from the habit, which has to be interpreted or explained.

The reason cannot be budgetary because the Premier League fetches far more money than it used to do previously, and thus TFF cannot have become all too rapidly, with its success.

One thing that is often visible about such shortages is that they are likely to be a bargaining chip in the hands of administrators, as they seek 'the golden goose' for having reached the AFCON finals.

It is unclear what sort of demands the federation may have put across to the government, by itself if it has the channels to do it, or via the National Sports Council (NSC) depending on how far it exercises day-to-day links with the

government.

Of late, TFF has visible access to officials at the top level, first with the current minister, and then with the 'Samia goal funds'.

Chroniclers affirm that the current Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro is a TFF insider, while former minister Pindi Chana was a rank outsider to its activities and internal 'game' patterns.

It is, hence, sufficient that the minister gives a positive hearing on a TFF request for additional funds (leaving aside the regular budget and how far it catered for qualifying and participating in AFCON finals) to ignite the impression of funds shortage to be demonstrated in its operations.

It will pain the federation the most when the public begins to inquire into players' allowances and if there are tricks that are being played on the players, affirming ministerial promise is alright as an excuse for not having obtained

allowances, as if this was not budgeted for.

There is still a possibility that it is helpful not to discount, that the AFCON qualification and thus its budgeting was not taken into account in setting the budget for this sporting season, the TFF calendar, and the relevant stipends for the year.

This sort of environment or circumstance has been noticed in other spheres as in reorganizing Premier League matches once the city archivals both qualified for the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League, and pundits were at a loss to explain systematic dislocation of various rounds, but to accommodate Group Stage fixtures and thus the absence of either side from earlier fixtures.

Such non-accommodation of success is even easier to bring about in a national qualification, as it creates the semblance of an emergency in that the money dried out even earlier in the run, etc.

It is also relevant to suggest that there is a bit of a nagging habit that may have developed from the repeated use of personal cash offer gestures to bring about the best in the city archivals, by promises of bountiful purchases of goals.

In that way TFF would have every reason to expect that the national side be immersed in such funds from the start as the teams Taifa Stars will play are hard nuts to crack.

The TFF knows it cannot wait for a promise from the Head of State on each goal scored in AFCON finals as it is a long shot, and would presumably push for specific cost coverage as the matter came up nearly as a surprise.

The minister would grasp it, and it is even possible he would do the pushing himself while TFF officials sit comfortably in the office, feigning a lack of awareness of player disquiet in the camp.

## Mwakinyo set for non-title bout against Zimbabwean pugilist

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN professional boxer Hassan Mwakinyo is expected to face Zimbabwean boxer Enock Msambudzi in a non-title Light Middleweight fight slated for January 27 at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

Mwakinyo, fighting in the Super Welterweight division, lastly stepped into the ring at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on April 23 last year and beat Congolese sensational Kavesa Katemba via unanimous decision in an eight-round bout.

Zimbabwean boxer Msambudzi, now aged 36, heads into the fight after suffering back-to-back defeats.

The boxer lost two bouts he fought in 2023, succumbing to Kavesa on June 25 via majority decision and later losing to Mbaya Kanku via Technical Knockout on September 30.

This saw the fighter's record stand at victory in 12 bouts (four Knockouts) and two losses (one Knockout) in 14 bouts.

Mwakinyo revealed: "Fighting experienced opponents gives me a chance to know my strengths and weaknesses, learning how to improve on them on my way to garnering international honours and recognition."

The outspoken Tanzanian boxer has

participated in 23 fights- winning 20 (14 Knockouts) and losing three.

Mwakinyo is a former World Boxing Federation (WBF) Intercontinental Light Middleweight title holder and held the title twice in 2020 until recently when he was stripped of the title. The pugilist noted he is fully aware of the task ahead of him and that is why he is not taking any chances with the match.

"I'm ready for such tough matches and I'm equal to the task in this and more matches to come," he explained.

Mwakinyo moreover stated that he is ready to fight compatriot Twaha Kasim, alias 'Twaha Kiduku', who has been expressing his long-term desire to trade blows with the former.

The Tanga-born fighter, who had a six-month ban that was issued by the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC), said now it is time for the fans to get the fight.

"I have been called a lot by boxers in the country wanting to fight with me. I think now is the time for every boxer to give him what he deserves," the pugilist revealed.

"Boxing promoters who want to organize this fight are welcome and I think fans in the country also deserve this fight," Mwakinyo noted.



Hassan Mwakinyo

## BAL announces host cities and venues for 2024 regular season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE Basketball Africa League (BAL) has announced that the league's expanded fourth season will tip off on March 9, 2024, at the SunBet Arena in Pretoria, South Africa.

The 2024 BAL season will feature the top 12 clubs from 12 African countries playing a record 48 games in Pretoria, Cairo (Egypt), Dakar (Senegal), and Kigali (Rwanda) over four months.

It will mark the first BAL games in South Africa and the first time the league will play games in four different countries. Tanzania will be represented by JKT Basketball Club after the army-owned club triumphed in the Basketball National League last year.

During the 2024 BAL season, the 12 teams will be divided into three conferences made up of four teams each.

Each conference will play a 12-game group phase during which each team will face the other three teams in its conference twice.

The inaugural Kalahari Conference group phase will take from March 9 to March 17 at the SunBet Arena.

The Nile Conference group phase will take place from April 19 to April 27 at Hassan Mostafa Indoor Sports Complex in Cairo.

The Sahara Conference group phase will take place from May 4 to May 12 at the Dakar Arena in Dakar.

The top two teams from each conference and the top two third-place teams from across the three conferences will travel to Kigali for four seeding games followed by an eight-game, single-elimination playoffs, and finals from May 24

to June 1.

The league is also hosting a Combine in Rabat, Morocco from January 5 to January 7, marking the league's first Combine in Africa after previous editions in New York City and Paris.

The three-day scouting event, ongoing at the Ibn Yassine Omnisports Hall, features 30 aspiring players from Africa, Europe, the U.S., and around the world taking part in anthropometric and athletic testing, positional skill development, and 5-on-5 games in front of team executives, coaches, and scouts.

Former National Basketball Association League player, Robert Pack, is the Combine Camp Director.

"We are thrilled to play the first BAL games in Pretoria, South Africa, and to return to Dakar, Cairo, and Kigali, where we've seen tremendous fan engagement over the past three seasons," the BAL president Amadou Gallo Fall disclosed.

He revealed: "As we get ready for the 2024 BAL season, we remain committed to continuing to improve the quality of our on-court product, and this Combine in Rabat will once again showcase top-flight players, including from across the African Diaspora, who can contribute significantly to BAL teams and further establish the BAL as a world-class professional basketball league."

Rwanda Development Board, NIKE, Jordan Brand, and Wilson will return as BAL Foundational Partners.

The league's roster of world-class marketing partners also includes Afreximbank, Hennessy, and RwandAir.

The 12 BAL teams, conferences, game schedule, and additional information about the 2024 BAL season will be announced in the coming months.

## Simba SC's Disciplinary Committee puts Chama, Kapama case on hold

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC's Disciplinary Committee which had planned to hear the case concerning the outfit's players, Clatous Chama and Nassor Kapama, through Zoom, has stalled.

Chama has headed to Zambia's national team 'Chipolopolo', now preparing for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations finals to be held in Ivory Coast from January 13 to February 11.

It was said that the Zambian midfielder would be joined by the Disciplinary Committee's members via Zoom to hear and defend the case facing him.

The Msimbazi Street club's versatile midfielder Nassor Kapama is on the verge of joining NBC Premier League club, Mtibwa Sugar, on loan until the end of the season.

However, the midfielder is not in head coach Abdelhak Benchikha's plans, so he will join Mtibwa Sugar on loan to finish the remaining six months of his contract with the Msimbazi Street outfit.

Simba SC has further strengthened the outfit's midfield after signing Senegalese midfielder Babacar Sarr.

Chama and Kapama were suspended by their club's leadership on December 21 last year for misconduct.

The Zambian midfielder allegedly verbally abused Simba SC's physical conditioner, Kamal Boudjenane, when the team was warming up before locking horns with Morocco's Wydad AC in this season's CAF Champions League match in Dar es Salaam on December 19, 2023.

It is also alleged that Kapama did not attend training several times, saying that he is pushing for a move out of the side because he does not get a chance to play in the team.

The meeting has not yet been held, because if it is held, what was discussed in the meeting should be sent to the club's Board of Directors.

The board's decision should be made based on the information presented by the players after being interviewed by the committee," one of the board members who opted for anonymity disclosed.

He noted: "It is not known when, because it is the responsibility of the Disciplinary Committee that decides when to question the players, the board is the last step to go through them and either bless or not bless what was brought."



Simba SC midfielder Clatous Chama. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC



# SPORT

Afcon 2023: Squads for tournament including Ghana, Nigeria and Egypt **PAGE 19**



## Taifa Stars' coach releases final squad for AFCON



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national football team are pictured participating in drills in Egypt recently to shape up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations slated for January 13–February 11, 2024, in Ivory Coast. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapoli

**T**ANZANIA has confirmed players that will represent the country in the 2023 CAF Africa Cup of Nations slated for January 13 to February 11, 2024, in Côte d'Ivoire.

The announcement of the Taifa Stars squad was revealed by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) on Saturday and, later on, confirmed by the Tanzania Football Federation.

The squad, under the guidance of head coach Adel Arrouche, has 27 players.

Mbwana Samatta, the team's skipper who plays club football for Greece side PAOK Thessaloniki, is set to lead the Tanzanian team's attack alongside Simon Msuva—the only player who is unattached.

Four players—Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu', Metacha Mnata, Khelfin Hamdoun, and the injured Twariq Ahmed—are four players dropped from the last provisional squad that was announced before the team flew out to Egypt.

A total of 12 foreign-based players have been selected to complement 14 locally-based ones. Simba SC and Young Africans SC have contributed four players apiece to the squad.

Tanzania has been drawn in Group F which will see the

senior national soccer squad, Taifa Stars, come up against Morocco, DR Congo, and Zambia.

Morocco and Zambia are also part of Tanzania's qualifying group for the 2026 World Cup, with the teams pooled in Group E which is also made up of Niger and the Republic of the Congo.

Taifa Stars will play their Group Stage matches in the town of San-Pédro, 350km from Abidjan.

They will play on the fifth day of the tournament, January 17, at 6:00 pm as they take on World Cup semi-finalist Morocco, a side they have faced in five previous encounters.

Three days later, they will take on neighbours Zambia on January 21 before concluding their Group Stage

campaign on 24 January against DR Congo.

Group winners, runners-up, and the best four third-placed teams will advance to the round of 16.

A player in the final squad can only be replaced after a serious injury no less than 24 hours before the team's first match.

Taifa Stars qualified for the tournament after finishing second in their qualifying group, behind Algeria.

The team will be making its third appearance in the continental competition, having previously participated in 1980, 2019, and 2023.

In the 2019 AFCON edition, the Tanzanian team failed to progress past the Group Stage, finishing fourth in their group behind Senegal, Algeria, and Kenya.

However, the team's recent performances have been encouraging and will be hoping to train well and come up with better tactical plans to fine-tune preparations and build momentum for the tournament.

Here are the players that will represent Tanzania in the 2023 AFCON showdown:

**Goalkeepers:** Kwesi Kawawa (IFK Haninge/Sweden), Beno Kakolanya (Singida Fountain Gate FC), Aishi Manula (Simba SC)

**Defenders:** Ibrahim Hamad (Young Africans SC), Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Young Africans SC), Dickson Job (Young Africans SC), Abdi Banda (Richards Bay/South Africa), Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Miano Danilo (Vilena CF/ Netherlands), Haji

Mnoga (Aldershot Town/England), Abdulmalik Zakaria (Namungo FC), Novatus Miroshi (FC Shakhtar Donetsk/Ukraine)

**Midfielders:** Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Sospeter Bajana (Azam FC), Mohamed Sagaf (Boreham Wood FC/England), Ben Starkie (Barnford United/England), Tarryn Allarakhia (Wealdstone/England), Feisal Salum (Azam FC), Maurice Abraham (RFK Novi Sad/Serbia), Himid Mao (Tala'ea El Gaish/Egypt), Mudathir Yahya Abbas (Young Africans SC)

**Forwards:** Kibu Dennis (Simba SC), Simon Msuva (Unattached), Mbwana Samatta (PAOK/Greece), Cyprian Kachwele (White Caps/USA), Kokola Charles M'mombwa (Macarthur FC/Australia)

## COSAFA teams gear up for 2023 AFCON finals

PRETORIA

COSAFA will have five representatives at the African Cup of Nations finals in Ivory Coast that get underway next week, with two former winners and much hope that they might claim another triumph this year.

The expanded 24-team competition has allowed for more representation, with the COSAFA region one of the biggest contributors to the field with the quintet of teams.

South Africa has returned to the finals for the first time since 2019, though without two key forwards. Lyle Foster has been omitted from their squad due to mental health issues, while Lebo Mothiba has suffered a serious knee injury. Both absences are a big blow to coach Hugo Broos.

"Our doctor had contact with the doctors at Burnley," Broos said. "I got the medical report where it stated Foster couldn't be at Afcon. Don't ask me why but the risk and the danger are still there that if it goes in a bad direction with Lyle he goes back to where he started (two) months ago."

The striker position is the major concern for Broos in a squad that otherwise contains most of the players who helped them qualify, and who also appeared in the recent World Cup qualifiers.

The 1996 winners South Africa take on Tunisia, Namibia, and Mali in their three Group E games.

COSAFA rivals Namibia have trimmed their squad to 23 players, cutting it down from the 28 who have been preparing in Ghana this week.

The Namibia Football Association submitted a final squad list to the Confederation of African Football before Wednesday's deadline, with 11 players returning from the squad when they last competed at the finals in Egypt in mid-2019.

It includes Peter Shalulile, the top goal scorer with South African champions Mamelodi Sundowns, and full-back Ryan Nyambe, who grew up in England and played at Blackburn Rovers and Wigan Athletic before joining Derby County this season.

It will be Namibia's fourth appearance at the finals, where they have yet to win a game.

"Before we think of outplaying our opponents, we have to outplay our previous performances in the tournament. AFCON is our World Cup, and we aim to leave a mark," coach Collin Benjamin said.

They have a friendly international against Ghana in Kumasi on Friday to prepare. Mozambique has named 40-year winger Dominguez to captain their 23-man squad and also handed a first call-up to former German U-20 international Alfons Amade. Dominguez competed for Mozambique when they last appeared at the finals in 2010 and is likely to be the oldest player at the tournament.

Defensive midfielder Amade played for Germany at the U-20 level but has switched his international allegiance although has yet to make his debut for Mozambique, who compete in Group B in the final and will open their campaign against Egypt in Abidjan on January 14. They are meet the Cape Verde Islands and Ghana.

Also included is Portuguese-born midfielder Guima, who scored on his debut in September, and Atletico Madrid fullback Reinildo, who last played for the national team in June when they secured qualification.

Defender Stoppilla Sunzu, who netted the decisive penalty in the shoot-out when Zambia won the Africa Cup of Nations over a decade ago, returns for the next edition of the tournament after being named as one of the 27 players in his country's squad.

Sunzu's spot kick handed Zambia an 8-7 win on spot kicks over the heavily fancied Ivory Coast in the 2013 final in Libreville and is only one of two players named by coach Avram Grant who has previous finals experience.

Iraq-based Roderick Kabwe was also in the squad on their last appearance in 2015 but Zambia has since missed out on three successive editions, failing to qualify for the 2017, 2019, and 2021 editions.

Zambia take on the Democratic Republic of Congo in their opening game in San Pedro on Jan. 17 and also meet Tanzania and Morocco in Group F.

Finally, Angola recalled strikers Jeremie Bela and Mbala Nzola to their squad as they became the first team to name their selection for the tournament as early as Dec. 18. Bela, previously at Birmingham City, last played for Angola two years ago and is a surprise inclusion considering injuries have restricted his playing time this season for Ligue 1's bottom club Clermont Foot.

Nzola, who plays for Fiorentina, had refused to play for Angola over the last month in protest at poor logistical arrangements around the last Cup of Nations qualifiers in June, but has been persuaded to return.

Goncalves left out former Portugal international Helder Costa, who has not played this season after terminating his contract with Leeds United.

AGENCIES



Simba SC's Senegalese midfielder, Babacar Sarr. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

## Simba set for foreign players shuffle

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

**A**FTER completing the registration process for Senegalese defensive midfielder Babacar Sarr, Simba SC is now faced with the decision to release one foreign player to facilitate Sarr's inclusion.

Simba SC currently boasts an impressive lineup of 13 foreign stars, including notable names like Ayoub Lakred, Che Malone Fondoh, Jean Baleke, Henock Inonga, Fabrice Ngoma, and Sadio Kanoute.

These players have played pivotal roles in the team's success, particularly in the challenging 2023/24 CAF Champions League, this season's NBC Premier League, and the ongoing Mapinduzi Cup.

Despite their significant contributions, Simba SC coach Adalhek Henchikha demonstrates a substantial level of trust in their abilities.

The roster also includes players such as Clatous Chama, Moses Phiri, Said Ntibanzokiza, Aubin Kramo, Luis Miquissone, Willy Onana, and, of course, Sarr. While Ntibanzokiza, Miquissone, and Onana initially faced challenges at the start of the season, Henchikha's guidance has led to a notable improvement in their performance.

This improvement strengthens the likelihood of their continued presence in Simba SC.

Ivorian winger, Kramo, has been sidelined by persistent injuries since his transfer to Simba SC from Ivory Coast outfit ASEC Mimosas.

The decision to part ways with a foreign player is undoubtedly a tough one for Simba SC, considering the collective success and trust placed in these players by Henchikha.

It reflects the intricate balance between team dynamics and the necessity to make strategic choices

for future accomplishments.

Simba SC's management faces the delicate task of ensuring that the team maintains its competitive edge while navigating the complexities of player transfers.

Kramo's situation serves as a poignant reminder of the unpredictable nature of sports careers, where injuries can significantly impact a player's ability to contribute to the team.

Simba SC's commitment to maintaining a high standard of performance necessitates tough decisions, ensuring that the team remains a formidable force in both national and international competitions.

As the transfer decisions unfold, Simba SC fans anxiously await updates on the team's composition and strategic direction.

The dynamics of football transfers, influenced by performance, injuries, and team strategy, continue to shape the ever-evolving landscape of Simba SC.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

HOW STRONG IS THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY 2024?

